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Marikina River dredging ops reveal over 27 hectares of land reclaimed without permits

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabriellLaluINO](#)
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Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda join other officials — (not in photo) Marikina City Mayor Marcy Teodoro, MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos Jr. and a representative from DPWH — in the ceremonial dredging and planting of bamboo seedlings for the Marikina River Restoration project on February 17. INQUIRER photo / Niño Jesus Orbeta

MANILA, Philippines — The dredging operations being done on Marikina River has revealed that an area as vast as 27 hectares had been reclaimed from the river without necessary permits, the city's local government unit said Wednesday.

According to a statement from Marikina City's Public Information Office (PIO) on Wednesday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) found out that there were 25 lot parcels that are either partially or completely encroaching on the Marikina River.

The dredging activity is one of the initiatives launched by the local government, DENR, and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) in an effort to restore the old glory of Marikina River, and allow floodwaters to flow freely again along its stretch before waters go down to the Manggahan floodway.

"Based on existing land records, the DENR found out that 25 lot parcels with a total area of 27 hectares (271,625 square meters) were reclaimed without necessary permits, either partially or completely encroaching into the Marikina River," the Marikina PIO said.

"The said portions of the river have been illegally reclaimed, reducing drastically the ability of the waterway to contain excess rainwater during typhoons, DENR noted, adding that the structures have been found violating Presidential Decree 1067 or the Philippine Water Code," it added.



Marikina River dredging ops reveal over 27 hectares of land reclaimed without permits

Earlier, Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, and MMDA Chairperson Benhur Abalos Jr., and other officials from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) inspected a dredging operation in one of the identified areas in Marikina's Barangay Olandes.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (3rd from left), Marikina City Mayor Marcy Teodoro (2nd from left), MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos Jr. (on the right) and a representative from DPWH during the launch of the Marikina River restoration project. INQUIRER photo / Niño Jesus Orbeta

Teodoro said that the dredging activity is necessary for the river to achieve DPWH's water velocity goal of at least four (4) meters per second — which would prevent flooding in low-lying areas and communities near the river.

"Dredging will be done to widen the river, to deepen it, to get the correct ratio of the widening and the deepening of the river in order to improve the water carrying capacity of the Marikina River, and thus improving its water current velocity," the mayor said.

"Being a downstream river, a catch basin, a valley, it is natural that Marikina will be flooded, but the idea really is to mitigate through this activity by widening and deepening the water channel," he added.

Marikina suffered another catastrophic flood in November 2020, when Typhoon Ulysses brought immense rainfall to Metro Manila especially its eastern cities and adjacent provinces.

Just like the effects of "Ondoy," [Typhoon Ulysses' flood waters](#) took several weeks to recede in some communities, particularly in Provident Village, prompting the local government [to suspend classes and declare a state of calamity](#).



Marikina River dredging ops reveal over 27 hectares of land reclaimed without permits

While Ulysses was the last in a series of strong cyclones within a month's time — including Typhoon Quinta and Super Typhoon Rolly — a lot of the blame was placed on the [Marikina River's tendency to overflow quickly](#), and human activities that have degraded the river's watershed.

This is not the first time Marikina's local government opened up the issue of dredging the river. Last November 23, Teodoro told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that he would file an administrative complaint against BF Corp. for allegedly pursuing a reclamation project without an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from DENR.

BF Corp. appears to be owned by former Marikina mayor and now Rep. Bayani Fernando.

Regarding the dredging operations, Teodoro assured Marikina residents that the local government will procure other equipment to make the dredging activities faster.

"As what we have been emphasizing, this is not simply a dredging activity on the part of the DPWH, but this is a Marikina River restoration activity, which will not be done only today or in the next 65 days but will be a sustainable activity," Teodoro said.

"We have discussed yesterday in the office of secretary that the local government is also acquiring some heavy equipment, dredgers, that can be used to continue the dredging activity," he added.

JPV

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1396924/marikina-river-dredging-ops-reveal-over-27-hectares-of-land-reclaimed-without-permits#ixzz6mIQqMQ4d>

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Pilot-dredging starts in illegally reclaimed parts of Marikina River

By [Claudeth Mocon-Ciriaco](#)

February 18, 2021



Officials of Marikina City, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Wednesday started the pilot-dredging activities in the initially identified illegally reclaimed portions of Marikina River to avoid flooding in low-lying areas in the city.

THE city government of Marikina, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Wednesday started the pilot-dredging activities in the initially identified illegally reclaimed portions of Marikina River to avoid flooding in low-lying areas in the city.

“As what we have been emphasizing, this is not simply a dredging activity on the part of the DPWH, but this is a Marikina River restoration activity, which will not be done only today or in the next 65 days but will be a sustainable activity,” said Mayor Marcelino “Marcy” Teodoro, as he expressed confidence the dredging activities will help them attain a long-term and effective solution to the perennial problem of flooding in the city.

Teodoro, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos Jr., and a representative from the Department of Public Works and Highways oversaw the dredging in one of the identified areas in Barangay Olandes.

Based on existing land records, the DENR found out that 25 lot parcels with a total area of 27 hectares (271, 625 square meters) were reclaimed without necessary permits, either partially or completely encroaching into the Marikina River.

These portions of the river have been illegally reclaimed, reducing drastically the ability of the waterway to contain excess rainwater during typhoons, DENR noted, adding that the structures have been found violating Presidential Decree 1067 or the Philippine Water Code.



Pilot-dredging starts in illegally reclaimed parts of Marikina River

"We have discussed yesterday in the office of secretary that the local government is also acquiring some heavy equipment, dredgers, that can be used to continue the dredging activity," Teodoro said.

Teodoro reiterated that there is a need to dredge because of the natural siltation that happened to the Marikina River, saying, "being a downstream river, of course, what is happening upstream will also affect downstream." Citing DPWH data, the mayor said they want to achieve at least 4 meters per second of water velocity for Marikina River.

"Dredging will be done to widen the river, to deepen it, to get the correct ratio of the widening and the deepening of the river in order to improve the water carrying capacity of the Marikina River, and thus improving its water current velocity," he said.

Likewise, Teodoro said they are also embarking on a joint undertaking in planting bamboos, which is a suitable slope protection for the embankment of the river.

With this, he said that the city will build a 1-hectare bamboo nursery in order for the city not to purchase bamboos anymore, and have a steady supply of bamboos they could plant near the river to prevent soil erosion.

"It is not something that we need to buy that will cost the government so much money, but something that we could cultivate together in a nursery and in the proper time we could plant together," he said.

Through the Task Force "Build Back Better," he said, they are not only dredging but also restoring the Marikina River to its natural topography.

"Being a downstream river, a catch basin, a valley, it is natural that Marikina will be flooded, but the idea really is to mitigate through this activity by widening and deepening the water channel," said the mayor.

Priority dredging works on Marikina River targeted for completion by end of April

February 17, 2021 | 7:21 pm



PHILSTAR

THE Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said Wednesday that dredging in three parts of the Marikina River identified as priority areas will be substantially complete by the end of April.

The dredging works are expected to improve the flow of the Marikina River and minimize the flooding risk after its waters rose during the typhoons that hit the country late last year.

The DPWH is helping the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) rehabilitate the Marikina River basin.

"By the end of April, we will see a significant accomplishment of this dredging activity in time, for the months of May and June, the time when typhoons usually start entering the country," DPWH Engineer Jerry A. Fano said during the launch of the Marikina River Rehabilitation project Wednesday.

He said the priority areas identified by the DPWH for dredging are the stretch of river along the Olandes sewage treatment plant, designated "Site A," near the SM Marikina or "Site B," and near the East Metro Terminal or "Site C."

Dredging in the three priority areas is expected to move out a combined 95,000 cubic meters, he said.

During the launch, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the government plans to finish dredging at the three sites in about 65 days.

"I'm very sure that we would be able to speed up the movement of water in the river, and reduce flooding in the area," Mr. Cimatu, who chairs Task Force Build Back Better, said.



Priority dredging works on Marikina River targeted for completion by end of April

Aside from the Wednesday launch of the pilot dredging activity in Barangay Kalumpang, Marikina City, the DENR also held a bamboo planting activity on the riverbank at Barangay Industrial Valley Complex, also in Marikina.

Fifteen days earlier, the DENR launched dredging operations on the Cagayan River, which overflowed and flooded towns in the Cagayan Valley late last year.

