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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR partners with deaf, blind communities for environmental awareness

Published November 17, 2021, 3:19 PM
by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has built a partnership with blind and deaf-blind community to promote environmental communication and learning as part of the agency's annual observance of the Deaf Awareness Week.

Through the agency's Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS) – Person With Disability Desk (PWDD), DENR launched Tuesday, Nov. 16, a project that aims to enable visually impaired and hearing impaired to gain access to essential information, education and communication (IEC) materials related to the current state of the environment.

The project, entitled "Strengthening DENR's Partnership with the Deaf/Blind Community," also aims to boost the agency and the community's capacities as partners in advocating good environmental citizenships.

DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu said the initiative highlights the agency's agenda to build strong frameworks for disability inclusion and advocacy for disability rights in DENR's programs.

"The DENR believes people with disabilities have and should have all the same access to our communication tools as others," he said in a statement.

Cimatu also said the partnership is DENR's commitment to support broad-based and inclusive approaches to address climate-related threats and push for green recovery under the government's pandemic recovery plans.

The launching came with sign language interpretations and Braille translations of DENR's IEC materials.

SCIS Director Hiro Masuda said his call to create disability-inclusive activities such as the production of IEC video and print materials accessible to the deaf and blind "echoes DENR's putting policy into practice for persons who are most at risk of being left behind due to their vulnerabilities."

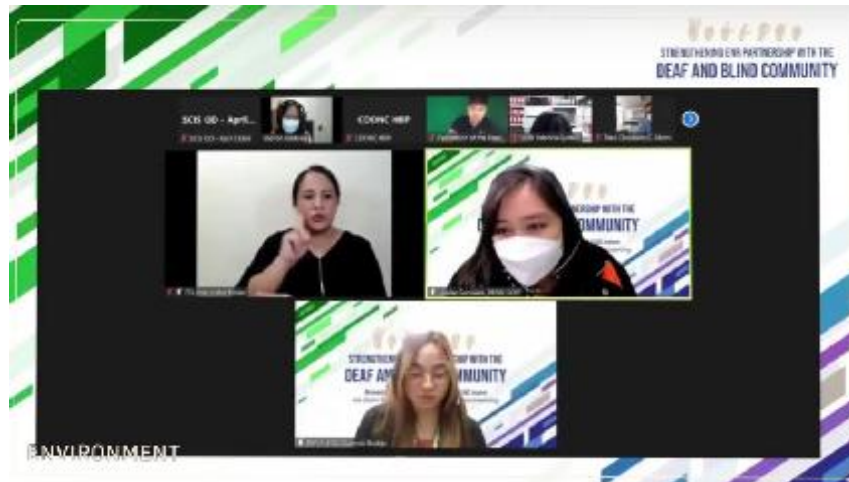
"Moving forward, we will institutionalize this undertaking by increasingly engaging them also in tree growing activities and other advocacy efforts. The launch of the IEC materials is just the first installment of a series of IEC materials that will be published in 2022," he said, adding that all DENR-SCIS field offices will be tapped for the effort.



DENR partners with deaf, blind community for environmental awareness

NOV 17, 2021, 2:53 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer



THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday launched an information, education, and communication project to help visually and hearing-challenged people participate in good environmental practices.

Titled, "Strengthening DENR's Partnership with the Deaf/Blind Community," the program was aimed at enabling the visually and hearing impaired, including the blind and deaf-blind, to gain access to essential IEC materials and strengthen their capacities as partners in advocating good environmental citizenships.

The move was made in consonance with annual observance of the Deaf Awareness Week and initiated by the Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS) - Person With Disability Desk (PWDD).

Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the initiative highlights DENR's agenda to build strong frameworks for disability inclusion and advocacy for their rights.

"The DENR believes people with disabilities have and should have all the same access to our communication tools as others," Cimatu said.

Cimatu cited that the partnership is DENR's commitment to support broad-based and inclusive approaches to address climate-related threats and push for green recovery under the government's pandemic recovery plans.

The launch was highlighted by the presentation of DENR's IEC materials with sign language interpretations and Braille translations, and the pledge of solidarity with the deaf and blind community.

The group was represented by National Council on Disability Affairs Executive Director Emerito Rojas and Integrated Blind of the Philippines president Gerard Amosco.

Meanwhile SCIS Director Hiro V. Masuda said their push to create disability-inclusive activities such as the production of IEC video and print materials accessible to the deaf and blind "echoes DENR's putting policy into practice for persons who are most at risk of being left behind due to their vulnerabilities."



The materials, which are considered the first-of-its-kind in DENR's history, consist of 16 videos with sign language interpretations.

These include materials about the key projects of the DENR, namely Battle for Manila Bay, Manila Bay Accomplishment Reports, Manila Bay Beach Nourishment, and Battle for the Rivers and Esteros.



DENR nakiisa sa mga may kapansanan para sa environmental awareness



Manila, Philippines – Inilunsad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noong Martes (November 16) ang information, education, at communication project kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Deaf Awareness Week upang maipalaganap ang environmental communication at learning sa mga taong may kapansanan o iyong mga blind at deaf-blind.

Sa pamamagitan ng DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS) – Person With Disability Desk, ang proyektong ito na tinawag na “Strengthening DENR’s Partnership with the Deaf/Blind Community” ay may layong maipaabot sa mga may kapansanan tulad ng mga bulag at bingi ang mga IEC materials at mapalakas ang kanilang pakikiisa para maisulong ang “good environmental citizenship.”

Sa press release ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang pagkukusang ito ay nagbibigay halaga sa layunin ng DENR “to build strong frameworks for disability inclusion and advocacy for disability rights in DENR’s programs in building institutional collaborations with the PWD community like in environmental advocacy.”

“The DENR believes people with disabilities have and should have all the same access to our communication tools as others,” saad ni Cimatu.

Ayon kay Cimatu ang partnership na ito ay bahagi ng pangako ng DENR na suportahan ang “broad-based and inclusive approaches to address climate-related threats and push for green recovery under the government’s pandemic recovery plans.”

Kaugnay nito bahagi ng programa ang pagpresenta ng DENR IEC materials na may kasamang sign language interpretations at Braille translations, at ang pledge of solidarity sa mga deaf at blind community na nirepresenta ni National Council on Disability Affairs Executive Director Emerito Rojas at Integrated Blind of the Philippines president Gerard Amosco.

Samantala ayon naman kay SCIS Director Hiro V. Masuda, ang kanyang pagtulak na magkaroon ng disability-inclusive activities tulad ng pagbuo ng IEC video at print materials na magagamit ng mga bingi at bulag, “echoes DENR’s putting policy into practice for persons who are most at risk of being left behind due to their vulnerabilities.”

Ang paglulunsad ng IEC materials na itinuturing na kauna-unahan sa kasaysayan ng DENR, ay binubuo ng 16 videos na may sign language interpretations.

Kabilang dito ang mga proyekto ng DENR tulad ng Battle for Manila Bay, Manila Bay Accomplishment, Manila Bay Beach Nourishment, at Battle for the Rivers and Esteros. **(Santi Celario)**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/denr-nakiisa-sa-mga-may-kapansanan-para-sa-environmental-awareness/>



[Keeping them off waters; DENR plans to recycle used face shields](#)

NOV 17, 2021, 1:17 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer



AWARE that tons of used face shields might end up in garbage dumps and even in waterways now that their use has been declared as optional, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is plotting ways to recycle and make them useful again.

In a virtual press briefing, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda called on the public to not just throw away the face shields anywhere.

Antiporda added that face shields should be properly disposed so that they can be collected by garbage collectors and bring them to proper recycling facilities.

"We will use recycling strategy to properly manage the disposal of face shields" said Antiporda.

He noted that recycled face shields can be turned into bricks to be used as construction materials.

Meanwhile, Crispin Lao vice-chair, National Solid Waste Management Commission advised the public that it would be better to just keep the face shields inside their houses.

But in case that the people wanted them to be disposed, then they should give them to garbage collectors for proper disposal.

According to Lao, face shields can also be used as construction materials and can also be recycled.

"We can recycle the face shield and it can be turned into construction materials," he said.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/keeping-them-off-waters-denr-plans-to-recycle-used-face-shields?fbclid=IwAR0Rrn4_65zhd0Ug4Q0I_UpErpY4xjz-lpKSeKgEmH2CP7CZEARAv06rjgg



DENR, may payo sa publiko hinggil sa tamang pagtatapon ng face shield



Pinayuhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang publiko hinggil sa tamang pagtatapon ng face shield.

Ito ay matapos baguhin na ang panuntunan sa paggamit nito sa mga lugar na nasa Alert Level 1, 2 at 3 at magiging voluntary na lamang.

Ayon kay DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, recyclable material ang face shield kaya dapat itong itapon ng maayos.

Kailangan na ma-disinfect muna ang ginamit na face shield bago itapon dahil sa posibleng panganib sa mga mangongolekta nito sa basura.

Sa ngayon, pakiusap ng DENR sa mga lokal na pamahalaan na gumawa ng programa kung saan kokolektahin ang mga hindi na nagagamit na face shield para hindi na itapon kung saan-saan.



DENR calls for illegal fish structure dismantling in Parañaque



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is urging owners of illegal fish structures in Manila Bay waters off Parañaque City to voluntarily dismantle these already.

Removing such structures will help reduce navigational hazards in Manila Bay and is aligned with the 2008 Supreme Court order which seeks to make this water body fit again for contact recreation, noted DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

“We’re calling on owners of the structures, maybe you can already self-dismantle these instead of the government doing the work,” he said at a virtual press conference late Tuesday afternoon.

He noted self-dismantling will enable the owners to somehow recover materials they used in building the structures. That would not be possible if government undertakes the dismantling, he continued.

Last week, Antiporda said authorities have spotted about eight fish structures off the waters of Parañaque. Each of those structures covered an area of almost one hectare, he noted.

The DENR, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and other agencies concerned are scheduled to meet with Parañaque local government unit (LGU) this week to discuss the matter as government must enforce relevant laws, he added. (PNA)



Environmental workers concerned over discovery of dead 'dugong'

By Richelyn Gubalani November 17, 2021, 5:41 pm



DECEASED. An environmental worker inspects a dead sea cow locally known as "dugong" found by residents on the shores of Barangay Poblacion, Kiamba town in Sarangani province on Tuesday night (Nov. 16, 2021). The 2.7-meter marine mammal was found with bruises and abrasion in some parts of the body. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-12)*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Environment personnel in Sarangani have raised concern over the discovery of a dead sea cow or manatee (locally known as "dugong") on the shores of Kiamba town, Sarangani province on Tuesday night.

Joy Oloquin, area superintendent of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS), said on Wednesday the dead marine mammal was initially reported by local residents to have washed ashore at a portion of Barangay Poblacion.

She said the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Kiamba immediately verified the matter and found the carcass of the female sea cow.

