

18 JULY 2021, SUNDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



River rehab, solid waste management high on DENR chief's priority programs

Published July 17, 2021, 4:25 PM

by [Alexandria Dennise San Juan](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the massive clean-up of rivers and management of solid waste will remain at the top of his agenda for the remainder of his term.



DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu

“We will continue our programs such as the Battle for Manila Bay and Boracay rehabilitation. Now it’s also the battle against garbage and dirty rivers in your respective CENROs (Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices) and PENROs (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices),” Cimatu told DENR provincial and regional officers during the Department’s recent mid-year assessment of its priority programs.

To ensure the success of these activities, Cimatu ordered regional officials and field officers of DENR to take the lead in the cleanup of rivers and management of solid wastes across the country.

He also required the submission of an inventory of all rivers with corresponding fecal coliform count within the jurisdiction of the regional offices by August.

“All regional offices should rehabilitate and clean degraded rivers and other water bodies starting with those in highly urbanized cities,” the DENR chief said.

Cimatu likewise directed officials of PENROs and CENROs to participate in the management meetings held at the DENR Central Office “to further boost their morale and sharpen their professionalism.”

The DENR has a total of 76 Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers and 140 Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers nationwide, which Cimatu described as the Department’s “frontline managers.”

“I still have a little than a year to go. In the next several months, I would like to see the mark of professionalism from the central office down to the PENROs and CENROs,” Cimatu added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/17/river-rehab-solid-waste-management-high-on-denr-chiefs-priority-programs/>



River rehab at solid waste management kabilang sa priority programs ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu bago bumaba sa puwesto

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Jul. 17, 2021 at 1:53pm



Prayoridad ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang pagsasagawa ng massive clean-up ng mga ilog at solid waste management para sa nalalabi niyang panahon sa panunungkulan.

Ani Cimatu, ngayong matagumpay na ang Battle for Manila Bay at ang Boracay rehabilitation, isusunod na rito ang massive clean-up ng mga ilog.

Inatasan ni Cimatu ang mga DENR regional officials at field officers na pangunahan ang river clean-up, gayundin ang management ng mga basura o solid wastes.

Pinagsusumite ng kalihim ang mga ito ng fecal coliform count sa mga maruruming ilog sa kanilang mga nasasakupan.

Inoobliga ni Cimatu ang bawat regional official na makapag-rehabilitate ng mga ilog o alinmang daluyang tubig sa mga highly urbanized cities.

Halos wala ng isang taon ang nalalabi sa kaniyang panahon kung kaya't inaasahan niyang makapag-deliver ang mga nabanggit na opisyal sa naiatas na tungkulin sa kanila.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/river-rehab-at-solid-waste-management-kabilang-sa-priority-programs-ni-environment-secretary-roy-cimatu-bago-bumaba-sa-puwesto/>



DENR clean-up sa Noveleta, Cavite



July 17, 2021 @ 8:33 AM 23 hours ago

LOOK | Nagsagawa ng clean-up drive ang DENR sa pangunguna DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu at DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda sa San Rafael, Noveleta, Cavite.

Kaagapay rin dito ang Rotary Lion Club kasama ang governor nitong si Mrs. Toby Antiporda.









NSWMC approves solid waste management plans of 21 LGUs

Published on: July 17, 2021

By Kate Shiene Agna

QUEZON CITY -- The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) has approved the 10-year solid waste management (SWM) plans of 21 local government units (LGUs) on July 8.

Of the 21 approved plans, four are in Ilocos Norte, four in Misamis Occidental, two in Zambales, two in Bohol, two in Lanao del Norte, and one each in Nueva Ecija, Quezon province, Negros Oriental, Misamis Oriental, Surigao del Sur, Benguet, and Mountain Province.

To date, the NSWMC reported a total of 1,103 approved SWM plans, which is already 64 percent of its target nationwide.

"These SWM plans shall be the foundation for the effective solid waste management of cities and municipalities through the leadership of their local executives," said Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and NSWMC Chair Roy A. Cimatu.

"These newly-approved plans are commitments of the NSWMC to capacitate LGUs. The commission shall continue to support them by approving fully compliant and sound SWM plans and overseeing the implementation of these plans," he added.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns and NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny D. Antiporda said the commission is optimistic that it will be able to reach its total target of 1,716 SWM plans soon.

"Upcoming deliberations and reviews of other SWM plans of LGUs that are not yet approved will continue in the coming months," Antiporda assured. "We will not waver until all LGUs in the country effectively practice the proper reuse, collection, processing, and disposal of wastes in their respective jurisdictions."

The DENR is investigating LGUs who have not yet submitted their 10-year SWM plan and legal actions will be taken against them by the end of third quarter 2021.

Under Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, LGUs, through their local solid waste management boards, are tasked to formulate their respective 10-year SWM plans consistent with the National Solid Waste Management Framework of the NSWMC.



The SWM plans include strategies on waste diversion, waste collection efficiency or coverage, collection and disposal of residual waste, operation and maintenance of SWM equipment and facility.

To complement the SWM strategies, specific actions incorporated in the recently approved plans include the creation of ordinances and policies, the establishment of materials recovery facility, sanitary landfill (SLF), COVID-19 waste management plan, designation of a municipal environment and natural resources offices, and the implementation of information, education, and communication campaign.

The NSWMC is also currently working on the implementation of the total solid waste management solution for SLFs, which will integrate the appropriate technology and strategy in the sorting, recovery, processing, and disposal of different kinds of solid wastes to ensure its optimum use, and eventually reduce the quantity of wastes and extend the lifespan of the landfill. (DENR)



Stronger environment law enforcement needed to combat illegal wildlife trade

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 18, 2021



Hawksbill turtles are being targeted by illegal wildlife traders for their meat, shell, oil and parts.

The fourth National Environment Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit kicked off on July 14 to discuss ways to strengthen the country's environmental law enforcement.

With the theme, "Sustaining inter-agency collaborations for intensified ELE toward a better environment amid pandemic," the three-day event tackled the multifaceted problems faced by law enforcement agencies in implementing environmental laws and the extent of the so-called environmental crimes.



A 2018 photo of dead pangolins and marine turtles seized by authorities in Palawan.

Revisiting policies

In a statement, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said that amid the current public health emergency, holding the NELE was an opportune time to revisit the environmental law enforcement components and make sure they are updated, timely and relevant.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) chief considered as a big challenge the apprehending of environmental law violators who take advantage of the immobility and lesser resources during the pandemic.

According to Cimatu, the event was also especially significant due to a number of factors. First, he said most environment and natural resources laws are already 20 years old, if not older. Second, the agency is gearing up for the creation of an Enforcement Bureau at the DENR.

He added the NELE action plan had expired in 2020, which calls for a new Action Plan and strengthening the collaborative effort of various law enforcement agencies to combat environmental crimes.



Illegal wildlife trade

Putting the spotlight on the illegal wildlife trade as one of the more serious challenges faced by environmental law enforcers, the DENR held a virtual meeting on July 7 to discuss the extent of illegal wildlife trade amid the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Estimated to be worth \$10 billion to \$23 billion per year worldwide, the illegal wildlife trade is the fourth-most lucrative illegal business after narcotics, human trafficking and arms.

In the Philippines, the value of illegal wildlife trade is estimated at P50 billion a year, which includes the market value of wildlife and its resources, their ecological role and value, damage to habitats incurred during poaching and loss in potential ecotourism revenues, according to the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB).

Wildlife crime hotspots

The Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade and DENR-BMB had identified the illegal wildlife trade hotspots in the Philippines.

Based on confiscation data and information between 2010-2018, the main entry point of wildlife from Indonesia is Balut Island in Davao Occidental province.

On the other hand, the primary transshipment points and confiscation sites of wild animals from Indonesia are General Santos City and Glan in Sarangani province; Lipata in Surigao del Norte; and Metro Manila.

Tanza, Rosario and Bacoor municipalities in Cavite; Balayan and Calatagan in Batangas; Lucena Port, Quezon; San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Matnog, Sorsogon; Allen Port, Samar; Medellin, Cebu; Liloan Port, Southern Leyte; Mati, Davao Oriental; and Dingalan, Aurora, were also identified as transshipment points of wildlife.

On the other hand, the known major confiscation sites of wild fauna are Metro Manila, Zambales, Batangas, Cavite, Palawan, Cebu City, Surigao City, Cagayan de Oro, Pagadian City, Zamboanga City, Davao City and Bulacan.

Most of the illegally traded animals that were confiscated by authorities were captured from the wild in Palawan, Aurora, Quezon, Nueva Ecija, Samar, Leyte, Bohol, Agusan del Norte, Bukidnon, Mapun Island, Turtle Islands and Pampanga.

Epicenter of wildlife crime

DENR Undersecretary Edilberto DC Leonardo said in his opening message that the Philippines is the epicenter of illegal wildlife trade, currently the fourth-most lucrative criminal activity in the world.

In the last 10 years, he said, the value of confiscated wildlife reached P248 million, including live specimen, parts and derivatives, from 523 suspected environmental criminals arrested during joint operations of various law enforcement agencies.

“However, what is concerning is that it is estimated that only 10 percent of illegal wildlife trade is detected,” Leonardo, also the concurrent DENR-BMB director, said.

This means that the amount of wildlife specimen being trafficked in the country could be as high as P2.5 billion in the last decade.

“This is not surprising as globally, rising demand for wildlife, their by-products and derivatives, sold as pets, status items, curios and medicinal ingredients, has exploded the



trade into a multibillion-dollar industry, estimated to be worth between \$10 billion to \$23 billion per year, making it the fourth-most lucrative global crime after drugs, arms and human trafficking,” he said.

Strengthening Wildlife Act

In his welcome remarks, Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda, for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns, said the DENR is pinning its hope in amending Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act of 2001.

“One of the important amendatory provisions in strengthening the 2001 Wildlife Act is the enhancement of the roles of national government agencies and local government units. Once it becomes a law, the LGUs will become close partners of various NGAs in preventing illegal wildlife trade,” he said in Filipino.

