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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





DENR welcomes Lions Clubs International's commitment to plant 10,000 trees

Published June 17, 2021, 2:11 PM

by Ellson Quismorio

Trees will always be among man's most important legacies, and the Lions Clubs International Multiple District 301(LCI MD 301) Philippines has promised to plant 10,000 of them all over the country.



(Photo by Casey Horner / Unsplash)

This commitment was the latest manifestation of the longstanding cooperation between Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and LCI.

"The DENR welcomes the initiative of Lions Clubs International Multiple District 301 Philippines to help in the National Greening Program, a priority program of the government, which addresses deforestation and helps in climate change mitigation and adaptation," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a statement on Thursday, June 17.

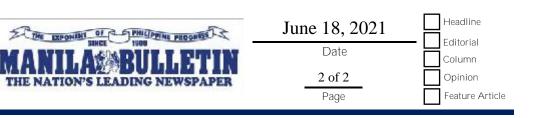
LCI MD 301 Council Chairperson Dra. Elisa Valdez bared the commitment to plant 10,000 trees during the 34th anniversary celebration of the DENR on June 10. She also confirmed that the organization will take part in "coastal cleanup, outreach programs, and information, education and communication initiatives".

The partnership-sealed via a memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed by Cimatu and Valdez during the anniversary event-aims to strengthen the spirit of volunteerism and promote behavioral change towards environment protection.

It also intends to encourage public participation on activities such as the clean-up of esteros and rivers, the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the rescue of wildlife, and the education of the citizenry in caring for the environment and natural resources, among others.

The partnership was initiated by DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda. Antiporda is the governor of LCI District 301-A2.





Even before the MOA signing, the DENR, through Antiporda, has worked together with LCI districts in various environmental activities such as tree-planting and the Manila Bay and river clean-ups, as well as in its programs for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and other stakeholders.

"The DENR is grateful to LCI Multiple District 301 for the spirit of volunteerism, imbibed among its members, that it will bring into the DENR and its stakeholders. This is much needed now more than any other time. We want to eliminate the culture of indifference among many Filipinos which relinquishes all environmental responsibility to the government alone," the undersecretary said.

He added that volunteerism is in itself the prime example of behavior change.

"When you have changed your behavior toward the care and protection of the environment, it becomes second nature for you to volunteer for environmental activities," noted Antiporda.

LCI is a service-oriented, civic, non-political organization that has thousands of members nationwide. It is geared toward improving the lives of people through community service, and promotes the principles of good government and good citizenship.







DENR hails 10,000 trees initiative of Lions Clubs International

JUN 17, 2021, 8:18 PM Santiago Celario Writer

The Lions' Clubs International will mobilize its members within their areas of jurisdiction to participate in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' priority programs in line with the campaign "Tayo ang Kalikasan."

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has thanked the Lions Clubs International (LCI) for its commitment to plant 10,000 trees nationwide, a pledge made during the 34th anniversary of the DENR on June 10.

"The DENR welcomes the initiative of Lions Clubs International Multiple District 301 Philippines to help in the National Greening Program, a priority program of the government, which addresses deforestation and helps in climate change mitigation and adaptation," said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

LCI Multiple District (MD) 301 Council Chairperson Dr. Elisa Valdez said that in pursuit of the partnership, the organization is committing to plant 10,000 trees all over the country to support the National Greening Program of the DENR.

She also confirmed that LCI MD 301 will also take part in "coastal cleanup, outreach programs, and information, education and communication initiatives."

DENR said the commitment and partnership, sealed through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed by Cimatu and Valdez during the DENR's 34th anniversary, aims to strengthen the spirit of volunteerism and promote behavioral change towards environment protection.

It also aims to collaborate on environmental activities aligned with DENR programs and encourage citizen participation such as the clean-up of esteros and rivers, the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the rescue of wildlife, and the education of the citizenry in care for the environment and natural resources, among others.

The partnership was initiated by DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda, who is the governor of LCI District 301-A2.

Even prior to the MOA signing, the DENR, through Antiporda, has worked together with LCI districts in various environmental activities such as tree planting and the Manila Bay and river clean-ups, as well as in its programs for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and other stakeholders.





"The DENR is grateful to LCI Multiple District 301 for the spirit of volunteerism, imbibed among its members, that it will bring into the DENR and its stakeholders. This is much needed now more than any other time. We want to eliminate the culture of indifference among many Filipinos which relinquishes all environmental responsibility to the government alone," said Antiporda.

He added that volunteerism is in itself the prime example of behavior change.

"When you have changed your behavior towards the care and protection of the environment, it becomes second nature for you to volunteer for environmental activities," Antiporda stressed.

LCI is a service, civic, non-political organization with thousands of members nationwide.

It is involved in community service to help improve the lives of people, and promotes the principles of good government and good citizenship.

In the agreement, the LCI will mobilize its members and its service community within their areas of jurisdiction to participate in the environmental voluntary activities of the department related to DENR priority programs in line with the campaign "Tayo ang Kalikasan."

Tayo ang Kalikasan is the DENR's advocacy campaign that aims to raise the level of awareness of Filipinos and promote behavioral change towards the effects of their activities on the environment. (SC)





Headline Editorial Column Opinion Feature Article

DENR nalugod sa 10,000 puno na itatanim ng Lions Clubs International



June 17, 2021 @ 4:59 PM 13 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Ikinagalak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na magkakaroon na ng katuwang sa reforestation program ang pamahalaan matapos mangako ang Lions Club International (LCI) Multiple District 301 Philippines ng pagtanim ng 10,000 puno sa buong bansa sa ginanap na 34th anniversary ng DENR NOONG Hunyo 10.

"The DENR welcomes the initiative of Lions Clubs International Multiple District 301 Philippines to help in the National Greening Program, a priority program of the government, which addresses deforestation and helps in climate change mitigation and adaptation," said Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Sa press release ayon kay LCI Multiple District (MD) 301 Council Chairperson Dra. Elisa B. Valdez, sa ngalan ng pagtutulungan, ang kanilang organisasyon ay nangangakong magtanim ng 10,000 puno sa buong bansa bilang suporta sa National Greening Program ng DENR. Kinumpirma din ni Valdez ang pakikibahagi ng LCI MD 301 "coastal cleanup, outreach programs, and information, education and communication initiatives."

Ang commitment at partnership na pinagtibay ng memorandum of agreement (MOA) na pinirmahan nina Cimatu at Valdez noong 34th anibersaryo ng DENR, ay naglalayong palakasin ang "spirit of volunteerism and promote behavioral change towards environment protection."

Kaugnay nito ayon sa DENR layon din nito na magtulungan sa "environmental activities aligned with DENR programs and encourage citizen participation such as the clean-up of esteros and rivers, the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the rescue of wildlife, and the education of the citizenry in care for the environment and natural resources, among others."

Samantala ang partnership ay inisyatibo ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda, na governor ng LCI District 301-A2.

Bago pa ang MOA signing, ang DENR, sa pamamagitan ni Antiporda, ay nakikipagtulungan na sa mga LCI districts na iba't-ibang gawain para sa kapaligiran tulad ng tree planting, Manila Bay at river clean-ups, at sa mga programa para sa persons with disabilities (PWDs) at sa iba pang stakeholders.

"The DENR is grateful to LCI Multiple District 301 for the spirit of volunteerism, imbibed among its members, that it will bring into the DENR and its stakeholders. This is much needed now more than any other time. We want to eliminate the culture of indifference among many Filipinos which relinquishes all environmental responsibility to the government alone," ani Antiporda.

Dagdag pa nito, "volunteerism is in itself the prime example of behavior change."



"When you have changed your behavior towards the care and protection of the environment, it becomes second nature for you to volunteer for environmental activities," saad ni Antiporda.

Ang LCI ay isang service, civic, non-political organization na may libo-libong kasapi sa buong bansa. Ito ay nakatuon sa "community service to help improve the lives of people, and promotes the principles of good government and good citizenship."

Nakasaad sa kasunduan na, "the LCI will mobilize its members and its service community within their area of jurisdiction to participate in the environmental voluntary activities of the department related to DENR priority programs in line with the campaign "Tayo ang Kalikasan."

Ang Tayo ang Kalikasan ang advocacy campaign ng DENR na naglalayon na itaas ang "level of awareness of Filipinos and promote behavioral change towards the effects of their activities to the environment." **Santi Celario**



From dolomite to coconut trees: Manila Baywalk gets new makeover ahead of reopening

By Ma. Alena O. Castillo - June 17, 2021 - 4:09 PM



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu leads the planting of a coconut tree along Roxas Boulevard in Manila on Wednesday (June 16, 2021). The tree planting is part of the Manila Bay clean-up and rehabilitation efforts. (PNA/Avito Dalan)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday expanded the Manila Bay rehabilitation project beyond pouring over controversial white sand.

The department planted coconut palms along Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard. It said the initiative is part of its "continuing activities and efforts for the clean-up and rehabilitation of Manila Bay."





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LOOK: Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu in the ceremonial planting of coconut palms along Roxas Boulevard as part of the beautification and restoration of the Manila Baywalk.

#TayoAngKalikasan #BattleForManilaBay #SaveManilaBay



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Since last year, the white sand beach project has stirred controversy due to perceived misplaced priorities while the country was still battling the COVID-19 pandemic.



People flock to Manila Bay's 'white sand beach' along Roxas Boulevard on Sunday morning to demonstrate the viability of using crushed dolomite in rehabilitating & beautifying Manila Bay.

