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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## Cimatu Leads Launch of Watershed Conservation Campaign

by  Village Connect about 12 hours ago



As it continues to work to counter the climate change threats faced by the country's watershed areas, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has launched a nationwide campaign to expand watershed conservation and protection efforts involving grassroots communities.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the campaign dubbed Save Our Watershed (SOW) will serve as a platform to encourage partnerships and collaborations from the national down to the grassroots level.

"We hope that the spirit of the 'Save Our Watershed' ripples through to all our DENR regional offices, foreign-assisted projects, and local government units with initiatives on watershed conservation," Cimatu said.

He added that the campaign aims to encourage the creation of local ordinances to further promote the conservation and protection of watersheds.

"There are more than 130 critical watersheds in the country that desperately need immediate protection and rehabilitation to minimize erosion and improve water yield," Cimatu said.

"For us to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change-induced disasters, people's support to government actions, therefore, is still the key," Cimatu said.

At the national level, the campaign seeks to craft a draft executive order (EO) that will serve as a blueprint for a harmonized and uniformed approach towards protecting, conserving, and sustaining the services provided by the country's watersheds, such as water supply for irrigation and domestic use, power generation and biodiversity.

Cimatu said the most essential element of watersheds are the trees, pointing out that "a watershed cannot be called as such if there are no trees."

DENR Assistant Secretary and concurrent Forest Management Bureau Director Marcial C. Amaro, Jr. expressed optimism that they will be able to finish the draft EO by the end of the year or within the fourth quarter for submission to the Office of the President.

Amaro said that all stakeholders, including national and local authorities, local government units, and coastal communities will be consulted for the draft EO in line with the DENR's policy of adopting the reef-to-ridge approach in watershed conservation.

Source: <https://www.villageconnect.com.ph/cimatu-leads-launch-of-watershed-conservation-campaign/7447>



# DENR OKs 1,103 solid waste management plans

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 17, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 1,103 solid waste management (SWM) plans have been approved by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), 21 of which were recently submitted by various local government units (LGUs).

Four each were submitted by Ilocos Norte and Misamis Occidental LGUs; Zambales, Bohol and Lanao del Norte, two each, and Nueva Ecija, Quezon province, Negros Oriental, Misamis Oriental, Surigao del Sur, Benguet and Mountain Province, one each.

“These SWM plans shall be the foundation for the effective solid waste management of cities and municipalities through the leadership of their local executives,” NSWMC chairman and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

Cimatu said the commission would continue to support LGUs by approving fully compliant and sound SWM plans and overseeing their implementation.

DENR Undersecretary for solid waste management and LGU concerns Benny Antiporda expressed optimism that their target of 1,716 SWM plans would be reached.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is investigating LGUs that have not yet submitted their SWM plan. It vowed to take legal actions against erring LGUs.

Under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, LGUs through their local solid waste management boards should formulate their SWM plans consistent with the National Solid Waste Management Framework.

SWM plans include strategies on waste diversion, collection efficiency and disposal of residual waste as well as operation and maintenance of the needed equipment and facility.



## DENR, CAVITE LGUS SANIB PWERSA SA MANILA BAY REHAB

July 17, 2021 Rannie Lao



**MAGTUTULUNGAN** ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ang local government units (LGUs) ng Cavite para sa epektibong pollution reduction at solid waste management sa Manila Bay.

“Manila Bay has a wide range of environmental problems that need to be addressed, one of which is the accumulation of solid waste coming from different waterways,” saad ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Ang pollution reduction at solid waste management activities sa probinsiya ng Cavite ay bahagi ng isinasagawang pagsisikap para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Nitong Hunyo 23 nang pangunahan ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny Antiporda ang inspeksiyon sa mga ilog sa Cavite kabilang na rito ang Imus River sa Bacoor at Ylang-Ylang River sa Novoleta kung saan ay nakita nito ang mga lumulutang na basura na dumidiretso sa Manila Bay.

Inatasan ni Cimatu si DENR-Calarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria na bigyang prayoridad ang pamamahala sa solid waste na nanggagaling sa coastal areas ng probinsiya ng Cavite.

Binigyang-diin ni Antiporda na siya ring namumuno sa Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force na ang National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) at ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ay gagawa ng mga istrategiya upang masolusyunan ang problema sa solid waste sa probinsiya.

Ayon kay Antiporda, ang una sa prayoridad ay ang pagtatayo ng clustered sanitary landfill bilang pansamantalang solusyon sa problema ng Cavite sa pagtatapon ng kanilang mga basura.

Inamin naman ni Governor Jonvic Remulla sa ginanap na Cavite Cluster Task Force meeting noong Hunyo 24 na ang kanilang lalawigan ay nabigong makapagpatayo ng kanilang sariling sanitary landfill dahil na rin sa limistasyon sa lupa.

Nabatid na upang magkaroon ng total solid waste management solution sa problema ay kinakailangan ng mga landfill operators na magkaroon ng composting facility, recycling facility, at residual diversion.

Sa pamamagitan nito, kaunti lamang na basura ang mapupunta sa sanitary landfill.



Ang paggawa ng clustered sanitary landfills ay magkakaroon ng malaking pagbabago sa pagkontrol ng basura ng Cavite na napupunta sa mga ilog, ito ay matapos isiwalat ni Remulla na aabot sa 2,000 tonelada ng basura kada araw ang napupunta sa mga ilog dahil na rin sa kakulangan ng solid waste management facility.

“We will study and try to come up with a very strategic approach in different municipalities and cities para po masiguro natin na once and for all, ma-solve po natin ang problemang ito,” saad ni Antiporda.

Hinikayat din nito ang LGUs sa Cavite na tumulong upang mag-empleyo ng environmental marshals sa bawat barangay upang matiyak na ang mga residente ay sumusunod sa solid waste management laws partikular na ang paghihiwalay ng mga basura.

Kinakailangan ding i-monitor ng mga ito ang kalapit na barangay upang hikayatin na gumaya sa kanila lalo na kapag ang water body ay dumadaloy sa iba’t-ibang barangay.

Bukod dito, nanawagan din si Antiporda ng “trained and competent” river rangers na hindi lamang tutulong para sa cleanup ng mga waterways bagkus ay magbabantay rin ang mga ito sa illegal environmental activities. BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.



## DENR humingi ng tulong sa Cavite LGUs para sa Manila Bay rehab



July 16, 2021 @ 7:39 AM 23 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – upang maisakatuparan ang isinasagawang Manila Bay rehabilitation, magtutulong ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ang local government units (LGUs) ng Cavite para sa epektibong pollution reduction at solid waste management sa Manila Bay.

“Manila Bay has a wide range of environmental problems that need to be addressed, one of which is the accumulation of solid waste coming from different waterways,” saad ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Sa press release sinabi ng DENR na ang pollution reduction at solid waste management activities sa probinsiya ng Cavite ay bahagi ng isinasagawang pagsisikap para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

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Kaugnay nito inamin naman ni Governor Jonvic Remulla sa ginanap na Cavite Cluster Task Force meeting noong Hunyo 24 na ang kanilang lalawigan ay nabigong makapagpatayo ng kanilang sariling sanitary landfill dahil na rin sa limistasyon sa lupa.

“We came up with a coalition of sanitary landfill operators wherein we told them that we will no longer tolerate sanitary landfill operators only, but they need to implement what we called the total solid waste management solution to the problem,” sabi nito.

Upang magkaroon ng total solid waste management solution sa problema ay kinakailangan ng mga landfill operators na magkaroon ng composting facility, recycling facility, at residual diversion. Sa pamamagitan nito, kaunti lamang na basura ang mapupunta sa sanitary landfill.



Ang paggawa ng clustered sanitary landfills ay magkakaroon ng malaking pagbabago sa pagkontrol ng basura ng Cavite na napupunta sa mga ilog, ito ay matapos isiwalat ni Remulla na aabot sa 2,000 tonelada ng basura kada araw ang napupunta sa mga ilog dahil na rin sa kakulangan ng solid waste management facility.

“We will study and try to come up with a very strategic approach in different municipalities and cities para po masiguro natin na once and for all, ma-solve po natin ang problemang ito,” sabi ni Antiporda.

Hinikayat din nito ang LGUs sa Cavite na tumulong upang mag-empleyo ng environmental marshals sa bawat barangay upang matiyak na ang mga residente ay sumusunod sa solid waste management laws partikular na ang paghihiwalay ng mga basura.

Kinakailangan ding i-monitor ng mga ito ang kalapit na barangay upang hikayatin na gumaya sa kanila lalo na kapag ang water body ay dumadaloy sa iba’t-ibang barangay.

Bukod dito, nanawagan din si Antiporda ng “trained and competent” river rangers na hindi lamang tutulong para sa cleanup ng mga waterways bagkus ay magbabantay din ang mga ito sa illegal environmental activities. **Santi Celario**



# MMDA, DENR link up anew to stop pollution of Manila Bay

Published July 16, 2021, 3:39 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have partnered for another project that seeks to protect Manila Bay's waters from further pollution.



(From left to right) Pasay Rep. Antonio Calixto, Pasay Mayor Imelda Calixto-Rubiano, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, and MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos pose during the groundbreaking ceremony for the STP on July 16, 2021. (Photo from the MMDA)

MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu led on Friday, July 16 the groundbreaking ceremony for a new sewage treatment plant (STP) and wastewater interceptor in Pasay City that, once constructed, would address the problem of wastewater discharge to the historic bay.

"With this STP, no untreated waste water from Tripa De Gallina and Libertad Pumping Station will flow into the Manila Bay," Cimatu said.

"We proudly support another project with the MMDA that also promises to give the best results..." "The sewage treatment plant in the Baywalk area in partnership with MMDA now shows water quality results as low as 1.8 mpn (most probable number) per 100 ml. This level is most certainly within the fecal coliform standard of 200 mpn per 100 ml," noted Cimatu.

The DENR head honcho was referring to the STP along Roxas Boulevard, which was launched last year. The STP to be constructed adjacent to the Libertad Pumping Station is the second one planned in partnership with the MMDA.

Abalos had nothing but good things to say about the joint project.

"This is a good partnership between the DENR and the MMDA. The STP is capable of treating 10 million liters of waste water per day from the retarding pond of the Libertad Pumping Station before being discharged to Manila Bay," said Abalos.

He said the Libertad STP—which is estimated to be finished within four months—is among the steps being undertaken by government to clean up Manila Bay.





While the DENR will fund the STP's construction, the MMDA will be in charge of the maintenance and operations of the facility.

Meanwhile, Pasay City Rep. Antonino Calixto and Mayor Imelda Calixto-Rubiano, who also attended the event, expressed their appreciation to Cimatú and Abalos for the planned construction of the STP that will rehabilitate, restore, and maintain Manila Bay.



# Ikalawang sewage treatment plant, itatayo

By [Danilo Garcia](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 17, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Nakatakdang itayo ng pamahalaan ang ikalawang sewage treatment plant (STP) at wastewater interceptor sa Pasay City na layong salain at linisin ang tubig na dumidiretso sa Manila Bay.

Pinangunahan kahapon nina Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang STP, na itatayo sa loob ng apat na buwan sa tabi ng Libertad Pumping Station.

Ito ang ikalawang STP na ang una ay ang nakatayo sa Roxas Boulevard nitong nakaraang taon.

Nagdulot na ito ng pagtatala ng 1.8 mpn (most probable number) per 100ml. na kalidad ng tubig sa Baywalk Area.

“This level is most certainly within the fecal coliform standard of 200 mpn per 100 ml,” ayon kay Cimatu.

“With this STP, no untreated waste water from Tripa De Gallina and Li-bertad Pumping Station will flow into the Manila Bay,” dagdag pa niya.

Nabatid na ang DENR ang magpopondo sa pagtatayo ng istruktura habang ang MMDA naman ang mamamahala sa maintenance at operasyon nito.

Sinabi ni Abalos na ang Libertad Sewage Treatment Plant ang isa sa solusyon ng pamahalaan bilang bahagi ng paglilinis sa Manila Bay at pataasin ang kalidad ng tubig nito.



## DENR sisilipin Pasay Seaside Dampa sa maruming tubig

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jul 16, 2021

NEWS



Photo courtesy of eatnowornever.com



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Aa amin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kung sumusunod sa batas ang sikat na Seaside Dampa Restaurant sa Pasay City para matiyak ang kalinisan ng Manila Bay.

Inihayag ito ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu sa groundbreaking ng Libertad STPP and Wastewater Interceptor na magkakatuwang na pinangunahan ng kanyang kagawara, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Pasay City.

Sinabi ng kalihim na siya mismo ang tutukoy kung may sariling water treatment facility ang naturang resto sa Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard sa Pasay City.

Aniya, nagiging sanhi ng pagdumi ng Manila Bay ang mga waste material na nakukuha sa mga fast food restaurant.

Idinagdag ni Cimatu na ang mga restaurant ang madalas na pinanggalingan ng waste water na nagdudulot ng polusyon sa hangin at maging sa tubig. (Mia Billones)

Source: <https://www.abante.com.ph/denr-sisilipin-pasay-seaside-dampa-sa-maruming-tubig/>



## DENR seeks a stronger legal framework against illegal wildlife trade in the PH by adding amendatory provisions to existing law

Patricia Bianca Taculao July 16, 2021

The Philippines is home to more than 200 species of animals. Some of which are endemic to the country and considered rare or endangered, thus requiring the utmost care and preservation from those involved.

Such species continue to be at risk due to the illegal wildlife trade which is the illegal practice of trading animals and plants to make a personal profit out of it.

“Illegal wildlife trade is the fourth most lucrative criminal activity in the world and we are at the epicenter of it,” said Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Biodiversity Management Bureau OIC Edilberto DC Leonardo.



*Photo by Kim Teves from Unsplash*

He added that during the past 10 years, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has confiscated wildlife specimens that amount to P248 million. This includes live specimens, parts, and derivatives.

But Leonardo added that the government officials continue to be concerned about such activities because they suspect that only 10 percent of the illegal wildlife activities are detected and addressed.

### **Intensifying the law**

To prevent such activities, the government, along with other private organizations, worked together to enforce laws and preserve local wildlife.

And to further secure Philippine wildlife from illegal trade, DENR is eyeing to augment the existing laws.

During the pre-National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit held last July 7, Wednesday, government officials from the DENR emphasized the importance of having a stronger legal framework against illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines.

Benny Antiporda, the DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns, said that one way for the Republic Act no. 9147 established on July 30, 2001, to be strengthened by having local government units and other stakeholders play a role in preserving local wildlife.

“Kapag naisabatas na ang pinalakas na wildlife act, ang mga LGUs ay magiging malapit na katuwang ng national government sa pagsugpo ng ilegal na kalakalan ng wildlife,” Antiporda said. (Once the strengthened wildlife act is implemented, LGUs will work closely with the national government to prevent illegal wildlife trade.)



He added that one of the provisions that the DENR supports and hopes to be implemented is the requirement to present a permit or clearance from the DENR, Department of Agriculture (DA), Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, and/or the Bangsamoro government, as a prerequisite to renew business permits for specific wildlife that are sourced legally.

### **Other provisions to be implemented**

But aside from requesting a permit or clearance, more amendments are being eyed to strengthen the current law enforcement against the illegal wildlife trade in the country.

“Ang amendatory provisions ay makakapagpalakas at makakapag-institutionalize sa kasalukuyang gampanin ng LGUs na nakapaloob sa 2020 joint administrative order sa pagitan ng DENR, DA, at Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG),” Antiporda said. (The amendatory provisions will strengthen and institutionalize the current role of LGUs within the 2020 joint administrative order between DENR, DA, and DILG.)

These provisions include providing training and technical assistance to LGUs, especially in creating local ordinances that support the national regulation of protecting wildlife; strengthening the participation of the public in determining and reporting illegal wildlife trade activities; and persuading local chief executives and other stakeholders to report and give information on illegal wildlife trade to the DENR for monitoring and law enforcement purposes.

Antiporda added that another way to enhance the implementation of the wildlife act is by deepening the public’s knowledge about the issue of illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines. He then called the LGUs to intensify the information, education, and communication campaigns related to the topic.

