

19 JULY 2021, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Environment cluster to outline thrusts, gains at pre-SONA meet

July 18, 2021, 6:41 pm



Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cluster Pre-SONA forum at the Philippine International Convention Center on July 14, 2021 (Photo courtesy of PICC)

MANILA – The Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), will be reporting on the government's accomplishments in building resilient and sustainable communities at the time of the coronavirus crisis during the pre-SONA forum on July 22.

With the theme "Pamanang Katatagan", the forum is one of the five Pre-State of the Nation Address (SONA) forums leading up to the anticipated sixth and final address of President Rodrigo Duterte on July 26.

CCAM-DRR Cluster chair and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu will present the updates on the government's programs on climate risk management, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development programs for the past five years, while co-chair, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, will present the cluster's priority thrusts for 2021 and 2022.

The report will likewise cite the Department of Social Welfare and Development's pursuit of the Risk Resiliency Program, which prioritizes climate-vulnerable provinces such as Sarangani, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat.

For its part, the Department of Agriculture will report on the progress of its "OneDA" reform agenda, which aims to modernize the Philippine agricultural and fishery sectors.

Hosted by the Presidential Communications Operations Office, the forum will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City.

It will also be streamed live in compliance with the health and safety protocols by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

"Concrete, measurable and sustainable accomplishments that have been nurtured, built on for the last five years, and will steer us even into the post-Covid-19 era will be the hallmarks of this forum," Cimatu said.



The DENR chief added that under the Duterte administration, "the character of governance in addressing environment and sustainable development has changed dramatically".

Five parts

"Pamanang Katatagan" is the final installment of the five Pre-SONA forums staged under the umbrella theme "Pamanang Pagbabago: The 2021 Pre-SONA Forums".

The Economic Development and Infrastructure Clusters, chaired by the Department of Finance, held its Pre-SONA forum on April 26 titled "Sulong Pilipinas 2021: Partners for Progress."

The Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cluster held its "Pamanang Malasakit" forum also at the PICC on July 14; Participatory Governance Cluster (Pamanang Pagkakaisa) on July 16 at the Bai Hotel in Mandaue City, Cebu; and the Security, Justice and Peace Cluster (Pamanang Kaligtasan at Kapayapaan) on July 21 at the Armed Force of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club in Quezon City. **(PR)**



River rehab, solid waste management isinaprayoridad ni Cimatu



July 19, 2021 @ 6:45 AM 55 seconds ago

MANILA, Philippines = Pangunahing prayoridad ni Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang pagsasagawa ng malawakang clean-up sa mga ilog at tamang pamamahala ng solid waste sa nalalabing termino nito sa kagawaran.

“We will continue our programs such as the Battle for Manila Bay and Boracay rehabilitation. Now it’s also the battle against garbage and dirty rivers in your respective CENROs (Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices) and PENROs (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices),” sabi ni Cimatu sa mga DENR provincial at regional officers sa ginanap na mid-year assessment ng priority programs ng ahensya noong Hulyo 5.

Sa ulat ng DENR upang matiyak ang tagumpay ng mga gawain sa ilalim ng mga priority programs, inatasan ni Cimatu ang mga regional officials at field officers ng DENR na pangunahan ang paglilinis ng mga ilog at pamamahala sa solid waste.

“I want an inventory of all rivers with corresponding fecal coliform count within your jurisdiction by next month. Henceforth, all regional offices should rehabilitate and clean degraded rivers and other water bodies starting with those in highly urbanized cities,” saad ni Cimatu.

Kasabay nito, inatasan din ng DENR chief na lumahok ang PENROs at CENROs sa mga management meetings sa DENR Central Office “to further boost their morale and sharpen the professionalism of frontline workers.”

“The PENROs and CENROs are to be included in the management conferences because they are the DENR’s frontline managers and should therefore be present in our command conferences,” dagdag ni Cimatu.

Ang DENR ay may kabuuang bilang na 76 Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers at 140 Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers sa buong bansa.

Ang management conference ay ang “highest level meeting” na ipinatatawag ng DENR Secretary na kadalasang dinadaluhan ng mga opisyal sa central office, bureau at service directors, at regional executive directors.

“I still have a little than a year to go. I would like to see the mark of professionalism from the central office down to the PENROs and CENROs,” sabi pa ni Cimatu. *Santi Celario*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/river-rehab-solid-waste-management-isinaprayoridad-ni-cimatu/>



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE TINUTUTUKAN SA BANSANG

NAGSAGAWA ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng pre-event noong Hulyo 7, Miyerkules upang matutukan ang masamang epekto ng illegal wildlife trade sa bansa.

Kabilang sa mga tinalakay ay ang mga hamon sa DENR wildlife enforcement officers, online illegal wildlife trade, at mga salient points upang maging mas mahigpit ang Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resource Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 kasama na ang mga "context and threats, policy gaps, and its proposed revisions for amendment."

Napagusapan din ang madalas na kinakalakal na species kasama na ang illegal wildlife trading hot spots at strategies for combating illegal wildlife trade.

"Hopefully, during this pre-event for the upcoming environmental law enforcement summit, we can make the Filipino people realize the magnitude of what we are lobbying and continuously advocating," saad ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Layunin ng NELE Summit na makapag-presenta ng mga nagawa ng environmental law enforcement tulad ng "laws and policies,

implementing guidelines, programs, and tools, and come up with a new NELE Action Plan for 2021-2028."

Ayon kay Cimatu, upang mapanatili ang "momentum" ng Senate hearing noong nakaraang Hunyo 30 para sa mga panukulang batas na magpapalakas sa RA 9147, ang DENR ay kinakailangang "must continue to reverberate the drumbeat of calls to enact a law that will provide a more stringent legal framework to punish illegal wildlife traders."

Sa kasalukuyan, ang illegal wildlife trade sa Pilipinas ay tinatayang aabot sa halagang P50 billion kada taon, kabilang na dito ang market value ng wildlife at ng resources nito, ecological role at value, pinsala sa habitat na nagawa sa paghuli at pagkawala ng potential ecotourism revenues.

Sa nakalipas na sampung taon, ang DENR ay nakakumpiska ng P248-million halaga ng wildlife specimens.



E-mail Address: andres5421@yahoo.com

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WASTEWATER FACILITY GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

JUL 17, 2021, 12:17 PM

Mike Taboy
Photographer

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (second from left), Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano and Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Benhur Abalos lead in the groundbreaking ceremony for a wastewater treatment facility along Diosdado Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City Friday (July 16).

The facility aims at clearing wastewater from nearby creeks, as part of government's efforts in cleaning up Manila Bay. (MT)

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/wastewater-facility-groundbreaking-ceremony?fbclid=IwAR2stL1-I3QVJV_ELAwW10w7Eooyidkd4OqHPNuWz6o7YXpoM9Y9U10398Y



‘Dolomite beach’ binuksan sa publiko

By [Mer Layson](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 19, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Muling binuksan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko ang tinaguriang “dolomite beach” sa Baywalk sa Maynila kahapon ng umaga.

Gayunman, limitado ang kapasidad ng beach at nasa 120 katao lamang kada limang minuto ang pinapayagang mamasyal sa lugar.

Ayon sa DENR, mananatiling bukas ang dolomite beach sa publiko hanggang sa Martes, Hulyo 20.

Gayunman, limitado rin ang oras ng pagbubukas nito, mula alas-8:00 ng umaga hanggang alas-11:00 ng umaga at alas-3:00 ng hapon hanggang alas-5:00 ng hapon.

Mahigpit din ang tagubilin ng mga awtoridad na tumalima ang mga bisita sa health protocols, gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield.

Istriкто rin ang pagbabantay ng mga tauhan ng DENR na nagpapaalala sa publikong sumunod sa mga panuntunan. Nagpuwesto sila ng magkaibang entrance at exit sa beach para hindi magsiksikan ang mga tao.

Naglagay rin ng mga karatula na nagsasabing bawal ang paglangoy, pagkain, paninigarilyo, pagkakalat ng basura at pagpulot ng buhangin sa beach. Mahigpit ding ipinagbabawal ang parking sa gilid ng Roxas Boulevard.

Pinayagan namang makapasok maging ang mga senior citizen at mga menor-de-edad na may adult companion.

Anang DENR, matapos ang tatlong araw na public viewing ay ia-assess nila kung bubuksan muli ang artipisyal na white beach.

Target ng kagawagan na matapos ang second phase ng naturang proyekto sa Oktubre, 2021.

Samantala, nag-inspeksyon si Manila Police District (MPD) Director P/Brig. Gen. Leo Francisco sa Baywalk para masigurong natutupad ang mga health protocols. Nagpakalat din siya ng maraming pulis sa nasabing lugar.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2021/07/19/2113497/dolomite-beach-binuksan-sa-publiko/amp/>



'Dolomite beach' 3 araw puwede pasyalan

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Jul 18, 2021

NEWS



2 0

Binuksan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko ang tinaguriang 'dolomite beach' sa Manila Bay, nitong Linggo ng umaga.

Ayon sa DENR, bukas ang 'dolomite beach' sa publiko hanggang sa Martes, Hunyo 20, subalit hanggang 120 katao lamang kada limang minute ang papayagang mamasyal dito.

Limitado rin ang oras ng pagbubukas nito na mula alas otso hanggang alas 11:00 ng umaga at simula alas-tres hanggang alas-singko ng hapon lang.

Magiging istrikto sa paghabantay ang mga tauhan ng DENR at mahigpit na ipatutupad ang mga health at safety protocol. Ipinagbabawal naman maligo o lumangoy, kumain, manigarilyo, magkalat ng basura at kumuha ng dolomite.

