

19 MAY 2021, WEDNESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Nabbed wildlife traffickers yield two of this endangered bird species to DENR

Published May 18, 2021, 2:32 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Two individuals who tried to sell umbrella cockatoos online ended up getting arrested by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) operatives.



(Photo from Wikipedia)

A statement from the agency Tuesday, May 18, said suspects Rendel Santos, 21, and Alvin Santos, 48, fell in the hands of the DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF).

The duo was found in possession of two umbrella cockatoos (*Cacatua alba*) in Barangay Pagala, Baliuag, Bulacan last May 2.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu says the arrest of the suspects is part of the department's renewed commitment to "conserve specific terrestrial and marine areas representative of the Philippine natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations".

"We will continue to apprehend these illegal wildlife traders whether we have a pandemic or not. This is what the DENR can always assure the public," Cimatu said.

He noted that while illegal wildlife traders have become more brazen since the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic began, the DENR remains vigilant in efforts to protect the country's biodiversity.

The DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Baliuag, Bulacan said the suspects did not have a permit to transport the cockatoos.



SAVED—The rescued umbrella cockatoos from the two illegal wildlife traders in Bulacan. (Photo from DENR)



The umbrella cockatoo is listed under Appendix II of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This means that while the particular species is not necessarily threatened with extinction, it may become so unless trade is closely controlled.

Criminal charges will be filed against the suspects for violation of Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act of 2001.

Section 23 of RA 9147 states that collection of threatened wildlife including the by-products and derivatives shall be allowed only for scientific, or breeding or propagation purposes, and provided that only the accredited individuals, business, research, educational or scientific entities shall be allowed to collect for conservation breeding or propagation purposes.

Last April 28, the EPETF also arrested an individual in Sta. Mesa, Manila for illegally selling umbrella cockatoos and palm cockatoos online.



## Wildlife traffickers fall

Published 4 hours ago on May 19, 2021 02:30 AM

By [TDT](#) [@tribunephil](#)



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) disclosed on Tuesday that its operatives have arrested two individuals who were selling umbrella cockatoos online.

The agency's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force nabbed Rendel Santos and Alvin Santos for illegal possession and selling of two umbrella cockatoos (*cacatua alba*) at Barangay Pagala in Baliuag, Bulacan on 2 May.

The DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Baliuag, Bulacan said the suspects do not have permits to transport the cockatoos.

The umbrella cockatoo is listed under Appendix II of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species, which means that the species is not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled.

Criminal charges will be filed against the suspects for violating Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act of 2001.

In a statement, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu stressed that the operation is in line with the agency's commitment to conserve specific terrestrial and marine areas representative of the Philippine natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations.

He stressed that their operations to preserve wildlife and the environment continue amid the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

"We will continue to apprehend these illegal wildlife traders whether we have a pandemic or not. This is what the DENR can always assure the public," Cimatu said.

The DENR chief admitted that illegal wildlife traders have taken advantage of the pandemic, but he assured the public that the agency remains vigilant to protect the biodiversity.

## 2 Wildlife Traffickers Arrested for Selling Endangered Cockatoos Online

by [Sethe](#) Date: May 18, 2021

in: [NEWS](#)

### Endangered Cockatoos Rescued After 2 Wildlife Traffickers Tries Selling Them Online

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKERS – Two (2) suspects selling endangered cockatoos online were arrested in an ongoing wildlife enforcement operation.

Two wildlife dealers in Bulacan who illegally sell umbrella cockatoos online were arrested last week as part of an ongoing wildlife compliance operation by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



Image Source: Manila Bulletin

The arrest of the two suspects is part of the DENR's pledge to preserve "unique terrestrial and marine areas symbolic of the Philippine natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations," even in the midst of a pandemic, according to DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Illegal wildlife traffickers have not been afraid to sell since the pandemic, according to Cimatu. It has, however, ensured that the DENR can remain cautious in its efforts to conserve biodiversity.

On May 2, the DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) arrested Rendel Santos, 21, and Alvin Santos, 48, in Barangay Pagala, Baliuag, Bulacan, for illegal possession and selling of two Umbrella cockatoos (*Cacatua alba*).

The suspects were not given a permit to fly with cockatoos, according to the DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Baliuag, Bulacan. The suspects will face criminal charges for allegedly violating Republic Act (RA) 9147, also known as the Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act of 2001.

Umbrella cockatoos are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which means they are not endangered but may become so if sales are not limited to protect the breed.



“Collection of endangered wildlife, including by-products and derivatives, shall be permitted only for science, breeding, or propagation purposes, and provided that only licensed persons, businesses, academic, educational, or scientific institutions shall be allowed to collect for conservation breeding or propagation purposes,” according to Section 23 of RA 9147.

What can you say about this article? Just feel free to leave your reactions in the comment section.

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Source: <https://philnews.ph/2021/05/18/2-wildlife-traffickers-arrested-for-selling-endangered-cockatoos-online/>



# Tagalog News: Bagong RED ng DENR CALABARZON, tinanggap ang katungkulan

By Carlo P. Gonzaga Published on May 18, 2021

LUNGSOD NG CALAMBA, Laguna, Mayo 18 (PIA) – Pormal na tinanggap ng bagong DENR CALABARZON Regional Executive Director (RED) Nilo B, Tamoria ang kanyang katungkulan noong Mayo 10, 2021 sa DENR CALABARZON Regional Office sa Brgy. Mayapa.

Si RED Tamoria ay may hawak na Engineering degree mula sa Lyceum of the Philippines at conferred Honorary Alumnus ng College of the Forestry and Natural Resources Alumni Association of the University of the Philippines - Los Baños.

Bilang Career Executive Officer III, siya ay naging RED ng Region XII at NCR, nagsilbi bilang Deputy Head ng Task Force Sagip Kalikasan at Director for Special Concerns at bago muling naging RED ng CALABARZON, si Director Tamoria ang Executive Director ng Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF).

“Daladala ko po ang aking dagdag na eksperyensya sa lahat ng aking dinaanan, magmula noong panandalian kong iwan ang Region 4A. Napakarami at napakayaman pong mga karanasan sa usapin ng pagpapalakad at pamumuno sa ating ahensya sa sa iba’t ibang kapasidad,” ani RED Tamoria.

Ang karanasan ni RED Tamoria sa larangan ng enforcement ay mariin ding binanggit at pinahalagahan ni Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Alfredo C. Palencia sa kanyang talumpati.

“We are looking forward to your value addition in our Enforcement strategies. We look forward to a strategic strengthening of our skills in this area. We also recognize your experience in community organizing and stakeholder engagement as well. Looking forward din po kami diyan.”