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

On the other hand, Senate Bills 2078 and 2079, authored by Senators Cynthia Villar and Juan Miguel Zubiri, respectively, were recently tackled in a public hearing presided by the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, with the Committee on Finance and Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovations and Futures Thinking.

Increased criminal activities

DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement Benito de Leon admitted that illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines is a growing problem that is taking new forms.

“From the start of the pandemic, we also noted an increase in illegal wildlife trade activities online. Covid-19 and the lockdown did not deter criminal activities. In fact, the Internet gave unprecedented access to new markets,” he said.

According to de Leon, the wildlife law enforcement community also noted increasing incidents of apprehensions of illegally-caught wildlife in large quantities with international connection.

“Globally, illegal wildlife trade is one of the biggest driving forces of species extinction, second only to habitat loss. In the Philippines, illegal wildlife trade is integrated in overexploitation, which is one of four other drivers of biodiversity loss,” he said.

The other drivers of biodiversity loss are climate change, pollution and invasive alien species, he said.

Modernizing legal framework

De Leon said the country’s biodiversity is likewise in danger due to international criminal activities, citing as urgent the need to modernize and upgrade the country’s legal framework in order for authorities to more effectively respond to this growing problem.

This can be done, he said, through the proposed measures under Senate Bills 2078 and 2079 and a similar measure that is currently being finalized at the House of Representatives.



“We need to address the growing scale and sophistication of wildlife crimes and develop a more stringent legal framework to improve enforcement mechanisms and strengthen inter-agency cooperation against illegal wildlife trade,” he said.

According to de Leon, once enacted into law, the strengthened Wildlife Act will vest authority in the DENR, Department of Agriculture, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and Bangsamoro government to create permanent positions for Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers, or to designate their existing permanent employees as Enforcement Officers.

Stiffer penalty, bigger fines

Theresa M. Tenazas, officer in charge of the Wildlife Resource Division of the DENR-BMB, said the Wildlife Act needs to be amended to effectively address wildlife trafficking or cross-border illegal wildlife trade, including imposing higher or stiffer penalties and fines.

Under the current law, the penalty for killing wildlife is jail term of six months to six years and P100,000 to P1 million in fine, she said.

According to Tenazas, who is a lawyer, this is a slap on the wrist of offenders of wildlife crime. With a guilty plea, wildlife crime offenders may even get away by paying the fine for their crimes.

Under the proposed measure, Tenazas said offenders may end up serving a jail term of up to 20 years and a fine of up to P3 million.

The proposed amendment also defines “wildlife trafficking,” “wildlife laundering” and “organized syndicated crime” as distinct and separate offenses.

“Sophisticated crimes need a sophisticated and robust response. Strengthening the Wildlife Act is a necessary step to protect and conserve the country’s wildlife resources and their habitats,” Leonardo said.

Images courtesy of Danny Ocampo and DENR-SCIS



DILG wants crackdown on illegal loggers in Rizal protected watershed

Published July 14, 2021, 11:25 AM by [Chito Chavez](#)

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force (AILTF) on Wednesday, July 14, to file criminal and administrative charges against government officials and private entities involved in the continued violation of environmental laws in the protected watershed areas of San Roque in Baras, Rizal.

DILG Undersecretary and spokesperson Jonathan Malaya said that the guilty parties should be held accountable for “the illegal entry, illegal logging and encroachment/construction of a private resort and other infrastructure within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) in Rizal.”

Citing reports from the inspection teams led by the DILG and DENR, Malaya said they confirmed the illegal cutting of trees and slash and burn activities in some 16 hectares and illegal constructions by GSB Resort along the San Roque main road and waterways which are within the protected areas in Rizal.

“What is also appalling and alarming is the large-scale cutting of trees and kaingin activities covering more than 16 hectares in multiple sections of UMRBPL. Several new structures were also erected in the areas where the trees were burned,” Malaya said.

He added that a portion of the site of burned trees is presently occupied by private entities which have even installed armed guards in the area without any legal authority.

“Binusabos na nga nila ang kalikasan, naghahari-harian pa sila sa lugar at hindi sumusunod sa mga otoridad at sa mga batas para protektahan ang kalikasan (they destroyed the environment, yet acted as powerful kings in the place and they refused to follow authorities and defied laws on the protection of the environmental),” Malaya who is a member of the AILTF created under Executive Order No. 23, series of 2011 said.

In a letter to DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu through DENR Undersecretary Edilberto DC Leonardo, Malaya said that appropriate charges should be filed against responsible officials and entities for the wanton disregard and violation of the Upper Marikina Protected Landscape Declaration and RA 7586 or the National Integrated and Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act; the Revised Forestry Code (PD 705); the Water Code of the Philippines; and the DENR DAO 1993-33 (Masungi Strict Nature Reserve & Wildlife Sanctuary).

“Since AILTF is mandated to take the lead in the anti-illegal logging campaign of the government and to assist the DENR in the enforcement of environmental laws, the filing of charges against concerned officials and groups will put a stop to the wanton destruction currently being done in the area as well as hold accountable the officials responsible,” he added.

The DILG’s actions and recommendations on the issue arose after the Masungi Georeserve Foundation (MGF) wrote a letter to the department to seek assistance on the alleged entry and incursion by a resort within the protected watershed areas of San Roque, Baras, Rizal. “Despite repeated warnings from the government, these establishments continue to build infrastructure in the area. This is detrimental to the country’s environmental preservation initiatives, not to mention our COVID-19 response,” Malaya said.



Earlier, the DENR Rizal issued a show-cause order to resort owners for maintaining a private mini-resort and fenced off the river as part of the area's expansion in Sitio San Roque in Rizal in violation of the NIPAS Act even without a permit from the Baras LGU.

“Section 20 of the NIPAS Act prohibits the construction or maintenance of any structure, fence, or enclosures and conduct of any business enterprise without a permit within protected areas. Violations will incur a fine of not less than P5,000 to not more than P500,000, or imprisonment of no less than one year to no more than six years, or both as determined by the court,” the DILG said. (Chito A. Chavez)



Labanan sa lupa

[IKAW AT ANG BATAS!](#) - [Atty. Jose C. Sison](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 18, 2021 - 12:00am

Ang kasong ito ay tungkol sa isang lupa ng gobyerno na inangkin ng mga pribadong indibidwal. Ang isyu ay 1) Sino sa kanila ang mas may karapatan na magparehistro sa lupa bilang may-ari at kung kaya ng ordinaryong hukuman na iresolba ang kanilang sigalot; at 2) Kung nagkaroon na ang isa sa kanila ng titulo ay puwede pa kayang maghabol ang tunay na may-ari o nawalan na siya ng karapatan dahil sa tagal ng panahon. Ito ang mga isyung sasagutin sa kaso ngayon ng magkapatid na Lino at Leni.

Sina Lino at Leni ang legal na anak ni Alex. Noong nabubuhay pa ay hawak ni Alex ang dalawang parselang lupa (Lote 9652 at Lote 6251) na may pinagsamang sukat na 172,000 metro kuwadrado. Hindi nagtagal ay nilipat ni Alex ang lahat ng karapatan sa lupa sa anak na si Leni. Kaya pagkamatay ni Alex ay kay Leni at sa pamilya nito isinalin ng gobyerno ang free patent ng lupa base sa pinirmahang dokumento ni Alex. Kaya hindi nagtagal ay naglabas ang RTC ng tatlong titulo – OCT16750 at 17590 sa pangalan ni Leni, OCT 17591 sa pangalan ng anak niya na si Nina at OCT 17592 sa pangalan ng anak na si Jenny.

Pagkatapos lumabas ng mga titulo ay nagsampa ng protesta sa DENR si Lino. Ayon sa lalaki ay nalipat na sa kanya ng tatay niya ang posesyon sa nasabing mga lupa at mula pa noon ay hawak na niya ang mga ito. Sa kabilang banda, nagsampa naman si Leni at mga anak nitong babae ng kasong unlawful detainer laban kay Lino sa MCTC ng probinsiya kung saan naroon ang lupa.

Isang taon pagkaraang isampa ni Leni ang kaso ay binasura ito ng MCTC dahil sa nakabinbing protesta ni Lino sa DENR. Ang pagbasura ng kaso ay kinatigan ng RTC pero hindi pinagbawalan si Leni na magsampa ng panibagong kaso sa tamang korte.

Hindi nagtagal, binasura ng DENR ang protesta ni Lino nang malaman na nakapagsumite si Leni at pamilya nito ng lahat ng kailangan para sa public land grant. Pinanindigan ng DENR ang legalidad ng mga patent na ginawad kay Leni at sa mga anak nitong babae. Hindi na umapela si Lino sa pagbasura ng kanyang protesta.

Hindi nagtagal, nagsampa ng panibagong reklamo Si Leni at pamilya nito para mabawi ang posesyon ng lupa kay Lino. Humingi rin sila ng danyos. Sa kabilang banda, nagsampa rin si Lino ng panibagong kaso para sa pagbawi naman ng titulo at danyos. Ang dalawang kaso ay pinagsama at sabay na dininig sa RTC.

Tumestigo si Leni sa kaso para patunayan na nalipat na sa kanya ang lahat ng karapatan para sa posesyon sa lupa base sa ginawad na free patent at mga titulo. Sa kanilang banda, ang palusot naman ni Lino ay nilipat na sa kanya ng tatay na si Alex ang mga lupa at humingi lang siya ng tulong kay Leni para mapalipat sa kanyang pangalan ang ari-arian. Iyon nga lang daw at ginamit ni Leni ang kakulangan niya ng edukasyon para lokohin siya at tuloy malipat sa babae ang mga lupa. Salaysay din ni Lino ay peke ang mga dokumento ni Leni.

Sa pagsusumite ng ebidensiya, ilang beses na binigyan ng pagkakataon ng hukuman si Lino na magpasa ng mga dokumento para patunayan ang kanyang sinasabi pero wala siyang naipasa. Kaya ayon sa RTC, legal ang ginawang paggawad ng free patent kina Leni at sa pamilya nito dahil walang maipakitang pandaraya o pamemeke si Lino.