He added that the LGUs are the effective partners, and whom they consider as frontliners, against illegal wildlife trade in the country.

“We should do our best to assist and capacitate our LGUs for the sake of our wildlife resources,” the undersecretary said.

Illegal wildlife activities still pose a threat to the species endemic to the Philippines. But with reinforced laws and more people involved and properly equipped to address the issue, the DENR and other stakeholders will be able to protect local wildlife and resources more effectively.



Leader News Philippines

July 8 at 6:53 PM · 🌐

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DENR puts spotlight on PH illegal wildlife trade at pre-event of environmental law enforcement summit

In preparation for the upcoming 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit on July 14-16, 2021, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) held a pre-event on July 7, Wednesday, to highlight the detrimental extent of illegal wildlife trade in the country.

For the pre-event, DENR undersecretaries Benny D. Antiporda, Edilberto D. Leonardo, and Benito Antonio T. De Leon, together with Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Wildlife Resources Division Chief Atty. Theresa Tenazas tackled the different aspects and extent of the illegal wildlife trade in a media briefing.

Topics that were discussed included the challenges of the DENR's wildlife enforcement officers, online illegal wildlife trade, salient points to make the Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resource Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 more stringent, its context and threats, policy gaps, and its proposed revisions for amendment.

Commonly traded species including the illegal wildlife trading hot spots and strategies for combating illegal wildlife trade were also answered during the short event.

The DENR execs also explained the importance of the upcoming NELE Summit, saying that a workshop was conducted last March 11-12 to study the enforcement of green laws (forestry, flora and fauna), blue laws (water bodies such as estuaries, rivers, lakes, bays and oceans), brown laws (mining, land, and solid waste management), prosecution, and the roles of supporting agencies before the actual event.

"Hopefully, during this pre-event for the upcoming environmental law enforcement summit, we can make the Filipino people realize the magnitude of what we are lobbying and continuously advocating," DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said.

The NELE Summit aims to present the accomplishments of environmental law enforcement such as laws and policies, implementing guidelines, programs, and tools, and come up with a new NELE Action Plan for 2022-2027.

It also serves as a venue for ensuring continuous coordination and cooperation among the environmental law enforcement agencies and for giving recognition to partner agencies and institutions, as well as individuals.

Cimatu said that to sustain the momentum from last Wednesday's (June 30) Senate hearing on proposed bills to strengthen RA 9147, the DENR "must continue to reverberate the drumbeat of calls to enact a law that will provide a more stringent legal framework to punish illegal wildlife traders."

"The sophistication of these illegal wildlife traders gives us the sense of urgency to clamor for the immediate legislation of the Senate bills concerning this matter," he said.

Currently, illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines is estimated to cost P50 billion a year, which includes the market value of wildlife and its resources, their ecological role and value, damage to habitats incurred during poaching, and loss in potential ecotourism revenues.

Over the last 10 years, DENR also confiscated P248-million worth of wildlife specimens.

Cimatu said the figures are "alarming" and could "invite more criminal minds and unscrupulous individuals, especially during this time of crisis—if they are left with merely a slap in the wrists."

Currently, a substitute House Bill titled "An Act Providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats, and Appropriating Funds Therefore, Repealing for this Purpose Republic Act No. 9147" or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation And Protection Act," sponsored by Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato and 15 other representatives, has passed the House Committee on Appropriations last May 26.

Senate Bills 2078 and 2079, authored by Senators Cynthia Villar and Juan Miguel Zubiri, respectively, were recently tackled in a public hearing presided by the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, with the Committee on Finance and Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovations, and Futures Thinking. -- Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS)

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**NAGSAGAWA** ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng pre-event noong Hulyo 7, Miyerkules upang matutukan ang masamang epekto ng illegal wildlife trade sa bansa.

Kabilang sa mga tinalakay ay ang mga hamon sa DENR wildlife enforce-

ment officers, online illegal wildlife trade, at mga salient points upang maging mas mahigpit ang Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resource Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 kasama na ang mga "context and threats, policy gaps, and its proposed revisions for amendment."

## ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE TINUTUTUKAN SA BANSA

Napagusapan din ang madalas na kinakalakal na species kasama na ang illegal wildlife trading hot spots at strategies for combating illegal wildlife trade.

"Hopefully, during this pre-event for the upcoming environmental law enforcement summit, we can make the Filipino people realize the magnitude of what we are lobbying and continuously advocating," saad ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Layunin ng NELE Summit na makapagpresenta ng mga nagawa ng environmen-

tal law enforcement tulad ng "laws and policies, implementing guidelines, programs, and tools, and come up with a new NELE Action Plan for 2021-2028."

Ayon kay Cimatu, upang mapanatili ang "momentum" ng Senate hearing noong nakaraang Hunyo 30 para sa mga panukulang batas na magpapalakas sa RA 9147, ang DENR ay kinakailangang "must continue to reverberate the drum-beat of calls to enact a law that will provide a more stringent legal frame-

work to punish illegal wildlife traders."

Sa kasalukuyan, ang illegal wildlife trade sa Pilipinas ay tinatayang aabot sa halagang P50 billion kada taon, kabilang na dito ang market value ng wildlife at ng resources nito, ecological role at value, pinsala sa habitat na nagawa sa paghuli at pagkawala ng potential ecotourism revenues.

Sa nakalipas na sampung taon, ang DENR ay nakakumpiska ng P248-million halaga ng wildlife specimens.





# Environmental law enforcement summit to 'revisit, update' policies

By [Mining Journal Staff](#) - July 14, 2021

**MANILA**—The three-day 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit rolled out today, July 14, aims to provide updates on efforts to prevent and fight environmental crimes, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said that holding the NELE summit during the current health crisis is “a good opportunity to revisit the environmental law enforcement (ELE) components to make sure they are updated, and to make sure that the policies are relevant and timely.”

“There could never be a much better time for holding the NELE summit, as it is during this quarantine that we have more challenges in apprehending environmental law violators who are taking advantage of the immobility and lesser resources that we have,” Cimatu said.

He underscored summit’s significance, noting that “most environment and natural resources (ENR) laws are already 20 years old and older, and during this time that the agency gears up for the creation of an Enforcement Bureau.”

“The previous NELE Action Plan has already expired last 2020. With this summit, we hope to create a new Action Plan that would serve the needs of the ever-changing and evolving modern society,” Cimatu added.

Anchored on the theme “Sustaining inter-agency collaborations for intensified ELE towards a better environment amidst pandemic,” the NELE Summit has been a venue for updating the latest developments on ELE, such as new laws and policies, implementing guidelines, programs, and tools and technologies.

It has also served as a platform for continuous coordination and cooperation among the agencies involved and giving recognition to partner-agencies and institutions, as well as individuals.

During the summit, participants are expected to share their respective agencies’ and branches’ major highlights or milestones on ELE for the last 15 years; identify the contribution of the agencies in mainstreaming environmental and natural resources protection in the national strategies and policies; and formulate responsive strategies that will expedite actions for urgent ENR concerns in support of Philippine development.

They are also expected to receive information on the state of the environment, that is, state of the forest and protected areas including the caves and wildlife resources, urban environment and marine and coastal areas including the fishery resources; review selected ELE technologies and identify needed advancement to cope up with the current enforcement needs and changes; and assess the implementation and update the ELE action plan. *(PR/MJP)*

Source: <https://miningjournal.ph/environmental-law-enforcement-summit-to-revisit-update-policies/2097/>



# DENR, hihintayin ang kumpas ng DFA sa isyu ng pagtatapon ng human waste sa WPS

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Jul. 16, 2021 at 12:46pm



Nakadepende umano sa kumpas ng Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) ang magiging aksyon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa isyu ng pagtatapon ng human waste sa bahagi ng West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Ito ang nilinaw ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Ani Cimatu, hihintayin nila ang susunod na hakbang ng DFA at nakahanda silang makipagtulungan kung kinakailangan.

Aniya, may pandiplomatikong aspeto ang isyu kung kaya't dapat umaalinsunod dito ang kanilang tugon.

Dagdag pa ng opisyal, tahimik na naman silang nagve-verify at nakahanda nilang ibigay ang resulta nito sakaling hingin ng DFA.



# China todo-deny sa 'pagtatapon ng dumi' sa West PH Sea; DENR mag-iimbestiga

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 16 2021 06:41 PM

MAYNILA — Itinanggi ng China na nagtatapon sila ng human waste o dumi ng tao sa West Philippine Sea (WPS) na nagreresulta umano sa pagkawasak ng coral reefs at marine ecosystems.

"This is one of the best jokes recently. China strongly condemns the US firm who distorts facts, violates professional ethics and maliciously starts rumors to denigrate China," ani Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian.

Lunes nang ilabas ng grupong Similarity ang isang report kung saan nagpakita sila ng satellite images na naglalabas umano ng mga dumi ng tao ang mga Chinese fishing boats na nakaangkla sa Spratly Island.

"The sewage from the anchored ships in the Spratlys is damaging the reefs and we can see this from space," ani Similarity chief executive Liz Derr sa isang forum ng Stratbase ADR Institute.

Gayunpaman, ilang opisyal ng pamahalaan ang nagsabing fake news umano ang ulat ng Similarity.

Samantala, sinabi naman ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na handa silang imbestigahan ang umano'y ginagawa ng China.

Ani DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, aalis dapat noong Huwebes ang team ng Philippine Coast Guard patungong West Philippine Sea para mag-iimbestiga pero ipinagpaliban dahil sa malakas na alon.

Pupunta rin aniya ang team ng DENR para magsagawa ng water sampling upang matiyak na malinis ang tubig sa lugar.

Kapag napatunayang totoo ang report at may mga paglabag sa environmental laws, agad makikipag-ugnayan ang DENR sa Department of Foreign Affairs at WPS task force para sa magiging aksiyon.

"Basically this is the jurisdiction of PCG, but again if it will destroy our biodiversity then DENR will come in... Alam naman po natin na may geopolitics na nangyayari po diyan but again we will insist on implementing our jurisdiction on this territory wherein gagawin po natin ang nararapat sa ating bansa," ani Antiporda.

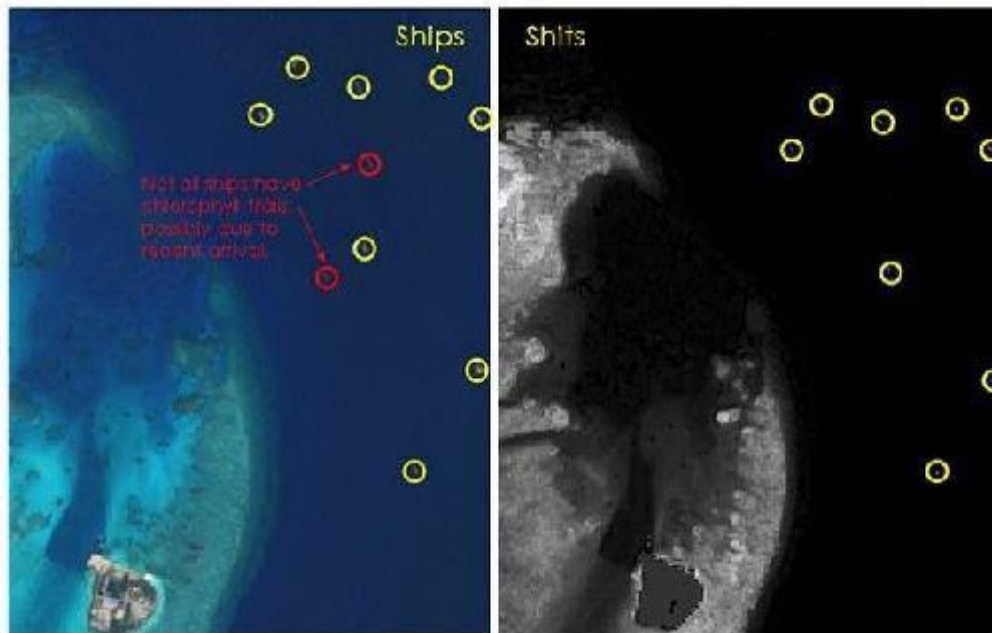
Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/16/21/china-todo-deny-sa-pagtatapon-ng-dumi-sa-west-ph-sea-denr-mag-iimbestiga?fbclid=IwAR0Tpds67rktCnZ\\_3nGT\\_rV341QV7vqD7\\_AlaAvuiRQjxhM62MEaHkJuvVI](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/16/21/china-todo-deny-sa-pagtatapon-ng-dumi-sa-west-ph-sea-denr-mag-iimbestiga?fbclid=IwAR0Tpds67rktCnZ_3nGT_rV341QV7vqD7_AlaAvuiRQjxhM62MEaHkJuvVI)



similarity

### Union Banks June 17, 2021, Johnson South Reef

Chlorophyll-a Concentration



© Copyright 2021 Similarity, All Rights Reserved.

Images credit: European Space Agency - produced from ESA remote sensing data

similarity | 7

Satellite image from Similarity showing how anchored ships created chlorophyll-a blooms in Union Banks, located entirely within the country's exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea.

Similarity

## Chinese Embassy focuses on ship photo to dismiss reported dumping as fake

[Jonathan de Santos](#) (Philstar.com) - July 16, 2021 - 1:11pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Chinese Embassy in Manila says a report on the alleged damage caused by raw sewage from ships in the South China Sea is false and is being used to "[create] hatred and Sinophobia in the Philippines."

In a tweet on Thursday, it also highlighted a 2014 file photo used in a report by US-based geospatial imaging firm Similarity and later by GMA News to claim the report is "fake news." Similarity has since replaced the photo — of dumping in Australia to illustrate the effects of effluents in water — and GMA News has apologized for using it.

"It all started with an foreign agency issuing a report full of lies. Some media immediately spread fake news based on the fabricated report. Finally, some anti-China forces used fake news to accuse and demonize China," the embassy tweeted.

It did not comment on the satellite photos that Similarity CEO Liz Derr said showed how anchored ships created chlorophyll-a blooms in Union Banks, which are located entirely within the country's exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea.

The Department of National Defense has said it will verify the report but [initially dismissed it as false](#), also citing the photo. Defense Secretary Lorenzana later said the use of the photo showed an "intent to mislead."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. has also [dismissed the Similarity report as fake](#), saying GMA News had deleted it. While GMA News removed the social media post, its story on the report is still up.



 **ChineseEmbassyManila** @Chinaembmanila · Jul 15, 2021

It all started with an foreign agency issuing a report full of lies. Some media immediately spread fake news based on the fabricated report. Finally, some anti-China forces used fake news to accuse and demonize #China. (1/2)

 **ChineseEmbassyManila**  
@Chinaembmanila

It's a typical "whole industry chain" aiming at creating hatred and Sinophobia in the Philippines. Will people with common sense see through the trick? (2/2)

**CHINA VESSELS DUMP HUMAN WASTE IN WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, PHOTOS SHOW**



Human waste and sewage from hundreds of Chinese ships anchored in the South China Sea and parts of the West Philippine Sea are causing massive marine damage, according to a report by a technology company which specializes in geospatial analysis and satellite data. The report is so intense you can see it from space," Derr said in a forum.

@GMANEWS    **DIGITAL**

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**'These areas are too precious': New pictures reveal the impact dredging and**

11:01 AM · Jul 15, 2021

5 14  Share this Tweet

**Similarity: Photo used to provide context**

In a statement, Similarity stood by its findings, saying also that it "featured an image of a ship, and we gave very clear credit to the image source and we clearly stated that it was an 'unknown ship'."

It said that the image was used "to provide context that illustrates the common sewage dumping practice of ships, since appreciating the ick-factor of what is happening is very difficult to do based on tiny spots on a satellite image."

It added that the ship photo was not used in its analysis. "There is nothing fake about our research and reporting. Images from multispectral satellites were used in the analysis. The imagery and algorithm that we used to identify Chlorophyll-a from satellite imagery in our latest report is well researched and validated," Similarity also said.



The Chinese Embassy called the report and news articles about it part of a "'whole industry chain' aiming at creating hatred and Sinophobia in the Philippines."

Sentiment against China has grown because of issues in the West Philippine Sea, the part of the South China Sea inside the Philippines' exclusive economic zone and that China says it has historical claims to.