Si RED Tamoria ay nauna nang itinalagang RED ng CALABARZON mula 2008 hanggang 2011. Siya ay muling itinalaga bilang RED alinsunod sa DENR Special Order No. 2021-223 na pinirmahan ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu noong Mayo 3, 2021.

“I commit to organize, manage, and utilize all our resources as we navigate the new normal. I aim for the improvement not only of our services, but most importantly, of our workforce.” Dagdag pa ni RED Tamoria.

Pinarating din ni DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment Juan Miguel Cuna, ang kanyang buong suporta sa pamumuno ni Director Tamoria at sa buong DENR CALABARZON.



# DENR office checking Marikina Watershed over reported resort construction, illegal clearings

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 18 2021 04:03 PM | Updated as of May 18 2021 11:27 PM



*Photos from the Masungi Georeserve*

MANILA (UPDATE)— The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Rizal dispatched a team on Tuesday to check on reported encroachments in the protected Upper Marikina Watershed, including apparent construction and expansion of resort facilities, its acting officer told ABS-CBN News.

PENRO Rizal Officer-in-Charge Ernesto Diso said he is also awaiting the report of their team, composed of 2 to 3 members, on the supposed illegal fires and clearings and the alleged construction of resorts in the Rizal watershed.

Masungi Georeserve trustee Billie Dumaliang had revealed to ABS-CBN News over the weekend that some 10 hectares of land are affected by supposed unabated fires and clearings in recent weeks, which could do irreversible damage in the watershed meant to prevent flooding in some parts of Metro Manila, especially Marikina City.

"This day, nag-dispatch ako ng team, pupunta sa lugar. We are awaiting the result of their field inspection... Kasama 'yung resorts sa i-inspeksyunin nila... Nag-dispatch pa lang kami ng team... mga 2 to 3 persons," Diso said.

(This day, we dispatched a team, composed of 2 to 3 persons, to go to the area... The resorts will also be checked.)



Under Presidential Proclamation No. 296 issued in 2001, the Marikina Watershed Reservation was declared a protected area and was renamed the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

It was granted protection under Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992. This means the area is "protected against destructive human exploitation."

But photos sent to ABS-CBN News showed what also seemed to be resorts that have been built in the watershed, with swimming pools and other structures that looked to be accommodation facilities.

Dumaliang said they have noticed the resort developments, which allegedly do not have permits, in recent years, but the establishments began expanding in the deeper parts of the forest during the height of the pandemic.





One resort was spotted in Sitio San Roque in Baras, Rizal.

Last year, Dumaliang said that they have also sounded the alarm on illegal logging and land-grabbing activities there.

## REMAINING FOREST COVER IN MARIKINA WATERSHED

The conservationist over the weekend had said that while they supposedly reported the fires and the "rampant illegal resorts construction and encroachment" to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) office in Region 4, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the agencies have yet to act on the matter.

The two agencies have vowed to work together to fight illegal activities to protect the country's remaining forest cover and habitats following the devastating floods and impact brought about by several strong typhoons in the country last year.

She said Masungi sent the letters to the DENR regional office on May 5, and was acknowledged also on May 5, but no response or action has been taken.

The Marikina Watershed, with a total land area of 26,128 hectares, gives "ecosystem services" to the localities of Antipolo City, Baras, General Nakar, Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Tanay, according to the DENR website.

Department Administrative Order 1993-22 from the agency also declared the area as a "Strict Nature Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary."

It is also connected with the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve, described by Masungi conservationists as its "twin watershed."

The DENR, however, pointed out that the watersheds' combined forest covers have been shrinking due to illegal activities in the protected landscapes.

DENR estimates forest degradation in the two watersheds at 408 hectares annually.

But based on the data collated by the Center for Conservation Innovations, this figure is higher, based on the data they collected from 2003 to 2010.

According to the non-government organization, based on their cover change detection analysis of the twin watershed's forest land cover as of 2010, nearly 434 hectares of "good quality forests" are lost annually from their combined 17,221 pristine forest covers.

The forest area was based from data of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA).

Due to illegal activities, the Upper Marikina Water Basin is in its last stages of "forest death," Dumaliang had said.

ABS-CBN News reached out to Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones but he has yet to respond as of this posting.

Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, meanwhile, received the copy of Masungi's report upon his request early Tuesday and already granted ABS-CBN News' request for interview scheduled this week.

The DENR office in Calabarzon has also yet to respond to a query on the matter.

— **With a report from Kristine Sabillo**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/18/21/masungi-georeserve-resort-construction-illegal-clearings-marikina-watershed-penro>



# Masungi Georeserve sounds alarm on Marikina watershed fire

By [Janine Peralta, CNN Philippines](#)

Published May 18, 2021 11:22:51 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 18) — A conservation group called for urgent action on a blaze at the Marikina watershed, which has burned around ten hectares of land over the past month.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation said several threatened species of trees and wildlife have been identified to be living in the watershed. These include 32 species of trees, 26 species of birds, two species of amphibians, and one volant mammal, or a mammal with land and aerial habitats.

"The Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape has an estimate of around 20% of forest cover left despite its protected status," Masungi Georeserve Foundation Trustee and Advocacy Officer Billie Dumaliang told CNN Philippines. The watershed is located around the georeserve.

**Masungi Georeserve**  
on Sunday

**FIRES IN THE WATERSHED CONTINUE** 🚨

Since April, there have been fires in the protected watershed around us and they have been accelerating the past few weeks.

Another patch is burned in what looks like a large-scale consolidation of forest land clearings. There has also been an increase in illegal encroachments and resort development. ...

[See More](#)

👍 58    💬 34    ➡ 53



The group first discovered the fire upon noticing ashfall in April. After some time, it observed that the burning was "consistent" and being done "part by part."

Although Dumaliang's team had been attempting to contain the blaze by putting fire lines and fire breaks, as well as dispatching park rangers, she said the burning could signal a bigger attack on the protected area.

Some 30 men linked to a private entity - which Masungi had flagged for land-grabbing last year - have reportedly been seen in the watershed area. Dumaliang's group also said the private entity has been expanding resort development and construction in the reserve despite lack of permits.

Dumaliang said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has since informed them that it has instructed its provincial officer to file cases against the private entity. However, she raised that a cease and desist order would have been more appropriate since construction work is still ongoing.

"Enforcement on the ground is key to protecting our all-important watershed," Dumaliang said.

CNN Philippines has reached to the DENR office in Rizal and Calabarzon for comment.

This story will be updated.