Pero iyon nga lang, hindi na raw makapaghahabol ang pamilya ni Leni sa karapatan sa posesyon ng lupa dahil sa matagal nilang hindi pagkilos noon. Marami na daw ginawa si Lino para sinupin ang lupa tuald ng pagtatayo ng bahay, pagtanim ng mga punong



namumunga at pag-aani roon. Sa apela, nabaliktad ang desisyon at isinantabi ang mga titulo na iginawad kay Leni at sa pamilya nito. Inutos din na isuko ni Lino ang posesyon sa lupa.

Nagsampa ng petisyon si Lino at inakyat ang kaso sa SC. Pero parehas ang naging hatol nito sa CA. Ayon sa SC, ang isang free patent ay isang instrument na ginagawad ng gobyerno para ibigay ang pampublikong lupa sa isang pribadong tao. Ayon sa batas (Administrative Code/Public Land Act) ang DENR ang ahensya ng gobyerno na eksklusibong nangangasiwa sa pamamahala at disposisyon ng mga pampublikong lupa maliban na lang at maging pribado na ito na hindi nga napatunayan ni Lino.

Para naman sa lupa na pribado, dapat na malinaw, tuluy-tuloy, at eksklusibong hawak ito ng isang tao bilang siyang may-ari mula pa Hunyo 12, 1945. Hindi nagawa ni Lino na patunayan ito kaya nawalan ang korte ng karapatan na hatulan ang kaso.

Tama ang CA na hindi pa napapaso ang karapatan ni Leni na habulin ang posesyon ng lupa mula kay Lino. Bilang mga rehistradong may-ari ng lupa ay habang buhay na may karapatan ang mag-iina na bawiin ang posesyon nito mula sa mga taong illegal na kumuha sa kanila ng lupa. Hindi uubrang depensa ang prescription at laches sa Torrens system. Ibig sabihin, hindi kailanman makukuhang maging pagmamay-ari ng iba ang tituladong lupa dahil lang sa matagal na panahong nagdaan o kaya ay dahil inangkin na nila ito (De Leon vs. De Leon et. Al., G.R. No. 205711, May 30, 2016).



Laguna Lake `binakuran' ng mga kompanya, koop – COA

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Jul 17, 2021

NEWS



Sinita ng Commission on Audit (COA) ang Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) dahil sa paglabag umano sa kanilang zoning rules at pagpayag sa mga malalaking kompanya at kooperatiba na makontrol ang pangingsda sa pinakamalaking lawa ng bansa.

Sa annual audit report, sinabi ng COA na hindi sinunod ng LLDA, sa pamuuno ng general manager nito na si dating Pateros mayor Jaime `Joey' Medina ang mga panuntunan na itinakda sa Laguna de Bay Fishery Zoning and Management Guidelines (ZOMAG) kung saan ay dapat na mas pinapaboran ang mga indibidwal o maliliit na mangingisda kaysa mga kooperatiba at korporasyon para magkaroon ng parehas na alokasyon ng resources sa lawa.

Binanggit ng COA na "inconsistent" ang Implementing Rules and Regulations ng LLDA sa mga probisyon ng ZOMAG na naging epektibo noong Hulyo 2020.

Ayon sa COA, hanggang 5,520 hektarya o 60% lamang ng 9,200 hektaryang lawa ang alokasyon ng LLDA para sa aquaculture na taliwas sa ZOMAG kung saan nilimitahan ang fishing zone sa 3,680 hektarya o 40% lamang ng lawa.



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Pinayagan umano ng LLDA ang mga kompanya at kooperatiba na magtayo ng fishpond sa mahigit 20 hektarya ng lawa samantalang base sa ZOMAG ay pinapayagan lamang ang aquaculture blocks ng 10 hanggang 20 hektaryang lawak.

“It is our view that in case of inconsistencies in the ZOMAG of 2018 and its IRR, the ZOMAG of 2018 should be followed being the principal management guideline promulgated as regards area allocation of aquaculture operations in the Laguna de Bay. It is a well-settled rule that an IRR issued to implement a law or a guideline cannot go beyond the terms and conditions of what is being

implemented,” sabi ng COA.

Inatasan ng COA ang LLDA na sundin ang mga probisyon ng ZOMAG noong 2018.



China slams Similarity over waste dumping report

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora July 17, 2021, 9:37 am



(Photo from NTF-WPS)

MANILA – The Chinese Embassy in Manila on Friday night criticized the United States-based firm Similarity for "discrediting" Beijing over its report that called on Chinese ships to stop dumping human waste in the Spratlys.

"The Chinese Embassy strongly condemns the said company's act of fabricating facts, violating professional ethics, and maliciously spreading fake news against China. For a long time, anti-China forces like this company have spared no efforts to produce lies and hype up the South China Sea issue to discredit and demonize China, create hatred and anti-China sentiments in the Philippines," the embassy said in a statement.

It also accused the firm of sowing "discord between China and the Philippines so as to serve their own political agenda."

Meanwhile, the embassy said it is "willing to work" with countries along the coast of the South China Sea, including the Philippines, "to eliminate interference and jointly maintain peace and stability" in the region.

The geospatial artificial intelligence company, using satellite imagery, showed on July 12 that hundreds of ships anchored at the Spratlys are dumping raw sewage into the reefs they are occupying, apparently referring to China.

Similarity noted that the damage in the past five years is even visible from space and directly affects the fish stocks of the entire South China Sea.

"This is a catastrophe of epic proportions and we are close to the point of no return. This Needs To Stop Immediately," it said, adding the hashtag "#ChinaStopShittingOnTheSpratlys".

The report, however, was questioned after it used a picture that was mistaken as a Chinese ship and was eventually used by a news organization as an accompanying photo.

Similarity later said it regrets putting the image in its report but clarified that it did not lie about the picture because it never claimed that it was of the Spratlys or that its research was based on this single image.

In a July 15 tweet, it also denied being biased against the Chinese, saying its research and reports are science-based.



"We are not biased against the Chinese. We do science-based research and report on our findings. If any country is doing things they should not be doing, and we can see that from satellite imagery, they are fair game for our reporting," it said.

The Department of National Defense (DND) is currently [looking into the reports](#) and has directed the Western Command which has jurisdiction over the West Philippine Sea to verify and investigate.

Malacañang said it would also wait for the investigation's result before issuing a comment as it emphasized the importance of according neighbors the "presumption of good faith." **(PNA)**

China condemns US firm amid alleged waste dumping reports

July 17, 2021



Chinese vessels anchored at Whitsun Reef, some 320 kilometres (175 nautical miles) west of Palawan Island in the South China Sea. A fleet of Chinese ships that sparked a diplomatic row after parking at a reef off the Philippines for weeks are now scattered across the contested Spratly Islands, a government agency said on March 31, 2021, condemning Beijing's "unlawful presence" in the area. (Photo from NTF-WPS via PCOO, AFP)

By Pearl Gumapos

The Chinese Embassy in the Philippines on Friday released a statement condemning the United States-based firm Similarity's act of "fabricating facts, violating professional ethics, and maliciously spreading fake news against China."

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

The embassy claimed that these "anti-China" forces have formed "complete routines" wherein some foreign organizations issue a fabricated report, and then some irresponsible media follow up to spread fake news.

"The Chinese Embassy believes that a lie told a thousand times is still a lie. Any rational person will see through the tricks. China is willing to work with countries along the coast of the South China Sea, including the Philippines, to eliminate interference and jointly maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea," the embassy said.

The embassy also accused the firm of sowing discord between China and the Philippines.

"Their ultimate goal is to sow discord between China and the Philippines so as to serve their own political agenda," the embassy said.

Similarity on Monday said human waste and sewage from hundreds of Chinese ships in South China Sea and parts of the West Philippine Sea were causing massive marine damage.

Providing satellite data imagery of the acts of the Chinese vessels, Similarity in an online forum said that Chinese ships have been dumping waste and sewage everyday for several years now. *-rir*



#SeBisyonBayanihan #UNTVNewsandRescue

Umano'y waste dumping Chinese ships sa West PH Sea, 'fake' – Sec. Locsin

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Tinawag ni Foreign Secretary Locsin na "fake" ang umano'y waste dumping ng Chinese ships sa West Philippine Sea.

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Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qXPY68Seoc&ab_channel=UNTVNewsandRescue



ACB welcomes draft of post-2020 global biodiversity framework

BY BUSINESSMIRROR JULY 18, 2021



The façade of the ACB headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna.

The Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) has welcomed the release of the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its news release said.

ACB said the upcoming negotiations to finalize the framework at the global level are opportunities for the Asean region to make its collective voice heard.

“The CBD released the first official draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework after several months of negotiations, in which Asean member states (AMS) as parties have actively participated,” ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said at the Asean Seminar on Multilateralism held online on July 13.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, the current chairman of the 10-member regional bloc, hosted the virtual seminar.

Lim said the draft—which considered more than 2,000 comments from the science community, policy leaders, indigenous peoples and civil society—is a product of robust multilateralism across the world.

She said the framework is crucial to the Asean and the world as it will serve as the blueprint to bring about a transformation in society’s relationship with biodiversity and ensure that by 2050 the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is achieved.

“There will be tough and drawn-out discussions leading up to the framework’s finalization and adoption at the UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, China, later this year or next year,” Lim said.

She added, “These are opportunities for the region to harness multilateralism and let its collective voice be heard to influence the outcome of the framework in a manner that promotes the common interests of the region.”

The AMS actively participated in several meetings and discussions as part of the preparation of the first draft, including the recent Third Asean Conference on Biodiversity held virtually, where officials and representatives of the AMS shared their perspectives on the framework.



Some AMS expressed hope for an ambitious but realistic framework that can be translated into concrete actions, especially in facing difficult challenges from the pandemic recovery, highlighting the importance of integrating biodiversity into key development sectors and nature-based solutions as part of strategic planning processes.

The draft framework, which builds on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, comprises 21 targets and 10 milestones proposed for 2030.