In a statement Wednesday, Mr. Cimatu added that efforts are now underway to dredge and desilt the Bicol River and Lake Bato, and rehabilitate floodgates and rivers around Mayon Volcano.

— Angelica Y. Yang



Dredging inspection

posted February 17, 2021 at 10:51 pm

by [Manny Palmero](#)




Marikina City Mayor Marcy Teodoro, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, and MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos Jr. (from left) oversee the pilot dredging activity at the Marikina River to recover the portions of the river that were illegally reclaimed. The projects consist of bamboo and tree planting and restoration of the Marikina River as part of the 'Build Back Better' task force's program.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/347332>



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 **The Manila Times**  9h 

RECLAIMING MARIKINA RIVER Marikina City Mayor Marcelino "Marcy" Teodoro, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos Jr. oversee the pilot dredging activity at the Marikina River to recover portions that were reclaimed illegally. Bamboos were planted as part of the city's restoration efforts of the Marikina River and of President Rodrigo Duterte's "Build Back Better Task Force" program. PHOTOS BY JOHN ORVEN VERDOTE





Pagpapaluwag sa Marikina river, sinimulan na ng Task Force Build Back Better



February 17, 2021 @ 3:28 PM 15 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang makarekober ang mga komunidad na tinamaan ng malalakas na bagyo patuloy ang paggawa ng hakbang ng government task force para sa rehabilitasyon at “post-recovery initiatives” simula nang i tatag may tatlong buwan na ang nakalilipas.

“In the months since we set out to work in November last year, we have now set into motion significant post-disaster recovery initiatives in three priority geographic areas involving the restoration of Cagayan, Marikina, and Bicol river basins,” sabi ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary at Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) chair Roy A. Cimatu.

Ayon sa DENR noong Pebrero 2 nang pangunahan nina Cimatu at TFBBB co-chairperson, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark A. Villar ang ceremonial dredging ng sandbars sa kahabaan ng Magapit Narrows at pagtatanim ng kawayan sa riverbank ng Barangay Bangag, Lal-lo, Cagayan.

Sinabi pa ng DENR ang unang bahagi ng dredging operation ay layuning maalis ang tatlong prayoridad na sandbars sa kahabaan ng Magapit Narrows na siyang nagiging dahilan upang mapigilan ang maayos na daloy ng tubig sa Aparri Delta papunta sa Babuyan Channel. Ang sandbars ay may kabuuang 235 hectares at may volume na seven million cubic meters.

Base na rin sa pinakahuling ulat ng TFBBB, umabot na sa 10,000 cubic meters ng buhangin at burak ang natanggal sa Magapit Narrows sa Barangay Bangag at Fugu sandbar sa Barangay Dummun.



Pagpapaluwag sa Marikina river, sinimulan na ng Task Force Build Back Better

Sa pakikipagtulungan na rin ng Technical Education and Skills Development Authority ay sinanay ang mga lokal na residente upang maging laborers at equipment operators upang makatulong sa ginagawang dredging operations.

Sinabi pa ng DENR na bukod sa ginagawang rehabilitasyon ng Cagayan River ay isinama na rin ng DENR ang Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) upang mabigyan ng pagkakakitaan ang 120 local residents para sa pagtanim at pag-aalaga ng puno ng kawayan sa Tuguegarao City at sa mga bayan ng Alcala, Enrile at Gattaran.

Ito ay sa pamamagitan ng "Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program ng DOLE.

Idinagdag pa nito sa kasalukuyan ay umabot na sa 3,672 bamboo seedlings ang naitanim sa 18 hektarya sa kahabaan ng riverbank ng Cagayan River.

Sinimulan na rin ng TFBBB ang pagsasaayos ng forest protection activities sa Region 1 (Ilocos Region), Region 2 (Cagayan Valley), at Cordillera Administrative Region sa pamamagitan ng tripartite memorandum of agreement na nilagdaan ng DENR regional offices sa mga nabanggit na lugar noong Pebrero 5.

SAMANTALA, inumpisahan na rin ng task force ang pagpapalawak at dredging ng ilang bahagi ng Marikina River nitong Pebrero 17.





Pagpapaluwag sa Marikina river, sinimulan na ng Task Force Build Back Better



Sinabi pa ng DENR na ang pilot dredging ay sinimulan sa bahagi ng ilog malapit sa Marcos Highway sa Barangay Kalumpang habang isinabay na rin ang simultaneous bamboo planting activity sa gilid ng ilog sa Barangay Industrial Valley Complex, kapwa sa Marikina City.

Ayon kay Cimatú, ang naisaayos na riverbanks ay tataniman ng kawayan upang maiwasan ang riverbank erosion at siltation na isa sa ginawang istrategiya ng TFB BB sa rehabilitasyon ng Cagayan River.

Sinabi pa ng DENR chief na patuloy ang pagsisikap upang masimulan ang dredging at desilting sa Bicol River at Lake Bato kabilang na din ang rehabilitasyon ng floodgates at ilog sa paligid ng Mayon Volcano.

Ipinaliwanag pa nito na ang dredging program sa Marikina River at Bicol River ay sasamahan ng “nature-based solutions” kabilang na dito ang pagtatanim ng kawayan at pagpapatatag sa river banks.

“We are also looking at the development of bamboo plantations so we can provide livelihood opportunities to communities in outlying areas near these waterways,” saad ni Cimatú.

Simula noong Pebrero 9 ay umabot na sa 49,509 bamboo culms ang naitanim na may kabuuang 173 hectares sa river banks ng Albay (8,500 bamboo culms), Camarines Sur (30,000 culms), Camarines Norte (10,000 culms), at Catanduanes (1,009 culms).

Nakahanda na rin ang 151,381 bamboo seedlings sa tanggapan ng DENR Bicol field office para itanim sa planting season sa Mayo.



Pagpapaluwag sa Marikina river, sinimulan na ng Task Force Build Back Better

Ang river bank stabilization activity sa pamamagitan ng pagtanim ng bamboo culms sa Bicol region ay bahagi ng programa ng TFBBB na pinangungunahan ng DENR at sa pakikipagtulungan ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Umabot sa 815 benipisyaryo ng DSWD's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program ang kinuha upang tumulong sa ginawang planting activity.

Ang mga pamilyang ito ay makatatanggap ng food packs mula sa DSWD's food-for-work program na makukuha ng mga benipisyaryo sa huling araw ng pagtanim.

Bukod sa mga ito ay tumulong din sa bamboo planting ang DPWH, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of the Interior and Local Government, local governments, National Irrigation Administration, National Housing Authority, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine National Police at Philippine Army.

Iniuugnay ni Cimatú ang inisyatibong ito sa "whole-of-society approach" base na rin sa Executive Order (EO) No. 120 na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte noong Nobyembre 18, 2020.

Aniya, ang inisyatibong ito ay sumasalamin sa mga prayoridad ng administrasyon ni Duterte tungkol sa "disaster risk reduction and environmental resilience, livelihood restoration, national-level support to response system at the community level, and support to local government for managing recovery.

"Beyond restoring these areas to their pre-disaster state, our marching order from President Duterte is to enable affected families and communities to spring back stronger and better than ever," paliwanag pa ni Cimatú.

Matatandaan na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte ang EO 120 na bumubuo sa TFBBB upang matiyak ang "post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery efforts of typhoon-hit areas."

Kabilang sa mga miyembro ng task force ang chairperson ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council at secretary of Defense; secretaries of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, National Economic and Development Authority, Transportation, Interior and Local Government, Energy, Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Budget and Management, Finance, Education, Health, Social Welfare and Development, Labor and Employment, Science and Technology; at general manager ng the NHA.

Kasama din sa mga miyembro ang Administrators ng NIA; Land Registration Authority; Local Water Utilities Administration; National Electrification Administration; Philippine Coconut Authority; at chair ng Cooperative Development Authority. *Santi Celario*



CIMATU: DREDGING, REHABILITASYON NG MARIKINA RIVER SISIMULAN NA



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DAHIL na rin sa naging bakas ng pagbaha na nagpalubog sa Marikina City at iba pang lungsod sa Metro Manila noong Nobyembre ng nakalipas na taon, sinabi ng Task Force Build Back Better na sisimulan na nila ang dredging activities sa Marikina River ngayong Miyerkoles, Pebrero 17, 2021.

