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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Dredging sa Cagayan River sandbars sa tatapusin sa Hulyo



June 18, 2021 @ 7:22 PM 9 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – TININYAK ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary at Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) chairperson Roy A. Cimatu na ang dredging activities sa isa sa tatlong prayoridad na sandbars sa kahabaan ng Cagayan River ay matatapos sa Hulyo ng taong kasalukuyan.

“We are pressing on to stay on track despite the roadblocks brought about by the onset of the rainy season and the logistical hurdles posed by the coronavirus pandemic. But we are pushing forward to finish clearing the sandbar in Lal-lo, Cagayan by the second or third week of July,” saad ni Cimatu.

Sa press release sinabi ni Cimatu ang 253,743 cubic meters (cu. m.) o 74 percent ng kabuuang 44,304 cu. m. ng 11.4-hectare sandbars sa Lal-lo, Cagayan ang tapos nang hukayin.

Ayon pa sa DENR ang dredging operations naman sa dalawa pang critical sandbars sa masikip na bahagi ng Cagayan River na tinatawag na “Magapit Narrows” ay minamadali na rin.

“We will more than double our current dredging capacity at Lal-lo sandbar from 308 cubic meters per hour to 713 cubic meters at a six-hours-a-day dredging schedule to dredge the remaining 90,558 cubic meters,” sabi pa ni Cimatu.

Kaugnay nito ipinaliwanag pa nito na ang dredging ng sandbar sas Barangay Dummun, Gattaran ay sinimulan na rin noong Hunyo 14 kung saan tinatayang aabot sa 882,707 cu. m. ang mahuhukay sa loob ng project period na 170 dredging days.

Ang ikatlong prayoridad na sandbar ay matatagpuan sa Barangay Casicallan Norte, sa bayan pa rin ng Gattaran.



Dredging sa Cagayan River sandbars sa tatapusin sa Hulyo

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na ipinadala na rin ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ang kanilang pinakamalaking excavating equipment.

Ang 474.42-horsepower Doosan DX800LC-5 crawler excavator ay mayroong bucket capacity na 4.5 cu. m. at may maximum na digging depth at digging reach na seven meters at 11.5 meters, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Samantala kaugnay nito ayon kay DPWH-Bureau of Equipment Director Noel Ilao, dadalhin na mula sa Bicutan ang kanilang giant excavator at inaasahang darating sa Lal-lo sa pagitan ng Hunyo 16 o 17.

Aniya, plano rin ng DPWH na ipadala ang karagdagang lima pang high-capacity dredging equipment sa mga prayoridad na lugar sa kahabaan ng Cagayan River.

“With Secretary Mark Villar at the helm, the DPWH has incredibly played its part in the Task Force beyond expectations on top of its being able to keep President Duterte’s ‘Build, Build, Build’ program on track despite the pandemic,” pahayag ni Cimatú.

Sa 19 na sandbars na nagpapasikip sa Cagayan River, sinabi ni Cimatú na inirekomenda ng DPWH ang agarang dredging sa tatlong sandbars sa “Magapit Narrows” na siyang nagpapabagal ng daloy ng tubig baha sa Aparri Delta papuntang Babuyan Channel. (Santi Celario)



Dredging sa isa sa tatlong prayoridad na Cagayan River sandbars, matatapos na sa Hulyo ayon sa DENR

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Jun. 18, 2021 at 2:58pm



Target na matapos na sa Hulyo ang isinasagawang dredging activities sa isa sa tatlong prayoridad na sandbars sa kahabaan ng Cagayan River.

Ayon kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, sa kabila ng pagpasok na ng panahon ng tag-ulan at mayroong pandemic, minamadali na nilang makumpleto sa ikatlong linggo ng Hulyo ang clearing ng sandbar sa Lal-lo, Cagayan.

Ani Cimatu, 74 percent ng kabuuang 11.4 hectares ng sandbar sa Lal-lo, Cagayan ang tapos nang hukayin.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na ipinadala na rin ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ang kanilang pinakamalaking excavating equipment at ang karagdagang lima pang high-capacity dredging equipment sa mga prayoridad na lugar sa kahabaan ng Cagayan River.

Ang ikatlong prayoridad na sandbar ay matatagpuan sa Barangay Casicallan Norte, sa bayan pa rin ng Gattaran.

Kinakailangan ang agarang dredging sa tatlong sandbars sa "Magapi t narrows" dahil ito ang nagpapabagal ng daloy ng tubig baha sa Aparri Delta papuntang Babuyan Channel.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/dredging-sa-isa-sa-tatlong-prayoridad-na-cagayan-river-sandbars-matatapos-na-sa-hulyo-ayon-sa-denr/>



Dredging in portion of Cagayan River done by July

June 18, 2021 [Cory Martinez](#)

The dredging activities in one of the three priority sandbars along the Cagayan River is expected to be completed this July.

This was the assurance made by Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu saying that they are pressing on to stay on track despite the roadblocks brought about by the onset of the rainy season and the logistical hurdles posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

"But we are pushing forward to finish clearing the sandbar in Lal-lo, Cagayan by the second or third week of July," said Cimatu, who is also the Task Force Build Back Better chairperson.

He noted that 253,743 cubic meters (cu. m.) or 74 percent of 44,304 cu. m. that make up the 11.4-hectare sandbar in Lal-lo, Cagayan has already been dredged.

The dredging operations in two other critical sandbars in the constricted portion of Cagayan River called the "Magapit Narrows" are also being fast-tracked.

"We will more than double our current dredging capacity at Lal-lo sandbar from 308 cubic meters per hour to 713 cubic meters at a six-hours-a-day dredging schedule to dredge the remaining 90,558 cubic meters," Cimatu added.

Cimatu further explained that the dredging of the sandbar in Bgy. Dummun, Gattaran town has started on June 14 involving an estimated volume of 882,707 cu. m. to be dredged within the estimated project period of 170 dredging days.

The third priority sandbar is located at Bgy. Casicallan Norte, also in Gattaran town.

Cimatu disclosed that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has deployed its biggest excavating equipment. The 474.42-horsepower Doosan DX800LC-5 crawler excavator has a bucket capacity of 4.5 cu. m. with a maximum digging depth and a digging reach of some seven meters and 11.5 meters, respectively.

According to DPWH-Bureau of Equipment Director Noel Ilao, the convoy transporting the giant excavator from Bicutan City is expected to reach Lal-lo either on June 16 or 17.

He said the DPWH is also planning to deploy up to five more high-capacity dredging equipment to the priority areas along the Cagayan River.

"With Secretary Mark Villar at the helm, the DPWH has incredibly played its part in the Task Force beyond expectations on top of its being able to keep President Duterte's 'Build, Build, Build' program on track despite the pandemic," Cimatu said.

"It is really our good fortune at the task force that we have Secretary Villar as my co-chairperson," he added.

Of the 19 sandbars constricting the Cagayan River, Cimatu said the DPWH had recommended the immediate dredging of the three sandbars in the Magapit Narrows as these significantly hinder the flow of floodwater to the Aparri Delta and finally to the Babuyan Channel.



First phase of Manila Bay dolomite beach could be finished next month–Antiporda

Published June 18, 2021, 7:36 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The first phase of the artificial white beach along Manila Bay is now 80 percent complete, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said.



Dolomite-dumping activities along Manila Bay continued during the summer. (Ali Vicoy / MANILA BULLETIN)

Antiporda, chief of the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force (MBAPTF), also noted that the current phase could get finished as early as next month.

“As part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program under the Duterte administration, the first phase of our beach nourishment is about 80 percent complete, and hopefully, it will be completed by July,” he said in a Facebook post.

The DENR in the past has used the term “beach nourishment” to refer to its dumping of crushed dolomite rocks along the beach in Manila Bay. The crushed dolomite, which approximates white sand, gives the artificial beach its striking appearance.

“We have significantly reduced the fecal coliform level in the waters near the US [United States] Embassy, but our work continues as we strive to reach its standard level that would be safe for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation,” added the Antiporda.



First phase of Manila Bay dolomite beach could be finished next month–Antiporda



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (Photo from Antiporda's office)

It was on Feb.18 when DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu bared that the fecal coliform level in the waters near the beach nourishment project dropped from 2.2 million most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100ml) last Jan. 4 to just 523,000 mpn/100 ml on Feb. 8. This was based on the average count from three monitoring stations.

