

18 APRIL 2021, SUNDAY



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ESTERO DE PACO: NOON AT NGAYON

Matapos ang labindalawang taon, ito na ang itsura ng Estero De Paco—malinis at maaliwalas. Noong 2011, pinasinayaan ang rehabilitadong Estero De Paco kung saan wala na ang basura at mga bahay na nakapaligid dito. Itinuturing itong "model-estero" sa Metro Manila.

Sa kasalukuyan, nasa pangangalaga ito ng Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office (PCRMO).

Bisitahin ang www.gmanews.tv para sa iba pang balita.

Courtesy: PCRMO





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#EagleNews

Rehabilitasyon ng Estero de Paco, itinuturing na modelo para sa lahat ng mga estero sa Metro Manila

130 views • Apr 17, 2021

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Yesterday at 4:12 AM · 🌐



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Scientists claim Manila Bay dolomite project is ‘throwing people’s money into the sea’

April 16, 2021 3 min read

In this file photo taken last year, members of Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) along with environmental groups demonstrate to protest the dumping of crushed dolomite on a portion of the beachfront of the Manila Bay, saying the project was a waste of public money. (Photo from Pamalakaya/Kodao Productions Twitter)

By Tracy Cabrera

MANILA — A day after a fresh dose of crushed dolomite was again poured at the controversial “white sand beach” along Roxas Boulevard in Manila Bay, a group of scientists hit the Duterte administration to instead focus on its Covid-19 pandemic response rather than spend money on inappropriate projects that end up wasting public funds.

According to the Alyansa ng mga Grupong Haligi ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Mamamayan (AGHAM or Advocates of Science and Technology for the People), the national government as of late has failed the country in several aspects of governance, including its vaunted pandemic response and even its environmental protection and foreign policies put together.

The group likewise hit the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for turning a deaf ear on the issues brought forth by cause-oriented and environmental organizations concerning the impact of environmental degradation and now regarding the adverse effects to the ecosystem of the new batch of dolomite sand that has been dumped on the beach front of the Manila Bay just for the sole purpose of beautifying the historic bay area.

“The agency’s claim that the ‘white-sand beach experience’ the project will give Manileños a positive impact on overall mental health is pure hogwash. What is more important now is to address the growing anxiety over the failed Covid-19 pandemic response of the Duterte government,” the AGHAM stressed.

“Why don’t the government use the fund for the dolomite project, instead, to buy and develop more testing kits in order to implement free mass testing? Effectively curbing the spread of the pandemic will surely contribute positively to our mental health,” the group added.

AGHAM said the government is “literally throwing money into the sea” as these funds could have been used for the improvement of hospital facilities, vaccine procurement, and financial assistance to pandemic-hit Filipinos.

“At a time when new COVID-19 cases and the death toll are rising, the filling of sand in Manila Bay is a glaring insult to Filipinos suffering from this health crisis,” it said.



The group reiterated previous questions on the effect of dolomite in the overall rehabilitation of Manila Bay particularly in combating coastal erosion and the possibility of oxygen deficiency in neighboring marine ecosystems.

AGHAM also pointed out that the high levels of coliform would not make Manila Bay safe for recreational activities, adding that the DENR has not conducted any impact assessments on the water body.

On Wednesday, April 14, fresh batches of dolomite sand were dumped at the Manila Bay area. About 500 tons of crushed dolomite rocks had been previously spread last year with the purpose, the government said, of sprucing up a portion of the bay walk area.

In an earlier statement, DENR officials said that the PhP389-million project was meant to discourage people from littering and even Manila mayor Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso defended the replenishment of dolomite sand even as the country continues to fight what appears to be a losing battle against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/04/16/scientists-claim-manila-bay-dolomite-project-is-throwing-peoples-money-into-the-sea/?fbclid=IwAR3KIUZTx7R4G_aE_gPhCbhBd5h0hDVzMaSeVOFc0ieZiokzqF7kGWrdTX0



Iligal na pagputol ng puno buking sa Zamboanga

By Abante News Online — Last updated Apr 17, 2021

VISMIN



Photo courtesy of Facebook.com/weth.uzan.00



Nasamsam ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) sa isang barko ang nasa 2,000 board feet na pinagpuputol na puno ng mga Yakal sa karagatang sakop ng Barangay Recodo, Zamboanga City.

Ininspeksyon ng awtoridad ang MB SARHANA kung saan natagpuan ang mga iligal na punongkahoy.

Walang naipakitang mga dokumento o permit ang mga crew nito, kaya't agad itong inireport sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region IX Regional Maritime Unit 9.

Dinala ang barko at mga dala nito sa Naval Station Romulo Espaldon (NSRE).

Sa pagsisiyasat pa ng mga awtoridad, nadiskubre na ang 43 hindi dokumentadong pinutol na Yakal ay nagkakahalaga ng P303,918.60. Nai-turnover na ito sa sa CENRO Region 9, habang ang MB SARHANA, kasama ang 4 crew ay nasa Regional Maritime Unit-9. (Kiko Cueto)



Cutting of roadside trees in Bacolod sparks uproar

April 16, 2021 3 min read

BACOLOD CITY – The cutting of fully-grown trees along a major thoroughfare here has caused an uproar among environmental advocates, prompting top officials to look into the incident.

Several days after photos of the cut trees made the rounds on social media, campaigners from various groups held a protest on Thursday to “mourn the death” of the 26 trees along Araneta Street, beside the old Bacolod airport.

Among those who gathered at the site of the felled trees were educator Rhoderick Samonte and Fr. Chris Gonzales, director of the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Bacolod.

“A silent protest, a loud voice on behalf of the fallen trees, trees whose value is priceless. Without trees, none of us will live,” Samonte said on Facebook.

He called on the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the city government to admit their mistakes, apologize and make amends.

“Repair the damage that had been done. How? Do not uproot the tree stumps. Instead, water them, heal them, and allow them to regrow and recover,” he added.

Youth leader Elmeer Meeynard Calimpos of Green Alert Network also aired his sentiment.

“We have been fighting for our remaining forest cover in Negros Island yet many can’t still realize the value of trees as our natural climate solution. The old airport trees served as the Negrosanons natural waiting shed while waiting for buses going south,” Calimpos said in his Facebook post.

He added that to restore the damage, they demand that the City Council pass a resolution stating that at least 35,000 endemic trees should be planted.

According to the DPWH-Bacolod headed by District Engineer Jaime Javellana, it has been authorized by the DENR to cut 35 trees, including 15 molave, 12 narra, seven mahogany, and one eucalyptus to give way to ongoing projects.

Of the 35, some 26 trees have been cut, and after Bacolodnons aired their protest, lone District Rep. Greg Gasataya wrote Javellana on Tuesday, asking for an investigation.

“In this light, this representation requests an investigation on the cutting of the trees along the area, an explanation as to why such a course of action was undertaken, and to ensure that the remaining trees in the vicinity remain unharmed,” Gasataya said.

He added that while he “appreciates the commitment of the District Engineering Office to infrastructure development,” there should be “exertions to ensure that infrastructure projects are sustainable and should maintain a balance between development and preservation of nature”.



On Wednesday afternoon, Mayor Evelio Leonardia said he instructed city police director, Col. Manuel Placido, to stop the cutting of trees, and issued an executive order creating a joint committee to investigate the incident.

“The trees were some of the treasures of Bacolod that people marveled at, and we considered those trees as part and parcel of the city,” Leonardia said, adding that “what is most important now is we must make sure a similar incident does not happen again”.

In media interviews, Javellana said they needed to cut the trees for the safety of pedestrians, commuters, and motorists, considering that the roots have already damaged the sidewalk and posed danger to the public.

Ongoing projects include the improvement of the sidewalk and installation of streetlights from the Bacolod public plaza to the Old Bacolod airport with a budget of PHP32 million. **(PNA)**

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/04/16/cutting-of-roadside-trees-in-bacolod-sparks-uproar/?fbclid=IwAR0yHfhlzUOwTZKuZr9wV_IjKM5VCPalkNMkq3HFtmlUN42oFTdCVfE46Yo



‘Absolute public participation’ needed in new mining deals — CHR

Published April 17, 2021, 11:24 AM

by [Czarina Nicole Ong Ki](#)

Absolute public participation in the grant of new mining concessions and in the review and renegotiation of existing agreements must be imposed by the government to assure the promotion of human rights, standard of living, and environmental protection in affected communities.