ABS-CBN News

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TINGNAN: Ibinahagi sa ABS-CBN News ng advocacy officer ng Masungi Georeserve ang mga larawang nagpapakita ng aniya'y illegal fires at clearing sa Marikina Watershed sa Rizal at konstruksiyon ng mistulang resort kahit mahigpit itong ipinagbabawal.

Sinabi naman ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office na nagpadala na sila ng team sa lugar para alamin ang sitwasyon sa protected landscape.

Nanawagan na ng tulong sa gobyerno ang nature reserve para maproteksiyunan ang lugar, kung saan nasa 10 hektarya ng lupa ang anila'y appektado ng ilegal na clearing.

Sa ilalim ng Proclamation 296, idineklarang protected area ang Marikina Watershed Reservation na tinatawag ding Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape. | via Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

BASA HIN DITO ang buong ulat: <https://bit.ly/3fvH4GI>

See Translation



👍👎👏 Moses Matsuzawa and 5.8K others

503 Comments 612 Shares



# 5 research projects receive PH-UK grant for sustainable mineral exploration

Published May 18, 2021, 3:55 PM

by [Merlina Hernando-Malipot](#)

Researchers from the Philippines and the United Kingdom (UK) bagged research grants to facilitate and develop innovative solutions that can promote responsible mining and maximize value-adding from minerals.



(Photo from DOST-PCIEERD / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a statement issued by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) on Tuesday, May 18, it was confirmed that a total of five research projects stood out during the selection process conducted by the DOST- Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) and UK Research & Innovation – Natural Environment Research Council (UKRI-NERC).

Out of the 18 proposals received online, these five projects are geared towards achieving sustainability in the minerals industry and charting a greener community.

First is the “SusNi or Developing a Sustainable pathway for the Philippine Nickel sector.” Spearheaded by Paul Lusty of British Geological Survey-UK and professor Romell Seronay from Caraga State University-Philippines, the project aims to assess the impacts of mining, explore novel techniques for mineral exploration, metal extraction and recovery, and environmental monitoring, all considered within the socio-economic context of the Caraga Region, using an approach based on Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). Next is the “PROMT or Philippines Remediation of Mine Tailings” which is this project initiated by professors Gawen Jenkin from the University of Leicester-UK and Carlo Arcilla of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute-Philippines.

It aims to build an innovative research program to test sustainable tailings management, remediation and rehabilitation.

Then there is the “Philippine Mining at the National to Catchment Scale: from Legacy Impacts to Sustainable Futures.” Headed by Dr. Richard Williams from the University of Glasgow-UK and Dr. Decibel Faustino-Eslava from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños – Philippines, the project aims to develop a proposal to realize a combined geomorphological and biogeochemical based management approach to remediate waste and protect the environment, at national- to catchment-scales.

Next is the “Systems Approach for Greener, Eco-efficient and Sustainable mineral resource management or SAGES.” Led by Dr Pablo Rafael Brito Parada of Imperial College London-UK and Dr. Arnel Beltran of the De La Salle University-Philippines, the project brings together the multi-disciplinary expertise of industry leaders, scientists, technology experts, community leaders and policy makers to develop a research programme for greener, eco-efficient, and sustainable mineral resource management in the Philippines.



Finally, there's a project called "A framework for the sustainable development of marine mineral resources in the Philippines." Headed by Dr. Ian Selby from the University of Plymouth-UK and Engr. Teodorico Sandoval of Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Philippines, the project will promote socio-economic development and personal and community welfare through constructive sharing of experience, expertise and innovation in managing offshore mineral resources.

DOST-PCIEERD said that these research projects will "enable the development of detailed and fully co-designed research proposals to generate an entire system view of sustainable mineral resources in the Philippines." In this PH-UK call for proposals, the selected projects will receive a partnership and project development (PPD) grant of up to £50K (at 80 percent FEC from NERC) and P1.6M (~£26K from DOST-PCIEERD) that may be used to support some preliminary research activity where it is necessary for developing the detailed research questions for the strategic large grant project proposal.

Meanwhile, PCIEERD Executive Director Dr. Enrico C. Paringit expressed confidence that this collaboration between the Philippines and UK will lead to the increase of productivity and reduction of eco footprints in the country's mining industry.

"The Council is grateful for this partnership with UKRI-NERC and for joining us in strengthening the mining sector in the Philippines through research and development," Paringit said.

As a leader and preferred partner in enabling research and development, Paringit said that DOST-PCIEERD will "remain steadfast in finding ways to promote innovation in the mining sector, find new ways of rehabilitating mined areas, develop solutions that support a green future, capacitate and empower researchers on minerals and mining, as well as boost competitiveness and productivity of university laboratories and facilities to conduct research."

The call for strategic Large Grants opens in May 2021 until July 2021. Joint NERC/DOST-PCIEERD funds will be used to award up to two strategic Large Grant projects in this call which will run for a maximum duration of 36 months.

The total funds available from DOST-PCIEERD are up to 15 million PHP (~£236K) per Large Grant and NERC will contribute up to £1.2M (80 percent FEC) per Large Grant project (£1.5M at 100% FEC and FCC).

Meanwhile, UKRI-NERC Associate Director for International Sarah Webb said that they are pleased to partner with DOST-PCIEERD to "enable UK and Philippine researchers to develop truly collaborative research projects which we hope will lead to sustainable pathways to mineral production in the Philippines.

Webb added that the funding will "support the development of a strategic large grant proposal to address essential research needs following the initial partnership building phase.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/18/5-research-projects-receive-ph-uk-grant-for-sustainable-mineral-exploration/>



## 10 held over illegal mining in Cagayan town

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 08:38 PM May 18, 2021



Several tools allegedly used for a small-scale mining in Claveria town, Cagayan province were seized from 10 people who were also arrested by police for the illegal activity. (Photo courtesy of PNP-Claveria)

TUGUEGARAO CITY-Ten people, including a minor, were arrested after they dug stones along the shoreline of Claveria, Cagayan on Monday, May 17, police said.

Brig. Gen. Crizaldo Nieves, Cagayan Valley regional police director, identified them as Edgene Caligan, Reylie Acob, Noel Inocencio, Joel Caligan Jr., Rhayan Avanzado, Oscar Avanzado, Noel Avanzado, Clarence Magayano Sr., Keith Reeve Julaquit and alias Dodong (a minor).

Police said village officials tipped them off about the small-scale mining in Barangay D'Leano. Seized from the suspects were a water pump set, two steel mallets, a handheld radio, two ordinary blasting caps, a time fuse, 50-gram ammonium fuel oil, a liter of gasoline and four steel chisels.

The suspects were charged with violation of the People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991 (Republic Act 7076) while the minor was endorsed to the local social welfare and development officer in Claveria.

VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.