Image courtesy of ACB photo



The grant, which comes from ADB's Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund and Technical Assistance Special Fund, aims to scale up the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) Initiative.
STAR/File

ADB OKs P50 million funding for wetland management

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 18, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$1 million (P50.18 million) technical assistance grant to scale up wetland management in the Philippines and maintain a healthy ecosystem in the region.

Other beneficiaries of the grant include Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, China, Thailand and Vietnam.

The grant, which comes from ADB's Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund and Technical Assistance Special Fund, aims to scale up the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) Initiative.

Established in 2006, the EAAF partnership aims to protect migratory waterbirds, their habitats and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them.

ADB said the EAAF is the most vulnerable of the eight major migratory flyways. It covers East and Southeast Asia and Australasia, extending across 22 countries from the Arctic Circle to New Zealand.

Thousands of wetlands are present in the EAAF, which support over 50 million migratory waterbirds from more than 210 species, of which 20 percent are globally threatened.

“The wetlands that make up the EAAF provide food, medicine, fuel, income, and other benefits for nearly 200 million people in the Asia-Pacific region as well as maintaining essential ecosystem services such as flood regulation and carbon sequestration,” the bank said.

However, degradation of coastal and inland wetlands continues largely due to conversion and drainage for agriculture and climate change.

The sectors involved are in agriculture, natural resources and rural development.

ADB's latest assistance seeks to strengthen institutional capacity, identify and create investment proposals for priority sites and develop a financing mechanism to support the EAAF in the long-term.



It will establish a framework to identify sites of highest priority within the EAAF. The TA will engage with participating developing member countries to strengthen protection and sustainable use of these sites.

It will also establish a financing mechanism to generate financial resources particularly from EAAF partnership members that are ADB donor countries, to maintain both priority sites and regional flyway initiatives in the long-term.

The project is expected to bolster effective protection and sustainable use of a network of wetland sites in the EAA, benefitting wetland biodiversity and people.

The assistance targets environmentally sustainable growth, inclusive economic growth and regional integration.



More teeth given to DHSUD drive vs real estate malpractice

By: [Sec. Eduardo D. Del Rosario](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 12:13 PM July 17, 2021

To further boost government efforts in protecting homebuyers and curbing real estate malpractices, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) signed earlier this month Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1, which paves the way for the creation of the Anti-Illegal Real Estate Practices Inter-Agency Task Force.

I am more than thrilled that the Departments of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) with the Philippine National Police (PNP); Justice (DOJ) with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Land Registration Authority (LRA); Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) have committed their full support to DHSUD's initiative to run after real estate scammers.

This is a concrete manifestation of a whole-of-government approach to ensure harmonization of efforts within the bureaucracy—this time, in protecting the hard-earned money and lifetime savings of our home buyers and prosecute real estate scammers.

Ending illicit practices

The JMC, crafted after months of consultations with concerned stakeholder agencies, aims to put an end to the illicit practices of unscrupulous developers, brokers and salespersons engaged in illegal selling of housing, subdivision and condominium projects.

It sets the parameters for collaboration among implementing agencies and other stakeholders in the industry to protect home and unit buyers, especially overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), from becoming victims of illegal transactions.

With DHSUD's regulatory function under Republic Act No. 11201, we are mandated to protect the rights of buyers of housing, subdivision and condominium project units. However, we need concerted efforts among other government agencies to multiply forces in curtailing the commission of these fraudulent acts.

Task force groups created

JMC No. 1 creates task force groups at the national, regional and local levels to ensure effective and coordinated implementation of the circular down to the municipal and city level. This will certainly boost DHSUD's all-out campaign against real estate scammers. Its mere signing signals the government's stern warning to these unscrupulous groups or individuals that we mean business in going after them with the full force of the law.

It is disheartening to know that the NBI alone reported "hundreds if not thousands" of complaints related to real estate transactions every year, mostly estafa. This is on top of those cases forwarded to the PNP and other law enforcement agencies.

This is alarming and unacceptable. These unscrupulous individuals and groups use social media platforms as a primary tool to keep their real identities unknown and lure unsuspecting buyers in duping them.

Staunch commitment

With the commitment of no less than DILG Secretary Eduardo Año, DOJ Secretary Menardo Guevarra and other officials from stakeholder-agencies, I am confident that we will prevail over these real estate scammers as we protect the livelihood of legitimate brokers and agents and protect homebuyers as they purchase their dream houses. I would like to quote Secretary



Guevarra’s message of commitment: “we shall waste no effort in ensuring that those who thwart this dream, through fraud and illegal practices, will be justly served what is due them under the law. It is our hope that in doing so, we may help fortify the pillars of the Philippine housing industry, and—more importantly—strengthen the very foundation upon which our people build their hopes and dreams.”

“We shall devote the expertise and knowledge of our men and women at the Department, including the NBI, the LRA and the Public Attorney’s Office, so that we may lend a firm and compassionate hand to assert the right of every honest and hardworking Filipino robbed of his dream of owning a decent home,” he added.

That is our collective commitment, and we shall prevail!



DR. WILLIAM D. DAR
Secretary

“As the primary source of highland vegetables in the country, the Cordillera also serves as one of the models where we can showcase climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives,” Agriculture Secretary William Dar said at the recent Cordillera month celebration.

pna.gov.ph

CAR groomed as model for climate change mitigation measures

[Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 18, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) should be a model region where initiatives to counter climate change can be implemented due to its abundance of crops, the chief of the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

“As the primary source of highland vegetables in the country, the Cordillera also serves as one of the models where we can showcase climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives,” Agriculture Secretary William Dar said at the recent Cordillera month celebration.

“A number of key economic policy tools for climate mitigation can be initiated in the Cordillera region,” he said.

Among these include community watershed and forest conservation with commercial forest trees, and fruit and industrial tree farming, eco-tourism, payment for environmental services schemes, and sustainable and eco-friendly farming programs, among other initiatives. The DA stressed that CAR is rich not only in natural resources and mineral deposits, such as gold and copper, but also serves as the “watershed cradle of North Luzon,” as it hosts nine major rivers that provide continuous water for irrigation and energy.

“More popularly, it produces major highland vegetables sold in Luzon and Metro Manila, including parts of Visayas,” the DA said.

These include lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, potatoes, cabbage and other greens. The region is also known for its aromatic coffees and strawberries.

“The DA family is one with the CAR in its quest for autonomy and building ‘greener’ and more climate-resilient economies,” said Dar, who concurrently serves as the Cordillera Region Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS).

Last month, Dar called for greater international cooperation among world agriculture leaders to ensure the development of science-based innovations, in a bid to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, and end hunger by 2030.



“It is important that international pooling of knowledge, science and technology, and new innovations are further encouraged, and that their benefits should extend to all sectors and stakeholders across all nations,” Dar said in a virtual discussion during the 42nd Session of the UN-Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conference.

Dar emphasized that technology and globalization are now changing the dynamics of economic progress, which may present opportunities for the agriculture sector.

“We believe that we have here now an excellent opportunity to reboot and foster together hope, trust, and mutual understanding that are essential for all citizens of the world to survive and prosper,” Dar said.



"Salad Bowl' Cordillera Region is model vs climate change too

Published July 17, 2021, 2:18 PM

by [Bethena Unite](#)

Aside from being the country's "salad bowl," the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) is also a model against climate change.



(Photo courtesy of the DA)

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary William Dar said the region up north is indeed a strategic region that serves as a model in averting the impacts of climate change.

"As the primary source of highland vegetables in the country, the Cordillera also serves as one of the models where we can showcase climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives," Dar said in his virtual message during the 34th Cordillera month celebration on July 15.

Dar stressed that a number of key economic policy tools for climate mitigation can be initiated in the Cordillera region, including community watershed and forest conservation with commercial forest tree, and fruit and industrial tree farming, eco-tourism, payment for environmental services schemes, and sustainable and eco-friendly farming programs, among other initiatives.

"The Department of Agriculture family is one with the Cordillera Administrative Region in its quest for autonomy and building 'greener' and more climate-resilient economies," said Dar, who also concurrently serves as the Cordillera Region Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS).

The region is rich not only in natural resources and mineral deposits, such as gold and copper, but also serves as the "watershed cradle of North Luzon," as it hosts nine major rivers that provide continuous water for irrigation and energy.

More popularly, it produces major highland vegetables sold in Luzon and Metro Manila, including parts of Visayas. These include lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, potatoes, cabbage, and other greens. The region is also known for its aromatic coffees and strawberries.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/17/salad-bowl-cordillera-region-is-model-vs-climate-change-too/>



DBP 2nd PH bank accredited by UN for climate change funding

By: [Daxim L. Lucas](#) - Reporter / [@daxinq](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:32 PM July 16, 2021

MANILA, Philippines—State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has secured the accreditation of a United Nations-backed institution that provides financing support for environment and climate-related programs and advocacies in line with the Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol.

In a statement, DBP president and CEO Emmanuel Herbosa said the bank is only the second Philippine institution named as accredited entities of the Green Climate Fund, an international fund created by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to support programs to mitigate the disastrous impact of climate change.

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

DBP is the sixth largest bank in the country in terms of assets and provides credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy: infrastructure and logistics; micro, small and medium enterprises; the environment; and social services and community development.

The Green Climate Fund was created in 2010 by the UNFCCC, along with 194 governments, to provide financing and technical support to developing countries to shift to low-emission and climate resilient development while helping vulnerable societies adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change.

Under the mechanism, the fund may be tapped by accredited entities and delivery partners, which work directly with developing countries for project design and implementation. The fund provides financial support through a combination of grants, concessional debt, guarantees or equity instruments to leverage blended finance and crowd-in private investment for climate action in developing countries.

Herbosa said DBP is one of only 113 accredited entities globally, 57 of which are national agencies, which would allow the bank to channel support of up to \$250 million per project or program.

He said DBP is in talks with potential development partners who can work with the bank in formulating and implementing responsive projects centered on green energy, energy efficiency, waste management, and disaster resilience projects, among others.