Commission on Human Rights (Facebook / MANILA BULLETIN)

This was stressed by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on Saturday, April 17, as it expressed optimism that the government will make sure that all relevant mining and environmental laws are “observed and faithfully implemented” now that President Duterte has lifted the 2012 moratorium on new mining agreements.

In Executive Order No. 130 (EO 130) issued last April 14, the President lifted the moratorium on new mineral agreements in a bid to generate jobs and spur countryside development which have been ravaged by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

EO 30 directed several government agencies to strictly implement mining safety and environmental policies, review existing mineral deals for possible renegotiation, and rationalize the existing revenue-sharing scheme.

It amended the 2012 EO 79 and lifted the ban on the approval of new mining permits.

Through Spokesperson Jacqueline Ann de Guia, the CHR said the government should assure compliance with Human Rights-Based Approaches as part of sustainable development efforts in the utilization of natural resources.

This would include the Filipino people’s absolute participation in making decisions on the exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources, such as minerals, De Guia, a lawyer, said.

“It is then equally important that relevant laws and regulations are observed and are faithfully implemented based on their spirit and letters — including the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act; the Local Government Code; and on Environmental Impact Assessment, even the crafting of new ones if needed — to adequately protect and promote the standard of living, and all human rights, of communities affected by mining operations,” she stressed.

To improve the standard of living in the affected communities, De Guia said the revenues generated from mining through taxation and other means should be utilized for the creation of programs with the participation of concerned communities.

Also, she pointed out, agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), should enhance environmental safeguards and monitor human rights compliance in the mining industry.



De Guia recalled that on July 6, 2012, an inter-agency body was formed to implement and operationalize the mining policies of the government.

The inter-agency group is composed of the Presidential Human Rights Committee, Department of Justice, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and the National Economic and Development Authority, she said.

Among the responsibilities of the group are the provision of mechanisms and clear guidelines to monitor human rights and labor rights violations; development of operational linkages with concerned government agencies, particularly CHR and DOLE; provision of assistance to victims; and initiation of actions against violators, she said.

She added that all businesses, including mining companies, are called upon to respect, protect, and remedy violations arising from their operations. This is consistent with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, she pointed out.

“Part of such obligation is studying how, where, and which parts of their operations affect human rights, and committing to provide remedy when things go wrong. We must stress that, in all contexts, human rights must be upheld,” she said.



CHR: Mining operations must be sustainable

posted April 18, 2021 at 12:30 am

by [Maricel Cruz](#)

The Commission on Human Rights on Saturday called for compliance with Human Rights-Based Approaches “as part of sustainable development efforts in the utilization of natural resources.”

CHR spokesperson Jacqueline Ann de Guia issued the statement in light of President Rodrigo Duterte’s Executive Order 130 lifting the moratorium on new mineral agreements in the Philippines.

“Such includes ensuring that the Philippine government guarantees the absolute participation of the Filipino people in making decisions on the exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources, such as minerals,” de Guia said.

“It is then equally important that relevant laws and regulations are observed and are faithfully implemented based on their spirit and letters—including the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act; the Local Government Code; and on Environmental Impact Assessment, even the crafting of new ones if needed—to adequately protect and promote the standard of living, and all human rights, of communities affected by mining operations,” she added.

De Guia also stressed the generation of revenues from mining through taxation and other means should eventually be translated into programmes, which should also be developed and implemented with the meaningful participation of the said communities.

“We equally expect the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to put in place additional rules and processes to enhance environmental safeguards in the course of mining activities as mandated in the said EO lifting the mining moratorium,” she said.

“In addition, the CHR expects that its partner agencies would already fully operationalise the standards of monitoring human rights compliance in the mining industry,” de Guia, a lawyer, added.

President Rodrigo Duterte has lifted a moratorium on new mineral agreements, allowing the government to enter into new mineral agreements, provided that these would comply with the country’s mining laws, Malacanang said.

According to EO 130, “The Government may enter into new mineral agreements, subject to compliance with the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.”

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

The moratorium had been imposed while the government worked on legislation to boost the state’s share of mining revenues in one of the world’s top producers of nickel, copper, and gold.



PASENSYA NA PO, INANG KALIKASAN



April 18, 2021 @ 12:55 AM 6 hours ago

ISANG linggo bago ang selebrasyon ng Earth Day 2021 sa April 22, nagulantang ang mga maka-kalikasang grupo sa bagong polisiya sa pagmimina.

Sa magkasunod na araw, pabor sa industriya ng pagmimina sa mga bagong patakaran ng gobyerno.

Noong Abril 14, ibinalita ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau ng DENR na pwede na ulit mag-operate ang mga minahang sinuspinde at pinasara noong 2017 ni dating DENR Sec. Gina Lopez.

Ang mga minahang ito ay nakitaan ng paglabag sa environmental laws natin o kaya ay bigo silang tuparin ang mga obligasyon nila sa mga kontrata sa gobyerno.

Kinabukasan, inanunsyo naman ng Malacañang ang pagpirma ni Pres. Duterte sa EO 130, na inalis na ang “moratorium” o ‘yung pagpigil sa mga bagong mining contracts.

Meron na raw kasing bagong batas para makasingil ng mas mataas na buwis sa mga minero, kaya pwede na ulit simulan ang pagtanggap, pag-proseso, negosasyon at pirmahan ng mga bagong kontrata sa minahan sa buong Pilipinas.

Syempre, umalma rito ang mga makakalikasang grupo tulad ng Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), Bantay-Kita (BK), Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC), SoS-Yamang Bayan at Legal Rights Natural Resources Center-Kasama sa Kalikasan (LRC-KsK).

Anila, mukhang malabo ang mga bagong polisiyang ito ng gobyerno, dahil hindi naman natugunan ng kumpleto ang mga reklamo laban sa mga minahan na sinuspinde at pinasara.

Hindi rin naman nilabas ang mga resulta ng “internal review” sa mga suspendido at kanseladong minahan.

Kaya ang tanong, ano ang basehan sa pagbubukas ulit ng mga minahan? Teknikalidad?

Pangalawa, hindi raw sapat ang bagong batas sa pagbubuwis ng mga minahan. Ang buwis ay isa lang daw sa marami at malawak na usapin ng kita, pakinabang, trabaho at ambag sa “local-national development” mula ng pagmimina.

Sa gitna ng pandemya, mukhang ipinilit ng gobyerno at ng mga minero na manumbalik ang lawak at dami ng pagmimina sa bansa.



Nakalimutan na yata ni Pres. Duterte ang kanyang mga pangako at paninindigan sa isyu ng pagmimina noon.

Kawawa na naman si Inang Kalikasan! Kawawa na naman ang mga isla, mga gubat, mga ilog, mga katutubo at mga mahihirap na apektado ng pagmimina.

Isang malungkot na Earth Day 2021 ang haharapin ng marami.



Fossilized giant clam shells worth P1.2 billion confiscated in Palawan

Published April 17, 2021, 10:58 AM

by [Dennis Principe](#)

About 200 tons of fossilized giant clam shells, locally known as “Taklobo”, with an estimated amount of P1.2 billion were recovered during a multi-agency law enforcement operations Friday, April 16, Sitio Green Island, Barangay Tumarbond, Roxas, Palawan.



CLAM SHAM. Authorities inspect hundreds of tons of fossilized giant clam shells, locally known as “Taklobo”, which were confiscated by a successful operation Friday, April 16, in Roxas, Palawan. (Photo courtesy of Philippine Coast Guard)

Philippine Coast guard District Palawan Commander Commodore Genito Basilio said the incident can be considered as the biggest giant clam shell haul in the province.

During the operation, authorities arrested four suspects namely 54-year-old Rey Cuyos, 48-year-old Rodolfo Rabesa, 47-year-old Julius Molejoa, and 40-year-old Erwin Miagao for potential violation of Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

They were brought to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) for inquest proceedings and filing of appropriate cases.