# San Narciso, Zambales fishermen, resort owners reject proposed jetty port project

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

MAY 18, 2021 3 MINUTE READ

ZAMBALES resort owners and fishermen have expressed dismay over the proposed construction of a private jetty port at the boundaries of San Narciso and San Felipe towns.

“I heard about the planned port here and if it will be built, we will no longer be able to fish peacefully, which is our main source of livelihood. Many will be affected,” Leonardo Falsario, a 43 year old fisherman, said.

Born and raised in San Narciso, Falsario owns a small fishing boat. He said he is voicing out the sentiment of fellow fishermen in the coastal barangay of La Paz who vowed to oppose the planned port project because of its expected adverse impact to their livelihood, and the environment as well.

They fear that the project will affect the natural flow of the Araos River and cause flooding in their community.

“We will protest this move because even our tourism industry such as surfing and swimming will also be destroyed by this project,” Falsario stressed.

Grace Tejada, 53, whose way of life is catching bangus fries by the seashore, also expressed her opposition to the planned port.

“We will oppose this port because fishing is our only means of livelihood and we cannot allow them to destroy our pristine fishing grounds.”

Tejada’s husband, Randy, shares his wife’s sentiments. “That’s not a good plan, the people here will lose their livelihood,” he said.

They claimed that the Office of Mayor Leo John M. Farrales allegedly issued an authorization dated April 14, 2021 to a certain Allan Nuqui of AGN Trading and Arthur Ong of Mines Flowing Construction to “rehabilitate the creek along San Rafael, San Felipe, Zambales going to West Philippine sea for mitigation and disaster preparedness to prevent flooding during rainy season.”

The clearance also stated that the private companies are implementing the rehabilitation project “at their own expense,” which is “in preparation for the approved application for a jetty port in the area.”

Marlita Santos, punong barangay of San Felipe, Zambales, has also allegedly issued a clearance to the same companies dated March 10, 2021, “to rehabilitate the creek and construct a right of way going to the jetty port.”

Rachel Harrison, a resort owner in San Narciso said resort owners are condemning the San Felipe local government for allowing such project in San Narciso, Zambales.

The area is known as the fifth best surfing destination in the country.

The location of the proposed jetty port is called “Cloud 9,” which in surfing lingo, means the place where the exciting breaks and waves happen.





To put a jetty in Cloud 9 will alter the sea contour, which would affect the waves and the tourist, they said.

“We are questioning the illegal clearances issued by the local government of San Felipe. They have no authority to build a jetty port which will destroy San Narciso’s marine resources and sources of income for our fishermen and local businessmen,” Harrison said.

According to Harrison, the jetty port would only be used to make transporting black sand more economical.

“We will only support projects that endeavor to protect, preserve and enhance the environment. Clearing the lahar from the Sto. Tomas River might be a good thing, but not in a way where it both damages the environment and local livelihoods in one fell swoop! As citizens we expect the Mayor of San Narciso, the governor of Zambales and the Department of Environment and National Resources/national government to ensure the best interests of all in San Narciso are, at least, preserved and, hopefully, enhanced. Not to see them taken and controlled for the obvious benefit of parties in San Felipe.” Harrison stated.

Aside from the lovely beaches for surfing and sunsets, Zambales has been known as a haven for black sand miners from China.

The port in Sta. Cruz town that was used to transport black sand to China was closed after former President Aquino declared a blanket ban on black sand mining.

There are 5 major areas of black sand mining in Zambales, namely, San Marcelino, Candelaria, Masinloc, Sta. Cruz and Botolan.



# In pursuit of a greener future, OPPO continues to protect the environment through its corporate sustainability initiatives

Published May 18, 2021, 2:18 PM

by [Len Amadora](#)

Leading global smart device brand OPPO outlines the contributions it has made in the past year to facilitate the corporate sustainability initiatives enacted at the company since 2004. These contributions highlight OPPO's achievements in improving stakeholder wellbeing, including the wellbeing of its product users, its employees, and society as a whole, as well as the company's impact on the environment.

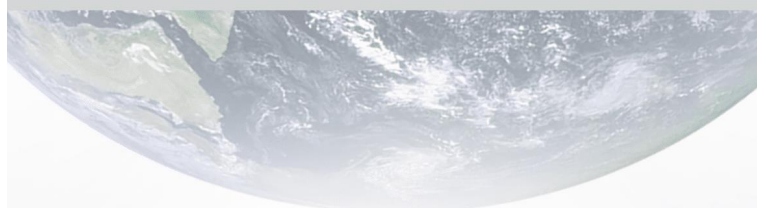


A greener future not just for Earth Day

“Since the company was founded in 2004, OPPO has been committed to improving the wellbeing of our employees, customers and partners, as well as bettering our impact on the environment and society as a whole. Sustainability has been an integral part of our development strategy during this time, ensuring our ability to innovate and provide the best possible products and services for our users in what we call the Internet of Experience,” said Tony Chen, Founder and CEO of OPPO.

“For OPPO, sustainability is not a new word, but rather an integral part of our company vision since our founding. Living by our brand mission of ‘**Technology for Mankind, Kindness for the World**’, we will continue to strive towards a sustainable ecosystem built in collaboration with all of our partners.”

Tony Chen, Founder and CEO of OPPO



**Earth Day-It's not a day,  
but an entire future**



“In reflection of our brand mission ‘Technology for Mankind, Kindness for the World’, and in staying true to our core value of *Benfen*, we will continue to invest in our sustainability. In doing so, we also look forward to working with partners across the industry to create a better future for people worldwide.”

OPPO’s achievements in sustainability were verified by the leading testing service provider TÜV Rheinland. Based on international standards, this third-party verification proves OPPO’s own work towards creating a circular economy, which includes prioritizing the use of sustainable materials and minimizing its waste output. OPPO now adopts sustainable production processes of its products, spanning from design, packaging, upgrading to material processing and more. As a result, TÜV Rheinland also certified the outcomes of OPPO’s sustainable resource management and reduced emissions.

As a global citizen and further to its own social responsibility initiatives, OPPO is also working with suppliers to conduct sustainable management projects and collectively build a more sustainable ecosystem. These efforts have led to a number of milestone achievements in 2020 as stated below in detail.

**PRODUCT DESIGN**

- ✓ We have reduced the weight of the Reno3's packaging by **24%** compared with the Reno2.\*
- ✓ The amount of plastic used in Reno3's packaging is **90%** less than that of Reno2. \*

\*In Europe only

**PACKAGE REDUCED**

**PRODUCTION & TRANSPORT**

- ✓ In 2020, we reduced our total water consumption by **25.8%** and electricity consumption by **12.4%**
- ✓ Last year, we reduced our general waste by **42.7%** and indirect greenhouse gas emissions by **20%**

**PRODUCT USE**

- ✓ We use modular designs in our products to make it easier to repair and replace parts.
- ✓ We also provide free system and software upgrade services to ensure your product lasts longer.