At the expense of public safety & COVID social distancing protocol $\stackrel{\circ}{\simeq}$



11:27 AM - Sep 20, 2020





The DENR's budget for the 2019 Manila Bay rehabilitation program costs around P389 million. P28 million of the budget was spent for the dolomite sand project.

Critics have said the money used for Manila Bay beautification could have been funneled to the national government's funds for vaccine supplies, social amelioration for poor families and distance learning needs.

The government, however, tried to justify the white sand makeover, saying it was meant to prevent people from dumping garbage in the area.

Malacañang, moreover, said the dolomite project could improve Filipinos' mental health as they tried to adjust to the pandemic.

Plant mangroves

While the DENR envisions Manila Bay as a tropical paradise, coastal communities have called for the restoration of its marine and fishery resources.

"Still absurd, trying hard, waste of public resources, and simply for aesthetics with a meager to no contribution to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay," Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) tweeted.

READ: DENR must restore mangroves, seagrasses in Manila Bay instead of planting coconut trees — fishers

The budget for the dolomite sand project is more than enough to install mangrove forests in Manila Bay, the group said.





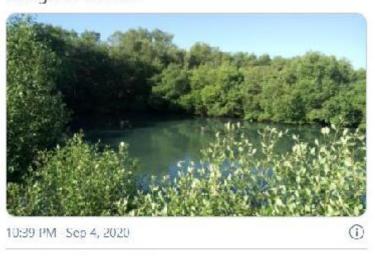
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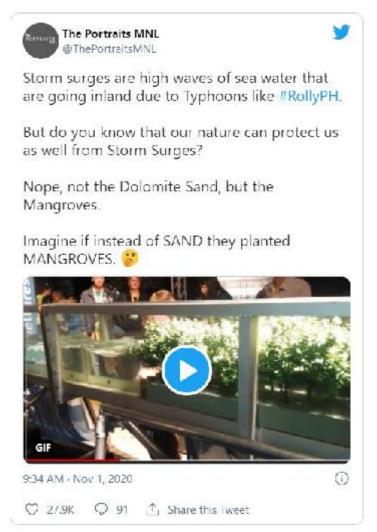


Mangrove planting costs at least \$607.7 or P28, 881.6 per hectare (Primera and Esteban, 2008), which means that the DENR's whopping P389 for Manila Bay "beautification" through "white sand" filling could plant a total of 13, 469 hectares of mangrove forests!



^{🗘 691 🗘 6 🟦} Share this Tweet

Instead of planting coconut trees and dumping dolomite, Filipinos on social media also urged the environment department to restore mangroves, which can serve as a fish sanctuary, pollution filters and coastal defense against strong waves and storm surges.





"Personally, I like my Manila Bay trash-free, with lots of storm surge resistant plants and trash cans. Bonus na if someone will put up a mangrove sanctuary somewhere in the area. No need for fake white sand to make it beautiful. You made it look cheap TBH," a Twitter user said in 2020.

Some Twitter users also poked fun at the Manila Bay makeover.

"Paano naging rehabilitation to @DENROfficial? Eh yung mga coconut hindi naman tinanim sa mismong beach kundi sa lupang napapalibutan ng semento. Kung rehabilitation ito, ano ang positive ecological effect nito? #SaveManilaBay This is purely aesthetics, and not rehabilitation!," a Twitter user said.

In May 2021, the DENR allotted a P265 million budget for the second phase of the Manila Bay "Beach Nourishment Project" to be implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

This requires dredging of garbage and silt and dumping of filling materials. The first phase involved the overlaying of crushed dolomite at a 500-meter stretch of the Manila Baywalk.

However, Environment Undersecretary for Policy Planning and International Affairs **Jonas Leones** last May was quoted as saying that there is "still no Memorandum of Agreement yet for the project" and that the funds have yet to be transferred from DENR to DPWH.

Based on DENR's website, the project has three phases: cleanup and water quality improvement, rehabilitation and resettlement, and education and sustainment.

The DENR is currently fast-tracking the clean-up and beautification of Manila Bay project. It is eyeing to reopen the white-sand beach to the public in July.





Rock garden new attraction at Manila Bay dolomite beach

By Margret Fermin -June 17, 2021

A rock garden was added as a new attraction to the controversial dolomite beach at Manila Bay.

Phase 1 of the Manila Bay beach enhancement project, part of which includes the controversial dumping of dolomite sand, is 80 percent complete, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday.

The artificial <u>white sand</u> on Manila Bay beach is 140 meters long and 1 meter thick.

According to the authorities, it is just being leveled, and they are just waiting for the final batches of dolomite to arrive.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu was also proud of the <u>water</u> purification in the said part of Manila Bay.

From the millions most probable number or MPN per 100 milligrams fecal coliform water level, it dropped to 142 mpn in June, and he said because it was in dolomite.

"We were able to prove that it can clean the water. The water here is definitely cleaner than the water doon sa wala pang dolomite. Dito namin na-register yung 142, dito pinakamababa. It has a distinct character na finifilter niya yung water by itself," Cimatu explained.

But he said it is still not enough to open Manila Bay to the public.

Rock garden new attraction at Manila Bay dolomite beach

He said it would only be opened, and the public will be allowed to swim in it when it reaches 100 MPN, which is a safe or acceptable level.

The DENR also planted 10 coconut trees along the baywalk.

Last month, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said it is too early to say whether the dolomite sand dumped in Manila Bay has been washed out.

According to Leones, the "dolomite beach" project is not yet complete, and "geotubes" have also been installed to ensure that artificial sand is not eroded.

"We have put in place 'yong mga geotubes to ensure na 'di mawa-wash out 'yong mga dolomite. Siguro too early to say na nag-wash out na siya," said Leones.

After the civil society organization, Oceana Philippines said in April that the artificial white sand is eroding.

"From December 2020 to February 2021, this dolomite beach has eroded by at least 300 square meters. They are refilling it again and even extending the area," said Oceana Vice President Gloria Ramos.

Source: <u>https://philippineslifestyle.com/rock-garden-manila-bay-dolomite-beach/</u>





PHOTOGRAPH BY BCB DUNCO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE #Indones DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources staff walk through the Manila Bay seawall to collect garbage as part of the agency's cleanup program.



EO silence on open-pit mining seen delaying DENR approval

June 17, 2021 | 8:38 pm



THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is still studying whether it can lift the open-pit mining ban, the President's spokesman said, more than two months after President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued an order that lifted the nine-year moratorium on new mineral agreements.

Executive Order (EO) No. 130, signed by Mr. Duterte on April 14, allows the government to enter into new mineral agreements and review existing mining deals for possible renegotiation, but is silent on whether such arrangements include open-pit mines.

The order does not have a provision "which lifts the ban on open-pit mining," Spokesman Herminio L. Roque, Jr. said at a televised news briefing Thursday, saying that the matter is still being studied by the DENR.

In February 2017, Regina Paz L. Lopez, who was Environment Secretary at that time, ordered the closure of more than 20 metallic mines over alleged violations of environmental laws. Ms. Lopez, whose appointment was rejected by the Commission on Appointment three months after, had the support of Mr. Duterte.

Reading out Mr. Duterte's previous statements, Mr. Roque noted that Mr. Duterte rejected a proposal by the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) to lift the ban on open-pit mining in November 2017.

"I will repeat what the President had previously said in two instances — that he is against openpit mining. He said this in 9 April 2018: 'Yun ang masasarahan ko, maybe next year, I will ban open-pit mining," Mr. Roque said.

"In November 2017, when asked regarding the recommendation of the (MICC) to lift the ban on open-pit mining, the President said he does not like this because it destroys the soil and the environment and there are no corrective measures immediately available," he added.

"What the President said is apparently against open-pit mining, but because there is no mention of open-pit mining in EO 130, the matter is still being studied by the DENR."



Citing an Environment official, Mr. Roque said "both the President and Secretary Roy A. Cimatu agreed that the mining industry must reinvent in a manner that would ensure that it is sustainable and would cause the least damage to the environment."

Mr. Roque has said the Philippines is projecting about \$4 billion in capital investment from three major mining projects if they were allowed to start operations. — Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza



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DENR studies possible lifting of ban on open-pit mining

By Azer Parrocha June 17, 2021, 3:33 pm



File photo

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is still studying the possible lifting of the ban on open-pit mining, Malacañang said on Thursday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque clarified that Executive Order No. 130, signed by President Rodrigo Duterte on April 14, does not include a lifting of the ban on open-pit mining.

EO 130, which lifts the nine-year moratorium on mineral agreements, is to spur economic growth and support projects and programs of the government.

"There is nothing in the executive issuance on mining which is EO No. 130 which lifts the ban on open-pit mining. I have conferred with [DENR] USec. Benny Antiporda and he says the matter is still being studied by the DENR," Roque said in a Palace press briefing.

He, however, reiterated that open-pit mining remains unacceptable for Duterte.

In November 2017, Duterte said he agreed with the open-pit mining ban given the environmental damage it causes.

Duterte, in his third State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA) on July 23, 2018, also warned the mining industry not to destroy the environment, saying environmental protection is one of his government's priorities.

"To the mining industry, I say this once again and maybe for the last time, do not destroy the environment or compromise our resources; repair what you have mismanaged," Duterte said.

Roque reiterated Duterte's call to the mining industry to find other ways to extract minerals without destroying the environment.