The joint law enforcement operations were successfully undertaken by the Coast Guard Intelligence Group Palawan, Coast Guard District Palawan, PCSD, PNP – Maritime Group Palawan, AFP Intelligence Operatives, and Bantay Dagat Roxas.



Handout photo taken on April 16 by the Philippine Coast Guard shows the giant clam shells, weighing a total of 200 tons and worth \$25 million, on Green island in Roxas town, Palawan province.

AFP

P1.2 billion giant clams seized in Palawan

[Robertzon Ramirez](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 18, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — At least 200 tons of fossilized giant clams with an estimated market value of P1.2 billion were seized from four persons in Roxas, Palawan on Friday.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said it is considered the “biggest giant clam shell haul in the province to date.”

Rey Cuyos, 54; Rodolfo Rabesa, 48; Julius Molejoa, 47, and Erwin Miagao were arrested.

The suspects were brought to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development for inquest proceedings and filing of charges for violation of the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

The PCG said it has been monitoring the activities of the suspects since last year under its Oplan Taklobo Reloaded.

Giant clam shells, locally known as taklobo, are threatened species. These are usually smuggled to Japan and China and used as materials for jewelry, cosmetics products and decorations.



Record haul: P1.2 billion giant clams seized in Palawan

posted April 18, 2021 at 01:10 am

by [AFP](#)

Authorities have seized some 200 tons of illegally harvested giant clam shells worth nearly \$25 million in one of the biggest known operations of its kind in the country.



This handout photo received from the Philippine Coast Guard on April 17, 2021 shows coast guard personnel inspecting seized giant clam shells, weighing a total of 200 tons and worth some P1.2 billion on Green island in Roxas town, Palawan province. AFP

The Coast Guard said four suspects were arrested on the remote Green Island in the Sulu Sea that turned up the largest ever giant clamshell haul by law enforcers in the area.

“Taking the giant clams from their natural habitat is a form of inter-generational crime,” Jovic Fabello, spokesman for the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development told AFP.

“It will permanently affect the marine ecosystem and future generations will be deprived of the benefits accruing from it,” he added.

He said the seized shells included those of the *Tridacna gigas*, the world’s largest clam.

Growing up to 1.3 meters wide and weighing up to 250 kilogram, these host marine algae which are a basic food source for many of the fish species consumed by humans.

Conservationists say giant clam shells are used as an alternative material for products ranging from earrings to chandeliers as ivory becomes scarce.

Fabello said the illegal trade in giant clams has been growing in Palawan and several other areas of the Philippines in the past three years.

Killing endangered species is punishable by up to 12 years in prison and fines of up to a million pesos under the country’s wildlife protection act.

“These people are digging up giant clams and killing them,” Fabello alleged.

The coast guard estimated the value of the latest haul at P1.2 billion (\$24.8 million).

It dwarfed the previous Palawan record of 80 tons of giant clam shells worth \$3.3 million that were seized early last month from Johnson Island, also near the venue of Friday’s raid.

Meanwhile, an environmental group said the presence of Chinese vessels in the West Philippine Sea was worse than an actual invasion as the country’s resources are depleted by the illegal fishing armada.

“This is worse than an actual invasion because they are invading our resources. The government has to undertake more concrete action,” said Villardo Abuene, president of the Homonhon Environmental Rescue Organization.

P1.2-B illegally harvested giant PH clam shells seized

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

April 18, 2021

Philippine authorities said on Saturday they have seized some 200 tons of illegally harvested giant clam shells worth nearly \$25 million (P1.2 billion) in one of the biggest known operations of its kind in the country.

Conservationists have expressed alarm over the surging illicit trade in the endangered creatures, which are used as a substitute for ivory following a global crackdown in the trade of elephant tusks.



SEIZED CLAMS This handout photo taken on April 16, 2021 and received from the Philippine Coast Guard on April 17 shows PCG personnel inspecting seized giant clam shells, weighing a total of 200 tons and worth some \$25 million (P1.2 billion), on Green Island in Roxas town, Palawan province. AFP PHOTO

The Philippines is home to most of the world's giant tropical clam species, and Friday's raid took place in the western province of Palawan, considered a poaching hotbed.

The coastguard said four suspects were arrested on the remote Green Island in the Sulu Sea that turned up the largest ever giant clam shell haul by law enforcers in the area.

"Taking the giant clams from their natural habitat is a form of intergenerational crime," Jovic Fabello, spokesman for the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development told Agence France-Presse.

"It will permanently affect the marine ecosystem and future generations will be deprived of the benefits accruing from it," he added.

He said the seized shells included those of the *Tridacna gigas*, the world's largest clam.

Growing up to 1.3 meters (4.5 feet) wide and weighing up to 250 kilograms (550 pounds), these host marine algae, which are a basic food source for many of the fish species consumed by humans.

Conservationists say giant clam shells are used as an alternative material for products ranging from earrings to chandeliers as ivory becomes scarce.

Fabello said the illegal trade in giant clams has been growing in Palawan and several other areas of the Philippines in the past three years.

Killing endangered species is punishable by up to 12 years in prison and fines of up to a million pesos under the country's wildlife protection act.



“These people are digging up giant clams and killing them,” Fabello alleged.

The coast guard estimated the value of the latest haul at P1.2 billion (\$24.8 million).

It dwarfed the previous Palawan record of 80 tons of giant clam shells worth \$3.3 million that were seized early last month from Johnson Island, also near the venue of Friday’s raid.



Giant clam shells worth \$24.8 million seized in Philippine raid

posted April 17, 2021 at 01:27 pm

by [AFP](#)

Philippine authorities said Saturday they have seized some 200 tonnes of illegally harvested giant clam shells worth nearly \$25 million in one of the biggest known operations of its kind in the country.

Conservationists have expressed alarm over the surging illicit trade in the endangered creatures, which are used as a substitute for ivory following a global crackdown in the trade of elephant tusks.

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The coastguard said four suspects were arrested on the remote Green Island in the Sulu Sea that turned up the largest ever giant clam shell haul by law enforcers in the area.

"Taking the giant clams from their natural habitat is a form of inter-generational crime," Jovic Fabello, spokesman for the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development told AFP.

"It will permanently affect the marine ecosystem and future generations will be deprived of the benefits accruing from it," he added.

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Killing endangered species is punishable by up to 12 years in prison and fines of up to a million pesos under the country's wildlife protection act.

"These people are digging up giant clams and killing them," Fabello alleged.

The coast guard estimated the value of the latest haul at 1.2 billion pesos (\$24.8 million).

It dwarfed the previous Palawan record of 80 tonnes of giant clam shells worth \$3.3 million that were seized early last month from Johnson Island, also near the venue of Friday's raid.



Philippines: Giant clam shells worth \$25m seized in raid

Published 12 hours ago



IMAGE COPYRIGHT EPA

image caption Giant clams can grow larger than one metre across, and weigh up to 250 kg

Around 200 tonnes of illegally harvested giant clam shells worth nearly \$25 million (£18 million) have been seized in the Philippines.

The seizure is one of the largest ever hauls of the endangered species.

Four suspects have been arrested on an island in the ecologically protected province of Palawan. Giant clams can grow larger than one metre across, and weigh up to 250kg. They are seen as vital to the local marine ecosystem.

The Philippines is home to most of the world's giant tropical clam species.



GETTY IMAGES

image caption Tridacna gigas is the the world's largest clam

Jovic Fabello, spokesman for the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, said that the seized shells included Tridacna gigas, the world's largest clam.

"Taking the giant clams from their natural habitat is a form of inter-generational crime," he told the AFP news agency.

"It will permanently affect the marine ecosystem and future generations will be deprived of the benefits accruing from it," he added.

Tridacna gigas contain marine algae which are a food source for many of the fish species eaten by humans. They are increasingly vulnerable to poaching, both for their meat and shells, which are used as a replacement for ivory in jewellery and decorations.

In the Philippines, killing endangered species can lead to prison sentences of up to 12 years and fines of up to a million pesos (£15,000).