"Upon inspection, they noticed the bruises and abrasion in some parts of its body," she said in a report.

Oloquin said she ordered the immediate burial near the site of the marine mammal in coordination with local stakeholders.

MENRO and CENRO personnel are currently looking into the possible causes of the death of the 2.7-meter sea cow, which is among the flagship species of the SBPS.

On October 26, residents also found a stranded female Pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*) on the shores of Barangay Mabay, Maitum town.

The whale, which had a body circumference of 115 inches and 225 inches from dorsal to tail, was weak and wounded when rescued by CENRO personnel.

Blood samples were collected from the stranded whale and a responding veterinarian performed intubation to make it stay hydrated but it died a day later.

Dr. Mejorada, the in-house veterinarian of the Sarangani Environmental Conservation and Protection Center, conducted a necropsy but the result was inconclusive as to the cause of death.

Hundreds of marine mammals have been spotted by the environmental workers to have been thriving in parts of the Sarangani Bay in the past several years.

The bay, which covers 215,950 hectares, is the only declared protected seascape in Region 12 (Soccsksargen). **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1160048>



Camiguin's endangered bats live in peace as new tourist draw

By Jigger Jerusalem **November 17, 2021, 6:04 pm**



TOURIST POTENTIAL. A colony of a golden crown flying fox or “kabug” numbering about 500 hovers over their dwelling place in Barangay Poblacion, Catarman town, Camiguin. Plans are now in place to protect them and their habitat. *(PNA photo by Jigger Jerusalem)*

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Bats may have been blamed for the worldwide spread of the coronavirus disease 2019, but in Camiguin, these flying mammals have become an added attraction to the island province known for its numerous tourist destinations.

Camiguin has long been known for its white beaches, resorts, islands, springs, waterfalls, dive sites, and other areas of interest unique to the province such as the sunken cemetery, and until recently, the bats.

According to the locals in Barangay Poblacion, Catarman, the colony of bats has started dwelling in two gigantic trees – “doldol” or silk cotton tree and Antipolo tree – some eight years ago.

The trees stand near the barangay road in the center of the village where clusters of houses, public markets, grocery stores, and dining establishments are located.

Don Quililan from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Camiguin said in an interview Wednesday the bats in Catarman are called golden crown flying fox (*acerodon jubatus*) or “kabug” in the Visayan language.

This particular type of bat species, he said, is considered the largest in the Philippines and is known to live in trees.

By PENRO’s estimate, there are now more than 500 members of the colony in Poblacion.

Quililan said killing a critically endangered animal such as “kabug” is punishable by law.

Under Republic Act 9147 or Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001, an offender could be penalized with fines ranging from PHP1 million to PHP2 million.

Bat colony

A resident, Tony Longay, whose house is just a few meters from the bats’ dwelling place, said the colony that first settled in Poblacion numbered around 200.

Today, the colony’s population has almost tripled in size.

Longay said nobody dared to disturb the bats’ habitat, although the flying mammals don’t seem to mind sounds from vehicles and human activities from nearby residences.

“No one is allowed to light a fire or make a really loud noise near the trees where the bats live,”



he said.

Longay said the bats' noise can be heard at twilight when they fly out to forage for food and during daybreak when they return to roost.

"They are very playful and noisy. That is their characteristic," Longay said in the vernacular.

He said no one exactly knows why the bats have settled down in a populated area rather than in Camguin's forests in the mountains.

"They like it here in Poblacion because the people here are disciplined, they don't hunt animals. Perhaps they feel safe and protected here," Longay said.

Catarman Mayor Kiterio Antonion Palarca II said the bat colony has the potential to become a rare tourist attraction.

"In my travels around the country, I've seen a populous colony only in Subic. But what makes our bats here in Catarman different is that they live in the middle of a human community. That is why we have to protect them," Palarca said.

The mayor said the municipal legislative council has crafted an ordinance that would declare the colony's habitat as a protected sanctuary.

To ensure that the bats will stay, Palarca said they have to see to it that aside from prohibiting loud noises, the trees that they live in must never be cut down or their branches trimmed.

Palarca, who admitted being a bird hunter in his younger days but has since become an animal protection advocate, said judging from its size, a single bat could weigh between 400 grams and half a kilo.

He said the bats' food of choice are mangos, nuts from Talisay or tropical almond trees, and lanzones, which are abundant on the island, and other wild fruits.

The lanzones in Camiguin have been touted as the sweetest among the varieties owing to the island's fertile volcanic soil.

"We have a mango tree near the municipal hall and whenever there are ripe fruits, the bats help themselves to it, which is a good thing because the ripe ones no longer fall to the ground," Palarca said.

It is also possible, he said, that the bats would venture to other towns to look for food due to their ability to detect fruits even from afar.

But, he added, no matter how far they went, the bats always come back to Catarman.

Palarca said the residents have been aware of the bats' presence that whenever they fly out in the middle of the day, he sends in the police to check if someone has disturbed them.

"The bats' presence in Poblacion is a living proof that we are protecting our environment. Imagine, they chose to live among people than in the wilderness," he said.

Extra tourist attraction

The local government of Catarman is planning on building a view deck a few hundred meters away from the colony's dwelling place where tourists can observe the bats from a safe distance.

"We will make the bats a tourist attraction without disrupting their habitat. We will buy telescopes for viewing," Palarca said.

Quililan said the PENRO has been conducting an information drive to inform the residents that the golden crown flying fox is "critically endangered" due to its low population.

In Northern Mindanao, the estimated population of these bat species, which usually dwell in huge trees, is around 7,000 living in about five roosting sites in the region, mostly in Bukidnon.



“These bats are keeping the environment alive since they help in seed dispersal,” Quililan said.

He said the owner of the property where the bats take up residence can also gather their droppings or “guano” and use it as organic fertilizer.

Camiguin Gov. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo said the island has been blessed with diverse flora and fauna, as he expressed his gratitude to the residents' vigilance and care for the environment.

“These bats will become an added attraction to our island’s tourism industry. Now, our guests, especially environmentalists and wildlife lovers, will have more reason to visit Camiguin,” he said. **(PNA)**



ONE News • 14h •

#Agenda | Manila Bay is under the second phase of rehabilitation, which is expected to finish within this year.
WATCH: <https://bit.ly/3nHFU>

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

MMDA EYEING TO MAKE MANILA BAY SWIMMABLE AGAIN

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said they are working with the operations of the sewerage treatment plant in Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay. MMDA General Manager Romando Artes said this is part of the Duterte administration's goal to make the area safe for swimming.

File photo: The Philippine STAR/Edd Gumban
Source: One News Agenda

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Deputy Speaker Villar files House bill to address plastic pollution

Deputy Speaker and Las Piñas City Rep. Camille Villar has filed a bill seeking to address plastic pollution in the country and shift to companies the responsibility of recycling.

Villar submitted House Bill 10498 or the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2021 which seeks to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their products and packaging which turn into wastes if not properly recycled or disposed of.

“This legislation institutionalizes the EPR mechanism as a practical approach on efficient waste management, waste reduction, and development of ecologically-friendly packaging products. EPR as a concept refers to the environmental policy, initiatives and practices in which companies and corporations are obliged to have the responsibility of proper and effective recovery treatment, recycling and disposal of their products after they have been sold and used by consumers aimed at improving the 3Rs of ecological management: reuse, reduce and recycle,” the Las Piñas City representative said after filing the measure.

The lone district congresswoman wants the bill passed to address the harmful impacts of plastic wastes which she said makes up a significant share of the overall generated waste in the country. The Philippines produces about 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste annually.

Under the said House measure, companies shall be mandated to exercise EPR over the plastic packaging waste used on their products that are sold and distributed within the country, whether in traditional physical stores, distribution outlets or online platforms. The said companies are also responsible for making financial contributions to assist in the collection, recovery, transportation, processing, recycling and disposal of plastic wastes.

Corporations that have put in place EPR mechanisms are entitled to tax and duty exemption on imported capital equipment to be used for EPR purposes.

The bill also highlights the personnel in the National Ecology Center which will be headed by a director who will implement the EPR and assure compliance, inclusion of the private sector, civil society and non-government organizations in the decision-making body, and developing awareness on EPR programs by private organizations and business entities.

A provision has been included in the bill to review the policy and assess the impact it has made to the environment five years after the law is passed.

The measure, which is an updated version of HB 8691 earlier introduced by the lady solon last March, is a product of consultations with and studies by organizations to address plastic and solid waste management in the country. (Melvin Sarangay)



BBM makes pollution-free PHL key plank of economic program



In Photo: Plastics compose most of the waste at the Taytay Materials Recovery Facility in Barangay Muzon, Taytay, Rizal. BusinessMirror file

IMPROVING air quality in the country is key to seeing a pollution-free country – one that in turn will help boost the economy, particularly the health care and labor system, according to former senator and presidential aspirant Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr.

Marcos, standard-bearer of the Partido Federal ng Pilipinas (PFP), vowed to make this part of his program, amid reports by the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air and the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities that air pollution is costing the Philippines an estimated P4.5 trillion a year in productivity and economic loss and additional health care burdens.

“it is important to keep clean and safe the places we live, breathe and move in, so it is crucial that we ensure good air quality by fighting air pollution because this is connected to ensuring economic health,” he said, mostly in Filipino, in a statement on Tuesday.

The report said about 66,000 premature deaths from non-communicable diseases and lower respiratory infections each year are directly linked to pollution.

It added that the current air quality in the country is equivalent to smoking at least one cigarette a day.

“We are spending a lot because of the problem of pollution, This has a big impact on our economy and day-to-day life, and this is why it’s important to respond to this problem right away,” Marcos noted.

He made the bold call even as representatives from nearly 200 countries gathered in Glasgow for painstaking talks aimed at keeping the world within the Paris Agreement goal of limiting temperature rise to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius.

Earth’s surface has warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels so far, magnifying weather extremes across the planet.

And the world is on track to surge beyond the Paris Agreement target of limiting heating to between 1.5C and 2C.

Even considering a new round of carbon-cutting pledges this year, Earth’s surface will still warm a “catastrophic” 2.7C, the United Nations has calculated.

Isabella Suarez, a CREA analyst, was quoted saying the detrimental health effects spell huge economic costs that affect the health care and labor system.



“Neglecting air pollution comes with a heavy bill in the form of increased health-care and welfare costs as well as loss of labor and economic productivity,” Suarez said.

The study also showed that of the P4.5-trillion annual cost of pollution, 98 percent or P4.43 trillion is lost to premature deaths that result in lost livelihoods and economic productivity.



Carbon testing, reforestation keys to Lacson climate plans

posted November 17, 2021 at 10:40 pm

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Due to fears that the world might die by year 2100, Partido Reporma chairman and standard-bearer Panfilo “Ping” Lacson vowed to thwart global warming.

According to Lacson, he has been taking the issue of climate change seriously for the sake of future generations who will inherit the Philippines.

