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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## 6 ektaryang dumpsite sa Cavite, pinadlock ng DENR

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

MANILA, Philippines — Ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang anim na ektaryang open dumpsite sa Cavite dahil sa paglabag sa Republic Act 9003 o mas kilala sa tawag na Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Partikular na nilabag ng operator ng dumpsite ang Section 37 ng R.A 9003 mahigpit na nagbabawal ng pagkakaroon at pagmantine ng open dumpsite na malaki ang nagiging epekto sa kalikasan at kalusugan ng publiko.

Nabatid na kasama ng DENR sa operasyon ang National Bureau of Investigation at Environmental Management Bureau na nagsara sa entry points ng privately-owned open dumpsite na matatagpuan sa Brgy. Sahud-Ulan, Tanza, Cavite.

Kabilang sa mga tambak ng basura na nakita sa operasyon ay nagmula sa industrial parks, malls, supermarkets, food chains, restaurants at food product manufacturers. Kinumpiska rin ang dalawang dump trucks at isang backhoe na naabutan sa lugar na itinurn-over sa DENR-PENRO Cavite.

Ayon kay DENR Usec. for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda na nanguna sa operasyon, iimbitahan ng DENR ang local government officials ng Tanza upang ipaliwanag ang pagkakaroon ng open dumpsite sa kanilang lugar.



# Open dumpsite sa Cavite ipinasara ng DENR

PROVINCIAL

Last Updated Jan 16, 2021



MATAPOS lumabag sa Republic Act 9003 na mas kilala sa tawag na Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang anim na ektaryang open dumpsite sa Cavite noong Huwebes (Enero 14).

Ayon sa ulat bukod sa DENR, kasama rin sa operasyon ang National Bureau of Investigation at ang Environmental Management Bureau na nagsara sa entry points ng privately-owned open dumpsite na matatagpuan sa Barangay Sahud-Ulan.

Sinabi ng DENR ang RA 9003 partikular na ang Section 37 ay mahigpit na nagbabawal ng pagkakaroon at pag mantine ng open dumpsite na malaki ang nagiging epekto sa kalikasan at kalusugan ng publiko. Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda na nanguna sa operasyon na hindi mangingimi ang gobyerno na hulihin ang mga nagpapatakbo ng illegal waste disposal sites sa bansa.

Base sa ulat ng DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) sa Cavite, ang naturang dumpsite ay mayroong tatlong metrong taas o 180,000 cubic meter na halo-halong solid waste materials at walang kaukulang permiso mula sa DENR.

Ayon pa sa DENR Kabilang sa mga tambak ng basura na nakita sa operasyon ay nagmula sa industrial parks, malls, supermarkets, food chains, restaurants at food product manufacturers.

Kinumpiska rin ang dalawang dump trucks at isang backhoe na naabutan sa lugar na itinurn-over sa DENR-PENRO Cavite.

Habang hinihintay ang isinasagawang imbestigasyon ay sinabi ni Antiporda na iimbihan ng DENR ang local government officials ng Tanza upang ipaliwanag ang pagkakaroon ng open dumpsite sa kanilang lugar.

Ipapaalam sa mga ito ang mga posibleng kahihinatnan sakaling mapatunayan na may kinalaman sila sa operasyon.

Inatasan din ng DENR official ang local environment office ng Tanza na maghanda ng rehabilitation plan sa nabanggit na lugar.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na siya ring Alternate Chair ng National Solid Waste Management Commission na ang isinagawang operasyon ay bahagi ng selebrasyon ng Zero Waste Month at ika-20 taong anibersaryo sa pagpapatupad ng RA 9003.

Idinagdag pa nito na nagbigay na ang gobyerno sa LGUs ng sapat na panahon upang magkaroon ng sarili nilang sanitary landfills.

Kasama rin sa operasyon sina DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force Director Nilo Tamera, NBI Environmental Crime Division Chief Eric Nuqui at EcoWaste Coalition Zero Waste campaigner Eloisa Tolentino.(Boy Celario)



## PAGPAPASARA NG DUMPSITES DAPAT TULOY-TULOY

January 15, 2021 jp admin



UMAASA ang EcoWaste Coalition na patuloy na ipatutupad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang batas hinggil sa maayos na pagtatapon at pangangalaga ng basura.

Mahigit 21 taon na nang mabuo ang Republic Act 9003, o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act ng bansa ngunit nananatili pa rin hanggang sa kasalukuyan ang pagkakaroon ng mga pribadong tambakan ng mga basura sa maraming panig ng bansa.

Lumabas ang isyu tungkol sa RA 9003 makaraang ipasara ng DENR at ng pamahalaang bayan ng Tanza, Cavite ang isang pribadong tambakan ng basura sa nasabing bayan noong Enero 14.

“Twenty-one years after the law took effect, our country is still swarming with open and controlled dumpsites in clear violation of RA 9003,” saad ni Jove Benosa, EcoWaste Zero Waste campaigner, sa kalatas ng nasabing grupo.

“We therefore support the renewed efforts by the authorities to shut down these blatantly illegal disposal facilities and promote compliance to waste prevention and reduction regulations enshrined in the law,” patuloy ni Benosa.

Pinangunahan ni DENR Undersecretary (for Solid Waste Management) Benny Antiporda ang pagpapasara sa basurahan sa Barangay Sahud Ulan.

Ikinatuwa ng EcoWaste at Cavite Green Coalition ang aksiyon ng DENR.

Umaksyon ang DENR batay sa reklamo ng mga residente dahil masyado nang malaki ang perhuwisyo ng naturang tambakan ng basura sa kalusugan ng mga residente at kanilang kapaligiran.

Ang pagpapasara sa imbakan ng basura ay nataon sa “Zero Waste Month” na itinakda ng Proclamation 760.

Nakasaad sa Seksyon 37, Artikulo 6 ng RA 9003 na bawal ang bukas na imbakan ng basura mula 2001.

Inatasan din ng RA 9003 noong 2004 ang mga pamahalaang lokal na kontrolin nito ang tapunan ng mga basura.

Ngunit ipinag-utos din ng nasabing batas noong 2006 na tuluyan nang ipatigil ang kontroladong tapunan ng mga basura. (NELSON S. BADILLA)

Source: [http://saksingayon.com/metro/pagpapasara-ng-dumpsites-dapat-tuloy-tuloy/?utm\\_source=ReviveOldPost&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2VWYUvo79ISPbvhAEA8C1NwLwoaLNtwCUjAGNIVhmjt6G0WY-DeGrGIaw](http://saksingayon.com/metro/pagpapasara-ng-dumpsites-dapat-tuloy-tuloy/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2VWYUvo79ISPbvhAEA8C1NwLwoaLNtwCUjAGNIVhmjt6G0WY-DeGrGIaw)



## Dredging of Cagayan River Bottleneck Sites to Commence Late January

BY [VILLAGE CONNECT](#) ON JANUARY 16, 2021

### *Dredging of Cagayan River Bottleneck Sites to Commence Late January*



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) co-chair Roy A. Cimatu said the government is all set for the removal of sandbars along the constricted section of Cagayan River called “Magapit Narrows” by late January or early February.

“This is a strategic move in the short-term while medium- and long-term solutions for the flooding in Cagayan Valley are still underway,” Cimatu said during the Jan. 7 meeting of the TFBBB, which he co-chairs with Secretary Mark Villar of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The three sandbars are located in Magapit Narrows, which is being described by the DPWH as the “constriction point” in the mid-stream portion of the 500-kilometer Cagayan River.

The DPWH reported that the three sandbars have a total estimated volume of seven million cubic meters, covering 235 hectares of sandbars.

These are located at Barangay Bangag in Lal-lo town covering 11.4 hectares with 334,305 cubic meters of sand; Casicallan Norte, Gattaran that covers 89 hectares with 2.7 million cubic meters of sand; and Dummun, Gattaran covering 174.70 hectares with 4.04 million cubic meters of sand.

Of the 19 priority sandbars, Cimatu explained that the DPWH has recommended the immediate dredging of the three sandbars in the Magapit Narrows as these significantly hinder the flow of floodwater to the Aparri Delta and finally to the Babuyan Channel.

The DENR chief said the TFBBB is tapping the resources of other national agencies to fast track the removal of the three sandbars, which the DPWH estimates to be completed after a year.