Ang anunsyong ito ay sinabi ni Environment Secretary at TFBBB chair Roy A. Cimatu matapos makatanggap ng ulat na may bahagi ng ilog ang ilegal na tinambakan na naging dahilan upang mabawasan ang naikakarga nitong tubig sa panahon ng bagyo.

Ayon pa kay Cimatu, may mga istraktura rin na nakitang nakatayo sa easement areas na isang paglabag sa Presidential Decree 1067 o ang Philippine Water Code.

“Using official land records dating back as far as 1914 and 1961, historical maps, and satellite photos from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority as basis, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources- National Capital Region conducted aerial and ground verification surveys that confirm encroachments made not only in the river itself but in the designated legal easements as well,” saad ni Cimatu.

Base sa nakasaad sa Article 51 ng PD 1067, ipinagbabawal ang pagtatayo ng kahit na anong permanenteng istraktura sa kahabaan ng tatlong metro sa paligid ng ilog, batis o sa pampang ng dagat at lawa sa urban areas katulad ng Metro Manila dahil ang lugar na ito ay nakareserba para sa publiko.

Ayon pa sa kasalukuyang land records, 25 lot parcels na may kabuuang 271,625 square meters (27 hectares) ang ilegal na tinambakan ng walang kaukulang permiso sa paligid ng Marikina River.

Walo sa parcels na ito na may kabuuang 12,039 square meters ay inilagay sa Category 1 o ang “land found to be reclaimed but with no titles nor claimants.”

Samantala, nailagay naman sa Category 2 ang limang titled lots na bahagyang nakasasakop sa ilog na may kabuuang 10,418 square meters.



CIMATU: DREDGING, REHABILITASYON NG MARIKINA RIVER SISIMULAN NA

Naitala naman sa Category 3 ang 16 titled properties na may sukat na 22,467 square meters na mismong nasa ilog.

Ang pilot dredging ay gagawin sa bahagi ng ilog malapit sa Marcos Highway sa Barangay Kalumpang habang magkakaroon din ng bamboo planting activities sa gilid ng ilog sa Barangay Industrial Valley Complex na kapwa matatagpuan sa Marikina City.

"The widening of Marikina River to its original width is but the start of the series of activities the Task Force has identified to address the perennial problem of flooding within the Marikina River Basin," dagdag ni Cimatú.

Ayon pa sa DENR chief, tataniman din ang gilid ng ilog ng kawayan upang maiwasan ang pagkakaroon ng riverbank erosion at siltation na isa sa ginamit na istrategiya ng TFBBB na ginawa sa Cagayan River.

"We will have to show our political will here and sustain our efforts to rehabilitate Marikina River and other waterways. This is just a prelude to the bigger one," saad ni Cimatú na tumutukoy sa mas mabigat na trabaho na naghahintay sa TFBBB sa ibabang bahagi ng ilog partikular na sa Pasig area kung saan ang riverbank ay mas makitid dahil na rin sa ginawang reklamasyon at pagkakaroon ng illegal permanent structures.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na ang lapad ng ilog sa itaas na bahagi ay 90 meters habang sa ibabang bahagi nito partikular na sa Marikina-Pasig boundary ay 80 meters lamang at lalo pa itong kumikitid mula 46 meters hanggang 78 meters.

"It is like traffic. From a three-lane highway, the river becomes a single lane highway once it reaches Pasig," paliwanag ni Cimatú na nagbase sa record mula sa Department of Public Works and Highways.

Nakasaad pa sa records na hindi lamang ang lapad ng ilog ang nabawasan dahil maging ang lalim nito ay naapektuhan na rin kung saan ang itaas na bahagi ay may lalim na eight meters habang tatlo hanggang limang metro lamang ang lalim habang papalapit sa Pasig River.



Pinangunahan nina Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu, MMDA chairperson Benhur Abalos, Marikina City Mayor Marcy Teodoro, at Public Works Usec. Roberto Bernardo ang paglulunsad ng Marikina River Restoration Project.

Bahagi ng proyekto ang pag-recover sa mga iligal na bahagi ng ilog na ni-reclaim. Inaayos din ang daluyan ng ilog para maiwasan ang mga pagbaha, gaya ng nangyari noong bagyong #UlyssesPH at #OndoyPH.

: DENR





Disaster recovery task force kickstarts Marikina River dredging, finds illegal reclamation

Bianca Dava, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Feb 17 2021 08:51 PM



Dredging of Marikina River began on Feb. 17, 2021. Pilot dredging to take place in portion of river at Olandes Sewage Treatment Plant. *Bianca Dava, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA — The government's disaster recovery task force on Wednesday started the dredging activities in Marikina River, in a bid to prevent future flooding in the city that was inundated by recent typhoons.

The Task Force Build Back Better, chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) also found out that 25 lot parcels, with a total area of 27 hectares, were illegally reclaimed.

The pilot site for the dredging was held at a portion of the river near the Olandes Sewage Treatment Plant.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the 27 hectares were reclaimed without the necessary permits, with some completely encroaching into the Marikina River.

Eight of the lot parcels were found to have been reclaimed with no titles or claimants. Five titled lots were also found partially encroaching into the river, while 16 titled properties were constructed in the river itself.

Cimatu said the illegally reclaimed portions reduced the river's capacity to carry excess water during typhoons and heavy rainfall.

"Sa easement law, no structure will be built 3 meters from the banks of the river. 'Yan ang titingnan namin. Likewise, to find out paano sila nagkaroon ng titulo dito. We are coordinating with LRA (Land Registration Authority) at DENR," Cimatu said.



Disaster recovery task force kickstarts Marikina River dredging, finds illegal reclamation

(We are looking into possible violations of the easement law. We will also look into how they were able to get titles.)

“Dalawang bagay ‘yan kung paano sila nagkatitulo. Unahin namin sa DENR mismo. We will be doing an investigation kung sino ba nand’yan noon. How come they were able to get a title? Hindi pwede patitulohan diyan eh. Pangalawa, tingnan din what happened along the way,” he added.

(We are looking at two things regarding the titles. We want to investigate the people involved. You cannot have a title for that. Secondly, we will look into what happened.)

DENR-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) director Jacqueline Caancan clarified that the initial phase of the restoration will only cover unclaimed and untitled areas.

“Yung inidentify po... mahabang proseso ang ginawa ng DENR-NCR... Inuna namin ang untitled areas. Yung untitled ay public land, yan ang pinrioritize, ang 3 sites. The others would be dealt with, reconciled, harmonized. May tinitignan tayong parameters. Yung inaksyunan ngayon are untitled properties which belong to the government,” Caancan explained.

(We only identified and prioritized untitled areas, going through the long process with the DENR-NCR. The untitled areas are public lands, comprising 3 sites. Those are the parameters we are looking at.)

“May portions na nasa tubig na na-identify. So we are still harmonizing all the records from the LRA and Assessor’s Office,” she said.

(Some portions on the water were identified.)

The Marikina River Restoration project aims to widen the river to its original 90-meter width and 10-meter depth.

Cimatu said the river had become narrower, with the Marikina-Pasig boundary having a width of 80 meters and becoming uneven, varying from 46 to 78 meters. The river’s depth has also dropped, he added.

The task force initially identified 3 priority sites where dredging and excavation would be done.

Cimatu said the task force targets to finish the Marikina River restoration in the city three months or until April.

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

The task force will also dredge the downstream portion of the Marikina River, particularly in the Pasig area where the riverbank is narrower due to the reclamations and presence of illegal structures.

But Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro has mixed emotions about the dredging activity, stressing this should follow the natural topography of the body of water.



Disaster recovery task force kickstarts Marikina River dredging, finds illegal reclamation

"Mayroon kaming cautious optimism. Optimistic kami na kailangan mapalapad at mapalalim ang ilog para mabawasan ang pagbaha sa city," Teodoro told ABS-CBN News.

"Cautious, kailangan maging maingat dahil kailangan makuha ang tamang alignment ng Marikina River at tamang lapad na 100 meters para sa ganon, yung tubig sa upstream areas ay hindi mae-embudo sa isang lugar na kumipot ang ilog na ito," he added.

The mayor said the DENR and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) must follow the proper alignment of the river.

One of the task force's priority areas is a portion of the river in the Olandes area. Because of this, a large chunk of land where residents of the community plant their vegetables will be hit by the government's dredging project.

Teodoro said that instead of dredging on the said land, the DENR and DPWH should instead remove the reclamation project at BF City opposite Olandes.