The continued dumping of dolomite—which costs millions—had been described as “insensitive” by administration critics given that the project was initiated in 2020, the year the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic struck.

The Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program has a total budget of P389 million. DENR officials have said that the funds were allocated back in 2019, or the year before the emergence of the pandemic.

They've also clarified that the dolomite beach was just one of the [many facets](#) of the rehabilitation effort.



DENR: PH generated 362,000 metric tons of waste in 2020, 4x higher vs 2019

Arra Perez, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Jun 18 2021 07:55 PM



A stray dog scavenges for food among trash near the mouth of Pasig river that connects it to Manila Bay in Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila on World Environment Day, June 5, 2021. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA - The country generated 362,000 metric tons of waste from July to December 2020, almost 4 times greater than the 88,000 metric tons of waste generated in 2019, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Friday.

In an interview with ABS-CBN News, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said the increase in waste during the pandemic is alarming but is still manageable.

"Alarming dahil masyadong abrupt iyong pagi-increase ng generation of the waste because of the pandemic, we require our public to use itong mga face mask, face shield, kaya tumaas," said Leones.

(This is alarming because the increase was abrupt due to the pandemic, which is compounded by the use of face masks and face shields)

"But I can say, kung sabihin nating alarming na nagiging problema na and we can no longer handle it, parang wala pa tayo doon," he added.

(The problem is not yet alarming and we are not yet at the point where we cannot handle it.)

Leones added that local government units (LGU) and hospitals follow protocols in waste disposal, particularly for personal protective equipment (PPE).

Localities, he said, have designated yellow bins and containers for face masks, face shields, and other medical waste.



DENR: PH generated 362,000 metric tons of waste in 2020, 4x higher vs 2019

"Kailangan ang protocol natin dyan, as per Department of Health, dapat i-sanitize nila iyong mga PPE tsaka iyong face mask bago nila dalhin sa sanitary landfill," he said.

(We need to use these as part of our protocols handed by the DOH. They need to sanitize their PPE and face mask before they put it in the sanitary landfill.)

Meanwhile, hospitals must first treat their medical waste before disposal. The environment official said most hospitals have their own treatment facility.

"Iyong mga establishment, nagre-register sila sa DENR as waste generator. And then bago nila i-transport iyan, merong transport permit. Bago nila ipa-treat iyan, dapat alam namin kung saan nila ipapa-treat iyan," he noted.

(The establishments already registered with the DENR as waste generator. Before they transport it, they would need a transport permit, and before they have it treated, they need to know where it should be treated.)

"Every step of the way, from generation hanggang disposal, naka-monitor sa amin iyan para ma-check namin na talagang walang matatapon sa mga water bodies o kung saan."

(We monitor all these steps along the way so we can make sure that it would not be disposed to water bodies or just anywhere.)

Sanctions may be imposed on LGUs and hospitals that will be proven to be non-compliant with the proper waste disposal procedure.

Punishments include a minimum penalty of P10,000, criminal charges, damages, and administrative penalty.

"Sa LGU, doon pa lang sa Solid Waste (Management Act) natin, not mentioning ito pang mga PPE natin, mga face shield, face mask, may mga local government unit na rin tayong nakasuhan sa Ombudsman," said Leones.

(LGUs can be held accountable under the Solid Waste Management Act. Some already faced charges at the Ombudsman.)

"Pero sa ngayong pandemic medyo, in fairness to the local government units, they are aware na talagang they need to dispose properly itong mga ganitong mga waste."

(During the pandemic, some of the LGUs are not aware that they need to dispose these wastes properly)

The official asked the public to help in reducing the generation of medical waste, as the pandemic drags on.



DENR: PH generated 362,000 metric tons of waste in 2020, 4x higher vs 2019

He also advised the public to be more disciplined - to dispose waste only in designated garbage bins and if there's none, they may place trash inside a plastic bag and later throw it in a trash can.

"We are encouraging the public not to use, as much as possible not to use iyong mga disposable face mask. May mga recyclable kasi na pwedeng labhan, pwedeng gamitin na nauulit, iyon na lang," he said.

(We are encouraging the public not to use, as much as possible not to use disposable face masks. Some reusable masks can just be washed.)



DENR lifts 10-year ban on Boracay land titling

Business owners welcome order paving way for surveys, processing of ownership documents for public agricultural lots

By: [Nestor P. Burgos Jr.](#) - Reporter / [@nestorburgosINO](#)
[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 05:06 AM June 18, 2021



PIECE OF PARADISE Business and homeowners on Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan, may now resume processing their property titles following the lifting of a moratorium imposed by the environment department. —JACK JARILLA

ILOILO CITY — The conduct of surveys and titling of land on Boracay Island will resume after 10 years, bringing hope to property claimants of having prized lots titled.

In a memorandum dated June 15, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu directed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Western Visayas region to lift the suspension of the disposition of alienable and disposable public agricultural lands on the resort island in Malay town in Aklan province.

Cimatu, in his memorandum, revoked the memorandum issued on March 23, 2011, by then Environment Secretary Ramon Paje who suspended the approval of survey plans, processing of public land title applications, and issuance of patents in Boracay.

Business owners and residents have welcomed Cimatu's order.

"The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)-Boracay welcomes this excellent news and is grateful for the favorable consideration of [Cimatu] and is appreciative of all those who have worked so hard to make this happen," Wesley van der Voort, PCCI-Boracay president, said in a statement.

"Many of us are ecstatic. Some cannot believe that it has finally been lifted," said Malay Councilor Nnette Aguirre-Graf, a Boracay resident.



DENR lifts 10-year ban on Boracay land titling

Ending property disputes

Natividad Bernardino, general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group, said the resumption of land surveys and titling of land on the island was “a welcome development” for the natives of Boracay who had been demanding tenurial security and rightful ownership of alienable and disposable lands they possess.

“Hopefully this will end disputed claims and land grabbing of powerful clans,” she said in a statement sent to the Inquirer.

Only about a third of the 1,032-hectare island belonging to the heirs of Ciriaco Tirol Sr. has titles.

Most land claimants hold tax declarations and pay realty taxes, many for more than 50 years, as proof of possession or right over properties.

Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in 2006, issued Proclamation No. 1064, which categorized 628.96 ha, or 60.94 percent of the island, as alienable and disposable (ownership is transferable), and the rest as forestland and protected areas.

The proclamation was the first time that land in Boracay was classified, which is a requisite for titling.

The titling of lands covered by tax declarations is seen as the long-term solution to address property disputes that have erupted to violence in previous years.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, which has been leading rehabilitation efforts on the island since May 2018, has been clearing areas categorized as forestland from illegal structures and settlers.

Ten property claimants and longtime residents, including expatriates, were arrested and criminally charged in November last year for occupying forestlands.

Their arrest and ejection of other settlers in forestlands amid the pandemic raised an outcry from residents who appealed for compassion. Several residents and property claimants have also questioned the land classification of areas considered as forestland.

Since 2008, at least nine bills have been filed in Congress to reclassify areas on the island and allow the titling of lots occupied for decades but these had not been enacted. *INO*

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1447674/denr-lifts-10-year-ban-on-boracay-land-titling#ixzz6yAvqlarf>

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DENR, nababahala matapos nanguna ang PH sa 'Top 50 Polluting Rivers in the World'

By [Bombo Radyo Iloilo](#)

-June 18, 2021 | 11:20 PM

ILOILO CITY – Nababahala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) matapos napasama ang Pilipinas sa talaan ng top 50 polluting rivers in the world.

Napag-alaman na sa ginawang pananaliksik ng Ocean Cleanup in the journal Science, 80% ng ocean plastic pollution ay nagmula sa Pilipinas.

Kasama na rito ang Iloilo River sa Iloilo City at Jalaur River sa Iloilo Province, Pasig River at 16 na iba pang mga ilog sa bansa.

Sa eksklusibong panayam ng Bombo Radyo Iloilo kay Engr. Noel Hechanova, pinuno sang Iloilo City Environment and Natural Resources Office, sinabi nito na pag-aaralan pa nila kung paano napasama ang mga ilog sa lungsod at iba pang bahagi ng bansa sa may pinakamaraming plastic pollution.

Napag-alaman na ang world's most polluting river ay ang 27-kilometer Pasig River kung saan 63,000 tonelada ng plastic ang inaanod mula dito papunta sa dagat.