**ABANDONMENT**

In 2020, OPPO recycled **13** times more products by weight compared to 2019.

**OBTAINING OF RAW MATERIALS**

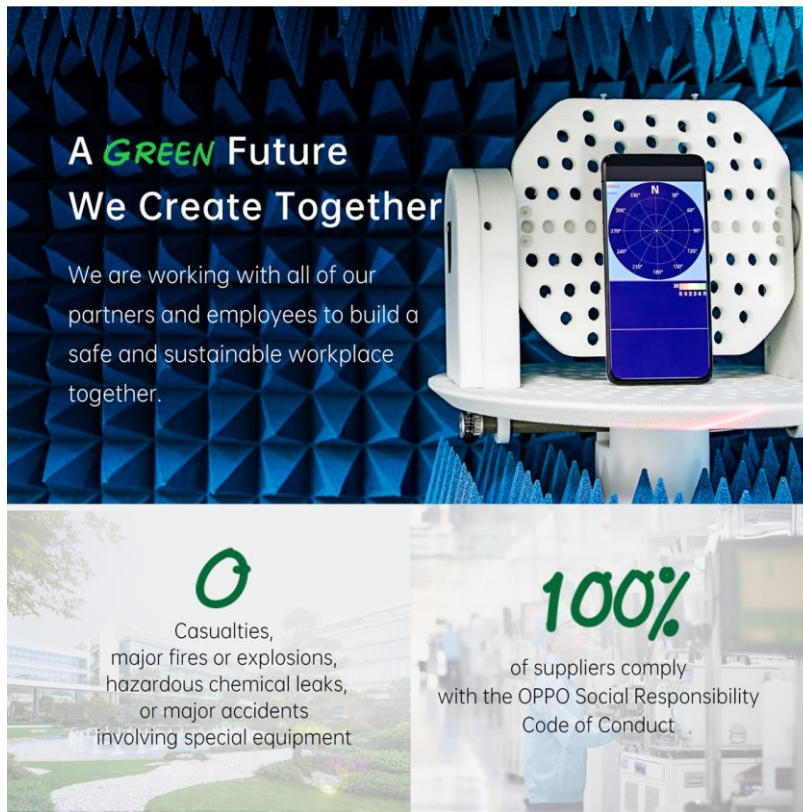
- ✓ Recycled plastics make up **35%** of the plastics in our smartphone components.
- ✓ Our packaging is made from **45%** renewable fibres.
- ✓ We use soy-based inks for printing in packaging.

OPPO Greener Future

As part of its contribution to the circular economy, OPPO recycled 13 times more products by weight in 2020 compared with 2019. This was further supported by its efforts in using more renewable materials, with recycled plastic making up 35% of the plastic material contained in its smartphone components. At the same time, the company also achieved a 42.7% reduction in general waste and a 20% reduction in indirect greenhouse gas emissions in 2020.

When it comes to people, OPPO has consistently put employee wellbeing at the forefront of its business operations. The company organized more than 670,000 hours of educational sessions and training programs in 2020 to assist employees in planning and developing their careers. For millions of its customers worldwide, OPPO protects their data privacy better by adding a number of innovative features to its ColorOS 11 operating system and obtaining certifications for strict data privacy standards such as ISO (ISO/IEC 27001, 27018, 29151), TrustArc and ePrivacy.

At the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, OPPO joined hands with the global community and mobilized resources to provide aid and support around the world. In the Philippines, OPPO collaborated with non-profit organizations to donate essential medical goods and meals to selected hospitals at the start of the pandemic in 2020. Additionally, OPPO also partnered with global non-profit organization Save the Children to help underprivileged students navigate through remote education better. OPPO donated 100 OPPO A12e smartphones and 100 Rock Space Bluetooth headsets through the organization and worked together to set up an online fundraising effort to raise funds for the learning kits of children living in remote locations in the metro.



OPPO Greener Future: We Create Together

OPPO is also supporting communities and cultures around the world through initiatives such as its Campus Global Emerging Artists Project Renovators (Renovators) program. In 2020, OPPO launched the second Renovators program, providing a platform for 3,000 students from 150 top universities around the world to unleash their creative imagination.

Making a significant and lasting impact on sustainability requires long-term thinking and commitment. OPPO will continue to further its own sustainability initiatives while collaborating with industry partners to create a better future for everyone.

The full 2020 Sustainability Report will be available on the OPPO official website soon. Please stay tuned!

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/18/in-pursuit-of-a-greener-future-oppo-continues-to-protect-the-environment-through-its-corporate-sustainability-initiatives/>



# Prince Charles launches tree-planting drive for Queen's jubilee

Published May 19, 2021 3:48am



Prince Charles urged everyone in the country to join him and "plant a tree for the jubilee -- in other words a tree-bilee" from October, when planting begins.

LONDON, United Kingdom - Prince Charles on Monday urged the public to mark his mother's 70th year as queen by planting trees around Britain, as the government unveiled plans to boost woodland habitats to combat climate change.

The prince said he was "delighted to announce this unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's platinum jubilee in 2022".

The 72-year-old heir to the throne urged everyone in the country to join him and "plant a tree for the jubilee -- in other words a tree-bilee" from October, when planting begins.

The plan comes as the government, which has set a target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, plans to treble tree planting by the end of the current parliament in May 2024.

Queen Elizabeth II, 95, acceded to the throne in 1952 after the death of her father George VI, and was crowned the following year.

Charles was shown in a video adding the final soil to an oak tree sapling planted in a field as his mother stood watching him.

The tree was planted in the grounds of Windsor Castle, west of London, in March. Symbolically it is a Verdun Oak, trees grown from acorns from the World War I battlefield.

The Queen during her reign has officially planted more than 1,500 trees, said Charles, who has long been known for interest in environmental causes, including organic farming.

"Planting a tree is a statement of hope and faith in the future," he added.

The project -- called The Queen's Green Canopy -- aims for people to plant sustainable native trees that are resistant to diseases.



It will also highlight 70 irreplaceable ancient woodlands and train young people to plant and manage trees.

From June, schools and community groups can apply for 3 million free saplings from the Woodland Trust conservation charity.

In 1986 he gave an interview saying he talked to plants, prompting much mockery at the time.

Britain in November hosts the UN summit on climate change, COP26, and has called for greater commitments to tackle global warming.