Six units of dredging equipment, which are modular type for ease of transport and assembly in the dredging sites, will be deployed by the DPWH in Magapit Narrows.



The removal of sandbars will be done in 250-meter segments or blocks, while the use of geotubes is proposed for the management of dredged materials.

“This is another showcase of the whole-of-government approach,” Cimatu said, stressing that the strategy “will drastically reduce the flooding problem in Cagayan Valley.”

Twenty-four dump trucks, five bulldozers, five scoop loaders, four prime movers with a long bed, and two backhoe loaders from the Armed Forces of the Philippines are on stand-by for deployment to augment the equipment of the DPWH.

Cimatu also ordered DENR-Cagayan Valley Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan to coordinate with her local counterparts at the Department of Labor and Employment and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to ask for assistance from the beneficiaries of Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers program as well as TESDA-trained heavy equipment operators and mechanics in the dredging activities.

DPWH Secretary Mark Villar welcomed Cimatu’s move to beef up DPWH’s manpower needs with the project operating in two three-hour shifts.



# Port of Batangas turns over 2 animal tusk, 11 mineral stones to the DENR

By BOCPublished on January 16, 2021



BATANGAS, Jan. 16 -- The Port of Batangas Collector Atty. Ma. Rhea Gregorio and Deputy Collector for Operations, Atty. Filemon Mendoza, Jr. handed over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 2 Animal Tusks (Elephant and Rhino Tusk) and 11 Mineral Stones on January 12, 2021.

The said articles were concealed in a shipment of household goods and were seized for violation of Republic Act No. 9147 "An Act providing for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats".

The turnover ceremony was witnessed by the officials of the Port and representatives from DENR-CENRO, Asian Terminal Inc., PNP Maritime Police, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Commission on Audit. (BOC)



## Port of Batangas turns over 2 animal tusks, 11 mineral stones to DENR

January 16, 2021 1 min read

MANILA — Port of Batangas chief collector Atty. Ma. Rhea Gregorio and her deputy for operations in Atty. Filemon Mendoza, Jr. had handed over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) two animal tusks (from an elephant and rhino) along with 11 mineral stones.

The said articles were concealed in a shipment of household goods and were seized for violation of Republic Act No. 9147 “An Act providing for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats.”

The turnover ceremony was witnessed by the officials of the Port and representatives from DENR-CENRO, Asian Terminal Inc., PNP Maritime Police, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Commission on Audit. (Kiara Lauren Ibanez/AI/MTVN)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/01/16/port-of-batangas-turns-over-2-animal-tusks-11-mineral-stones-to-denr/?fbclid=IwAR1tA-74xCjkwvbqwoKtXmGXMJ4gW2SnmUwUDzc8SFG3JX8DQVv-VcMI3w>





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Tig-isang elephant at rhino tusk ang nasabat ng mga tauhan ng Port of Batangas sa isang package na idineklarang household goods. Nakumpiska rin sa naturang shipping ang nasa 11 mineral stones na kalaunan ay nai-turnover sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Bureau of Customs



325

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## Greening PHL the public-private way

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

January 17, 2021



Mt. Apo (background), seen from Davao City, is the country's tallest mountain, home to a variety of native tree species and where one of the country's largest geothermal reservation that is controlled and managed by the Energy Development Corp.

The Energy Development Corp. (EDC), the country's largest and the world's second-largest geothermal energy producer, recently celebrated the 12th anniversary of Binhi, the company's nationwide greening program.

Over the years, the Lopez Group's global and diversified renewable-energy firm was able to accomplish a feat unmatched by no other companies in the Philippines.



*The tindalo tree planted by then-President Manuel Quezon in Bacolod City.*

From 2009 to 2019, EDC was able to plant over 6.4 million seedlings and restored 9,449 hectares of denuded forests inside geothermal reservations and other watershed areas "to leave a legacy of a verdant Philippines for the next generation."

### Humble beginning

It all started with the planting of a single tindalo seedling at the heart of the Quezon City Memorial Circle 12 years ago.

From the single binhi, or seedling, taken from the tindalo mother tree that Philippine Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon planted on the town plaza of Bacolod City in Negros Occidental on its inauguration as a chartered city on October 19, 1938, EDC's Binhi Program went on to carry out its mission of planting native trees and covering more areas as possible.

"We realized that it was not enough for us to just plant any random tree seedlings to maintain, if not enhance, the biodiversity in our areas of operation. Beyond this, we knew when we launched this program that Binhi will benefit not only EDC but more so our partner communities and our planet," Atty. Allan V. Barcena, head of EDC Corporate Social Responsibility and Public Relations group said in a statement.

### Collaborative partnerships

Realizing the gargantuan task, EDC has partnered with institutions and communities to realize its mission.



Over the years, the company has partnered with a total of 183 institutions in 16 regions and 88 communities for various forest-restoration projects.

"It was not easy, but through our constant communication and engagement, we were able to forge a mutual trust that resulted in our farmers' associations' transformation," Barcena told the BusinessMirror via e-mail.

One of its most successful Binhi initiatives is the Baslay coffee program. Three generations of farmers in Dauin, Negros Oriental, through the program operated by the Baslay Farmers Association (BFA), have learned the value and income potential of taking care of the forests.

Baslay's community forest is now a refuge to 113 species of birds and one of the primary sources of quality coffee (robusta and arabica) in Central Visayas.

More importantly, the former kainginero (slash-and-burn farmers) are now masters of interplanting coffee with native tree species.

## Welcome initiative

In a telephone interview with the BusinessMirror on January 11, Amerlita D.J. Ortiz, assistant director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), underscored the importance of preserving the country's native trees and welcomed the initiatives of EDC.

The Philippines has a total land area of 30 million hectares, almost half of which are classified as forest land.

However, only half of the forest land, or approximately 7.5 million hectares, are covered with trees, leaving almost the same area falling under the classification of "open, degraded and denuded forests."

With its limited financial and technical capacity, the DENR welcomed private-sector support to boost its reforestation efforts.

## Food and habitat

"First, native trees [should be used]. When you say native, they are already here in our country. If ever they carry pests or diseases, because they naturally occur here, we can easily address them. Unlike exotic or nonnative trees, the pests or diseases can wipe out entire species," Ortiz said partly in Filipino.

According to Ortiz, there are lots of wildlife species that depend on native trees for food and for habitat.

"If the native trees become extinct, or are wiped out, the source of food for the wildlife is also gone," Ortiz said.

## Biodiversity friendly

The advantage of growing native trees cannot be overemphasized, said Tommy T. Valdez, national council president of Society of Filipino Foresters Inc.

In reforestation, forester Valdez said the obvious choice is the use of native tree species.

In a telephone interview on January 11, he said native trees easily survive and grow well in an area where they occur naturally. More importantly, native tree species promotes balance ecosystem.

"Native trees can perpetuate the existence of other species in a particular area, compared to areas planted with exotic trees, like mahogany and gmelina," Valdez said partly in Filipino.

## Exotic threats, natural attracts

Valdez said some exotic trees also release certain chemicals that are not favorable to wildlife.



This, he said, explains why some forest plantations planted with a single tree species do not attract as many insects or birds.

Exotic trees sometimes adversely affect the growth of other native trees in a forest as the trees tend to compete for sunlight, soil nutrients and even space.

“Because they grow faster, they displace the native tree species” Valdez said.

“Most exotics are invasive. You must not allow them to invade an area,” he said. Native birds, insects and other wildlife are naturally attracted to native trees, he added.

## Initial plantations

The use of fast-growing trees, such as mahogany and gmelina, have their purpose as far as the Philippines is concerned, Valdez said.

“Some native trees cannot survive directly under direct sunlight like the dipterocarps, so some foresters use fast-growing trees like mahogany and gmelina to establish the initial cover crops,” he said.

Once the fast-growing trees are able to provide enough shade and improve the micro-climate that would allow native trees to grow and thrive, after some time, the fast-growing trees must eventually go or be cut down, he said.

## Private-sector support

Given the government’s limited financial capacity, the private sector should be encouraged to come in.

“First, we don’t have that much money to sustain or maintain the planted trees until they are fully grown,” he said. “Most of our reforestation programs, after tree-planting, the sites are eventually left with nobody to maintain the trees.”

He said private-sector partners ensure that reforestation of forest plantations are sustained, with the sites having someone permanently protecting the area, nurture the trees, and, at the same time, protecting the area from timber-poaching or illegal cutting.