SMC starts massive Pasig River rehab, doubles budget to P2 billion

June 18, 2021



San Miguel Corporation formally launched its P2-billion Pasig River rehabilitation initiative, which will extract 50,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste per month from the historic river, or 600,000 metric tons per year, using advanced and specialized equipment. The project is supported by the DENR, DPWH, DILG, the Philippine Coast Guard, and Metro Manila local governments, including Manila, Mandaluyong, Makati, and Pasig.

San Miguel Corporation (SMC), in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), other national government agencies, and Metro Manila mayors, officially launched its ambitious, five-year plan to clean up and rehabilitate the Pasig River.

The project is set to become the largest ever river rehabilitation project in the country, with SMC President Ramon Ang announcing that the company's budget for the undertaking is being doubled to P2 billion.

"There have been many cleanup efforts in the past, and government has successfully implemented a number of programs these past few years," Ang said. "But decades of pollution and compounding problems that have rendered the river biologically dead since the 1990s are too significant and complex to overcome--even for the best-intentioned advocates and organizations."

"We hope that with the resources and technical know-how that we are bringing into the effort today - along with the continued support of our national government agencies and local government units--we can all make a bigger difference," he added.

Present at the simple launching ceremony were DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso, Mandaluyong Mayor Menchie Abalos, DILG Usec. Epimaco Densing 3rd, DPWH Asec. Antonio Mulano, and PCG Station Commander for Pasig Crisanto Anas.



SMC starts massive Pasig River rehab, doubles budget to P2 billion

To further underscore the problem of pollution in the Pasig River, Ang cited a study published by OurWorldinData.org last May, that Pasig River has emerged as the top plastics polluter of oceans in the world.

Our World in Data is a collaborative effort between researchers at the University of Oxford and UK-based non-profit, Global Change Data Lab.

Joining the Pasig River in the top ten list of rivers in the world that have the highest share of plastics emitted are six other rivers in the Philippines: the Tullahan River (no. 4), Meycauyan River (no.5), Pampanga River (no.6) Libmanan river (no.7), Rio Grande de Mindanao (no.9) and Agno river (no.10).

The project is actually the company's second major river rehabilitation initiative. Its ongoing P1-billion cleanup of the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River, launched last year, supports the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

Cleaning the Pasig River, according to Ang, also bears historical significance for San Miguel. In 1890, La Fabrica de Cerveza de San Miguel was established along the banks of Pasig River, on Malacanang Street in the San Miguel district of Manila. The original site is now part of Malacanang Palace grounds.



Beyond river clean-ups

By: [Hyacinth Tagupa](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:04 AM June 18, 2021

In October 2018, the Philippines proudly celebrated the Asia Riverprize Award given to the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) for its work that “effectively brought the Pasig River back to life.” It felt like one less thorn on our side. For decades, the Pasig had been our shameful symbol of pollution and environmental neglect, and now here it was, revived, revamped, and receiving accolades.

Then, this April, not two years later, a global study gets published in *Science Advances* revealing Pasig River as the top plastic-polluting waterway to the world’s oceans.

A few things happened in between. One, the PRRC was abolished via executive order in November 2019. Its functions were transferred primarily to the Manila Bay Task Force, now famous for the dolomite “beach nourishment” project.

The Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office was also created in January 2020. Among its most visible efforts are the localized estero clean-ups done by “River Warriors.” The office reports that in the first quarter of 2021 alone, they collected over 2.3 million kilograms of solid waste from the river.

It may seem strange that despite years of river rehab projects and numerous clean-up stints, the Pasig continues to teem with garbage. But this isn’t really a wonder when we look at the piecemeal, short-lived quality of these clean-up efforts.

The attempt is laudable, but it might be Sisyphean. River restoration—of Pasig and other waterways—cannot be completed one clean-up at a time. It has to be an integrated and comprehensive approach, involving the sustained management not just of water but also of land and coastal areas.

In their article “Restoration Ecology of Rivers,” Professors B.G. Laub and M.A. Palmer noted that “the potentially positive benefits of a river restoration project may be overridden by development on the landscape and other upstream or downstream impacts... [S]mall, localized projects may have a relatively small cost, but may also provide little benefit.”

While trash-picking patrols take out some of the existing pollutants in the water, they don’t really stand a chance when there’s a continuous stream of garbage from many surrounding communities. Here, we realize that the waste management programs that are supposed to be implemented in our municipalities are not just to ease up landfills and reduce street litter—they are crucial to stop waste from entering our waterways.

In fact, one of the highlights in the April 2021 study was that “majority of plastic emissions [are from countries that] consume a lot of plastic but that don’t yet have adequate waste management systems to collect the trash.”

That’s us, the Philippines. We have a 20-year-old Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, but implementation of this law remains scant today. For instance, the law mandates that every barangay must have a materials recovery facility (MRF) to receive and sort garbage. But the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines found that as of 2018, there were only 10,730 MRFs across the country, serving just 33 percent of all barangays.



Beyond river clean-ups

Solid waste management is just one aspect of a comprehensive river restoration approach. This goes beyond visible trash. In Pasig River, for example, solid waste accounted for only 10 percent of pollution. Some 45 percent was industrial waste, and another 45 percent was domestic liquid waste, according to a case study published by the World Health Organization.

To curb domestic waste at the source, the Pasig rehab commission had to tackle the issue of human settlers along the river. From 1999 to 2017, the commission dismantled 376 encroaching structures and resettled 18,719 families from the riverbanks.

And Pasig River is just one of the many waterways where exhaustive restoration strategies are needed. Across the Philippines, 18 other rivers were named among the 50 most plastic-polluting waterways in the world. (The Philippines was also found to be the most plastic-emitting country overall.) At least some of these Philippine rivers have also been noted to have high levels of fecal coliform, further confirming the dire quality of their waters.

It's a horrifying picture, but we can still hold out hope for our rivers. It takes more cross-sectoral coordination, more sincerity, more will—but we can clean up our act.

"A river or lake is almost never dead," said Pulitzer-winning environmentalist René Dubos. "If you give it the slightest chance by stopping pollutants from going into it, then nature usually comes back."

Read more: <https://opinion.inquirer.net/141265/beyond-river-clean-ups#ixzz6yAzB1lpg>

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Masungi Georeserve protectors 'gutted' after discovering deforestation activities in critical watershed

Published June 18, 2021, 9:33 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

A blatantly illegal and potentially catastrophic tree-cutting activity is taking place in the Upper Marikina Watershed.



(Photo from Masungi Georeserve Facebook page)

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation recently discovered what it described as a “tree massacre” during its on-the-ground inspection of the large scale burnings in the critical watershed. People behind the georeserve took to Facebook to share their shocking findings.

“We saw what hell on earth might look like: scores of young trees cut down, multiple new structures and outsiders installed, large tracts of the protected area illegally burned and cleared. We were gutted,” a post last Wednesday, June 16, read.

“On one side of the mountain, we are planting and nurturing native trees, on the other side, offenders continue to destroy and encroach on the critical watershed.” The apparent illegal logging activities should not be ignored, the georeserve stressed.

“The watershed is our only natural defense against disastrous flooding, scorching heat, the loss of clean water, and the extinction of our unique wildlife,” it wrote, adding, “We cannot turn a blind eye to this!”



Masungi Georeserve protectors 'gutted' after discovering deforestation activities in critical watershed



(Photo from Masungi Georeserve Facebook page)

"The watershed deserves protection and restoration, not deforestation," the same post read.

Another worrisome detail uncovered during the inspection was the presence of suspicious people on site. "On our documentation mission, we found persons at the scene of the crime. They said they were in a so-called 'association of farmers' (mga 'maggamais at manggugulay') who were recently invited and brought into the protected area."



(Photo from Masungi Georeserve Facebook page)



Masungi Georeserve protectors 'gutted' after discovering deforestation activities in critical watershed

"We know from experience that transplanting people and using various dummies as fronts is a common tactic used by vested interests to occupy forest land," the georeserve said.

"We have reported these illegal burnings and clearings to partner enforcement agencies and we will continue to work with them and concerned groups to hold perpetrators accountable. In the meantime, we have established additional checkpoints to prevent further encroachments into the watershed and reforestation sites, which is Masungi's larger ecosystem," it added.