"Kailangan ang mga na-reclaim na area ay matanggal nang walang takot at pinipili at kinikilingan," he said.

"Kailangan mapanatili ang natural topography, kung saan ang tatanggalin ay ang nasa kabilang bahagi ng embankment, yung tinambak. Hindi yung natural lupa na nandoon."

(The reclaimed areas should be removed. The river's natural topography should be maintained as the other part of the embankment would be removed. The landmass there is not natural.)

The local chief executive said he would appeal the issue to the task force.

"Nagbibigay kabuhayan ito sa lugar sa pamamagitan ng pagtanim. Kaya sinasama natin sila sa proseso. Dapat grassroots ang maging basehan ng desisyon," Teodoro said.

"Makikipag-usap ako sa DENR at DPWH. Inaasahan ko na with proper representation and correct consultation process ay maitama ang alignment na kailangan," he said.

(Planting brought livelihood to our residents, that's why we included them in the process. The opinion of the people on the grassroots level should be the basis for every decision.)

Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo said his department would wait for DENR on the areas that could also be affected by the dredging, noting that the project is in its initial phase.

"Kung yun ay pumasok sa linya, kasama iyon sa idi-dredge. Ang basehan natin ngayon, ang survey natin. Hindi ko masasabi na ang alignment ng river, base sa survey, yun ang datos at aming basehan. Hindi kung saan dumadaan ang tubig," said Bernardo.

(If the area falls within the line of dredging, it will be included. Our basis is our survey. I cannot comment on the alignment of the river because we are basing our decision on the data and the survey.)



Disaster recovery task force kickstarts Marikina River dredging, finds illegal reclamation

After dredging the waterway, restored riverbanks will be planted with bamboo to help prevent soil erosion and siltation.

Teodoro had said that the floods brought by typhoon Ulysses last year caught them by surprise, as the water level from the Marikina River peaked to 22 meters on Nov. 12, higher than the peak of 21.5 meters set during Tropical Storm Ondoy's onslaught in 2009.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/17/21/disaster-recovery-task-force-kickstarts-marikina-river-dredging-finds-illegal-reclamation>



EDITORIAL - Quarrying sa Rizal, inaalam ba ng DENR?

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- February 18, 2021 - 12:00am



Kahapon sinimulan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang dredging sa Marikina River. Ang Task Force Build Back Better ang nagsasagawa ng dredging. Itinatag ang task force makaraan ang malawakang pagbaha sa Marikina at iba pang siyudad sa Metro Manila noong nakaraang Nobyembre 2020. Ayon kay DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, uumpisahan ang dredging sa malapit sa Marcos Highway sa Bgy. Calumpang.

Mababaw na ang Marikina River at ito ang itinuturong dahilan ng pagbaha hindi lamang sa Marikina kundi pati na rin sa Quezon City, Pasig, at ibang bayan sa Rizal. Taun-taon ay lagi nang may pagbaha sa Marikina. Pinakamatindi ang pagbahang naranasan noong 2009 nang manalasa ang Bagyong Ondoy. Maraming residente ang nag-akyat sa bubong ng kanilang bahay. Madali nang umapaw ang Marikina River kaya apektado ang mga nakatira malapit sa ilog. Ang solusyon ay ang pagpapalalim dito para hindi umapaw ang baha.

Hindi lamang ang kababawan ng Marikina River ang dahilan nang pagbaha kundi maging ang talamak na quarrying sa Rizal. Ayon sa report maraming malalaking quarrying companies ang nag-o-operate sa Rizal at ilan dito ay pag-aari umano ng pulitiko. May quarrying sa mga bayan ng Rodriguez, Antipolo City, Baras at Tanay. Noong 2018, inireklamo na sa DENR ang quarrying companies sa Rizal dahil sa pagbaha rin sa Marikina at Taytay subalit wala umanong ginawang aksiyon ang DENR. Hiniling umano ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ) kay Cimatu na ipatigil ang quarrying operations sa Rizal subalit walang pagkilos ang kagawaran.

Nilinis na ng DENR ang Manila Bay at ngayon ay ang pagpapalalim naman sa Marikina River ang pinagkakaabalahan. Kailan naman kaya aalamin ng DENR ang talamak na quarrying sa Rizal na dahilan ng pagbaha sa Marikina at iba pang lungsod sa Metro Manila.

Kahit mapalalim ang Marikina River at patuloy din naman ang quarrying, balewala rin ang pagsikap. Babaha pa rin sa Marikina. Nararapat tutukan ng DENR ang quarrying activities sa Rizal.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinyon/2021/02/18/2078494/editorial-quarrying-sa-rizal-inaalam-ba-ng-denr/amp/>



Traffic solutions

posted February 17, 2021 at 10:08 pm



Sen. Cynthia Villar leads the Inauguration of the final stage of the Las Piñas River Drive in Las Piñas City. The senator was joined by Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu, Public Works Sec. Mark Villar, Las Piñas Rep. Camille Villar, Environment Usec. Jonas Leones and DENR NCR Executive Director Jacqueline Caangcan.



A reminder on the problem of pollution in Manila Bay

February 18, 2021 | Filed under: [Editorial,Opinion](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)



TWO decades after the Supreme Court ordered 13 government agencies led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to clean up Manila Bay, its waters remain unfit for human contact, filled with viruses and bacteria coming from the rivers and sewage outlets flowing into it from the cities and towns around, but mostly from the Pasig River.

Manila Bay was in the news again this weekend as former Manila Mayor, now Deputy Speaker and Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza called on the government to act on a problem that has long hounded the bay.

In 2008, the Supreme Court, acting on a civil action filed by a group of Concerned Residents of Manila Bay, ordered the DENR, the Metro Manila Development Commission, and 11 other agencies to clean up the historic bay. They were given ten years to do it.

But the problem worsened as a succession of national administrations followed. President Duterte, after cleaning up Boracay in 2018, ordered Secretary Cimatu to clean up Manila Bay next and the secretary after an assessment of the huge problem said it would take more than 10 years to do it.



The fecal coliform levels in the bay had reached as high as 330 MPN (most probable number) per 100 millimeters. The worst polluting establishments included hotels and restaurants, along with pigpens and factories along the Pasig River and its hundreds of tributaries. But the biggest source of pollution were millions of homes in Metro Manila spewing their household garbage and human wastes directly into the streams flowing into the Pasig, on to Manila Bay.

“We checked court records,” Congressman Atienza said this week. “Water samples taken from Manila Bay in 1999 showed fecal counts of 50,000 to 80,000 MPN (most probable number) per millimeter... In contrast, the recent water samples now range from 11 million to 54 million per millimeter.”



A reminder on the problem of pollution in Manila Bay

"This is really not surprising because up to now, of the 16.3 million water-served population in Metro Manila, only 15 percent or 2.4 million are connected to a sewerage system. Clearly the bulk of Metro Manila's household toilets continue to drain into waterways, including the Pasig River, that all empty out into the bay every day," A tienza said.

The cause of all the pollution of Manila Bay has long been established – human waste flowing directly into hundreds of streams, some joining the Pasig River but many flowing directly into the bay. And there are other rivers and streams pouring into the bay from the surrounding provinces of Bataan, Zambales, Pampanga, and Bulacan in the north, to Cavite in the south.

No wonder, Manila Bay is "several times filthier" today than when the Supreme Court issued its order to clean it up in 1999, 22 years ago. "We have to stop the uncontrolled outflow of human sewage if we truly want to decontaminate Manila Bay," A tienza said.

As Secretary Cimatú pointed out in 2018, it will take many years to clean up Manila Bay. It will take considerable funds which Congress has to approve. And it will take the coordinated efforts of many agencies, national and local, government and private business and civic organizations.

We laud Congressman Atienza for raising the issue once again, when everyone else seems to have given it up, for it is indeed such a formidable and seemingly insoluble problem. The Duterte administration has now turned to more urgent tasks related to recovering from the pandemic. The Manila Bay problem may have to be taken over by the next administration, but there is still time to take the basic steps now to solve it.



DENR to file cases against Runruno illegal settlers

posted February 17, 2021 at 09:50 pm

by [Ben Moses Ebreo](#)

Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya— The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will be filing charges against illegal settlers who refuse to leave the identified geohazard areas in Barangay Runruno in Quezon town.

Edgar Martin, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer, said the legal move is needed since some of the illegal settlers, who come from the provinces of Quirino, Isabela, and Ifugao, continue to defy DENR order for them to vacate the geo-hazard areas.