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

TSB

Source: <https://business.inquirer.net/327330/dbp-2nd-ph-bank-accredited-by-un-for-climate-change-funding>



State researchers conducting seaweed biodiversity assessment in Verde Island Passage

Published July 16, 2021, 11:51 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

State researchers are conducting biodiversity surveys on seaweeds in some areas in four provinces bordering the Verde Island Passage (VIP) through the assistance of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

DOST Secretary Fortunato “Boy” T. de la Peña said the project is funded by the DOST and is being implemented by Batangas State University (BSU) under the leadership of Dr. Jayvee A. Saco.

“Seaweeds biodiversity surveys were conducted in selected sites in the provinces (Marinduque, Batangas, Romblon, Occidental Mindoro) bordering the Verde Island Passage (VIP). Surveys were conducted to determine and compare the seaweed and seagrass cover in pristine and impacted or disturbed sites during the northeast monsoon (amihan),” he announced on the DOSTv Facebook page on Friday, July 16.

The “Marine Biodiversity Assessment in Selected Areas in the Verde Island Passage (MBio Assess-VIP)” is being carried out by the BSU in partnership with Marinduque State College, Occidental Mindoro State College, Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology and Romblon State University.

“Overall, in all of the sites surveyed during the northeast monsoon, seaweeds were found to be dominant in the selected impacted sites,” de la Peña said.

He noted that only Sitio Dumanod in Barangay Udalo, Abra de Ilog in Occidental Mindoro was a seaweed-dominated site among the pristine areas in the current survey.

“In areas where both the pristine and impacted areas harbored seaweeds, species numbers were still higher in the latter,” he said.

Based on the initial survey, the common species found in the areas were *Halicoryne wrightii*, *Gracilaria arcuate*, *Udotea sp.*, *Chaetomorpha crassa*, *Asparagopsis taxiformis* and *Ulva intestinalis*, the DOST chief noted.

The Conservation International described the Verde Island Passage as one of the most productive ecosystems in the world as it provides food, livelihoods and other benefits to over 2 million people.

The marine resource-rich, 10-mile wide strait is internationally recognized as the “Center of the Center of Marine Biodiversity.”

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/16/state-researchers-conducting-seaweed-biodiversity-assessment-in-verde-island-passage/>



Live corals seized in Cebu valued at P7.2 M

Published July 17, 2021, 2:53 PM

by [Calvin Cordova](#)

CEBU CITY – The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Central Visayas (DA-BFAR Region 7) valued the live corals seized at Hagnaya Port in San Remigio, Cebu last June 13 at P7.2-million.

The DA-BFAR Region 7 said 1,210 pieces of live corals, mostly doughnut corals, were seized. Personnel of a local Coast Guard sub-station found the corals in five boxes that were abandoned at the port.

The items were declared as tropical fish when it was shipped from Cawayan, Masbate.

BFAR Region 7 Regional Director Dr. Allan Poquita cautioned the public from collecting and trading corals since these protect the coastlines from natural calamities such as tropical cyclones or erosion.

To help curb the illegal trading of corals, Poquita urged the public not to patronize people selling corals as home decorations or souvenirs.

Poquita commended the Philippine Coast Guard for supporting the agency's efforts in strengthening the fishery law enforcement in the region.



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Pagdami ng Crown of Thorns starfish na kumakain ng coral, ikinababahala... | 24 Oras Weekend

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Pagdami ng Crown of Thorns starfish na kumakain ng coral, ikinababahala ng mga mangingisda

Ikinababahala ng ilang mangingisda ang outbreak ng isang uri ng starfish sa Camarines Norte.

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Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diV3wv6pE5s&ab_channel=GMANews



Justice and a plastics-free Philippines

By: [John Leo Algo](#), [Marian Ledesma](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:03 AM July 17, 2021

The plastic pollution crisis exhibits clear interdependence between the environment, people's well-being, and sustainable development. To properly view this issue through the lens of environmental justice, the implications on poverty alleviation, good health and well-being, reducing inequalities, climate action, and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems must be accounted for when developing solutions.

From a legal and policy perspective, achieving justice is centered on three main fronts. The first one involves the enactment of a law phasing out single-use plastics (SUPs), which is currently being deliberated in the Philippine Congress. Clear targets and timelines for the phaseout of sachets, plastic bags, plastic bottles, and other items must be presented within a just transition strategy that does not significantly harm the livelihoods of low and middle-income workers within the plastic industry.

The notion of a "just transition" does not only apply to SUP producers and importers; it applies just as importantly to Filipino consumers. Protecting their well-being goes beyond access to affordable products to meet their daily needs. It includes their right to know the environmental, economic, and social impacts of the products they consume, the ability to make their own choices for sustainable living, and their right to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes involving such transition.

The second front is strengthening the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, or Republic Act No. 9003. Addressing the plastics crisis is impossible without dealing with the prevailing issues in the waste management system. Measures such as reducing and avoiding unnecessary product use, more efficient waste disposal, and strengthening recycling and recovery programs are necessary to deal with the severity of this issue.

While more local governments are passing ordinances banning or regulating SUPs, many of them lack institutional readiness and the required infrastructures for effective waste management. As such, national government agencies must allot the necessary funding and technical support for local governments to implement programs related to addressing plastic pollution, such as materials recovery facilities and waste collection services. They may form partnerships with businesses and civil society groups to enable more localities to actively engage in the implementation of RA 9003. Another major avenue for action involves filing lawsuits against plastic producers to advance actions against further pollution. A precedent has been set for this course of action in the Philippines, as the Commission on Human Rights conducted the world's first investigation into the responsibility of corporations in the climate crisis. The preliminary findings announced in 2019 indicated that 47 investor-owned fossil fuel companies could be held morally liable for human rights harms arising from business practices that aggravate climate change.

Businesses have a responsibility to ensure their products and operations do not impinge on the rights of people, and by adopting upstream solutions to the plastic crisis they can reduce their impact. Despite sustainability and climate commitments, corporations are failing to tackle the issue from the point it becomes problematic—production. Scrutinizing the life cycle of plastics will reveal the various harms it can create for communities, vulnerable groups, and ecosystems. Without concrete plans to decrease or eliminate the production of SUPs and implement proven reuse systems, the surge in plastic pollution and its related detriments will persist.



An understanding of environmental justice and education on the full life cycle of plastics is essential. It will not only enable communities to recognize and address injustices, but also allow them to identify false solutions such as incineration, co-processing, and chemical recycling. This places them in a better position to protect their health and our environment. As well-versed and empowered individuals, people can have an active and impactful participation in responding to the plastic pollution crisis.

John Leo Algo is the deputy executive director of Living Laudato Si' Philippines and a citizen journalist. Marian Ledesma is a zero waste campaigner in Greenpeace Philippines.



Air quality monitors to be deployed in areas affected by Taal eruption

BY BUSINESSMIRROR JULY 18, 2021



The first Filipino-made air quality monitors—which can measure particulate matter in the air using mass concentration measurement—are set to be deployed in Agoncillo, Batangas, and Tagaytay City and Alfonso municipality in Cavite, by researchers from the University of the Philippines Diliman.

The Robust Optical Aerosol Monitor (ROAM) Air Quality Monitor units from Project ROAM was designed to look for ways to reduce the effects of air pollution in communities and workplaces.

ROAM, initially developed to provide information for policy creation and programs for environmental protection, will help residents of the areas affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano.

The technology was developed in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD).

Project ROAM, headed by Dr. Len Herald V. Lim, developed high-quality but low-cost aerosol monitors compared to its commercial counterparts.

According to Levi Guillermo L. Geganzo of Project ROAM, the group is currently discussing the plan to deploy the monitors with the local government units (LGUs) of the areas.

The researchers are also in talks with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) to help with its monitoring.

ROAM is currently exploring the creation of a spin-off company through DOST-PCIEERD's Funding Assistance for Spinoff and Translation of Research in Advancing Commercialization (Fastrac) Program to help advance the commercialization of its technology.

Geganzo said the team is asking more organizations to use ROAM for free for a year in line with the requirement of the Fastrac grant.

DOST-PCIEERD Executive Director Dr. Enrico C. Paringit lauded the move of the group and encouraged LGUs to partner with ROAM in putting up air-quality monitors in their areas.

“We thank [the] Project ROAM team for making innovations work for the people. As a leader and partner in enabling innovations in the Philippines, we [DOST-PCIEERD] enjoin our LGUs to collaborate with our researchers in making our air cleaner using this technology,” he said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/18/air-quality-monitors-to-be-deployed-in-areas-affected-by-taal-eruption/>



Phivolcs records 99 earthquakes in Taal Volcano, highest in three days

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 17, 2021 12:22:00 PM



FILE PHOTO

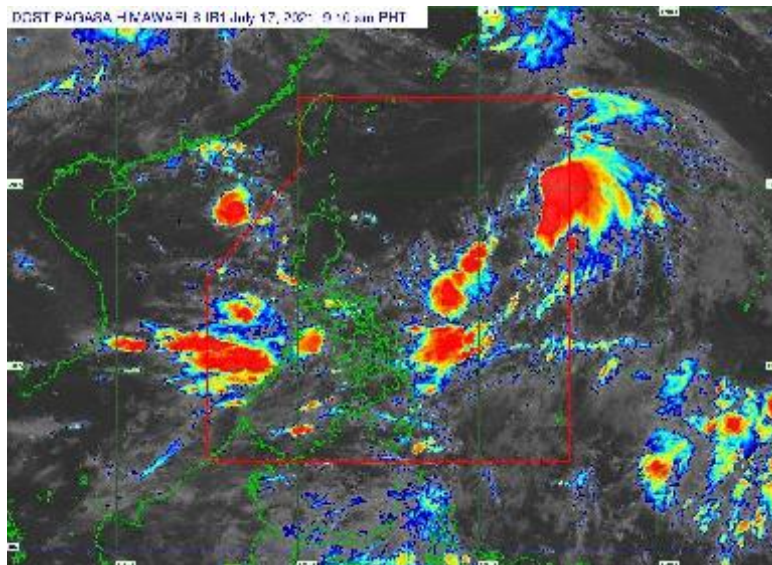
Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 17) — State volcanologists logged 99 volcanic earthquakes in Taal Volcano in Batangas province in the past 24 hours, the highest since Wednesday.