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-56784215>



Four arrested in Palawan for selling 1.2-B worth of giant clams

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 17, 2021 9:58:10 PM



Courtesy: PCG

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 17) — Authorities have arrested four suspects in Palawan for selling 200 tons of fossilized giant clam shells, also known as taklobo, worth 1.2 billion.

In a statement Saturday, Commodore Genito Basilio, district Palawan commander of the Philippine Coast Guard, said the suspects were nabbed at Sitio Green Island in Barangay Tumarbong, Roxas on Friday. The incident is considered to be the biggest giant clam shell haul in the province, he added.

The operation was conducted by the Coast Guard Intelligence Group Palawan, Coast Guard District Palawan, PCSD, Philippine National Police Maritime Group Palawan, Armed Forces of the Philippines Intelligence Operatives, and Bantay Dagat Roxas.

This led to the arrest of Rey Cuyos, Rodolfo Rabesa, Julius Molejoa, and Erwin Miagao. They were brought to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development for inquest proceedings and filing of appropriate cases for violating Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Giant clams play a major role in maintaining marine life. According to studies, they serve as nurseries or shelter for marine animals, as well as prevent excessive algal growth and contribute to the topographic relief of reefs.



4 suspects nabbed in Palawan for selling 200 tons of giant clams worth P1.2B

By JAMIL SANTOS, GMA News

Published April 17, 2021 2:45pm

Updated April 17, 2021 7:46pm



Authorities have arrested four suspects in the illegal trade of 200 tons of fossilized giant clam shells or "taklobo" worth P1.2 billion in Roxas, Palawan.

Joint forces of the Coast Guard Intelligence Group Palawan, Coast Guard District Palawan, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), the Philippine National Police – Maritime Group Palawan, Armed Forces of the Philippines - Intelligence Operatives, and Bantay Dagat Roxas on Friday conducted the operation at Sitio Green Island, Barangay Tumarbong.

In a statement, Philippine Coast Guard District Palawan Commander Commodore Genito Basilio said the incident is considered the biggest giant clam shell haul in Palawan to date.

The suspects were identified as Rey Cuyos, 54, Rodolfo Rabesa, 48, Julius Molejoa, 47, and Erwin Miagao, 40, who were arrested for violating Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

A report from the PCG said the arrested Filipinos sell giant clams to foreigners.

"So far the biggest na nahuli namin. Paunti-onti nilang iniipon. Hinuhukay nila doon sa parang may bundok doon sa isla. Hinuhukay nila. 'Yun iba doon naman mismo sa dagat," Commodore Genito Basilio, PGC District Palawan Commander, said.

(So far the biggest that we have caught. They slowly gathered them. They're digging them in a mountain-like area on the island while they take the others straight from the ocean.)

"Merong barko na manggagaling Japan or manggagaling China para hakutin itong mga giant, itong mga fossilized giant clams na ito [A boat will come from China or Japan to load the fossilized giant clams]," he added.

The suspects, who denied the crime even if authorities said they were caught on the act, were brought to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) for inquest proceedings and filing of appropriate cases.

The PCG suspects that a big group may be behind the illegal sale of the giant clams. Giant clams have a big role in maintaining the ecological and marine life in the seas, according to the Marine Environmental Protection Group. - with Joahna Lei Casilao/MDM, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/784120/4-suspects-nabbed-in-palawan-for-selling-200-tons-of-giant-clams-worth-p1-2b/story/>



P1.2B taklobo nakumpiska sa Palawan



April 17, 2021 @ 2:06 PM 16 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Muling nakasabat ng tinatayang P1.2 bilyong taklobo ang Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) sa Sitio Green Island, Barangay Tumarbong, Roxas, Palawan.

Ayon sa PCG, isang joint law enforcement operation ang ikinasa kung saan apat na indibidwal ang naaresto sa nasabat na 200 toneladang taklobo.

Ayon kay PCG District Palawan Commander Commodore Genito Basilio, ang nasabing insidente ay itinuturing na pinakamalaking nahakot na giant clam shell sa probinsya sa ngayon.

Kinilala naman ang mga naaresto na sina Rey Cuyos, 54; Rodolfo Rabesa, 48; Julius Molejoa, 47 at Erwin Miagao, 40-anyos dahil sa paglabag sa Republic Act No. 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Dinala ang mga naaresto sa Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) para sa inquest proceedings at pagsasampa ng kaukulang kaso.

Ang magkasanib na law enforcement operations ay matagumapay na isinagawa ng Coast Guard Intelligence Group Palawan, Coast Guard District Palawan, PCSD, PNP – Maritime Group Palawan, AFP Intelligence Operatives at Bantay Dagat Roxas. *Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden*



P1.2B Taklobo nasabat sa Palawan

On Apr 17, 2021



Nasabat ang tinatayang P1.2 bilyong “taklobo” ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) sa Sitio Green Island, Barangay Tumarbong, Roxas, Palawan.

Kinilala ang mga naaresto na sina Rey Cuyos, 54; Rodolfo Rabesa, 48; Julius Molejoa, 47; at Erwin Miagao, 40 anyos.

Ayon sa PCG, isang joint law enforcement operation ang ikinasa kung saan apat na indibidwal ang naaresto sa nasabat na 200 tons ng taklobo.

Ayon kay PCG District Palawan Commander, Commodore Genito Basilio, itinuturing ang nasabing insidente na pinakamalaking nahakot na giant clam shell sa probinsya sa ngayon ng magkasanib na law enforcement operations ng Coast Guard Intelligence Group Palawan, Coast Guard District Palawan, PCSD, PNP – Maritime Group Palawan, AFP Intelligence Operatives, at Bantay Dagat Roxas.

Dinala ang mga naaresto sa Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) para sa inquest proceedings at pagsasampa ng kaukulang kasong paglabag sa Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. (Jocelyn Domenden)

Source: <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2021/04/17/p1-2b-taklobo-nasabat-sa-palawan/?fbclid=IwAR0ibBbj0Wq7SwOJhfbnbXjU5EX6cNj6JXgdvPRV8ihg6TO6tYUmv1SrIqo>



AdMU, DOST explore science-based water resource management for Boracay

By **BusinessMirror** -April 18, 2021



Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) and the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PNRI) researchers study the water of Boracay.

The world-renown tourist destination Boracay is being used by researchers as a test case in developing science-based monitoring techniques and planning guidelines for sustainable water resource management on tourist islands.

Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) and the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PNRI) researchers intend to provide a comprehensive understanding on the water conditions and outlook on the island, Science Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña said in his weekly DOST Report.

As part of the project, guidelines will be formulated in the management of both surface and groundwater resources in the Nabaoy River Watershed and Boracay Island. The Nabaoy River is a major supplier of potable water on Boracay.

The AdMU researchers will use advanced surveying and monitoring equipment to assess and map the water resources and location of groundwater aquifers in Boracay.

They will evaluate the water quality and quantity and develop water projection/forecasting tool for both surface and groundwater reservoirs.

The DOST-PNRI, on the other hand, with the use of isotope techniques and classical hydrology, will characterize water quality and quantity, determine groundwater system dynamics, recharge mechanisms, potential degradation and impending sources of pollution in Nabaoy Watershed and on Boracay Island,

The data that will be generated will be used in the development of short-medium-long term management strategy, including the plans, programs and policies related to water infrastructure.

Through the pilot study, the DOST is expecting that the methodologies and tools to be established and developed, planning guidelines will be adopted and utilized by partner national government agencies and local government units for other major tourist islands in the country that are facing challenges in water availability and sustainability.



The project is supported by the DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development.

It is co-implemented with the UK-British Geological Survey and Aklan State University, and in cooperation with the DOST-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, Department of Tourism-Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Water Resources Board, Boracay Water Concessionaires, and the municipality of Malay in Aklan.

Image credits: [DOSTPh Facebook page](#)



SM Investments joins top 50 global sustainability and climate leaders

(The Philippine Star) - April 18, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — SM Investments Corp. (SMIC) has joined a business group of dedicated global sustainability champions through the 50 Sustainability and Climate Leaders campaign with a focus on responding to climate change.