Located in the Southern Sierra Madre range in Baras, Rizal, the Masungi Georeserve is a conservation area in the Philippines. It is centered on the geological formations of Masungi Rock.

It was declared a strict nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) back in 1993.



Environment office told to submit report on earth-balled trees

By [Mary Ruth R. Malinao](#)(The Freeman)

- June 18, 2021 - 12:00am



Councilor Joel Garganera sponsored a resolution with regard to the matter which was earlier approved by the City Council.

CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu City Council has requested the Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO) for a report on all earth-balled trees, their transfer locations and monitoring for the period beginning January 2020 to present.

Councilor Joel Garganera sponsored a resolution with regard to the matter which was earlier approved by the City Council.

Earth-balling is a measure by which trees are transferred or relocated to a different area, keeping most of its root system intact and undisturbed in order to maintain the genetic makeup and historical value of the said tree.

Garganera said monitoring the different earth-balled trees in the city allows for its continuous protection and maintenance, as it is the main purpose of its earth-balling.

Last March, he submitted a proposed ordinance related to earth-balling of trees.

The proposed ordinance is entitled "An Ordinance providing for the Regulation of earth balling, cutting or removal of trees within the territorial jurisdiction of the City of Cebu, whether for residential, commercial, or public purpose, and providing for the procedure and requirements to be complied with and providing penalties thereof."

"It is imperative for the CCENRO to submit an updated report on the status of the earth balled trees, the location where they are transferred and the monitored deaths of the said trees in aid of legislation of the abovementioned ordinance," said Garganera.



Environment office told to submit report on earth-balled trees

Section 16 of the proposed measure provides for the monitoring and evaluation of the affected trees. It shall be the duty of the CCENRO to conduct an independent monitoring and evaluation and submit a report for such as to the status and suitability of the transferred trees in its new environment to be submitted to the committee for feedback purposes. — KQD (FREEMAN)



GMA News ✓

12h · 🌐



SAVE THE KOALAS: Australia is considering listing koalas on the country's east coast as endangered, the country's Environment Minister Sussan Ley announced this Friday.

Australia already classifies east coast koalas as vulnerable, their numbers under pressure from logging, and urban encroachment. Bushfires across New South Wales and Queensland states in 2019 and 2020 are also estimated to have killed as many as 30% of the population. (📷: Stefica Nicol Bikes via Reuters)

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Upcycled: Old beverage cartons now used to create furniture

By [Interaksyon](#)
- June 18, 2021 - 6:01 PM



In photo: "Araling Mesa at Upuan (Study Table and Chair)" by JunkNot, which is made of 100% recycled materials. The set used reclaimed wood pallets, five kilos of used beverage cartons, and half a kilo of plastic waste. (Tetra Pak Philippines/Released)

A Switzerland-based food packaging and processing company has partnered with social enterprises that promote and produce eco-creative products, to create furniture out of Used Beverage Cartons (UBC).

Tetra Pak [previously launched](#) a "Food Safety and Beverage Carton Recycling Forum" in 2019 to give importance to taking care of environmental health through the promotion of cartons and UBC recycling.

In 2020, the company's initiatives included working with social enterprises, waste collection partners and recyclers to produce durable materials from used beverage cartons.

[JunkNot](#), one of their small-scale partners, features pieces entirely made from recycled materials in their first collection "Araling Mesa at Upuan (Study Table and Chair)."

The table and chair set used reclaimed wood pallets, five kilos of used beverage cartons and half a kilo of plastic waste.

"I am inspired to incorporate used beverage cartons boards in my design. Instead of incinerating our waste or it ending up in the ocean or in a landfill, with this upcycling solution, we can keep waste at home in a functional way," JunkNot Founder Willie Garcia said.

Garcia is a licensed interior designer, also known to be a "green advocate" that turns trash into treasure. She also focuses on job opportunities for women.



Upcycled: Old beverage cartons now used to create furniture

Recently, Tetra Pak Philippines also had a collaboration with [Green Antz Builders](#), an eco-friendly provider of building and housing solutions, to carry out their "Project ReBins."

The project encourages consumers to drop off their UBCs, has drop-off booths in key retail areas in Metro Manila.

In years of gearing up towards sustainability, a total of 1.3 tons of UBCs have been collected by the company.

The Swiss food packaging and processing company in the Philippines is also working on creating sustainable packaging made solely from plant-based materials that are fully renewable, fully recyclable and carbon-neutral. — Raheema Velasco



Filipino marine scientists find more 'piles' of plastic trash in West Philippine Sea

Published June 18, 2021, 7:22 PM
[by Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



(PIXABAY)

A group of Filipino marine scientists has discovered more piles of plastic wastes in the West Philippine Sea during their latest expedition in May.

A team of scientists from the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines (UP-MSI) that led the Predicting Responses Between Ocean Transport and Ecological Connectivity in Threatened Ecosystems in WPS 2 or PROTECT WPS 2 expedition on May 7-19 found piles of PET bottles in Pagasa, Patag, and Lawak, floating packaging materials in Sabina and Ayungin, and discarded fishing gear or ghost nets in the different coral reefs.

"During the PROTECT WPS 1 in 2019, the two-week expedition to the KIG led the UP MSI team to discover a plethora of plastics in its waters. This resulted in a more focused and in-depth look into the plastics problem by including a research component on microplastics and their associated organisms," the scientists reported.

"The 2021 expeditions yielded similar observations—the high prevalence of plastic litter in the different ecosystems and islands in WPS (West Philippine Sea)," they said, noting that "these are strong indications of the connectivity of the marine environment, warranting further actions for the reduction and mitigation of plastic pollution."

In a virtual forum last June 10, PROTECT WPS 2 lead scientist Deo Florence Onda said it surprised him to see "lots and lots of plastics" that seem to have just drifted towards the Kalayaan Group of Islands.



Filipino marine scientists find more 'piles' of plastic trash in West Philippine Sea

"Hindi lang siya basta may plastic, pero piles and piles of plastics (It isn't just a few plastics but piles and piles of plastics). Nakakalungkot (It's saddening) because when you look back into the brands, they actually come from countries from all over Southeast Asia—Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand,

Singapore, and the Philippines," Onda said during the "Walang Plastikan: Youth Dialogue on Plastics in our Oceans" forum organized by Oceana Philippines.

"Ibig sabihin yung mga plastics na nakawala mula sa ilog, pampang sa iba't ibang bansa sa (That means that the plastics that have come from rivers and shores from different countries in) Southeast Asia actually drifted with the current and at some point in time they were drifted towards the islands of the Kalayaan Island Group and the Spratlys," he added.

Moreover, Onda observed that the seagull sanctuary in Lawak Island in Kalayaan Island Group was "already inundated by marine plastics" and that some of the birds have already died.

"This (plastic waste) is a direct threat to the biodiversity in the area," he added.

The PROTECT WPS is funded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau.

UP-MSI concludes WPS summer expeditions

Aside from the PROTECT WPS 2, UP-MSI has also concluded the "Upgrading Capacity, Infrastructure, and Assets for Marine Scientific Research in the Philippines" or Upgrade CIA conducted last April 23-May 5, 2021. It is funded by the National Security Council.

The Upgrade CIA focused mainly on the offshore features or Kalayaan Island Group, which includes Pagasa, Lawak, and Patag Islands, as well as Quirino and Iroquois Atolls.

The PROTECT WPS complemented these by looking at the connectivity of offshore, Sabina and Ayungin Shoals, with the onshore or coastal ecosystems in Quezon, Balabac, Bataraza, and Brooke's Point in the Sulu Sea.

The expedition teams, led by chief scientists Dr. Charissa Ferrera for Upgrade CIA and Dr. Deo Florence Onda for PROTECT WPS 2, set sail on UP-MSI's research vessel "Panata."

Upgrade CIA's overall lead is UP MSI Director Dr. Laura T. David.

The UP-MSI experts were also joined by researchers from the Western Philippines University in Palawan and UP Visayas during the WPS summer expeditions.

Exploration and protection of WPS

The team of researchers noted that the continuous expansion of artificial islands, illegal fishing by large fishing vessels, and the worsening environmental conditions due to climate change and plastics pollution are among the major causes of marine ecosystem disruption in the West Philippine Sea.