## Misconception about forestry

Valdez said there are many misconceptions about forestry, a reason why the country is not able to realize its full economic potential.

For instance, some people are not in favor of cutting trees, when, in fact, trees provide much-needed resources that can be replenished through plantation development.

“Let us remember that trees or our forest are renewable. What is bad is the indiscriminate cutting of trees or illegal logging,” he said.

He explained that the Philippines has a tropical rainforest with uneven aged trees, composed of old, mature, young trees, and with a diverse number of tree species.

“In such case, for us to perpetuate the forest, we need to cut the old and mature trees to liberate the growth of the young trees that would become the next timber crops. If not, the old trees will die and the young ones will not be given the opportunity to grow,” he said.

According to Valdez, this is what foresters call “sustained yield cutting.”

“If this was practiced religiously in the past, then we should have never been in a situation where we are now. What we need is to cut trees in a sustainable manner, allow natural regeneration and plant at the same time new ones to take the place of the ones that will be cut down,” he explained.



Valdez, however, was quick to point out that there are areas that cutting of trees should not be allowed. These are watershed areas, declared protected areas, areas with an elevation of 1,000 meters above sea level and areas with more that 50 percent slope and river embankment, he told the BusinessMirror via e-mail on January 12.

## Economic opportunity

According to Valdez, partnering with the private sector will allow the government and their development partners to realize the economic potential of forest plantation development, while rehabilitating and managing the degraded forest areas.

"We have a vast tract of forest lands and we need the private-sector investment to come in and help us develop and protect these areas," he said.

This will allow the government to realize revenues from these areas while the private sector gain from such venture, and, at the same time, institute a better strategy in protecting the forest.

"Please note that we have more than 25 million people living in upland areas who have been dependent from the forest lands for survival. Providing them employment and livelihood through plantation development will provide the government reliable partners who will protect the forest from further degradation," he said.

## Sustainable development fund

Valdez said the Society of Filipino Foresters Inc. has proposed to promote sustainable forest development through a financing mechanism and public-private partnerships.

Called Sustainable Forest Development Fund (SFDF), the establishment of the financing mechanism, he said, will provide the much-needed capital investment that could be available to the private sector to do business in forest plantation development.

The SFDF could be made available "through a loan with a reasonable interest."

Under this scheme, the fund will be rolled out and will be returned back to the government, or to the financing facility that will handle the fund.

The financing scheme is a part of the proposed Sustainable Forest Management Bill that is being deliberated in Congress.

## Organize the people

"What the government need is to organize the people. Once they are into forest plantation development, you will no longer have a problem protecting the forest because they will be the ones going after illegal loggers, or anyone that destructs their source of livelihood," Valdez said.

The Philippines has an excellent program launched by the government in 1995, the Community-based Forest Management Program, Valdez said.

"If we can focus our efforts and improve it further based on our past experiences in implementing the program, this will provide the key strategy to our problems in forestry," he said.

Valdez said Filipinos need to rely on the country's forestry experts who understand the science of forestry to help provide the direction toward sustainable forestry.

"We must leave forest management to experts," he said.

Image credits: [Wikimedia Commons](#), [EDC photo](#)



# Cagayan Valley dioceses to plant 1.25M trees

By Ferdinand Patinio January 16, 2021, 10:24 am



(File photo)

**MANILA** – Dioceses in the Cagayan Valley region are looking to plant more than a million trees in 500 days.

The initiative, dubbed as “Missio 500”, aims to plant 500 trees per day in the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao and each in its suffragans – the dioceses of Ilagan and Bayombong, the vicariate of Tabuk, and the prelatore of Batanes.

The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said on its news website on Friday that the program’s target is to plant at least 1.25 million trees by early next year.

The ecological project was launched on Thursday before the ceremony for the imposition of the sacred pallium on Tuguegarao Archbishop Ricardo Baccay.

Baccay said the launch was scheduled during the occasion “as a symbol of our solidarity, working together, and convergence.”

The project also aims to celebrate this year’s 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines.

The organizers expect the number of trees to be planted to exceed the target as the initiative also involves local governments, civil society organizations, and non-government organizations.

Bayombong Bishop Elmer Mangalino said the flooding that affected thousands of families in November last year shows “the urgency to protect our common home.”

“The Missio 500 is a testament to our commitment to teach, to mold, and to remind our faithful that we are the stewards of God’s creation,” he said.

Batanes Bishop Danilo Ulep has expressed his prelatore’s commitment to the initiative.

“May this project intensify and strengthen our advocacy to protect God’s creation and heal the wounds of mother earth for (the) sustainable development of our communities,” he said.

Also launched was the Metropolitan Ecology Desk and the Eco-convergence Luzon Hub, in partnership with Caritas Philippines.

Eco-convergence is a partnership of church and civil society groups to promote the teachings of Pope Francis’ encyclical on ecology, Laudato Si.

The other two regional hubs for the initiative are the Diocese of San Carlos in the Visayas and the Diocese of Marbel in Mindanao. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1127542>



# Tuguegarao Archdiocese leads drive to plant 500 trees a day

By: [Villamor Visaya Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@VillVisayaJrINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:46 PM January 16, 2021

**TUGUEGARAO CITY-** The Archdiocese of Tuguegarao has launched a campaign urging Catholics to help plant 1.25 million trees to help reduce floods in the Cagayan Valley region. To do this, “Missio 500” encourages them to plant 500 trees each day, says the archdiocese which oversees diocesan and vicariate churches in the region.

The provinces of Cagayan and Isabela were inundated with rain and floodwater in November last year, following a series of typhoons. Various sectors blamed unregulated quarrying and deforestation for the calamity.

Missio 500 was launched on Thursday (Jan. 14) by Tuguegarao Archbishop Ricardo Baccay shortly before he was conferred with the sacred pallium to complete the process of his installation as bishop in January 2020.

The pallium is a woolen band that symbolizes unity with the Pope and the bishop’s responsibility to his flock. It was blessed by Pope Francis on the feasts of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome.

Missio 500 would involve local governments, civil society organizations, and non-government organizations, who pledged to help as the Catholics celebrate the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines this year.

The Dioceses of Ilagan (in Isabela province) and Bayombong (in Nueva Vizcaya), the vicariate of Tabuk (a city in the Cordillera’s Kalinga province), and the prelature of Batanes would spearhead Missio 500’s provincial operations.

Bayombong Bishop Elmer Mangalinao said there is an “urgency to protect our common home.” Batanes Bishop Danilo Ulep pledged his commitment and vowed to “intensify and strengthen our advocacy to protect God’s creation and...(ensure) the sustainable development of our communities.”

The archdiocese also established the Metropolitan Ecology Desk and the Eco-convergence Luzon Hub, in partnership with Caritas Philippines, to promote Pope Francis’ Laudato Si, his encyclical (letter to the bishops) on ecology.



# Driver, timbog sa “hot logs”

@Balitang Probinsiya | January 16, 2021

ISABELA— Isang driver ang dinakip ng pulisya nang makumpiskahan kamakalawa ng mga “hot logs” o mga kahoy na illegal na pinutol ang minamaneho nitong trak sa Bgy. Bella Luz, Benito Soliven.

Hindi na muna pinangalanan ng pulisya ang suspek habang nag-iimbestiga pa ang mga awtoridad.

Ayon sa ulat, may nag-tip sa pulisya na may kargang mga pinutol na punong-kahoy ang trak ang trak na minamaneho ng suspek kaya hinarang ito ng mga awtoridad.

Napag-alamang nakakumpiska ang mga awtoridad ng higit 6.000 board feet ng mga putol na na punong kahoy sa trak na minamaneho ng suspek.

Nakapiit na ang suspek na nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa PD 705 o Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.





## Pagnanakaw sa mga plantita lumala

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jan 16, 2021

MIETRO



7 0

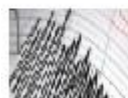
Kasabay ng pandemya, naglipana umano ang mga bagong magnanakaw na ang target ay mga alagang halaman ng mga tinagurang plantita at plantito.

Sa Facebook page ng Luntiang Project 6, sinabi nitong marami nang nabibiktima ang tinatawag na 'green gangster' na target nakawin ang mga halaman na bihira at mearing ibenta nang mahal.

"Plant thieves or now called 'green gangsters' and their activities have become a growing concern," ayon sa grupo.