Pinapayagan namang makapasok maging ang mga senior citizen at mga menor de edad na may kasamang magulang o nakatatanda sa kanila.

Sabi ng DENR, matapos ang tatlong araw ay pag-aaralan nila kung itutuloy na buksan sa publiko ang 'dolomite beach'.

Target umano ng DENR na matapos ang second phase ng proyekto sa Manila Bay hanggang Oktubre ngayong taon. (Dolly Cabreza)



'Dolomite beach' binuksan sa publiko

On Jul 18, 2021



BINUKSAN na sa publiko ang tinaguriang 'dolomite beach' sa Baywalk sa Roxas Blvd. sa Maynila nitong Linggo.

Bagama't pinayagang makapasyal ang publiko sa bagong mukha ng Manila Bay ngunit limitado lamang ito bukod sa kailangang nakasuot ng mask at faceshield.

Bukod dito, kailangan mapanatili ang physical distancing bilang pag-iingat narin sa hawaan ng virus.

Binibigyan lamang ng limang minuto ang mga pinapayagang mamasyal dito ng hindi tataas sa sampo katao.

Magkaiba rin ang entrance at exit ng mga tao upang hindi magkasalubungan o magkadikit-dikit.

Sa pamamagitan ng megaphone, patuloy ang pakiusap at paalala ng nakatalagang tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa dolomite beach na sumunod sa health protocols tulad ng pagbibigay distansya sa isa't isa, bukod pa sa nagkalat na mga karatula na may paalala na bawal ang pagkain, mag-swimming, manigarilyo at magkalat.

May mga nakatalaga ring tauhan ng Manila Police District (MPD) upang masiguro na walang lalabag sa nasabing mga paalala. (Jocelyn Domenden)

Source: https://www.policefilestonite.net/2021/07/18/dolomite-beach-binuksan-sa-publiko/?fbclid=IwAR3UqpySFy3y59rnN05_MumDhO7DeoCi23HNL5TJ-JW4wJyTS7Mr7pWea3U



Dolomite beach sa Maynila, sorpresang binuksan sa publiko

Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 18 2021 11:06 AM | Updated as of Jul 18 2021 06:36 PM



Nakapasok ang ilang tao matapos sorpresang inanunsyo ang pagbubukas ng tinatawag na 'dolomite beach' sa Maynila nitong alas-8 ng umaga Linggo. *Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News*

MAYNILA - Sorpresang inanunsyo ang pagbubukas ng tinatawag na 'dolomite beach' sa Baywalk sa Maynila nitong umaga ng Linggo.

Limitado muna ang kapasidad ng beach at mayroong tig-5 minuto lang ang mga pinapayagang mamamasyal dito. Dapat nakasuot din ng face mask at face shield ang mga bisita.

Jekki Pascual @jekkipascual · Jul 18, 2021

Replying to @jekkipascual

5 minutos lang maging mamasyal sa 'dolomite beach' at dapat naka face mask at face shield ang mga bisita.



Jekki Pascual @jekkipascual

Bahagyang umulan sa dolomite beach sa Maynila. Sumilong muna ang mga bisita sa mga tolda. Ngayong araw, binuksan ang beach sa publiko.



10:04 AM · Jul 18, 2021

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May mga tauhan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources na nagpapaalala sa publikong sumunod sa health protocol.

Magkaiba rin ang entrance at exit sa beach para hindi magsiksikan ang mga tao. May mga karatula ring nagsasabing bawal ang swimming, pagkain, paninigarilyo, at pagkalat ng basura. Bawal din ang parking sa gilid ng Roxas Boulevard.

Nag-inspeksyon si Manila Police District director Brig Gen. Leo Francisco para masigurong natutupad ang health protocol. Maraming pulis din ang ipinakalat sa Baywalk.

Hindi pa tiyak kung hanggang kailan ang pagbubukas ng dolomite beach. Sa paunang impormasyon, posibleng hanggang 3 araw muna itong bubuksan sa publiko sa limitadong oras.f



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
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July 18, 2021

DOLOMITE IS BACK

The public is again allowed inside Manila Bay's "dolomite beach." Visitors are allowed to stay for five minutes.



 OneNews.ph    OneNewsPH

source: News5
photo: News5/Camille Samonte



   Kengie Trajano and 1.8K others

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Manila bay dolomite area reopens for limited public viewing

Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 18 2021 08:08 PM



Visitors check out the dolomite sand-covered area along Manila Bay on the afternoon of Sunday. The area reopened on Sunday for a 3-day public viewing, allowing a batch of 120 visitors to enter every 5 minutes from 8 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/07/18/21/manila-bay-dolomite-area-reopens-for-limited-public-viewing?fbclid=IwAR3KsaSipwBbSk_6d-w31a3qxu7PUrzilL0MYs3VfKmKLdQDh_rOWYNhmg



LOOK: Visitors check out the dolomite-covered area along Manila Bay on the afternoon of July 18, 2021. The area reopened around 3 to 5 p.m. after previously reopening around 8 to 10 in the morning. | via Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News



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The Manila Times

8h · 🌐



Children frolic in Manila Bay on Sunday. The government allowed kids as young as 5 years old to go out as long as they are accompanied by their parents or guardians. PHOTOS BY J. GERARD SEGUIA



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DENR-Davao Region seizes illegal timbers



Contributed photo

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#) July 19, 2021

A TOTAL of 125 pieces of squared timbers with a volume of 13,390 board feet were seized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Davao Region (DENR-Davao) on July 13, 2021, in Davao Oriental.

In a press release, DENR-Davao said the timbers were apprehended through its Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro)-Baganga in Barangay Malibago, Cateel.

The agency said the confiscated items of naturally-grown dipterocarp are worth P400,000.

DENR said the items were seized after they received an intelligence report that a number of timbers were sighted in Cateel river.

As of writing, the confiscated items are already at Cenro-Baganga compound and 67th Infantry Battalion detachment for proper handling while awaiting appropriate action.

DENR-Davao Executive Director Bagani Fidel Evasco said the operation is part of the Anti-illegal Logging Task Force's efforts to curb any illegal activities in the region.

"As we continue to intensify our enforcement of forestry laws, rules and regulations, the more we have strengthened our partnership with these agencies through this Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force," Evasco said.

Early this year, DENR-Davao strengthened its collaboration with Northern Mindanao, Soccsksargen and Caraga regions through a Joint Inter-Regional Task Force that aims to guard up against timber poaching and to intensify its anti-illegal logging transboundary efforts in these regions.

This is also in line with the agency's aim not only to safeguard the environment but also to ensure and strengthen the protection of forests by keeping the trees standing.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1901184>



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- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



KAMM Media Network

July 17 at 10:22 AM · 🌐



MGA INANOD NGA TABLON NAKUMPISKA SA ANTI-ILLEGAL LOGGING TASK FORCE SA DAVAO ORIENTAL

NAKUMPISKA sa Anti- Illegal Logging Task Force sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources kon DENR XI ang 125 ka mga tablón nga anaa sa 13,990 board feet pinaagi sa CENRO sa Baganga Davao Oriental niadtong Martes, Hulyo 13, 2021.

Nasayrang ang mga tablón nakita sa Cateel river nga gisumbong sa usa ka concerned citizen hinungdan nga giaksyonan dayon kini sa mga otoridad.

Sumala sa DENR, nagkantidad kini sa 400,000 pesos nga mga naturally grown dipterocarp.

Gidayeg ni DENR XI Regional Director Bagani Evasco ang pagtinabangay sa nagkadaiyang ahensya diin ang operasyon parte sa paningkamot sa anti-illegal logging taskforce nga mahunong ang illegal nga pagpamutol sa kahoy nga makadaot sa kinaiyahan.

Anaa karon gibutang sa compound sa CENRO Baganga ang tablón ug sa detachment sa 67 IB samtang ginahikay pa ang mga papeles ug ginapangita ang responsable sa pagpamutol sa kahoy.

via | Claire Mariño | KAMM Media Network
Photo | DENR XI



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PCSD protecting Palawan

By ... -July 19, 2021



Ursula Island, a wildlife and gaming sanctuary off the coast of Batarza in Southern Palawan, is one of several natural reserves in the province that the Palaweños are proud of.

When Republic Act 7611 or the Strategic Environment Plan (SEP) for Palawan became a law, the province acquired a strong foundation for clear policies on the protection of the environment – Palawan being touted as the country’s “last biodiversity frontier”.

SEP then created the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) giving the local government of Palawan direct jurisdiction over its natural resources.

The agency is seen as driving the efforts to uphold and implement sustainable development in Palawan, taking advantage of newly-available scientific data, while establishing a system that controls, protects and develops Palawan’s natural resources.

Two contentious national issues push the role of PCSD under the microscope – one, that some of the province’s fishing grounds, particularly in Kalayan, form part of the West Philippine Sea; PCSD is highly involved in addressing the security and development concerns on the West Philippine Sea as it believes that the matters relating to the WPS are crucial to the well-being of Palawan, as well as national security and development.

The second contentious issue that PCSD has to address arise from the new policy pronouncements on mining agreements.

The PCSD’s position of balancing interests between economic growth and sustainable use of our natural resources is an extraordinary feat laudable in the midst of health crisis and economic frailties.

According to Atty. Teodoro Jose Matta, Executive Director of PCSD, “on Palawan’s shoulders lie that task of showing how to strike a balance between the desired social and economic growth and the preservation of the country’s natural resources.”

Atty. Matta explains that PCSD develops methods in order to achieve this “balance”. One method is the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN), which provides a graded system of protection and development control over the terrestrial, coastal and marine components of the province.