The Similarity report was released at a forum marking the anniversary of a 2016 arbitral ruling that found China's "nine-dash-line" claim does not have basis in international law.

The environment department has said it is coordinating with the DND and the Philippine Coast Guard to verify the report.

### **Senate inquiry sought**

Meanwhile, a resolution has been filed at the Senate for hearings into the alleged destruction of reefs in the West Philippine Sea.

According to a release on the Senate website, Sen. Francis Pangilinan filed a resolution on Thursday for the Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform to hold an inquiry on the effects that the presence of Chinese ships in Philippine waters affects Filipino fishers.

"[T]he protection of the rights and livelihood of our fisherfolk, especially subsistence fishers, and ensuring food security are urgent tasks," he said in the resolution.

Pangilinan, in the release, pointed out that the alleged dumping would not be the first incident involving China in Philippine waters.

"Chinese vessels have reportedly encroached on Philippine waters multiple times, illegally harvesting marine resources in the area, building artificial islands for military purposes, and barring Filipino fisherfolk from areas within the country's EEZ."

The Palace has stressed that Filipino fishers are no longer being blocked from fishing in Scarborough Shoal, a traditional fishing ground off Zambalanes province, and said in a press briefing this week that [reports claiming that they are may be meant to destroy relations](#) between the Philippines and China.



# China accuses Similarity of 'demonizing' Beijing in waste-dumping report

By: [Christia Marie Ramos](#) - Reporter / [@CMRamosINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:43 PM July 16, 2021



MANILA, Philippines — The Chinese embassy in Manila slammed a US-based firm for “demonizing” China with reports of waste dumps by Chinese ships in parts of the West Philippine Sea.

“The Chinese Embassy strongly condemns the said company’s act of fabricating facts, violating professional ethics, and maliciously spreading fake news against China,” the embassy said in a statement.

“Their ultimate goal is to sow discord between China and the Philippines so as to serve their own political agenda,” it added.

Earlier, US geospatial firm Similarity reported that Chinese ships anchored in parts of the West Philippines Sea are dumping “raw sewage, every day onto the reefs they are occupying.”

“When the ships don’t move, the poop piles up,” Liz Derr, co-founder and CEO of Similarity, said during Monday’s forum hosted by Stratbase ADR Institute on the fifth anniversary of the Philippines’ 2016 victory against China.

But the embassy accused the firm of being among “anti-China forces” which have “spared no efforts to produce lies and hype up the South China Sea issue to discredit and demonize China, create hatred and anti-China sentiments in the Philippines.”

“These anti-China forces have formed a complete set of routines. Some foreign organizations issue a fabricated report, and then some irresponsible media follow up to spread fake news,” it added.

“Finally, some anti-China forces use fake news to accuse and defame China,” the embassy further said.

The embassy then said it was willing to work with countries along the coast of the South China Sea, including the Philippines, to “eliminate interference and jointly maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.”



“The Chinese Embassy believes that a lie told a thousand times is still a lie. Any rational person will see through the tricks,” it added.

In an online forum on Wednesday, Derr said the firm’s findings were based on satellite imagery and the analysis they conducted in the area.

Nevertheless, she admitted regretting using the wrong photo in their report.

When it first released its report, Similarity used a photo of a ship that appeared to be dumping effluents into the ocean. But the image was of a vessel involved in dredging in a part of Australia’s Great Barrier Reef in 2014.

However, Similarity never claimed that the ship was dumping sewage or that it was among the Chinese vessels mentioned in the report.

The image was meant to “provide context that illustrates the common sewage dumping practice of ships,” the firm said in an earlier statement.

“At this point I regret putting that image in there because it made it easy for some government officials to say, ‘Oh fake news,’ when our analysis was not based on that image at all,” Derr told Wednesday’s forum.





# 'Fabricated report': Chinese embassy dismisses report on waste-dumping in South China Sea

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 16 2021 11:36 PM

MANILA - The Chinese embassy in Manila has downplayed a satellite analysis showing Chinese ships allegedly dumping untreated wastes in the South China Sea.

In a statement, the embassy's spokesperson claimed the report by US-based satellite image analysis firm Similarity was "fabricated" and driven by "anti-Chinese forces."

Similarity's CEO Liz Derr earlier said that based on their calculations, 2,596 pounds or over a ton of human wastes are being dumped around the Spratly and Paracel Islands every day.

Philippine officials said they would investigate the incident.

"The Chinese embassy strongly condemns the said company's act of fabricating facts, violating professional ethics, and maliciously spreading fake news against China," the embassy.

"For a long time, anti-China forces like this company have spared no efforts to produce lies and hype up the South China Sea issue to discredit and demonize China, create hatred and anti-China sentiments in the Philippines."

The Chinese embassy also described the report as a "lie".

China maintains a constant presence of coastguard and fishing boats in the South China Sea, within which is the West Philippine Sea, to assert its claim of sovereignty, including hundreds in the Spratly islands, where the Philippines, Brunei, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia also have claims.

Derr said her firm has been monitoring the presence of these vessels and the overgrowth of algae where the ships are allegedly docked since 2020.

She added that human waste dumping is causing algal blooms that degrade and eventually kill the marine ecosystem in those areas.

The Chinese embassy said their government is "willing to work with countries" most especially those in the coast of the South China Sea, including the Philippines.

A United Nations-backed court in 2016 junked Beijing's overwhelming claims in the resource-rich waters, but the Asian country continued to shun the ruling and instead ramped up militarization in the area.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/16/21/china-downplays-satellite-analysis-dumping-wastes-west-philippine-sea?fbclid=IwAR1fbXc1\\_QwaVKYqY\\_Hd1kQer7IjHRt9LiX3T8O56cxLI22g3INN0iRO6s](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/16/21/china-downplays-satellite-analysis-dumping-wastes-west-philippine-sea?fbclid=IwAR1fbXc1_QwaVKYqY_Hd1kQer7IjHRt9LiX3T8O56cxLI22g3INN0iRO6s)



## CHINA TINANGGI ANG PAGTATAPON NG DUMI SA WPS

written by **Jennelyn Valencia- Burgos** July 17, 2021



Mariing itinanggi ng China na nagtatapon sila ng dumi ng tao sa West Philippine Sea dahilan para magkaroon ng malaking pagkasira ng coral reefs at marine ecosystems.

Ayon kay Zhao Lijian, tagapagsalita ng Chinese Foreign Ministry, isa itong malaking biro at kanilang kinokondena ang ginagawang pagbabaluktot ng totoo, paglabag sa professional ethics at pagsisimula ng malisasyong mga ulat ng Estados Unidos.

Lunes nang ilabas ng grupong Similarity ang isang report kung saan nagpakita sila ng satellite images na nagtatapon umano ng mga dumi ng tao ang chinese fishing boats na nakaangkla sa Spratly Island.

Ngunit tinawag itong fake news ng ilang opisyal ng pamahalaan.



# Wood processing to boost incomes

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) July 17, 2021

AN \$1.118-million pilot "vertical integration" wood processing project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is expected to utilize unused wood from community-based forest management (CBFM) areas, creating jobs and new export-oriented furniture-producing industries.

This project, funded by the South Korea-based Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), is envisioned to be replicated in logging areas all over the country once proven successful.

Specifically, the project will tap unused wood from a 2,115-hectares community forest in Agusan del Sur and 1,932 hectares in Negros Oriental.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the project with AFoCO will be the start of a sustainable forest management project in the two provinces, as wood processing plants to be put up will tap raw materials from CBFM areas.

"The Philippines needs five million cubic meters of wood or lumber per year. Only one million is from the Philippines. The rest is imported. Those that come from the Philippines are from private forests, not CBFM," Cimatu said during a project launch.

He also noted that the project will raise the income and livelihood levels of people's organizations in the grassroots.

Participating farmer groups are the Nalundan United Farmers' Association (Nufai) in Barangay Nalundan, Bindoy, Negros Oriental and Mindanao Timberland Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Barangay Mabuhay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

Currently, the two groups only earn from round timber (lumber of acacia mangium and of falcata) since they do not yet have wood processing plants.

Lumber of Acasia mangium only sells at P7 per board feet or P84 per 12-foot length, according to Richard Fabre, city environment and natural resources officer in Bindoy, Negros Oriental.

Given the presence of a factory, Nufai expects its farmers to become traders of their own value-added products.

"With the wood processing plant from the AFoCO project, we will be able to produce furniture. PO (people organization) members will go through training under Tesda (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) and DTI (Department of Trade and Industry)," Fabre said.

Matilfamco has a CBFM contract over a total of 2,115 hectares in Agusan del Sur and Nufai, 1,932 hectares in Negros Oriental.

In the implementation of the AFoCO project, there will also be collaboration with other national government agencies like the Department of Science and Technology-Forest Products Research and Development Institute and local government units.

The project will be implemented over five years until 2026.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/07/17/business/green-industries/wood-processing-to-boost-incomes/1807326>



# OceanaGold set to restart Didipio operations

By: [Karl R. Ocampo](#) - Reporter / [@kocampoINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:14 AM July 16, 2021

President Duterte has approved the renewal of Australian-Canadian OceanaGold Corp.'s mining franchise in Didipio, Nueva Vizcaya province, for another 25 years, Malacañang confirmed.

The decision was made despite strong opposition from the local government unit of Nueva Vizcaya, several green groups, and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

In a statement released on Wednesday, OceanaGold said that its request for the renewal of its Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) was finally approved after expiring in 2019. This would allow the firm to continuously exploit the mineral resources in Didipio, like high-grade copper and gold.

OceanaGold said it was planning to restart its operations in the province "with milling to recommence as soon as possible."

"The company aims to achieve full underground production capacity within 12 months. Once fully ramped-up, the company expects Didipio to produce about 10,000 gold ounces and 1,000 tons of copper per month," it said.

Environmental group Kalikasan, in a statement, said Mr. Duterte, through his decision, "condemned the people of Nueva Vizcaya to 25 more years of water depletion, agricultural losses, and human rights violations."

It added that it would challenge the franchise renewal in court, along with other allied groups and people's organizations.

OceanaGold's franchise renewal is the latest in an expected string of promining policies that Mr. Duterte will approve following the signing of Executive Order (EO) No. 130.

The EO effectively lifted the nine-year ban on the approval of new mining permits, instituted by his predecessor, the late President Benigno Aquino III.

Mines and Geoscience Bureau director Wilfredo Moncano said they were now studying the lifting of the ban on the use of open-pit mines next and were set to approve at least 30 new mining projects by year-end.

Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones, in an earlier interview with Inquirer, said the Duterte administration would be pushing for the revival of the mining industry to reinvigorate the coronavirus-battered economy, adding that the agency would also strengthen measures to avoid environmental destruction and intensify support to mining host communities.

OceanaGold's FTAA renewal came with several conditions, the most notable of which was the mandatory listing of at least 10 percent of the common shares of its Philippine operation subsidiary, OceanaGold Philippines, in the local stock exchange within the next three years.

It also has to allocate 1.5 percent of its gross revenue to community development.

Source: <https://business.inquirer.net/327271/oceanagold-set-to-restart-didipio-operations>



## 2 endangered turtles released back to sea

By [Glenda Tayona](#) -Friday, July 16, 2021



*Philippine Coast Guard personnel release a green sea turtle back to the sea. PHOTO FROM CAPIZ KABALAKA INFORMATION CENTER*

ROXAS City – Two endangered green sea turtles were released back to the sea here recently.

Capiz governor Esteban Evan Contreras led the release in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Capiz Provincial ENR Office and the Philippine Coast Guard.

The green sea turtle is one of the largest sea turtles and the only herbivore among the different species. It is named after the greenish color of its cartilage and fat, not its shell.

One of the two turtles was named Rosela after the governor's mother and the other was called Evalyn.

Before the turtles were released to the sea, authorities made sure they were in good condition.

Tags were also put on the turtles.

Classified as endangered, green sea turtles are threatened by overharvesting of their eggs, hunting of adults, being caught in fishing gear and loss of nesting beach sites.

Rosela was caught in the waters of Sapián, Capiz. It measured 89 cm in length and 78 cm in width.

Evalyn, on the other hand, was caught in Ivisan, Capiz. It measured 79cm in length and 72 cm in width.

Contreras urged the public, especially fisherfolks, to turn over to the authorities endangered sea turtles they may inadvertently catch.

Green sea turtles are found mainly in tropical and subtropical waters. Like other sea turtles, they migrate long distances between feeding grounds and the beaches from where they hatched.

Green sea turtles graze on seagrasses and algae, which maintains the seagrass beds and makes them more productive (much like mowing the lawn to keep it healthy).



Seagrass consumed by green turtles is quickly digested and becomes available as recycled nutrients to the many species of plants and animals that live in the sea grass ecosystem.

Seagrass beds also function as nurseries for several species of invertebrates and fish, many of which are of considerable value to commercial fisheries and therefore important to human food security./PN



## Cenro-Zambo retrieves juvenile Brahminy Kite bird



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through its Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro), retrieves recently a juvenile Brahminy Kite in the village of Culianan, Zamboanga City. A photo handout shows the bird, which is under the care of Cenro-Zamboanga, before its release back to its natural habitat soon. (SunStar Zamboanga)

July 16, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro), recently retrieved a juvenile Brahminy Kite in Zamboanga City.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said Friday, July 16, that the Brahminy Kite was retrieved Sunday, July 11, in the village of Culianan.

The wildlife was spotted by Berna Fercol and Baby Lonia Barrios near their residence. They immediately informed the Cenro for proper action.

Tan said the Cenro personnel, upon evaluation, found the bird to be in good and healthy condition. The bird weighs 600 grams and has a wing span of 60 centimeters.

Tan said the wildlife is now under the custody of Cenro-Zamboanga City for temporary protection and further evaluation before its release back to its natural habitat.

The Brahminy Kite, with scientific name of *Haliastur indus*, is formerly known as the red-backed sea-eagle in Australia.

It is a medium-sized bird that are found mainly on the coast and in inland wetlands, where they feed on dead fish and other prey. (SunStar Zamboanga)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1900977/Zamboanga/Local-News/Cenro-Zambo-retrieves-juvenile-Brahminy-Kite-bird>



# Filipino health groups oppose waste-to-energy bill

President Duterte is urged to ensure 'dirty technologies' continue to be banned

UCA News reporter

Published: July 16, 2021 09:34 AM GMT



Activists from Filipino environmental group EcoWaste Coalition hold a protest rally to oppose a bill that seeks to lift a ban on incinerators for disposal of medical waste. (Photo: EcoWaste Coalition Facebook page)

Public health groups in the Philippines have joined environmental groups to oppose a bill that seeks to lift a nearly two-decade ban on incinerators for disposal of medical waste in order to produce energy from garbage.

The groups have urged the government of President Rodrigo Duterte to uphold the country's Clean Air Act 1999 and to ensure that "dirty technologies" such as waste-to-energy garbage incinerators continue to be banned.

The Philippine parliament is debating the proposed Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Act, which the government says will help solve a garbage problem that has intensified during the pandemic.

The law seeks to amend the Republic Act 8749 or the Clean Air Act of 1999 and aims to allow the use of any WTE technology, including incineration, as long as it does not produce poisonous or toxic fumes, Philippines New Agency reported.

Environmental and health groups have opposed the bill claiming the move to revive incinerators are not only unnecessary but pose dangers to public health and environment.

"Medical waste incinerators have been banned for 18 years in the country in compliance with the Clean Air Act. The present Covid-19 pandemic brought a surge in biomedical waste challenging waste management programs in the country. Yet incineration is definitely not an option. This demonstrates that we do not need dirty and very costly technologies which cause more harm to our health and climate," Dr. Paula Sta. Maria of Philippine College of Physicians said in a statement on July 16.

*Allowing again the use of incinerators will undermine years of hard work in pushing for safe and effective ecological solid waste management solutions*

"We need to rally to protect the integrity of the air that we breathe since our primary survival depends on it. We need to have a healthy environment, free of toxins and pollutants to win the battle against Covid-19 and other unforeseen public health concerns," she added.





The Philippines banned municipal and medical waste incineration with the Republic Act 8749 or Clean Air Act of 1999. In compliance with the law, the Department of Health phased out and banned the use of medical waste incineration on July 16, 2003.