"But I understand from USec. Benny Antiporda that both the President and Secretary [Roy] Cimatu agreed that the mining industry must reinvent mining in a manner that would ensure that it is sustainable and would cost the least damage to the environment," he added.

Open-pit mining is allowed under Philippine law, but Duterte has rejected previous recommendations to lift the ban.

The Philippines is the world's biggest supplier of nickel ore and also among the top producers of copper and gold. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1144024







DENR studies possible lifting of ban on open-pit mining

<u>June 17, 2021</u>2 min read

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Source: <u>https://maharlika.tv/2021/06/17/denr-studies-possible-lifting-of-ban-on-open-pit-mining/?fbclid=IwAR3lqYnCFU_iFmiEieHn2XV5Rh5AqawQL1GtqW3tGoLdlB214DvD6DKzMHE</u>





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Open-pit mining still not allowed despite issuance of EO 130 — Roque

Published June 17, 2021, 6:57 PM by Genalyn Kabiling

The proposed lifting of the ban on open-pit mining is still under government study, Malacañang clarified Thursday.



President Rodrigo Duterte delivers a speech during the ceremonial signing of new laws in Malacañang on June 16, 2021. (Malacañang)

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Executive Order No. 130, which lifted the moratorium on new mining deals, did not include a provision on easing the restriction on open-pit mining, adding the matter is still being reviewed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

EO 130, signed by President Duterte last April, authorizes the resumption of new mineral projects in a bid to generate job opportunities and spur countryside development.

"There is nothing in the executive issuance on mining which is EO 130 which lifts the ban on open-pit mining. I have conferred with Undersecretary Benny Antiporda and he says the matter is still being studied by the DENR," Roque said during a televised press briefing Thursday, June 17.

Roque noted that the President has already declared his opposition to open pit mining due to its impact on the environment. He said the President noted that there were "no corrective measures immediately available" in this type of mineral development.

"So, anyway, from what the President said 'no, he's apparently against open-pit mining but there is no mention of open-pit mining in EO 130, the matter is still being studied by the DENR," he said.

"Both the President and (Environment) Secretary (Roy) Cimatu agreed that the mining industries must reinvent mining in a manner that would ensure that it is sustainable and would cost the least damage to the environment," he said.

In EO 130, the President allowed the grant of new mineral projects subject to compliance with the relevant laws. It amended EO 79 issued in 2012 that prohibited the approval of new mining permits until a new legislation rationalizing revenue-sharing scheme is enacted.

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

The draft implementing rules and regulations of EO 130 reportedly showed the government's planned repeal of the ban on open-pit mining method. Source: <u>https://mb.com.ph/2021/06/17/open-pit-mining-still-not-allowed-despite-issuance-of-eo-130-roque/</u>



Palace: Lifting of open-pit mining ban under study

By LLANESCA T. PANTI, GMA News

Published June 17, 2021 6:30pm



The lifting of the four-year ban on open-pit mining is being studied by the Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR), Malacañang said Thursday.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque made the response when asked if President Rodrigo Duterte's Executive Order 130 lifting the moratorium on new mining agreements would now mean allowing the resumption of open-pit mining.

"There is nothing in EO 130 which lifts the ban on open-pit mining. I have conferred with [Environment] Undersecretary Benny Antiporda and he says the matter is still being studied by the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources)," Roque said.

"I understand from Undersecretary Antiporda that both the President and [Environment] Secretary [Roy] Cimatu agreed that the mining industries must reinvent mining in a manner that would ensure that it is sustainable and would cost the least damage to the environment," Roque added.

Roque recalled that the President has mentioned opposition to open-pit mining in April 2018 and November 2017.

"The President said he does not like this because it is destroying the soil and the environment and there are no corrective measures immediately available," Roque said. Former Environment Secretary Regina Lopez issued a Department Order banning openpit or the open-pit method of extraction of copper, gold, silver and/or complex ores back in April 2017.

At that time, Lopez said the ban will cover mines that are in development stages and not the ones currently in operation.

Lopez's successor, Cimatu, upheld her decision.—LDF, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/791939/palace-lifting-of-open-pitmining-ban-under-study/story/



City-wide cleanup drive set tomorrow

(The Freeman) - June 18, 2021 - 12:00am



Locations for the cleanup drive include barangays Ermita, T. Padilla, Tejero, Pasil, Sawang Calero, Pahina San Nicolas, Sambag I, Mambaling, Tisa, Bulacao, Punta, and Basak San Nicolas.

CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu City government has tapped private entities, civic groups, and other sectors for the fourth city-wide cleanup drive tomorrow, June 19.

Locations for the cleanup drive include barangays Ermita, T. Padilla, Tejero, Pasil, Sawang Calero, Pahina San Nicolas, Sambag I, Mambaling, Tisa, Bulacao, Punta, and Basak San Nicolas.

Reymarr Hijara, subcommittee chairperson for operations of the Coastal Management Task Force (CMTF), said all rivers in the city will also be included.

Personnel from various departments, including the Cebu City Transportation Office, Cebu City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office and Department of Public Service, will be assigned in different cleanup locations.

Hijara said volunteers, Mayor's Information and Liaison Office staff and barangay workers will have to gather into groups and coordinate with the assigned personnel for each area.

"We give participants the freedom to choose their own cleanup area. Usually man gud kung sila'y mo- choose, usually ilang pilion nga area either duol sa ilaha or kanang ilang malabyan para matagabtan sa nila ang results sa ilahang clean-up," he said.

He added that divers from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Cebu Technological University, and Cebu Pink Paddlers will conduct a cleanup underwater after the opening ceremony at II Corso Mall at the South Road Properties.

Guidelines

During the cleanup, Hijara said different organizers will have to ensure that volunteers will observe the minimum health and safety standards.

"We just always remind them to consider the standard health protocols like social distancing and then the safety protocols nga dapat naa sila'y sakto nga equipment, especially kaning gloves nato," he said.

Hijara added volunteers are instructed to bring at least one sack for their collected garbage "kay para dili sad siya magkatag-an and then sayon sad siya sa atoang DPS to collect."

They will also have to fill out, through an online form, the number of sacks and types of garbage they collected.

Part of the guidelines also requires volunteers to take before, during, and after pictures of the areas they have cleaned in the same angle and have them posted on Facebook and other social media accounts with the hashtag, #CleanCebuHealthyCebuanos.



"We would easily detect the activities sa atoang Facebook and social media because we will be having a joined hashtag."

He said certificates will be issued to the volunteers, provided the latter will email their attendance sheet and their list of encoded names.

Those who cannot submit online may also send the requirements to the Cebu City Vice Mayor's Office.

Moreover, in case of heavy rainfall, the cleanup activity will be halted, especially in areas where rivers may swell.

Advocacy

"The clean-up is a highlight every quarter to remind people to take care and love our environment. Og dili ta magtinabangay, si gyud ni siya mataman, kinahanglan tinabangay tang tanan," said Hijara.

However, he noted there has been an improvement in some barangays, which recently conducted their own cleanups.

Hijara said it would not suffice to do the cleanup as there has to be an integrated system among the different partners to resolve environmental concerns. — **Deogracia William Bemida**, **Silliman Intern, and Loreine Kyra Lebumfacil, CNU Comm Intern, KQD (FREEMAN)**



Headline Editorial Column Opinion Feature Article

3 rivers in Panay Island among top ocean plastic waste contributors

By <u>Glenda Tayona</u> -Thursday, June 17, 2021

ILOILO City – The Iloilo River here, the Jalaur River in Iloilo province and the Hamulauon River in Capiz are among the Philippine rivers contributing to ocean plastic pollution, a study of Rotterdam-based Ocean Cleanup showed.

Ocean Cleanup is a nonprofit engineering environmental organization developing advanced technologies to rid the oceans of plastic. It also conducts scientific research into oceanic plastic pollution.

A recent study, published in April, revealed that 28 percent of the rivers in the Philippines are responsible for ocean plastic pollution.

Ocean Cleanup specifically identified Pasig River along with 18 other rivers in the country as among the top 50 polluting rivers in the world.

Pasig River was identified as the most polluted by plastics.

The study further showed that of the 1,656 rivers monitored worldwide, 466 were in the Philippines and found to be responsible for 80 percent of ocean plastic pollution. More than 356,371 metric tons of plastic wastes in a year are dumped into the ocean through the rivers.

The Iloilo River in this southern city is an estuary – an arm of the sea – which now an attraction due to kilometer-long esplanades built on its banks

Over a decade ago, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) warned that the Iloilo River was "dying" due to pollution.

In early 2010 the Iloilo River Development Council was formed and the water body's rehabilitation was commenced. The Council and DENR partnered with the private sector. Massive cleaning was carried out, including the removal of illegal fish pens, relocation of illegal settlers, dredging, widening of blocked areas, and replanting of mangrove areas.

In November 2010 Iloilo City was cited for best practices in its river development project by the Livcom Awards in Chicago, United States.

Even before the Spanish colonization of the Philippines, the Iloilo River was already a channel of trade. A rich fishing ground, settlements soon sprouted along its banks.

The Iloilo River also provided safe anchorage to seagoing vessels.

After Fort San Pedro was established in the 1700s at the mouth of the Iloilo River, additional communities further sprouted along the banks of the river.

In 1855, the rapid economic growth of lloilo led to the opening of the port of lloilo to world trade. British and Spanish firms began to crowd the marshy area along lloilo River. They built warehouses, offices and shops on the streets parallel to the river.