Filipino marine scientists find more 'piles' of plastic trash in West Philippine Sea

With the conduct of Upgrade CIA, PROTECT WPS, and their expeditions, these “greatly contribute to efforts on drafting policy recommendations for the sustainable use of resources and restoration of the marine ecosystems in the West Philippine Sea, as well as the establishment of marine protected areas, especially in the Kalayaan Island Group.”

“Without these initiatives and support to further studies in the area, the state of the WPS and its resources will continue to decline and deplete,” they added.

What is the COP15 biodiversity summit, and why is it so important?

The UN's approaching COP26 climate talks have been in the limelight, but COP15—the biodiversity conference planned for China in October—will be equally critical. Here's why.



The Alto Madre de Dios river, part of the Manu Biosphere Reserve, is seen from Peru's southern Amazon region of Madre de Dios. Image: Reuters/ Enrique Castro-Mendivil

[Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

June 18, 2021

By now you've probably heard of COP26 - the shorthand name for the next major UN climate summit, rescheduled for November in Glasgow after being delayed a year by the coronavirus pandemic.

But another big "Convention of the Parties" (COP) is taking place a month earlier - one that is far less talked about but also critically important. That is COP15: the UN biodiversity summit planned for China in October.

Efforts to protect the natural world have yet to achieve the same high profile as those to limit climate change, despite advocacy by naturalist David Attenborough and many others.

Losses of crucial ecosystems like rainforests and wetlands, as well as animal species, have accelerated even as governments, businesses, financiers and conservation groups seek effective ways to protect and restore more of the Earth's land and seas.

So what is COP15, and what does it hope to achieve?

What is the COP15 biodiversity summit, and why is it so important?

What is the 'Convention on Biological Diversity'?

Originally signed at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and later ratified by about 195 countries not including the United States, it is designed to protect diversity of plant and animal species and ensure natural resources are used sustainably.

It also aims to achieve "fair and equitable sharing" of benefits from natural genetic material, used in everything from medicines to new crop species.

In practice that means making sure indigenous communities and countries home to biological riches benefit from their use.

Why is protecting nature better so important?

Around the world, forests and other natural ecosystems are being rapidly destroyed, often to expand agriculture and production of commodities like palm oil, soy and beef as the world's population grows.

But people depend on nature, from oceans to wildernesses, to supply clean air and water, and to regulate rainfall that is vital for food supplies. If too many ecosystems vanish, their [basic life support services can falter](#), scientists warn.

Because plants absorb planet-heating carbon dioxide to grow, better protecting or expanding natural areas is also one of the cheapest and most effective ways to slow climate change.

What does COP15 aim to do?

At the UN summit from Oct. 11-24 in Kunming, China, countries plan to agree a new global treaty to halt and reverse losses of the planet's plants, animals and ecosystems.

The meeting hopes to set both long-term goals for mid-century and shorter-term targets for 2030 and, crucially, push for those to be enshrined in national policies.

That mostly did not happen with previous global targets to slash biodiversity loss, set in 2002 and 2010, which were largely not met.

"Nobody actually owned those targets. No wonder in 10 years' time we discover none of those targets are fully fulfilled," said Li Shuo, a senior climate and energy policy officer for Greenpeace China.

Who's leading the push?

Countries pushing for greater ambition on nature protection include Canada, the European Union, Costa Rica, Colombia and Britain, according to Georgina Chandler, an international policy expert with the UK-based Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

But most of those champions are focused on particular aspects of the agreement rather than the overall deal, she said.

Brazil and Argentina, meanwhile, are seen as the "laggards", said Li of Greenpeace, with both concerned tougher rules could affect their agricultural expansion and economies.

What is the COP15 biodiversity summit, and why is it so important?

The United States never ratified the original biodiversity treaty and so is not part of the negotiations. But President Joe Biden has committed to protect at least 30 per cent of his country's land and coastal waters by 2030, as part of a broader international "30x30" campaign.

What is China's role as COP15 host?

In a bid to make a success of the COP26 UN climate talks in Scotland in November, British officials have launched a big diplomatic push to clear potential roadblocks and win new commitments to climate action before the meeting begins.

That "diplomatic outreach and engagement" is a normal part of the job for each host country, said Chandler of the RSPB.

But that's generally not the case for the Convention on Biological Diversity meetings, she added - and "it's not the way China does things - to reach out to facilitate agreement in that way".

"It's a different hosting style," she said.

Despite a series of online negotiating sessions this year before the main conference, more big issues could be left to be settled in October, experts said.

China has managed some diplomatic wins, however, including tamping down resistance by some countries to holding virtual negotiations as the coronavirus pandemic continues, they said.

What needs to come out of COP15?

Not only broad targets to improve nature protection are required, but also commitments of finance to help poorer countries achieve them, and clear ways of comparing and measuring the efforts by different countries, analysts said.

Until now, the Convention on Biological Diversity "can be understood as the Paris Agreement with the 1.5 degree target but no rule-book, no finance," said Li of Greenpeace China.

Any new targets set at COP15 need to be "smart and measurable" rather than "fluffy and ever-extending", with standardisation across countries so they can be compared, the RSPB's Chandler said.

A specific figure for new nature finance is unlikely to emerge from COP15, but there could be a vaguer commitment to double it or something similar, she added.

[Targets might also be set](#) to eliminate harmful agricultural, fishing and logging subsidies, and repurpose that money to benefit nature, an additional way of raising needed cash.

What will COP15 tell us about COP26?

With the COP15 biodiversity negotiations happening just a month before the UN climate talks, how China handles holding major in-person negotiations during a pandemic will have big implications for COP26 and its organisers.



What is the COP15 biodiversity summit, and why is it so important?

In particular, how the COP15 summit manages vaccination requirements, quarantine measures and efforts to include a broad range of civil society participants beyond government delegations will be key.

There has also been a [push for closer links](#) between the two largely separate nature and climate political agendas, with scientists explaining how efforts to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss must be approached jointly for the best results.

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IMF urges top polluters to adopt carbon price floor

Published June 18, 2021 11:00pm



The IMF on Friday issued a report calling for the world's top polluters to adopt an international carbon price floor, arguing it offered a "realistic prospect" to combat climate change.

WASHINGTON, United States - The IMF on Friday issued a report calling for the world's top polluters to adopt an international carbon price floor, arguing it offered a "realistic prospect" to combat climate change.

The multilateral agency said that carbon pricing was now widely accepted as the most important policy tool to achieve the drastic emissions cuts required to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius by 2050.

But right now, four-fifths of emissions remain unpriced and the global average carbon price is just \$3 a ton -- far below the level needed to incentivize energy efficiency and redirect innovation towards green technologies.

The report modeled different scenarios and said that a three-tier price floor of \$75, \$50, and \$25 per ton for advanced, high, and low-income emerging markets respectively could help achieve a 23 percent reduction in emissions by 2030.

That example would involve just six participants: Canada, China, the European Union, India, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The report suggested the scheme could be launched by the G20 before being expanded to others.

The initial goal would be to meet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's target of reducing emissions between one quarter to a half by the end of this decade.

"Simultaneous action among large emitters to scale up carbon pricing would deliver collective action against climate change while decisively addressing competitiveness concerns," said Victor Gaspar, director of the IMF's fiscal affairs department and Ian Parry, a co-author of the report.



IMF urges top polluters to adopt carbon price floor

"There is no time to waste in putting in place such an arrangement. Imagine us in 2030. Let us make sure that we will not look back at 2021 just to regret the missed opportunity for effective action," they added.

Eventually the scheme would look like a scaled-up version of a Canadian law which requires provinces and territories to implement a minimum carbon price, rising progressively from CAN\$10 per ton in 2018 to CAN\$50 in 2022 and CAN\$170 in 2030.

Jurisdictions meet these goals either through taxes or emissions trading schemes. — Agence France-Press

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COVID-19 active cases breach 61,000 anew; 110 new deaths recorded

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 18, 2021 4:00:41 PM



COVID-19 active cases breach 61,000 anew; 110 new deaths recorded (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 18) — The country's tally of active COVID-19 cases or sick patients rose to 61,776 on Friday, the highest in over a month, the Department of Health said.

The DOH case bulletin said the active case count is 4.6% of the total number of infections, which increased to 1,346,276 after 6,833 more people caught the coronavirus. It is the highest number of active cases in a day following May 8, when there were over 63,000 ill patients. Of the active cases, 92.2% have mild symptoms, 3.7% have no symptoms, 1.7% are in severe condition, 1.2% are in critical condition and 1.22% are in moderate condition.