Dr. Maricar Limpin from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) Philippines warned that the revival of incinerators would damage what the country has achieved in safe and effective waste management.

“Allowing again the use of incinerators will undermine years of hard work in pushing for safe and effective ecological solid waste management solutions in our cities and healthcare facilities. Incinerators are very costly to operate and it will promote further production of garbage to make it economically viable. We should focus on waste prevention and minimization, and not through dirty technological solutions,” Limpin said.



# 'An underwater tomb': Dumaguete reclamation would be a monumental ecological disaster - scientist

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 16 2021 02:19 PM

MANILA - An underwater tomb for marine ecosystems.

This is how an ecologist described the proposed 174 hectare reclamation project in Dumaguete City, which has drawn opposition from various sectors.



"I think we really need to avoid this because there is no doubt in my mind that is going to be a monumental ecological disaster. It's going to be this tomb for marine ecosystems. It's going to be this underwater tomb," Dr. Rene Abesamis of the Silliman University Institute of Environmental and Marine Sciences told ANC Headstart.

The proposed P23-billion 5G-Ready Smart Dumaguete City project is 174 hectares of mixed use development. It plans on building coastal wastewater treatment facility/wave protection, esplanade, marina, modern ferry port and raw reclamation and horizontal development.

Abesamis said the city government has yet to sign a memorandum of agreement for the Smart City project which generated opposition from many groups.

"I guess the outrage comes from perceived lack of consultation. We have to understand how big this is. According to the press release, it's 174 hectares. That's equivalent to maybe 4,000 basketball courts, 10 Lunetas. The image that the public information office released suggests its about 7 kilometers—that's roughly the distance from Cubao to Guadalupe on EDSA—and Dumaguete is not a very big city. It doesn't have a big coastline. It's about 8.5

km long and this project is a massive project, it will occupy about 85 percent of that," he said.

The ecologist said the reclamation project may cause damage to Dumaguete's marine ecosystem.

The project could also impact the nearby Tañon Strait, a national marine protected area where about 14 species of marine mammals pass through the waters of Dumaguete.



"We're talking about a thousand basketball courts worth of coral reefs, maybe one and a half thousand basketball courts worth of seagrass bed, and we're talking about at least a 150 coral species, at least 200 species of fish, most of those important to local fisheries. You have turtles. You have seagrass species, mangrove species, quite a lot," he said.

Abesamis said that while there is no information yet on where the soil would be sourced for the project, some concerned engineers have given rough estimates that it would be needing around 80 million cubic meters.

"That's probably 1.8 million trips of dump trucks. I can't imagine them sourcing that from land, and if they do, that's going to be a huge environmental impact on land kasi you also have to mine that. There is also this possibility that whoever is going to build this might dredge the ocean and dump that on the shallow areas. Those are 2 potential routes," he said.

However, sourcing the soil from local mountain lands may cause severe flooding in some barangays affected by the reclamation, he said. This may leave residents sandwiched in between the mountain and the coast, he said.

"But if you were to ask me, if you were to develop a sustainable city, the last choice would be to bury marine ecosystems. That would be your last choice. It creates so many problems," he said.

Abesamis said he is not aware if Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has given the go signal for the project.

"It deserves scrutiny because its going to create this massive ecological damage and its irreversible. It deserves scrutiny if ever that official go signal was given," he said.

"There needs to be a dialogue to flesh out issues and say that as scientists, this is what we think and if you listen to us, we could give you a very good idea of what is sustainable."

Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo said no permits have been issued for the project yet, adding that these clearances would have to be issued by national agencies, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine Reclamation Authority.

He said there will be more consultations with stakeholders once the project proponent, EM Cuerpo Inc., presents its detailed engineering plans. He said the company, which submitted an unsolicited proposal, has not yet secured the contract as the public-private partnership contract will only be executed once the DENR and the PRA complete their assessment.

"We submit all these objections to the proper agencies. I myself would want to know, would want to require the proponent to prove to us—even the city officials—that this is viable," he told ANC's Headstart in a separate interview.

"I thank the environmentalists for coming out because they can give us their inputs, their oppositions. If their opposition is valid, then the DENR will not approve of it. That's the end of the project," he said.

Remollo encouraged other stakeholders to come forward with their inputs as this project is "open, this is not a done deal." He said he will "personally hand over to the deciding authorities the oppositions to show his transparency.

"Every step of the way, we will discuss this. Whatever the things, plans that the proponent will have and present to the DENR, I will give it to them," he said.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/16/21/dumaguete-reclamation-monumental-ecological-disaster-scientist?fbclid=IwAR2EgJnaNugMNZh0jx\\_GCVzF64jzBocGJqevFFWybtMAF5I\\_RzN3hXW02o](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/16/21/dumaguete-reclamation-monumental-ecological-disaster-scientist?fbclid=IwAR2EgJnaNugMNZh0jx_GCVzF64jzBocGJqevFFWybtMAF5I_RzN3hXW02o)



Hamilo Coast has planted over 50,000 mangrove propagules since 2007, offering protection against extreme weather surges while actively contributing to local diversity. Hamilo Coast is also home to 96 bird species.

## Conserving Nasugbu's natural mangrove habitat

(Philstar.com) - July 16, 2021 - 9:00am

Mangroves act as natural barriers for coastal communities against the wrath of the ocean, especially in a country that is known as one of the most vulnerable in the world to typhoons.

SM, through its Hamilo Coast property in Nasugbu, Batangas, continues to uphold its commitment to sustainability and conservation as it planted 50,000 more mangroves, which covers 100,000 square meters of the estate. This is also touted as one of the largest mangrove areas in Nasugbu.

“At Hamilo Coast, we practice both environmental and social responsibility along with our partners and communities to make resort development and living sustainable,” said Frank M. Bolalin, assistant vice president at Hamilo Coast.

Hamilo Coast continues to protect its mangrove ecosystem together with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines — a partnership it has nurtured since 2007.

Aside from its role of reducing coastal erosion, mangroves also help nurture a lush ecosystem of various wild and marine life. To date, there are 96 different bird species found at Hamilo Coast. Endemic cuckoo species like that of the rough-crested Malkoha and the even more vulnerable Philippine Eagle Owl have been spotted migrating and nesting in Hamilo's forests.



Hamilo Coast is home to 96 bird species such as the Red-crested Malkoha (left) and the Rufous-crowned Bee-Eater (right).



The addition of mangrove trees will further serve to nurture the growing biodiversity of the area. Estimated to grow up to 50 feet high, the forest will provide new habitat for the existing array of species ranging from small bats and rodents to bigger reptiles and mammals.

Moreover, mangrove trees also have an enormous capacity to absorb carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases making them ideal pollution sinkers as they help bring about climate benefits.

Hamilo Coast also undertook the initiative to declare three of its coves, namely Pico de Loro, Etayo and Santelmo as Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in 2009.

To increase the biological capacity of fisheries and establish sustainable local food sources, WWF conducts an inventory of the flora and fauna at Hamilo Coast's Pico de Loro cove, and performs year-round fish-catch monitoring. WWF also monitors the three MPAs of Hamilo Coast and conducts oceanography and hydrology studies in all thirteen coves.

Aside from mangrove reforestation, Hamilo Coast also undertakes various coastal resource conservation practices such as the growth of local plants, seeding of clams, the release of sea turtle hatchlings and regular coastal clean-up activities.

The WWF consistently monitors Hamilo Coast's energy-use and recommends initiatives to continuously enhance energy efficiency. Alternative sources of energy have been used to power some of Hamilo Coast's facilities such as solar power lamp posts and solar absorption air conditioning units.

Green building strategies were carefully considered in some of its residential areas, such as natural lighting and ventilation, solar energy in common areas, and an efficient waste management system.

Hamilo Coast also implements a solid waste management plan that includes waste source or segregation, materials recovery facility and vermicomposting where green wastes are composted and processed into charcoal briquettes. Waste water from the different Hamilo locators are processed by STPs (sewage treatment plants) and used as irrigation water for the surrounding landscape.

Residents of Hamilo Coast's host barangay, Barangay Papaya, are also educated on how to segregate waste.

"Here at Hamilo Coast we are redefining the approach to tourism and hotel service especially when linked to biodiversity and local communities. In every aspect of our operations, from the electricity we use to how we manage our waste, we are incorporating sustainable practices that seek to minimize our environmental impact," said Leah Magallanes, vice president for quality and sustainability at SM Hotels and Conventions Corporation.

SM Hotels fully supports the United Nations Environment Program in its campaign to phase out Single-Use Plastics in the tourism sector. Since 2018, the Pico de Loro Beach and Country Club and Pico Sands Hotel have implemented a food waste management system and replaced single-use plastics with paper straws and cups, food-grade stirrers, takeaway packs and refillable glass containers in hotel rooms.

In recognition of its conservation efforts, Hamilo Coast was cited by WWF in 2020 as its longest Sustainability Partner.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/science-and-environment/2021/07/16/2113014/conserving-nasugbus-natural-mangrove-habitat>



## Angeles starts clearing of watershed for planting of more seedlings



CLEARING. The Angeles City Government, through the City Engineering Office and City Environment and Natural Resources Office, conducts a clearing operation at the Angeles City Watershed in Barangay Sapangbato to give way for the upcoming planting of 4,320 fruit-bearing seedlings. (Angeles City Information Office)

[CHARLENE A. CAYABYAB](#)

July 16, 2021

TO GIVE way for the upcoming planting of 4,320 fruit-bearing seedlings at the Angeles City's watershed in Barangay Sapangbato, a clearing operation was conducted in the area by the Engineering Office and Environment and Natural Resources Office.

This is part of the initiative of Mayor Carmelo Lazatin Jr. to provide long-term protection to the city's watershed, aiming to plant 45,000 more trees this year.

Lazatin also tapped his adviser IC Calaguas to oversee the clearing operations and reforestation being done in the watershed.

The Mayor's Office, according to Lazatin, will send grass cutters to fully clear the area where the 4,320 fruit-bearing trees will be planted.

These seedlings were donated by the Department of Transportation led by Secretary Arthur Tugade, and arrived at the watershed on July 14.

In the coming weeks, the remaining 42,000 seedlings which were a donation from DOTr will arrive, alongside the 3,000 seedling-donations of an anonymous businessman.

Calaguas said the City Government is on full swing in protecting and preserving the area.

Earlier, Lazatin assigned a team from Cenro composed of 18 personnel to take care of and monitor the seedlings, and continue planting daily.

"This is the Lazatin administration's contribution to preserve the environment and our water sources," Calaguas said.

Meanwhile, Abacan River and Angeles Watershed Advocacy Council Inc. (Araw-ACI), led by businessman and environmentalist Renato Tayag, the city's partner non-government organization (NGO) for the project, is asking help from other private sectors to adopt a portion of the 560-hectare watershed.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1900968/Pampanga/Local-News/Angeles-starts-clearing-of-watershed-for-planting-of-more-seedlings>



## San Miguel unveils big reforestation plan

posted July 16, 2021 at 08:25 pm

by [Alena Mae S. Flores](#)

SMC Global Power Holdings Corp., a unit of San Miguel Corp., is embarking on a massive reforestation and carbon capture program to help mitigate climate change.

SMCGP to date has planted 2.7 million seedlings and propagules since 2019 as part of a reforestation and carbon capture program dubbed Project 747, aimed at scattering seven million trees over 4,000 hectares in at least seven provinces.

The project, which aims to plant a million trees every year, complements SMCGP's goal of adding cleaner and renewable power facilities into its power portfolio after dropping plans to put up three coal power plants with a capacity of 1,500 MW as part of the firm's larger sustainability goals.

"Through massive reforestation, we can help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Over the past couple of years, we have also been utilizing the best and most modern technologies to minimize our impact on the environment, even as we try to provide for our country's growing need for reliable and affordable power," said SMC president Ramon Ang.



## DBP joins UN's Green Climate Fund

July 16, 2021 | 6:44 pm



COURTESY OF DBP FACEBOOK PAGE

THE Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has been accredited to join the United Nations (UN) Green Climate Fund (GCF), making it among the banks that can provide financing for environment and climate change-related programs in developing countries.

DBP President and CEO Emmanuel G. Herbosa said in a statement Friday that the bank will be the second Philippine entity to join the international fund, created by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“We envision GCF as an additional source of highly-concessional loans or even grants to expand the reach and to scale up DBP’s environmental and climate-related programs and advocacies,” Mr. Herbosa said.

He said the bank is currently in discussions with potential development partners to help it formulate and roll out green energy, energy efficiency, waste management, and disaster resilience projects.

The GCF, established in 2010, aims to extend financing and technical support to developing economies seeking to cut their carbon emissions and adopt climate-resilient programs. It also assists vulnerable nations in adapting to the severe impacts of climate change.

Participating banks can tap the fund to help channel the grants, concessional loans, guarantees or equity instruments for proposed projects.

The GCF now has 113 accredited entities, 57 of which are government agencies, which can provide support worth up to \$250 million per project.

“We are honored to be in the select roster of international and national commercial banks; multilateral, regional and national development finance institutions; and civil society organizations, among others, that are working together for the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects on a global scale,” the DBP chief said.





The bank is the sixth-largest bank in the country in terms of assets and has been designated the lead bank for infrastructure.

Its net profit fell 30% to P3.9 billion in 2020 on increased loan loss provisionins and operating expenses.

The Philippines has committed to cut its total greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030. – Beatrice M. Laforga



ALAM

## Land use bill, other measures protecting forests stuck in Cynthia Villar’s Senate committee

At least three bills setting standards to protect the country’s natural resources and attain sustainable development are stuck in the Senate committee on environment, natural resources, and climate change. The measures are likely dead in the 18th Congress.

BY KAROL ILAGAN AND MARTHA TEODORO July 16, 2021 | 12:00:00 PM

Sen. Cynthia Villar, who chairs the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, has not acted on at least three proposed measures that will protect the country’s natural resources.

One of these bills – the National Land Use Act (NLUA) – seeks to establish clear parameters on land utilization and thus limit the capacity of developers like herself and her family members to find land for their housing and commercial projects.

The two other proposed laws — the Sustainable Forest Management Act (SFMA) and the Alternative Minerals Management Act (AMMA) — were also supposed to fill the legal gaps in addressing environmental problems such as deforestation and various forms of land use conversion.

The senator’s husband, former Senate president Manuel “Manny” Villar Jr., is the country’s richest man, according to the [2021 Forbes list](#). He is chairman of the board of [Vista Land and Lifescapes](#), one of the leading property developers and the largest homebuilder in the Philippines. Its subsidiaries, which include Brittany, Crown Asia, Camella, Lessandra and Vista Residences, and Communities Philippines, have built over 400,000 homes across the country, according to its website.

The senator is a known supporter of programs promoting environmental protection, especially of biodiversity and wildlife. But there is a clear case of conflict of interest as far as the NLUA is concerned, said Samson Pedragosa, advocacy officer of The Haribon Foundation, a nature conservation group. Haribon has also been pushing for the passage of these “green” bills in Congress.

NLUA ([House Bill 5240](#)) and SFMA ([House Bill 9088](#)) were approved by the House of Representatives and transmitted to the Senate in the 17th Congress. But both measures got stalled in the Senate under Villar’s committee. The two bills had to be filed again in the 18th Congress. The AMMA ([Senate Bill 1069](#)) also remained pending in the same committee and had to be refiled in the 18th Congress.

Villar served as chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources in the 17th Congress. Now she chairs the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, where these three measures are lodged in the current Congress.

(The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Committee on Climate Change were merged in September 2019.)

The refiled version of the SFMA ([House Bill 8179](#)) was approved by the House of Representatives and transmitted to the Senate in February 2021. The refiled House and Senate bills on land use meanwhile remain pending in the House Committee on Land Use chaired by Quezon City Rep. Eduardo Gullas and Villar's Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, respectively. The refiled AMMA (Senate Bills 353 and 1495) are also pending before Villar's committee. A similar bill (House Bill 112) is also pending in the House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr.

It takes three approvals for a bill to pass in the Senate and House of Representatives. If approved by both legislative chambers, a bicameral conference committee would be formed to reconcile the bills' conflicting provisions. The reconciled version will then be ratified separately by the two chambers before the president signs it into law.