Paliwanag nito, dahil sa stress mula sa nararansang pandemya, marami sa mga Pinoy ang nagpokus sa pag-aalaga ng halaman kaya naman tinawag silang plantito at plantita.

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"However, the pandemic has also set off a wave of theft. The target: PLANTS," sabi pa ng Luntiang Project 6.

Ayon sa post, sa laki ng demand ang ibang presyo ng halaman ay tumaas ng 300 porsyento lalo na ang mga bihira na halaman.

"Since the demand of plants especially those classified as 'vulnerables', 'endangered' species has pushed prices by more than 300%, the more these 'illegal gatherers /traders have become aggressive," sabi pa sa post.

Sinabi pa ng Luntiang Project 6 na nakatanggap na ang Barangay Police Security Office (BPSO) ng mga report sa mga residente ng mga ninanakaw na halaman ng mga sakay ng motorsiklo o ibang uri ng sasakyan.

"The Punong Brgy. & Council thru the Initiative of the Peace & Order Committee sends off a reminder to the community to secure their plant collections particularly those placed outside of their gates & specially identified with high price value," sabi nito. (Kiko Cueto)



# P5-M pabuya ni Chavit sa makapagpatunay na may black sand mining sa Narvacan, Ilocos Sur

By **Bombo Radyo Vigan** -January 16, 2021 | 11:20 AM

VIGAN CITY – Tumataginting na P5 million daw ang ipagkakaloob ni Mayor Chavit Singson ng Narvacan sa kung sinuman na magpapatunay na mayroong nangyayaring black sand mining sa lugar na nasasakupan niya.



*Narvacan Mayor Chavit Singson*

Sa panayam ng *Bombo Radyo Vigan* kay League of the Municipalities president at Narvacan Mayor Luis Chavit Singson, magbibigay umano siya ng pabuya sa makapagsasabi na mayroong nagaganap na black sand mining dahil alam umano ng mga tao sa kanyang lugar ang mga totoong nangyayari.

Sinasabi ni Singson na naghahanap lamang sila ng isyu dahil wala na silang maibato laban sa kaniya at gumagawa lamang ang mga ito ng kwento.

Iginiit ng mayor na sa simulat-sapol ng umupo sya sa puwesto ay wala ni isang nangyaring illegal na black sand mining sa lugar nila.



## FISH KILL: Why do they occur?

Published January 6, 2021, 12:00 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

- BFAR defines fish kill as the 'massive death of fish stocks in a certain area due to unfavorable water quality parameters of a certain aquatic environment that are intolerable or toxic to the fish stocks.'
- Some of these occur because of human activity, although around 50 percent of all kills around the world are due to natural causes.
- One of the most common causes is algal blooms and the resulting water quality issues, such as low oxygen or production of toxins.
- The oversupply of nutrients in Laguna de Bay like nitrate and phosphate makes the lake very fertile. Combined with environmental conditions such as sufficient sunlight, high water temperature, and calm water, the algae can grow at a very fast rate. If these environmental conditions are sustained, algal bloom happens which appears like a thick green or blue green soup. Algal bloom becomes harmful when they decompose.
- Recently, Sampaloc Lake, the largest of seven interconnected lakes in San Pablo City, Laguna also saw thousands of fish killed. It is believed that the fish kill was caused by a lake 'overturn,' a natural phenomenon in which colder water falls on the surface of the lake, while the water on the bottom rises.

The Philippines has witnessed several occurrences of fish kill in the past years. But why do they even occur?

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said fish kill is a sudden and significant mortality of either wild or cultured fish.



(UNSPLASH / MANILA BULLETIN)

Also called "fish die-off," BFAR further defined fish kill as the "massive death of fish stocks in a certain area due to unfavorable water quality parameters of a certain aquatic environment that are intolerable or toxic to the fish stocks."

This may also be caused by biological diseases, detrimental anthropogenic activities or weather conditions that affect a certain body of water, it said.

BFAR cited that fish kill can be caused by various factors. "Some of these occur because of human activity, although around 50 percent of all kills around the world are due to natural causes," it said.

Natural causes may be infectious diseases, algal blooms, toxins from run-off water, or part of their natural life cycle.

One of the most common causes that result in fish kills is algal blooms and the resulting water quality issues, such as low oxygen or production of toxins.

According to the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), algal bloom is a periodic occurrence in Laguna de Bay.

"Algae are microscopic plants in various forms, shapes and colors. Those commonly found in Laguna de Bay are blue-green algae, green algae and diatoms. They are natural food and their abundance in lake is one of the factors attributed to the success of aquaculture business in the lake. Aside from being a source of food for fish and other aquatic life, these algae provides dissolved oxygen through the process of photosynthesis," the LLDA explained.



“The oversupply of nutrients in Laguna de Bay like nitrate and phosphate makes the lake very eutrophic, or in layman’s term, very fertile. Combined with environmental conditions such as sufficient sunlight, high water temperature, and calm water, the algae can grow at a very fast rate. If these environmental conditions are sustained, algal bloom happens which appears like a thick green or blue green soup,” it further said.



The LLDA said algal bloom becomes harmful when they decompose.

In the process, they use the dissolved oxygen in water. Dissolved oxygen is the volume of oxygen that is contained in the water and is vital in supporting aquatic life.

Oxygen level below 5 milligrams per liter (mg/L) is already stressful to the fish and if it further decreases, fish kill can occur.

Just this month, Sampaloc Lake, the largest of seven interconnected lakes in San Pablo City, Laguna also saw thousands of fish killed.

It is believed that the fish kill was caused by a lake “overturn,” a natural phenomenon in which colder water falls on the surface of the lake, while the water on the bottom rises, LLDA biologist Jonathan Nicolas said in an ABS-CBN report.

### **Fish kill response protocol**

The LLDA urged fish farmers and operators in Laguna Lake to observe proper approach during the occurrence of fish kill.

First step is to record observations – time and date of incident, location of the incident, owner of the affected fish pen or cage, contact number of the reporter/owner, area of the affected fish pen or cage, dead fish species stocks and density, and weather condition.



(UNSPLASH / MANILA BULLETIN)

Second, report the incident and recorded observation to the LLDA.

Third, provide assistance to the LLDA quick response team during the on-site survey and water sample collections.

Lastly, collect the dead fishes as soon as possible and properly dispose at the pre-identified burial area or site, the LLDA advised.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/06/fish-kill/>



# Danjugan's Marine Biodiversity in all its Glory

BY VILLAGE CONNECT ON JANUARY 16, 2021 LIFESTYLE

## *Danjugan's Marine Biodiversity in all its Glory*

Village Connect Magazine December 2020 issue.

We are a marine reserve and wildlife sanctuary. We are an ecotourism destination aimed towards conservation, environmental education, sustainable livelihood, science and research.

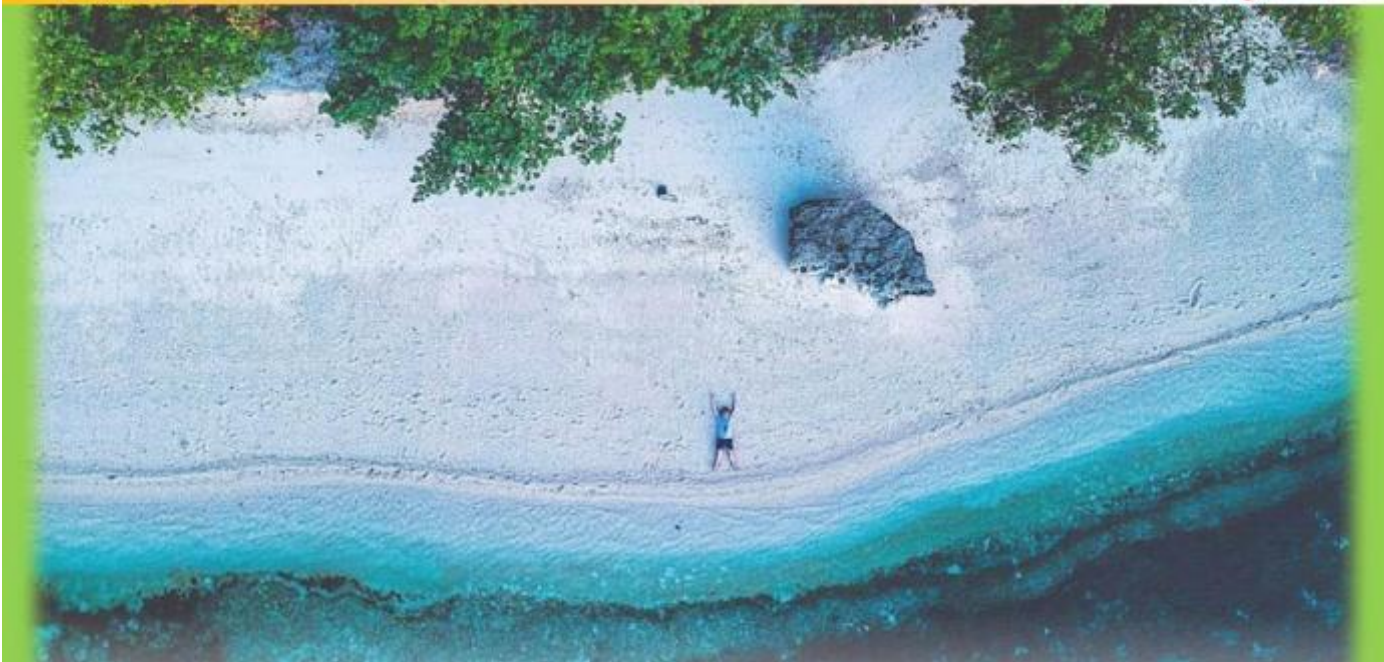
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**TRAVEL**