Recently, the ECAN maps of Palawan's municipalities of Quezon and Bataraza, known to be economically dependent on mining, were submitted for amendment. The requested updates in the zoning classifications of the maps shows that expansion of mining activities in the areas can be allowed.

Upon scrutiny of all factors presented, the updates to the ECAN map will be approved by the PCSD if the council deems them consistent with what are prescribed in SEP law and other current guidelines.

While some dissent against mining is expected, the fact that environmentally sound mining practices (or responsible mining) exist should also be considered.

According to Sec. Harry Roque, Presidential Spokesperson, a recent visitor to Rio Tuba Mining in Palawan, "in a period of economic struggle, responsible mining should be treated as a promising economic contributor that can bring development especially to the local communities where economic stimulus is needed the most."

Roque says, that when done responsibly and within the bounds of existing laws, mining is socially and economically beneficial both to the local and national economy.

Based on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Philippines is one of the world's richly-endowed countries in mineral resources.

In fact, the national government recently acknowledged the significant economic benefits of the mining industry when it issued Executive Order No.130 on April 14, 2021, effectively lifting the moratorium on mineral agreements.

If there is one place where the proper balancing of interests should be done, it is in the Province of Palawan. And according to the the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, it is determined to achieve just that.



[Minahang Bayan, key to the protection of ecology from destructive small-scale mining](#)

JUL 18, 2021, 4:36 PM

Alfredo P. Hernandez
Writer

Declaring more Minahang Bayan areas nationwide increases the opportunity for the government to track small-scale mining and putting an end to illegal mines that cause great damage to the environment - but this is easier said than done.

DURING the 1970s, a group of gold-panners (aka small-scale miners) led by their financier proposed to my father, a small-time coconut farm owner, to mine the earth around the plantation for gold ores.

The group offered my father a good deal: for every three kerosene cans of high-grade ores they dug up, father was to get one can. The partihan was called “tersio” in the local lingo.

My father knew that his five-hectare property (now seven hectares) treasured high-grade gold.

A mining engineer from an iron mine company in town told him so. Working in the mines on weekdays as a mechanic, my father did not think twice about rejecting the offer.

The group approached the owner of the coconut farm that was next to my father’s and offered the same deal. After briefly doing some mental computations, he excitedly accepted the offer.

The surface mining went on for quite some time, and everybody was happy. The village’s buyer of raw gold was paying good money for every “bahay” (stress on “hay”) of the yellow metal.

The miners dug up the whole place in foxhole trenches looking for the mother gold nugget they called “vita”.

They overturned every inch of the earth as they collected gold ores along the way, filling up one kerosene can after the other.

And they did not spare the ground around and under the bases of many age-old coconut trees, having discovered more rocks dotted with the elusive yellow nuggets.

But the brook that used to flow crystal clear water nearby had become silted and worse, muddied.



This spot was where the women in the nearby village gathered every day to wash their clothes and bathe.

As it was, the gold miners processed the gold-laden mud right beside the flowing water.

They did this to separate gold dust from the muddy water, which was then dumped back into the brook running in front of them.

Over time, the water became polluted with silt and tainted with mercury, which was used to “collect” gold dust in the bottom of their wood pans.

This daily scenario had later deprived the village of a clear, flowing brook that used to give them clean water for household use.

It was the 1970s, and they did not know what the deadly chemical, or asoge in the local dialect, could do to their health and the environment.

Then a strong typhoon rumbled on across Camarines Norte, wreaking havoc on almost all coconut plantations across the province.

At the farm of the man-turned gold-panning fan, an old, tall coconut tree slammed hard into his house at the height of the typhoon and destroyed half of the house’s structure, starting from the nipa roofing.

The next morning, he surveyed his farm and saw to his sheer dismay and disgust: the wayward typhoon uprooted almost half of his coconut trees in his six-hectare property.

To be exact, all those trees whose root bases had been mined fell.

And the whole place now, as if he was seeing it for the first time with clear eyes, looked like a war zone where fierce fighting took place.

But instead of dead soldiers’ bodies, rain and floodwaters filled the trenches.

Standing atop a big rock next to an uprooted coconut tree, he wept.

But then, a tall heap of gold ores under his farmhouse had assuaged his confused feelings, promising him some wealth should he decide to process them for its precious metal. He knew what to do next.

Ecological issues

Last year, about 50 years after the coconut plantation gold mining tragedy, the International Labor Organization (ILO) issued a study that highlighted the ecological issues that result from small-scale gold mining (SSGM), the very same disaster that the coconut farm owner witnessed.

Titled “*Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining Baseline Profile Report*”, the 2020 study covered extensively the small-scale gold mining operations in Paracale, Camarines Norte, and in T’Boli, South Cotabato (the coconut farm owner’s land was located in a baranggay in Paracale, which was known for its gold-mining sites).

The 100-page report pointed out: “Because of the sector’s informal status, ASGM has been associated with aggravating social, environmental costs, including primarily precarious working and living conditions, poor health, and safety record.

The continued use of mercury in the sector has implications on the people’s rights to the highest standards of health and the highest in ecology.”

Gold reserves

The government has projected that the gold reserves in the country to be worth around P7.36 trillion.



In 2014, the country produced P32.97 billion worth of gold, accounting for 25 percent of the total value of metallic output worth P138.6 billion.

The MGB said that the small-scale gold mining sector had a gold output in 2009 that was more than twice that of the big gold mining companies, valued at P36.91 billion.

In 2015, the sector contributed 70 percent, or 28 tons, which was above the global average of only 20 percent.

For so many years now, the ASGM has become a thriving industry, contributing 0.60 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

It employs 500,000 miners nationwide, including 18,000 women and children in communities belonging to the workforce.

Despite the drop in the price of gold in the world market in the recent past to \$1,700/oz. (one ounce is equivalent to 28.35 grams), the price of gold in many mining camps continues to look good.

In Camarines Norte's gold mining sites, particularly in Paracale, Camarines Norte, the prevailing buying price is P1,200 per "bahay". One "bahay" is equivalent to one-half gram of gold.

Often, mining for a gram of gold in one day would be "no sweat" at all for many gold miners.

This is when they are lucky to "hit the high grade", in which a small gold ore would contain several grams of the high-grade metal.

Instant cash; long-term problems

One reason many farmers became gold miners instantly, as they could see their money by afternoon after working the entire day.

During those days when they were working the farm, they had to wait for three months to see their vegetable crops bear fruits.

"The livelihood opportunities offered by the sector have drawn a big number of potential miners, especially in rural areas where there are limited opportunities for the poverty-stricken," the study said.

Sadly, the opportunities offered by the ASGM come with significant environmental damage.

For instance, gaps and overlaps in existing mining policies and the weak enforcement of regulations in the sector have resulted in the unabashed use of mercury in the gold extraction process, the study noted.

Recently, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) analyzed the sector's contribution to mercury pollution.

Using a special tool kit from the UNEP (United Nations Environmental Protection), the agency found the sector to be emitting/releasing over 113 tons of mercury per annum.

This makes the small-scale mining activities the most significant source of mercury emission in the country, contributing to mercury exposure of minors, the family, and the general population.

The study noted that mercury in ASGM also exacerbates the dangers facing vulnerable populations such as women and children.

As defined in Republic Act 9231, mining is "one of the worst forms" of child labor abuse as it exposes children to harmful chemicals (mercury and cyanide) and harsh working conditions.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Occupational and Health Standards (OHS) classifies mining as a hazardous workplace.



Legal mining

One bet of the ILO study that would deal head-on with illegal mining activities is the setting up of a Minahang Bayan (MB) that somehow would also protect the ecology.

Minahang Bayan areas are those where small-scale miners can operate legally, enabling the government to better monitor and regulate their extractive activities while helping promote the safety of these workers, protect the environment, and generate revenues for the government.

Declaring more Minahang Bayan areas nationwide increases the opportunity for the government to track small-scale mining. But this is easier said than done.

The MB will be subject to Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which aims to identify, predicts, interpret, and communicate information on the changes in environmental quality expected to arise from the proposed mining project.



Photo from Flickr

Camarines Norte gold resources

In Paracale, BAN TOXICS, an environmental advocacy group, has been monitoring the activities of the miners.

It has revealed that most mineworkers attributed respiratory issues and skin problems to their exposures to toxic fumes, especially when processing raw gold using mercury.

With gold reserves in Paracale at about 533,172 metric tons (in Gumaus, Tugos, and Sitio Tapukan), local miners are on a roll.

The gold figure was revealed in a 2004 report by the Mining and Geophysics Bureau (MGB).

As it is, the mining sector here continues to thrive, even if its operations were banned by the MGB for being illegal under the existing laws.

The only way to legalize the operations is through the Minahang Bayan that was yet to get an MGB approval.

Half of the municipality's population is engaged in small-scale mining operations—they work as financiers, mine workers, processors, independent gold panners, and gold buyers.

This translates to about 16,815 residents, or about half of over 34,000 populations, who are benefiting from the industry.

The good news is that the long wait for the MB okay from the government finally came.

A Minahang Bayan in Paracale recently got approval after it had resolved issues on mining rights with claims owners.

The MB called Sangguniang Bayan ng Paracale Small-Scale Mining got its approval in 2018 and is now operating for the first time.



Here, the mining operations are being carried out by a local miners' group, the Lexington Small-Scale Mining Association. It won a five-hectare mining concession within the 26.4-hectare MB-declared site in barangay Kasalugan, in Paracale, last January. The group is now extracting gold ores from several tunnels.

Lexington, which has received a two-year mining permit renewable for another two years, is allowed to mine up to 50,000 metric tons of gold ore per annum for processing in a designated gold facility in Paracale.

So far, the operations of the Paracale MB have relieved much of the financial woes of the poverty-stricken miners and their families.