The development, however, carried a hefty price. Through the years lloilo River and its tributaries became the natural sewerage, septic tank and garbage dumpsite of residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional establishments.

The lloilo River's water quality was adversely affected. As more informal settlers inhabited the banks, the lloilo River became heavily silted, contributing further to its degradation.

On the other hand, the Jalaur River, also known as Jalaud River, is the second longest river in Panay Island and the second largest by drainage basin. Only Panay River in Capiz has the longest and the largest river system in Panay.



Jalaur River ranked as the 17th largest river system in the Philippines in terms of drainage basin size. It has an estimated drainage area of 1,503 square kilometers and travels 123 kilometers from its source to its mouth in the Guimaras Strait.

It drains the eastern portion of Panay Island and traverses through Passi City and the towns of Calinog, Dueñas, San Enrique, Dingle, Pototan, Barotac Nuevo, Dumangas, Zarraga, and Leganes.

The river is of great economic importance to the province of Iloilo. It provides irrigation to farmlands as well as a source of potable water.

The lower reaches of the Jalaur River experiences seasonal flooding. When there is heavy downpour, during the months of June to September, the river overflows and floods the surrounding area.

The Hamulauon River, on the other hand, is located in Barangay Jamul-awon, Panay, Capiz. It is the largest outlet of the Panay River system and creates a bay called Tinagong Dagat. Its estimated terrain elevation above sea level is 254 meters.

Other rivers in the Philippines that dump the most volume of trash and plastic into the ocean are the Tullahan, Meycauayan, Pampanga, Libmanan, Rio de Grande de Mindanao, Agno, Agusan, Parañaque, Imus, Zapote, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Malaking Tubig, Tambo, Pasay, and Cagayan./**PN**



EDITORYAL - Ilog Pasig, number one sa nagpaparumi sa karagatan

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



Nangunguna ang Pasig River sa 19 na mga ilog sa bansa na nagpaparumi sa karagatan. Nagluluwa ito ng tone-toneladang plastic na basura sa Manila Bay dahilan para maging polluted ang dating malinis at hinahangaang lawa.

Bukod sa Pasig River, nagluluwa rin nang maraming basurang plastic sa karagatan ang mga ilog ng Tullahan, Meycauayan, Pampanga at Libmanan.

Ayon sa isang pag-aaral na nalathala sa Science Advance Journal, nasa 1,600 ilog sa buong mundo ang nagko-contribute para ma-pollute ang karagatan. Ayon sa pag-aaral, 80 percent ng mga ilog ay nagsusuka ng mga basurang plastic na humahantong sa dagat. Kahit umano maliit ang ilog ay nakakapag-contribute ng mga basurang plastic. Walang tigil sa paglalakbay ang mga basurang plastic na pawang humahantong sa dagat.

Ayon pa sa pag-aaral, ang Pasig River ay nakakapag-contribute ng mahigit 356,000 metriko tonelada ng plastic na basura sa karagatan bawat taon. Ang Pasig River na may habang 27 kilometro ay nakapaikot na parang ahas sa mataong Metro Manila. Maraming bayan at lungsod ang nasa paligid ng Pasig River at ang mga ito ay nagko-contribute ng 63,000 tonelada ng basura bawat taon.

Problema ang plastic na basura sa Metro Manila. Nararapat nang magkaroon nang pangmatagalang solusyon ang local government units (LGUs) para mabawasan ang paggamit ng plastic. Sa Quezon City, ipinatutupad ni Mayor Joy Belmonte ang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng single-used plastic. Bawal ang plastic sa QC. Kamakailan, inilunsad ni Belmonte ang "trash to cashback" program kung saan lahat ng recyclelables na basura ay ipapalit ng pagkain at pera.

Gawin din sana ito ng ibang LGUs sa Metro Manila para malutas o mabawasan man lang ang plastic na basura.



Pagtatanim ng kahoy sa watersheds, right on track! – Velasco

SUPALPAL - Non Alquitran (Pang-masa) - June 18, 2021 - 12:00am

DAHIL sa pandemya, hindi nakamtan ng Annual Million Trees Challenge (AMTC) ang primary goal nila na magtanim ng punongkahoy sa watersheds noong 2020 subalit hindi nababahala si Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System chairman Reynaldo Velasco dahil on the right track sila sa kanilang target sa loob ng limang taon. Sinabi ni Velasco na nangako ang kanilang AMTC partner stakeholders na magtatanim sila ng mahigit 1 milyon na kahoy sa taon na ito para mapunuan ang pagkukulang nila sa 2020.

Marami kasi sa kanilang program partners ang nag-postpone ng kanilang tree-planting activities dahil sa kasagsagan ng COVID-19 kaya umabot lang sa 633,442 na punongkahoy lang ang naitanim ng nakaraang taon, ani Velasco, na acting administrator din ng MWSS. Hindi nabahala si Velasco sa konting setback na ito dahil alam niya na makakamtan nila ang target na pagtanim ng limang milyong kahoy sa loob ng limang taon. Mismooooo! Kanya-kanyang gimik lang 'yan!

Ang AMTC kasi ay nailunsad ni Velasco noong 2017 para tamnan ng kahoy ang mga kalbong watersheds nang sa gayon ay mapigilan ang pagbaha nang malaking bahagi ng eastern Metro Manila at iba pang lugar sa bansa. Sa naturang taon, umabot sa 1,337,800 kahoy ang naitanim sa watersheds sa Angat, Ipo, Kaliwa, La Mesa, Laguna Lake, Umiray at Upper Marikina, kasama na ang Manila Bay.

Noong 2018 umabot sa 1,027,467 kahoy ang naitanim at 1,022,917 naman sa 2019 sa mahigit 9,509.375 ektarya ng kalbong watersheds, ani Velasco. "One of the remarkable accomplishments of AMTC is increasing the forest cover of Ipo Watershed from 43 percent in 2017 to 81 percent in 2020," ang dagdag pa ni Velasco, sabay sabing ang AMTC ay mahigpit na pinangasiwaan ang pag-alaga ng "sapling trees" na halos tatlong taon kung i-maintain at i-sustain.

Sa taon na ito nangako ang mga AMTC partner stakeholders tulad ng MWSS na magtanim ng aabot sa 140,000 na kahoy; MWSS-RO 23,000; Manila Water 70,000; Maynilad 20,000; Bulacan Bulk Water 20,000; DENR 3 43,000; DENR 4A-PENRO Rizal 350,000; LLDA 100,000; Camp Nakar LGU 50,000; ALKFI-BL 40,000; WWF Philippines 60,000; Boy Scout of the Philippines 50,000; Bambuhay- Anak ni Inang Daigdig 60,000; JCI Senate Philippines 2,000, at Rotary International District 3780 5,000. Hehehe! Kelangan pa bang i-memorize 'yan?

Hindi lang pagbaha ang layunin ng MWSS sa kanilang five-year watershed rehabilitation program kundi "to restore the health of seven critical watersheds that are crucial in supplying water to Metro Manila and neighboring provinces," ani Velasco. Ang programang ito ay para suportahan din ang National Greening Program ng gobyerno ni President Digong sa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Para isulong ang programang ito, inilunsad ang Million Trees Foundation Inc., (MTFI), na naging official NGO partner ng MWSS at DENR. Get's n'yo mga kosa? Sa kasalukuyan, ang mga kasamang institutional partners ng MTFI ay sina San Miguel Corporation President and CEO Ramon S. Ang, Manila Water President and CEO Enrique K. Razon, Maynilad President Ramoncito S. Fernandez at ang Prime Infra. Abangan!

Source: <u>https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2021/06/18/2106243/pagtatanim-ng-kahoy-sa-watersheds-right-track-velasco</u>





PCG conducts seagrass monitoring, installs marker buoys for Cavite fish sanctuaries

Published June 17, 2021, 11:13 AM

by Richa Noriega

Personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and volunteer divers conducted sea grass monitoring and also installed improvised marker buoys off the waters of Barangay Patungan, Maragondon, Cavite on Tuesday, June 15.

The PCG said the initiative aims to conserve and protect the natural resources of the province's vast waters.



Personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and volunteer divers conducted sea grass monitoring and installed improvised marker buoys off Barangay Patungan, Maragondon, Cavite on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)

They also installed two improvised marker buoys in Maragondon Fish Sanctuary and Patungan Coral Garden to indicate that these areas are being preserved by the local government.

"In collaboration with the PCG Station Cavite, residents can rely on the protection of the province's natural resources by implementing various initiatives, such as coastal clean-up, underwater clean-up, mangrove planting, maritime patrol, and maritime law enforcement against illegal fishing in Cavite waters," the PCG said in a statement.



Personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and volunteer divers conducted sea grass monitoring and installed improvised marker buoys off Barangay Patungan, Maragondon, Cavite on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)

The project was also made successful in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Maragondon local government, and Cavite State University.

Source: <u>https://mb.com.ph/2021/06/17/pcg-conducts-seagrass-monitoring-installs-marker-buoys-for-cavite-fish-sanctuaries/</u>





ARTA names agencies with highest number of complaints

June 17, 20213 min read

MANILA – The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) has identified 10 government agencies with the highest number of complaints they received from the public as of June 10 this year.

In the presentation of ARTA deputy director general Eduardo Bringas at the Kapihan sa ARTA Thursday, the agency received the highest number of complaints against the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) with a total of 92 complaints filed.