Continuation from page 2..

**Danjugan Island.....**

What once used to be a threatened and over-fished area is now a protected sanctuary with a dazzling array of marine and terrestrial life. Today, the Island serves as an outdoor classroom for students, a research area for conservationists, and a haven for tourists eager to experience nature at its purest.

The island has incredible biodiversity given its small size. At least 72 bird species have been recorded on the island, including a nesting pair of White-breasted Sea Eagles (*Haliastur leucogaster*) that have been breeding atop the Typhoon Beach Camp since 1974, and Tabon scrub fowls (*Megapodius cumingi*) which are common around the island.

ta phlegon recorded for the first time in Negros Occidental) have also been documented.

dangered *Tridacna gigas* is being implemented in collaboration with UP-MSI.

At least 17 species of mangroves, 572 fish species belonging to 139 genera, 244 species of hard corals, 8 species of seagrass and 74 species of macroalgae have been recorded.

Other commercially important invertebrates observed are Abalone *Haliotis asinina* and Spiny lobster *Panulirus* spp. The endangered coconut crab (*Birgus latro*) still frequent the island. The western beaches of Danjugan Island are known nesting sites of the Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Green Sea (*Chelonia mydas*) turtles.

Commercially important marine invertebrates such as giant clams (*Tridacna crocea*, *T. squamosa* and *Hippopus hippopus*) are observed in the reefs. A restocking program for the en-

At least 10 bat species and 22 butterfly species (with *Pachlo-*



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Business Editor



## DOST addresses water security, livelihood, nutrition, environment protection in Concepcion

By Paul Jaysent FosPublished on January 16, 2021



With the newly installed solar-powered water pumping system with filtration and treatment facility, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Mimaropa intends to address water security and safety on the island of Concepcion in Romblon. (Photo Courtesy: DOST-Mimaropa)

CONCEPCION, Romblon, Jan. 15 (DOST) -- With the newly installed solar-powered water pumping system with filtration and treatment facility, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Mimaropa intends to address water security and safety on the island of Concepcion in Romblon.

Concepcion, considered a Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Area (GIDA), is the farthest island municipality in the province with nine barangays which has been suffering from limited access to safe and adequate water. The residents only rely on rainwater collected using basins and pails and deep wells powered by an electric pump as their water source, however, the operation is limited due to high electricity cost.

The solar energy system-powered water pump was provided to Brgy. Masadya, the poorest barangay in Concepcion, through the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology Program of DOST-Mimaropa. Compared to other barangays, the residents in Masadya are only given two hours in the morning and another two in the afternoon to get the water their families' lives depend on. Barangay officials were forced to limit the water collection hours to avoid incurring high electricity costs. Each family is required to pay P50 per 10 cubic meters of water per month and an additional P5 per extra 10 cubic meters for the use of the deep well to sustain its operations. On average, Brgy. Masadya is paying PhP 7,000 solely for electricity, which they admit can be utilized for rather more valuable expenses for the community.

The water quality that is sourced from the water pump is also salty and metallic in taste which poses many health risks to the residents. When a household is not able to save enough water within the 4 hours allotment, they have to endure traveling to the next barangay with a water supply— Brgy. Poblacion which is about 7 kilometers away. It is the barangay's dream to reduce this drudgery to improve the health of its residents and give more opportunity of spending more time on income-generating and other productive activities.

Now, with the installation of the solar-powered water system with filtration and treatment facility, continued access to clean and safe drinking water at any time of the day is guaranteed. A total of 74 households or about 400 residents not only from the community but even from the adjacent barangay can now benefit from the improved water source.



Moreover, the system's water filtration and treatment facility greatly improve the quality of water. With the technology, the water's metallic taste has been removed and its brininess has been reduced by 90%. Since it is solar-powered, it also helps the community manage their water needs in an environment-friendly way. The barangay local government unit (BLGU) maintains the technology and ensures that families can collect as much water as they need that is also assured clean and safe.

"Malaki po tlga ang pagkakaiba ng lasa ng tubig namin. Hindi na sya maalat, kaya panatag na kami na hindi kami magkakasakit", said Erlindo Fanoga Jr., Brgy. Masadya's Brgy. Captain.

Other interventions to guarantee the sustainability and reliability of their water supply include training on the operation and maintenance of the solar-powered water system with filtration and treatment facility, and provision of Ceramic Water Filters (CWF) to 50 households from other barangays.

DOST-Mimaropa recognizes the importance of water security to ensure sustainable rural development and resilience, especially in this time of battling against the COVID-19 pandemic where sanitation and hygiene serve as the primary defenses. Through the CEST Program, DOST-Mimaropa harnesses technology as a springboard for further development in remote areas in the region.

CEST works to raise the living standards of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities by addressing pressing issues related but not limited to livelihood, health and nutrition, education, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation, and environmental protection and conservation.

### Improving Children's Health and Nutrition with Complementary Baby Food

In addition to the solar-powered water pumping system with filtration and treatment facility, Brgy. Masadya also received various interventions to improve their status of health and nutrition through the CEST program. Barangay health workers and barangay nutrition scholars were provided with various training such as basic nutrition and food safety. The agency also showcased DOST-FNRI's Complementary Baby Food (CBF) through the conduct of a 120-day feeding program to all malnourished children in the barangay aged 6-36 months. Results showed that the children elevated their nutritional status. Two (2) children were removed from its severely underweight status while the seven (7) underweight children improved their weight and were classified as normal after the intervention.

### "Chocobuco" Making

Economic opportunities in the area are limited, with only coconut trees as the most abundant resource and main source of raw materials. To open more livelihood opportunities, a group of women was trained on the chocolate molding. This inspired them to venture into the chocolate-making business as a source of additional income. In 2019, the women's organization sought assistance from the DOST-Mimaropa and was provided with coconut processing equipment that can be used to make a special chocolate called "chocobuco", a chocolate treat infused with coconut filling.





## Opportunities in Recycling

DOST-Mimaropa also performed a Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS) and provided the island with a plastic pulverizer and a junk compactor to improve its waste management and upgrade their Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The technology, which started out as an initiative for solid waste management, later turned out to be an income-generating opportunity for the community and the local government unit. Plastic wastes generated by households are being sold to LGUs to be pulverized and become a bulk material for hollow block making. Pulverized plastics are mixed with cement and gravel and then molded into blocks. These hollow blocks are being used in the construction projects of the LGU. Other recyclable wastes on the other hand are being compacted using the junk compactor and are sold to the nearest waste processing facility in Pinamalayan, Mindoro. (PR)



# Terra Carta: saving earth

[BREAKTHROUGH](#) - [Elfren S. Cruz](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 17, 2021 - 12:00am

The world has made tremendous economic and technological progress in the last 100 years but the cost of all these has been an immeasurable destruction to our planet and its environment. Last Jan. 11, 2021 His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales, presented a 17-page document called “Terra Carta – For Nature, People & Planet” which he hopes will mobilize citizens and business to defend planet Earth from environmental destruction.