The death toll climbed to 23,385 or 1.74% of the COVID-19 tally after 110 more people lost their lives to the disease, the DOH said. It is the fourth time in a row this week that there have been over a hundred deaths in a day.

Meanwhile, 3,441 patients got better, raising the survivor count to 1,261,115 which is 93.7% of the case count.

The DOH said it reclassified 90 recoveries — 30 of them into active cases and 60 into fatalities after validation. It also deleted 14 duplicate cases, including ten survivors and one fatality.

The total excludes data from five laboratories that failed to submit their reports on time. These laboratories contributed an average of 2.6% of samples tested and 4.4% of positive individuals in the last 14 days.

The daily positive rate or percentage of people who tested positive rose slightly from 11.8% to 12.6% based on 43,635 tests done on June 16. The rate remained within the 11 to below 14% range which has been recorded daily since May 5. But it is still beyond the recommended percentage of below



COVID-19 active cases breach 61,000 anew; 110 new deaths recorded

5% by the World Health Organization. Experts have said high positivity rates may mean high transmission and that there are still cases that have yet to be detected.

The DOH said Metro Manila's COVID-19 situation remains "[fragile](#)" after seeing increases in the daily attack rate - or the day-to-day increase or decrease of cases - in 11 out of its 17 cities and municipality. The department said it is also monitoring Pasay, Malabon, and Parañaque due to their "moderately high" intensive care unit utilization rates.

[Davao City](#) also recorded its highest single-day increase in cases since the pandemic began after 482 residents were reported infected on Thursday. Independent research group OCTA said this is the first time the city reported more than 300 cases in a single day and the city's ICU utilization rate also rose to a critical level of 91%.

Davao City is one of the nine areas in the country being prioritized for vaccine allocation due to frequent COVID-19 case spikes.

Among Filipinos abroad, 142 more people caught the coronavirus, while one recovered and one died, the Department of the Foreign Affairs reported.

The case tally is now 20,422, of which 4,586 have been verified by the DOH, the DFA said. The DFA did not explain the surge in new cases as in previous posts. The survivor count is 12,092 while the death toll is 1,220. There are also 7,109 patients undergoing treatment.



Active COVID-19 cases hit 61,776 after Philippines logs 6,833 new infections

(Philstar.com)

- June 18, 2021 - 4:00pm



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

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Friday reported 6,833 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,346,276.

- Active cases: 61,776 or 4.6% of the total
- Recoveries: 3,441, pushing total to 1,261,115
- Deaths: 110, bringing total to 23,385

What's new today?

- Coronavirus vaccines are effective, especially in preventing severe disease and hospital stays, the Department of Health [stressed](#) after Indonesia reported outbreaks among vaccinated health workers.
- Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, Philippine National Police chief, [instructed](#) cops to refrain from imposing any sanctions on violators who are caught not wearing face shields, saying that they should be cautioned instead, following recent confusion over the government's standing policy.
- The Philippines can now send up to 6,500 healthcare workers abroad yearly after the government's pandemic response task force [increased](#) the number of healthcare workers who can be deployed each year.



Active COVID-19 cases hit 61,776 after Philippines logs 6,833 new infections

- The task force further [reminded](#) local governments to implement its quarantine protocols for arriving international passengers.
- The pandemic task force also decided to push back the effectivity date of its directive on the testing and shortened quarantine protocols for inbound travelers who were fully vaccinated in the Philippines to June 22.
- Presidential adviser for entrepreneurship and Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion [called](#) on stakeholders to prepare the Philippines for a “next normal” marked by greater mobility and a more open economy.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/18/2106422/active-covid-19-cases-hit-61776-after-philippines-logs-6833-new-infections/amp/>



Warning for non-use of face shield stays: PNP

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan June 18, 2021, 2:05 pm



(PNA file photo by Robert Oswald Alfiler)

MANILA – Police officers will continue to warn persons who are not wearing face shields in both open and enclosed spaces, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar said on Friday.

"I-caution na lang muna natin ang mga walang face shield. Karamihan sa ating mga kababayan ay nasanay nang magsuot ng face shield at para doon sa mga makikitang hindi nagsusuot nito, paalalahanan na lang muna natin (We will caution first those not wearing face shield. Most of our countrymen are used to wearing a face shield and for those who are not wearing it, let's just remind them for now)," Eleazar said in a statement.

This came as the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) recommended to President Rodrigo Duterte the continued mandatory wearing of face shields.

"The latest recommendation of the IATF to the President is to continue making mandatory the wearing of face shields in enclosed spaces, commercial areas, public transport, terminals, and even places of worship," he said.

Eleazar said that the PNP will wait for the issuance of new guidelines based on the President's decision.

"Kung may pagbabago man, hihintayin po ng PNP na maibaba ang amended guidelines para iyon ang aming ipatupad. Sa ngayon, status quo muna at susundin muna namin kung ano ang isinasaad ng guidelines para maiwasan ang pagkakaroon ng kalituhan ang publiko sa bagay na ito (If there are any changes, the PNP will wait for the amended guidelines to be lowered so that we can implement



Warning for non-use of face shield stays: PNP

that. For now, it's status quo and we will first follow what the guidelines say to avoid confusing the public in this matter)," he said.

In a Twitter post on Wednesday, Senate President Vicente Sotto III said Duterte has agreed that the public should only be required to wear a face shield when they go to hospitals.

Sotto, during a Senate Committee of the Whole hearing on Tuesday, noted that the Philippines is the only country in the world requiring the use of face shield in public spaces.

On Thursday, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the use of face shield will remain in effect while waiting for Duterte's decision on the IATF's appeal. (PNA)



EDITORIAL - Face shields, h'wag munang tanggalin

(Pang-Masa)

- June 19, 2021 - 12:00am



PAYAG si President Duterte na huwag nang mag-face shields ang publiko maliban sa mga nasa ospital. Sinabi ng Presidente na alisin na ang rule sa pagsusuot ng face shields. Ginawa ng Presidente ang utos noong Miyerkules.

Pero tinutulan ng Department of Health (DOH) ang pasya ng Presidente at sinabing dapat ipagpatuloy ang pagsusuot ng face shields. Ayon sa DOH hindi pa dapat alisin ang polisiya sa pagsusuot ng face shields sapagkat malaking bagay ito para maiwasan ang pagkahawa sa COVID-19. Marami pa rin anila ang nagkaka-infection sa kasalukuyan bagama't bahagya nang bumaba ang kaso. Nabawasan na rin ang pagsisiksikan ng COVID patients sa ospital pero hindi ibig sabihin ay maaari nang walang face shields.

Kumampi ang Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) sa DOH at sinabing nararapat pang ipagpatuloy ang pagsusuot ng face shields. Kailangan pa ring magsuot nito sa mga enclosed and indoor spaces, hospitals, schools, opisina at commercial establishments.

Nararapat na ipagpatuloy ang pagsusuot ng face shields sapagkat nananatili pa ang virus sa paligid. Nakaabang lang ng dadapuan. Kung may face shields, mahaharang nito ang droplets na may virus. Mahusay itong proteksiyon.

Bukod sa mahaharang ang virus, epektibong pananggalang din ang face shields para hindi mahipo ang mukha, bibig, mata at ilong. Epektibo rin ito para maiwasang dumura ang may suot. Mapapansin ngayon na bihira nang makakita ng mga dura sa kalye dahil sa suot na face mask at face shield.

Huwag munang alisin ang face shields. Kapag nabakunahan na ang 70 percent ng mamamayan at naabot na ang herd immunity saka unti-unting alisin ang pagsusuot ng face shields, Huwag muna ngayon.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2021/06/19/2106604/editoryal-face-shields-hwag-munang-tanggalin/amp/>



COVID-19 situation in Metro Manila remains 'fragile' - DOH

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 18, 2021 1:41:21 PM

Updated Jun 18, 2021 4:54:00 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 18) — The COVID-19 situation in Metro Manila remains "fragile," with some cities reporting a slight uptick in cases, Health Spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire bared Friday.

"*Very fragile ang sitwasyon natin sa NCR (Our situation in the National Capital Region is very fragile),*" Vergeire told CNN Philippines' The Source.