If he wins the presidency, the veteran lawmaker, committed to implement better carbon emission testing and reforestation programs as part of his initial plans to curb global warming.

He said the government must pursue more tree planting activities to revitalize our forests nationwide, which may have been denuded by illegal logging operations.

He also expressed concerns over the world’s continuing dependence on fossil fuels.

“This is the possible dire consequence. I read this somewhere. By year 2100, we might no longer have an Earth if the so-called fossil [fuel burning] continues,” Lacson said.

Countless scientific studies showed that carbon dioxide produced during fossil fuel combustion for electricity, transportation, and other human activities is a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions, one of the leading causes of global warming.

He warned that the next generation is going to experience what they predict as the death of planet Earth because of human environmental abuse.

“While we do not want to think about it, I believe our sea levels keep rising at two inches, two centimeters per year,” he said.

In view of these continuing developments, the Partido Reporma presidential bet said he appreciates the recently concluded 2021 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, where global leaders met to discuss these environmental concerns.

Lacson welcomed the \$100-billion pledge of the United States in aid of poorer countries, which remain at higher risk to the adverse impact of climate change. He is hoping that other first-world nations would follow suit.

The two-week conference in Scotland delivered a major win in resolving the rules around carbon markets, but it did little to assuage the vulnerable countries’ concerns about long-promised climate financing from rich nations, according to a Reuters report.

Countries participating in the UN-backed annual meetings aim to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, the limit scientists say would avert the worst effects of climate change, in accordance with the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The presidential aspirant noted that corruption also runs rampant at the Land Transportation Office (LTO) when it comes to its vehicle emission testing process, which needs to stop in deference to the Clean Air Act.

“Whoever pays a bribe, even if the vehicle was not tested for carbon emission, receives a certification),” Lacson added.



Budget deliberation suspendido muna matapos magpositibo sa COVID si Lorenzana

Johnson Manabat, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 17 2021 11:53 PM

MAYNILA—Nagdesisyon na ang Senado na pansamantalang itigil ang budget deliberation na naka-schedule sana ngayong Huwebes, Nobyembre 18.

Ito ay matapos magpositibo sa COVID-19 si Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na isa sa mga bisita sa plenary debates nitong Martes para sa panukalang budget ng Department of National Defense.

Sabi ni Senate President Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, magsasagawa na rin muna ng disinfection sa Senado at isasailalim sa RT-PCR testing ang mga nagkaroon ng close contact kay Lorenzana.

Muling ipagpapatuloy ang deliberasyon sa 2022 proposed national budget na nagkakahalaga ng P5.024-trillion sa Lunes, Nobyembre 22.

"We were informed today. To play safe we will suspend budget deliberations until all those who were exposed to him yesterday will have an RT-PCR test by Saturday or Sunday. Then we resume on Monday," ani Sotto.

Gagawin na ring mas mahigpit ng Senado ang protocol nila sa mga dadalo sa session.

"Gawin na nating mahigpit ngayon, 24-hours . . . This is going to be the new protocol by the Senate. You cannot enter the Senate if you do not have a swab-PCR test or swab-antigen within 24 hours," ani Sotto.

Dagdag pa ni Sotto, kapag galing sa abroad, mas makabubuting mag-home quarantine muna sa loob ng 10 o 14 araw depende sa protocol ng Inter-Agency Task Force para masigurong ligtas sa COVID-19.

Pinayuhan din ni Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri ang mga miyembro ng Armed Forces of the Philippines na kasama ni Lorenzana o nakasalamuha nito na magpa-swab test na rin.

Ito na ang ika-2 beses na nagpositibo sa COVID-19 si Lorenzana. Una nang nagka-COVID-19 ang kalihim noong Abril 2021.



Reducing environmental footprint through nonwoven fabrics in shoes



Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Textile Research Institute applies for intellectual property rights for its environment-friendly insole. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A comfortable and environment-friendly shoe insole was developed by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Textile Research Institute via the "Diversification of Philippine Textiles Through Nonwoven Innovations Research and Development Program" or the Nonwoven Innovations Program, using natural textile fiber-based nonwoven and knitted and woven fabrics.

Prototypes have already been developed using pineapple leaf fiber needle punched nonwovens with a combination of two or more layers: the upper lining, the lignocellulosic-based nonwoven textile and the optional backing support.

The middle nonwoven layer acts as the cushioning component of the shoe insole, providing comfort and protection for the wearer's feet.

Because of this new technology, a partnership with Creative Definitions was also forged to use the developed nonwoven in the insoles of their line of footwear; thus, supporting the objective to bridge the gap between research and industry.

For more info, visit <http://nstw.dost.gov.ph/> or NSTW Facebook page at <https://web.facebook.com/nstwdost>.



Baguio City to develop barangay 'green zones'

By [Gaby B. Keith](#)

BAGUIO CITY: The city government is asking barangay (village) officials to submit a list or inventory of spaces and areas that can be developed into "green zones".

This is in line with the city government's efforts to revitalize the environment in the Summer Capital.

Community Affairs Officer 3 Briccio Domondon of the City Mayor's Office Special Services Division said the area must not be private property.

"The public area or space may or may not be presently devoted to public use like public parks and playgrounds, mini or roadside gardens, sidewalks, rotundas, barangay roads, lands identified for barangay use, barangay or multipurpose halls, protected waterways or tributaries, forest reservations, and protected watersheds," he said.

The list can also include public lands donated to the city or barangay for which no development has yet been done; public lands owned by the national government for which no development has yet been done; and public lands owned by the national government where structures have already been put up.

Domondon said barangay officials are requested not to limit their submission to only one area or space, but several sites for later evaluation and determination whether these have the potential to be established as green zones.

"The city envisions an environment that is protected and maintained by stakeholders in every barangay as co-managers and environmental stewards," he said.



Search



PTV is funded in whole or in part by the Philippine government. Wikipedia ↗

Mga hindi ginagamit na face shield, ni-recycle at pinagkakitaan sa Brgy. Holy Spirit sa QC



PTV

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Mga hindi ginagamit na face shield, ni-recycle at pinagkakitaan sa Brgy. Holy Spirit sa QC; DENR, maglalabas naman ng guidelines sa pagre-recycle ng face shield



This group is recycling face shields

By Catalina Ricci S. Madarang

-November 17, 2021 - 12:58 PM



Image by Ibrahim Boran via Unsplash

A social enterprise called on Filipinos to donate plastic face shields they wish to discard for its recycling initiative.

President **Rodrigo Duterte** on November 15 approved the pandemic task force's recommendation to remove the face shield policy in areas under COVID-19 Alert Levels 1, 2, and 3.

In areas under Alert Level 4, on the other hand, local government units (LGUs) and private establishments were given the discretion to require wearing face shields within their jurisdictions.

The face shield policy will only be implemented in places under Alert Level 5, those placed under granular lockdown, and in all medical and quarantine facilities.

After more than a year of using the plastic gear, Filipinos figured in a problem on what to do with them—to keep throw away or to recycle.

Those who wishes to recycle asked one another on a face shield's alternative uses.

As if in response to this, the **Plastic Flamingo** or "The Plaf" provided a solution and called on Filipinos to donate their gear to the group instead.

It also posted a TikTok video on its Facebook and Twitter accounts on November 16.

"Face shields? MINE PLS!" their caption wrote.

In the video, different products made of plastic such as plastic bottles, plastic packaging materials and a face shield were transformed or upcycled into eco-lumber.

The video eventually gained attention online. Some users encouraged others to support The Plaf to help the environment.

"If you want to get rid of your face shields forever, you can donate/send them to the plastic flamingo," one Twitter user [said](#).

"Please support them! Gather your face shields and donate to be recycled! Help the environment!" another Twitter user [wrote](#).



Since last April, The Plaf had been promoting online its initiative of collecting and transforming plastic materials and waste into more useful products.

It posted its drop-off points where Filipinos can bring and donate their plastic products, including face shields.

It also noted that the products to be donated should be cleaned and dried from any residual wastes.

More information on the type of plastics the PLAF accepts are also stated in its [website](#).

Here are the instructions on how to donate:

1. Collect cleaned, washed, and dried plastic waste.
2. Place in a garbage bag and get ready for drop-off or collection. There is no min/max donation needed.
3. Visit our public drop-off points and select a point near you.
4. Take note of the schedule, contact person, and other details you will need. (Note: you are not required to contact before drop-off but recommended to do so.)
5. Visit the drop-off point and simply drop the plastic waste in bins/bags provided.

It also encouraged those who will donate to take a snapshot of their donated bags and tag The Plaf on social media.

The Plaf is “a social enterprise based in the Philippines that collects and transforms plastic waste into a range of sustainable construction materials which can be used to build new schools, housing, and shelters to help make this country more resilient against its many natural hazards the country faces yearly.”

Reuters also earlier [reported that the](#) group collects plastic waste, shred it and then mold it into posts and planks called “eco-lumber” that can be used for fencing, decking or even to make disaster-relief shelters.



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DREDGER
Municipal Waters of Aparri, Cagayan
June 13, 2021

Black sand mining threatens livelihood of fisherfolks in Caçayan River | ABS-CBN News

5,001 views · Nov 17, 2021

47 Likes · 0 Comments · SHARE · THANKS · SAVE

ABS-CBN News 13M subscribers

A dredging vessel is seen collecting sediments in the waters of Aparri, Cagayan in this video taken on July 13, 2021.

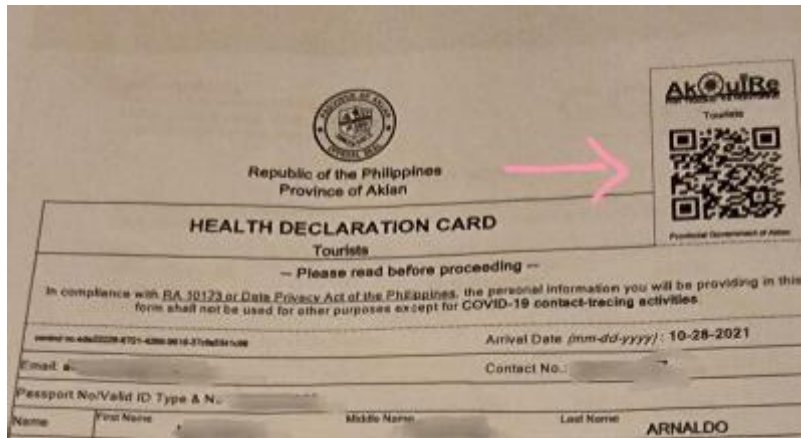
Courtesy of LGU Aparri



Boracay-bound tourists frustrated with QR code delay

BY MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO

NOVEMBER 18, 2021



Screenshot of a health declaration card w/ the controversial QR code issued by the Aklan government. Without said QR code, Boracay-bound tourists are prohibited by airlines from boarding their flights to Caticlan.