This is followed by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) with 88 complaints, Land Registration Authority with 79 complaints, Social Security System with 70 complaints, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with 48 complaints.

The ARTA also received 42 complaints against the Bureau of Customs, 41 complaints against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 30 complaints against the Home Development Mutual Fund, 24 complaints against the Department of Agrarian Reform, and 23 complaints against the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"But we cannot say that all of these are red tape-driven, because we also have to consider the number of clients they are addressing," Bringas said in Filipino.

He added ARTA likewise receives complaints that are not within its mandate, which the office redirects to the concerned agencies.

Moreover, complaints against other government agencies reached 391, while a total of 199 complaints were filed against local government units (LGUs).

As of June 10, ARTA received 1,127 complaints against national government agencies (NGAs) and LGUs.

Bringas also said the ARTA has filed cases against erring NGAs and LGUs at the Civil Service Commission, Office of the Ombudsman, and trial courts.

ARTA has filed 20 cases against LTFRB, FDA, Department of Energy-Renewable Energy Management Bureau, Registry of Deeds, and Land Transportation Office, and a total of 11 cases against the LGUs of Caloocan, Parañaque, San Nicolas in Batangas, Angeles in Pampanga, Marilao in Bulacan, Province of Camarines Norte, and Office of the Building Official of Taguig City.





ARTA director general Jeremiah Belgica has reminded NGAs and LGUs to adhere to the Republic Act 11032, also known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act (EODB) of 2018, or the EODB law, and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

Under the EODB law, all NGAs and LGUs should follow the '3-7-20 rule' in transacting with the public.

NGAs and LGUs should process simple transactions within three working days; seven working days for complex transactions; and 20 days for highly technical transactions.

Applications with complete requirements but exceeded the prescribed number of days of the transaction shall be deemed approved.

The ARTA will be issuing a declaration of completeness upon complaint and due investigation and verification.

Since 2019, a total of 8,510 were granted automatic approval and/or renewal of permits and licenses. (PNA)



THE EXPONENCE SHALL PROGRAM

June 18, 2021
Date

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Headline Editorial Column Opinion Feature Article

A stand against single-use plastic

Published June 18, 2021, 12:31 AM by Johannes Chua



We do not exactly know when this horrible pandemic would end, but one thing is sure when you talk to scientists, environmentalists, and conservationists – there is a looming pandemic that concerns the environment.

More than a year of wearing face shields, donning PPEs, having food delivered in disposable plastic containers, and using single-use plastic utensils would translate to an environment crisis of epic proportions. And let's not get started with other non-plastic trash such as disposable face masks, nitrile gloves, and empty syringes with those sharp needles.

I'm not trying to be pessimistic but a lot of these medical wastes are not recyclable. After facing the battle to save lives and livelihood against the invisible virus, we have to face the reality that there are consequences of the pandemic, and among the direst one concerns the visible trash that would find its way to our rivers, seas, and oceans.

But all hope is not lost. Just recently, my attention was called about a "meeting of minds" between civil society organizations and environmental groups advocating for the phase-out of single-use plastics (SUPs). Well, we have to start somewhere before we face the tons of trash resulting from the health pandemic. This is, in my opinion, a classic example of "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

These groups have been calling for the immediate passage of the proposed "Single-use Plastic Products Regulation Bill," which aims to dramatically reduce the dangerous effects of unnecessary plastics on people's health, the environment, and climate.

I got a statement from the Climate Change Commission (CCC) who hosted an online conversation regarding this proposal. The CCC said: "The civil society organizations presented their programs and projects across communities to address the problems caused by plastic pollution, and shared plastic-free alternatives in local enterprises and alternative delivery systems and reuse solutions."

"We are pushing (companies) to redesign their products or sell their products without using plastic. It's a whole system. We all have roles to play," said Froilan Grate, regional coordinator of Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) and president of Mother Earth Foundation. That statement was supported by Gloria Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines: "We know that the solution is in our hands but we need to work harder, work together, collaborate, and it's important to have consumers who are informed, and fully engaged in decision-making. Our call is to really stop plastic pollution at the source. The National Solid Waste Management Commission should already issue the list of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging. This will go a long way in stopping plastic pollution at the very source."



Checking the legislation backing this ban of single-use plastic, the CCC said that House Bill No. 9147, or the Single-Use Plastics Products Regulation Act, was already approved on second reading. The bill, sponsored by the House Committee on Ecology chair and co-authored by Antique Rep. Loren Legarda, sought to phase out various types of plastics in the coming years. In the Senate, a similar bill was filed last June 1 by Sen. Manny Pacquiao, which is called the Single-Use Plastics Regulation Bill or SBN 2262.

Like what I said, these efforts from civil society and the Congress are steps into the right direction. There is still a long road ahead, especially if we consider this one dire statistic – 59.7 billion pieces of plastic sachets are thrown by Filipinos each year. The numbers are too glaring to ignore and the tragedy would soon unfold before our faces. Before that truly happens, let us reconsider if we need single-use plastics in our lives, especially now that we are slowly opening our economy and going back to our pre-pandemic habits.

(Joe Chua is the editor of the Environment page.)



Tackling climate change with these planetfriendly solutions

Presented by: Nestlé

Published May 20, 2021 5:16pm



Action against climate change is way overdue. There is a crying demand for environmental protection around the world, giving both the public and private sectors the opportunity to realign their practices with sustainability in mind. The goal is to reach net zero, which means not adding new greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

Corporations have recognized the urgency of supporting climate solutions. Reducing waste and carbon footprint are among the top concerns. Nestlé, as the world's largest food and beverage manufacturers, has pledged to improve and accelerate its efforts to tackle this global problem. Nestlé plans to use its size, scale, and reach to make a difference as it urgently pursues its ambition to halve its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and reach net zero not later than 2050.

"Kasambuhay for the Environment"

Locally, Nestlé Philippines, now observing its 110th year in the country, has started to integrate sustainable practices in its operations as a "Kasambuhay for the Environment." Its office in Makati as well as factories in Luzon now run on 100% renewable energy. The company has been empowering 1,500 local Robusta coffee farmers in Mindanao to learn sustainable agriculture and coffee production. It also wants to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2025 across its local operations.





Nestlé Philippines Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki is confident that Nestlé's new environmental commitments can be achieved. During the company's virtual Net Zero Fair, employees and their families, along with Nestlé's business partners, all pledged to create a net zero environment by making sustainable choices, properly managing waste, and planting trees.

The fight against plastic waste

The deluge of packaging and plastic waste that makes its way into oceans and rivers is also a major issue that must be addressed. Marine litter affects everyone, not just those who live in and by the water. It leads to destruction of marine biodiversity and public health problems in humans.



Nestlé Philippines collects and diverts from landfills and the environment an amount of plastic equal to what it puts out in the market, having become the <u>country's first multinational fast-moving consumer goods company to attain plastic neutrality last August 2020</u>. Mr. Marzouki further announced that the company will collect an annual average of 26,000 metric tons of plastic waste, sustaining plastic neutrality, and use only recyclable or reusable packaging by 2025.



For companies like Nestlé, it is important to work with both the public and private sectors to be able to implement and achieve environmental goals.

"We are addressing climate change through coordinated action, continuing innovation, and multisectoral engagement, with open accountability as we report our progress." Nestlé Philippines SVP and Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Ms. Arlene Tan-Bantoto said. "We are the Good Food, Good Life company. We want to leave the legacy of a cleaner, healthier, and more livable planet for the next 110 years," she added.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu expressed his support, explaining that initiatives like these are perfectly aligned with the country's commitment under the Paris Agreement. "By accelerating its actions to tackle climate change, Nestlé will help our country attain its goals in building climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience." he said. The Philippines aims to reduce and avoid carbon emissions by 75% by 2030.

"Tackling climate change cannot wait, and neither can we." Mr. Marzouki said. "And so let us all move forward for the sake of our children and future generations, rising to the challenges that lie ahead, together and united."

Effective climate solutions can happen even on a smaller scale, within one's own house, school, or community. When it comes to saving the environment, everyone has the potential to be a force for good.

Take a closer look at more eco-friendly initiatives at the Nestle website for climate action inspiration.

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/content/788245/tackling-climate-changewith-these-planet-friendly-solutions/story/?fbclid=IwAR3UR4aMS1Ic5xnAGa051CW4jT-NomPsZp_caUf-m8GtHpjg8HauweYsBP0



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Why this beach in Digos glows in the dark

Published June 17, 2021 9:25pm

A resident living near Dawis Beach in Digos City, Davao del Sur was shocked after she witnessed how the waves of the sea glowed in the dark.

Interviewed by Jonathan Andal for "24 Oras," Joyce Loisa Demanawa, who uploaded the video of the glowing water, said this was the first time that the beach looked like moonlight.

"We touched the glowing water and it looked like blue algae that glowed. We did not experience itchiness when we touched the algae," Demanawa said in Filipino.

According to an expert of University of the Philippines Marine Institute, the beach glowed in the dark because of "bioluminescence" which is caused by an organism called phytoplankton.

"They are like microscopic plants in the ocean. They are a lot and they emit lights like some sort of fireflies," Dr. Aletta Yñiguez said, in a mix of Filipino and English.

In addition, the expert said the phytoplanktons do not pose health risks to the skin. Bioluminescence is also natural but it is unusual to see this many phytoplankton gathering in the sea.