The peak this week recorded on Monday was 185.

A majority or 90 of the tremors in the past 24 hours lasted one to 11 minutes, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said Saturday in its [bulletin](#).

Phivolcs also logged high levels of volcanic sulfur dioxide averaging 6,574 tons per day on Friday, as well as plumes from the main crater that rose 1,200 meters high before drifting north.

Taal is still under Alert Level 3 of the five-step warning system. The status means "magma extruding from the main crater could drive explosive eruption," according to Phivolcs.



Satellite image captured on July 17, 2021 shows Tropical Depression "Fabian".
PAGASA

Tropical Depression Fabian slightly intensifies, enhances 'habagat'

(Philstar.com) - July 17, 2021 - 9:38am

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical Depression Fabian slightly intensified Saturday morning, state weather bureau PAGASA said.

While it is not expected to directly affect the country, Fabian is currently enhancing the southwest monsoon or "habagat" which may bring light to moderate with at times heavy rains over northern Palawan, Occidental Mindoro, Antique and Aklan in the next 24 hours.

Fabian now packs winds of up to 55 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gusts of up to 70 kph. It is moving north northeastward at 15 kph and its center was last spotted 1,365 kilometers east of extreme northern Luzon.

PAGASA expects the tropical cyclone to reach tropical storm category in 12 hours. It is expected to continue intensifying and may become a typhoon by Wednesday evening or Thursday morning.



Death toll from Germany floods rises to 106

July 17, 2021, 4:53 pm



(Anadolu photo)

BERLIN – The number of people who died in floods in western Germany rose to 106 on Friday, officials confirmed in Rhineland-Palatinate.

At least 63 people have died due to severe flooding, the Koblenz Police Department said in a statement, while in the neighboring North Rhine-Westphalia region, officials have confirmed 43 deaths.

Germany's worst floods in more than 200 years have swept away homes, caused widespread devastation in various towns and villages in the western regions.

Local officials said nearly 1,300 people were still missing in the Ahrweiler district, but the exact figure was not clear, as the floods have cut electricity and disrupted telephone communications.

More than 360 people were injured in the district, according to the police.

The army has deployed around 850 soldiers to the hard-hit areas to assist in rescue efforts.

Hundreds of houses in the two states have collapsed and others face the risk of collapsing due to the floods, while streets are submerged.

The extent of the damage and overall situation in flood-stricken areas remains unclear as rescue workers had to cope with torrential rains that dumped 148 liters (39 gallons) per square meter in 48 hours.

Helicopters were used to rescue residents stranded on streets, in trees, and on rooftops.

Villages and small towns in the western and southwestern areas of the country were cut off by floodwater and landslides that made roads impassable.

Authorities in Rhineland-Palatinate warned that they expected waters in the Rhine and Moselle rivers to swell with additional rainfall.

There have also been massive power outages as more than 200,000 households are without electricity.

Meanwhile, public transportation has been severely affected by the catastrophic situation as train and bus services have been canceled or disrupted. **(Anadolu)**



TBBCNews

Catastrophic flooding across western Europe as politicians blame climate change - BBC News

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More than 120 people have died and hundreds are still missing after record rainfall caused the worst flooding in parts of Western Europe for many decades.

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Europe floods 'clear indication of climate change': EU chief

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18 JULY 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Health workers continue the inoculation of second dose of Sinovac vaccine to residents at mega vaccination site in Marikina Sports Center on July 13, 2021.

The STAR/Boy Santos

COVID-19 cases in Philippines hit 1.5-M

(Philstar.com) - July 17, 2021 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — The total number of COVID-19 cases in the country has surpassed 1.5 million after local health authorities reported 6,040 new infections on Saturday.

- **Active cases:** 47,257 or 3.1% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 7,213, bringing total to 1,428,504
- **Fatalities:** 122, pushing death toll to 26,598

What's new today?

- The Philippines received 1.5 million more doses of Sinovac's CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine, bumping up the country's vaccine supply to 26.2 million doses.
- The Department of Health is verifying the reported death of another patient who contracted the coronavirus Delta variant. If confirmed, this would be the second local death in the country after infection with the Delta variant.
- DOH spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire said health authorities are now doing intensive contact tracing among individuals who were positive for the Delta variant to determine links between them.



PH logs 7.2K new Covid-19 recoveries

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora [July 17, 2021, 4:22 pm](#)



MANILA – Another 7,213 coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) survivors were added to the country's recovery count, raising the total to 1,428,504, the Department of Health (DOH) reported on Saturday.

In its case bulletin, the DOH also logged 6,040 new infections and 122 fatalities, pushing the active cases and death toll to 47,257 and 26,598, respectively.

Among those recuperating from the respiratory disease, DOH said 91.8 percent have mild symptoms, two percent are asymptomatic, 2.7 percent are severe, 1.6 percent are critical, while 1.89 percent are moderate.

Out of the 52,047 tests from July 15, the agency said 10.7 percent or 5,569 turned out positive on Saturday.

Since the pandemic started in March 2020, the DOH has so far tallied 1,502,359 in confirmed cases -- 3.1 percent are undergoing treatment, 95.1 percent recovered, while 1.77 percent died.

To date, the country has utilized 56 percent of its 3,500 intensive care unit beds as well as 46 percent of the 19,400 isolation beds and 42 percent of 12,100 ward beds dedicated for Covid-19 patients.

In Metro Manila, 42 percent of the 1,100 ICU beds, 38 percent of the 4,600 isolation beds, and 34 percent of the 3,400 ward beds are currently in use. **(PNA)**



1.5M Sinovac doses boost PH vax drive

By Christine Cudis July 17, 2021, 6:40 pm



MORE DOSES. A total of 1.5 million doses of the Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 on Saturday (July 17, 2021). They will be distributed nationwide to be administered as second doses. *(PNA Photo by Robert Alfiler)*

MANILA – The road toward population protection just got wider with the arrival of 1.5 million doses of government-procured Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine on Saturday.

Department of Health's Dr. Ariel Valencia, the Director for Supply Chain Management Service, said the new supply will be distributed nationwide for second-dose rollout.

One million doses of Sinovac also arrived three days earlier as the country upped to 14.5 million the total doses of Sinovac, including those donated by the Chinese government and procured by the private sector and local government units.

Vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. earlier said 16,790,240 doses will be delivered this month and another 16,570,000 in August.

On July 15, a record-high 391,283 doses were administered that brought to 14.4 million the total doses already injected -- 10.1 million first shots and 4.3 million second shots. **(PNA)**

DOH-6 detects 2 local transmission of COVID-19 Delta variant

July 17, 2021



Makati City resident Shigetaka Mishuku, 73, receives his first dose of the Sputnik V vaccine at the Makati Coliseum on May 4, 2021. / (PNA Photo by Joyce Ann Rocamora)

By Christine Fabro

COVID-19 Delta variant cases were discovered in two residents in Antique, Western Visayas, about two months after testing positive for COVID-19.

In today's (July 17) Laging Handa public briefing, Western Visayas Center for Health Development Local Health Support Division Chief Dr. Maria Sophia Pulmones said the two cases are locally transmitted.

"Based sa aming coordination sa provincial health office ng Antique, iyong dalawang kasong ito [ay] considered as local cases. Walang history of travel outside of the Philippines, so, posible na doon sila nahawa ng sakit mismo sa area nila," Pulmones said.

Pulmones said that these two individuals tested positive for COVID-19 on May 29, while the genome sequencing report from the Department of Health (DOH) was only released on Friday (July 16).

"Based sa data na pinalabas, iyong dalawang ito were swabbed last May 28; and then iyong result was May 28, positive sila sa SARS COVID. Pero iyong sa genome sequencing, natanggap lang namin yesterday based sa report from the DOH," she said.

The two Delta variant cases were identified as case Number 34 and case Number 35, respectively.

Case Number 34 was a 78-year-old female who succumbed to COVID-19 on May 31, while case Number 35 was a 79-year-old male who recovered from the disease on June 13.

Pulmones said that the local government unit, headed by the Provincial Health Office with the municipality's Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, are doing the intensive contact tracing and back tracing. – *rir*



2nd batch of donated J & J jabs delivered

By Benjamin Pulta July 17, 2021, 7:55 pm



2ND SHIPMENT. The second batch of 1,606,600 doses of donated Johnson and Johnson Janssen vaccine arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 on Saturday afternoon (July 17, 2021). The shipment was welcomed by (from left) United Nations Children's Emergency Fund nutrition manager Alice Nkoroi, Foreign Affairs Sec. Teodoro Locsin Jr., US Embassy Charges d'Affaires John Law, and Economic Planning Secretary Karl Chua. *(PNA photo by Benjamin Pulta)*

MANILA – An economic official on Saturday said the latest shipment of the single-dose coronavirus vaccine donation from the United States government will help the country bounce back.

An Emirates flight delivered 1,606,600 doses of the Janssen-manufactured Johnson and Johnson (J&J) vaccine on Saturday afternoon, completing the 3.212 million doses coursed through the World Health Organization (WHO)-led Covax Facility.

The first tranche arrived Friday.

"More than 90 percent of our people are not affected by the virus and this will help them go back to work," Economic Planning Secretary Karl Chua told reporters during the welcome ceremonies at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

In a previous interview, Chua said vaccine deployment should be accelerated, including in malls and workplaces, and areas with the highest risk of infection should be prioritized.

Chua was joined by Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr., US Embassy Charges d'Affaires John Law, United Nations Children's Emergency Fund nutrition manager Alice Nkoroi, and representatives from the National Task Force Against Covid-19 and Department of Health.

US President Joe Biden had promised to distribute 80 million vaccines for free around the world.

The J&J vaccine will be distributed nationwide, with an additional supply for regions where the more transmissible Delta variant of the coronavirus has been detected.

The DOH said the vaccine is 67 percent effective against moderate to severe cases, and 77 percent to 85 percent effective in preventing severe to critical infections.

The WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization recommends the use of the J&J jab as one dose (0.5 milliliter).