SMIC is the only Filipino company to join the campaign that includes countries such as the US, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Kenya, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

The 50 Sustainability and Climate Leaders platform serves as a response from international businesses to demonstrate their desire, leadership and commitment to take effective action in the fight against climate change.

The 50 Climate Leaders series led by the TBD Media Group is a multimedia campaign that will showcase effective leadership in: energy transition; climate finance and carbon pricing; industry transition; nature-based solutions; cities and local action; and resilience. Featured documentaries also focus on why sustainable business is better business for everyone, from the ground up- inside organizations, their supply chains and the communities that they serve.

“We recognize our role and responsibilities in creating a more sustainable future. Our footprint today allows us to view our businesses through a larger lens of economic, social and environmental impact,” SMIC president and CEO Frederic DyBuncio said.

SMIC has specific targets to focus its strategic investments and initiatives on in attaining the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Its path to sustainable growth is focused on providing inclusive economic opportunities through multiple partnerships across various segments of the economy; creating positive social impact through its various programs on education, health and food security; practicing environmental responsibility through water recycling, waste management and efficient use of energy among others; and embracing good corporate governance with the objective of building a network of vibrant local economies.

Across SMIC’s businesses, it also focuses its environmental efforts on disaster risk reduction and resilience and climate change adaptation. SMIC works towards business continuity by integrating disaster resilient features in the design of its various properties. It ensures environmental responsibility in its business processes by adopting climate-friendly solutions and instruments to help monitor and mitigate its carbon footprint. Through its banks, it also finances projects that promote climate change adaptation such as renewable energy projects, national infrastructure projects and other clean technology projects.

“For a business to be able to continue to grow and last for many years, it’s very important that it supports the community in a sustainable way. In the end, it’s the community and the environment that sustains the high growth of our businesses,” DyBuncio said.



Globe and partners beef up efforts vs. climate change

By **Roderick Abad** -April 18, 2021



Globe

THROUGH its various initiatives and partnerships with customers, Globe Telecom Inc. has raised P15.65 million to cover 156 hectares of reforestation sites in Bukidnon and Lanao del Sur in Mindanao, doubling its replanting, watershed conservation and carbon dioxide (CO₂) reduction efforts to combat climate change.

Globe, in its long-term tie up with Hineleban Foundation, has sequestered a conservative estimate of 25,083.13 metric tons of CO₂ with the aim of reducing 96,069.04 metric tons of CO₂ by 2025.

It was able to accomplish this by planting a healthy mix of temporary species of calliandra and indigenous trees, such as narra, white and red lauan, mamalis, bitaog, ulayan and katii.

During the initial stages of their program, the foundation worked with Banga Watershed Farmers Development Cooperative. It is now working with the Kaliwawa Salawagan Talaandig Tribal Agricultural Cooperative consisting of 52 families to help in succeeding reforestation activities.

"We are grateful to Globe for being our reliable ally in our reforestation efforts. Our partnership is a true testament that when various stakeholders come together, there are no limits to what we can achieve," said Georgia Perrine, general manager of Hineleban Foundation.

"Our rainforestation team takes extra steps to ensure each seedling thrives, and with your generous help, make sure that it takes deep root in the soil in the first years of its long life," Perrine added.

Besides Hineleban, the Ayala-led firm also engaged in a five-year partnership with The Mead Foundation since 2019 to undertake permanent reforestation activities in the upland areas of Iba, Zambales.

The area has been severely denuded, resulting in the loss of flora and fauna, invasive cogon grass establishment and regular fires.

To date, an initial three hectares were planted with over 30,000 seedlings. More native and indigenous trees will soon be planted once pioneer species mature, Globe said.

The project, likewise, provided livelihood to the displaced Aeta communities, both in the planting activities and the foundation's ongoing forest ranger programs.



"The Mead Foundation together with our local Aeta partners are very grateful for this kind and generous support from Globe," said Ben Mead, founder of The Mead Foundation. "Together in this joint reforestation effort we can help return the ecological balance of the local environment while giving provision of alternative income generating activities for the displaced Aeta residents of Zambales."

"Help us make this project a success by supporting and donating through the GCash app," Mead added.

Globe has also tied up with the Zoological Society of London for its mangrove rehabilitation program in Iloilo which is set to start this year.

"The task of restoring our rainforests is massive and goes beyond planting trees. Together with our customers and other stakeholders, we can also help protect critical watersheds, increase biodiversity, establish forest habitats, sequester greenhouse gases, and improve local livelihoods," said Yoly Crisanto, Globe chief sustainability officer and senior vice president for corporate communications.

For this initiative, customers of Globe can donate their Rewards points or GCash credits. Every 100 Rewards points donation is equivalent to one tree, and every P100 donation via GCash is equivalent to 1 tree planted.

Just download the Globe Rewards app via
<https://www.globe.com.ph/rewards.html#GRewardsApp>



Time for manufacturing sector to go green

By **Jonathan L. Mayuga** -April 18, 2021



RS Components employees sort electronics, automation, and control components, tools and consumables at a local warehouse.

The manufacturing sector is creating economic opportunities that contribute to growth and development. However, the sector has been consistently linked to various environmental problems, such as solid waste, air and water pollution.

But the sector can be developed to support the United Nations sustainability goals by refocusing efforts to operate sustainably.

Imperative to go green

The Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED) said since the manufacturing sector is one of the major sources of pollution and a big contributor to greenhouse-gas emissions, it is only right for the sector to take a greener and more sustainable path.

"It is imperative for the manufacturing sector to go green and contribute in reducing pollution as this sector, besides energy and transport, is one of the major sources of pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions in the country," CEED Executive Director Gerry Arances told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on April 8.

Arances said as major corporations globally are now compelled to do their share in contributing in mitigating the impacts of climate change and stabilization of ecosystems, it is incumbent upon the manufacturing sector in a vulnerable country like the Philippines to do its share with haste.

After all, he said, the manufacturing sector will not be the only one to greatly benefit from going green, but the country as a whole.

Reducing carbon footprint

It is simply time for the manufacturing sector to go green, said George Santiago, Philippine country manager of RS Components, in his reply to the BusinessMirror when asked on how the sector can be part of the solution on environmental woes.

RS Components, a global solutions partner for industrial customers in designing, building or maintaining industrial equipment and facilities, believes that the use of innovation and technologies to integrate sustainable practices are essential to make sure the industry is reducing its carbon footprint and becoming more energy efficient.

The company provides a choice of industrial and electronic products as well as innovative solutions. It aims to make it easy to do business through the firm's e-commerce platform.



RS Components is the trading name of Electrocomponents, headquartered in London, United Kingdom. It has over 7,000 employees worldwide and is present in key markets across Asia Pacific, including the Philippines.

Right tech, solutions; aligning with SDGs

According to Santiago, implementing technologies like automation and Industry 4.0 solutions throughout operations enable manufacturers to experience productivity and efficiency, in addition to reducing energy consumption and lowering emissions.

"We are raising awareness and helping customers to identify and access the right technologies and solutions for these types of requirements," he said.

He said that while the Philippine government has committed to reducing its greenhouse-gas emissions by 70 percent by 2030, the company's goal is to help the manufacturing and industrial customers to contribute to the drive and meet their own sustainability and energy efficiency targets.

He said there is now a greater focus among businesses and manufacturers on sustainability issues and opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint and become more energy efficient.

"Many organizations, including RS, are aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, too," he said.

Santiago said in order to keep emissions down, changes must be made in various businesses, transport and manufacturing industries to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

"Adopting green approaches to cities and implementing strategic practices will make the change happen faster," he said.

The United Nations Environment Programme includes climate change, resource efficiency, chemicals and waste and air pollution among its priorities in the Asia Pacific, Santiago noted.

"From my perspective as one working in industrial distribution, it's important for manufacturers to also look at how or where they are sourcing raw materials because it can significantly reduce their carbon footprint. Sourcing locally or regionally helps firms minimize their footprint and transport costs, compared to sourcing from international sources that require further or longer transport," he explained.