THE Department of Tourism (DOT) has urged local government units (LGUs) to simplify the requirements needed by tourists to enter their leisure destinations.

The appeal was made after the agency received numerous complaints from would-be tourists to Boracay Island with regard to the non-release of their individual QR codes. The web portal on which Boracay visitors upload their documents and fill out their online health declaration card is handled by the Aklan LGU.

A kiteboarder and frequent visitor to Boracay who requested anonymity, posted on Facebook, “Hundreds of people complaining on FB that they are not getting their QR Codes on time. THEY MISSED NA their flights!! Even [a resort manager] said she has confirmed guests who couldn’t make it cause super late *ang* QR Code. I sent my application 30 hours ago and NOTHING. No one answers the cellphone, land line or email follow ups. People are calling Boracay a HELLISH place to go because of this problem! And suggesting not to go *nalang* and choose other destinations na.”

Even BusinessMirror’s own Lorenz Marasigan was panicky on Saturday as he was leaving for Boracay at 10 a.m. the next day but had yet to receive his QR code. He reported, “No one was answering the mobile numbers provided [by the Aklan tourism web site]. Sometimes someone would answer then put the phone down, and it would become busy. Finally, I managed to actually speak to someone around 8 pm. I said I’d wait by the phone until they released the QR code. They eventually did.”

On Facebook, Dhel Supetran of the Caticlan Jetty Port and Passenger revealed that they were processing more than QR code requests for over 10,000 passengers as of November 16.

‘Challenging yes, but it’s LGU’s requirement’

In a news statement on Wednesday, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat said, “We’re concerned about the numerous complaints related to the delayed processing of visitors’ requirements, leading to missed flights and disrupted travel schedules, particularly from leisure travelers applying for entry to the municipality of Malay, which includes Boracay.” Airlines will not allow passengers to board their flights to Caticlan unless they present their Aklan-issued QR codes.



This is the second time the DOT has had to intervene in travel problems concerning Boracay, correcting the misimpression created by the Aklan LGU's earlier executive order, which implied that children were not allowed to travel to Boracay. ([See, "Aklan bans unvaxxed teenagers from Boracay," in the BusinessMirror, Nov. 15, 2021.](#)) Starting November 16, the province started accepting vaccination cards and official vaccination certificates as travel documents instead of requiring RT-PCR tests.

The DOT chief also emphasized that the processing of travel requirements for the entry of domestic tourists falls under the jurisdiction of the LGUs, not the DOT. "We've reached out to the concerned LGU and reiterated our position and appeal to streamline and simplify the travel requirements for visitors—a vital component in ensuring the recovery of the island's tourism industry and workforce that have been severely affected by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

"While we understand the challenges and restrictions that hamper the LGUs, we note the importance of timely facilitation of such requests imposed on the visitors by the LGUs themselves," Romulo Puyat stressed.

"We appeal to all LGUs to ensure that requirements for travelers are streamlined and simplified. After all, the pace at which the industry can bounce back from its losses will be largely determined by the policies that will be implemented by the national and local government, and the participation and cooperation of its tourism stakeholders and the traveling public," she said.



Philippines welcomes visiting 5 Russian naval vessels



Two submarines shown in the photo taken on Wed., Nov. 17, 2021, are among the five naval vessels from the Russian Pacific Fleet which arrived at the Port of Manila on Tuesday, Nov. 16. The Philippine Navy said the arrival of the Russian contingent underscores maritime cooperation in the region. DANNY PATA

Five naval vessels from the Russian Pacific Fleet arrived in Manila on Tuesday, the Philippine Navy said.

These are Corvette Gremyashchiy, two submarines, tanker Pechenga, and support vessel Alatau.

“The arrival of the Russian contingent in the country and the accommodation and support being extended to them underscores the promotion of peace, stability, and maritime cooperation in the region,” the Navy said in a statement.

The Russian naval vessels arrived in the county as part of their routine port replenishment and rest of the crew.—**Richa Noriega/LDF, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/811180/philippines-welcomes-visiting-5-russian-naval-vessels/story/?fbclid=IwAR1OrO5GN-I6kBBHKpcOLy41X8n65BCZtDLjcM6mflSI421TLZpgpOAJq6I>



‘Whole-of-society approach key to hitting net-zero goal’



Ayala Corp. Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala reaffirms the company’s commitment to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emission by 2050, as he speaks alongside global leaders at the Milken Institute’s Asia Summit on Tuesday.

“All of us have a responsibility to do whatever we can—whether you are a member of the private sector or the government. There has been huge global cooperation on climate action, and we see it as our role within the Ayala Group to do our bit,” Zobel said at CNBC’s “Sustainable Future” interview minutes before the summit.

Last October, Ayala Corp. President and CEO Fernando Zobel de Ayala announced the company’s net zero commitment, which aligns its business strategy with the Paris Agreement’s goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels.

Such an announcement came ahead of the recently held 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, where signatories to the Paris Agreement reported back on progress made since 2015.

Ayala Corporation and its core business units are signatories to the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and are currently working to implement the 11 recommended disclosures. Ayala also partnered with South Pole, a leading project developer and global climate solutions provider, to have an accurate view of emissions across its core business units and a tangible roadmap for reducing them in line with its net zero by 2050 ambition.

During a panel discussion at Milken Institute, the Ayala Chairman said financial institutions and investors also have a huge influence on the net zero transition. Its power platform AC Energy is also currently working with the Asian Development Bank to accelerate the early retirement of coal power plants, while creating cleaner energy sources.

“Many are moving out of traditional thermal assets and investing in renewables, but nothing is happening to those existing thermal assets. They are either being sold or still being run,” Zobel said.

With ADB’s help, AC Energy’s South Luzon Thermal Energy Corporation is set to retire by 2040, 15 years ahead of its technical lifespan. Other climate-action interventions done by Ayala and its core businesses include:

Ayala Land pushes for offsetting its Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2022 for its commercial operations.

BPI will not finance new greenfield coal power generation projects. The Bank will reduce its coal power generation exposure to half of 2020 by 2026 and to zero by end of 2032.



Globe, a participant to the Race to Zero and a signatory to the Science-Based Targets Initiative, has shifted to buying energy directly from renewable energy producers for its headquarters in Taguig and six offices and facilities since 2019.

AC Energy is on its way to installing 5GW of renewable energy by 2025.

Ayala's Project Kasibulan, a reforestation, forest protection, and biodiversity conservation program for carbon sequestration is to be piloted in the island of Mindoro.

Zobel noted that climate change is an existential crisis that affects governments, businesses, and every single lifeform on Earth. However, there's a light at the end of the tunnel. The Covid-19 pandemic has sparked renewed cooperation among businesses and governments in the local, regional, and global scenes.



Avoid climate disaster

BREAKTHROUGH - [Elfren S. Cruz](#) - The Philippine Star

November 18, 2021 | 12:00am

The COP26 has just ended. This is the annual United Nations climate change summit attended by delegates from nearly 200 countries. During the plenary session, each country was allowed to say a few words.

There were some delegations that elicited sympathies. These were countries like the Maldives which said that it was already too late for them because rising sea levels were already happening in their country.

The result of the conference was a disaster for most countries as the large countries who dominated the drafting of the final statement were able to water down any possible breakthrough agreements. Draft of the final statement called on nations to “accelerate the phasing out of coal and subsidies for fossil fuel.”

However, a second draft was released which instead simply urged countries to move away from “unabated coal” and “inefficient subsidies for coal.”

Finally, on the final day of the conference, China and India wanted this whole phrase regarding coal changed from “phasing out coal” to “phase down unabated coal.”

The major countries like the United States tried to make it sound as if this was a groundbreaking proposal. It should be clear that China and India are the biggest pollutant countries in the world. Their energy sector is heavily dependent on the use of coal for power plants. Just a few days ago Delhi, India imposed a lockdown on the metropolis. This was not because of the pandemic but the atmosphere had become so polluted it was not safe for people to go out in public.

The poorer nations have long argued for reparations. Their argument is that it is the major countries who cause most of the world’s pollution but it is the poorer nations of Africa and Asia who suffer the consequences like rising sea levels, increase in typhoons and floods and wild fires. The rich countries would only agree to a dialogue. Mohamed Adow, in a much quoted comment, said: “In Glasgow the needs of the world’s vulnerable people have been sacrificed on the altar of the rich world’s selfishness.”

There are, however, some people who continue to look for solutions. One of them is the philanthropist Bill Gates who recently wrote a book: HOW TO AVOID A CLIMATE DISASTER: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need. Anyone interested in climate change should read this book. He has several proposals in his book.

Put a price on carbon. Gates proposes a carbon tax or a cap and trade system where companies can buy and sell the right to emit carbon. Putting a price on emissions is one of the most effective way of curbing emissions.

There will be opposition from fossil fuel companies, especially from coal-powered plants and gasoline and other fuel producers. But this seems more realistic than totally banning companies that produce high emissions. The objective is to make producers of emissions pay the price for polluting the environment.

Clean electricity standards. The proposal here is to require electrical utilities to get a certain percentage of their electricity from renewable sources. However, power companies should be allowed any clean energy technology including nuclear energy.



Clean fuel standards. There should also be standards applied to other sectors such as cars and buildings.

Clean product standards. Performance standards can accelerate the deployment of low emissions cement, steel, plastic and their carbon intensive products.

Bill Gates has other practical proposals that we should study. One is his proposal that cities need to change the way they grow. As they expand, many of the largest cities build over floodplains, forests and wetlands that would otherwise absorb rising waters during a storm or hold reservoirs of water during a drought.

While all cities will be affected by climate change, the worst affected will be the coastal cities. As sea levels rise and storm surges get worse, millions of people may have to seek safer living space. There are natural defenses against climate change that are disappearing. Forests store and regulate water. Wetlands prevent floods and provide water for farmers and cities. In the coastal communities, fish depend on coral reefs for their food sources. These natural defenses are disappearing. Nearly nine million acres of old growth forest were destroyed in 2018. According to Gates, if the world hits 2 degrees Celsius of warming, most of the coral reefs in the world will die off.

The world must find a way to restore ecosystems. A suggestion that is especially valuable for the Philippines is preserving and enlarging mangrove forests. Mangroves are short trees that grow along coastlines, having adapted to life in salt water. They reduce storm surges, prevent coastal flooding and protect fish habitats.

Gates warns: "As lakes and aquifers shrink or get polluted, it is getting harder to provide potable water to everyone who needs it. Most of the world's megacities already face severe shortages and if nothing changes, by midcentury the number of people who can't get enough decent water at least once a month will rise by more than a third to over 5 billion people."

Gates believes the answer lies in new technologies like making salt water drinkable.

The goal of zero emissions is possible. Unfortunately, the biggest obstacles are companies who place profits ahead of the survival of the world. Maybe the solution will lie in the hands of young activists who are not afraid to fight corporate greed.