“We have been continuously telling them of the risks and their violations in living in the geohazard and forest zone areas. So far, many have complied with our order but there are still some who refuse to leave the area,” he said.

Martin said that since the Runruno tragedy that killed 10 illegal settlers during the onset of Typhoon Ulysses last year, a series of dialogues and information campaign activities have been conducted by the DENR with the help of the local government to convince the illegal settlers to leave their high-risk abodes.

Of the 411 illegal settler families, he said 28 have refused to leave the geohazard areas in sitios Bitang 1 and 2.

Martin said a 21-hectare relocation area in Barangay Boliwao is now being procured by the local government of Quezon.

However, only 37 families from Quezon town have qualified to be relocated in the area based on the criteria set by the National Housing Authority, which also pledged P50 million for the development of the relocation site.

Topics: [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) , [illegal settlers](#) , [Edgar Martin](#)



DENR employee shot dead in Tacloban

February 17, 2021 3:12 PM by [Christhel Cuazon](#)



An employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-CENRO) was reportedly shot dead by unidentified gunmen yesterday morning.

The authorities identified the fatality as Rodolfo Concillo, 59, a forest technician. He was shot about 20 times in various parts of his body in Tacloban, Leyte.

Reports said the assailants attacked him just a few meters away from his residence in Apitong village.

The Tacloban police is still investigating the motive of the killing.



Endangered and elusive bird: Kalaw emerges in Sierra Madre range

Published February 17, 2021, 3:47 PM

by [Johannes Chua](#)

Kalaw – or the Philippine hornbill – is classified globally as a threatened-vulnerable species. In the country, however, the bird is “endangered” according to the DENR’s National List of Threatened Philippine Fauna. It is alarming indeed as nine out of the 11 species of hornbill in the Philippines are facing critical numbers.



The Philippine Hornbill or Kalaw (All photos by Edwin Martinez)

Photographer Edwin Martinez ([facebook.com/edwinmartinezphotography](https://www.facebook.com/edwinmartinezphotography/) / IG: [@EdwinMartinez](#)) “captured” this elusive bird during an expedition at the Sierra Madre mountain range in the Infanta, Quezon side. Martinez shared photos of the Kalaw in its natural habitat, showing the bird’s bright dark red beak, brown gray feathers, and majestic stance.

“Ever since I started going to the Sierra Madre Cordilleran belt in Infanta, Quezon, we have always been searching this species. The Kalaw or Rufous Hornbill is the largest hornbill in the Philippines and is endemic in Luzon,” Martinez wrote in his Facebook page.

He stressed that the bird is “threatened-vulnerable already in terms of classification.”



Endangered and elusive bird: Kalaw emerges in Sierra Madre range



The photos he took were taken from a long distance and provides a "closer view even though (they) had to go down a muddy cliff."

According to the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines in an article, "forest conversion to agricultural and logging practices remain the biggest threat to hornbills, which thrive on primary or well-developed secondary forests. Hunting, trapping and nest poaching for food, the illegal pet trade and sport are also responsible for the decline in Philippine hornbills."



May these photos shared by Martinez become a motivating reason for all of us to consider the plight of the Philippine hornbill before they become not only elusive, but gone forever in our forests.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/17/endangered-and-elusive-bird-kalaw-emerges-in-sierra-madre-range/>



Philippine News Agency ✓

11h · 🌐

OUT TO THE SEA. Authorities release some 106 baby sea turtles in the seashore at Barangay Dalumpinas Oeste San Fernando City, La Union on Wednesday. The coast of the village serves as the nesting site of turtles in the city. | via Hilda Austria 📸
City of San Fernando





News5

12h · 🌐

Hello Baby Blue! 💙

Masayang ibinahagi ng Masungi Georeserve na muling nakita sa isang batis sa kanilang conservation area ang Indigo-banded kingfisher na ito, na endemic sa kanilang lugar. Inakala raw ng pamunuan ng reserve na nasawi ito noong kasagsagan ng bagyong #UlyssesPH.

📷: Ravi Iyengar, Wild Bird Club of the Philippines/ Masungi Georeserve





- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



Masungi Georeserve

9h · 🌐



"Remember, the environment can live without us, but we cannot live without the environment." Multi-awarded former chief executive and sustainable development champion Ed Hagedorn shares his take on why we must come together to protect Masungi and the Upper Marikina Watershed from destructive and extractive activities 🌱🌳



Edward S. Hagedorn is with **Charyl Jamot Dionisio Felipe** and **38 others**.

February 16 at 9:40 AM · 🌐

Somebody asked me, "Do we really have to protect the Masungi georeserve?"
My answer:

'PHL's new climate pledge not enough to avoid catastrophic impacts of climate change'

By [BusinessMirror](#)
February 17, 2021



(contributed photo)

The Power for People Coalition (P4P) said the government's draft new commitments to the Paris Agreement would not hold the rise in global temperature to the 1.5-degree Celsius, which the international community has pledged.

"They are not enough to avoid catastrophic impacts of climate change," the P4P said in a statement released Wednesday.

"Despite increasing its GHG emissions reduction from 30% in December 2020 to 75%, the draft Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the recent consultation provide no assurance that the Philippines is contributing its fair share of mitigation efforts to the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement," they said.

"This is a goal we so painstakingly fought for in international negotiations as it translates to a greater chance of survival for climate-vulnerable countries like the Philippines," they added.

Last January, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) conducted consultations with civil society organizations (CSOs) on the new or updated proposals of the Philippines to the Paris Agreement of 2015.

Under the Paris Agreement, UN Member States are supposed to submit last December their revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The Paris Agreement seeks to limit the rise of global temperature to 1.5-degree Celsius (maximum of 2.0-degree Celsius) from the pre-industrial era in order to prevent global warming.



'PHL's new climate pledge not enough to avoid catastrophic impacts of climate change'

On February 3, the CCC presented the latest draft NDC, which included commitments of the energy sector, among the biggest contributors to green-house gas (GHG) emissions. On February 13, the CCC released a revised draft of the NDC.

The P4P noted the current NDC target asserts only a negligible 2.71% with hardly any mention of how it plans to secure climate financing.

They scored the government's coal energy sourcing for being inconsistent with the Paris Agreement and self-defeating to the solution for decreasing emissions.

"Not only does the Department of Energy commit to share possibly the least contribution in the NDC goal, it also explicitly stated that it would add more coal to the Philippines' already installed 9.8 GW," the P4P said.

According to the P4P, by including the entry of "highly efficient coal technologies" in its measures, the DOE makes way for at least 5.4 GW of additional coal capacity.

"The government is disregarding the strong resistance from communities who will be impacted by these new coal projects," they said.

The P4P urged the DOE to declare a mandatory retirement for currently operating coal power plants.

They noted some of these coal plants have reached the end of their lifespan and are now providing consumers with nothing but faulty supply, costly electricity and extreme pollution.

"An NDC that values the collective survival of the Filipino people from the climate crisis must boldly commit to the 1.5°C goal, and would find no space for coal—the dirtiest of all fossil fuels," the P4P said.



SMC cleanup of Tullahan river moves further upstream, extends to 11.5 kms

By ...
-February 18, 2021



San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is extending the total reach of its P1-billion Tullahan-Tinajeros river system cleanup to 11.5 kms, close to halfway of the entire 27-km. stretch, to further complement ongoing flood mitigation measures in the cities of Navotas, Malabon, and Valenzuela, before the start of the rainy season.

SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang said the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has approved the company's dredging plans for Sectors 4 and 5 of the river system, covering the length of the river from Tinajeros Bridge to Potrero in Malabon and Valenzuela cities.

The section represents an additional 6.3 kilometers of dredging area, in addition to the initial 5.25-km Sectors 1 to 3 from the Manila Bay in Navotas, to the Tinajeros Bridge in Malabon, which SMC had been working on.

"We are making all the necessary preparations now to move into the next phase of our river cleanup and flood management initiative. We're investing in new equipment, and hiring more people. We are fully committed to our advocacy of cleaning up major rivers and helping our cities with flood mitigation," said SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang.

"We thank the DPWH for approving our plans for this new stretch, which will benefit Valenzuela and upstream portion of Malabon. As soon as we acquire the special equipment, we will start work on these sections by early April, while simultaneously maintaining our dredging operations from Manila Bay in Navotas to Tinajeros Bridge, or sectors one to three," Ang added.