Reducing pollution contribution

In the Philippines, as the government is pushing for more manufacturers to practice sustainable operations, a roadmap was developed to guide manufacturers forward, touching on steps encouraging product and process innovation. That was in 2015, Santiago said.

"We've already seen some firms in six different manufacturing industries adopting this roadmap, including automotive, pulp and paper, plastic, furniture, housing and copper," he said.



"On top of this roadmap, Philippines Green Jobs Act of 2016 gives incentives to companies that reduce energy consumption and minimize waste and pollution," he said.

Santiago said manufacturers and procurement specialists are interested in becoming more sustainable with their operations.

"To support our customers' initiatives to minimize emissions we stock products locally. For example, in Southeast Asia, we hold stock in Singapore. We also host energy efficiency conferences. Our last one was held in Cagayan de Oro in which we saw great interest from Philippine manufacturers to go green," he said.

Local initiatives

Santiago said the firm's local technical and sourcing staff help customers select compliant products or quality alternatives, such as LED bulbs and sensors, so they can achieve energy efficiency and improve productivity levels in their plants and facilities.

"We also have eSolutions and eProcurement solutions to give customers better control and visibility over their supply chain, ultimately reducing wastage on their end," Santiago said.

"Customers' carbon footprint shrinks when they leverage their eProcurement solution as it eliminates the need to travel back and forth to the warehouse to get a hold of products," he added.

Customers also benefit from the transparency of having purchasing data accessible online, allowing better planning of procurement, managing costs, and less wastage.

Accountability, social acceptability

Leon Dulce, national coordinator of the Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE), underscored the need for environmental accountability.

"The manufacturing sector should be accountable for its entire value and supply chain. The sourcing of raw materials could be coming from destructive large-scale mines or agribusiness land-grabs," Dulce, told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on April 8.

For one, he said the semi-processing and other value-adding could be operating pollutive factories in areas where regulations are lax.

"The packaging could be using cheap but wasteful plastic materials," Dulce added.

Finally, he said the sector should be obliged to do environmental due diligence across its value chain.

"They must ensure 100 percent responsible sourcing and adhere to the highest standards of environmental and social-acceptability compliance," he said.

Image credits: [RS Components](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/04/18/time-for-manufacturing-sector-to-go-green/>



New flora, fauna species found in Davao Oriental – DOST

Published April 17, 2021, 5:56 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

Several new species of flora and fauna were discovered in Mount Hamiguitan, Davao Oriental, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has announced.



(FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

DOST Secretary Fortunato “Boy” T. de la Peña said several new species were unearthed in Mindanao as part of the three-year biodiversity research project implemented by Central Mindanao University (CMU) and supported by the DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD).

“We would also like to report that over in Davao Oriental, PCAARRD reported that their Biodiversity S&T (science and technology) program recently has yielded the discovery of several news species that were discovered as part of their project and these are mostly in Mount Hamiguitan, Davao Oriental,” he said during his weekly report on Friday, April 16.

He said the following new species and new species records for both flora and fauna in Mindanao were discovered:

- Orchidaceae, terrestrial orchid species, called *Dilochia deleoniae*
- Flowering plant called *Hypericum perryongii* Galindon, sp. nov
- Flowering plant called *Gymnosiphon syceorosensis* (Burmaniaceae)
- Grass fern called *Actinostachys minuta* Amoroso & Coritico
- A type of snout beetle called *Metapocyrtus* (*Artapocyrtus*) *bronsi* sp. nov.
- A pygmy grasshopper called, *Arulenus validispinus*

De la Peña said *Dilochia deleoniae* was recently discovered in Mt. Hamiguitan Range in Davao Oriental.

“This endemic species prefers to open in partly shaded habitat, where it is found in clumps or scattered,” he said.

While, *Hypericum perryongii* Galindon, sp. nov was found in a narrow summit of Mount Hamiguitan. “This species is flowering during June until late July and fruiting in August,” the DOST chief said.

He said the new species of grass fern “is an epiphyte on the trunk of the tree fern with embedded between adventitious roots.”

One of the significant accomplishments of the research project was also the discovery of a new species of snout beetle, de la Peña said.



Metapocyrtus (Artapocyrtus) bronsi sp. nov. “is named after the Mandaya word “bronsi,” meaning bronze, the prominent color of the scale markings on the integument,” he said.

The CMU’s research team, led by Dr. Victor B. Amoroso, “was also able to collect a pygmy grasshopper called *Arulenus validispinus*, which had not been recorded for more than a century,” he said.

This species is commonly known as the four-spined pygmy devil, he noted.

“Other discoveries such as the *Gymnosiphon syceorosensis* (Burmaniaceae), a type of flowering plant that obtains nutrients from mycorrhizal fungi, was discovered in Mt. Hamiguitan and considered as the second new species for the Philippines. Because only one population of *G. syceorosensis* was discovered, no estimation of its abundance or overall distribution can be made,” de la Peña said.

The CSU’s three-year research project aims to update, assess and monitor the biodiversity and evaluate the physico-chemical properties of selected mountain ecosystems in Mindanao for conservation and sustainable development, he said.

He said the assessment of biodiversity was conducted in selected mountain ecosystems such as Mt. Hamiguitan in Davao Oriental, Mt. Apo in North Cotabato, Mt. Pantaron Range in Bukidnon, and Mt. Tago Range in Bukidnon.

“This research provided an avenue to explore the different ecosystems in a landscape approach, using biodiversity and forest condition assessments as basis,” he said.



New plant species found in Lanao del Sur, Mindanao

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 17, 2021 5:02:38 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 17) — A team of researchers discovered a new plant species, *Begonia bangsamoro*, in the Bangsamoro region in Mindanao, one of the botanically unexplored areas in Southeast Asia.

The study was published in the scientific journal *Phytotaxa* on April 16.

In a tweet, Mc Andrew Pranada, one of the researchers, said this is now the 2,002nd species of the *Begonia* Linnaeus, the world's sixth largest plant genus.



According to the study, the species was discovered in the forests of Lanao del Sur along the Ginapukan river in the municipality of Wao, thus was named after the Bangsamoro people. Previous collections also revealed that it also occurs in the province of Bukidnon.

Its population is sparsely distributed in the forest and along riverbanks with a closed canopy, while some were seen creeping up a wet layer such as the roots of tree fern for support.



Experts provisionally classified the species as endangered based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List criteria.

“With the expanding plantation of cash crops and continuous clearing of the forests, the population of this species within the fragmented forest is restricted and faces a potential decline in the near future,” they noted.



Environmental stewardship in Quezon

posted April 17, 2021 at 06:00 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)



Atimonan One Energy, Inc. (A1E) recently held a mangrove planting activity in partnership with the local government of Atimonan, Quezon province. Over 2,000 mangrove propagules (stem cuttings) were planted by volunteers along the two-hectare coastal area of Brgy. Balugohin (Shown in photo). The project will reduce vulnerability of the area to storm surge, flash floods and coastal erosion, as well as boost fish production in Lamon bay. Reynalita M. Santana, vice president for external affairs of A1E parent firm Meralco PowerGen (MGen), confirmed that the mangroves will serve as sanctuaries for fish and other marine species where they can rest, lay eggs and reproduce. "We look forward to exploring other remaining forests and coastal mangrove plantations where this activity can be done," she said. A1E is the developer of a planned 1,200-megawatt (MW) high efficiency, low emissions coal-fired power plant to be constructed in Brgy. Villa Ibaba, Atimonan.



NPA says burning of backhoes in response to plans for large-scale quarry operations

By: [Carla Gomez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 07:28 PM April 17, 2021

BACOLOD CITY – The New People’s Army (NPA) on Friday admitted it burned heavy equipment operated by Silay Mayor Mark Golez in Hacienda Vista in response to the people’s clamor to punish large-scale quarry operations which recently caused massive flooding in the area.

In a statement, the NPA’s Roselyn Jean Pelle Command (RJPC) in Northern Negros said they “paralyzed” three backhoes at the Malogo river quarry site.

Cecil Estrella, the group’s spokesperson, warned other entities that destroy the environment and cause harm to the people.