In the foreword to the document, Prince Charles wrote: “We simply cannot maintain this course indefinitely. To build a productive and sustainable future, there must be a center of gravity to catalyze such a monumental effort and to mobilize the resources and incentives required.”

The document derives its name from the Magna Carta which was the written agreement 800 years ago between King John of England and a group of English barons. It has become a meaningful symbol of liberty and democracy, including the rights of citizens to justice and protection from arbitrary justice.

The present environmental charter is a blueprint for making sustainability a part of everyday life and is expected to slow down the degradation of the natural environment. Its signatories are expected to support international agreement, like the Paris Agreement; work to protect at least half the planet by 2050; fight desertification; promote biodiversity; make environment-friendly investing decisions and strive for fewer greenhouse gas emissions. It also explores various aspects of greening the economy; incentivizing innovation; prioritizing sustainable investment and redesigning for net-zero and nature-positive transitions.

In the foreword, Prince Charles provides the basic framework for harnessing the power of Nature:

“For nearly every problem we face, Nature, with the benefit of billions of years of evolution, has already provided us with solutions. Universal principles rooted in the harmony of Nature’s pattern, cycles and geometry, which ancient civilizations and indigenous peoples have known all too well, need to be harnessed to inform science, technology, design and engineering and can, in fact, drive a sustainable future. But time is fast running out and we are rapidly wiping out, through mass extinctions, many of Nature’s unique treasure trove of species from which we can develop innovative and sustainable products for the future. Timelines for change must be brought forward if we are to make a transformative shift by the end of the decade and before it is too late.”

Appeal to CEOs: Prince Charles makes a special appeal to business leaders and major investors: “Today must be the decisive moment that we make sustainability the growth story of our time, while positioning Nature as the engine of our economy. To help us succeed and to complement global effort across public, private and philanthropic sectors, I am calling on CEOs from around the world to engage and play their part in leading the global transition. To guarantee our future, we have no other choice but to make each day count – and it must start today.”

He then outlines the major objectives of the Terra Carta:

- Furthering and, where possible, exceeding the goals and targets outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.



- Broadening the definition of sustainability, beyond simple net-zero transition to be inclusive of Nature, People, Planet, Equality and Prosperity.
- Supporting the protection and restoration of a minimum of 30 percent biodiversity on land and below water by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050.
- Making global investment and financial flows consistent with pathways towards low greenhouse gas emissions, climate resilient development and Natural Capital/biodiversity restoration (on land and below water).
- Encouraging coordination, cooperation and cohesion within corporate and public-private philanthropic domains.
- Leveraging consumer and shareholder demand to drive sustainable transition and investment the private sector.

Ten articles

The document is divided into ten articles:

- Article 1. Create Sustainable Industries: create entirely new sustainable industries, products, services and supply chains while helping to transition existing systems to a more sustainable trajectory.
- Article 2. Default Sustainable: embedding genuine sustainability in our business models, analysis, decisions and actions; and further defining and developing the discipline and framework of sustainable markets and sustainable industries.
- Article 3. Power of Consumers: consumers need to be told about product life cycles, supply chains, production methods and all true costs including the cost to Nature.
- Article 4. Accelerate and Align Industry Roadmaps: businesses, industries, investors and countries alike must design and implement how they will decarbonize and transition to net zero while restoring and protecting Natural Capital.
- Article 5. Game Changers and Barriers: exploring the benefits of sustainable labelling and warranting to rapid drive consumer demand for sustainable products and services.
- Article 6. Sustainable Investing at Scale: asset owners/managers commitment to investing strategically to recognize companies that are making the transformation and developing new sources of funding for sustainable activities.
- Article 7. Nature, the True Engine of Our Economy: define the benefits derived from the natural world and account for Natural Capital on companies' balance sheets. Establishing markets for ecosystem services and develop natural capital innovation hubs where ideas and technological solutions of tomorrow will germinate and flourish.
- Article 8. Create Market Incentives: reverse perverse subsidies and improve incentives for sustainable alternatives.
- Article 9. Adopt Common Metrics and Standards: join movement toward convergence of existing global standards and move to unified metrics, global standards and mandatory disclosures.



- Article 10. Catalyze Science, Technology and Innovation: invest in STEM, innovation and R&D at scale. Enhance access to continuous education training of young people in line with the needs of a sustainable future.

I hope Filipino companies will become signatories of Terra Carta and help save the world.

\* \* \*

An invitation to young writers:

Young Writers' Hangout via Zoom will be held on Jan 30, 2-3 p.m.

Contact [writethingsph@gmail.com](mailto:writethingsph@gmail.com). 0945.2273216

Email: [elfrencruz@gmail.com](mailto:elfrencruz@gmail.com)



# Dahilayan Adventure Eco Park and Covid-19

“The success or failure of any tourist attraction should be measured not by how much dividend it yields, but by how much it has maintained the ecology of the place.

Published 5 hours ago on January 17, 2021 12:20 AM

By [Macabangkit B. Lanto](#)



There is a scientific-based finding of the nexus between pandemics and the ecosystem.

The wanton destruction of the environment and biodiversity, caused by deforestation, agriculture, progress, changes in land use and other disrespect to the status quo of mother nature, is partly responsible for the assault of the virus.

Covid-19 started at a food market in Wuhan, China selling wild and exotic animals, which were infected, like bats.

And before we knew it, the contagion spread like wild fire bringing the medical and scientific worlds to their knees.

The toxicity and rapid spread were of epic proportion that even First World countries with advance technologies were seen scrambling for a breather from the onslaught of the menacing virus.

The scenario painted by epidemiologists is simply like this: infected wild animals whose habitat in nature were driven away by deforestation and land use, forcing the virus to cross over to domestic food animals, like pigs, chicken, etc. When humans consume the pork, it triggered a wave of the pandemic.

In sum, humans are partly to be blamed for the present scourge.

These thoughts came to mind when the family hied off to a mountain resort last weekend for the new year get-together, a decades-old tradition which even the pandemic cannot shelve. The Dahilayan Adventure Park is drawing so many tourists that one wonders what could be its attraction.

It's a favorite weekend bonding venue for Maranao families who don't mind traveling more than 200 kilometers from Lanao del Sur just to visit and perhaps enjoy the amenities and attractions offered by the resort.

The pine trees and the cool and foggy weather seem to be the magnet that reminds one of Baguio. The cottages are homely, well-kept with basic necessities one needs — they even have fireplaces for warming.



The rates are competitively reasonable.

It is located at Barangay Dahilayan, Municipality of Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, a mere two-and-a-half-hour drive from Laguindingan Airport. Carved out of a rainforest with deep ravines where a river zigzagged in between thick foliage, it is marketed as “Mindanao’s Favorite Extreme Playground” on account of its fear-challenging attractions.

It boasts a Dual Zipline, which it claimed to be the longest in Asia and where one flies “like Superman from a launch point at 4,700 feet above sea level.

With speeds of up to 90 kph, zoom through lush greenery and breathtaking views only found in the mountains of Dahilayan.” But it has playgrounds for children, too.

Since September 2009 when it started operation, it has drawn thousands of adventure buffs and groups.

It has a Sky Tower Base Jump from an eight-story platform, “the highest parajump in the Philippines using a cell site tower.” The rides include Great White Water Rafting, which Cagayan de Oro is famous for.

The multimillion-peso development of the resort must have entailed long-term planning.

Pine trees are aligned with concrete roads.

I am told that the Paras family controls the corporation.

What easily comes to mind is former Congressman Jesus Emmanuel Paras and brother Elpie Paras, an old family friend. (I remember him creating a small airplane and personally pilot-testing it at the old Lumbia Airport. I wonder if the plane one sees upon entering the park is the same plane built by Elpie.) They are an enterprising family.

The wonder of the resort is how they were able to preserve and protect successfully the biodiversity of the place. They have brought progress without endangering the ecosystem.

The residents benefited through employment and trading native crafts.

The success or failure of any tourist attraction should be measured not by how much dividend it yields, but by how much it has maintained the ecology of the place and the preservation of nature’s assets and beauty. Mindanao is rich with them just waiting to be developed.

During my stint as Undersecretary of the Department of Tourism we have the mantra: “Huwag maging dayuhan sa sariling bayan.” Meaning see first local attractions before those in foreign lands. You will help accelerate recovery of our economy, which went into tailspin because of the pandemic.