"For example if you are sailing at the sea using a boat, you will see this phytoplankton but it is usually not this much," Yñiguez explained in Filipino.

Demanawa, who first witnessed the glowing beach on Tuesday, said the phytoplankton again illuminated at the beach on Wednesday.—Consuelo Marquez/LDF, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/791963/why-this-beach-in-digosglows-in-thedark/story/?fbclid=IwAR0bUPGIoKLfDxjvg1cF3ZZyx1XdqQD7unNAruSDwhMIGBnADYb hejVRQIk



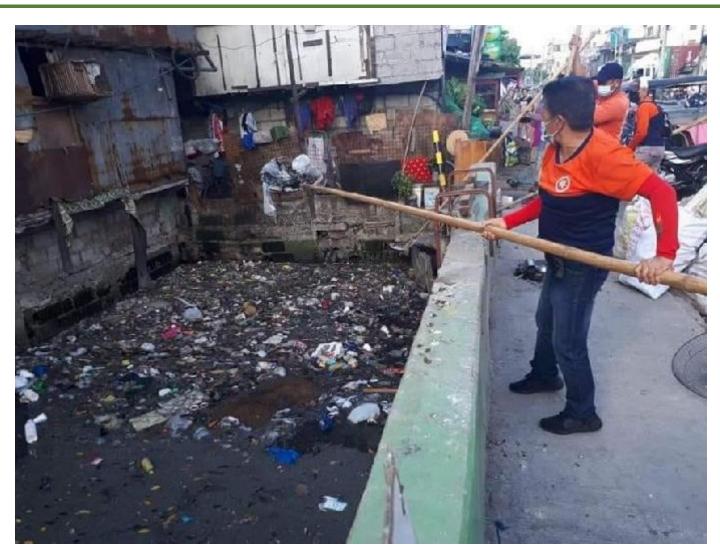
Headline

Editorial

Column

Opinion

Feature Article



Oplan Clean Agad nilunad sa Caloocan

<u>June 17, 2021</u>1 min read

Walang humpay ang paglilinis ng mga kawani ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Caloocan sa mga kanal at creek sa buong siyudad bilang paghahanda na tag-ulan kabilang sa mga nilinis ng grupo ng Oplan Clean Agad ang creek sa Tanigue cor. Labahita St. at Camia St.sa Barangay 177, Camarin. (Aj Rabulan/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/AI/MTVN)

Source: <u>https://maharlika.tv/2021/06/17/oplan-clean-agad-nilunad-sa-</u> caloocan/?fbclid=IwAR2WYY02bjKFEWmrFY0Xw7EQPa7ttTzPDUUdmm7ymufMJH-59xJGSzAT1s4



The Manila Times

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Headline Editorial Column Opinion Feature Article

Nuke waste and Disini

By Rene Saguisag

June 18, 2021

I AM among those who view as disqualified the incumbent Prez from running as veep. The spirit of the Constitution is disrespected by circumventing the explicit ban on reelection. The maxim is what may not be done directly cannot be done indirectly. An aging, ailing veep at 77 should be in retirement instead in his own and national interest.

Meantime, I was surprised by the news that there could be Fukushisma radioactive wastes flowing from Japan, our friend, to our shores.

The Bulletin last Sunday published, "One million tons of nuclear wastewater in Japan released without responsibility." I am incredulous, but could Japan, our friend, abuse our confidence?

It was not a news item but a paid advertisement. There should be a policy against anonymous sources of alarmist propaganda. A news report would have had attribution. Who paid for the anonymous ad? Please see Manila Bulletin, June 13, 2021, page 2; column 1, "One million tons of nuclear wastewater in Japan released without responsibility." It read:

"On April 13, the Japanese government held a cabinet meeting and formally decided to release more than one million tons of nuclear wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power Station into the ocean. The Japanese government's decision ignores the potential harm of nuclear wastewater into the sea to the marine environment and human health. Releasing contaminated water into the sea for its own benefit in the absence of sufficient scientific demonstration, international supervision and information transparency, which has aroused strong doubts in Japan, neighboring countries and other regions.... "

On the legal front, as the 1986 Cabinet and 1987-1992 Senate committee chairman on the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, I hail the Supreme Court ruling finding the estate of Herminio Disini liable in the Westinghouse case. Anyway, the paid ad concluded:

"The ocean is the common property of mankind, and the disposal of nuclear wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident is not only a Japanese domestic issue. Japan should review its responsibilities, fulfill its international obligations, and respond to the serious concerns from the international community, neighboring countries and its citizens. Review the solution of nuclear wastewater disposal at the Fukushima nuclear power plant and consulting with various countries and the International Atomic Energy is the only correct choice for Japan."

18 JUNE 2021, FRIDAY

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DENR

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





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Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources Visigus Avenue, Dilman, 1100 Quezen City Tel. Nos. (632) 6829-6826 to 96, (632) 8755-3300/8755-3330 Wabelite: www.defr.cov.co

May 19, 2021

DENR Administrative Order No. 2021-11

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN THE PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR THE CUTTING, REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF NATURALLY GROWING TREES

Pursuant to Section 77 of Precidential Decree No. 705, as amended, otherwise known as the "Rovised Foundry Code of the Philippinet", Precidential Decree No. 553 (Bequiting the Plantarg of Trees and Penalizing Unauthorized Cutting, Destruction, Damaging and Isjuring of Cartain Trees and Vegetation), Republic Act (R A) No. 7161 (Increasing the Forest Charges on Timber and Other Forest Proceeds), Executive Order (E.O) No. 152, series of 1587 (Providing for the Reargenization of the Department of Environment, E.O.No. 23, evenes of 2011 (Decking a Morabrium on the Cutting and Harvesting of Timber in the Natural and Residual Forests and Dreating fre Architegal Logging Task Force). DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2006-05 (New Rates of Forest Charges Punsant) to R.A. 7161 and Based on the FOB Market Price of Forest Products), DAO No. 2018-16 (Solidelines in the Processing and Issuance of Pereits on the Ramoval and Relocation of Times Affected by DPWH Projects and DAO No. 2020-05 (Amending Cartain Provisions of DAO No. 2018-16), and Republic Act No. 1151. Series of 2019 (Amini Charation of Times Affected by DPWH Projects) and DAO No. 2020-05 (2019 Amini Schulter Dever Lines Affected by DPWH Projects and DAO No. 2020-05 (2019 (Pacific Devertions of DAO No. 2018-16), and Republic Act No. 1151. Series of 2019 (Amini Charation of Times Affected by DPWH Projects) and DAO No. 2020-05 (2019 (Pacific Devertions of DAO No. 2018-16), and Republic Act No. 1151. Series of 2019 (Amini Charation Proves Lines Act), the following rules and regulations governing the outling, removal and relocation of naturally growing trees are hereby promulgated. Section 1, Secope and Coverrage

Section 1. Scope and Coverage

This Order shall cover all applications filed by any person/weilly for the co-moval and/or relocation of naturally growing trees, either in the public/forest private lands, except those applications filed by the National Government Age unsuen to DAO No. 2018-16 and DAO No. 2020-D6.

This Order shall not cover the trimming, praning, cutting and nervoul of trees within power line comboxs which no longer require to secure prior clearance or permit trois, but with due notice to, the DEMR Field Offices, pursuant to RA No. 11361, S. 2019. Further, the transport of logs derived therefree shell require a transport permit consistent with existing rules and regulations.

Sec. 2. Objectives

The objective of this Order is to ninearchine the procedures and app governing the issuance of permits for the cutting, removal and relocati grown trees within private and public/necess transit; and to come up with policy to promote reliable and coecise information in a usable and cohe tion of naturally a consolidated with a co Sec. 3. Definition of Terms

- For purposes of this Order, the following terms shall be defined as f
- a) Development Plan a long-bern plan prepared and submitted by a tens holder to, and for the approach by the DENR which, among others, indicat the series of sequential or simultaneous undertakings and schedules, developing and manophaging tonuned areas, including harvesting and etilizant of the products (thereo/).
- Earth-balling Permit a permit issued to may person allowing him of her to move a theeld by digging out the earth and the roots in a circular shapp, leaving most of the root system undistanteed and intact. This permit also authorizes the holdest to replace the trends in a designated area jointly evaluated by CENR and the Permittee. b)
- Forest Charges a livey being imposed by the government on each meter of timber aut, the amount of which is specified in the implementates and regulations of R.A.7161.
- Forest Lands includes the public forest, the permanent forest or forest mervers, and lettest mervations 01
- Naturally-Grown Tiree any naturally securing or growing trees with woody stem, regardless of size and economic utility or end-use, including the parts thereof such as stumps, tops and branches 6)
- Planted Tree Species an artificially grown/plan regardless of size and economic utility or end-use 6 m/planted tree with woody st
- Private land any land belonging to any private porton or group of p or particleal entity by virtue of statutory and/or outcomary laws, judicial OCT, TCT, and CLOA jaseed within atematic and disposable lands). 10)
- Private Land Timber Permit (PLTP) a permit to be issued to a landow for the utiling, gathering and utilization of naturally grown trees in priv lands, regardless of economic importance and species group. hð
- tarias regarizates or solutions importance and species group. Special Tree Cutiling Permit (STCP) a permit issued to any per-orthy allowing him or hur to cut, gather, and utilize naturally growing to of economic importance, including premium species within forest far Provided. That the presen has asitherity to occupy and conduct activ within said forest land. 15 note refe
- Special Three Cutting and/or Earth-balling Permit (STC/EP) a permit issued to any person/entity allowing him or har to cut or anoth-ball naturally growing trees within forest lands. Provided, that the person has authority to occupy and conduct activities within said beest land. j)
- The Inventory a process of collection, analysis and management of forest data and information to obtain a reliable estimate on the extent of the forest area and the stand and stocking density of timber as basis in forest management planning and decision making. **k**)
- Utilization: Plan a plan prepared and submitted by a private land owner, and for the approval by, the DENR which, among others, indicates the series of sequential or simultaneous undertakings and schedules, in harvesting and utilizing naturally grown trees found within private lands. 0

Processing of documentary requirements shall start upon finding that the as are valid and complete based on evaluation and assessment. Any applications incomplete or invalid documentary requirements shall be returned to the applic without pre-side to refiling. The following are the basic requirements for the issue of Tree Curting Permit and shall be submitted by the applicant to the concerned OE Field Office.