“These iniquitous practices gave other quarry operators the go signal to abuse the environment. There are hundreds of quarry operators in the 3rd District of Negros Occidental alone and around a thousand more have pending applications. The handful who hold legitimate permits violate the reactionary government’s flimsy regulations with impunity,” Estrella said.

Mayor Golez denied claims that he was engaged in quarry operations.

“I have no business interest to protect. I am engaged in purely public service,” he said

“It is clear that the rebels burned the heavy equipment to prevent progress,” he added.

Golez said he condemned the cruel and violent activities of all groups engaged in illegal activities, including the burning of the backhoes.

“There is no room for lies and abuse. Taking the law into one’s hands is not right. There is a God in this world,” he said.

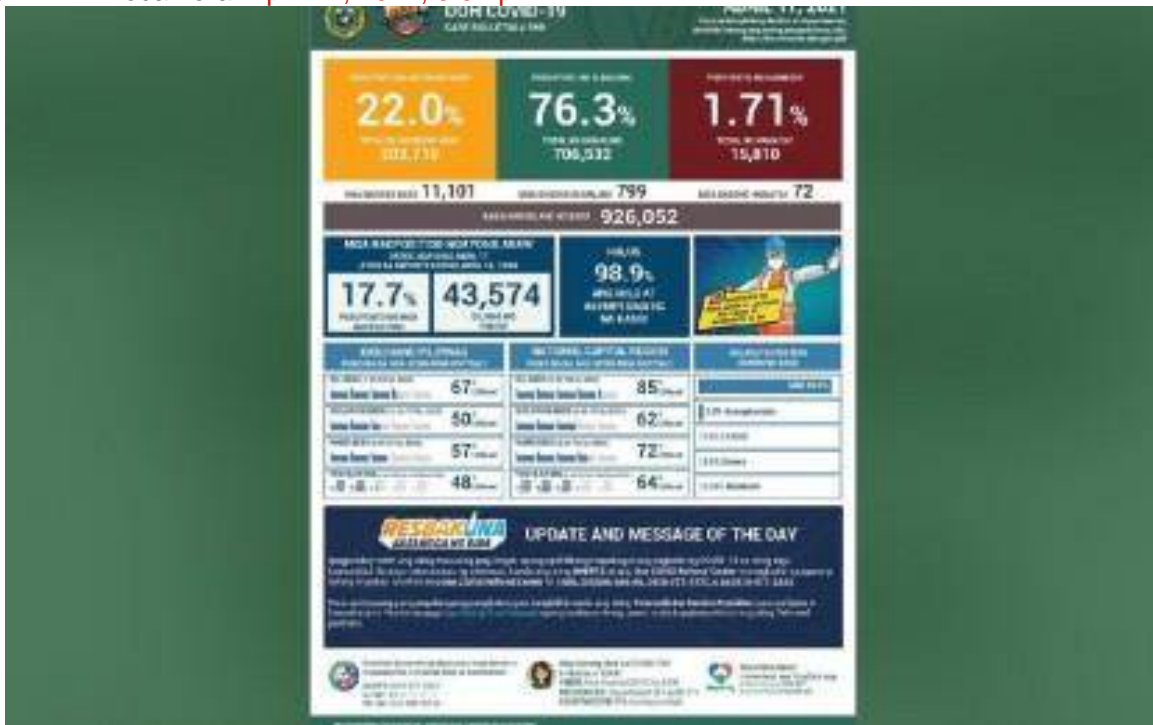
CFC

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1420339/npa-says-burning-of-backhoes-in-response-to-plans-for-large-scale-quarry-operations>



DOH records 799 new recoveries

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora April 17, 2021, 5:57 pm



MANILA – A total of 799 people have survived the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), jacking up the number of recoveries to 706,532, the Department of Health (DOH) reported Saturday.

In its latest case bulletin, the agency also recorded 11,101 new infections that brought to 203,710 the number of active cases.

It also logged 72 new fatalities caused by Covid-19, raising the death toll to 15,810.

To date, the confirmed cases since the pandemic started have reached 926,052, of which 22 percent are undergoing treatment, 76.3 percent have recovered, and 1.71 percent died.

The DOH said some 43,574 individuals were tested for Covid-19 on Friday, 17.7 percent of whom turned out positive.

Of the total active cases, meanwhile, 96 percent have mild symptoms, 2.9 percent are asymptomatic, 0.4 percent are in critical condition, 0.5 percent severe, and 0.29 percent are moderate.

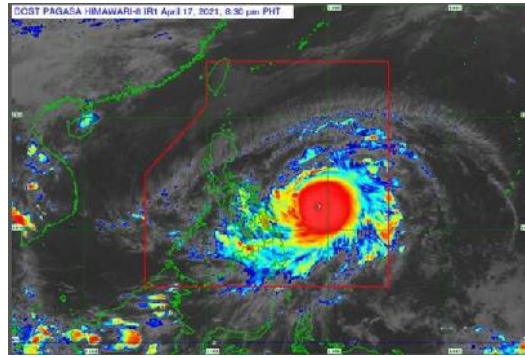
The DOH also reported that 67 percent of the total 1,900 intensive care unit beds dedicated for Covid-19 cases nationwide are in use, including 50 percent of the 13,600 isolation beds and 57 percent of the 6,000 ward beds.

In Metro Manila, beds occupied are 85 percent of the 700 in the ICU, 62 percent of the 3,800 isolation, and 72 percent of the 2,200 ward beds.

Around 48 percent of the 2,000 ventilators allocated for Covid-19 patients are also utilized.

The public is advised to immediately contact their respective Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams (BHERTs) or the One COVID Referral Center at the onset of any symptom. The referral center may be reached at 1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, or 0919-977-3333. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1137137>



Signal No. 1 was raised over portions of Bicol, Samar, Leyte, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur.
PAGASA

Cyclone wind signals up as Bising intensifies

[Romina Cabrera](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 18, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical cyclone wind signal No. 2 was raised in several areas yesterday as the trough of Typhoon Bising brought winds and rain over the southern parts of Luzon and Eastern Visayas.

Catanduanes, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Samar were under Signal No. 2.

Signal No. 1 was raised over portions of Bicol, Samar, Leyte, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said a higher signal level would be raised in the event of a shift in the typhoon's track.

PAGASA said the rainbands of Bising would bring moderate to heavy with at times intense rains over Eastern Visayas, Bicol and southern portion of Quezon.

Bising is expected to reach its peak intensity of 195 to 205 kilometers per hour today.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, Bising was located 640 kms east of Guiian, Samar.

The typhoon had maximum sustained winds of 185 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 240 kph.

Bising continues to move generally northwest and is expected to be around 415 kms east of Juban, Sorsogon today.

PAGASA said a westward shift in the forecast track could result in more significant impact in parts of Luzon and the Visayas.

The agency is not ruling out the possibility of a landfall.

Bising will bring rough to very rough seas over the eastern seabords of Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Caraga and Davao regions. Travel for all types of seacraft will be risky.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said preparations for the typhoon are in full swing.



At least P182 million worth of family foodpacks are ready at the Department of Social Welfare and Development warehouses aside from P556 million in standby fund.

Stranded

A maritime report of the Philippine Coast Guard said more than 1,000 passengers were stranded in various ports in Bicol, Eastern Visayas and northeastern Mindanao as 39 vessels and 496 rolling cargoes were not allowed to sail.

In Bicol, Office of Civil Defense spokesman Gremil Alexis Naz said they requested two Air Force helicopters in case Bising changes its track and hit the region.

“We are taking note that Bising is still hovering at the open sea and changes could still happen,” Naz told The STAR.

As this developed, the Department of Agriculture advised farmers and fishermen in Bicol and Eastern Visayas to take precautionary measures.

“We advise our farmers... that may be affected by Typhoon Bising to harvest their crops whenever possible,” Agriculture Secretary William Dar said.

“We also urge fishermen near the typhoon’s path to take precautionary measures and refrain from fishing as conditions may worsen,” Dar said. – **Cet Dematera, Robertzon Ramirez, Catherine Talavera**



‘Bising’ gains strength, Signal 2 up in 4 provinces

posted April 18, 2021 at 01:00 am

by [Maricel Cruz](#)

Typhoon Bising has slightly accelerated and intensified, the weather bureau said in its 5 p.m. tropical cyclone bulletin on Saturday.