Ang said that aside from cleaning and increasing the depth of the river to accommodate more rainwater, especially during the typhoon season, the DPWH has required the widening of portions of the river.



SMC cleanup of Tullahan river moves further upstream, extends to 11.5 kms

SMC will be working closely with the local government units and MMDA Flood Control group to implement the project.

“Many parts of the river have become shallow, with the depth down to one to two meters. We were able to increase the depth of the river and this complemented the pumping stations at Navotas and Malabon. When heavy typhoons hit the country towards the end of last year, more flood waters flowed into the river. But no heavy flooding was reported in these flood-prone areas,” he said.

For the five sectors, SMC is looking to dredge a total of 1.5 million cubic meters of silty sand and solid waste.

Despite the Luzon-wide lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic, dredging output reached 112,910 metric tons as of Feb 15, 2021. Dredging output has increased from 600 to 1,000 MT per day.

SMC extends P1 billion cleanup of Tullahan River

By [Richmond Mercurio](#) (Philstar.com)
- February 18, 2021 - 12:00am



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MANILA, Philippines — San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is extending the P1-billion cleanup of the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system to a total of 11.5 kilometers, close to halfway of the entire 27-kilometer stretch, to complement flood mitigation measures in the cities of Navotas, Malabon and Valenzuela.

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SMC extends P1 billion cleanup of Tullahan River

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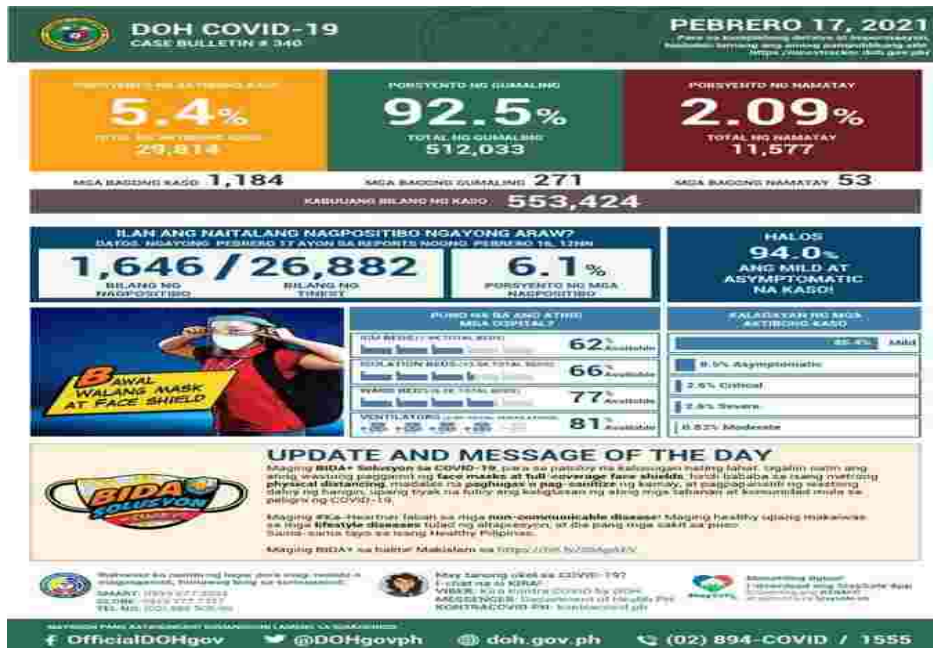
The SMC will be working closely with the local governments and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority flood control group to implement the project.

The company is looking to dredge a total of 1.5 million cubic meters of silty sand and solid waste for the five sectors of the river system.



BREAKING: Bilang ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, lagpas 553,000 na

By Angellic Jordan February 17, 2021 - 04:08 PM



Mahigit 1,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Miyerkules (February 17), umabot na sa 553,424 confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 29,814 o 5.4 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,184 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

85.4 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 8.5 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.83 porsyento ang moderate; 2.6 porsyento ang severe habang 2.6 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 53 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 11,577 o 2.09 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 271 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 512,033 o 92.5 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

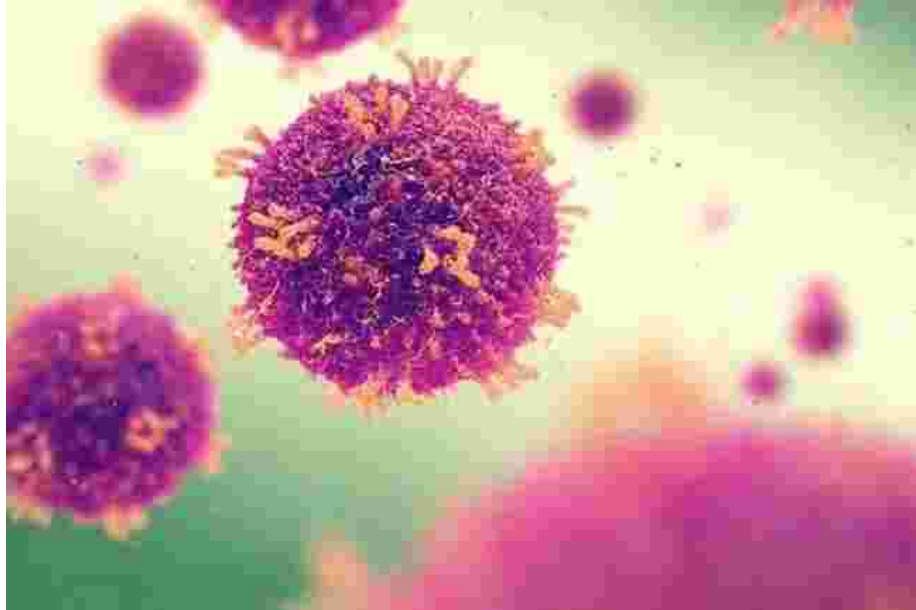
Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/285213/breaking-bilang-ng-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-lagpas-553000-na#ixzz6mliGKKnH>

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GLOBAL COVID-19 CASES PUMALO NA SA 110.3 MILLION

written by [Jennelyn Valencia- Burgos](#) February 17, 2021



Pumalo na sa 110.3 million ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, nangunguna pa ring bansa ang pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na mayroong 28,381,220 na kaso.

Sinundan ito ng India na mayroong 10,937,320 na nagpositibo sa nakahahawang sakit.

Samantala, umakyat naman sa kabuuang 2,429,811 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa dahil sa COVID-19.



MAGTIWALA SA BAKUNA NA KUKUNIN NG GOBYERNO PARA SA ATIN



February 17, 2021 @ 11:50 AM 17 hours ago

AYAW nang magbenta ang AstraZeneca sa Pilipinas ng bakuna nito laban sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 dahil sa kakulangan nito ng suplay.

Tanging ang naunang 17 milyon na dose na naunang tinanguan nila sa kasunduan sa Pinas ang matutuloy — kung saka-sakali.

Ang Pfizer naman, 117,000 dose lang ang tiyak na maidedeliber nila.

Kung kailan darating ang mga ito, hindi natin alam.

Basta ang inuna ng mga kompanyang ito ay kunin ang pangako ng pamahalaang Pilipinas na balikatin ang lahat ng gastos at problema o masamang bunga ng mga bakuna.

Sabi ng mga kompanyang ito, bago lang ang mga bakuna kaya hindi sila tiyak na walang madidisgrasya.

“Walang pangako o indemnification program, walang bakuna!” para sa mga kompanya.

Ayaw nilang matulad sila sa nangyari sa Dengvaxia na sa rami ng namatay, nasa 600, demanda ngayon ang hinaharap ng Sanofi Pasteur na may gawa ng nasabing bakuna laban sa dengue.

Para sa Pfizer at Moderna lang sa United States, may mahigit nang 180 na namatay.

Iba pa ang mga nasa 113 na patay sa ibang bansa, kabilang na ang gaya ng 35 sa The Netherlands, 33 sa Norway, 10 sa Germany at iba pa.



MAGTIWALA SA BAKUNA NA KUKUNIN NG GOBYERNO PARA SA ATIN

Ang Pfizer at Moderna, itinatangi na mula sa bakuna nila ang ikinamatay ng mga biktima makaraang mabakunahan at may pagsang-ayon naman dito ang mga pamahalaan ngunit nagsasabing nag-iimbestiga pa sila.