Likewise, a vigorous inflow of cash into the mining community has revived its economy.

(*Writer's note:* The ILO study group had completed its investigation long before the MB in Paracale got the go signal in 2018. The study was released only last year.)

T'boli, South Cotabato Minahang Bayan

The mining operations in T'boli under a Minahang Bayan scheme have six gold ore tunnels, and 15 ball mills (ore crushing machines).

The ILO study revealed that South Cotabato's gold mining operations release as much as 69.7 percent of its mercury to land and water as compared to Camarines Norte's 56.4 percent.

Normally, T'boli and Paracale used an average of 21.2 grams of mercury to process a gram of gold – already a high value that poses a significant and social-environmental risk. However, the two sites had later increased their use of mercury to 48.1g/g.

Mine wastes collected from tailings ponds are stored in ore processing facilities. They are further processed to get the gold dust using activated carbon.

"This process might worsen the mercury contamination level in communities as cyanide reacts with mercury to produce soluble chemical compounds that are easily transported with water, thus contaminating bigger areas," says the ILO study.

This also produces a mercury-cyano compound that can enter the food chain by seeping into groundwater and drinking water, the rehabilitation of which comes in significant economic cost.

Analysis of samples from tailings ponds of ore processing facilities in T'boli showed those ponds contain 149mg/kg of mercury with an average content of 83.19mg/kg.

Although the numbers are alarming, they pale compared to the findings from Camarines Norte samples showing an average of 934.21mg/kg.

Impact of small-scale mining on water bodies

Lake, river, and bay provide important environmental and economic services such as fishing and farming, especially in rural areas.

Since ASGM operations require water for a variety of reasons, such as sluicing/washing, panning, milling, and amalgamation, these activities need to be close to water sources.

Mining activities and removal of vegetation can cause siltation and sedimentation problems and increase the run-offs, which affects the turbidity of the water. Technicians had observed these in water bodies found near the tunnel areas in T'boli.

Likewise, water bodies near ball mill facilities in Camarines Norte have shown an increase in turbidity, which is simply the muddling of the water.

The increased concentration of silt or contamination can adversely affect aquatic ecology as well. Increased siltation can cloud water and affect the growth of aquatic plants as sunshine could not penetrate the water.



Lack of sanitation also poses concerns on drinking water sources. In several mining sites, miners could just relieve themselves anywhere, as long as he gets “some privacy”.

Threats to groundwater in ore processing facilities may be significant in areas where suitable mine waste handling is not practiced. Issues on water quality, ecosystem, and human health come from mine tailings, mostly crushed ore and rock tainted with mercury.

In forested mine sites, miners would remove vegetation and soil layers, and left mining lands with piles of rock, ores, mine tailings, shallow dug-outs, and deep pits. The operations add up to deforestation and land degradation, which leads to loss of biodiversity, increased chances of erosion, sediment, and pollution.

SSM also affects wildlife negatively. Activities linked to mining such as the use of generators, grinding machines, artificial lights, and extraction and crushing of ores can produce loud, disrupted noise and light pollution, disrupting wildlife.

ASGM may also affect farming practices and encourage miners and mining villages to farm on marginal lands that may be more prone to soil erosion and desertification. They can also affect crops.

In China, rice crops are an important exposure pathway for methylmercury that could affect people in mercury-tainted mining areas.

The study stressed that there is firm evidence that water, food, and soils that are heavily contaminated by metals can lead to adverse effects on human health.

The ILO report said: “The current dismal state of small-scale mining sector may mostly be attributed to the lack of formalization, which promotes unregulated and irresponsible practices often capitalized by a few influential and powerful individuals for personal gains.

“This fuels the endless cycle of marginalizing the sector, as it contributes to the affected communities’ being unable to rise from poverty,” the ILO report noted.

RECENTLY, I visited my father’s coconut farm to check on the progress of our copra-making venture that our farm katiwala was supervising.

His wife had asked me: “Kuya, anong gusto mong ulam sa tanghalian?” (Kuya, what do you want for lunch?)

I told her: “Gusto ko yata ng ginatang sitaw at tinapa ... (I think, I’d like to have ginataang sitaw and tinapa...)”

Wife: “Ayy...wala pong sitaw... bibili pa tayo sa bayan sa palengke ...”(Ahh... we got no sitaw nowadays ... we’ll have to buy at the market in town ...”)

Me: “Sa bayan...? Bakit, wala ba kayong tanim nun...?” (In town...? Why? You don’t grow it anymore?)”

Wife: “Wala nang nagtatanim ng gulay dito sa linang (farm)... sa halip, nagkakabod kami ... madali ang kita... pagdating ng hapon, ayun, pera na...”(Nobody grows veggies anymore... we’re all into gold panning .. easy money... by afternoon you got your money...”

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/minahang-bayan-key-to-the-protection-of-ecology-from-destructive-small-scale-mining?fbclid=IwAR273FMpCmI_YozrpCw4guMaAmWwqQAIIaTZGFc_Gs9oXzhpNZo9bUZGOAw



Planned P23-B artificial island for 'villas, yacht clubs' to destroy Dumaguete's marine biodiversity, says group

Published July 18, 2021, 11:40 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

A group of concerned Dumaguete residents are opposing a proposed artificial island-slash-reclamation project off the coast of the city due to the potential irreversible damage it could cause to the local ecology.



(Photo from the NO to 174DGTE Coalition)

The group, which calls themselves the “NO to 174DGTE Coalition”, believes that the planned 174-hectare off-shore island would compromise 84 percent of local fish species as a result of the reclamation process.

“The artificial island, touted as a ‘smart city’ hosting a clubhouse, heliport, yacht club, retirement villas, high-rise commercial and residential buildings, malls, etc., has an estimated cost of P23 billion. We object to this massive reclamation project,” the group said in a position paper sent to environment beat reporters.

It said the project came to light after the city government of Dumaguete “negotiated an agreement with Quezon City-based construction company E.M. Cuerpo with ties to a Chinese company to create a 174-hectare off-shore island.” It said that the island is “more than twice the size of Apo Island.”

“We object because we want to be true to our commitment to future generations. More than 20 years ago, Dumaguete legally established four marine protected areas (MPAs) off the coasts of Bantayan, Lo-oc, Mangnao, and Banilad. MPAs ensure a sustainable supply of fish while conserving marine biodiversity and boosting tourism. The reclamation project threatens these MPAs so much so that some may end up ceasing to exist,” the coalition claimed.

It said that the construction of the artificial island poses a threat to the province’s biodiversity.

“To build this island on our coral reefs and seagrass, millions of tons of sand and gravel will have to come from somewhere. Whether hauled down from our mountains and hills, taken from an existing quarry, extracted from our rivers, or dredged from the adjacent seafloor, the reclamation will ruin or worsen the damage to yet another habitat or ecosystem.”

“The construction of an island, including any dredging of the seafloor, destroys deeper ecosystems that sustain up to 84 percent of fish species caught by local fishers and will release sediment plumes, construction debris, and waste to areas well beyond the reclaimed area,” the group said.



“We object to the multiple destruction of our environment to make the lives of the rich and privileged more comfortable,” it further said.

The group is also up in arms over the alleged lack on public consultation on the large-scale project. “No information was given to the public and no community consultations were ever held before the draft agreement with E.M. Cuerpo was submitted to the City Council for approval.”

“The public was [neither] informed of the unsolicited proposal by E.M. Cuerpo, nor of E.M. Cuerpo’s prior arrangements with the Chinese company Poly Changda Overseas Engineering Co.10, nor of the negotiations between Dumaguete City and E.M. Cuerpo in February 2020 that led to a draft joint venture agreement 11,” the coalition said.

It also noted that the announcement inviting other companies to submit a comparative proposal was published last April 2021 in Manila and not in Dumaguete.

“We are for shoreline protection but not the types of structures that further damage our environment and worsen flooding risks,” it added.

With this, the coalition says it calls “for respectful dialogue and meaningful public consultations that explore the social, cultural, ecological, and economic implications of this massive reclamation project.”

“We call for the release and full public disclosure of plans, project description, cost estimates, and transactions involving the public interest for the sake of an informed electorate—a key part of a functioning democracy.

“We appeal to the Mayor and City Council to refrain from entering into agreements or to rescind agreements that preempt a full and vigorous discussion of the merits of a project whose consequences extend beyond our city and indeed, beyond our generation,” it said.



Diocese opposes plan to reclaim Dumaguete

BYCBCP NEWS JULY 18, 2021



A perspective of the 174-hectare reclamation project in Dumaguete City

DUMAGUETE CITY—A Catholic diocese is opposing a 174-hectare reclamation project because of the environmental impact it could have in the central Philippine city of Dumaguete.

In an open letter, the diocese raised concern that the P23-billion project could harm the city's remaining marine ecosystems.

Signed by Bishop Julito Cortes and other officials of the diocese, a copy of the letter was sent to the project's developer E. M. Cuerpo Inc. on July 12.

While they are not against economic, social and political development, they said that such a massive project "must consider the scientific and environmental implications, not to mention its impacts on the cultural and moral life of the people in the local community."

The reclamation project will reportedly pave the way for the construction of a "Smart City."

The church leaders have earlier made the same appeal to Dumaguete Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo.

On March 24, the diocese organized a forum "against reclamation" and consulted experts on the effects of the project at the city's historical boulevard.

Cortes has also asked for the tolling of bells of St. Catherine of Alexandria Cathedral at 3 p.m., praying the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and Pope Francis' "A Prayer for our Earth."