On Sunday, PAGASA said the rainbands of Bising will bring moderate to heavy rains over Eastern Visayas, Bicol Region, and the southern portion of Quezon.

The typhoon will move northwestward over the Philippine Sea until Sunday afternoon.

It will slow down and move generally northward until Tuesday afternoon before moving northward or north-northwestward over the Philippine Sea east of Northern and Central Luzon.

As of 4:00 pm on Saturday, the center of the eye of the typhoon was located 460 km east of Guiuan, Eastern Samar. It is moving west northwest at 25 kilometers per hour with maximum sustained winds of 195 km/h and gustiness of up to 240 km/h.

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) No. 2 was hoisted over the following areas: Catanduanes in Luzon and Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, and Samar in the Visayas.

On the other hand, Signal No. 1 was raised over the following areas:

Luzon

Sorsogon, Albay, the eastern portion of Camarines Sur (Calabanga, Naga City, Pili, Bula, Bombon, Magarao, Canaman, Gainza, Camaligan, Milaor, Minalabac, Tinambac, Siruma, Lagonoy, Goa, Tigaon, Ocampo, Baao, Iriga City, Nabua, Balatan, Bato, Buhi, Sagnay, San Jose, Garchitorena, Presentacion, Caramoan, San Fernando), and the eastern portion of Masbate (Baleno, Masbate City, Mobo, Uson, Dimasalang, Palanas, Cataingan, Pio V. Corpuz) including Ticao Island

Visayas

Biliran, Leyte, Southern Leyte, and Camotes Islands

Mindanao

Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte (including Siargao and Bucas Grande Islands), and Surigao del Sur.



Brazil 'needs \$10bn to reach zero emissions' says minister

Published 18 hours ago



REUTERS

image caption Brazil's environmental policies have met international condemnation

Brazil's environment minister says the country needs \$10bn (£7.2bn) a year in foreign aid in order to reach zero emissions by 2050.

The move would mean that Brazil could achieve the symbolic figure 10 years earlier than currently planned.

It comes ahead of US President Joe Biden's climate summit next week.

Brazil's environmental policies have brought international condemnation since President Jair Bolsonaro took office two years ago.

He has encouraged agriculture and mining activities in the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest. Environment Minister Ricardo Salles said \$1bn would be used to reach zero illegal deforestation in the Amazon by 2030.

He added that a third of the money would be used to recruit more environmental agents, potentially from the national military police. The remainder would be used to invest in sustainable development of the Amazon, he told Reuters news agency.

Mr Salles said he does not expect a deal to be made before next week's virtual summit.

His call for foreign aid comes as Mr Bolsonaro's government is attempting to negotiate a deal with the US in which it would receive financial aid in return for protecting the Amazon.

The move has been criticised by environmentalists and indigenous groups who say they haven't been consulted on the plans.

A report by Brazil's space agency (Inpe) released in 2020, said that deforestation of the Amazon had surged to its highest level in 12 years. The Amazon is home to about three million species of plants and animals, and one million indigenous people.

Mr Bolsonaro has previously clashed with Inpe over its deforestation data, accusing it of smearing Brazil's reputation.

Vice-President Hamilton Mourão said Brazil has a set goal to reduce illegal deforestation by 15-20% per year in order to eliminate it by 2030. He said that the target was mentioned in a letter sent by Mr Bolsonaro to Mr Biden earlier this week.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-56781626>



Restore our Earth so we can live

By Fr. Shay Cullen, SSC

April 18, 2021

There is great hope and enthusiasm among the youth for the restoration of the earth, celebrating Earth Day on April 22. They see the environmental destruction in all aspects of our lives — the air we breathe, the forest destruction, the polluted oceans, the climate change that is upon us and the pandemic— all a result of human neglect, greed and power play for riches and dominance of the Earth. This young generation wants it to change and is doing much to bring it about by advocating political change to the Green Platform for a healthy planet.

They are planning thousands of mass actions and events around the globe to demand that we change our lifestyles, habits, ways of living and working. They are dedicated to changing the destructive industry, corrupt political systems and bad environmental conditions because of the changing climate that is harming them and the Earth.

We all must work to change our lives and restore our Earth because everyone should have an equal opportunity to survive and have a healthy life of dignity and equality. Those greater ideals are far away but we can restore the Earth in small ways in the place where we live. Like recycling plastic and waste products, never waste food, plant organic vegetables and plant trees.

The most vital and important need is to have a healthy, clean, pollution-free, smog-free atmosphere and clean air to breathe. The air we breathe affects our lives, our blood, our brains and body and our ability for clear thinking. It is one of the most important environmental goals we must reach for. Our health and that of the world's children depend on it.

We humans are very unintelligent since we are poisoning ourselves. We are allowing national and multinational industry to make billions of profits by producing electricity from dirty dangerous oil and coal-fired power plants. The vicious politicians and mighty moguls of industry tell us it is for our own good if we want our electric fans, air-conditioners, heaters, lights and factories to run. How dull can we be, we with the big brains, if we allow this when there are clear sustainable alternatives? The youth that are rallying this Earth Day know it and demand change.

The politicians are generally corrupt and in cahoots and enjoy conspiracies with the tough tycoons of big business run by the oligarchs of industry. We have to have political action and vote for politicians with green environmental credentials. To restore the Earth is not just to clean up the plastic waste and plant more trees, all great and important, but to change the politicians who will then change the source of producing electricity on which the world runs.

This basic intelligent thinking, planning and positive action is all possible and it is part of the new wave sweeping the globe with the young generation. It means we and the tycoons have to confess environmental sins, individually, nationally and globally and repent and do penance by changing our bad environmental habits.

We can and must change to good clean ways of living so as to undo the damage caused by the past generations and the present one. We must change and replace the destructive energy-producing ways to restore the Earth. The people must demand the politicians and industry to convert more quickly to renewable sources of energy and phase out fossil fuels, oil, gas, coal and nuclear plants. We need to join the youth today in demanding these changes by their marches, activities and protests and positive actions this Earth Day, now on its 51st anniversary. The building of more wind turbines, solar panels, geothermal plants, wave and tide power and environmentally-safe hydropower is the goal.



Converting to electric-run vehicles sourced from renewable energy production is the way of the future. But less flying, more walking and cycling, and using trains are the best ways to travel to restore the Earth. The burning of oil and coal is the most dangerous of all. They produce the most carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, producing greenhouse gases causing climate change because of global warming and they are polluting the air we breathe. The Covid-19 pandemic stopped travel and restored a clean environment to many cities, especially in China.

The coal industry is the worst of all for damaging the Earth. According to a report in N. Sönnichsen, Feb. 2, 2021, “China has the highest installed capacity of coal power plants in the world...with a capacity of 1,042.9 gigawatts...the United States...ranked second. China’s carbon dioxide emissions from coal combustion reached 7.2 billion metric tons in 2019 — roughly 70 percent of the country’s total emissions.

For a great nation to be truly great, admired, respected and emulated, China, with its success in greatly alleviating poverty in 50 years and massive construction and production capacity of consumer products, has to have moral values and respect for human rights and respect for the Earth and quickly phase out its oppressive, cruel policies of island-grabbing, human rights abuses and their coal plants. Then, China will lead the world.

The most devastating result of a poisoned atmosphere from air pollution is felt everyday with millions suffering breathing problems and with these underlying weaknesses, millions are dying, even hundreds of babies in Brazil, from Covid-19. Make no mistake about it. This pandemic is upon us like a dark cloud because of our lack of care for the natural world and protection of the earth’s wildlife and habitat of animals and birds. The unleashing of the various vicious viruses in recent years brought devastation and suffering and death to so many.

The positive planned action of youth worldwide on Earth Day to restore the Earth is inspiring. It begins with a global youth climate summit led by Earth Uprising, in collaboration with My Future, My Voice, OneMillionOfUs and hundreds of youth climate activists. We admire them. They are the hope for a clean, restored Earth.

18 APRIL 2021, SUNDAY



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