Villar's as well as the House Committees' inaction has likely spelled the bills' doom in the 18th Congress, especially as the election season is approaching.

The PCIJ had written to Villar to seek her side but she declined to be interviewed. A formal letter with a list of questions about why the bills have not moved forward as well as the issue of conflict of interest was sent on April 27 and a follow-up was sent on June 23.

The vice chair of the Senate committee, Sen. Pia Cayetano, told the PCIJ that in the Senate, "the scheduling of committee hearings on any measure is a prerogative of the chairperson."

"We will refer our response and attach your inquiry to the chairpersons of the committees concerned, namely, the Senate Committees on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, and Public Services," Cayetano said in an e-mail to the PCIJ.

### Proposed National Land Use Act

Status in the House Of Representatives: [House Bill 5240 was approved on Third Reading in May 2017 / Refiled in the 18th Congress, pending with the Committee on Land Use](#)

Status in the Senate: [Pending in the Senate Committee On Environment, Natural Resources, And Climate Change](#)

Land use is regulated by local government units (LGUs) under Republic Act (RA) 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, which devolved many national government powers and functions to LGUs. No one supervises and monitors local land use planning bodies for compliance with national plans, however.

The unregulated access to limited and finite land resources has caused conflicts over land use and management, said Kimberly Alvarez, policy advocacy officer of farmers' group Kaisahan, speaking at a forum on the urgency of the green bills in May. Plans for food self-sufficiency, settlement, industries, and climate-resilient land use planning and development sometimes clashed.

More than 120,000 hectares of agricultural lands were converted to nonagricultural use, according to 2012 data from the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The NLUA seeks to address many of these issues by forming a body to review and rationalize the classification of land in the Philippines according to their uses:



- protection (for conservation);
- production (for agriculture and fisheries);
- settlements development (for residential purposes); and
- and infrastructure development (for transportation, communication, water resources, social infrastructure).

The body will also draft a plan to guide development initiatives by LGUs, establishing rules that will, among others, ban houses in hazardous zones, reserve agricultural land for food security, and delineate protected areas such as forest corridors.

While LGUs have land use ordinances, the problematic practice of “spot zoning” is very rampant, said Antonio La Viña, executive director of the Manila Observatory. They zone an area to suit the purposes of the person who wants to have it, declaring it residential, for example, when the best use is for agriculture or forest purposes.

First filed in 1994, the NLUA languished in Congress in the last three decades despite a strong push from President Rodrigo Duterte and, before him, former presidents Benigno Aquino III, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and Fidel Ramos.

In the 17th Congress, Villar kept five land use bills in the committee, the first stage of the legislative process, despite Duterte’s deadline for Congress to pass the measure at the end of 2019. The House of Representatives passed its counterpart bill on second reading (period of interpellation and amendments) as early as March 14, 2017 and on third reading (final approval) on May 2, 2017.

In May 2018, a network of civil society organizations urged the Senate to pass the bill. Villar “has made no concrete action to at least convene the Committee on Environment and Natural Resource to discuss the bill,” the group said in a [PhilStar report](#).

Villar told reporters in July 2019 that the bill would [invite the ire of mayors](#) because it would take away their local powers and give them to a central authority.

“No congress will do that.... Now they want to centralize it? I don't want to do that,” the senator said in a [Rappler report](#).

La Viña said Villar’s real estate business interests might be affected by the bills because a land use policy would limit settlement in certain places and therefore restrict developers from building housing wherever they wanted to.

“It’s very simple. A Land Use Act will tell you where you can have housing and where you cannot have housing. The problem of land developers in the Philippines is they’re always looking for land to bank — *‘yung lupa* (the land) which they can later on or right away build houses on, whether high end or low end or etc.,” said La Viña, whose research institute, The Manila Observatory, has been active in science-based approaches to sustainable development.

“[That’s the link to the] Villar business. Because that will limit their ability to land bank, to build housing wherever they want to, especially if they already bought the land,” he said.



# Facts about climate change that alarmists do not want the public to know

[By Yen Makabenta](#) July 17, 2021

*First*

*word*

PRIMARILY because the global climate debate has become wholly a matter of belief (whether you believe or doubt the gospel of climate change and imminent climate catastrophe), the church of climate change has promoted its theology by falsifying and suppressing facts about the climate in the world we live in.

This is reminiscent of the tactics of the old religions, which incorporated into their teachings discredited representations of the universe such as belief in a flat earth.

It requires religious fervor to believe that the climate debate is closed and settled in favor of their theology.

It's time to describe as "obscurantism" the tactic of climate change fanatics to proclaim to the world that the climate debate is closed and then, in the same breath, suppress facts and opinions that suggest the contrary.

In the 18th century, Enlightenment philosophers applied the term obscurantist to any enemy of intellectual enlightenment and the liberal diffusion of knowledge. In the 19th century, in distinguishing the varieties of obscurantism found in metaphysics and theology and modern philosophical skepticism, [Friedrich Nietzsche](#) said: "The essential element in the black art of obscurantism is not that it wants to darken individual understanding, but that it wants to blacken our picture of the world and darken our idea of existence."

Climate alarmism, it is now clear, has been doing its utmost to blacken our picture of the world and darken our idea of existence.

I want to discuss here today the articles of several journalists and publications that report on how the public is failing to secure and understand vital facts about the climate and climate change.

## Six facts about climate change

First is an article by David Simon in the Real Clear Politics website on July 12, 2021, entitled: "Six facts the left doesn't want you to know about global warming."

I quote below key passages from Simon's most informative article:

"President Biden implores us that climate change is an 'existential threat' to humanity. Special presidential envoy for climate John Kerry preaches to us that '[t]he climate crisis as a whole is a national security threat because it is disruptive to the daily lives of human beings all over the world.' Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez warns us that in 2030, 'the world is going to end ... if we don't address climate change.'

"Hold on to your wallet. The Left's global warming Chicken Littles insist that the sky is falling but don't want you to know six key facts.

"First, in his new book *Unsettled*, the Obama administration Department of Energy chief scientist [Steven Koonin](#) shows that the models relied upon by the Left to predict future global warming are so poor that they cannot even reproduce the temperature changes in the 20th century.



"If these models cannot reproduce past temperatures already known when the models were developed, how can they possibly reliably predict temperatures decades into the future?"

"Second, Koonin's book also documents that the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) own analysis indicates that any negative economic impact that global warming eventually may have will be so modest that it warrants no action.

"Third, the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) and the IPCC do not claim that a link has been established between global warming and natural disasters.

"In 2020, the NOAA stated: 'It is premature to conclude with high confidence that increasing atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations from human activities have had a detectable impact on Atlantic basin hurricane activity, and 'changes in tropical cyclone activity ... are not yet detectable.'

"The UN IPCC, the Wall Street Journal reported, 'says that it too lacks evidence to show that warming is making storms and flooding worse.'

"Fourth, as the earth's temperature has risen, natural disasters have become far less deadly.

"Since 1920, the planet's temperature has risen by 1.29 degrees Celsius and world population has quadrupled from less than two billion to over seven and half billion - yet EM-DAT, The [International Disaster Database](#), reports that the number of people killed by natural disasters has declined by over 80 percent, from almost 55,000 per year to less than 10,000 per year.

"Fifth, some of the world's best scientists believe that global warming will be beneficial rather than harmful.

"In 2017, a group of eminent scientists - such as [Richard Lindzen](#) of MIT, [William Happer](#) of Princeton, and [Judith Curry](#) of Georgia Tech – wrote that 'observations [over the last] 25 years ... show that warming from increased atmospheric CO2 will be benign.'

"Carbon dioxide, they noted, 'is not a pollutant but a major benefit to agriculture and other life on Earth.'

"Sixth, global warming saves lives. A study published in 2015 by the British medical journal The Lancet found that cold kills over 17 times more people than heat.

"This study by 22 scientists from around the world - which examined over 74 million deaths in Australia, Brazil, Canada, [China](#), Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States in 1985-2012, 'the largest dataset ever collected to assess temperature-health associations' - reported that cold caused 7.29 percent of these deaths, while heat caused only 0.42 percent

"We must not let the Left bully us into draconian action with unfounded claims of a looming climate catastrophe. Know the facts. Global warming is not a problem."

**Two more facts the public should know**

To Mr. Simon's six facts, I want to add two more facts from other recent articles in US journals.

An editorial in the Issues and Insights website titled "Another Global Warming Fact Alarmists Want Buried," published on July 15, 2021, says:



"The entire climate change movement has been shady from its beginnings. Data have been hidden, truth has been sacrificed to politics, and hypocrisy and personal interests among its 'leaders' have produced a giant credibility deficit. The more we learn, the worse the alarmists look.

"Take, for instance, a new report that shows greenhouse gas emissions are not an American or Western problem. They are primarily a Chinese problem. A study from [Sun Yat-sen University](#) in China found that more than half of the world's urban greenhouse gas emissions are generated in only 25 big cities, and 23 of them are located in China.

"In other words, if the entire developed world cut its greenhouse gas emissions as activists, politicians, journalists and celebrities have demanded, nothing would change regarding the climate."

In an article in this month's issue of The Atlantic magazine, "The [green new deal](#), strictly speaking, does not exist," the author [Robinson Meyer](#) wrote:

"Since its ascension in 2018, the Green New Deal has defined the terms of the global climate debate. Perhaps no other climate policy in history has been as successful. Democrats and Republicans alike have been judged by how closely they seem to hew to it. Abroad, the European Union has dubbed its 1-trillion-euro attempt to decarbonize its economy 'the European Green Deal.' And on the histrionic fields of social media, progressives ask how society can afford flooded subways, horrific droughts, deadly heat waves, and uncontrollable wildfires but not pay for a Green New Deal.

"With so much ballyhoo, it's become easy to miss the central, implacable fact about the Green New Deal: It does not exist.

"Nobody has written it down. Three years after the idea of a Green New Deal broke into the mainstream, you can't find an authoritative and detailed list of Green New Deal policies anywhere. There is no handbook, no draft legislation, no official report that articulates what belongs in a Green New Deal and what doesn't.

"This is more than just an academic point. It means that tens of thousands of Americans want very badly to see Congress adopt a political program that definitionally cannot pass, because there is no 'it' for lawmakers to vote on. It means that at a moment of historic possibility, American climate politics still has one leg stuck in the spectral and symbolic, when it should be knee-deep in the real."

All this shows that Philippine immersion today in talk about climate change and green energy is misplaced. Proponents, local as well as foreign agents, have a lot of work to do to persuade our people that it is sensible to enlist in the climate change movement. We should all support and take part in a Senate public inquiry into the substance or the lie of a climate crisis.

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## Climate diplomacy: Action in critical times

[By Amado Tolentino Jr.](#) July 17, 2021

WITH the effects of climate change - stronger, wetter and faster- forming typhoons, rising temperatures, rapid extinction of plant and animal species, ocean pollution, water scarcity, infectious diseases, sea-level rise, incursions of salt water into food-growing regions, melting snowpack in mountain ranges, fierce forest fires and climate refugees - drawing increasing, serious attention, quick action is imperative. This is particularly true in regard to the Paris Agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions about which sweeping measures ought to be taken to fix the environmental crisis.

From scientific studies, the simplest way to avoid the worst of global warming is to stop the release of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the most significant greenhouse gas over which we have control. Emission of carbon dioxide results from the burning of fossil fuels, including coal, oil and natural gas, to produce energy. Other processes that emit CO<sub>2</sub> include agricultural practices and manufacture of cement. The amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere has a direct impact on the temperature of the earth.

With the world's concern over the emissions of greenhouse gases, the solution thought of in the climate conferences attended by diplomats and scientists, is to convert the global economy to carbon-neutral forms of energy and to do so at a pace designed to avoid economic dislocations and political disputes.

In the Paris Agreement, signatory countries committed to limiting the increase of global temperature to an average of 1.5 degrees Celsius. But as the United Nations Climate Summit (COP 26) Climate Change Convention in November 2021 in Scotland) draws near, governments need to update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the reason that what was promised does not come closer to what is needed to achieve the Paris climate agreement goals.

So far, only Bhutan, a small, developing country in Asia, has actually made its economy carbon-neutral. Leading emitters though have made commitments. China by 2060; the United States, the European Union, India and Russia by 2050.

Be that as it may, every country must take action now although developing and least developed countries, particularly the climate vulnerable ones deserve support in terms of knowhow, technology and funding. Advanced countries, on the other hand, must fulfill their pledges, set good examples and prove reliable partners to a global transformation to sustainability.

### **Collaborative action**

In that connection, collaborative action across government levels is an ongoing process. In Canada, Indonesia, the Philippines, Fiji, Tonga, Rwanda, South Sudan and Colombia, national urban development policies are referenced in the nationally determined contributions. They want to boost the potential of cities and urban communities at improving living standards by reducing emissions. Examples of collaborative climate action include that of Canada's westernmost province, British Columbia, which introduced a carbon tax that could counter rising greenhouse gas emissions by making goods and services that are associated with high emissions more expensive. It foresees reduction in other government taxes, providing balancing mechanisms to facilitate a revenue-neutral transition to a low-carbon economy. Building on that success, Canada's federal government introduced a nationwide carbon tax which can eventually define the country's national standard. Indonesia's web-based platform "Aksara" compiles data on greenhouse gas emissions which shows how much they could be reduced if all the country's climate programs were fully implemented. In the Philippines, on the other hand, Bonifacio Global City shifts its focus to lessen carbon emission via eco-friendly initiatives and advocacies. In 2020, it converted streetlights, parks and buildings with a renewable energy source, encouraging alternative transportation modes and planting trees and shrubs around the city, which helps improve the urban microclimate.





International climate collaboration for long-term climate and development planning that maximizes long-term benefits offers opportunities for enacting climate policies across government levels. The Paris Agreement, which, as mentioned, requires countries to submit NDCs and input from all levels of government, is needed to spell out targets and responsibilities. An NDC will necessarily include a monitoring and reporting system in order that all relevant government agencies could submit data. Ideally, an NDC should include mechanisms for the close cooperation of agencies at different levels. In all this, setting up a good communications system matters a lot.

### Climate change and human health

The connection of climate impact to infectious diseases is much more understood now as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Climate change is increasingly impacting human health. Most affected by weather changes and extreme weather events are people in developing and in-transition economy countries. Aside from small economies, they also have weak health care infrastructure. Disappearing glaciers, flooding and landslides create favorable conditions for diseases like malaria as well as contaminated water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhus. Declining harvests of staple foods due to extreme weather gives way to malnutrition.

Preventive health measures of affected countries include integration of climate protection and adaptation measures into health policy and promotion of renewable energies like solar and hydroelectric power plants.

The UN Environment Program (UNEP) confirms Covid-19-related subsidies offer opportunities for reducing carbon emissions. It reckons that while global carbon emissions went down because of the pandemic's impact on industrial production, post-pandemic reconstruction offers serious climate protection opportunities. Among these:

- 1) Support for climate-friendly technologies.
- 2) Discontinuance of subsidies for fossil fuels. Fossil fuels should stay on the ground. Financial encouragement should be given to companies to move their energy production from fossil fuels to renewable and carbon-free sources.
- 3) Since climate change cannot be stopped in the short term, efforts must be made to prepare for the effects of warming and implement laws to mitigate them. Focus must be on both local and global concerns.
- 4) An urgent review of the law on international migration must be done. The 1951 Refugee Convention must be amended. While this convention recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum for political persecution, it does not recognize the right of asylum from the effects of climate change. If one's environment is no longer livable, the right to move where they can live must be made available. This is rooted in the need to avoid violent conflicts.

Indeed, the global health crisis brought the matter of climate impacts on the health of humans and nature to the forefront, that one cannot be resolved without the other. Many are optimistic that the submission of the NDC requirement of the Paris Agreement would move at a faster phase. Corollary to that, the interconnected UN Sustainable Development Goals would also be benefited by the current efforts at climate action vis-à-vis infectious disease prevention and eradication. As the Chinese proverb says, "A catastrophe is an opportunity."