A final November writing date via Zoom: Young Writers' Hangout: Nov. 20, 2-3 p.m. with poet & Ateneo professor D.M. Reyes.

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COP26 conference ‘nothing but an emission of hot air’

[Delon Porcalla](#) - The Philippine Star

November 17, 2021 | 12:00am



“Let us all be reminded again of what needs to be done for our home, our planet. Let us end the procrastination and apathy now,” House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda an environmentalist stressed

MANILA, Philippines — It was apparently all talk, with no concrete action.

Officials and members of the House of Representatives have expressed disappointment over the recently concluded 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Glasgow, Scotland which apparently ended with nothing but mere rhetoric.

“Let us all be reminded again of what needs to be done for our home, our planet. Let us end the procrastination and apathy now,” House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda an environmentalist stressed.

The Antique congresswoman earlier warned that Southeast Asia, and not just the Philippines, may soon suffer from a “looming food crisis” brought about by constant changing weather patterns as a result of climate change.

In a privilege speech last week, Legarda raised the specter of a massive decline in food production due to “extreme weather events” in developing countries in this part of the region.

“We have a looming food crisis. Food production around the world will suffer as global heating reaches 1.5 degrees Celsius. Already, the increased heat and humidity are harming crops and livestock, with droughts and floods wiping out harvests as well,” she cautioned.

The former senator made the remarks in relation to the eighth anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda and shortly after COP26.

For his part, Rep. LRay Villafuerte – another advocate for the environment – lamented that two-week COP26 “turned out to be another meeting full of rhetoric but sorely lacking in action.”

“It seems the meeting was just an elaborate talkfest that was nothing but an emission of hot air. The gathering just contributed to planet heating,” the Camarines Sur congressman observed.



COP26, which ran from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12, was expected to come up with concrete measures on how developed economies can fulfill the \$100-billion financing per year they had pledged to developing countries for climate projects, and clear-cut commitments on how quickly each nation would reduce their carbon footprints over the next decade.

But no such firm actions and commitments resulted from the two weeks of negotiations during the conference.

Villafuerte said he hoped that COP26 would be devoid of empty talk and would at last lead to concrete action among countries to fight climate change.

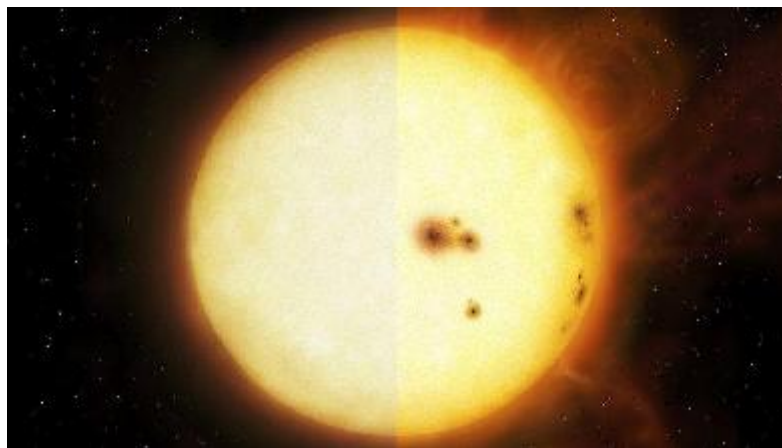
“Commitments should be backed up by actions as these are crucial for developing countries like the Philippines, which bear the brunt of the consequences of climate change even if they account for just a tiny portion of the world’s emissions of greenhouse gases largely responsible for global warming,” he said.

“If we do not act fast and with determination, our country will suffer the worst effects of the climate crisis and our economy could be among its casualties,” the senior administration legislator explained, serving notice about its repercussions.

Villafuerte noted the Philippines is responsible for only 0.3 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions but has been battered each year by more intensive and destructive typhoons and other natural calamities because of the rising global temperatures leading to the worsening climate crisis.

COP26: The truth behind the new climate change denial

By Rachel Schraer & Kayleen Devlin
BBC Reality Check



As world leaders met at the COP26 summit to debate how to tackle climate change, misleading claims and falsehoods about the climate spiralled on social media.

Scientists say climate change denial is now more likely to focus on the causes and effects of warming, or how to tackle it, than to outright deny it exists.

[The 'd-words' v the planet](#)

We've looked at some of the most viral claims of the past year, and what the evidence really says.

The claim: A 'Grand Solar Minimum' will halt global warming

People have long claimed, incorrectly, that the past century's temperature changes are just part of the Earth's natural cycle, rather than the result of human behaviour.



In recent months, we've seen a new version of this argument.

Thousands of posts on social media, reaching hundreds of thousands of people over the past year, claim a "Grand Solar Minimum" will lead to a natural fall in temperatures, without human intervention.

But this is not what the evidence shows.

A grand solar minimum is a real phenomenon when the Sun gives off less energy as part of its natural cycle.



Studies suggest the Sun may well go through a weaker phase sometime this century, but that this would lead, at most, to a [temporary 0.1 - 0.2C cooling](#) of the planet.

That's not nearly enough to offset human activity, which has already warmed the planet by about 1.2C over the past 200 years and will continue to rise, possibly topping 2.4C by the end of the century.

- [A simple guide to climate change](#)

We know recent temperature rises weren't caused by the changes in the Sun's natural cycle because [the layer of atmosphere nearest the earth is warming](#), while the layer of atmosphere closest to the Sun - the stratosphere - is cooling.

Heat which would normally be released into the stratosphere is being trapped by greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide from people burning fuel.

If temperature changes on Earth were being caused by the Sun, we would expect the whole atmosphere to warm (or cool) at the same time.

The claim: Global warming is good

Various posts circulating online claim global warming will make parts of the earth more habitable, and that cold kills more people than heat does.

These arguments often cherry-pick favourable facts while ignoring any that contradict them.

For example, it's true that some inhospitably cold parts of the world could become easier to live in for a time.

But in these same places warming could also lead to extreme rainfall, affecting living conditions and the ability to grow crops,

At the same time, other parts of the world would become uninhabitable as a result of temperature increases and rising sea levels, like the world's lowest-lying country, the Maldives.

[We face climate extinction, at-risk nations say](#)

There may be fewer cold-related deaths. According to a study published in the Lancet, [between 2000 and 2019, more people died as a result of cold weather than hot](#).

However, a rise in heat-related deaths is expected to cancel out any lives saved.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says overall, "climate-related risks to health [and] livelihoods...are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5 degrees". Any small local benefits from fewer cold days are expected to be outweighed by the risks of more frequent spells of extreme heat.

The claim: Climate change action will make people poorer

A common claim made by those against efforts to tackle climate change is that fossil fuels have been essential to driving economic growth.

So limiting their use, the argument goes, will inevitably stunt this growth and increase the cost of living, hurting the poorest.

But this isn't the whole picture.

Fossil fuels have powered vehicles, factories and technology, allowing humans over the past century to make things at a scale and speed which would previously have been impossible. This enabled people to make, sell and buy more things, and become richer.

But stopping using coal doesn't mean returning to the days of ox-drawn carts and hand-cranked machines - we now have other technologies that can do a similar job.



In many places, renewable electricity - powered by wind or solar energy for example - is now cheaper than electricity powered by coal, oil or gas.

On the other hand, studies predict that if we don't act on climate change by 2050, the global economy could shrink by 18% because of the damage caused by natural disasters and extreme temperatures to buildings, lives, businesses and food supplies.

Such damage would hit the world's poorest the hardest.

The claim: Renewable energy is dangerously unreliable

Misleading posts claiming renewable energy failures led to blackouts went viral earlier in the year, when a massive electricity grid failure left millions of Texans in the dark and cold.

These posts, which were taken up by a number of conservative media outlets in the US, wrongly blamed the blackout on wind turbines.

- [Are frozen wind turbines to blame for Texas power failures?](#)

"Blackouts are an artefact of poor electricity generation and distribution management," says John Gluyas, executive director of the Durham Energy Institute.

He says the claim that renewable energy causes blackouts is "nonsensical.... Venezuela has oodles of oil and frequent blackouts".

According to Jennie King from the think tank ISD Global, this discrediting of renewable energies is a "key line of attack for those keen to preserve reliance on, and subsidies for, oil and gas".

- [Is Putin right about wind turbines and birds?](#)

Critics of renewable energy schemes also claim the technology kills birds and bats, ignoring [the studies](#) that estimate that [fossil fuel-powered plants kill many times more animals](#).

There's no doubt some wildlife, including birds, are killed by wind turbines.

But according to the LSE's Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment: "The benefits for wildlife of mitigating climate change are considered by conservation charities... to outweigh the risks, provided that the right planning safeguards are put in place, including careful site selection."



Climate change: What did the scientists make of COP26?

By Roger Harrabin
BBC environment analyst



Scientists and leading climate experts have voiced concerns about the outcomes of the COP26 climate conference, in Glasgow.

Those who spoke to the BBC praised the conference for getting countries to agree to meet again next year to pledge deeper emissions cuts. And they welcomed agreements on forests, innovation and especially methane - from fossil fuel extraction and livestock.

But the scientists fear politicians won't deliver. And they say the hope of holding temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels is far too unambitious anyway.

The experts say that with a temperature rise so far of just 1.1C, the world is already in a state of dangerous heating, with record temperatures, wildfires, floods and droughts.

Prof Sir David King, former UK chief scientist, told me: "Of course heating is already at a dangerous level. Greenland is sitting in blue sea for three months losing ice. Temperatures in the polar summer were 32C ... the forests were on fire.

"Even if we cut emissions completely we'd still be in a difficult place because of the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere already."

There's a similar message from Prof Piers Forster, coordinating lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "People are already dying and species are becoming extinct with current temperatures," he said. "We have locked in centuries of sea level rise.

"1.5C has become the talisman for the safest we can hope for this century. But the more we learn the more we realise there is no safe limit [for emissions]."

The scientists we contacted appreciated that COP offered practical solutions.

There's relief that after 22 previous COPs, there is at last reference to the need to phase down fossil fuels - although there's dismay that India and China watered down the wording at the last minute. And there are widespread fears that politicians won't keep their promises.

Prof Gail Whiteman, founder of Arctic Basecamp, said the summit had produced "mixed results". She said: "There's a lot of pretty good pledges on the table - but is there going to be enough action? I don't know. I'm worried."



And Prof Tim Lenton, from Exeter's Global Systems Institute, added: "On the plus side, the coalition of civil society, business, finance, NGOs and others around COP26 is starting to drive real progress.

"But we are still heading for more than 2°C of global warming, which risks triggering multiple climate tipping points [when natural systems collapse because of increased temperatures]. We are still in a climate crisis."

"We all need to persuade our political leaders to join us in the great transformation," he added. "The international policy process is moving slower than the climate system."

It's that gap - between policy, action and science - that so alarms climate experts.