"*Kahit nakikita natin na bumababa na, nakapagdecongest na tayo ng ospital, pero ang ibang mga lugar sa Pilipinas ay tumataas, ganoon din po, madali din po tayong pwedeng bumalik sa pagtaas kung hindi po natin mamamanage ng maayos,*" she added.

[Translation: Even if we see cases declining, even if we have decongested our hospitals, there are still other areas in the Philippines that have experienced a surge, and this can happen to us too, we can quickly return to that surge if we don't manage this well.]

Vergeire said 11 out of 17 Metro Manila cities and municipality have reported an increase in the average daily attack rate over the past days. They are also monitoring three cities that have shown a "moderately high" ICU utilization rate.

"We are seeing an increase in cases in some of the cities like Pasay, Malabon and Parañaque, *pero syempre pinag-aaralan,*" she said. "*Hindi naman po siya nagiging stable na tuluy-tuloy na pagtaas pero nakakakita po kasi kami ng uptick.*"

[Translation: We are seeing an increase in cases in some of the cities like Pasay, Malabon and Parañaque, but of course, we are studying this. They are not showing a stable increase but we are seeing an uptick.]

Vergeire said a small city like San Juan which has limited capacity, and Makati City which only has three major hospitals, usually seek assistance from nearby cities that are part of their networks when in need of additional hospital facilities.



COVID-19 situation in Metro Manila remains 'fragile' - DOH

"There are really hospitals in Metro Manila that are nearing that maximum capacity for ICU beds for COVID. *Pero hindi po yan ang kalahatan. Hindi po iyan ang totality. Kasi ngayon ang totality natin sa ICU utilization is just at 47%,"* she clarified, noting that some cities really have a smaller capacity ranging from two to seven beds.

[Translation: This is not the totality. Because right now, our total ICU utilization is just at 47%.]

On Friday, OCTA Research Group reported that Metro Manila averaged 758 new COVID-19 cases per day over the past seven days, with a positivity rate of 7%, hospital bed occupancy of 35%, and ICU bed occupancy of 46%.

Cities with an ADAR of below 5 and fall under the "moderate-low risk" category are Malabon, Navotas, Caloocan, Marikina, Manila, and Quezon City. Pateros, Navotas, Malabon, and San Juan had recorded less than 20 new cases per day.

In terms of healthcare utilization rate, Pateros recorded an above 70% hospital bed utilization, while Parañaque and San Juan had higher than 70% ICU bed allocation, according to OCTA.

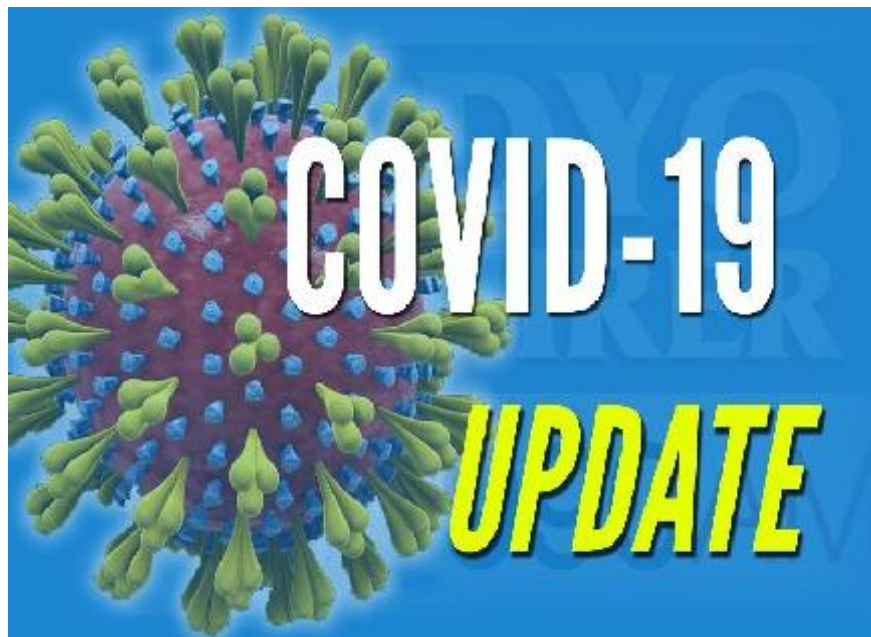
On Wednesday, Health Undersecretary and treatment czar Leopoldo Vega said Makati and Muntinlupa, and Rizal province are still under the "high risk" level in terms of bed occupancy in intensive care units for COVID-19 patients, indicating that 70 to 85% of the ICU beds are occupied.

Vega urged hospitals to tap the services of the One Hospital Command Center, which finds facilities that have vacant beds for COVID-19 patients. He noted that the overall occupancy in the National Capital Region falls under 50% or "low risk" category.



Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, umabot na sa 178.20 milyon

By Angellic Jordan June 18, 2021 - 02:56 PM



Pumalo na sa 178.20 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 178,207,613 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 34,377,592 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang India na may 29,762,793 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 17,704,041 naman ang kaso sa Brazil habang 5,749,691 ang napaulat na kaso sa France.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 cases sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- Turkey – 5,354,153
- Russia – 5,264,047
- United Kingdom – 4,600,623
- Italy – 4,249,755
- Argentina – 4,222,400
- Colombia – 3,859,824
- Spain – 3,753,228
- Germany – 3,727,624
- Iran – 3,070,426

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 3,858,073 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 162,716,220 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/294864/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-umabot-na-sa-178-20-milyon#ixzz6yBUYulko>

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MGA AYAW MAGPABAKUNA TATANGGALAN NG SAHOD



June 18, 2021 @ 5:26 PM 11 hours ago

MAKARAANG magbabala ang pamahalaang lokal ng Punjab sa Pakistan na tatanggalan ng koneksyon sa cellphone ang mga ayaw magpabakuna laban sa coronavirus disease-19, sumunod na rin ang pamahalaang lokal ng Sindh na magtakda ng istriktong patakaran.

Hindi lang linya sa cellphone ang tatanggalin ng Sindh government, sa Pakistan pa rin, kundi sahod ng mga empleyado ng pamahalaan.

Habang babala lang ang inisyu ng Punjab government, ang pagsibak sa sahod ng mga empleyado ng pamahalaan ay magsisimula na sa darating na buwan.

Ganito katindi ang mga patakaran upang makapagbakuna lang ang pamahalaan ng sapat na bilang para makamit nila ang herd immunity.

UMAAYAW DAHIL SA FAKE NEWS

Napatatindi ang hesitancy o pag-ayaw ng mga Pakistani sa programang bakuna dahil na rin sa kagagawan umano ng mga nagpapakalat ng mga fake news sa COVID-19, lalo na ang mga nasa social media.

Kabilang sa mga fake news umano ang pagsasabing magtatagal lang ng dalawang taon ang buhay ng mga mababakunahan.

Pang-birth control din umano ang programa upang hindi dumami ang mga Pakistani.

Natatakot din ang mga tao sa bakuna dahil ginamit ang bakuna kontra polio noon sa paghahanap kay Bin Laden na pinatay ng mga Amerikano nang matagpuan ito.

Kaya naman, mula sa daan-daang libo na inaasahan ng pamahalaan na pagbabakuna sa isang araw, hanggang ilang libo lang ang nagpapaturok.



MGA AYAW MAGPABAKUNA TATANGGALAN NG SAHOD

LABAN SA INDIA VARIANT

Kinatatakutan ang India variant sa Pakistan lalo't napasok na sila nito dahil magkadikit ang mga bansang ito.

Double mutant ang tawag sa anyong ito ng COVID-19 dahil pinaghalo itong United Kingdom variant at South Africa variant.

Ang matindi pa, bukod sa napakahirap na kalagayan ng mga tinatamaan gaya ng hirap sa paghinga na nakamamatay, may halong blood clot pa na lumilikha ng gangrene ang variant.

Sa gangrene, kinakain ng virus ang laman ng tao at para lang mapigil ito, kailangang putulan siya ng daliri o paa.

Mababa rin ang epekto ng mga bakuna laban sa India variant.

Ang India variant ang dahilan ng sobrang dami ng nagkaka-COVID-19 sa India na nagbubunga rin ng libo-libong kamatayan araw-araw.