### Long-term strategies for climate protection

More and more international declarations in climate, health, biodiversity and renewable energy conferences point out the fact that only collaboration from governments and from within



government levels could bring about fast and far-reaching transformation to carbon neutrality. Be it noted that under the Paris Agreement, countries are likewise obliged to draft long term strategies and methodologies for climate protection. The goal is to lay down how they will make their economies greenhouse gas-neutral to meet a changed world in the mid-century.

Right now, decarbonization of energy is the greatest challenge to humankind. To avoid the threat of planetary catastrophe, the UN is once again at the forefront through the UN 2021 Climate Summit in Glasgow.

It is time for tangible action by countries. Pledges to achieve carbon neutrality must translate into more stringent nationally determined contributions toward achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.



# European officials say 'climate change has arrived' as deadly floods engulf entire towns

By Angela Dewan, Nadine Schmidt and Ulrike Dehmel, CNN

Published Jul 17, 2021 2:09:57 AM



Courtesy: Boris Roessler/picture alliance/Getty Images

**(CNN)** — European officials have said climate change contributed to this week's extreme flooding, which has left entire towns submerged and more than 120 people dead.

Scientists have for decades warned that climate change will make extreme weather events, including heavy rain and deadly flooding, more likely.

Around 100 of those killed after torrential rainfall since Wednesday were in Germany's western states of Rhineland-Palatinate and North Rhine-Westphalia, where local leaders are urging the world for swifter action on climate change as villages under their watch become a new and unexpected epicenter of global warming.

Neighboring Belgium has also been hit hard by the floods, which have killed 20 people in the country and could rise further, Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden said Friday at a press conference.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Friday that flooding in northwestern Europe was evidence of the need for urgency in acting on climate change.

"Science tells us that with climate change, we see more and more extreme weather phenomena that last longer," said von der Leyen, two days after unveiling an ambitious package of climate change proposals for the EU.

"It is the intensity and the length of these events when science tells us this is a clear indication of climate change and that this is something that really, really shows the urgency to act."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Thursday met with US President Joe Biden in Washington, DC, where she welcomed America's return to the Paris agreement on climate change, saying it would strengthen this year's annual climate talks -- known as the Conference of the Parties -- in Glasgow, Scotland, later this year.

"We talked about the challenges of climate change, and I'm very, very glad that the United States have returned to the Paris Accord, and that this gives us a very different basis in Glasgow to fight for more climate protection at the Conference of the Parties," she said.

"I think the meteorological events -- whether it's fires hitting the United States, dramatically high temperatures, or just sudden irregular rainfalls -- indicate that the number of extraordinarily weather events has increased dramatically in recent years. We need to respond to that."



Her comments echoed those of her environment minister, Svenja Schulze, who tweeted Thursday: "Climate change has arrived in Germany.

"The events show with what force the consequences of climate change can affect us all, and how important it is for us to adjust to extreme weather events in the future."

There is growing acknowledgement and acceptance now from many politicians that anthropogenic -- or human-induced -- climate change plays a role in extreme weather events.

Biden, for example, recently linked the extreme heat and prolonged drought in the US to climate change.

Scientists are now able to estimate just how big a role climate change has played in a particular event. It's too soon to make conclusions about current flooding in Europe, but estimates are likely to be made in coming days.

A similar, though less extreme, flooding event in Western Europe in 2016 that killed 18 people in Germany, France, Romania and Belgium, for example, was found to be 80-90% more likely to occur than it was in the past before anthropogenic climate change.

While officials at the national and EU level are sounding the horn on climate, so too are local leaders on the disasters' front lines.

The premier of North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany -- Armin Laschet, who is also the Conservatives' candidate to succeed Merkel -- said the floods in his state were "a catastrophe of historic proportion," calling on the world to speed up its efforts to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

"The floods have literally pulled the rug from under people's feet," Laschet said.

"We will be faced with such events over and over, and that means we need to speed up climate protection measures, on European, federal and global levels, because climate change isn't confined to one state," he said.

## What's causing this heavy rainfall?

As the Earth's atmosphere warms, it can hold more moisture, which in some cases leads to unprecedented rainfall. It may be that the total average rainfall in an area doesn't change, but extremes are amplified, which can mean longer dry periods or more intense storms.

Flash flooding occurs when rain falls faster than the ground can absorb it. It is "flash" because its onset is rapid -- water levels can rise meters in minutes.

When there is more water vapor in a warmer atmosphere, rainfall rates can increase and flash flooding is more likely to occur.

And drought can actually compound this effect. Very dry soil can't absorb water efficiently -- think of trying to wet a very dry sponge. While the rain is ultimately beneficial, if a region that has been experiencing intense drought gets hit with heavy rain, flash flooding is more likely to occur.

That's the dynamic in Germany and Belgium at the moment. Just a few months ago, there were historically low water levels on the Rhine in Cologne, which were disrupting shipping along the river, but now the river has swelled from two months of rain falling in just one day.



The projections for how much the Earth would warm have largely been correct, said Myles Allen, a climate scientist at the University of Oxford. But there have been outliers -- namely, the warming in Europe has been faster than predicted.

Myles said scientists expected more extreme weather events, but records are being blown away at a concerning clip -- the unprecedented heat wave in the Northwest US in late June is another recent example.

"Extreme events happen and records get broken all the time," Myles said, "but it is worrying that we're seeing such rapid intensification."

With more action, he said, climate change could be addressed in a generation. Deadly flooding and heatwaves serve as a reminder of the climate crisis' reach.

"A problem is that every climate documentary starts with an image of a polar bear, which send the message that climate change happens in the Arctic, on the other side of the world," Myles said. "But these events show that's not true."

This story was first published on CNN.com, "[European officials say 'climate change has arrived' as deadly floods engulf entire towns.](#)"



## 2K bahay apektado ng wildfire sa Oregon



July 16, 2021 @ 5:20 PM 13 hours ago

OREGON – Nahirapan sa pag-apula ng apoy ang mga bombero sa wildfire sa Oregon kung saan maraming natupok na bahay nitong Huwebes, Hulyo 13 2021,

Mahigit 1,700 na opisyal at 12 helicopters ang tumulong para maapula ang apoy kung saan umabot ng pitong porsyento ang Bootleg fire.

Mahigit 2000 kabahayan ang nasabing natupok ayon sa inter-agency InciWeb.

Ang apoy ay nagsimula sa Fremont-Winema National Forest, 250 milya (400 km) timog ng Portland, mula Hulyo 6, at kumalat na sa lawak na mahigit 227,000 ektarya, ayon sa InciWeb.

“This is going to continue to grow – the extremely dry vegetation and weather are not in our favor,” ani Incident commander Joe Hessel.

Walang naiulat na nasaktan ayon sa opisyal, ngunit 21 kabahayan ang nasira at 54 establisyemento.

Sapilitan na inilakas ang mga residente habang ang ilan sa kanila ay tumanggi na lisanin ang lugar.

Ang Bootleg fire ay nanguna sa may pinakamalaki at isa sa sampung aktibo ng wildfires ng Pacific Northwest, at ika-pito sa may maraming records sa Oregon mula 1900 ayon sa datos ng State forestry.

Sabi ni Erik Wegner ng US Forest Service ang mga patay na kahoy at tuyong mga dahon ang isa sa mga naging dahilan ng mabilis na pagkalat ng apoy.

“It took off really fast.”

Ang Blaze ay sinenyasan ang Butte County Sheriff’s Office na bigyan babala ang mga residente na maghanda sa paglikas dahil sa mabilis na pagkalat ng apoy.

“Please remember that conditions can change rapidly and we urge our community members to be prepared and have a plan in place for your family and your pets,” tweet ni sheriff’s office.

Unang naiulat ang sunog nitong Lunes dahil sa kidlat. [\*\*\*Mula sa ulat ng Reuters/Yna de Luna-trainee\*\*\*](#)

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/2k-bahay-apektado-ng-wildfire-sa-oregon/>



## 22 pagyanig naitala sa Bulkang Taal



July 16, 2021 @ 7:49 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Aabot sa 22 pagyanig ang naitala sa paligid ng Bulkang Taal sa patuloy na pag-aalboroto sa nakalipas na 24-oras iniulat ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Ayon sa Phivolcs, bukod sa pagyanig naitala rin ang mataas na na lebel ng volcanic sulfur dioxide o SO<sub>2</sub> gas emission at abo na may taas na 1,500 meters mula sa bunganga ng bulkan.

Sinabi pa ng Phivolcs na nakataas sa Alert Level 3 ang paligid ng bulkan Taal at nagbabanta sa pagputok ang bulkan.

Kaugnay nito, pinaalalahanan ng Phivolcs ang publiko na ang buong bulkang Taal ay Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) at kabilang sa mga high-risk barangay sa paligid ng bulkan ang Agoncillo at Laurel.

Ipinagbabawal din ang anomang aktibidad sa paligid ng bulkang Taal dahil sa banta ng pag-aalboroto ng bulkan. **(Santi Celario)**



## La Niña muling mararanasan sa Oktubre, Nobyembre — PAGASA



July 16, 2021 @ 7:14 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Inihayag ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) na nasa 50 porsyentong tsansa na maranasan ang La Niña ngayong taon.

“Based on the current conditions and model forecasts, there is more than fifty percent chance that La Niña will develop in either late October or November 2021, which may last through the first quarter of 2022,” lahad ng PAGASA.

“With this development, above normal rainfall conditions are expected over some parts of the country in the coming several months. Potential adverse impacts of the developing La Niña include floods and landslides over vulnerable areas, with varying magnitude.”

Maaalalang winakasan na ang La Niña 2020-2021 noong June 2, 2021. **RNT/FGDC**



17 JULY 2021, SATURDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Active COVID-19 cases hit 48,480 after Philippines logs 5,676 new infections

(Philstar.com) - July 16, 2021 - 4:00pm



Vehicles crawl through traffic along EDSA in Makati on July 14, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Friday reported 5,676 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,496,328.

- **Active cases:** 48,480 or 3.2% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 2,670, pushing total to 1,421,372
- **Deaths:** 162, bringing total to 26,476

## New quarantine classifications; more Delta variant cases detected

- Health authorities said they [detected 16 more cases of the highly infectious Delta variant, 11 of which are "local."](#) This brings the total number of people infected with the B.1.617.2 variant in the Philippines to 35.
- President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday approved the pandemic task force's recommendation to keep Metro Manila under general community quarantine until July 31 [but additional restrictions will no longer be implemented.](#)
- Several areas were reclassified today, however, "upon the recommendations of the Department of Health, its Technical Advisory Group, and the Technical Working Group on COVID-19 Variants," Palace spokesman Harry Roque said.
- Among the areas reclassified were Cagayan de Oro, the City of Gingoog, Iloilo City and Iloilo province, all of which were placed under the most stringent enhanced community quarantine until the end of the month.
- But even as the threat of more transmissible COVID-19 variants forces more stringent lockdowns, the IATF [updated its list of "green" or low-risk territories to allow even more vaccinated travelers to go through a shorter quarantine period of seven days upon arrival in the Philippines.](#)

—Bella Perez-Rubio



# 11 local case ng Delta variant natukoy sa Pinas

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 17, 2021 - 12:00am



Ang mga indibidwal sa ilalim ng A4 priority group ay na-inoculate ng bakuna sa COVID-19 habang inilulunsad ng pamahalaang lokal ng Lungsod ng Quezon ang kanilang programa na QC ProtekTODO Bakuna Nights sa bukas na bakuran ng city hall noong Hunyo 16, 2021.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — Natukoy ng Department of Health (DOH) ang 16 na bagong kaso ng COVID-19 Delta variant kabilang ang 11 local cases.

Sa pinakahuling 'whole genome sequencing report' ng University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center at ng UP-National Institutes of Health, lima sa mga bagong kaso ay mga 'returning overseas Filipino (ROF).

Isa ang dumating sa Pilipinas noong Abril 26 mula sa United Kingdom at nakarekober na ngayon. Dalawa ang galing sa Qatar at mga recovered na rin habang binebirepika pa ang status ng dalawa pang ROF.

Sa 11 lokal na kaso ng Delta variant, anim ang natukoy sa Region 10. Nag-umpisa ang sakit sa pagitan ng Hunyo 23-28 at pawang gumaling na rin.

Dalawa sa mga kaso ang mula sa Metro Manila. Isa ang nasawi sa loob ng emergency room ng isang ospital noong Hunyo 28 habang ang isa naman ay dinapuan ng virus nitong Hunyo 23 at recovered na ngayon.

Isa pang kaso ay isang outpatient na nag-umpisa ang sakit noong Hunyo 27 at magaling na rin. Naisailalim siya sa COVID-19 test sa Metro Manila ngunit may address siya sa Region 3. Wala umanong kaugnayan ang mga pasyente sa isa't isa.

Ang huling dalawang kaso ay natukoy sa Region 6 na nag-umpisa ang sakit noong Mayo 27 at mga nakarekober na.

Patuloy ang koordinasyon ngayon ng DOH sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at Centers for Health Development upang matiyak na sa lahat ng kaso ay nagkaroon ng sapat na contact tracing. Naka-high alert din ang Bureau of Quarantine at Department of Transportation sa pagpapatupad ng border control.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/07/17/2113068/11-local-case-ng-delta-variant-natukoy-sa-pinaz/amp/>



# DOH naghahanda sa posibleng paglobo ng Delta variant

By [Danilo Garcia](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 17, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Pinaghahanda na ng Department of Health (DOH) ang mga pagamutan sa posibilidad na paglobo ng mga bagong kaso ng COVID-19 dahil sa Delta variant sa pagpapadagdag ng mga hospital beds para sa mga mahahawa ng virus.

Sinabi ni Health Undersecretary Leopoldo Vega, tumatayo ring treatment czar, na dahan-dahan na nilang pinapag-upgrade ang mga pagamutan at kanilang mga pasilidad.

Sa mga pampublikong pagamutan, kailangang ilaan ang 30% ng kanilang hospital beds para sa COVID-19 patients.

Ito ay dahil sa hindi umano nawawala ang posibilidad na pumutok rin ang Delta variant ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas tulad ng nangyayari ngayon sa mga kapitbahay natin na Indonesia at Malaysia.

“Since last year, we have already doubled up our intensive care units both in the public and private, totaling to almost 1,800. Before it was just 700 plus,” dagdag ni Vega.

Nakapagtayo na rin ang gobyerno ng mga modular hospital sa Metro Manila at ibang lalawigan kung sakaling mapupuno ang ibang ospital dahil sa dami ng pasyente.

Nabatid na 16 bagong kaso ng Delta variant ang natukoy sa bansa kung saan 11 sa mga ito ay local cases na.

Samantala, bukod sa Delta variant nadagdagan pa ng 264 bagong kaso ng Alpha variant na unang natukoy sa United Kingdom, 299 Beta variant (South Africa) at 55 Theta variant (Philippines).



# Covid cases rising but it's GCQ for NCR till July 31

BY SAMUEL MEDENILLA JULY 16, 2021



To accommodate workers who are unable to get their vaccination during regular working hours, the local government of Taguig City launched the Taguig Bakuna Nights at BGC High Street Mega Vaccination Hub in Fort Bonifacio on Wednesday night (July 14, 2021). The operation ran until midnight, with the city providing small entertainment for waiting vaccinees. The city plans to expand its operations to 24 hours to accommodate more people.

DESPITE the rising cases of Covid-19 in some of its cities, Metro Manila will remain under general community quarantine (GCQ) until the end of the month.

On Thursday, the Department of Health (DOH) confirmed seven cities in the National Capital Region (NCR) a positive two-week growth rate of new Covid-19 cases.

However, Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said President Duterte opted not to impose a tighter community classification for NCR.

This, even if health officials are still trying to determine the reason for the spike in new cases in the said areas.

“Like what I said, we look at the capacity of LGUs [local government units] to isolate [infected individuals] and their contact tracing ratio and it appears these are improving so we opted to maintain GCQ in Metro Manila,” said Roque, who also serves as spokesman of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

Roque ruled out the Delta variant of the Covid-causing severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which is being blamed for the surge in cases in several countries.

Citing the surveillance being conducted by the Philippine Genome Center, he noted there is currently still no confirmed community transmission of the Delta variant.