There should be a minimum interval of 14 days between the administration of the Janssen vaccine and other vaccines against other health conditions. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1147427>



US sumaklolo rin sa Pinas, 3.2 milyon bakuna ipinadala

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 18, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Nakatanggap ang Pilipinas nitong Biyernes ng 1.6 milyong doses ng Janssen Covid-19 vaccine na gawa ng Johnson & Johnson's na unang batch ng 3.2 milyong donasyon ng Estados Unidos sa pamamagitan ng COVAX Facility.

Nasa 1,606,600 doses ng Janssen vaccines ang dumating habang inaasahan na darating din nitong Sabado ang ikalawang batch ng kabuuang 3,213,200 doses.

“There will be another 1.6 million arriving imminently. So a total of 3.2 million doses donated by the US. This is part of the 80 million doses that the US is donating around the world this month,” ayon kay US Embassy Chargé d’Affaires John Law.

Idiniin ni Law na ito ay dahil ang Pilipinas ay isa sa pinakamatagal nang kaalyado ng US sa Timog Silangang Asya at nais ng Washintong DC na gawin ang lahat ng paraan para matulungan ito.

Sinabi ni National Task Force Against Covid-19 chief implementer and vaccine czar, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. na inaasahang darating ang ikalawang batch dakong alas-4:30 kahapon ng hapon.

Pantay na ipamamahagi ang Janssen vaccine sa lahat ng rehiyon sa bansa na may minimum na 100,000 doses kada rehiyon.

May ilang rehiyon na makatatanggap ng higit sa 100,000 doses kabilang ang Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, at Zamboanga Peninsula.

Inilarawan ni Galvez na ‘game changer’ ang Janssen vaccines dahil sa pagiging single dose at naisailalim sa testing laban sa UK, Brazilian, at South African variant habang inaasahan na mabisa rin laban sa Delta (Indian) variant.



'Local transmission' ng Delta variant iniimbestigahan na

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 18, 2021 - 12:00am



Ito ay makaraan na 11 local na kaso ng Delta variant ang matukoy sa Pilipinas, kabilang ang dalawa na mula sa Metro Manila.

MANILA, Philippines — Nagsasagawa na ang Department of Health (DOH) ng intensibong contact tracing at imbestigasyon upang matukoy kung may nagaganap nang local transmission ng Delta variant ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Ito ay makaraan na 11 local na kaso ng Delta variant ang matukoy sa Pilipinas, kabilang ang dalawa na mula sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, may pagkakaiba ang pagkakaroon ng local cases at local transmission.

Ang local cases ay nangangahulugan na ang variant ay natukoy mula sa isang indibiduwal na hindi klasipikado bilang returning overseas Filipino (ROF) o walang travel history sa labas ng bansa habang ang local transmission ay nangangahulugan na may ebidensiya na ang mga kaso ng COVID-19 sa isang komunidad ay may kaugnayan sa isa't isa.

"Kailangan nating makita kung 'yun pong mga kaso natin sa community are linked to each other," ayon kay Vergeire.

"Sa ngayon po, 'di pa natin nakikita 'yan dahil sporadic pa lang 'yung kaso, nasa iba't ibang lugar, wala pa tayong nakikitang pagkalink ng bawat isa," dagdag niya.

Sa kabuuan, 35 na ang mga kaso ng Delta variant sa bansa at kung saan dalawa na ang nasawi.



This picture taken on November 17, 2020 shows a syringe and a bottle reading "Vaccine Covid-19". According to the World Health Organization, some 42 "candidate vaccines" against the novel coronavirus Covid-19 are undergoing clinical trials on November 17, 2020.

AFP/Joel Saget

US warns COVID-19 'becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated'

(Agence France-Presse) - July 17, 2021 - 8:51am

WASHINGTON, United States — US health authorities on Friday pleaded with COVID-19 vaccine holdouts to roll up their sleeves and get their shots, as cases, hospitalizations and deaths surged.

"There is a clear message that is coming through: this is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Rochelle Walensky told reporters.

The agency reported more than 33,000 new cases on Thursday, bringing the seven-day average up to 26,306, a 70% rise on the week before.

The seven-day average of hospital admissions is about 2,790 per day, an increase of 36%. And after weeks of declines, the seven-day average of deaths was 211, an increase of 26%.

The spikes are focused in communities with low vaccination rates, and "unvaccinated Americans account for virtually all recent COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths" said Jeff Zients, White House coronavirus response coordinator.

The new wave is driven by the Delta variant, which now accounts for more than 80% of new cases, according to the covSpectrum tracker.

A recent study in the journal *Virological* shows Delta grows more rapidly inside the body compared to past strains, and people who are infected shed much more of it in the air, greatly increasing the likelihood it will be transmitted.

Vaccines, including those made by Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson, remain highly effective against the variant, but the United States' immunization campaign has drastically slowed in recent weeks.

President Joe Biden set July 4 as a target for 70% of adults to have received one or more doses, but as of July 15 the figure was still only 67.9%. At the present rate the goal won't be achieved until the end of the month.



Parts of the country that voted for former Republican president Donald Trump in the 2020 election have significantly lower vaccination rates than those which voted for Democrat Biden, and are now at the center of the surges.

Hotspots include Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

But health officials are hopeful that, since 80% of the most vulnerable age group of over-65s are fully vaccinated, the rise in hospitalizations and deaths won't be as dramatic as the spike in cases.

This would follow the pattern seen in Israel and Britain, highly vaccinated countries struck by Delta waves.

An expert panel convened by the CDC will next week be examining whether immune-compromised people, whose bodies mounted a subpar response to COVID-19 vaccines, may require a third dose, said Walensky.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

KNOW YOUR VACCINE

OXFORD ASTRAZENECA

(DATA AS OF 02 JUNE 2021)

Clinical Trials (Preclinical; Phase 1-3)	Country with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)	Application for EUA to Philippine Food and Drug Administration	Philippine FDA EUA Approval
Done	99 Countries with EUA Approvals, including UK, USA, Australia, Mexico, Argentina, India, Philippines With WHO Emergency Use Listing	January 6, 2021	January 28, 2021

Technology Platform	Viral Vector (Non-replicating)
Dose and Frequency [a]	2 doses, 4-12 weeks apart
Storage Requirements [a]	2 °C to 8 °C
Age Group Covered by Phil FDA EUA Approval [a]	18 y/o and above
Vaccine Efficacy (VE) [a] [b]	70.4% (95.8% CI 54.8 to 80.6) overall VE against symptomatic COVID-19, 14 days after the 2nd dose No hospital admissions or severe cases reported in the vaccine arm, thus 100% VE against severe COVID-19
Common Adverse Events Reported in Phase III Clinical Trials (CT) [b]	Injection site pain and tenderness; fatigue, headache, feverishness, myalgia
Serious Adverse Events Reported in Phase III CT	None reported
Specific populations included (elderly, immunocompromised, etc) in Phase III CT [b]	Phase III CT enrolled 23,848 participants ≥18 y/o, with 11,636 (7,548 in the UK, 4,088 in Brazil) participants included in the interim primary efficacy analysis; Those aged 56 years or older contributed 12.2% of the total cohort in the current analysis. UK COV002 arm targeted individuals working in professions with high possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2, such as health and social care settings. Brazil COV003 arm included participants with stable pre-existing health conditions, at high risk of exposure to the virus, including health-care workers

References: [a] Philippine FDA EUA Issuance, [b] Publication in Journals for Phase III Interim Results

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BHARAT BIOTECH'S COVAXIN

(DATA AS OF 02 JUNE 2021)

Clinical Trials (Preclinical; Phase 1-3)	Country with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)	Application for EUA to Philippine Food and Drug Administration	Philippine FDA EUA Approval
Done	9 Countries with EUA Approval including India, Iran, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Nepal, Mexico, Philippines	January 22, 2021	April 19, 2021

Technology Platform	Inactivated Virus
Dose and Frequency [a]	2 doses, 28 days apart
Storage Requirements [a]	2 °C to 8 °C
Age Group Covered by Phil FDA EUA Approval [a]	18 y/o and above
Vaccine Efficacy (VE) [b]	80.6% [95% CI 78.1, 82.7] overall VE against PCR-confirmed symptomatic COVID-19, after the 2nd dose
Common Adverse Events Reported in Phase III Clinical Trials (CT) [b]	The most common systemic adverse events reported were headache, followed by fatigue, fever, body ache, abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. The other less common adverse events were dizziness/giddiness, tremor, sweating, cold, cough, and injection site swelling.
Serious Adverse Events Reported in Phase III CT [b]	All the SAEs were not related to the vaccine and distributed equally among the placebo and vaccine group.
Specific populations included (elderly, immunocompromised, etc) in Phase III CT [c]	The Phase 3 study enrolled 25,800 participants between 18-98 years of age, including 2,433 (9.43%) over the age of 60 and 4,500 (17.44%) with comorbidities.

References: [a] Philippine FDA EUA Issuance, [b] Submission to FDA EUA Application, [c] From Company Official Press Release

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GAMALEYA SPUTNIK V

(DATA AS OF 02 JUNE 2021)

Clinical Trials (Preclinical; Phase1-3)	Country with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)	Application for EUA to Philippine Food and Drug Administration	Philippine FDA EUA Approval
Done	68 Countries with EUA Approvals, including Russia, Argentina, Bahrain, Belarus, Hungary, Philippines	January 7, 2021 (Additional Phase 3 data submitted on January 21, 2021)	March 19, 2021

Technology Platform	Viral Vector (Non-replicating)
Dose and Frequency [a]	2 doses, 3 weeks apart
Storage Requirements [a]	-18 °C and below (frozen solution)
Age Group Covered by Phil FDA EUA Approval [a]	18 y/o and above
Vaccine Efficacy (VE) [b]	91.6% (95% CI 85.6–95.2) overall VE against symptomatic COVID-19, 21 days after the 1st dose 100% (96% CI 94.4–100.0) VE against moderate or severe cases, 21 days after the 1st dose
Common Adverse Events Reported in Phase III Clinical Trials (CT) [b]	Local : Pain on injection site, Hyperthermia, Swelling Systemic : Hyperthermia, headache, asthenia, muscle/joint pain, malaise, sore throat, diarrhea, rhinorrhea, loss of appetite, pain in the oropharynx, nasal congestion, colds, sneezing, cough
Serious Adverse Events Reported in Phase III CT	None reported
Specific populations included (elderly, immunocompromised, etc) in Phase III CT [b]	Phase III enrolled 21, 977 participants, >18 y/o ; 19, 866 received two doses of vaccine or placebo were included in the primary outcome analysis.