Environment Secretary George Eustice will this week lay out plans to plant around 7,000 hectares (17,000 acres) of woodland per year for the next three years. -- **Agence France-  
Presse**



# Brazil deforestation 94% illegal; Bolsonaro blamed

By [Agence France-Presse](#) May 19, 2021

**SÃO PAULO:** The vast majority of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon is illegal and President [Jair Bolsonaro](#)'s promise to eliminate it looks doubtful given a lack of transparency on authorized land use, researchers said on Monday (Tuesday in Manila).

Under pressure to curb the destruction of the Amazon, Bolsonaro vowed last month at a world climate summit to eliminate illegal deforestation by 2030.

But almost no deforestation can be considered fully legal in [Brazil](#), given that authorities are failing to adequately implement laws on tracking how much and where land is being cleared under permit, said the report, published by a group of university researchers and experts from environmental organizations including the World Wildlife Fund Brazil and the [Centro da Vida Institute](#).

The report found that 94 percent of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon and surrounding Matopiba region is illegal.

That is partly because even in cases where farmers, ranchers, loggers and others have permits to clear land, the authorities are unable to document how those permits are being used on the ground, it said.

“The differentiation between legal and illegal deforestation is a key factor to ensure that Brazil’s agricultural and forestry production is not contaminated by environmental crimes,” it said.

Bolsonaro has presided over a surge in deforestation in the world’s biggest rainforest since taking office in 2019. In the 12 months to August 2020, deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon increased 9.5 percent, destroying an area bigger than Jamaica, according to government data.

The far-right president faces international pressure to clean up his government’s environmental image — and backlash from businesses worried how that image will impact the world’s number one beef and soy exporter.

“Bolsonaro made that promise of ‘zero deforestation,’ but how will we even know if the necessary information isn’t available?” [Paula Bernasconi](#), coordinator of the [Centro da Vida Institute](#), told [Agence France-Presse](#).

“We urgently need more technical effort and political will to implement Brazilian environmental and transparency laws,” said her co-author [Raoni Rajao](#) of the [Federal University of Minas Gerais](#).

“Otherwise, the lack of transparency will continue serving as a shield for the ongoing destruction of our ecosystems.”

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/19/news/world/brazil-deforestation-94-illegal-bolsonaro-blamed/874017/>



# West PH Sea patrols will continue 'to assert what is ours' – Duterte

Published May 18, 2021, 8:00 PM

by [Genalyn Kabling](#)

The government will continue to patrol the West Philippine Sea to assert “what is ours” even as it pursues a peaceful and rules-based resolution to the maritime dispute, President Duterte said Tuesday.



President Rodrigo Duterte (File photo/Malacañang)

The President asserted that the government would stick to its “principled” position on the West Philippine Sea, that includes protecting the nation’s interests, following the recent incursions of Chinese vessels into local waters.

“Our principled position and stand on the West Philippine Sea remains. I have said it before and I will say it again, our agencies have been directed to do what they must and should to protect and defend our nation’s interest,” Duterte said in a statement read by his spokesman Harry Roque Tuesday, May 18.

“Our vessels will continue to patrol relevant areas to firmly assert what is ours. The Philippine Navy, the Philippine Coast Guard, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources will be where they need to be,” he added.

The President earlier decided he would not pull out the country’s ships from the West Philippine Sea after authorities protested the lingering stay of Chinese ships in the local waters. Duterte insisted that the country’s vessels would “not move an inch backward” from the contested waters.

But he later clarified that the deployment of these ships does not necessarily mean the country was preparing to go to war with China. Duterte said the country would [“not start a war because we cannot afford it.”](#) The government earlier deployed ships to conduct sovereignty patrols in the West Philippine Sea after hundreds of Chinese vessels were spotted scattered in parts of the West Philippines Sea.

In the same statement, the President assured the nation that the government would “not waver” in its position on the West Philippine Sea. But he stressed the need to pursue a peaceful and rules-based resolution to the sea dispute with China.

“We must be willing to do what we can as responsible members of the international community to resolve disputes peacefully,” he said.

“Diplomacy therefore, will play an ever important part. It has fully utilized the bilateral consultation mechanisms (BCM) and other diplomatic venues to engage China,” he added.





He assigned the Department of Foreign Affairs as lead agency “in advancing our interest, harnessing time honored principles of international law.” “All stakeholders have professed fealty to these fundamental principles. It’s time for all of us to walk our talk,” he said.

President Duterte earlier recognized the country owed a huge of debt of gratitude to “good friend” China for various aid, including donated coronavirus vaccines, but [ruled out forging a compromise](#) on the West Philippine Sea.



## DEBATE AT KAKAIBANG AKSYON NI DIGONG SA WPS



May 17, 2021 @ 7:16 PM 1 day ago

GANAP nang binawi kamakailan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang kanyang sariling hamon kay ex-Associate Justice Antonio Carpio ukol sa West Philippine Sea.

At tama lang naman ang katwiran ng Pangulo na maraming bagay ang isinasaalang-alang sa ganyang mga debate at tama lang ding pakinggan din ang boses ng iba.

Una, hindi magkapantay sina AJ Carpio at Pang. Duterte sa posisyon at dapat na magkatapat ang mga ito gaya nang naganap noong mga debate ng mga kandidatong Pangulo noong 2016 na sina Pang. Duterte, Senador Miriam Defensor Santiago, Vice President Jojo Binay, ex-Interior Secretary Mar Roxas at iba pa.

Ikalawa, mismong ang Pangulo ang nagsabi na may mga maaapektuhang mahahalagang usapin mismo na nireresolba sa pagitan ng China at Pilipinas at nangangamba siyang kapag nagsalita siya, maaapektuhan ang mga nasabing usapin na dinaraan sa iba't ibang paraan at hindi sa debate.

Ikatlo, ayon na rin sa mga miyembro ng gabinete at mga kapartido niya sa pulitika, walang magaganap na magandang ibubunga ng nasabing debate para sa buong bayan, lalo't tiyak namang walang panggitnang usapin kundi puro siraan lang ang magaganap.

Ikaapat, para naman sa iba, higit na dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ang kinahaharap ng buong bansa gaya ng coronavirus disease 2019 o COVID-19 na nagpapaguho sa ekonomiya at hanapbuhay ng lahat, pagpapalakas sa pamahalaan at pagkakaisa nito at mga mamamayan para maligtasan natin ang pandemya at makabangon tayo sa pagkakalugmok, pagkakasakit at kamatayan.