### New list of classifications

Aside from NCR, other areas also placed under GCQ are Baguio City and Apayao in the Cordillera Administrative Region; City of Santiago, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino in Region 2; Bulacan in Region 3; Cavite, Rizal, Quezon and Batangas in Region 4A; Puerto Princesa in Region 4B; Guimaras and Negros Occidental in Region 6; Zamboanga Sibugay, City of Zamboanga and Zamboanga del Norte in Region 9; Davao Oriental in Region 11; General Santos City, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, Cotabato and South Cotabato in Region 12; Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, and Surigao del Sur in Caraga; and Cotabato City in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

These areas will remain under GCQ from July 16 to 31, 2021.

Meanwhile, the following areas will be placed under GCQ with heightened restrictions from July 16, 2021 until July 31, 2021: Cagayan in Region 2; Laguna and Lucena City in Region 4A; Naga City in Region 5; Negros Oriental in Region 7; Zamboanga del Sur in Region 9; and Davao City in Region 11.

Aklan, Bacolod City, Antique, and Capiz in Region 6 will also be placed under GCQ with heightened restrictions, but only until 22 July 2021.

Areas which are under modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ), the second strictest community quarantine classification, include Bataan in Region 3; Cagayan de Oro City in Region 10; Davao Occidental, Davao de Oro, Davao del Sur, and Davao del Norte in Region 11; and Butuan City in Caraga from July 16, 2021 until July 31, 2021.

Iloilo City and Iloilo in Region 6 shall also be placed under MECQ but only until 22 July 2021. All other areas in the country, which are now included in the aforementioned lists, will be placed under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) from July 16, 2021 until July 31, 2021. Image courtesy of Nonie Reyes



A man shows a vial of the US Johnson and Johnson vaccine against the Covid-19 coronavirus donated by the United States, at the Sukraraj tropical hospital vaccine storage cold room in Kathmandu on July 12, 2021.

AFP/Prakash Mathema

## FDA: COVID-19 vaccine side-effects bantayan kahit hanggang 1 taon

[James Relativo](#) (Philstar.com) - July 14, 2021 - 3:03pm

MANILA, Philippines — Kahit na hindi agad-agad tamaan ng side-effects kaugnay ng COVID-19 vaccines matapos ang ilang linggo, dapat pa rin bantayan ang pagpasok ng ilang "adverse events" kahit hanggang isang taon matapos maturukan ng bakuna, ayon sa Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Ito ang ipinaliwanag ni FDA director general Eric Domingo, Miyerkules sa [Laging Handa briefing](#), nang maiulat ang "[rare nerve disorder](#)" na natuklasan sa ilang naturukan ng Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine matapos ang 42 araw.

"Actually tayo, extended po talaga ang ating adverse events following immunization ano. Kung may naramdaman po kayo, kahit six months, kahit one year, kailangan pong i-report niyo 'yan para po makita natin... kung meron po siyang kuneksyon sa mga bakuna," ani Domingo kanina.

"Yung mga allergy, immediate kasi 'yan nakikita... Ang mga sinasabi po natin na [we should] watch out for that might be a little longer, ay 'yung mga unusual nga, itong mga rare side-effects na binabantayan. Katulad po ng pagbaba ng platelet [count], ito ngang possible Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS). Very, very rare nga po ito, at ito lang po usually ang makita nang mas matagal."

Ang GBS ay sinasabing napaka-"rare" at nangyayari lang sa isa sa 100,000 kataong nababakunahan, sabi ng FDA, habang idinidiin na na mas marami pa rin ang benepisyong mga naturang gamot kumpara sa risks.

Karamihan sa mga adverse events ay na nangyayari sa loob ng ilang araw hanggang ilang linggo matapos ang pagpapabakuna laban sa nakamamatay na COVID-19. Ayon sa [Department of Health \(DOH\)](#), ilan lang ang sumusunod sa mga karaniwang side-effects ng mga jabs:

- pananakit, init, pamumula o pamamaga sa brasong tinurukan
- general na hindi magandang pakiramdam
- pagkapagod (fatigue)
- panlalamig o pakiramdam na tila lalagnatin
- sakit ng ulo
- pananakit ng mga kasu-kasuan o katawan



Abril nang [aprubahan ng FDA ang emergency use authorization ng single-dose Johnson & Johnson](#). Sinasabing [magsisimulang dumating sa Pilipinas ang lagpas 3 milyong doses ng bakuna ng J&J-owned Janssen Pharmaceutical ngayong linggo](#).

Ipinaalala naman ni Domingo na walang dapat ipangamba kung walang maramdamang side-effects mabakunahan. Aniya, hindi ibig sabihin na wala nito ay hindi na mabisa ang bakuna dahil karamihan ay wala naman daw talagang negatibong nararamdaman matapos.

Sa huling ulat ni presidential spokesperson Harry Roque kanina, [umabot na sa 13.81 milyong doses ng COVID-19 vaccines ang naibibigay sa Pilipinas](#). Samantala, 3.88 milyong katao naman ang sinasabing nakakumpleto na ng dalawang doses ng bakuna.

Hindi gaya ng ibang bakuna, isang turok lang ng J&J vaccine ay fully-vaccinated ka na at mapropektahan laban sa virus.

Umabot na sa 1.48 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, ayon sa huling ulat ng DOH nitong Martes. Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 26,092 katao.





## MGA BANSANG NAGRELAKS VS COVID-19, BALIK LOCKDOWN, PAGHIHIGPIT



July 16, 2021 @ 8:22 PM 10 hours ago

MABABA na kung tutuusin ang mga kaso ng coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Nasa mahigit 3,000 hanggang mahigit 5,000 na lang ang kaso at nasa 70-100 ang namamatay araw-araw.

Kaya naman may mga mungkahi nang magluwag ang gobyerno sa pinairal nitong mga community quarantine.

Gusto na nilang pairalin sa pangkalahatan sa bansa ang general community quarantine o modified community quarantine, maliban lang sa ilang lugar na dapat isailalim sa enhanced o modified enhanced community quarantine na total lockdown o semi-lockdown ang pakahulugan.

Pangunahing ang paghahanapbuhay nang malaya ang dahilan ng pagsusulong ng GCQ at MGCQ upang makaahon na ang nakararami sa kahirapan at ang pamahalaan, nasyunal at lokal, sa krisis, lalo na sa pananalapi.

### **IBANG BANSA SILIPIN**

Itong Australia, mga Bro, ay hindi ininda ang COVID-19 sa nakaraang taon dahil sa paghihigpit nila sa mga pumapasok at lumalabas sa kanilang bansa.

Pagkakita nila ng sungay ng pandemya, katakot-takot na lockdown o restriction ang kanilang ginagawa at naghaharangan pa ang bawat estado ng mga traveller.

Pero nitong Hunyo at ngayong Hulyo, pinasok na sila ng Delta variant.

Kaya ni-lock down o under tight restriction ang mga estado ng Victoria, Sydney at Melbourne.

Bawal ang kasal, religious gathering, face-to-face na pag-aaral, pagbisita sa pamilya sa ibang lugar, kumain sa restoran at stay at home lang.

Pwede ka lang lalabas para bumili ng mahalagang pangangailangan, pumasok sa trabaho, magpagamot at magpabakuna.

Apektado ang halos lahat ng mamamayan sa Australia rito na kailangang mag-face mask sa lahat ng lugar maliban lang sa loob ng bahay.



## **SA ISRAEL**

Binuksan na ang lipunang Israel sa lahat ng larangan makaraang mabakunahan ng Pfizer ang kalakhan ng populasyon nito at nakaabot na sa herd immunity.

Pero ngayong umaatake ang Delta variant, anak ng tokwa, balik-face mask ang lahat ng mamamayan, kasama na ang mga overseas Filipino worker.

Lahat din ng mga dumarating sa Israel, Israelita man o dayuhan, dapat sumalang sa istriktong quarantine.

## **SA HOLLAND AT SOUTH KOREA**

Sa Holland, inalis na ang face mask at binuksan na ang lahat, kasama ang mga restoran, bar at iba pa.

Pero biglang nabuhay ang COVID-19 at dumami ang mga naospital kaya balik-face mask na naman sila.

Isinara ang mga nightclub at hanggang hatinggabi lang ang mga restoran at bar.

Sa South Korea, umaatake ang Delta variant kaya naman ang hindi pagsusuot ng face mask at pagpayag sa social gathering ay muling pinagbabawi.

Ngayon, obligado muli ang pagsusuot muli ng face mask, social distancing at hanggang dalawang tao lang ang pupwedeng magkasama pagdating ng alas-8 ng gabi.

## **SA UNITED KINGDOM AT US**

Pareho ang United Kingdom at United States na inaatake ng Delta variant.

Nasa 96 porsyento ng mga variant sa UK ang binubuo ng Delta variant samantalang mahigit 50 porsyento naman ang Delta variant sa mga variant na nasa US.

Sumisipa ngayon ang nasabing variant sa dalawang bansa kaya naman, muling iginigiit ang pagsusuot ng face mask sa maraming estado sa US samantalang inoobliga ang lahat sa UK na magsuot ng face sa lahat ng public transportation at istasyon dito.

Sa US, inaatake ng nasabing variant ang mga ayaw magpabakuna na milyon pa ang bilang at sa UK, maging ang mga nabakunahan na ay nahahawa pa rin.

## **KTV SUPERSREADER SA SINGAPORE**

Sa Singapore naman, natataranta ang mga awtoridad sa pagdami ng COVID-19 sa mga KTV bar na may mga magagandang serbidora sa inumin at pagkain.

Dumarami ang mga natatagpuang nagkaka-COVID sa mga ito subalit hirap ang mga awtoridad sa contact tracing dahil sa hirap na pagkilala sa mga mahihilig mag-rest and recreation sa ganitong mga lugar.

Meron din umanong mga iligal na nag-o-operate at nakadagdag ang mga ito sa hirap sa contact tracing at testing.

Kaya umano ipinagbawal nila ang operasyon ng mga KTV dahil nasisira ang social distancing sa inuman at bango ng mga kababaihan.

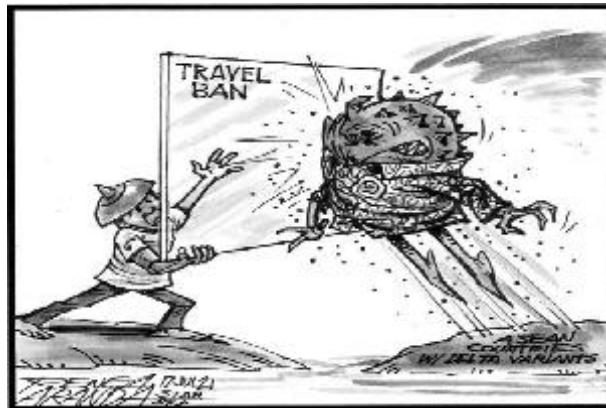


## MAGRELAKS NA BA TAYO?

Dapat na bang magrelaks ang mahal kong Pinas at kumilos na nang halos buong laya ang lahat sa ilalim ng GCQ at MGCQ o wala nang community quarantine sa mga sinasabing COVID-free na lugar?

Maghunos-dili sana ang lahat at huwag pumayag ang mga awtoridad.

Si COVID-19 at ang anak nitong si Delta variant, kasama ang mga UK t South African variant, ay nasa tabi-tabi lang at maaaring umatake sa sandaling tayo'y magluwag nang todo.



## EDITORIAL - Local transmission

(The Philippine Star) - July 17, 2021 - 12:00am

An official of the Department of Health had described it as “inevitable.” And true enough, the DOH announced yesterday that 11 cases of local transmission of the more virulent Delta variant of the COVID virus had been confirmed across the country, with one death recorded in the city of Manila.

In all, there were 16 new Delta infections, 10 of them females aged 14 to 79, the DOH reported. Of the 11 infections within the country, two were in the city of Manila, five in Cagayan de Oro, two in Antique and one in Misamis Oriental. The DOH fell short of declaring a community transmission – meaning the source of infection can no longer be traced – but it noted that case “clustering” had been recorded in Western Visayas and Northern Mindanao.

The country now has a total of 35 Delta variant cases, apart from 264 new cases of the Alpha variant that was first reported in the United Kingdom, and 299 new cases of the Beta variant from South Africa. Delta, first recorded in India, had devastated that country and is now ravaging Indonesia and Thailand. Delta is also becoming the dominant strain in the United States, where breakthrough COVID infections are increasingly being reported among those fully inoculated with US-made vaccines.

All the Delta infections in the Philippines were “100 percent sourced from abroad,” with links to clusters in India, the United Arab Emirates and Southeast Asia, according to the Philippine Genome Center. So it makes sense for the Philippines to impose a travel ban on more countries where the Delta variant is now on a rampage.

At the same time, with community transmission of the Delta variant now also looking inevitable, the government must review the easing of restrictions on children aged five and older. Images in many areas show children largely unsupervised by adults while playing outdoors, without masks and unmindful of physical distancing.

While children are known to have strong immunity to COVID-19, there have been reports of pediatric infections and even deaths. Children can also be carriers and can infect vulnerable members of the household such as the elderly, those with comorbidities, and persons who are not vaccinated.

The World Health Organization has warned that the pandemic is far from over and more dangerous variants could take hold. The Philippines is just one short step away from community transmission of the Delta variant. While the country can't remain on perpetual lockdown, the spread of more virulent variants heightens the need for strict compliance with basic health safety protocols and tighter border controls.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/07/17/2113064/editorial-local-transmission>



# **#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**RESOLUTION NO. 127**

Series of 2021

July 15, 2021

**WHEREAS**, Section 15 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 (b) of Executive Order No. 168 (s.2014) mandates the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to prevent and/or minimize the entry of suspected or confirmed patients with emerging infectious diseases into the country;

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 1021 (s.2020) extending the period of the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines until September 21, 2021;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health (DOH), the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC), and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH) biosurveillance has detected B.1.1.7, B.1.351, P.1, and P.3 variants of the COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health (DOH), the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC), and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH) biosurveillance has likewise received information on the existence of B.1.617 variant first detected in India;

**WHEREAS**, the continued implementation of proactive measures and restrictions must be put in place to slow down the surge in COVID-19 cases, stop further spread of variants, buy time for the health system to cope, and to protect more lives;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the IATF approves the following:

- A. The request of the Philippine Basketball Association to restart their 46th Season is hereby approved, subject to the strict compliance of the health and safety protocols as provided for under the guidelines of the Games and Amusement Board.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

B. The recommendations of the IATF Technical Working Group, the specifics of which are as follows:

1. Approving the request of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict to conduct their nationwide Bike for Peace and Justice provided, that the same shall be held only in areas under Modified General Community Quarantine and General Community Quarantine; and
2. Approving the request of the Philippine National Volleyball Federation to host the 21st Asian Seniors Women's Volleyball Championship considering that the health and safety protocols of which are similar to those previously approved;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the National Task Force Chairperson and the Secretary of Labor and Employment shall be duly authorized to sign this Resolution for and on behalf of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

**APPROVED** during the 127th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this July 15, 2021, via video conference.

**DELFIN N. LORENZANA**  
Secretary, Department of Health  
IATF Chairperson



**SILVESTRE H. BELLO III**  
Secretary, Department of Labor and  
Employment



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;
2. I am the Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, (s.2014) and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;
4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
5. In the Regular Meeting of the IATF held on 15 July 2021 via teleconference during which a quorum was present and acted throughout, IATF Resolution No. 127 was unanimously approved and adopted;
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana and Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III upon the authority of the IATF Members;
7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect;
8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 15th day of July 2021, Manila.