KULANG NA KULANG ANG SUPLAY

Ang Pfizer at Moderna na nagsasabing 90-95 porsyento ang bisa laban sa COVID-19 ang pinakamabili na bakuna sa ngayon ngunit kulang na kulang sila ng suplay.

Nagkukumahog ang dalawa na gumawa ng nasa 10 milyong dose kada linggo para lamang sa United States na nangangailangan ng 200 milyon dose hanggang sa katapusan ng Marso 2021.

Ang Pfizer naman at AstraZeneca, pinipilit ng European Community na lahat ng produksyon nito mula sa mga planta nito sa Europa ay unahing suplayan ang 27 bansang miyembro nito na may populasyong 450 milyon.

Kung hindi magagawa umano ng dalawa ang magsuplay sa takdang panahon gaya ng nasasaad sa kanilang mga kontrata, idedemanda sila ng EC.

Iba pa ang benta ng dalawa sa ibang bansang handang magpakawala ng salapi, kahit magkano, basta may suplay gaya ng bansang Israel.

Paliwanag pa ng iba, hindi ganoon kadali ang paggawa ng mga bakuna.

Una, gaya sa US, kulang na kulang ang mga pagawaan, kaya naman tumutulong na ang Department of National Defense nila sa paggawa ng mga gusali na gagawing pabrika ng bakuna.

Ikalawa, hindi ganoon kadali ang pagkuha ng mga suplay na sangkap ng mga bakuna gaya ng mga reagent.

Ikatlo, nasisira rin umano ang mga teknolohiya o anomang gamit nila sa paggawa ng mga bakuna at may piyesang matagal na magawa o hintaying dumating mula sa ibang lugar.

Ikaapat, hindi rin ganoon kadali ang magkaroon ng mga tao na isasalang bilang mga trabahante sa loob ng mga pagawaan dahil kailangan ang kwalipikasyong mga nababagay at may mga dapat pang isalang sa mga pagsasanay bago sila papayagang gumawa.

May problema pa ang Pfizer mismo sa pangangailangan nito ng -70-70 na lamig bago ibiyahe at kung mabalewala ito, sira ang bakuna at hindi tulad ng Moderna na pwede umano sa mga ordinaryong freezer.

TUMATAKBO SA CHINA, RUSSIA

Dahil sa tagal o kupad ng suplay ng bakuna mula sa Pfizer, AstraZeneca at Moderna, may mga bansa nang bumibili ng bakuna mula sa China at Russia.

Ang Hungary at katabi nitong Serbia, bumili na ng mga bakunang Sinopharm na gawang China na may 89 porsyentong bisa.



MAGTIWALA SA BAKUNA NA KUKUNIN NG GOBYERNO PARA SA ATIN

Katwiran nila, hindi pupwedeng maghintay ang kanilang mga mamamayan na minamasaker ng COVID-19 habang wala ang mga gawang Kano at Europeo.

Ang Singapore ay may advance payment at nakikipag-usap naman ang Vietnam at Pinas ukol sa Sinovac samantalang nagsimula nang iturok ito sa Turkey, Brazil at Indonesia.

Nagdesisyon na rin ang Cambodia at Thailand na gagamit ng Sinovac.

Samantala, mabilis na dumarami ang nag-order na rin ng Sputnik V ng Russia at merong mga bansa rito ang nagsabing hindi kailangan ang trial nito dahil napatunayan na ng Lancet na may 92 porsyentong epekto ito laban sa virus.

Kabilang sa mga bansang nag-order na ng Sputnik V ang Russia, Belarus, Argentina, Bolivia, Serbia, Algeria, Palestine, Venezuela, Paraguay, Turkmenistan, Hungary, UAE, Iran, Republic of Guinea, Tunisia, Armenia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Republika Srpska (entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina), Lebanon, Myanmar, Pakistan, Mongolia and Bahrain.

Nadagdag na rin ang Montenegro and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines na nagsabing hindi na nila kailangan ang clinical trial.

SA PILIPINAS?

Heto nga, namomproblema tayo sa pagkuha ng mga gawang Kano at Europa na bakuna at tila hindi natin makakamit ang 140 milyong dose na nating mabili para sa 70 milyong Pinoy na balak bakunahan.

Hindi natin pinangungunahan ang mga awtoridad na itinalaga mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magdesisyon kung saan o kanino tayo kukuha ng bakuna.

Pero naririyang ang mapagkukunan ng mga suplay gaya ng Russia at China.

Ang China, magdodonasyon daw ng 600,000 dose at maaaring darating ito sa Pebrero 23, 2021 at ang Russia, nasa \$10 lang ang halaga ng bakuna nito at handang magtayo sa Pinas ng pabrika ng bakuna at makipag-partner sa pamahalaang Pinas para rito.

Hindi tayo dapat padadala sa mga propaganda o paninira ng mga taga-Amerika at Europa laban sa mga bakunang gawa ng China at Russia upang sila lang ang makapagbenta at kumita.

Ang Vietnam nga na nakikipag-away sa China ukol sa teritoryo sa South China Sea at nagkaroon na ng mga giyera at patay mula sa kamay ng mga Chinese ay nakikipag-usap pa rin sa China para sa suplay ng bakuna.

Malinaw rin na napakarami nang bansa ang gumagamit ng mga bakunang China at Russia.

O paano?

Ang masasabi lang natin, maghanda tayo para sa pagbabakuna, saanman gawa at galing ang mga bakuna.



MAGTIWALA SA BAKUNA NA KUKUNIN NG GOBYERNO PARA SA ATIN

Ang 70 milyong mababakunahan kahit sa loob ng taong ito ang siyang magiging mahalagang hakbang upang makabalik na tayo sa normal na pamumuhay at makaahon sa hirap, kagutuman at iba pang krisis.

Magkakaroon na tayo ng tinatawag na herd immunity o sapat na bilang para hindi mahawa at makahawa sa ating lahat na nasa 110 milyon na.

Kung duda tayo bago magpabakuna, komunsulta tayo sa mga doktor at nasa atin na ang mga pagpapasya pagkatapos.

NDRRMC: Prepare for heavy to intense rains due to Auring

Published February 17, 2021 10:25pm

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has urged the public to prepare for heavy to intense rains as Tropical Depression Auring entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Wednesday.

According to the NDRRMC, Auring may cause flooding and rain-induced landslides in highly susceptible areas.

PAGASA said the center of Auring was located 700 kilometers east southeast of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur at 3 p.m. with maximum sustained winds of 55 km per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 70 kph.

Caraga and Davao Oriental will experience moderate to heavy rains, while Eastern and Central Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and the rest of Davao region will experience light to moderate with, at times, heavy rains on Saturday.

Moderate to heavy with, at times, intense rains will prevail over Surigao provinces, Dinagat islands, Eastern Visayas, Masbate, and the northern portion of Cebu on Saturday evening through Sunday.

Moderate to heavy rains will be felt in Sorsogon, Albay, Catanduanes, and Marinduque, while light to moderate with, at times, heavy rains will prevail over over CALABARZON, Northern Mindanao, Davao region, and the rest of Bicol region, Visayas, and Caraga.

PAGASA said Auring may intensify into a tropical storm before its landfall on Saturday evening or Sunday morning over Caraga region.

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 may be raised over several provinces of Caraga and Davao region on Friday, the weather bureau added.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau identified 4,654 barangays susceptible to landslide and flood in Bicol, Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Davao and Caraga.

NDRRMC said the MGB had been cascading the list of landslide prone areas to concerned local government units. Advisories from the Department of the Interior and Local Government were also released to the LGUs.

Meanwhile, in its 24-hour forecast, PAGASA said the tail-end of a frontal system will also bring moderate to heavy rains over Eastern Visayas, Sorsogon, Masbate, Albay, Catanduanes and light to moderate with, at times, heavy rains over Central Visayas, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, and the rest of Bicol Region.

PAGASA said isolated flooding and rain-induced landslides may occur due to heavy prolonged periods of rainfall, especially in highly susceptible areas.

"NDRRMC continues to assess the possible impacts of TD Auring based on PAGASA advisories," NDRRMC said.