Ikalima, sinasabi rin ng iba na pamumulitika lang ang tumbok ng pagdadaldal ni Carpio ukol sa West Philippine Sea at sadyang iniligaw lang nito ang mga mamamayan sa katotohanan na sinasabi mismo ng Pangulo na sa pangkat ni Carpio, kasama sina ex-DFA Secretary Albert del Rosario at dating Pangulong Noynoy Aquino nagsimulang mawala ang ilang isla sa WPS dahil sa sarili nilang mga pagkakamali sa pagsunod sa salita ng mga Amerikano na umatras sila at karuwagan na rin sa pagpapaatras nila ng Philippine Navy na humarap sa mga pwersang Tsino sa Scarborough Shoal.

#### NANAWAGAN KAY MANONG JOHNNY ENRILE

Ngayong gabi, inaasahang magsasalita si dating Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile o Manong Johnny for short ukol sa WPS.

Para kay Pang. Duterte, higit na mahalaga ito kaysa anomang pakikipagdebate niya kahit kanino.

Sapagkat isa sa pangunahing awtoridad si Manong Johnny sa problema sa WPS.

Naroon siya sa usapin simula't simula kahit pa sa mga araw na nagsampa ng kaso sina Del Rosario sa Permanent Court of Arbitration o PCA na naipanalo naman ng mga batang Noynoy.

Alam niya ang mga pasikot-sikot ng problema at kabilang siya sa mga nagpapasya kung ano-ano ang mga dapat tahakin ng pamahalaan sa problema, kabilang na ang relasyon ng Pinas at China.

Maganda kung makinig tayo lahat sa mga sasabihin mismo ni Manong Johnny dahil tiyak maraming usapin ang malilinawan.

Magsasalita si Manong Johnny sa oras ng pakikipanayan ni Pang. Duterte sa mga mamamayan.

#### SA GAWA HINDI SA DEBATE

Sinasabi mismo ni Pang. Duterte na isa lang basurang papel ang tagumpay nina Carpio at Del Rosario sa PCA.

Ito'y dahil sa kawalan ng anomang pwersa na magpapatupad ng desisyon ng PCA.

Sabi naman ng iba, talagang basura ang desisyon ng PCA dahil isa lang itong pribado at independiyenteng arbitration court.

Dahil isa itong pribadong korte at hindi likha ng United Nations, hindi makukwestyon ang hindi pagpatisipa ng China sa kaso.

Kung isinampa lang umano nina Del Rosario ang kaso sa International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea na siyang nilikha ng United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea bilang compulsory arbitration court, baka napilitan pang magpasailalim ang China.



At dito posibleng magkaroon ng pagpapatupad ng desisyon.

Sa PCA na isang pribadong korte, kailangan ang pagsang-ayon ng magkabilang panig, ang nagsakdal at isinadakdal; pagbabalik ng magkabilang panig ng gastos sa pagding; at magkasama ang mga nagsakdal at isinasakdal na ipatupad ang anomang desisyon ng “korte.”

Anak ng tokwa, sa unang kondisyon pa lang, hindi na nagpasailalim ang China sa hurisdiksyon ng PCA kaya ang huling dalawang rekisitos ay nabalewala na rin.

Lumabas tuloy na “binili” natin ang tagumpay at ang masaklap, walang magpapatupad nito.

Kung ipatupad ng Pinas ang desisyong kwestiyunable, saan hahantong ito?

Dito rin mawawalan ng saysay ang pakikipagdebate sa sinomang nanggagalaiti na “nanalo tayo sa kaso.”

#### DAPAT SA KONGRESO ANG DEBATE

May saysay ang debate kung idaraan ito sa Kongreso at mismong mga senador, kongresman at mga resource speaker nila ang magdedebate.

Kung sesentro ang debate sa pagkawala ng ilang bahagi ng Exclusive Economic Zone o WPS, dito lilitaw ang diin ni Pang. Duterte na nagsimula ang pagkawala ng mga ito sa panahon nina Carpio, Del Rosario at PNoy at hindi sa panahon niya.

At reklamo nga mismo ni Pang. Duterte, “Bakit ako ang niluluslos ninyo...” sa mga islang kinuha ng China at may lakas pa ng loob na isisi sa kanya ito.

Dito rin maaaring lumabas ang pagiging sunod-sunuran nina Del Rosario sa mga Amerikano na nagpaatras sa kanila, kasama ang Philippine Navy.

At maaaring lilitaw rin ang sinasabi ng mga Kano na hindi sila makikialam sa mga away ng mga bansa sa South China Sea kundi igigiit lang nila ang “freedom of navigation” nila, kasama ang paglalakbay ng nasa 5 trilyong dolyar na negosyo nila at ibang mayayamang bansa, gaya ng European Union, Australia at Japan na dumaraan sa South China Sea.

Maaaring lilitaw rin ang problema sa EDCA o Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement sa pagitan ng Pinas noong panahon nina Del Rosario at PNoy.

Sa EDCA, mga Bro, magtatayo ng mga base militar ang US sa Antonio Bautista Air Base (Palawan), Basa Air Base (Pampanga), Fort Magsaysay (Nueva Ecija), Lumbia Airport (Cagayan de Oro), Benito Ebuena Air Base (Mactan, Cebu).

Ang tanging para sa Pinas, eh, pagmay-may-ari ng lupa at lahat na, kontrolado ng mga Kano.

Magnet ang mga kampo na ito sakaling magkagiyera ang China at US sa South



China Sea.

Unang pupulbusin ng China ang mga kampong ito na itinayo at pangunahing Pinas ang mapipinsala at hindi ang mga Kano.

Isinubo nina Del Rosario at PNoy ang buhay ng mga Filipino sa pakay ng mga Kano sa EDCA na military bases laban sa China.

O, hayaan nating magkaroon ng debate sa loob mismo ng Kongreso at lilitaw ang mga kabulastugan ng nakaraang administrasyon na pilit na isinisisi sa administrasyong Duterte ngayon.

#### KAKAIBANG POSISYON AT AKSYON

Heto ngayon ang mga pinakahuling nagaganap sa West Philippine Sea.

Naroon ngayon sa mga isla, gaya ng grupong isla ng Pag-asa Island, na nasa West Philippine Sea, ang mga pwersa militar ng mahal kong Pinas, ayon mismo kay Secretary Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

Naroon din sa WPS-EEZ ang mga pwersa ng Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources at Philippine Maritime Police upang sanggain ang mga pagpasok ng mga Chino na sarili ring mga navy, coast guard at milisya ng China.

Order ng Pangulo, hindi dapat umalis ang mga ito sa mga karagatang sakop ng EEZ ng Pinas at hindi sila dapat aatras kahit isang pulgada lang sa kanilang iringan sa mga Chino.