Kaya naman, sa parte ng Pakistan, nais nilang hindi sila abutan ng grabeng kalagayan ng India na sinasalakay ng India variant, Brazil, variant, UK variant, South Africa variant at AP variant na nananalasa sa Bengal.

PAG-ALIS NG LOCKDOWN PINOSPON SA UK

Sa pag-aaral sa kalagayang COVID-19 sa England, mga Bro, nasa 90 porsyento ng mga tinatamaan ang biktima ng India variant ngayon.

Kaya naman, ang planong pagpapalaya nang buo sa lahat ng mga mamamayan mula sa anomang restriksyon o health protocol ay naudlot at pinospon sa Hulyo 19, 2021.

Magkaroon man ng mga social gathering, may limitasyon pa rin.

Sa social gathering sa loob ng isang istruktura na may kapasidad na 1,000 hanggang 4,000 katao, kalahati lang ang pwede.

Ang may 10,000 namang kapasidad, hanggang quarter lang o 2,500 lamang.

Sa mga restoran, lalo na sa labas, hanggang 30 katao lamang.

Nasa 6 tao lamang din ang pupwedeng magsama-sama mula sa dalawang magkahiwalay na pamilya at pwedeng matulog ang mga ito sa iisang bahay.

May iba pang mga patakaran sa ibang mga kalagayan, maging ang pagbibiyaha sa labas ng bansa.

SAPILITANG PAGBABAKUNA

Dahil nga sa India variant na lumilikha ng pagtaas ng bilang ng mga biktima sa UK, iniisip na ng pamahalaang UK na pairalin ang sapilitang pagbabakuna sa mga home care worker.

Maaaring matatanda o bata ang mga inaalagaan sa mga home care institution.

May 1.5 milyon umanong home care worker at nasa 85 porsyento na ang nabakunahan at 'yung iba ay hindi dahil boluntaryo ang pagbabakuna.



MGA AYAW MAGPABAKUNA TATANGGALAN NG SAHOD

Maaaring burahin na umano ang sistemang boluntaryo at sapilitan na ang pagbabakuna sa mga ito.

Maging ang lahat ng may edad mula 19 anyos ay pipilitin na ring babakunahan upang matiyak lang na maging ligtas ang higit na nakararami sa UK.

SA PINAS KAYA?

Sa ngayon, puro boluntaryo ang pagpapabakuna at katakot-takot na kumbinsihan ang ginagawa ng mga kinauukulan sa mga ayaw magpabakuna.

Sana naman, hindi tayo darating sa puntong sapilitan na rin ang pagbabakuna alang-alang sa buong bayan at kalimutan muna ang kalayaan na magpabakuna o hindi.

Kaya naman, kung mas gusto nating idaan sa sapalaran ang pagkakasakit o kamatayan, hindi dapat idamay o mahawaan ang iba na maaaring mismong ating mga asawa, anak, lolo, lola, kapitbahay, kaibigan, katrabaho at iba pa.

19 JUNE 2021, Saturday



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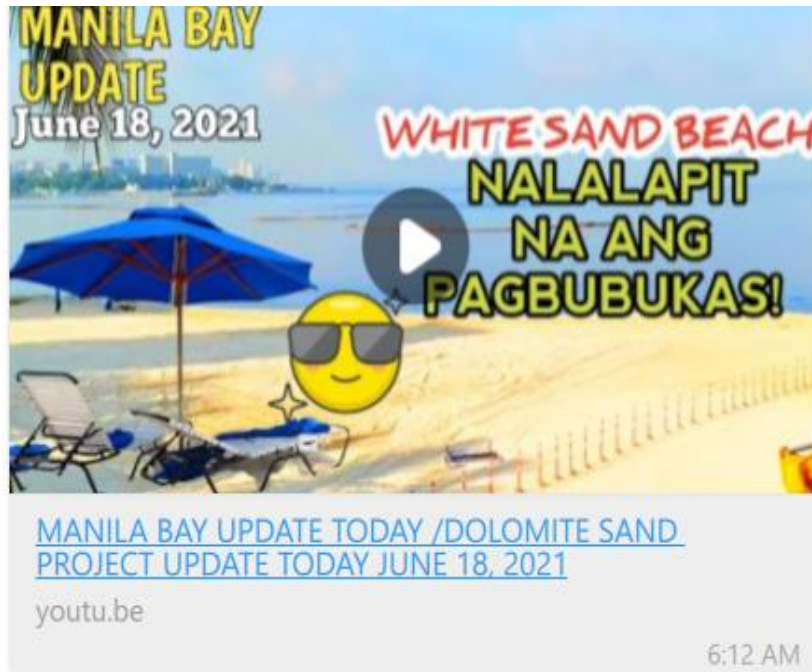
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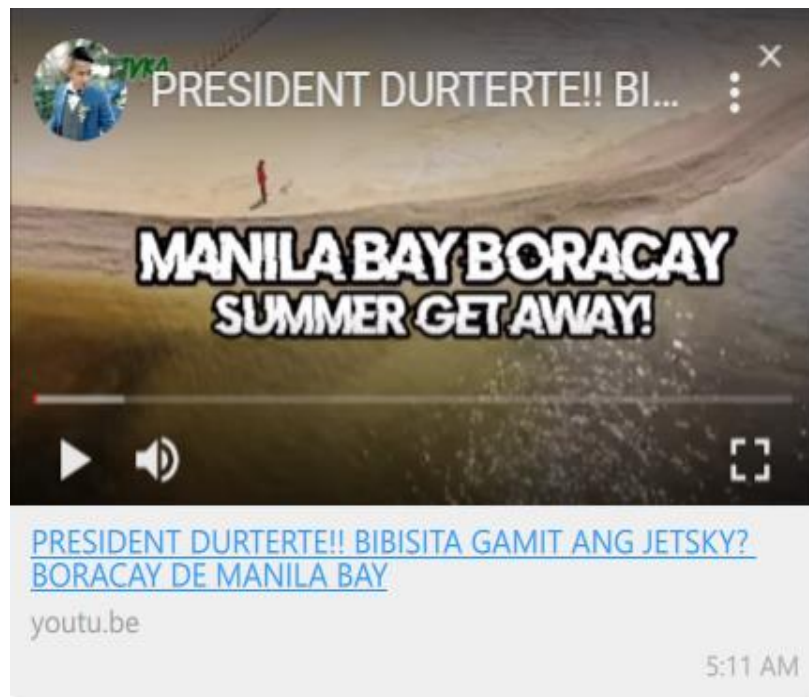
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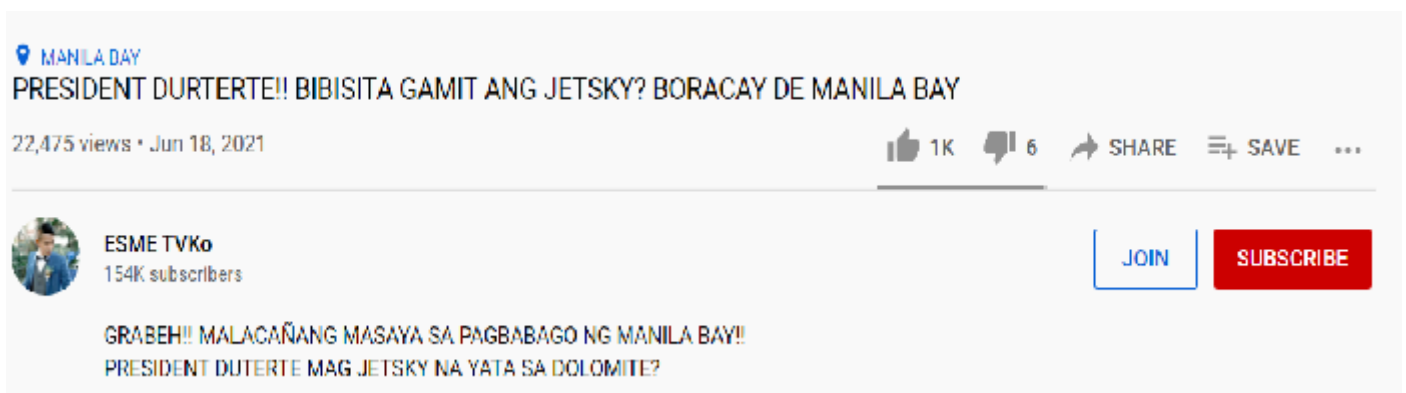
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