Other sectors, including the academe, are also against the proposed project. Among the first to publicly oppose the project were National Scientist Dr. Angel Alcala, Silliman University President Dr. Betty McCann and former SU president Dr. Ben Malayang III, who is also an environmentalist.

In their position letter, they argued that the project will "destroy" and "bury" the few remaining marine ecosystems that support small-scale fishing in Dumaguete.

The proposed smart city island will include a coastal wastewater treatment facility, shoreline slope, wave protection, esplanade, a marina, a modern ferry port, and an open area for sports facilities, a hospital, and a city administration hub.

After numerous appeals from various sectors, the signing of the joint venture agreement between Remollo and the developer was postponed indefinitely. **Ryan Sorote/CBCP News**

Image courtesy of Contributed photo

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/18/diocese-opposes-plan-to-reclaim-dumaguete/>



IPM Holdings starts operation of Iloilo sanitary landfill

[Iris Gonzales](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 19, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Listed IPM Holdings Inc., through its subsidiary Basic Environmental Systems & Technologies Inc. (BEST Inc.), has commenced operations of a 10-hectare sanitary landfill in Iloilo, completed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

The landfill, located in Passi, Iloilo is capable of handling solid waste from 28 local government units in the third, fourth, and fifth districts of the province.

The Passi Integrated Waste Management Facility (PIWMF) is estimated to reach full capacity by 2030 based on the volume of waste generated by its LGU clients. It also accepts solid waste from other local government units within Iloilo.

A partnership between BEST and Passi City, the facility will allow LGUs to comply with the strict requirements of Republic Act 9003 or Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

BEST is pursuing similar sanitary landfill projects using the PPP modality in strategic areas in the Philippines. The company's aim is to be the country's leading local designer, builder and operator of integrated waste management facilities.

Company president and CEO Isabelita 'Eisa' Paredes Mercado said building the landfill using the PPP model addresses major concerns shared by all LGUs in the country.

"For one, a sanitary landfill helps safeguard the environment from pollution due to mismanaged wastes; second, it helps LGUs who lack finances and technical expertise to build and operate landfills that are fully compliant with RA 9003; and, finally, it can help relieve pressures against closure of open dumpsites and Residuals Containment Areas (RCAs), including possible prosecution of violators," she said in a statement.

The birth of PPPs in waste management recognized the significant role of the private sector as a partner in implementing environmental and solid waste management programs, as well as accelerating the country's infrastructure development and sustained economic growth.

"Neighboring municipalities will also have an environment-friendly disposal area thereby complying with the strict requirements of RA 9003. The clustered SLF will redound to improved public health, sanitation, and overall well-being of Iloilo residents," said Passi Mayor Stephen Palmares.

Passi City adopted its PPP framework in 2014 and tapped Passi to be the private sector proponent following a competitive challenge process.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/07/19/2113400/ipm-holdings-starts-operation-iloilo-sanitary-landfill>



SMC power unit plants 2.7M trees

BY LENIE LECTURA | JULY 19, 2021



Alongside plans to push for the use of cleaner energy, SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. (SMCGP) said it has planted a total of 2.7 million seedlings and propagules in two years.

The power firm said over the weekend that this move is part of a reforestation and carbon capture program dubbed Project 747, which aims to plant seven million trees over 4,000 hectares in at least seven provinces to help mitigate climate change.

The project, which aims to plant a million trees every year, complements SMCGP's goal of adding cleaner and renewable power facilities to its power portfolio after dropping plans to put up three clean-coal power plants with a capacity of 1,500 MW, as part of San Miguel Corp.'s (SMC) larger sustainability goals.

"Through massive reforestation, we can help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Over the past couple of years, we have also been utilizing the best and most modern technologies to minimize our impact on the environment, even as we try to provide for our country's growing need for reliable and affordable power," said SMC President Ramon S. Ang.

Recently, SMC announced that SMCGP is nearing completion on a number of battery energy storage system (BESS) facilities it is building in various locations across the country. Between 2021 and 2022, the company is looking to complete a total of 31 BESS facilities that will not only improve power reliability throughout the country, but will also make way for the integration of some 3,000 megawatts of intermittent renewable power into the grid.

SMC has also announced that it is building solar plants equipped with BESS facilities at 10 locations. A liquefied natural gas plant and some hydroelectric power plants, are also in the pipeline as part of its move towards cleaner and renewable technologies.

"As with our other initiatives, this massive tree-planting project represents our commitment to environmental stewardship. With each of our business units pursuing sustainability programs and engaging their respective communities to help out, I am confident we can collectively achieve a lot in the next couple of years in terms of meeting our climate goals," Ang said.

As of July 9, SMCGP had completed planting 780,214 seedlings out of the 1.1 million targeted for this year over 268 hectares of land in Zambales, Davao Occidental, Bataan, Negros Occidental, Pangasinan, Albay, and Quezon province.

Planting of the remaining 320,000 trees is expected to be completed by September in these seven provinces and Bulacan. From 2019 to 2020, the company, together with farmer and fisherfolk organizations at or near planting sites, had planted 1,994,988 seedlings and



propagules. Ang underscored the importance of community involvement in the reforestation project. Project 747, he said, is a partnership with some 24 fisherfolk and farmers' organizations, which help in identifying indigenous tree varieties for planting, and are key to nurturing the young trees and ensuring high survival rates.

Tree varieties in the upland plantation are narra, molave, white lauan, palosapis, agoho, batino, igang, and malabayabas while mangrove varieties include bakawan babae, bakawan lalaki, bungalow, and api-api. The survival rates of upland trees and mangrove propagules planted are at 89 and 91 percent, respectively.



1M trees planted per year

By ... -July 19, 2021



San Miguel Corp.'s (SMC) power unit reported it has planted a total of 2.7 million seedlings and propagules since 2019 to date as part of a reforestation and carbon capture program dubbed Project 747, aimed at planting seven million trees over 4,000 hectares in at least seven provinces to help mitigate climate change.

The project, which aims to plant a million trees every year, complements SMC Global Power Holdings Corp.'s (SMCGP) goal of adding cleaner and renewable power facilities into its power portfolio after dropping plans to put up three clean-coal power plants with a capacity of 1,500 MW, as part of SMC's larger sustainability goals.

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Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/1m-trees-planted-per-year/



SMC arangkada sa 1M puno kada taon

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Jul 18, 2021

NEWS



Photo courtesy of Ramon S. Ang, FB



Inanunsiyo ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) na nakapagtanim na ng kabuuang 2.7 milyong binhi ang kanilang power unit simula pa noong 2019 bilang bahagi ng reforestation at carbon capture program nito.

Sa ilalim ng programa na tinawag na Project 747 ay target na makapagtanim ng isang milyong puno kada taon bilang suporta sa layunin ng SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. (SMGCP) na madagdagan ang malinis at renewable na mga power facility nito matapos itigil ang planong pagpapatayo ng tatlong clean-coal power plant na may kapasidad na 1,500MW para bigyang-daan ang mas malaking 'sustainability goal' ng SMC.

Ang Project 747 ay naglalayong makapagtanim ng kabuuang pitong milyong puno sa mahigit 4,000 hektaryang mga lupain sa pitong lalawigan upang makatulong na mabawasan ang climate change.

"As with our other initiatives, this massive tree-planting project represents our commitment to environmental stewardship," ayon kay SMC president Ramon S. Ang.



Mga patapong bagay, tampok sa bagong park sa Albay

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 18 2021 01:34 PM



Retrato mula kay John Paul Parpan

Ipinasilip ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Tabaco City, Albay ang pinakabagong park sa lungsod, na may mga upuan at atraksiyong mula sa mga patapon nang bagay.

Hiraya Manawari Nature Park ang pangalan ng bagong parke sa Barangay San Vicente, na nakatakdang magbukas sa Agosto.

Nasa 3,000 hanggang 5,000 square meters ang lawak ng park na may resto-bar, playground, camping site at picnic site.



Retrato mula kay John Paul Parpan

Karamihan ng mga makikita sa parke ay gawa sa mga patapon nang bagay, gaya ng mga lumang inodoro na ginawang mga upuan, mga bote na ginawang wall decoration, at marami pang iba.

"We came up with this idea na related pa rin siya sa basura. And dito ko na-encounter 'yong word na 'upcycle'... Meaning, you can transform that item into another item with a new purpose," ani Tabaco Mayor Krisel Lagman-Luistro.

"So 'yon 'yong concept ng park. It's actually to give a chance for everything and everyone in this world. That is why it is called 'Hiraya Manawari,' which is an ancient Filipino term which means may all your dreams and aspirations come true," paliwanag ng alkalde.



Retrato mula kay John Paul Parpan

Mismong ang mga empleyado ng lokal na pamahalaan ang nagtulong-tulong para maisakatuparan ang konsepto ng nature park.

"Gusto rin namin kasi maubos na talaga yung laman ng mga bodega namin, and mapakita namin yung basura is magagamit for a better purpose," ani Luistro.



Retrato mula kay John Paul Parpan

"We will be charging from visitors. Like P10, ganyan. Puwede din mag-rent doon like kung gusto 'yong restobar or 'yong playground for children's event or party. And we really need that especially na naapektuhan din 'yong collection ng city dahil sa pandemic," dagdag niya.

Nakatakda ring maglabas ang lokal na pamahalaan ng health protocol para sa mga bibista sa parke.

— Ulat ni **Karren Canon**



Climate change is a human rights crisis, says UN reso

BY RECTO MERCENE

JULY 19, 2021

IF highly developed economies are not spared from the effects of climate change—as seen in recent floods that killed over 160 people in Europe and the wildfires in California—vulnerable countries should be even more aggressive in demanding the speedy adoption of measures to mitigate global warming that fuels climate change.