4.1. For Naturally Grown Tree/s within Private Lands

- a) Letter of Application
- b) Authenticated copy of land tile/CLOA issued by the Land Registration Authority or Registry of Deeds, whichever is applicable with approved sketch map of the area applied for;
- utilization Plan, if application povers ten (10) hectares or larger with at least 50% of the area povered with forest trees;
- c) Report duly signed by the forest officers who conducted the limber inventory of trees to be cut, to include result of the 100% timber inventory i.e. Tally Sheets and Stand and Stock Table of trees to be affected; and
- Endorsement from concerned LGU interposing no obj outling of trees under the following conditions:

 - 5.1 If the trees to be out fails within one barangay, an endersement from the Barangay Captain shall be secured.

 If the sees to be out fails within more than one barangay, endowment shall be secured either from the Manicipat/City Mayor or all the Barangay Captains concerned; and
- 1.3 If the trees to be cut fail within more than one municipality endostement shall be secured either from the Provincial Geve or all the Municipal/City Mayors concerned.
- Endoesement by local agrarian reform officer for areas covered by CLOA; and

Copy of Environmental Compliance Cartificate (ECC)/Contificate of Non-Coverage (CNC), if applicable. The DEMR RO/EMB shall determine if the free cuting activities will require ECC/CNC based on the settern of thes cuting operations, location (e.g. Environmentally Ortical Area), among others.

4.2 For Naturally Grown Trees within Public or Forest Lands

- Report duty signed by the forest officers who conducted the timber inventory of trees to be out, to include result of the 100% timber inventory (e. Tally Sheets and Stand and Stock Table of trees to be affected: Letter of application b)
- Endorsement from concerned LGU interposing no objection to the cutting of trees under the following conditions: e)

 - cutting of trees under the following conditional:

 If this twees to be out fails within one bacangey, an endowerneril, from the Barangay Capital shall be secured:
 If the trees to be out fails within more than one barangay, endorsement shall be secured either from the Manicipal/GRy Mayor or all the Barangay Capitalm concerned; and

 If the trees to be out fails within more than one municipal/GRy Mayor or all the Barangay Capitalm concerned; and

 If the trees to be out fail within more than one municipality/bity, endorsement shall be sourced either from the Provincial Governme or all the Municipal/City Mayors concerned.
- d) Copy of Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC)/Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC); and
- Copy of approved land tenaro instrument/management agreement (e.g. CBFMA/ IFMA/ SLUP/ FLAG/ FLAGT/ CADT/ MPSA/ FTAA) together with its approved development/management plan (IDP/ CRMP/ PYWP/ ment plan (IOP/ CRMF with its approved development/manager FYIOP/ CDMP/ ADSDPP/ EPEP. etc.)

Sec. 6. Tree Inventory Requirement

The conduct of tree inventory for ristanal growing trees shall be in oscardance with DMO No. 1991-06 and FMB Technical Bulletin No. 3. The Inventory Report must be subscribed and swom to by all the membris of the Inventory Team. All perimetr documents whall be attached to the report (e.g. original tably sheets, stand and stock table, geo-tagged photographs, etc.) including their findings and recemmendations. Below are the sampling intensities that shall be used in conducting free inventory atural growing frees in the following meas, to wit:

- 5.1 Within private stled land 100% timber inventory 5.2 Within forest land covered by approved land tenure instrument/management agreement (i.e. SLUP! FLAG(FLAGT/ CADIT MPS A/FT AA) - 100% timber
- inventory
- Within forest land covered by approved land tenuro instrument particularly IFMA and CBFMA 20% timber inventory

Sec. 6. Issuing Authority

Sec. 6, issuing Authority All new applications and requests for extension of Tree Cutting and Earth-Iselling Permits for naturally growing trees shall be issued by the concerned DENR Regional Executive Director, except cutting for public purposes of National Government Agencies which includes the DPVIPL DOT; DepEd, OA, DOH, CHED, DOE, and NIA persuant to DAO No. 2220-06, which what he issued by the concerned Community Environment and Natural Resources Officie/Implementing PEXMC0. The instance of these Parmits for naturally growing from shall be governed by existing laws, noise and regulations like E.O. No. 22 and other related guidelines.

Sec. 7. Duration of the Tree Cutting Permit

The duration of the overn't shall be dependent upon the volume granted following the achedule provided below but shall not exceed one (1) year at any one time Provided that only one (1) parent shall be issued within a period of one (1) year Provided that only one (1) parent shall be issued within a period of one (1) year Provided that be immediate and executory upon receipt of the CENROIIntpermenting PONRO and shall autoexatically expire as soon as the tree's large harden harvested are disposed of, or once it reaches the end of the validity period, whichever comes first. plementing

Volume	Validity
1 - 50 cu.m.	50 days
51 - 70 cu.m.	60 days
71 - 100 ou.m.	90 days
101-200 cu.m.	120 days
201 - 300 cu.m.	150 days
301 - 500 cu.m.	a months
501 - 850 cu.m.	7 months
651 - 750 cu.m.	& months
751-850 cu.m.	9 months
851 - 950 cu.m.	10 months
951 - 1000 cu.m.	11 months
1001 - up cu.m.	1 year

Sec. 8. Payment of Forest Charges

All relarating grown troos cut and harvestad lesido private and public/brest lands shall be subjected to payment of forest charges pussuant to R.A. No. 7161 and its implementing rules and regulations. Below are the applicable rates of forest charges per unit of measurement of specific species group.

		SPECIES GROUP	FOREST CHARGES (Php)					
1.		Timber Group (per oubic meter)	LUZON	VISAYAS	MINDANAC			
	a	Philippine Mahogany, Manggasinoro Group, Manggashapal Group, Narig Group, Palosapis Group, Geljo Group;	1,400.00	1,400.00	1.425.00			
	þ.	Yakai Group	Company and the second s	1,500.00	1,530.00			
	n .	Apitong Group		1,260.00	1.260.00			
	đ,	Softwood Species except Igem		715.00				
	0.	ligem.	1,275.00	1,275.00	1,275.00			
	t,	Nalo	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00			
	9	Furniture/Construction Hardwood	850.00	950.00	950.00			
	ħ.	Premium Species, if allowed to be out and	3.000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00			
	1.	Lesser-Used	700.00	708.00	700.00			
2.		/pwood, chipwood and matchwood ecles (per cubic meter)	95.00	95.00	95.00			
3,	10	rewood, branches and after coverable wood wastes of timber er cubic meter)	10.00	10.00	10.00			

Sec. 9. Penal Provision

The harvesting, gathering, and transport of naturally growing trees without necessary permit shall be grounds for filing of appropriate charges for violatic Section 77 of PD 705, as amended, and other laws, rules, and regulations. Sec. 10. Repeating Clause

Previsions of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-07 dated 19 May 2016 particularly on Page 1 ander Liczensen. Patients and Devels (Pacestry Related Catting Premits), other Administrative Orders, Memotancian Circulars and official issuances not consider hermatic are hereby repeated or animoded accordingly.

Sec. 11. Effectivity

This Order shall take effect Rteen (15) days after its publication in one (1) newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), UP Law Center, Quazon City.



18 JUNE 2021, FRIDAY

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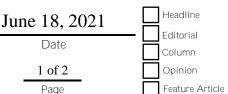


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Individuals under the A4 priority group are inoculated with the COVID-19 vaccine as the local government of Quezon City launches their QC ProtekTODO Bakuna Nights program at the city hall open grounds on June 16, 2021. The program aims to inoculate working individuals who cannot visit vaccination sites during the day due to their work schedules.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

2.01M Filipinos fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by mid-June — gov't data

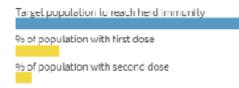
Christian Deiparine (Philstar.com) - June 17, 2021 - 3:17pm

MANILA, Philippines — More than three months' worth of COVID-19 vaccinations in the country have led to more than 2 million Filipinos receiving the second of two doses to be fully vaccinated, the Palace said.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque on Thursday presented official data that showed 2,012,154 individualshave been fully vaccinated, with 5,551,087 more done with their first dose.

How far is the Philippines from herd immunity?

The government targets to vaccinate 70% of Filipinos to reach herd immunity.



Source: National COVID-19 Vaccination Operations Center, Philippine Statistics Authority • As of June 16, 2021, 6 p.m.