The UK, for instance, is acknowledged to be a [global leader in policy](#), setting out domestic targets to achieve near zero emissions by 2050.

But the government has consistently failed to reach its previous climate change targets. While it's lauded for policies such as phasing out conventional cars, it's failing on home insulation.

It wants to increase flying against the advice of its advisors and it is permitting [an oil field near Shetland](#). It is [building more roads](#) and the carbon-heavy HS2.

To the astonishment of the scientists, Chancellor Rishi Sunak didn't mention climate change in his budget on the eve of COP26.

Too little, too late?

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, meanwhile, continues to insist that carbon cuts can be made by technology alone, with little or no change in behaviour - even though the advisory Climate Change Committee insists that targets for 2030 can't be hit without a combination of both.

There are similar policy tangles in the US. President Joe Biden is struggling to get his green measures through Congress, and his \$1tr infrastructure programme for roads, bridges, airports and ports will produce many millions of tonnes of emissions from the concrete and steel used to make them - as well as the traffic that will be generated by them.

President Biden may have led the pact to cut methane emissions - but he won't match Mr Johnson's pledge on cars. And Americans are still buying huge SUVs.

The US climate envoy John Kerry estimates that if nations really apply themselves, temperature rises could be held to 1.8C. The scientists say that's too little, too late.

Prof Richard Betts, of the Met Office Hadley Centre, told me: "We could still avoid further increases in the impacts of climate change with greater ambition.

"But until we completely stop building up carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, we will still continue the heating of the climate and causing evermore severe risks and impacts."

Ed Hawkins, professor of climate science at the University of Reading, warned: "There is a slope, which we are already sliding down. The sooner we stop sliding - through deep, sustained and immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions - the less severe the consequences will be."

An even more profound challenge comes from Julian Allwood, professor of engineering and the environment at the University of Cambridge. He told me the solutions being discussed in Glasgow depend on unrealistic amounts of clean electricity, carbon capture and biomass.

"If you compare the amount with what's available today and any plausible growth rate, there's no possibility we will have enough of those," he said.



“We therefore need a different sets of policies such as using half the amount of electricity. We must cut levels of flying, shipping, cement and ruminants because there’s no way of dealing with them”.

This is an unpalatable message for politicians who want to achieve a stable climate by tweaking Business As Usual.



EU proposes law curbing import of goods linked to deforestation

Maytaal Angel, Reuters

Posted at Nov 17 2021 08:54 PM



A view shows a deforested plot of Brazilian Amazon rainforest near the Transamazonica national highway, in Apui, Amazonas state, Brazil, September 6, 2021. *Bruno Kelly, Reuters/File Photo*

LONDON - The European Commission on Wednesday proposed a law aimed at curbing the import of commodities linked to deforestation by requiring companies to prove their global supply chains are not contributing to the destruction of forests.

The proposed law sets mandatory due diligence rules for importers of specific commodities into the European Union market: soy, beef, palm oil, wood, cocoa and coffee and some derived products including leather, chocolate and furniture.

While many European companies have sprawling global operations, including in countries where environmental abuses are rife, there is currently no EU-wide requirement for them to have a due diligence process in place.

The proposed law comes after world leaders from countries including Brazil, China and Malaysia promised to end deforestation by 2030 at this month's COP26 summit.

"To succeed in the global fight against the climate and biodiversity crises we must take the responsibility to act at home as well as abroad," EU climate policy chief Frans Timmermans said.

"Our deforestation regulation answers citizens' calls to minimize the European contribution to deforestation," he added.

The public consultation for the law gathered more than 1.2 million responses, the second most popular in EU history.

Under the proposed law, which needs to be approved by EU governments and the European parliament, companies will have to show the six commodities were produced in accordance with the laws of the producing country.

However, they will also have to show the commodities were not grown on any land deforested or degraded after Dec. 31, 2020, even if it is legal to produce there according to producing country law.



"The deforestation regulations we are putting on the table are the most ambitious legislative attempts to tackle these issues worldwide ever," said EU environment commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius.

The six commodities were selected based on an EU impact assessment. However, the Commission proposes the law be reviewed and updated regularly, allowing new commodities and products to be added.

"The EU draft anti-deforestation law represents a major leap forward in the fight to protect the world's endangered forests," said Nico Muzi, Europe Director of Mighty Earth.

He added, however, that the law needs to be strengthened as it leaves out natural ecosystems such as savannahs, wetlands and peatlands and fails to target rubber, which is a major forest-risk commodity.

From 1990 to 2020 the world has lost 420 million hectares of forest – an area larger than the EU, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Emissions from the land use sector, most of which are caused by deforestation, are the second major cause of climate change after the burning of fossil fuels. **(Reporting by Maytaal Angel; Editing by Andrew Heavens and Alexander Smith)**

18 NOVEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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#BantayCOVID19: As of October 17, 2021, karagdagang 1,190 na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa, naitala ngayong araw; bilang ng mga gumaling sa sakit, nadagdagan ng 2,759 at 309 naman ang mga namatay sa virus.

[Translate Tweet](#)



4:44 PM · Nov 17, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Health workers tinuruan na ng COVID-19 booster shot

[Danilo Garcia](#) - Pang-masa November 18, 2021 | 12:00am



Pinangunahan ni Health Secretary Francisco Duque III ang pag-booster shot ng Pfizer vaccine sa isang health worker sa National Kidney and Transplant Institute sa Quezon City, kahapon.

Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Umarangkada na kahapon ang pagbabakuna ng COVID-19 booster shots sa mga fully vaccinated na healthcare workers.

Si Health Secretary Francisco Duque III ang nanguna sa ceremonial vaccination ng medical frontliners sa National Kidney and Transplant Institute at kasama sina Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. at Health Undersecretary Antipordo Vega.

Matatandaang nagpalabas ng guidelines ang National Vaccination Operations Center sa pagbabakuna ng booster dose sa mga medical frontliners.

Ang mga nabakunahan ng Pfizer, Moderna, Sinovac, Gamaleya, at AstraZeneca ay maaaring makatanggap ng booster shot matapos ang anim na buwan; habang tatlong buwan lang ang hihisssntayin ng mga nabakunahan ng Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

Sinabi rin ni Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. na maaari na ring simulan ng Pilipinas ang pagbibigay ng booster shots sa mga matatanda at mga may comorbidities.



Pfizer strikes global licensing deal for COVID-19 pill

[Robin Millard](#) - Agence France-Presse November 17, 2021 | 8:04am



This handout photo provided on November 16, 2021 courtesy of Pfizer shows the making of its experimental Covid-19 antiviral pills inside his laboratory in Freiburg, Germany. US pharmaceutical company Pfizer on Tuesday asked regulators to authorize its Covid pill after it was shown to cut hospitalization or death by nearly 90 percent among newly-infected high risk patients.

Handout / Pfizer / AFP

GENEVA, Switzerland — US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer on Tuesday announced a deal to make its prospective antiviral Covid-19 pill available more cheaply in the world's least-wealthy countries.

Pfizer will sub-licence production of its promising Paxlovid pill to generic drug manufacturers for supply in 95 low- and middle-income nations covering around 53 percent of the world's population.

Under the deal struck with the global Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), Pfizer — which also produces one of the most widely-used Covid vaccines with German lab BioNTech — will not receive royalties from the generic manufacturers, making the treatment cheaper.

The agreement is subject to the oral antiviral medication passing ongoing trials and regulatory approval.

The Pfizer drug is to be taken with the HIV medicine ritonavir.

Interim data from ongoing trials demonstrated an 89 percent reduction in the risk of Covid-19-related hospitalisation or death compared to a placebo, in non-hospitalised high-risk adults with Covid-19 within three days of symptom onset, said Pfizer.

Similar results were seen within five days of symptom onset, it added.

The Geneva-based MPP is a United Nations-backed international organisation that works to facilitate the development of medicines for low- and middle-income nations.

If approved, the pill could be on the market in "a matter of months", MPP policy chief Esteban Burrone told AFP.

Pfizer also said Tuesday that it was seeking an emergency use authorisation, or EUA, in the US for the Covid pill.

HIV drug mix

Pfizer will forego royalties on sales in all countries covered by the agreement while Covid-19 remains classified as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization.



Last month, the WHO maintained the highest level of alert over the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19.

Paxlovid, or PF-07321332, is an investigational antiviral therapy designed to block the activity of the SARS-CoV-2-3CL protease -- an enzyme that the coronavirus needs to replicate.

Taking it together with a low dose of ritonavir helps slow the breakdown of PF-07321332. It therefore remains active in the body for a longer period at a high concentration, to help combat the virus.

The pill could potentially help patients avoid severe illness, which can lead to hospitalisation and death, Pfizer said.

"We believe oral antiviral treatments can play a vital role in reducing the severity of Covid-19 infections, decreasing the strain on our healthcare systems and saving lives," said Pfizer chairman and chief executive Albert Bourla.

While a multitude of vaccines have been rolled out in the pandemic, the hunt for treatments for those who have already caught the disease has not been as fruitful.

Agreement follows Merck deal

The MPP was founded by Unitaid, which works on innovations to prevent, diagnose and treat major diseases in poorer countries.

"During a pandemic, saving time means saving lives. This agreement could help us to reach more people more quickly as soon as the medicine is approved," said Unitaid executive director Philippe Duneton.

Potential sublicensees have until December 6 to register an expression of interest.

The announcement comes after the MPP signed a similar voluntary licensing deal with Pfizer's US rivals Merck & Co last month for its investigational oral antiviral medicine molnupiravir.

Subject to regulatory approval, the deal will help create broad access to molnupiravir in 105 low- and middle-income countries.

Pills are easier to make than vaccines, do not require a cold chain for delivery and can be self-administered by the patient.

In terms of relieving health systems by preventing hospitalisations, "it's a game changer", said Burrone.

He said pricing for the Pfizer pill had not yet been set, but said that "in a competitive environment... the prices tend to come down" to a low level.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) meanwhile suggested it might cost around \$700 per Pfizer treatment course, in line with molnupiravir.

The medical charity said it was disheartened by the deal, saying restrictive voluntary licences were no substitute for guaranteed global access to Covid tools to bring the pandemic under control.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/health-and-family/2021/11/17/2141926/pfizer-strikes-global-licensing-deal-covid-19-pill>



LOCKDOWN SA 'DI BAKUNADO POSIBLE BA SA PINAS?



November 17, 2021 @ 7:03 PM 11 hours ago

SINASABI ng mga awtoridad, lalo na ang Department of Health na may bahagyang pagtaas ng mga kaso sa coronavirus disease-19 ngunit hindi dapat ikaalarma.

Ang tanong: Paano kung tuloy-tuloy ang pagdami ng mga naiimpeksyon na mismong DOH din ang nagbababala?

Heto ang mga nakaaalarma.

Dahil nasa Alert Level 2 ang Metro Manila, kasama ang Bulacan at ilan pang lalawigan, aba, namamasyal na ang lahat, kasama ang mga senior citizen at baby.