  
**ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE**  
*Assistant Secretary of Health*  
*Head Secretariat, IATF*





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**RESOLUTION NO. 127-A**

Series of 2021

July 15, 2021

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, to prevent the sharp rise of COVID-19 cases in the country, the President placed the entirety of Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine until April 14, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, on March 30, 2020, to develop a science-based approach in determining the risk-based classification of areas in the country, the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) convened a sub-Technical Working Group tasked to develop the LGU Epidemic Response Framework and to define parameters in assessing recent developments in the Philippine COVID-19 situation;

**WHEREAS**, on April 30, 2020, the Office of the Executive Secretary issued Executive Order (E.O.) No. 112 Imposing an Enhanced Community Quarantine in High-Risk Geographic Areas of the Philippines and a General Community Quarantine in the Rest of The Country from 01 To 15 May 2020, Adopting The Omnibus Guidelines On The Implementation Thereof, And For Other Purposes;

**WHEREAS**, on May 27, 2020, the IATF released an updated risk classification in all Provinces, Highly Urbanized Cities and Independent Component Cities in the country, placing localities under different classifications of community quarantine with the goal of balancing economic activity and public health;

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 1021 (s.2020) extending the period of the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 declared under Proclamation No. 929 (s.2020);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, upon the recommendations of its Screening and Validation Committee, the IATF approves the following final risk-level classifications of Provinces, Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), and Independent Component Cities (ICCs) effective 16 July 2021:

- A. The following provinces, HUCs, and ICCs shall hereinafter be placed under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) until 31 July 2021, without prejudice to their reclassification as may be warranted and the declaration of localized Enhanced Community Quarantine in critical areas:



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1. For Luzon:

- a. Cordillera Administrative Region - Ifugao, Kalinga, Abra, Benguet, Mt. Province;
- b. Region I - Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Dagupan City;
- c. Batanes,
- d. Region III - Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Angeles City, Olongapo City;
- e. Region IV-B - Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro\*, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, and Palawan\*; and
- f. Region V - Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon.

2. For the Visayas:

- a. Region VII - Bohol, Cebu, Siquijor, Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City; and
- b. Region VIII - Biliran, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Western Samar\*, and Ormoc City\*.

3. For Mindanao:

- a. Region X - Bukidnon\*, Camiguin\*, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte\*, Misamis Occidental\*, and Misamis Oriental\*;
- b. Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) - Basilan, Maguindanao\*, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.

*\*Areas requiring special attention by the Local Government Units and Regional IATF/RTF*

B. The following provinces, HUCs, and ICCs shall hereinafter be placed under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) until 31 July 2021, without prejudice to their reclassification as may be warranted and the declaration of localized Enhanced Community Quarantine in critical areas:

1. For Luzon:

- a. The National Capital Region;
- b. Cordillera Administrative Region: Baguio City and Apayao;



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- c. Region II: Santiago City, Quirino, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya;
- d. Bulacan
- e. Region IV-A: Cavite, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon; and
- f. Puerto Princesa.

2. For Visayas:

- a. Region VI: Guimaras, Negros Occidental;

3. For Mindanao:

- a. Region IX: Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Norte;
- b. Davao Oriental
- c. Region XII: Gen. Santos City, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, North Cotabato, and South Cotabato;
- d. Region XIII (CARAGA): Agusan Del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao Del Norte, Surigao del Sur, and Dinagat Islands; and
- e. Cotabato City

*\*Areas requiring special attention by the Local Government Units and Regional IATF/RTF*

- C. The following provinces, HUCs, and ICCs shall hereinafter be placed under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) until 31 July 2021, without prejudice to their reclassification as may be warranted and the declaration of localized Enhanced Community Quarantine in critical areas:

1. For Luzon - Bataan;

2. For Mindanao:

- b. Cagayan de Oro City
- c. Region XI: Davao Occidental, Davao De Oro, Davao Del Sur, Davao Del Norte; and
- d. Butuan City.

- D. Iloilo and Iloilo City shall hereinafter be placed under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) until 22 July 2021, without prejudice to their reclassification as may be warranted and the declaration of localized Enhanced Community Quarantine in critical areas;



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

E. Cagayan, Laguna, Lucena City, Naga City, Negros Oriental, Davao City, and Zamboanga del Sur shall hereinafter be classified under General Community Quarantine until 31 July 2021.

Aklan, Antique, Bacolod City, and Capiz shall hereinafter be classified under General Community Quarantine until 22 July 2021.

The aforementioned provinces, HUCs, and ICCs shall be under GCQ with the observance and implementation of the following heightened restrictions during which the following rules shall apply:

1. Food preparation establishments such as commissaries, restaurants, and eateries may operate with their indoor dine-in services at the venue or seating capacity of twenty percent (20%), and with their *al fresco* or outdoor dine-in services at the venue or seating capacity of fifty percent (50%).
2. Personal care services, such as beauty salons, beauty parlors, barbershops, and nail spas, may operate up to thirty percent (30%) of venue or seating capacity. For this purpose, these establishments shall only provide services that can accommodate the wearing of face masks at all times by patrons/clients and service providers.
3. Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions (MICE) events in eligible venue establishments shall not be allowed to operate;
4. Outdoor tourist attractions, as may be defined by the DOT, shall remain to be allowed at thirty percent (30%) venue capacity with strict adherence to minimum public health standards;
5. Under the Safety Seal Certification Program, business establishments awarded Safety Seal Certifications shall be allowed to operate at an additional 10 percentage points beyond the prescribed on-site capacity or venue/seating capacity, whichever is applicable;



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

6. Indoor sports courts and venues and indoor tourist attractions shall not be allowed to operate;
7. Specialized markets of the DOT such as *Staycations* without age restrictions shall remain to be allowed at such capacities, protocols, and restrictions as may be imposed by the DOT;
8. Interzonal travel shall be allowed subject to restrictions of the local government unit of destination. Point-to-Point travel to areas under General Community Quarantine and Modified General Community Quarantine shall be allowed without age restrictions subject to an RT-PCR test-before-travel requirement for those below eighteen years old (18) and above sixty-five (65), and other protocols and restrictions as may be imposed by the DOT and the Local Government Unit of destination;
9. Religious gatherings shall be allowed up to ten percent (10%) of the venue capacity. Provided that, there is no objection from the local government unit where the religious gathering may take place. Provided, further, that the LGU may increase the allowable venue capacity up to thirty percent (30%). The religious denominations should strictly observe their submitted protocols and the minimum public health standards.

Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 shall be allowed, provided that the same shall be limited to immediate family members, upon satisfactory proof of their relationship with the deceased and with full compliance with the prescribed minimum public health standards for the duration of the activity; and

10. Other provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, not affected by the foregoing shall continue to be in effect including those on interzonal travel into and out of the aforementioned areas and the operation of public transportation. The use of active transportation shall likewise be promoted.

F. All areas shall continue to implement the following measures:



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1. Improved implementation of engineering and administrative controls, especially ventilation standards and actions against crowding and gatherings;
2. Health promotion and strict enforcement of minimum public health standards, especially their uniform implementation in high-risk areas such as healthcare settings, wet markets, supermarkets, government offices, workplaces, and at home, among others;
3. The implementation of localized community quarantine and the ramping up of the availability of identified quarantine facilities in priority/critical areas with community transmission, including in private and public establishments, with the concurrence of the RIATF;
4. Immediate facility-based isolation of all returning citizens, suspect, and probable cases, and the isolation of persons exhibiting symptoms and individuals awaiting their test results;
5. Improved distribution of personal protective equipment, and waste management;
6. Continuous health education on COVID-19 transmissions;
7. Scaling up of local health systems capacity, especially for community isolation and critical care, including dedicated mechanical ventilators, and Intensive Care Units, isolation, and ward beds for COVID-19 cases; and
8. Submission of complete and accurate data through COVID-Kaya and the DOH DataCollect.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the National Task Force Chairperson and the Secretary of Labor and Employment shall be duly authorized to sign this Resolution for and on behalf of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

**APPROVED** during the 127th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this July 15, 2021, via video conference.

  
**DELFIN N. LORENZANA**  
Secretary, Department of National Defense  
NTF Chairperson



  
**SILVESTRE H. BELLO III**  
Secretary, Department of Labor and  
Employment



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;
2. I am the interim OIC-Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, series of 2014 and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;
4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
5. In the Regular Meeting of the IATF held on 15 July 2021 via teleconference during which a quorum was present and acted throughout, IATF Resolution No. 127-A was unanimously approved and adopted;
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana and Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III upon the authority of the IATF Members;
7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect;
8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 15th day of July 2021,  
Manila.

  
ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE  
Head of the Secretariat, IATF  
Assistant Secretary of Health



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**RESOLUTION NO. 127-B**

Series of 2021

July 15, 2021

**WHEREAS**, Section 15 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 (b) of Executive Order No. 168 (s.2014) mandates the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to prevent and/or minimize the entry of suspected or confirmed patients with emerging infectious diseases into the country;

**WHEREAS**, IATF Resolution No. 119 (s.2021), as amended, prescribed guidelines that shall govern the inbound international travel of all fully vaccinated individuals who have been vaccinated in the Philippines to any port of the Philippines.

**WHEREAS**, IATF Resolution No. 123-C (s.2021) issued on 28 June 2021, provided for the governing guidelines of inbound international travel to any port of the Philippines of all individuals fully vaccinated in the Philippines regardless of travel history, and those vaccinated abroad who stayed exclusively in "Green" countries/jurisdictions in the past fourteen days immediately preceding arrival — with "Green" countries/jurisdictions being those classified by the Department of Health (DOH) as "Low Risk" countries based on a set incidence rate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that upon the recommendations of the DOH and the Technical Advisory Group that the countries/jurisdictions/territories listed hereunder have met the prescribed incidence rate and case trajectory, the following countries/jurisdictions shall be considered as "Green" countries/jurisdictions/territories for the purpose of IATF Resolution No. 123-C (s.2021):

Albania	American Samoa	Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda	Australia	Azerbaijan
Barbados	Benin	Bermuda
The British Virgin Islands	Brunei	Burkina Faso
Cayman Islands	Chad	China
Comoros	Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	Curacao
Dominica	Eswatini	Falkland Islands
French Polynesia	Gabon	Gambia





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Ghana	Greenland	Grenada
Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China)	Iceland	Isle of Man
Israel	Laos	Liechtenstein
Mali	Malta	Marshall Islands
Mauritius	Federated States of Micronesia	Montserrat
New Caledonia	New Zealand	Niger
Nigeria	North Macedonia	Northern Mariana Islands
Palau	Romania	Saba (Special Municipality of the Kingdom of Netherlands)
Saint Barthelemy	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	Singapore
Saint Eustatius	South Korea	Taiwan
Togo	Turks and Caicos Islands (U.K)	Vietnam

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the National Task Force Chairperson and the Secretary of Labor and Employment shall be duly authorized to sign this Resolution for and on behalf of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

**APPROVED** during the 127th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held on July 15, 2021, via video conference.

  
**DELFIN N. LORENZANA**  
Secretary, Department of National Defense  
NTF Chairperson



  
**SILVESTRE R. D. U. O. M.**  
Secretary, Department of Labor and  
Employment



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;
2. I am the Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, (s.2014) and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;
4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
5. In the Regular Meeting of the IATF held on 15 July 2021 via teleconference during which a quorum was present and acted throughout, IATF Resolution No. 127-B was unanimously approved and adopted;
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana and Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III upon the authority of the IATF Members;
7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect;
8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 15th day of July 2021, Manila.

  
ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE  
*Assistant Secretary of Health*  
*Head Secretariat, IATF*



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**RESOLUTION NO. 127-E**

Series of 2021

July 15, 2021

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, to prevent the sharp rise of COVID-19 cases in the country, the President placed the entirety of Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine until April 14, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, on March 30, 2020, to develop a science-based approach in determining the risk-based classification of areas in the country, the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) convened a sub-Technical Working Group tasked to develop the LGU Epidemic Response Framework and to define parameters in assessing recent developments in the Philippine COVID-19 situation;

**WHEREAS**, on April 30, 2020, the Office of the Executive Secretary issued Executive Order (E.O.) No. 112 Imposing an Enhanced Community Quarantine in High-Risk Geographic Areas of the Philippines and a General Community Quarantine in the Rest of The Country from 01 To 15 May 2020, Adopting The Omnibus Guidelines On The Implementation Thereof, And For Other Purposes;

**WHEREAS**, on May 27, 2020, the IATF released an updated risk classification in all Provinces, Highly Urbanized Cities and Independent Component Cities in the country, placing localities under different classifications of community quarantine with the goal of balancing economic activity and public health;

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 1021 (s.2020) extending the period of the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 declared under Proclamation No. 929 (s.2020);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that upon the recommendations of the Department of Health, its Technical Advisory Group, and the Technical Working Group on COVID-19 Variants, the IATF approves the immediate escalation of the risk-level classifications of the following Provinces, Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), and Independent Component Cities (ICCs), and to authorize the following actions on the following component cities and municipalities, to effectively control the COVID-19 situation and :

- A. The following provinces, HUCs, and ICCs shall immediately be placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) until 31 July 2021, without prejudice to



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

their reclassification as may be warranted and the declaration of localized Enhanced Community Quarantine in critical areas:

1. For Visayas - Iloilo Province and Iloilo City;
  2. For Mindanao - Cagayan de Oro, and the component City of Gingoog in the province of Misamis Oriental.
- B. The National Capital Region shall remain under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) until 31 July 2021, without prejudice to their reclassification as may be warranted and the declaration of granular lockdowns;
- C. Antique and Misamis Oriental shall be placed under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) until 31 July 2021, with the observance and implementation of the following heightened restrictions during which the following rules shall apply:
1. Food preparation establishments such as commissaries, restaurants, and eateries may operate with their indoor dine-in services at the venue or seating capacity of twenty percent (20%), and with their *al fresco* or outdoor dine-in services at the venue or seating capacity of fifty percent (50%).
  2. Personal care services, such as beauty salons, beauty parlors, barbershops, and nail spas, may operate up to thirty percent (30%) of venue or seating capacity. For this purpose, these establishments shall only provide services that can accommodate the wearing of face masks at all times by patrons/clients and service providers.
  3. Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions (MICE) events in eligible venue establishments shall not be allowed to operate;
  4. Outdoor tourist attractions, as may be defined by the DOT, shall remain to be allowed at thirty percent (30%) venue capacity with strict adherence to minimum public health standards;



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

5. Under the Safety Seal Certification Program, business establishments awarded Safety Seal Certifications shall be allowed to operate at an additional 10 percentage points beyond the prescribed on-site capacity or venue/seating capacity, whichever is applicable;
6. Indoor sports courts and venues and indoor tourist attractions shall not be allowed to operate;
7. Specialized markets of the DOT such as *Staycations* without age restrictions shall remain to be allowed at such capacities, protocols, and restrictions as may be imposed by the DOT;
8. Interzonal travel shall be allowed subject to restrictions of the local government unit of destination. Point-to-Point travel to areas under General Community Quarantine and Modified General Community Quarantine shall be allowed without age restrictions subject to an RT-PCR test-before-travel requirement for those below eighteen years old (18) and above sixty-five (65), and other protocols and restrictions as may be imposed by the DOT and the Local Government Unit of destination;
9. Religious gatherings shall be allowed up to ten percent (10%) of the venue capacity. Provided that, there is no objection from the local government unit where the religious gathering may take place. Provided, further, that the LGU may increase the allowable venue capacity up to thirty percent (30%). The religious denominations should strictly observe their submitted protocols and the minimum public health standards.

Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 shall be allowed, provided that the same shall be limited to immediate family members, upon satisfactory proof of their relationship with the deceased and with full compliance with the prescribed minimum public health standards for the duration of the activity; and



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES


10. Other provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, not affected by the foregoing shall continue to be in effect including those on interzonal travel into and out of the aforementioned areas and the operation of public transportation. The use of active transportation shall likewise be promoted.

D. The Municipality of Mexico, Pampanga shall remain under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) until 31 July 2021, without prejudice to their reclassification as may be warranted and the declaration of granular lockdowns;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Chairperson and the Co-Chairperson shall be duly authorized to sign this Resolution for and on behalf of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

**APPROVED** during the 127th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, via *ad referendum*.

  
**FRANCISCO A. DUQUE III**  
Secretary, Department of Health  
IATF Chairperson

  
**KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES**  
Secretary, Office of the Cabinet Secretariat  
IATF Co-Chairperson



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;
2. I am the interim OIC-Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, series of 2014 and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;
4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
5. IATF Resolution No. 124-B was unanimously approved and adopted via ad referendum;
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III and Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles upon the authority of the IATF Members;
7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect;
8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 15th day of July 2021, Manila.

  
ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE  
*Head of the Secretariat, IATF*  
Assistant Secretary of Health

17 JULY 2021, SATURDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# VLOGS

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