This in effect is what happened when the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva adopted recently a resolution, initiated by the Philippines, recognizing climate change as a human-rights crisis, particularly among the most vulnerable.

Co-signatory with the Philippines are Bangladesh and Vietnam. Dhaka and Hanoi, which are apparel producing cities, like Ho Chi Minh City, and Guangzhou, China, are projected to be underwater by 2030, according to two Cornell researchers commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The UN Council encouraged continued discussions among States and relevant stakeholders on the possible creation of a new Special Procedure addressing the adverse impact of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights.

It also decided to incorporate into its annual program of work, beginning in 2023, sufficient time for at a minimum a panel discussion, to discuss different specific themes on the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights.

The researchers warned that the problem of rising sea levels is receiving little attention from those leading sustainability efforts in the sector.

Reacting to the adoption of the Philippine resolution, Denise Fontanilla, associate for policy advocacy of the Manila-based climate and energy policy group Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), said: “We congratulate the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Mission in Geneva for championing human rights and climate action, which led to yesterday’s adoption of the resolution.”

Fontanilla added: “As a climate-vulnerable country, we are heartened by the efforts of the Philippines and other members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) — particularly Bangladesh, Vietnam, and the Marshall Islands—to address climate change on all fronts, mobilizing not only their climate and environment ministries but also their finance ministries and diplomatic missions.

“Countries vulnerable to climate change continue to lead the fight by offering financial instruments aimed at drawing down the cost of capital for transforming their economies, and by establishing the fact of massive human-rights violations in the face of global inaction. The larger question is whether developed countries can live up to their so-called global leadership.”

According to the ICSC officer, “Members of the CVF expect the upcoming UN climate conference in Glasgow to come out with a climate emergency pact and a Delivery Plan to channel \$500 billion over five years, without any loans, and at least half of which should go to adaptation.”

She warned that “by failing to deliver the annual \$100 billion they committed, developed countries are very much a party to the gross violation of human rights among communities that are deprived of the means to transition to resilient, low carbon development rapidly.”



Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, Climate Vulnerable Forum Ambassador for Parliaments, called for a plan to deliver “\$500 billion over five years” to ensure the success of the Glasgow climate talks.

“In the midst of a worsening climate crisis, it is vital to restate the reminder—winning slowly is losing, standing still is moving backwards. As we near the 26th round of climate treaty negotiations in Glasgow in November, world leaders need reminding as well that we expect action on mitigation, adaptation, finance, loss and damage, and means of implementation together. Drop one item from these five points and we court failure, which is unacceptable,” said the congresswoman.

Legarda, said, “anything less and the COP26 leadership will be inviting the toxic politics that have plagued the negotiations during the Kyoto Protocol period.”

The Manila-initiated UNHRC Resolution also paves the way for the establishment of a UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change to investigate the adverse effects of climate change on human rights, such as the right to food, to health, and to life.

Forty-six HRC countries including the Philippines voted in favor of the resolution, with Russia as the lone abstention, as the Council wrapped up its 47th regular session.

The results of the vote showed 46 countries in favor and zero against.



At the UN, climate change and security must be tackled together

[By Inter Press Service](#) July 19, 2021

NEW YORK: Could the next wars be triggered by climate change?

Until recently, the question might have seemed like science fiction, but now it is very real. Ethiopia and Egypt are locked in an upward spiral of tensions over the Nile, as a combination of dams and shifting weather patterns pose existential risks to both countries.

In the Sahel region, climate-driven changes in pastoralist patterns have contributed to a massive spike in conflicts, while oscillations in the size of Lake Chad are influencing recruitment into the terrorist group Boko Haram.

From coral bleaching driving Caribbean fishing communities into organized crime to the drought that preceded the Syria war, a large and growing evidence base points to the fact that climate change is a real factor in today's and tomorrow's violent conflicts.

How can the [United Nations](#) - an organization established to prevent the kind of wars witnessed in the first half of the twentieth century - reshape itself to address the growing security risks posed by climate change?

The UN needs to undergo three related shifts to tackle climate security: 1) from sectors to systems; 2) from exclusivity to inclusivity; and 3) from sovereign rights to global public goods.

Taken together, these shifts will require the UN as an organization to transform from an exclusive club of powerful States making decisions behind closed doors into a hub that generates leverage by connecting different actors at local, national, regional, and global levels.

Systems not sectors

The UN system is structured as a series of loosely affiliated sectors, with bespoke agencies focused on single issues like refugees, food, health, migration and the environment.

While there have been meaningful efforts to bring those actors together around common objectives - not least the Sustainable Development Goals and universal human rights - in practice the UN continues to operate largely on the basis of sectoral approaches to risks.

As a result, information and programming tends to be linked to a single agency's mandate, driven by siloed sources of information.

But climate change cuts across these issues, exacerbating underlying socioeconomic tensions and making indirect contributions to the risk of conflict. Erratic rainfall causes crop failure, leading to increased tensions over natural resources.

Extreme weather destroys arable land and displaces entire communities, driving conflicts over land and contributing to unplanned urbanization.

The pervasive and interdependent ways in which climate change is driving security risks should galvanize a shift towards a systemic mindset across the UN.

This means producing cross-cutting analysis that brings together disparate sources of information, as well as establishing effective ways to do multi-scalar risk analysis in which local, national, regional, and global trends are examined together. In short, it means thinking in terms



of complex systems, rather than separate sectors.

Inclusivity not exclusivity

When responding to climate change, national governments are highly susceptible to various forms of maladaptation that may increase rather than decrease conflict risks. Facing massive land loss due to extreme weather, a government may reclaim land from the sea (e.g., in Bangladesh), or invest in new agricultural sectors (e.g., in Nigeria), without considering how these actions might create new competition over land, disrupt existing livelihoods, or contribute to large-scale demographic shifts.

And there is clear evidence that the UN's support to State-led development and peace-building programming is highly susceptible to elite capture, potentially contributing to precisely the kind of inequalities that are a root cause of violent conflict.

If the UN is to tackle the growing climate-security challenge, it must place inclusivity (i.e., providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized), at the heart of its work.

There are good examples of this, as in the ways in which UN peacebuilding has conditioned its support on gender inclusivity. The UN should place clear conditions on international support, by demanding that national governments account for potential risks to marginalized communities, clearly track whether funds are being captured by a small elite and ensure that their national programming is inclusive.

Commodification of environment

Despite clear evidence that our carbon-driven consumption is unsustainable, we still treat the environment as a commodity: something to be exploited for the benefit of human societies.

The commodification of the environment not only poses existential risks for humanity, but also drives conflict, as States and societies compete to own increasingly scarce natural resources or use them in a way that negatively affects others.

The UN has to become an advocate for a shift towards treating the environment as both a global public good and an essential aspect of our peace and security architecture. As the Covid-19 pandemic response acutely demonstrated, collective responses to shared threats are not only the most effective approach, but they are also often the difference between large-scale life and death.

Last year, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution on our Common Agenda that committed to "transformative measures" to address climate change. To deliver on the commitment, the transformation needs to include a repositioning of the environment within the multilateral system.

This can take many shapes. Ecuador has given the environment legal personality, allowing for claims to be brought on its behalf for environmental destruction.

In May, a court ruled that a [Royal Dutch Petroleum](#) (the world's ninth biggest emitter) was bound by the provisions of the Paris Agreement to reduce global emissions by 45 percent, demonstrating that our obligations to the Earth can have legal effect.

The Biden administration has placed climate change within its national security strategy, giving real weight and clear priority to the links between climate and security. And there are interesting and dynamic proposals for transforming the UN's Trusteeship Council into a guardian for the environment or creating a Commissioner for Future Generations tasked with protecting the



coming 100 years.

Regardless of what path is chosen, the UN should play a growing role in advocating for the environment to be exempt from the Westphalian mindset of sovereign ownership, pushing instead for a collective approach to our climate.

Just as 75 years ago, the founders of the UN came together to build a multilateral system based on collective security responses, today the UN should reconstitute its institutions toward collective climate-security action.

Climate change is already bringing nightmarish science fiction scenarios into reality; only radical changes in our conceptions of collective action will help us wake up.

BY [BEATRICE MOSELLO](#) AND [ADAM DAY](#), IPS

Beatrice Mosello is senior adviser at Adelphi, the German think tank and organizer of the influential Climate Diplomacy project and senior fellow at the [UN University Center for Policy Research \(UNU-COR\)](#); Adam Day is director of programs at UNU-CPR.



China denies politics behind UNESCO move on Barrier Reef

Published July 18, 2021 9:56pm



A top Chinese official said Sunday that political tensions between Beijing and Australia were not behind a UNESCO recommendation to place the Great Barrier Reef on its endangered list.

PARIS, France - A top Chinese official said Sunday that political tensions between Beijing and Australia were not behind a UNESCO recommendation to place the Great Barrier Reef on its endangered list.

Deputy education minister Tian Xuejun is chairing this year's meeting of the UN cultural agency's heritage committee, which comes after years of worsening relations between China and Australia.

The Great Barrier Reef has been put on a list of World Heritage sites that could be put on the in-danger list after losing half of its corals since 1995.

Australia has assailed the move, blaming global warming for the loss, while UNESCO experts argued that pollution run-off has contributed to the loss.

Asked at an online press conference about "Australian government allegations" that Beijing pressed to have the Barrier Reef listed as endangered, Tian said the decision was based "on reports and data provided by Australia itself."

"Australia should fulfill its obligations to protect world heritage sites instead of making baseless accusations against other member states" of UNESCO, he added.

Both China and Australia are among the 21 nations on this year's heritage committee, which is evaluating nearly 50 new sites that could be added to its more than 1,100 World Heritage list.