'Yun bang === sa mga mall, parke, playground at iba pa sa Metro Manila at nakikita rin mismo ng Remate na dinudumog kahit gabi ang Sports Arena sa Bocaue, Bulacan.

Bukod sa mga pamamasyal, naririyang rin ang mga punuan na pampublikong sasakyan, pabrika, opisina, palengke at iba pa.

Naririyang rin ang mga pagtitipon sa mga simbahan, kasama ang mga gumagawa ng prusisyon sa mga kalsada at pampulitikang pagkilos.

Naririyang din ang pagdami ng tao sa mga palengke at public transportation bilang bahagi ng nalalapit na Kapaskuhan.

Hindi kaya magiging mitsa ang mga ito ng muling malawakan na pagkakasakit sa COVID-19?

BAKUNA 'DI SAPAT NA PROTEKSYON

Totoo na dumarami na talaga ang mga nababakunahan at sabihing marami na ang may proteksyon subalit mas marami ang hindi pa.

Nalalagay sa alanganin ang mga hindi bakunado na kasali na rin sa mga namamasyal.

Sa mga pamamasyal, binabalewala na ang gabay sa tinatawag na 3C.

'Yun bang === crowded places, close-contact settings at confined and enclosed spaces ay dapat na iwasan kung wala namang importanteng gagawin sa mga ito.



Bagama't marami pa rin ang nagsusuot ng face shield na kakambal ng face mask, marami na rin ang naka-face mask lamang sa maraming lugar na maituturing na 3C.

Hindi na inaalala ng marami na hindi sapat ang bakuna bilang proteksyon laban sa pandemya.

Hindi na nila iniintindi na dapat kakambal ng bakuna ang pagsunod sa mga health protocol gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask, face shield, social distancing at pag-iwas sa 3Cs.

MAGING SI PANG. DIGONG NAAALARMA

Dahil sa tila pagbabalewala na ng marami sa mga health protocol at tila maling pag-intindi sa paglabas ng mga menor-de-edad, nababahala na rin mismo si Pangulong Digong.

Binibigyan niya ng diin na wala pang proteksyon sa mga batang edad 11 pababa at kung madapuan ang mga ito ng COVID-19, mahihirapan ang mga awtoridad na isalba ang mga ito sa pagkakaospital at kamatayan.

Kaya naman, inaalarma niya ang lahat ng local government unit na gumawa ng paraan para pigilin o kontrolin ang kani-kanilang mga mamamayan na edad 11 pababa sa paglabas sa tahanan at humalo sa mga may edad sa lahat ng lugar.

Mula rito, sasabihin nating hindi nagkukulang ang Pangulo at maging ang pamahalaan sa pagbibigay ng mga babala at gabay sa lahat ukol sa posibleng muling pananalasa ng pandemya kung mananatili ang marami na ayaw makinig sa dapat nilang mga pakinggan para sa kanilang kaligtasan.

'DI BAKUNADO NILA-LOCKDOWN NA

Sa bansang Austria, ni-lockdown ang nasa dalawang milyong mamamayan nila na hindi bakunado at ayaw magpabakuna.

Hakbang ito laban sa COVID-19 na nananalasa sa buong Europa sa mga araw na ito.

Nasa 10 araw ang lockdown subalit maaaring magtagal pa depende sa kalagayan nila sa pandemya.

Halimbawang muling susugod ang COVID-19 sa Pinas, maaari bang lockdown sa mga hindi bakunado ang isang paraan bilang pangharang sa nasabing sakit?

MAGANDANG PROGRAMA

Kaugnay ng mga hindi bakunado, marami nang pamahalaang bayan ang nagbabara-barangay upang ihatid ang programang pagbabakuna.

At bukas ito sa lahat ng pupwedeng bakunahan.

Pagkakataon na ng lahat na magpabakuna kahit man lang para sa unang turok at susunod na lang ang ikalawang turok makaraan ng tatlong linggo o higit pa, depende sa suplay ng bakuna.

Sumali tayo lahat, hindi upang maiwasan natin ang ma-lockdown kundi mailigtas natin ang ating mga sarili sa pagkakasakit, pagkakaospital o kaya'y kamatayan.

Isa pa, kung bakunado tayo, nandiyan lahat ang kalayaan nating lumabas ng tahanan, magtrabaho at magnegosyo, bumiyahe, mamasyal, mag-aral at mapaunlad ang sarili natin at ang ating bayan.



Dapat tayong magtulong-tulong lahat para makamit natin ang nais nating kamtin na normal na buhay.

Huwag nating hayaang bumalik tayo sa dating kalagayan na hindi lang tayo naging paralisado sa ating mga pagkilos kundi pumailalim sa malawakang gutom at paghihirap.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.8%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
23,846

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.5%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,750,531

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.64%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
46,117

MGA BAGONG KASO **1,190**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **2,759**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **309**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,820,494**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING NOBYEMBRE 15
DATOS NGAYONG NOBYEMBRE 17
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG NOBYEMBRE 15

3.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

33,567

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
63.3%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

D UMISTANSYA NG
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN
ANG PISIKAL NA
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)
33% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
33% Utilized

Mild 58.1%

ISOLATION BEDS (20.7K TOTAL BEDS)
29% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (5.1K TOTAL BEDS)
25% Utilized

5.2% Asymptomatic

WARD BEDS (13.2K TOTAL BEDS)
21% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.6K TOTAL BEDS)
25% Utilized

5.0% Critical

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
21% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
22% Utilized

12.0% Severe

19.60% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Sa pagkakaalis ng paggamit ng face shields, mas lalo nating pag-ibayuhin ang pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** bilang ating pangunahing kasangga laban sa COVID-19 kasama na ng pagtanggap ng ating bakuna. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!
I-download ang StaySafe App
O Gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

14 October 2021

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2021 - 0467

FOR : ALL DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL OFFICE BUREAUS, SERVICES, AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD); MINISTER OF HEALTH - BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (MOH-BARMM); EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS AND SANITARIA; INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (ICAMR) MEMBER AGENCIES; AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Observance of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2021 on November 18-24, 2021

The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified education and awareness campaign as fundamental strategies in the Global Action Plan to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In relation to this, the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is being observed and celebrated every third week of November worldwide to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance and encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections. The Tripartite Organizations, i.e., Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and WHO has designated the dates **November 18-24** to be the week-long celebration of WAAW every year. The Philippines, as one of the forefront WHO member states actively fighting against AMR, has been participating in this global activity through the celebration of the Philippine Antimicrobial Awareness Week (PAAW) since 2015.

As in previous years, the overall one-health slogan for AMR awareness and WAAW is **“Antimicrobials: Handle with Care.”** Meanwhile, the global theme for WAAW 2021 is **“Spread awareness, stop resistance.”** This theme encourages stakeholders across all sectors to be *AMR Awareness champions* by engaging and actively participating in AMR campaign activities and spreading awareness on AMR to their families, communities, and/or places of work.

In the Philippines, as we celebrate the WAAW this year, we will be adopting the local theme, ***“Kaalaman ay dagdagan, antimicrobial resistance sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemya ay labanan.”*** Antibiotic overuse in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic may potentially exacerbate the AMR situation in the country and may put stewardship efforts at risk. With this theme, we engage stakeholders across all relevant sectors to raise awareness on AMR and to increase recognition of the important roles that they play to encourage behavior change towards the prudent and rational use of antimicrobials in order to mitigate the unintended long-term consequences associated with antibiotic overuse during the pandemic and to avoid future pandemic of AMR.

In this regard, we enjoin your offices to actively participate in the WAAW 2021 Campaign through the following (*adopted from the WAAW 2021 Campaign Guidance*):

- **Be AMR Awareness Champions:** Plan and organize fun and interactive activities, events, and/or contests targeting leaders and all relevant stakeholders to raise AMR awareness to your organization, workplaces, institutions, and families. Actively participate in WAAW events and activities organized by different sectors and development partners and share it with your colleagues and network. Join the movement to fight AMR by sharing AMR stories and become *Stewards for the Future* by taking the pledge <https://pledge.antibioticawarenessweek.org/>
- **Social media presence:** We encourage partner offices and stakeholders to continue the advocacy by disseminating advocacy and information, education, and communication (IEC) materials related to the abovementioned W/PAAW themes through social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Tiktok, Twitter, Instagram). When posting AMR-related materials, social media cards (SMCs) or stories, please use the following hashtag: #WAAW #AntimicrobialResistance #AMR #HandleWithCare #WintheWarAgainstAMR #PAAW2021
- **Go Blue for AMR Awareness:** In an effort to improve global visibility of the AMR problem, the color **light blue**¹ has been selected by the Tripartite Organization for the WAAW campaign. All are invited to join the color campaign to build awareness of AMR and the preservation and protection of the efficacy of antimicrobials.
 - **Go Blue as an individual** by (a) wearing blue during WAAW events, (b) adjusting your social media profiles with WAAW campaign digital resources, or (c) telling your family, peers, colleagues and communities why you “Go Blue” during WAAW (*“I’m going blue to demonstrate my commitment as a healthcare provider to use antimicrobials responsibly”*)
 - **Go Blue as a workplace** by lighting up blue the façade of your workplace throughout the week and sharing reasons for “going blue” as an institution
 - **Go Blue as a community** by participating in the “light up blue” activity. On the final day of WAAW on November 24, all local landmarks and other buildings (including health facilities, work places, public buildings and offices,

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/2020/11/2021-antibiotic-awareness-week>

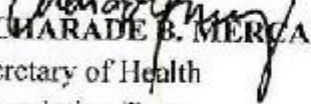
etc.) are encouraged to light up in light blue to raise AMR awareness and demonstrate commitment to being stewards for responsible antimicrobial use across sectors.

The details of the online activities in celebration of WAAW shall be disseminated through email and will be posted on the Pharmaceutical Division (PD) website (www.pharma.doh.gov.ph), ICAMR website (www.icamr.doh.gov.ph) and PAAW Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/doh.paaw>) in due course.