References: [a] Philippine FDA EUA Issuance, [b] Publication in Journals for Phase III Interim Results

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JOHNSON & JOHNSON'S JANSSEN

(DATA AS OF 02 JUNE 2021)

Clinical Trials (Preclinical; Phase 1-3)	Country with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)	Application for EUA to Philippine Food and Drug Administration	Philippine FDA EUA Approval
Done	42 Countries with EUA Approval, including USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, South Africa, Philippines With WHO Emergency Use Listing	March 31, 2021	April 19, 2021

Technology Platform	Viral Vector (Non-replicating)
Dose and Frequency [a]	1 dose
Storage Requirements [a]	2°C - 8°C (3 months)
Age Group Covered by Phil FDA EUA Approval [a]	18 y/o and above
Vaccine Efficacy (VE) [b]	66.9% (95%CI 59.0-73.4) against confirmed moderate to severe/critical COVID-19, 14 days after vaccination 66.1% (95% CI, 55.0-74.8) against confirmed moderate to severe/critical COVID-19, 28 days after vaccination ~77% effective in preventing severe/critical COVID-19 occurring at least 14 days after vaccination and 85% effective in preventing severe/critical COVID-19 occurring at least 28 days after vaccination
Common Adverse Events Reported in Phase III Clinical Trials (CT) [c]	Local: pain, redness swelling Systemic: tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea
Serious Adverse Events Reported in Phase III CT [d]	An ongoing Phase 3 Study (COV3001) (NCT04505722) is being conducted in the United States, South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Mexico to assess a single-dose COVID-19 Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in adults aged ≥18 y.o. The study allowed for the inclusion of individuals with stable pre-existing medical conditions, as well as individuals with stable human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. A total of 44,325 individuals were randomized equally to the vaccine or placebo. The primary efficacy analysis population of 39,321 individuals (19,630 in the vaccine group and 19,691 in the placebo group) included 38,059 SARS-CoV-2 seronegative individuals at baseline and 1,262 individuals with an unknown serostatus.
Specific populations included (elderly, immunocompromised, etc) in Phase III CT [e]	US and Mexico arm: targets 30,000 enrollments, ≥18 y/o medically stable adults UK arm: targets 15,000 enrollments, 18-84 years y/o

References: [a] FDA Philippines EUA Approval, [b] US FDA Published Vaccine Fact Sheet, [c] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [d] US FDA Published Vaccine Fact Sheets, [e] clinicaltrials.gov

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MODERNA

(DATA AS OF 02 JUNE 2021)

Clinical Trials (Preclinical; Phase 1-3)	Country with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)	Application for EUA to Philippine Food and Drug Administration	Philippine FDA EUA Approval
Done	49 countries with EUA Approval, including US, UK, EU, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Philippines With WHO Emergency Use Listing	April 26, 2021	May 5, 2021

Technology Platform	mRNA
Dose and Frequency [a]	2 doses, 28 days apart
Storage Requirements [b]	-25 °C to -15 °C (7 months), 2°C - 8°C (30 days)
Age Group Covered by Phil FDA EUA Approval [a]	18 y/o and above
Vaccine Efficacy (VE) [c]	94.1% (95% CI: 89.3, 96.8%) overall VE symptomatic COVID-19, occurring at least 14 days after the 2nd dose 100% VE against severe COVID-19
Common Adverse Events Reported in Phase III Clinical Trials (CT) [d]	Adverse reactions reported in a clinical trial following administration of vaccine include pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, chills, nausea/vomiting, axillary swelling/tenderness, fever, swelling at the injection site, and erythema at the injection site.
Serious Adverse Events Reported in Phase III CT [d]	Severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, have been reported following administration of the vaccine during mass vaccination outside of clinical trials. [K]
Specific populations included (elderly, immunocompromised, etc) in Phase III CT [a]	Phase III CT in US included 30,420 participants, ≥18 y/o; 25.3% of participants were ≥65 y/o; 82% of participants were considered at occupational risk for SARS-CoV-2 exposure

References: [a] Publication in Journals for Phase III Interim Results, [b] Submission to FDA EUA Application, [c] Publication in Journals for Phase III Interim Results, [d] US FDA Published Vaccine Fact Sheets

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NOVAVAX

(DATA AS OF 02 JUNE 2021)

Clinical Trials (Preclinical; Phase 1-3)	Country with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)	Application for EUA to Philippine Food and Drug Administration	Philippine FDA EUA Approval
Done	No EUA approvals yet	--	--

Technology Platform	Protein subunit
Dose and Frequency [a]	2 doses, 21 days apart
Storage Requirements [b]	2°C - 8°C
Age Group Covered by Phil FDA EUA Approval	N/A (No EUA application yet)
Vaccine Efficacy (VE)	Awaiting EUA application/ Official Phase III Interim Journal Publication
Common Adverse Events Reported in Phase III Clinical Trials (CT)	Awaiting EUA application/ Official Phase III Interim Journal Publication
Serious Adverse Events Reported in Phase III CT	Awaiting EUA application/ Official Phase III Interim Journal Publication
Specific populations included (elderly, immunocompromised, etc) in Phase III CT [c]	US and Mexico arm: targets 30,000 enrollments, ≥18 y/o medically stable adults [F] UK arm: targets 15,000 enrollments, 18-84 years y/o

References: [a] WHO landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines, [b] Publication in Journals for Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 CT results, [c] WHO landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines

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PFIZER BIONTECH'S COMIRNATY

(DATA AS OF 02 JUNE 2021)

Clinical Trials (Preclinical; Phase 1-3)	Country with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)	Application for EUA to Philippine Food and Drug Administration	Philippine FDA EUA Approval
Done	85 Countries with EUA Approvals, including USA, UK, European Union, Canada, Switzerland, Philippines With WHO Emergency Use Listing	April 26, 2021	January 14, 2021 May 31, 2021 (Expanded EUA to include 12-15 y/o)

Technology Platform	mRNA
Dose and Frequency [a]	2 doses, 21 days apart
Storage Requirements [a]	-80 °C to -60 °C
Age Group Covered by Phil FDA EUA Approval [a]	12 y/o and above
Vaccine Efficacy (VE) [a] [b]	95% (94.7%, 95% CI 90.3-97.6) against symptomatic COVID-19, 7 days after the 2nd dose based on Phase III CT done for 16 y/o and above [a] [b] 100% (95% CI, 75.3 to 100), against symptomatic COVID-19 occurring at least 7 days after 2nd doses on Phase III CT done for 12-15 y/o [b]
Common Adverse Events Reported in Phase III Clinical Trials (CT) [b]	Short-term, mild-to-moderate pain at the injection site, fatigue, and headache
Serious Adverse Events Reported in Phase III CT [b]	Low occurrence of SAE; Similar in the vaccine and placebo groups; 4 cases of SAE in Vaccine Arm: Shoulder injury from vaccine administration; Right axillary lymphadenopathy, Paroxysmal arrhythmia, Right leg paresthesia
Specific populations included (elderly, immunocompromised, etc) in Phase III CT [b]	Phase III CT included 43,448 participants, ≥16 y/o Interim analysis based on 37,706 participants with a median of at least 2 months of safety data . Of these number, 35% were obese and 21% had at least one coexisting condition. Phase III CT in adolescents 12 to 15 years of age involved 2,260 participants, with 1,131 receiving the vaccine and 1,129 receiving placebo. Among the 2,260 participants, 51% were male, 85% were White, and 12% were Hispanic or Latin. Overall, 1308 participants (58%) had at least 2 months of follow-up after their second vaccine dose.

References: [a] Philippine FDA EUA Issuance, [b] Publication in Journals for Phase III Interim Results

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SINOVAC'S CORONAVAC

(DATA AS OF 02 JUNE 2021)

Clinical Trials (Preclinical; Phase 1-3)	Country with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)	Application for EUA to Philippine Food and Drug Administration	Philippine FDA EUA Approval
Done	25 Countries with EUA Approvals, including China, Philippines, Indonesia, Turkey, Brazil, Malaysia, Thailand With WHO Emergency Use Listing	January 13, 2021 (Submitted Phase 3 data on January 19, 2021)	February 22, 2021

Technology Platform	Inactivated Virus
Dose and Frequency [a]	2 doses, 28 days apart
Storage Requirements [a]	2 °C to 8 °C
Age Group Covered by Phil FDA EUA Approval [a]	18 y/o and above
Vaccine Efficacy (VE) [c]	51% overall VE against symptomatic COVID-19 100% prevention against severe COVID-19 and hospitalization
Common Adverse Events Reported in Phase III Clinical Trials (CT) [d]	Local lymphadenopathy at the injection site, allergic reaction that may be caused by any component of the vaccine (hives, allergic rashes and purpura, anaphylactic shock), and convulsion (with or without fever)
Serious Adverse Events Reported in Phase III CT [e]	1 case of SAE possibly related to vaccination (allergic reaction); Other SAEs reported not related to vaccine
Specific populations included (elderly, immunocompromised, etc) in Phase III CT [f]	Brazil arm with estimated 13,060 target enrollments among healthcare professional, includes an arm of 18-59 y/o and >65 y/o Turkey arm with estimated 13,000 target enrollments, 18~59 years y/o healthy adults Indonesia arm with estimated target 1, 620 enrollments, 18~59 years y/o healthy adults

References: [a] Philippine FDA EUA Issuance, [b] Publication in Journals for Phase III Interim Results, [c] WHO interim recommendations for EUL, [d] FDA Published Product Information Materials, [e] Submission to FDA EUA Application, [f] clinicaltrials.gov

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
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



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