The designation can be a boon for tourism while encouraging governments to protect cultural or environmental treasures.

Australia has assailed the recommendation to add the Great Barrier Reef to the in-danger list after seeing the 2,300-kilometre (1,400 miles) system lose half its corals since 1995.

It says it has spent billions of dollars to clean up coastal waters and says global warming is responsible for the mass coral "bleaching" that occurs when the invertebrates do not have enough algae to provide nutrients.



UNESCO experts counter that pollution run-off has contributed to a drop in water quality, pointing in particular at the Carmichael Coal Mine, and say clean-up efforts have fallen short.

"Politics have subverted a proper process and for the World Heritage Committee to not even foreshadow this listing is, I think, appalling," Australia's Environment Minister Sussan Ley said in June.

But Tian said "the recommendation to include the Great Barrier Reef on the endangered list was made after an evaluation by the UICN," the International Union for Conservation of Nature, one of three advisory bodies to the heritage committee.

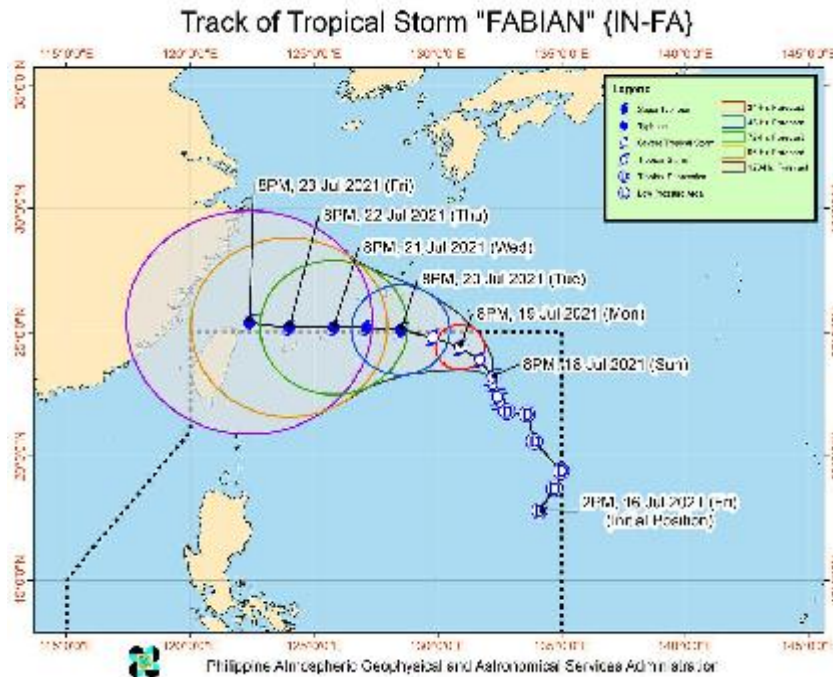
A decision on the reef's status is expected around July 23. — Agence France-Presse



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Fabian maintains strength, moves north

Published July 18, 2021 11:41pm



Dost_pagasa
6 hours ago

TROPICAL CYCLONE BULLETIN NO. 10
Tropical Storm "#FabianPH" (IN-FA)
Issued at 11:00 PM, 18 July 2021
Valid for broadcast until the next bulletin at 5:00 AM tomorrow... [See More](#)

km (mi)	Location
131.7	1,870 km East-Northeast of Extreme Northern Luzon
128.9	1,810 km East-Northeast of Extreme Northern Luzon
126.8	880 km East-Northeast of Extreme Northern Luzon
125.5	895 km Northeast of Extreme Northern Luzon (outside the PAA)
121.1	725 km Northeast of Itbayat, Batanes (outside the PAA)
125.8	625 km Northeast of Itbayat, Batanes (outside the PAA)
114.0	545 km North-Northeast of Itbayat, Batanes (outside the PAA)
113.4	510 km North of Itbayat, Batanes (outside the PAA)

303 likes, 7 comments, 88 shares



Tropical Storm Fabian maintained its strength while moving north-northwestward, PAGASA said Sunday night.

In its 11 p.m. severe weather bulletin, PAGASA said the center of Fabian was located 1,085 kilometers east northeast of extreme Northern Luzon at 10 p.m. with maximum sustained winds of 75 km per hour near the center, gustiness up to 90 kph, and central pressure of 996 hPa. It is moving north northwestward at 10 kph.

PAGASA said Fabian is unlikely to bring heavy rainfall in the country throughout the forecast period.

However, under the influence of the southwest monsoon that is being enhanced by Fabian and another tropical depression outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility, PAGASA said monsoon rains will be experienced in the next 24 hours over Ilocos Region, Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, and Palawan.

While no tropical cyclone wind signal is raised over any land area in the country, PAGASA advised residents in Batanes and Babuyan Islands to monitor tropical cyclone bulletins as any further southward shift in the orientation of the track forecast may result in the hoisting of TCWS No. 1.

Further, in the next 24 hours, moderate to rough seas (1.2 to 2.8 meters) may be experienced over the western seaboard of Palawan including Kalayaan Islands due to the southwest monsoon.

"Mariners of small seacraft are advised to take precautionary measures when venturing out to sea. Inexperienced mariners should avoid navigating in these conditions," PAGASA said.

PAGASA said Fabian will exit PAR on Tuesday afternoon or evening.

It added that a southward shift in the orientation of the track forecasts has been observed for the past 24 hours.

"If the trend continues, there is an increasing possibility that Fabian will re-enter the PAR beyond Tuesday or not exit the PAR at all during the forecast period," PAGASA said.

Fabian is also forecast to further intensify and reach severe tropical storm category by Monday afternoon and typhoon category by Tuesday afternoon. — Ma. Angelica Garcia/BM, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/795872/fabian-maintains-strength-moves-north/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2ijJVZ5cPax9DQSVj99CXXuXtJYg4SqIxM4fzUyXW_p5y-udHhbs4V-Q

86 volcanic quakes recorded at Taal Volcano; Alert Level 3 remains

Published July 18, 2021 10:17am



Taal Volcano had 86 volcanic earthquakes in the past 24 hours as Alert Level 3 remains in effect, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) said on Sunday.

The quakes included 84 volcanic tremor events lasting one to 34 minutes, one low-frequency volcanic earthquake, one hybrid earthquake, and low-level background tremor which has persisted since July 7, PHIVOLCS said in its bulletin.

The volcano continues to emit high levels of volcanic sulfur dioxide (SO2) which reached an average of 5,466 tonnes on Saturday.

From the main crater, steam-rich plumes rose up to 2,100 meters before these drifted northeast.

PHIVOLCS said Taal Volcano Island continues to deflate since April this year, and the Taal region has been undergoing a very slow extension since last year.



“At Alert Level 3, magma extruding from the Main Crater could drive explosive eruption,” PHIVOLCS said.

It reiterated its reminder that Taal Volcano Island is a Permanent Danger Zone and should be kept off limits.

It also reminded residents of high-risk barangays in the municipalities of Agoncillo and Laurel of the existing threat from pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami should Taal Volcano have strong eruptions.

“All activities on Taal Lake should not be allowed at this time,” PHIVOLCS said.

It also advised lakeshore communities around Taal Lake to be vigilant, take the necessary precautions against possible airborne ash and vog, and prepare for evacuation should volcanic activities intensify.

Pilots should also avoid flying over Taal Volcano Island as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions and pyroclastic density currents such as base surges may be hazardous to aircraft. —**KG, GMA News**



Davao Oriental niyanig ng magnitude 5.4 na lindol

By [Bombo Analy Soberano](#) - July 18, 2021 | 9:43 AM

Niyanig ng magnitude 5.4 earthquake ang Davao Oriental kaninang umaga.

Sa ulat ng Phivolcs, bandang alas-8:09 ng umaga kanina naramdaman ang lindol na natukoy ang sentro sa 37 kilometers southeast sa bayan ng Governor Generoso.

Nabatid na tectonic ang origin ng lindol at may lalim na 42 kilometers.

Samantala, Intensity V ang naramdaman sa Governor Generoso at Intensity IV sa Mati City.

Habang Intensity III ang naitala sa bayan ng Tampakan at Tupi sa South Cotabato.

Intensity II naman ang narehistro sa siyudad ng Davao, Kidapawan, and General Santos, at sa Kiamba, Sarangani.

Intensity 1 naman sa Arakan, Cotabato.

Ayon sa Phivolcs asahan na magkaroon ng pinsala at aftershocks bunsod ng nasabing lindol.

19 JULY 2021, MONDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



5,411 new Philippine COVID-19 infections logged; active cases at 47,190

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

Published July 18, 2021 4:04pm

The Philippines on Sunday reported 5,411 new COVID-19 infections, pushing the country's total tally to 1,507,755 as four laboratories failed to submit data on time.

The Department of Health said the new cases brought total active cases in the country to 47,190, of which 91.9% are mild, 1.9% are asymptomatic, 2.7% are severe, and 1.6% are in critical condition.

Meanwhile, the total number of recoveries rose to 1,433,851 after 5,439 more patients recovered from the respiratory illness.

The death toll climbed to 26,714 with 117 new fatalities.

The DOH said 15 duplicates were removed from the total case count, while 82 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

Data from the DOH showed that 55% of the country's intensive care unit beds are utilized, while 35% of the mechanical ventilators are also in use.