With your continuous support and cooperation, this campaign will further promote public awareness on AMR and the important role that each of us have to play and contribute in tackling AMR and combatting it through one health approach.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is hereby requested. Thank you.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE
Undersecretary of Health
Health Regulation Team

Briefer on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

- The Philippines recognizes that AMR is a public health threat that causes major health and economic consequences both in humans and animals.
- Cognizant of the public health threats of AMR to both humankind and animal health, with consequences affecting various sectors, President Benigno Aquino III, in 2014, passed the A.O. 42, which orders the creation of a multisectoral body focused on establishing mechanisms to integrate all initiatives into a single concerted action plan called as the **Inter-Agency Committee on AMR (ICAMR)**.
- Composition of the ICAMR:
 - Chair: Department of Health
 - Co-chair: Department of Agriculture
 - Members:
 - Department of Science and Technology
 - Department of Trade and Industry
 - Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Key events on AMR:

2012	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018
 <p>Country Situational Analysis on AMR</p>	 <p>Establishment of the Inter-Agency Committee on AMR (ICAMR) (DOH AC No. 42)</p>	 <p>Global Action Plan on AMR. One Health Approach – FAO, OIE, WHO. Tripartite</p> <p>May 2015 – Launch of the Philippine Action Plan to Combat AMR 2015-2017</p> <p>Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Program (ARSP) launched by RITM and ICAMR</p>	 <p>DOH AO 2016-0062 National Policy on Infection Prevention and Control in Health Care Facilities</p> <p>Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Trainings initiated</p> <p>Development of Manual of Procedures for Implementing AMS Programs in Hospitals</p>	 <p>National Point Prevalence Survey</p>	 <p>November 2018 – Launch of the Philippine Action Plan to Combat AMR 2019-2023</p>	 <p>Workshop on the Development of the ASEAN Strategic Plan to Combat AMR through One Health Approach</p> <p>Publication of the National Antibiotic Guidelines (NAG) and Manual of Procedures on AMS in Primary Healthcare</p>

- First NAP (2015-2018) was launched in November 2015 during the celebration of the 1st Philippine AMR Summit.

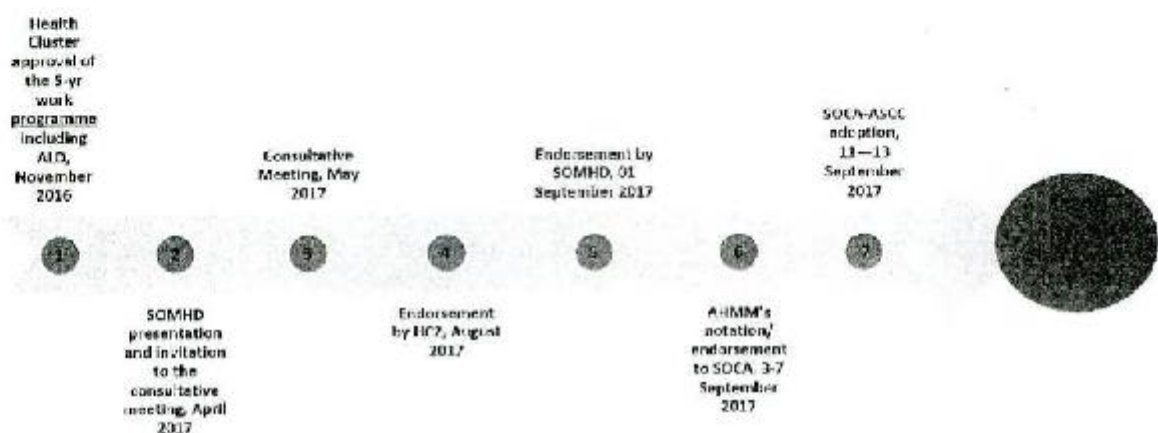
- After the review of the initial NAP implementation, the 2nd AMR NAP (2019-2023) was introduced in November 2018 during the 2nd Philippine AMR Summit. This plan advocates a more collaborative approach amongst the health, animal, agriculture, trade and education sectors. The NAP (2019-2023) was officially adopted by all ICAMR member agencies through a Joint Resolution in February 2020.
- The Philippines multi-sectoral action plan zeroes in the following areas:
 - Improving awareness and understanding on AMR among the general public and medical practitioners through effective and sustained communication, education and training.
 - Optimizing the use of safe and quality antimicrobials through regulation and advocacy of rational use such as the development of the Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Program Toolkit for hospitals which include among others the National Antibiotic Guidelines (NAG).
 - As early as 2016, the DOH have been organizing trainings on AMS for public and private hospitals. With the development of the AMS Manual of Procedures (MOP) for Primary Healthcare, there is a plan to expand the AMS program to primary care settings. The goal is to have all health care facilities implementing AMS programs by 2022 as part of the infection control program and patient safety initiatives.
 - Policy on no "prescription, no dispensing" of antimicrobials is strictly enforced
 - Monitoring the country Antimicrobial Consumption (AMC) in accordance with the WHO Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification System.
 - Enhancing infection prevention and control (IPC) measures and other preventive strategies to reduce morbidity and mortality due to infection.
 - Strengthening laboratory capacity and surveillance which need further funding to maintain the integrity of data collected from the national antimicrobial resistance surveillance program.
- As regards the Philippines' participation in the WHO International Health Regulation (IHR) Joint External Evaluation (JEE), the efforts on inter-sectoral collaboration in AMR were given merit. Likewise, there are some aspects that must be strengthened which include the following: (1) aligning the regulatory frameworks in both human and animal health; (2) supporting the implementation of AMS in humans and animals; and, (3) enforcing legislation for and monitoring of the use of antimicrobials in primary production.
- The Philippines also contributed in the development of the WHO report and methodology on surveillance of antimicrobial consumption, and participated in the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) as well.

There has been an initiative to incorporate genomic sequencing in our antimicrobial resistance surveillance program (ARSP). With the AMR surveillance framework in the animal health sector in place, the country's next step is to participate in the integrated surveillance of AMR in humans, food chain, and the environment.

AMR WORK IN THE ASEAN

- The Philippines initiated the formulation of the **ASEAN Leaders' Declaration to combat AMR** during the Second Meeting of the ASEAN Health Cluster 2 held on 29-30 November 2016 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.
- The ALD on AMR was adopted in Manila, Philippines during the 31st ASEAN Summit on **13 November 2017**.
- Salient points of the ALD
 - Development of an **ASEAN strategic framework to combat AMR**
 - National action plans
 - Regulatory frameworks
 - Advocacy and awareness campaigns
 - Capacity and capability building
 - Research and development
 - Antimicrobial stewardship program, AMR surveillance, antimicrobial use and consumption monitoring

•ALD Consultation Process



- In line with the adoption of the ALD in November 2017, the country hosted a workshop to develop a regional strategic framework that emphasizes the "One Health Strategy" in February 2019. It was participated by officials in ASEAN member states representing the human health, animal health, agriculture, food safety and environment sectors.
- The Philippines championed the development of the *ASEAN Framework to*

Combat AMR through One Health Approach 2019-2030 in which the region has identified **six strategic objectives** to fight AMR. These include: (1) education and public awareness on AMR; (2) strengthening surveillance systems for AMR; (3) strengthening infection prevention and control strategies; (4) optimizing the use of antimicrobials across relevant sectors; (5) research and innovation; and (6) adequate and sustainable resource management and mobilization for the implementation of the regional AMR activities.

- The mission and vision of the ASEAN Strategic Framework to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance through One Health Approach
 - Vision: An ASEAN region working together towards the prevention of the spread of AMR to achieve national, regional, and global health security, and the sustainable development goals for the human, animal, food, and environmental health sectors.
 - Mission: To formulate and implement an ASEAN regional action plan adopting the One Health Approach in combating AMR through the comprehensive multisectoral and multidisciplinary engagement and participation of all governments and stakeholders.
- In August 2020, the framework which reflects the collective inputs from the human health, animal health and environment sectors was already adopted by all ASEAN Health Ministers. The next step is to develop the plan to implement the Strategic Framework and identify priority project activities at the regional level that will support successful implementation of AMR initiatives of the ASEAN Member States.

**World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2021
High-Level Media Forum**

Date: 18 November 2021
Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Medium: Zoom Platform

**Theme: "Kaalaman ay dagdagan, antimicrobial resistance sa gitna ng COVID-19
pandemya ay labanan."**

TIME	TOPICS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
9:00 – 9:05 AM	Introduction	Dr. Anna Melissa Guerrero Chief, Pharmaceutical Division Department of Health
9:05 – 9:10 AM	Welcome Remarks / Opening Message	Secretary Francisco Duque III Secretary of Health Department of Health
9:10 – 9:13 AM	Combating AMR amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic through One Health Approach Key Messages from the One Health Tripartite	Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe Representative in the Philippines World Health Organization (WHO)
9:13 – 9:16 AM		Ms. Kati Tanninen Representative in the Philippines Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations
9:16 – 9:19 AM		Dr. Ronello Abila Sub-regional Representative in South-East Asia World Organisation of Animal Health
9:19 – 9:22 AM		Dr. Dechen Tsering Director for Asia and the Pacific United Nations Environment Programme
9:22 – 9:25 AM	Messages of Support from the Member Agencies of the Inter-Agency Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance (ICAMR)	Hon. William Dar Secretary, Department of Agriculture
9:25 – 9:28 AM		Hon. Fortunato De La Peña Secretary, Department of Science and Technology
9:28 – 9:31 AM		Hon. Eduardo Año Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government

9:31 – 9:34 AM		Hon. Ramon Lopez Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry
9:34 – 10:37 AM		Hon. Roy Cimatu Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
9:37 - 9:40 AM		Hon. Leonor Briones Secretary, Department of Education
9:40 – 9:43 AM		Hon. J. Prospero De Vera Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education
9:43 – 9:46 AM		Hon. Isidro Lapeña Secretary, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
9:46 – 9:51 AM		Hon. Rolando Enrique Domingo Director General, Food and Drug Administration
9:51 – 9:55 AM	Audio Visual Presentation (AVP)	
9:55 – 10:30 AM	Open Forum with National Stakeholders Moderators: Dr. Anna Melissa Guerrero Chief, Pharmaceutical Division and AMR Program Secretariat Dr. Alicia Layson Focal Person for AMR, Bureau of Animal Industry	Ms. Leila Areola Director, Bureau of Learning Delivery Department of Education Engr. William Cuñado Director, Environment Management Bureau Department of Environment and Natural Resources Dr. Evalyn Roxas President, Philippine Hospital Infection Control Society Dr. Paulino Abad President, Philippine Veterinary Medical Association

		<p>Dr. Eugene Mende President, Philippine Veterinary Drug Association</p> <p>Dr. Clemencia Bondoc President, Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP)</p> <p>Dr. Beaver Tamesis President, Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP)</p> <p>Ms. Ma. Gilda Sebua-Saljay President, Philippine Pharmacists Association</p> <p>Ms. Jovelyn Blancaflor President, Drugstore Association of the Philippines</p> <p>Mrs. Maria Fatima Garcia-Lorenzo President, Philippine Association of Patient Organizations</p> <p>Mr. Joseph Rem C. Dela Cruz President, UP Medical Students for Social Responsibility</p>
10:30 – 10:35 AM	AMR Pledge of Commitment	Mrs. Maria Fatima Garcia-Lorenzo President, Philippine Association of Patient Organizations
10:35 – 10:50 AM	WAAW 2021 Activities and Contest	Dr. Regina Berba
10:50 – 10:55 AM	Closing Message	Secretary William Dar Secretary, Department of Agriculture
10:55 – 11:00 AM	Photo Documentation	

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

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