Email: amb\_mac\_lanto  
@yahoo.com

Source: [https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/01/17/dahilayan-adventure-eco-park-and-covid-19/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=dahilayan-adventure-eco-park-and-covid-19](https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/01/17/dahilayan-adventure-eco-park-and-covid-19/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=dahilayan-adventure-eco-park-and-covid-19)



Sunday, 17 January 2021  
Daily Tribune



PHOTOGRAPH BY RIC I CONELLE DELUWIO FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @mbvsnan/d\_0a  
THESE women in Marikina City search for recyclables they can sell from junk they collected from nearby houses.

# Taguig CO

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To ensure the safe &  
anti-coronavirus vaccines  
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Meanwhile, the Malabon  
the bulk of its P200 million  
in acquiring those produced by A  
The city will be allocating P100  
while the rest of the amount will  
pharmaceutical firms.

# Batasan

Seized from the suspect v



## ... get promotions

National Capital Region were promoted to higher ranks. Brig. Gen. Vicente Danao Jr., National Capital Region Police Officer 5, said the policemen passed the rigid screening at the National Police (PNP) National Headquarters Promoted Officer Promotion Committee Alpha and Bravo for the Calendar Year 2020 program.

The pinning of ranks ceremony held in Camp Aguinaldo chief urged the newly promoted lawmen to maintain the trust and confidence of the public. "I expect the PNP Regional Office to sustain the trust and confidence that will be the ERA – an Example, with all our actions and with integrity to do," Danao said. He mentioned the promotion of 10 officers to the rank of sergeant, 20; lieutenant, 24; master sergeant, 96; sergeant, 283; staff

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## After 7 staff ...-positive

eral (OSG) was forced to close last week after seven of its staff members tested positive for COVID-19. The office will function under strict protocols. Officials will be personally

email  
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et@osg  
phl\_alvi



PHOTOGRAPH BY RIO LEONELLE DELUVIO FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

WHILE authorities are strictly monitoring the felling of trees in the countryside, this trader from Paete, Laguna is able to find enough material to fashion his wooden spatulas and chopping boards.





The total COVID-19 caseload as of Jan. 16 was 498,691, of which 28,674 are active cases, the DOH reported.

Michael Varcas

## COVID-19 cases in Philippines near 500,000 mark

[Sheila Crisostomo](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 17, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The number of documented cases of COVID-19 in the country is now very close to half a million, as the Department of Health (DOH) reported 2,058 new infections yesterday.

The total COVID-19 caseload as of Jan. 16 was 498,691, of which 28,674 are active cases, the DOH reported.

Among the new cases are 406 patients who recovered and eight who died, bringing the tally of recoveries and fatalities to 460,133 and 9,884, respectively.

Data also showed that 92.4 percent of all the cases are mild or asymptomatic.

Among the areas with the biggest number of new cases, Cavite and Rizal provinces topped the list with 96 cases each, followed by Leyte with 93, Quezon City with 85 and Mountain Province with 84.

On the vaccine rollout, DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said there will be a registry for all individuals targeted for inoculation against COVID-19.

Vergeire pointed out that part of the registry is an “assessment” of each recipient to determine if they can get the vaccine or not.

“If you are asking if we have to be healthy – of course, we have to be healthy. But definitely, the vaccine has proven to be safe, so there is nothing to worry about,” she said at a press briefing.

Part of the assessment is determining if a vaccinee has allergies.

Vergeire added that before inoculation, the “indications and contraindications of the vaccines” will be discussed with the recipients as part of the “informed consent” process.

“Just like the other medicines in the market, we also have to be guided when we are doing vaccination. We have to be prepared if ever there would be some reactions that will happen to our vaccine recipients,” she said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/01/17/2071004/covid-19-cases-philippines-near-500000-mark>



## MABABANG EFFICACY RATE NG ILANG BRAND NG COVID-19 VACCINE 'DI PA NAPAPATUNAYAN—DOST

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



Muling pinawi ng mga eksperto ang pangamba ng publiko laban sa negatibong epekto ng bakuna kontra Coronavirus Disease 2019 o COVID-19.

Sa panayam ng DWIZ, sinabi ni DOST Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara na wala pang siyentipikong basehan ang mga kumalat na balita ukol sa mababang efficacy o bisa ng ilang vaccine brands.

Ayon kay Guevarra, hindi pa tapos ang masusing clinical trials ng mga bakuna laban sa coronavirus.

Ipinaliwanag naman ng opisyal ang isyu tungkol sa Sinovac na sinasabing limampung porsiyento lamang ang efficacy.

Kasabay nito, hinimok din ni Guevara ang publiko na magtiwala sa gobyerno at ipaubaya ang lahat sa Department of Health na siyang maglulunsad ng vaccination program.



# The year of living responsibly

[Chit U. Juan](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 17, 2021 - 12:00am

Welcome to the new year, a year we more or less anticipate to be more of the same we have had the past nine months – one of apprehension and anxiety. But since we now know what GCQ feels like as opposed to ECQ, we just wait and go on with life whilst keeping face masks, shields and alcohol spritz bottles handy.

So now that we more or less have accepted the situation, we proceed to try and live normally with health protocols and just wait for the elusive vaccine, which may not mean going back to normal, but living with masks and shields for the rest of our life. But while we are still here, how do we live responsibly, keeping environment and climate change in mind?

- **Shun the plastics.** While it is so easy to order food take out or delivered, restaurants must soon transition into filling our own containers to avoid using so much single use plastic. Quick service restaurants must compromise into allowing customers to bring their own cups, bowls and reusables. Delivery orders must be in reusable containers if not paper, potato starch or banana leaves.
- **Sort and segregate.** It's bad enough to have so much garbage with the single use plastics, it's even harder to teach our household staff how to sort garbage and segregate biodegradables, plastics and food waste that can go into compost bins. Segregation will also give us our own compost and make the job of the dumpster people much easier.
- **Plant a tree.** This has been the battlecry of many corporate social responsibility (CSR) advocates for years, but what were they planting? Mahogany!! I heard Mahogany is lethal to many species. So I went around looking for native trees and made sure our corporate tree planting activity used coffee and forest trees. We need a lot of coffee so planting coffee is a very good thing to do.
- **Eat less meat.** Yes, your regular burger causes all these greenhouse gases, causing the seas to warm up, the sun to be more intense and for seasons to be crazy. Why is it raining in January? Even the fruiting trees have gotten mixed signals from Mother Nature. Why do we have watermelon in December? So if you skipped meat one day a week, it would do the Earth some good. You need not go plant-based completely, but just declaring a Meatless Monday and a Fish Friday should be a good step in the right direction.
- **Buy local.** The local economy needs all the help it can get. Buying local fruits, choosing local vegetables makes a lot of difference. Even if you can get a cheaper version from another country, think of saving our people first before you save the rest of the world. Every local produce you buy feeds a family and more. Yes, though we can sometimes indulge because life is indeed short, still remember that choosing to buy local more often makes a difference in our "gasping for air" economy.
- **Learn how to navigate the net.** Digital is not just for young kids. Digital will be the new currency. I know a 90-year-old who wants to now use an e-wallet and now hears Sunday mass using her mobile phone. Be open to learning something new a little at a time. This will make digital immigrants (you) be able to talk to digital natives (your children and grandchildren). It may take you longer to learn, but be open to learning something, whether you're 50 or pushing 80. This will make more responsible citizens of all of us.

These are just some of the pivots we can do to live responsibly. There are mindsets we need to consciously change this year if we are to be worthy of our place here on planet Earth.



It's not about budgets and buying cheaper, it's about everyone's survival. And that means tipping your Grab driver, being nice to your merchants, minding your neighbors and just generally being more responsible for the happiness of others.

If we are to survive another year, if we are to beat this pandemic, we have to live smarter and be more responsible citizens not just of our country, but of this planet we call home.

\* \* \*

Chit Juan is founder of Echostore and Slow Food councillor for Southeast Asia.



# Asean body OKs result of One Planet Summit for biodiversity

By BusinessMirror  
January 17, 2021



*French President Emmanuel Macron (top), Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (below, left), Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg (center) and Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson attend a videoconference meeting during the One Planet Summit for biodiversity at The Elysee Palace, in Paris, on January 11.*

The Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) welcomed the outcomes of the One Planet Summit that was hosted by the French government, United Nations and World Bank on January 11.