In Metro Manila, 42% of the ICU beds are in use, while 33% of the ventilators are utilized. — **DVM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/795830/5-411-new-philippine-covid-19-infections-logged-active-cases-at-47-190/story/?fbclid=IwAR2dKf9WpQjsn_E2G1b7i4OT46EwUnEtK4aOT2vOo5dmR9lsiRVd8XL_wgs



2 na patay sa Delta variant - DOH

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



Sabi ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergerie, sa kabuuang 35 indibiduwal na nakitaan ng Delta variant sa bansa isa lang sa kanila ang namatay.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Dalawa na ang namatay sa Pilipinas dahil sa Delta variant ng COVID-19, ayon kay Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergerie.

Ang unang namatay ay ang seafarer ng MV Athens Bridge na nangyari noon pang Mayo samantalang ang ikalawa ay isang 58-taong gulang na babae.

Sabi ni Vergeire, sa kabuuang 35 indibiduwal na nakitaan ng Delta variant sa bansa isa lang sa kanila ang namatay.

“Dito po sa Pilipinas katulad po ng nai-report natin, we have a total of 35 individuals detected with the Delta variant. Dalawa po sa kanila, dito sa 35, ay namatay at ito po ‘yung isang taga-MV Athens, iyong isa po naman ay taga-Maynila,” ani Vergeire sa Laging Handa press briefing.

Nilinaw din ni Vergeire na wala ng aktibong kaso ng Delta variant sa unang 35 na nakitaan nito dahil gumaling na ang 33 pasyente.

Dagdag ni Vergeirie na biniberipika pa nila kung totoong bakunado ang namatay na taga Maynila.

“As to the vaccination status, ang nakuha pa lang ho naming detalye would be one case, iyon pong taga-Maynila na apparently ay bakunado pero kailangan pa rin po namin i-verify,” ani Vergerie.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/07/18/2113308/2-na-patay-sa-delta-variant-doh/amp/>



Vendors, delivery drivers and others who work at the night market in Divisoria, Manila wait for their turn to be inoculated with the COVID-19 vaccine on July 5, 2021 as the local government starts their night vaccination program which will cater to individuals who cannot go to inoculation sites during daytime.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

'NCR Plus' bubble enforcement crucial to prevent spread of Delta variant — OCTA

[Christian Deiparine](#) (Philstar.com) - July 18, 2021 - 11:28am

MANILA, Philippines — OCTA Research on Sunday called for a stricter implementation of the NCR Plus bubble to prevent the Delta variant from entering the region.

Health authorities last week reported 16 new cases from the highly transmissible variant of the COVID-19, two of which were from Metro Manila.

OCTA fellow Guido David told dzMM's "Teleradyo" that the country should take a proactive response in addressing the new threat.

"We should not wait for it to enter," he said in Filipino. "It will spread fast and will be hard to prevent once it starts in our region."

Delta was first identified in India, and is seen to be driving a new surge in infections, even in countries with high vaccination coverage.

Indonesia, a close neighbor of the Philippines, is dealing with a significant uptick in cases due to this variant. Last week, it reported 54,000 new COVID-19 cases in a single day, with hospitals there already overwhelmed.

David said their proposed bubble would now be meant to keep away the Delta variant from the capital region, coming from the provinces.

"If we have a bubble and we are able to protect ourselves, the economy can still continue inside the NCR Plus," he added. "We won't have a lockdown and children could still go outside because Delta would not be able to enter."

The government has shifted Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and Bulacan under a regular general community quarantine until end-July.

David continued that it was good how Navotas, for one, is carrying out a strict border control. But the challenge, he said, is on getting different areas to do the same.



"Border controls are important but how do we coordinate it?" he said. "I understand that their concern is the economy. But if we have a bubble and NCR Plus is protected, we won't be affected from the outside and our economy can go on."

The OCTA fellow added that non-essential travel should be restricted anew, and only those essential should be allowed.

Almost all the 35 Delta variant cases in total that the Philippines reported had since recovered, with one dead.

Of the 16 new infections, six were from Northern Mindanao, two from Western Visayas and one from Central Luzon.

The five others were returning Filipinos from abroad, health officials said.

David suggested that government create other "bubbles" across the country to better control the possible spread of the variant.

"It was no longer surprising that Delta was reported in areas with recent surges," he said in Filipino. "We have not seen a surge worse as that in Indonesia or India, but that doesn't mean it is not spreading."

Travel restrictions to passengers from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates and Oman has since been extended until end of the month still due to Delta, and now include Indonesia.



A health worker arranges the medical tent at Go Belmonte Super Health Center and Lying-in Clinic in Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City on April 14, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas, file

DOH to hospitals: Anticipate surge, enhance capacity

[Mayen Jaymalin](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 19, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Amid the threat posed by the Delta variant, the Department of Health (DOH) is advising hospitals and other medical institutions to prepare for a possible surge in COVID-19 cases.

“We need to improve our health system capacities. We need to mobilize and prepare everything,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said during the Laging Handa public briefing Saturday.

Vergeire said medical facilities must take all necessary measures to ensure they can accommodate more COVID-19 cases caused by the more transmissible Delta variant.

Hospitals, Vergeire said, must expand the number of beds, conduct an inventory of oxygen supply, and preposition logistics such as drugs and other medical supplies.

“Our hospitals need to be prepared with everything they will be needing,” she stressed.

The DOH official said local government units (LGUs) should also strengthen their respective prevent-detect-isolate-treat-reintegrate (PDITR) strategies.

“We must do active case finding in order to shorten the duration from the time a person is detected as a positive case until he/she is isolated and quarantined,” she said.

Earlier, the DOH reported 16 additional COVID-19 cases with the Delta variant in the country.

While it is still premature to declare a community transmission of the Delta variant, Vergeire warned it could attack in different places, saying: “It is not in just one area, where there are clustering.”

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/19/2113524/doh-hospitals-anticipate-surge-enhance-capacity>



OCTA: NCR not yet ready for MGCQ

July 13, 2021



Residents wearing facemasks cross a street after the government imposed an enhanced quarantine as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 novel coronavirus in Manila on March 25, 2020. (Photo by Ted ALJIBE / AFP)

The OCTA Research Group on Tuesday (July 13) said the National Capital Region (NCR) should remain under general community quarantine to maintain its current COVID-19 situation and amid the Delta variant threat.

OCTA Research fellows Prof. Guido David and Dr. Ranjit Rye said in the July 13 Laging Handa briefing that several establishments can be opened, but the improvements in the NCR situation should be maintained to prevent a surge.

“Sa NCR, I think we should continue with the GCQ. Pwede tayo magluwag doon sa business establishments. Kaya ko sinasabi ito [ay dahil] may banta tayo ng Delta [variant],” Rye said.

“Although maganda ang situation sa NCR, kailangan po ay ma-sustain natin ito habang sinasabayan natin ang pag-increase ng vaccination natin... We are not ready for MGCQ. We do not qualify kahit based on the government’s criteria for MGCQ,” Rye added.

David also reported that COVID-19 data outside NCR has been improving. However, there are still places considered as areas of concern.

“May nakita tayong spike sa Mariveles in Bataan. Nag-register sila more than 200 cases in one day. We’re not sure kung just clustering dahil sa late reporting. Then may pagtaas din tayong nakita sa Central Visayas, hindi naman siya alarming,” David said.

Meanwhile, the group expressed optimism that the health department can achieve its target to fully vaccinate 90% of senior citizens next month. It also pushed for the vaccine rollout prioritization of NCR Plus 8 areas to aid recovery.

Tracing

Speaking in the Laging Handa briefing, contact tracing czar and Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong noted anew the importance of contact tracing amid the emergence of variants.



He said the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has been looking for additional funds for the contract extension of hired contact tracers until year-end.

Magalong said the training of current 249,000 tracers nationwide is also ongoing. – **Report from Patrick de Jesus/AG-rir**

19 JULY 2021, MONDAY



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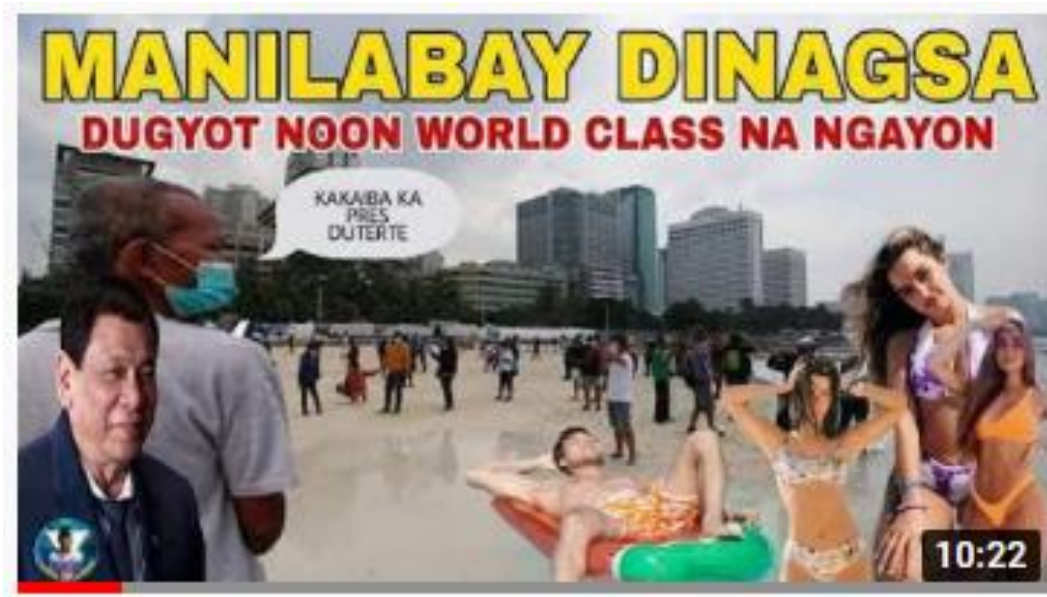
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