🏶 A Flourish ohart

Such efforts began in March when supplies of the jabs began coming in to the country. By mid-June, Roque said some 7,563,241 doses have been administered.

The Philippines has been averaging 140,985 inoculations a day in the last seven days.

Priority sectors

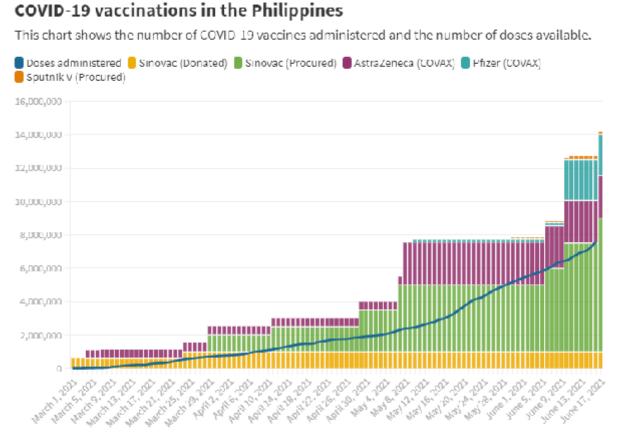
Vaccinations are still focused on those in government's priority list. It would mean 1.02 million health workers complete with their shots, with 1.47 million with their first dose.

Some 513,711 senior citizens are now also fully vaccinated, with 1.84 million receiving their initial shot.

On those with comorbidities, figures showed 469,747 with two doses, while 1.87 million got their first. Essential workers are at 7,165 fully inoculated, with 364,694 with their first dose.



The pandemic task force opened vaccinations for the said priority group or A4 this June, paving the way for some 35 million workers now qualified to receive the jabs.



Sources: Our World in Data, Department of Health, National Vaccination Operations Center

🏶 A 🛛 curish chart

Local governments have since moved to encourage more of their constituents to get vaccinated, such as raffling animals for livelihood or and a house a lot, to name a few.

On Wednesday, Quezon City began too an evening shift in vaccinations for workers unable to get the jabs during the day.

Roque said the country has received 14.2 million vaccine doses to date. Next month, vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. reported that 11.67 million more doses will arrive in the country, in the hopes of stabilizing the supply and ramp up inoculations. — with reports from Xave Gregorio

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PH logs 155 new COVID-19 deaths, 6,637 cases

By <u>CNN Philippines Staff</u> Published Jun 17, 2021 3:45:18 PM



The country logged 155 new COVID-19 deaths on Thursday, the third day in a row this week with over a hundred fatalities, bringing the death toll to 23,276, according to the Department of Health. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 17) — The country logged 155 new COVID-19 deaths on Thursday, the third day in a row this week with over a hundred fatalities, bringing the death toll to 23,276, according to the Department of Health.

The DOH daily case bulletin said the death toll is 1.74% of the total number of cases which increased to 1,339,457 after 6,637 more people got infected. Of this total, 4.4% or 58,407 were active cases or people currently ill, with 91.8% experiencing mild symptoms, 3.8% without symptoms, 1.8% with severe symptoms, 1.3% in critical condition, and 1.3% in moderate condition.

The recovery total also rose to 1,257,774 or 93.9% of the COVID-19 tally after 4,585 more people were cleared of the coronavirus.

The DOH said 235 previously tagged recoveries were reclassified into active cases and 107 were reclassified as fatalities. The total excludes data from five laboratories that were not able to submit their reports on time. These laboratories contributed an average of 0.66% of samples tested and 1.14% of positive individuals in the last 14 days.

The daily positivity rate or percentage of people who tested positive dropped to 11.9% based on 44,425 tests conducted on June 15. The DOH will still update the figure. The recommended rate is below 5% according to the World Health Organization. Experts said higher rates may mean high transmission and there may be more cases that have yet to be detected.

Among Filipinos abroad, four more caught the coronavirus while seven recovered, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported. The total number of cases is now 20,280 with 4,578 infections verified by the DOH, the DFA added. The survivor count is 12,092 while the death toll stayed at 1,219. There are also 6,969 patients still undergoing treatment.





1.5M doses of Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine arrive in PH

June 17, 2021



Photo courtesy: NTF Against COVID-19.

By Pearl Gumapos

Another 1.5 million doses of Sinovac's CoronaVac vaccine arrived on Thursday morning at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 via a Cebu Pacific flight.

The new batch of vaccines counts as the third and biggest shipment of CoronaVac delivered to the country this month.

One million doses of the same COVID-19 vaccines were delivered last June 8 and June 10.

Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. earlier said that the country is expecting 5.5 million CoronaVac shots this June.

On Wednesday, the Department of Health said it will be distributing 1 million Sinovac vaccines.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said over at ABS-CBN's Teleradyo that the delivery was put on hold because the certificate of analysis was yet to be submitted by the manufacturer.

The certificate is necessary to ensure that the vaccines delivered are of good quality which ensures their safety and efficacy. -rir





Australia, magbibigay ng P480.2-M para sa COVID-19 vaccines

June 17, 2021



Vials of the Chinese made Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine, are pictured during a vaccination campaign at makeshift tents in Tirana' s main square on March 28, 2021. - Albania received a large supply of Sinovac vaccines from Turkey, enabling it to start a mass vaccination for the people over age 70. (Photo by Gent SHKULLAKU / AFP)

Halos kalahating bilyong piso ang nakatakdang ibahagi ng bansang Australia sa Pilipinas para sa pagbili ng bakuna kontra COVID-19, ayon sa embahada ng Australia.

Sa isang tweet, ibinalita ni Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Steven Robinson na bibigyan nila ang bansa na AUD13.72-M o P480.2-M.

"This will make an important contribution to meeting the country's vaccine needs in 2021," ani Robinson.

Steven J. Robinson AO 🥑 @AusAmbPH	y
I have informed Secretaries @teddyboylocsin @SecDuque Galvez & Dizon of Australia's additional commitment of AUD13.72M (PHP480.2M) to buy #COVID19 vaccine for the This will make an important contribution to meeting the country's vaccine needs in 2021. #mateshipandbayanihan	
12:07 PM · Jun 17, 2021	i
♡ 146 🦻 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter	

Ito ay isang panibagong commitment ng bansang Australia matapos magbahagi ng AUD130 million sa COVAX Facility.

Una na ring nagbahagi ang Australia ng AUD7.52-M bilang bahagi ng kanilang vaccine response plan kasama ang United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at World Health Organization (WHO).







Sa kasalukuyan, mayroon nang 14,205,870 doses ng bakuna kontra COVID-19 ang Pilipinas, kung saan 7,563,241 na ang naiturok sa mga pangunahing benepisyaryo. – Ulat ni Naomi Tiburcio/AG-rir

#OneDENR

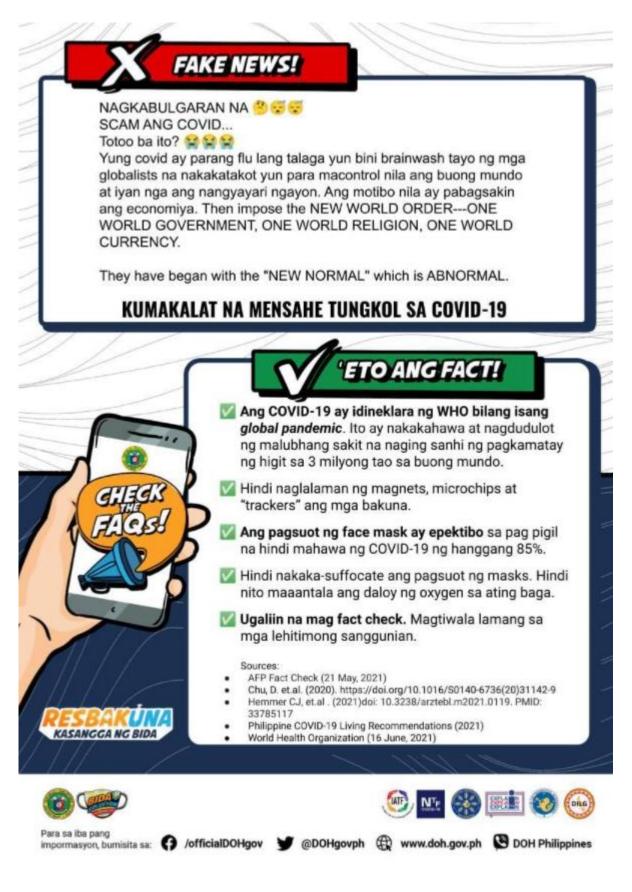
Covid-19 Situation and Response



Department of Health (Philippines)

TIGNAN: Binigyang linaw ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan ang kumakalat na mensahe patungkol sa COVID-19. Ito ay idineklara ng WHO bilang isang global pandemic. Ito ay nakakahawa at nagdudulot ng malubhang sakit na naging sanhi ng pagkamatay ng higit na 3 milyong tao sa buong mundo. Ang mga bakuna ay ligtas at hindi naglalaman ng magnets, microchips, at "trackers". Karagdagan dito, ang pagsuot ng face mask ay epektibo upang hindi mahawa ng COVID-19. Hindi rin nakaka-suffocate ang pagsuot ng mask.

The Department reminds the public to always verify information found online only with legitimate sources. Maging BIDA, alamin ang tamang impormasyon! #CheckTheFAQs



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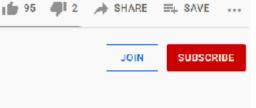
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