"The public is advised to monitor weather updates and heed authorities' warnings. Local Government Units are reminded to strictly implement minimum public health standards in their operations," it added. -NB, GMA News

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/116724526976/posts/10159773685576977/>



Eruption threat increases in Taal

By Ma. Cristina Arayata February 17, 2021, 7:24 pm



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – Due to the increasing threat for phreatic eruption steam-driven explosion in Taal Volcano, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) director Renato Solidum Jr. on Wednesday reiterated that Taal Volcano Island (TVI), Taal's permanent danger zone (PDZ), is a no-entry zone.

For the past 24 hours, Phivolcs recorded 69 tremor episodes lasting for one to five minutes.

"We also see the likelihood of hydrothermal activity, wherein gas from the magma rises, causing the waters beneath the TVI to become hotter. This is also probably the reason why the main crater lake has become hotter and acidic," he said during the Laging Handa public briefing.

Last Monday, Phivolcs, in an advisory, said seismic activity (earthquake occurrences) and changes in Taal Volcano's main crater lake have been observed. At least 50 weak tremor episodes were recorded from 5 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day.

"There is an increasing possibility of a phreatic eruption, like what initially happened on January 12, 2020. The threat remains for the TVI, thus we remind that no one shall be allowed entry into the PDZ, which is the whole island," he said.

Solidum noted that people are not allowed to return to the island since this is a PDZ.

"Phreatic eruption is fast, sudden. So if people are residing there (in the TVI) or they are asleep especially at night, it would be harder for them to respond," he said.



Eruption threat increases in Taal

"So as a precaution, no one should reside there," Solidum said.

The volcano is still under alert level 1 (abnormal).

Solidum, meanwhile, reminded the public to only rely on proper information sources, such as the official social media accounts of the DOST-Phivolcs and other concerned government agencies.

"These are file photos and should not be circulated or believed right away," he said.

At present, around 18 families with 64 individuals were already evacuated.

Evacuees were dropped off in Baywalk at Lakeside, Talisay, Batangas and will be transported to evacuation centers in Barangays Tumaway and Aya, Talisay, Batangas. (PNA)



MMDA chief bares 'wild idea' to address flooding in Metro Manila



By [Reina C. Tolentino, TMT](#)

February 17, 2021

A "wild idea" just hit Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. to address flooding in Metro Manila.

Abalos expressed his "idea" during a meeting with the House of Representatives Committee on Metro Manila Development on Wednesday.

Speaking in a mix of English and Filipino, Abalos proposed that the government used the "technology of the subway" by digging a tunnel along Sucat, Paranaque that will serve as a "spillway from Laguna to Manila de Bay".

"Unless you do that, it's possible to have a spillway that would really cure this flooding of Metro Manila," Abalos said.

In explaining his proposal, Abalos said that "if you're going to look at [the] flooding of Metro [Manila] ...*lahat ng tubig* (all the water) *galing* (comes from) Sierra Madre *e*. *At ang* (And the) frontliner will be Marikina. *Siya sumasalo lahat e* (The city is the catch basin)."

He said that "a portion of that would go to Laguna de Bay *na napupuno lang siya pero wala siyang labasan* (which fills up because there is no outlet). *So kung titignan mo, ang pinaka*-quickest (so if you look at it, the quickest) way to... (construct a) spillway from Laguna going to Manila de Bay. *Pero ang hirap nang gawin dahil mahal daw, ang dami nang tao sa Parañaque e* (But it's difficult to do because it is expensive and there are a lot of people in Paranaque)," he said.

In early February, the Department of Transportation (DoTr) unveiled the cutter head of the first tunnel boring machine for the Metro Manila Subway Project.

Abalos also said that "*yung mga bagay na tingin kong kaya kong magawa* (the projects I think I can do) within this year is the rechanneling wherein we're going to build a ferry terminal from the boundary of Rizal and Marikina. So this ferry will go to Manila."

Abalos, a former mayor of Mandaluyong City, succeeded the late MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/17/news/latest-stories/mmda-chief-bares-wild-idea-to-address-flooding-in-metro-manila/842200/>



Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2019/11/08/save-planet-reduce-carbon-emissions-call-to-earth-lon-orig-c2e.cnn>



GMA News 13h

FIRST TIME na nabalot sa snow at yelo ang maraming lugar sa United States dahil sa pag-collapse ng tinatawag na polar vortex.

Ang polar vortex ay ang low-pressure area ng napakalamig na hangin na karaniwa'y nakakulong lamang sa parehong North Pole at South Pole, ayon sa National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ng US.

Palagay ng maraming scientist, malaki ang kontribusyon ng climate change sa kakaibang pag-collapse ng polar vortex ngayong 2021. Inaasahang babalik naman sa dati ang panahon doon, ngunit baka raw mas maging madalas ang mga ganitong pangyayari.

Bisitahin ang www.gmanews.tv para sa pinakabagong mga balita.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/116724526976/posts/10159772720376977/>



TD Auring maintains strength, likely to dump rains over Visayas, Mindanao, Bicol

Published February 17, 2021 11:46pm

Updated February 18, 2021 12:16am

Tropical Depression Auring maintained its strength as it moves westward, threatening to bring heavy rains in several parts of the country during the week, PAGASA said in its 11 p.m. severe weather bulletin on Wednesday.

The affected areas include the Visayas, Caraga, Northern Mindanao, Bicol Region, CALABARZON, Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, Davao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Mindoro Provinces, Marinduque, Romblon, Northern Palawan including Calamian and Cuyo Islands which may experience rains over the weekend through Monday.

Based on its forecast track, Auring may make landfall as a tropical storm over Caraga on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, PAGASA added.

Due to this, PAGASA said Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No.1 may be raised over several provinces in Caraga and the Davao Region as early as Friday in anticipation of the arrival of strong winds to near gale conditions.

At 10 p.m. on Wednesday, the center of Auring was estimated at 755 kilometers east-southeast of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur with maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 70 kph.

It is moving westward at 10 kph.

Hazards affecting coastal waters

Meanwhile, rough seas are expected over the seaboard of Northern Luzon in the next 24 hours due to the surge of the northeast monsoon.

PAGASA said sea travel is risky over the areas, especially for those with small sea crafts.

Meanwhile, moderate to rough seas may prevail over the eastern seaboard of Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Small seacrafts were advised to take precautionary measures while inexperienced mariners were advised to avoid voyage.

PAGASA is set to issue the next severe weather bulletin at 11 a.m. on Thursday.— Joahna Lei Casilao/LDF, GMA News

Tags: [weather](#), [PAGASA](#), [auring](#), [tropical depression](#)

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/776414/td-auring-maintains-strength-likely-to-dump-rains-over-visayas-mindanao-bicol/story/?just_in

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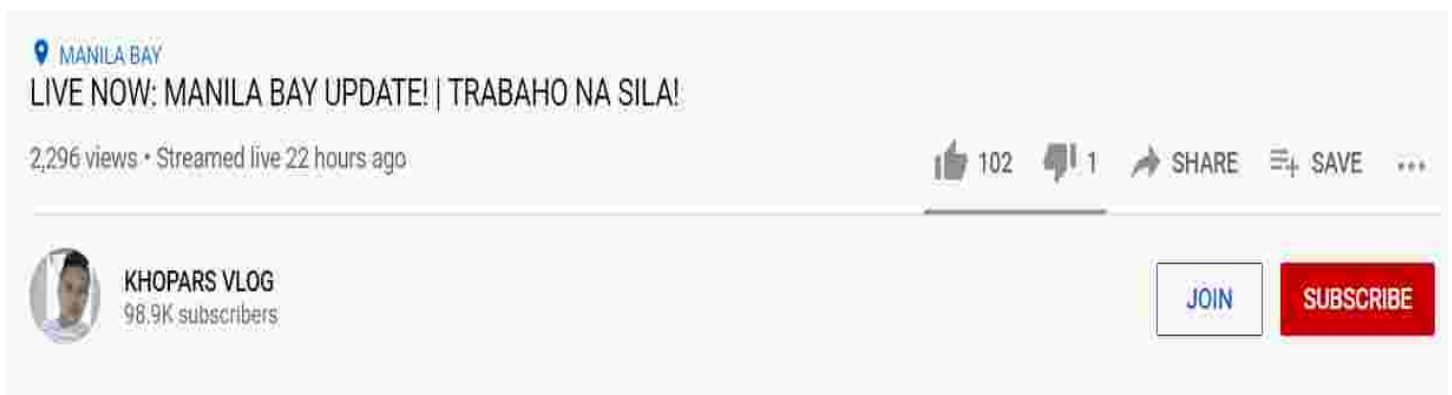
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