"We welcome fresh commitments from world leaders, which the ACB views with much optimism and enthusiasm," ACB Executive Director Theresa Munda Lim said in a news release.

"These pledges pivot initiatives to conserve and restore ecosystems in the Asean region and across the globe, especially now that we are ushering in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration," Lim said.

## Funds for nature-based solutions

At the summit that was held via videoconference owing to the pandemic, governments, such as the United Kingdom (UK) and France, announced earmarking funds for nature-based solutions.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the UK will commit at least £3 billion (\$4 billion) to climate-change solutions that protect and restore nature and biodiversity over five years.

The amount of \$10 billion was earmarked for the Great Green Wall, a project to restore degraded lands in the Sahel in Africa along an 8,000-kilometer band from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, along with new financial commitments from Norway and Germany.

"The pledges of governments are of great importance for other regions and subregions. Such commitments could not come at a more opportune time ahead of the 15th meeting [in October] of the Conference of Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China, where the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is expected to be adopted," Lim said in the news release.

## Asean initiatives

In 2020, the ACB co-organised webinars with Pew Charitable Trusts and the High Ambition Coalition for Nature with the National Geographic Society's Campaign for Nature to raise awareness among the Asean member-states on the importance of the plan to carve out 30 percent of global lands and oceans for protection by 2030 (30x30 Goals), the news release said.

Based on the Asean's initial inputs to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, resource mobilization—including setting up a finance mechanism explicitly for biodiversity—is a crucial tool to effectively implement the framework and achieve the 2050 vision.



Meanwhile, in terms of the One Health approach to address existing and emerging outbreaks of diseases, Lim shared the regional and country-level initiatives made in the Asean in line with incorporating biodiversity into public health responses and regional development processes during the One Planet summit pre-event webinar "Prevention of Pandemics and Protection of Biodiversity" organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature.

She highlighted the initiatives in the Asean, such as Malaysia's wildlife disease surveillance program, Indonesia's economic support and livelihood stimulus to ease environmental pressure on protected areas, and Vietnam's One Health strategy pre-dating the Covid-19 pandemic, the ACB news release said.

The ACB, an intergovernmental body created by the 10 Asean member-states, aims to facilitate cooperation in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in the region.

## High-ambition coalition

Top US officials were absent at the summit, as were the leaders of Russia, India and Brazil, the Associated Press (AP) reported.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who hosted the event, announced that the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, which was launched in 2019 by Costa Rica, France and Britain to set a target for the 30×30 Goals, has now been joined by 50 countries.

A 2019 UN report on biodiversity showed that human activities are putting nature in more trouble now than at any other time in human history, with extinction looming for over 1 million species of plants and animals.

"We know even more clearly amid the crisis we are going through that all our vulnerabilities are interrelated," Macron said. "Pressure on nature exerted by human activities is increasing inequalities and threatening our health and our security."

"We can change the story if we decide to do it," he added.

## 4 major topics

The one-day summit focused on four major topics: protecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems; promoting agroecology, a more sustainable way to grow food; increasing funding to protect biodiversity; and identifying links between deforestation and the health of humans and animals, AP said.

The summit also launched a program called Prezode, which Macron presented as an unprecedented international initiative to prevent the emergence of zoonotic diseases and pandemics, which is already mobilizing over 400 researchers and experts across the world.

The move comes as scientists suspect that the coronavirus that first infected people in China last year came from an animal source, probably bats.

"Pandemic recovery is our chance to change course," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said. "With smart policies and the right investments, we can chart a path that brings health to all, revives economies, builds resilience and rescues biodiversity."

Guterres also stressed that according to the World Economic Forum, emerging business opportunities across nature could create 191 million jobs by 2030.

Other leaders at the summit were German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

China, represented by Vice Premier Han Zheng, agreed that "collective efforts" are needed.



The event, organized by France, the United Nations and the World Bank, took place without top US officials, as President-elect Joe Biden, a strong proponent of climate issues, does not take office until January 20.

The UN's global climate summit, the COP26, has also been rescheduled for November in the UK.

Participants welcomed the creation of Africa's Great Green Wall project, a so-called accelerator, which is expected to release billion of dollars over the next five years to finance the program.

Launched in 2007, it aims to plant an arc of trees running 7,000 kilometers (4,350 miles) across Africa—from Senegal along the Atlantic all the way to Djibouti on the Gulf of Aden.

Another initiative involves a new coalition of Mediterranean countries working to better protect the sea from pollution and overfishing.

Britain's Prince Charles launched an "urgent appeal" to private-sector leaders to join a new investment alliance targeting \$10 billion by 2022 to finance nature-based solutions, AP said.

Image credits: [Ludovic Marin, pool photo via AP](#)



## Hunt for buried survivors after Indonesia quake continues

Published January 16, 2021 6:10pm

Rescuers scrambled to find buried survivors Saturday after a powerful earthquake on Indonesia's Sulawesi island killed dozens, injured hundreds and left more feared trapped in the rubble of collapsed buildings, as monsoon rains lashed the disaster-struck region.

At least 46 people died after the 6.2-magnitude quake struck in the early hours of Friday, triggering panic among residents of the island, which was hit by a 2018 quake-tsunami disaster that killed thousands.

Search-and-rescue worked through the night as they pulled dozens of bodies from beneath crumpled buildings in Mamuju, a city of about 110,000 people in West Sulawesi province, where a hospital was flattened and a shopping mall lay in ruins.

Others were killed south of the city after the quake struck, as a strong aftershock jolted the area Saturday morning.

Grieving relatives began burying the dead at a local cemetery.

Planes and boats packed with food and other emergency supplies were arriving, with the navy reportedly sending a ship equipped with mobile medical services as Mamuju's still-standing hospitals were flooded with hundreds of injured.

Rescuers said a shortage of heavy equipment was slowing the search effort, while thousands left homeless by the quake set up makeshift shelters on higher ground -- many little more than tarpaulin-covered tents that were lashed by heavy downpours.

"We're running out of food. There hasn't been any aid from the government yet," 24-year-old survivor Desti told AFP from hard-hit Majene, adding that some survivors at the camp needed medical attention.

"Some people are using coconut leaves as mats," she added.

Many survivors are unable to return to their destroyed homes, or too scared to go back fearing more quakes or a tsunami, said Desti, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

Authorities have not given a figure for the number of residents who could still be trapped under buildings reduced to twisted metal and concrete chunks, including the hospital that collapsed with more than a dozen patients and staff inside.





On Saturday, authorities said they had pulled eight corpses from under the building, while five members of a family of eight were found dead in the crumpled remains of their home. Among the Mamuju survivors was a pair of young sisters plucked from under the mass of concrete and other debris. The pair are now being treated in hospital.

'Heartfelt solidarity'

The Pope said he was "saddened" to learn of the quake.

"His Holiness Pope Francis expresses his heartfelt solidarity with all those affected by this natural disaster," the Vatican said in a statement.

"He prays for the repose of the deceased, the healing of the injured and the consolation of all who grieve."

Landslides triggered by the heavy rains and quake blocked the main access road out of the seaside city, scuttling some residents' efforts to flee.

The city's airport had also been damaged, while the regional governor's office was also partly destroyed, authorities said.

Power remained out in parts of Mamuju after the quake damaged its electricity grid.

Save the Children warned that the young were among the most at risk.

"While the extent of the earthquake damage is still unclear, we know children are often the most vulnerable following disaster," it said.

"It will be essential that children are prioritized in any response, as they may have witnessed the death of loved ones or become separated from their parents."

The quake's epicenter was 36 kilometers (22 miles) south of Mamuju and it had a relatively shallow depth of 18 kilometers.

In neighboring Kalimantan, Indonesia's section of Borneo island, at least five people had died in heavy flooding while dozens more were missing, according to reports.

Indonesia, a sprawling Southeast Asian archipelago of nearly 270 million, experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide.

In 2018, a 7.5-magnitude quake and a subsequent tsunami in Palu on Sulawesi left more than 4,300 people dead or missing.

On December 26, 2004, a 9.1-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra and triggered a tsunami that killed 220,000 throughout the region, including around 170,000 in Indonesia. — Agence France-Presse

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/772040/hunt-for-buried-survivors-after-indonesia-quake-continues/story/>

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