Hindi katulad ito ng ginawa nina PNoy, Del Rosario at iba pa na pilit na pinangangatwiran ni Carpio.

Naririyang din ang halos araw-araw na protestang ginagawa ng Department of Foreign Affairs.

Kakaiba ang mga kilos na ito ng ating pamahalaan na nagpapakita ng sarili nitong diskarte sa pagresolba sa problema.

Hindi kinakailangang sumunod sa mga dikta ng mga Amerikano kundi sumandig sa sarili bilang isang bansang kapantay ng kahit anong bansa.

At ang matatag na paninindigan?

Mismong si Pang. Duterte rin ang nagsabi na ibang usapan na kung magsimulang magkalkal ng langis ang China sa EEZ at hindi na papayag ang Pilipinas.

Dito na magpapadala ng pwersa ang Pilipinas upang pigilan ang anomang kamay ng China na magkalkal ng langis at iba pang mineral na matatagpuan sa sakop ng Pilipinas sa usaping EEZ.



Mayroon bang ganitong mga aksyon noon nina PNoy o mismong si Carpio at mga kakosa nito?

Palatandaan lahat ng ito ng paninindigan ni Pang. Duterte na kanyang ipaglalaban ang anomang karapatan ng mga Filipino sa karagatang pinagtatalunan.

Bagama't naririyang hindi mapigilang pangingsda ng mga Tsino at iba pang bansa, gaya ng Taiwan, Vietnam at iba pa sa karagatan ng South China Sea, napakalinaw na may hangganan ang lahat at may ipinupusta at ginagawa mismo ang administrasyong Duterte na hindi nakayanang gawin nina Del Rosario, PNoy at maging si Carpio.

19 MAY 2021, WEDNESDAY



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# DOH records 4,487 new COVID-19 cases, the lowest number in two months

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 18, 2021 3:27:19 PM



The country logged 4,487 new COVID-19 infections, the lowest in two months, but this excludes data from eight laboratories, the Department of Health said on Tuesday. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 18) — The country logged 4,487 new COVID-19 infections, the lowest in two months, but this excludes data from eight laboratories, the Department of Health said on Tuesday.

It is the lowest daily case count after March 17, when there were 4,387 cases reported.

The nationwide tally of cases is now at 1,154,388, with 4.5% or 52,291 active or currently ill patients, according to the DOH daily case bulletin. At least 93.1% of the active cases have mild symptoms, 2.2% have no symptoms, 2% have severe symptoms, 1.5% are in critical condition and 1.29% are moderate, the department added.

The death toll increased to 19,372 - which is 1.68% of the case tally - after 110 more people lost their lives to the disease. The DOH said 64 of the new fatalities were previously tagged as recoveries and reclassified after validation.

Meanwhile, 6,383 more people were cleared of the virus, raising the recovery count to 1,082,725 or 93.8% of the COVID-19 total. The Health Department said it deleted 24 duplicates including 22 survivors.

The DOH said the eight laboratories which failed to submit their data on time contributed over the past two weeks an average of 2.5% of samples tested and 2.7% positive individuals.

The daily positivity rate or rate of individuals that tested positive stood at 13% out of 26,672 tests conducted. The figure is still beyond the recommended rate of below 5% by the World Health Organization. High rates may mean high transmission, experts have said.

In a briefing, the DOH noted that the country is now averaging 5,886 cases per day, almost half of its peak of 10,406 from April 6 to 12. In Metro Manila, the average also dropped from a peak of 5,325 in March 30 to April 5, down to 1,417 as of recent days.

However, although cases are declining in Metro Manila, the department said there is a need to monitor the situation [in Visayas and Mindanao](#) as ten regions that are mostly from these areas registered a growth in the rate of infected persons per a population of 100,000.

Among Filipinos abroad, eleven more cases were detected, along with one new recovery and two more fatalities, the Department of Foreign Affairs said. The total number of infected among overseas Filipinos is now 18,629 with 11,375 survivors and 1,163 deaths, as well as 6,091 patients undergoing treatment.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/5/18/COVID-19-cases-lowest-two-months.html>





This photo taken on April 6, 2021 shows a man wearing personal protective equipment walking into a makeshift ward built for COVID-19 patients at a hospital in Manila. More contagious variants of the coronavirus have been blamed for a record surge in infections in Metro Manila that has overwhelmed hospitals and sent the national capital region into lockdown.

AFP/Jam Sta. Rosa

## Cases easing in Metro Manila, rising in 10 regions

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

MANILA, Philippines — While the National Capital Region (NCR) and neighboring provinces are seeing a “marked decline” in COVID-19 cases, 10 regions – mostly in the Visayas and Mindanao – are now being closely monitored following reports of increase in infection.

“NCR Plus areas have shown marked decline in both case and health care utilization data, but we need to closely monitor Visayas and Mindanao, which have shown an increasing trend,” DOH Epidemiology Bureau chief Dr. Alethea de Guzman said at a virtual briefing yesterday, referring to the term used to classify Metro Manila and the nearby provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal as the main COVID battlefield.

“In the Visayas and Mindanao there’s an increase, but an increase that’s not very fast. But we see an increase, compared to four weeks ago,” De Guzman noted.

She said the 10 regions have posted positive growth in average daily attack rate (ADAR) for the past two weeks.

The 10 regions with uptrend in COVID-19 cases are Regions 4B (MIMAROPA), 5 (Bicol Region), 6 (Western Visayas), 8 (Eastern Visayas), 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula), 11 (Davao Region), the Caraga region and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Aside from Zamboanga Peninsula and BARMM, Cagayan Valley and Calabarzon in Luzon now have “high risk” health care utilization.

But nationwide, De Guzman said, average daily COVID cases have gone down to 5,886 compared to the peak of over 10,000 in April.

She said the DOH is targeting to reduce it further to 2,000 cases per day.

The daily average of COVID nationwide was only over a thousand in January.

Despite the uptrend in cases, De Guzman said the DOH sees no need for stricter quarantine measures in the Visayas and Mindanao, at least for now.



“The rationale is even if we are seeing case increases, if our health care capacity can accommodate case increase, no need to tighten community restriction,” De Guzman said.

“That’s why we check health care utilization rate, that’s where we base any decision to escalate community quarantine level,” she said. “At the moment, we see no such scenario in these areas.”

Confirmed COVID cases nationwide rose to 1,154,388 as the DOH logged additional 4,487 cases. Of the total number, 1,082,725 or 93.8 percent represent recoveries.

Active cases stand at 52,291 comprising 4.5 percent of the total cases. Additional 110 deaths brought to 19,372 the number of COVID-related fatalities or 1.68 percent of total cases.

The DOH is aiming to cut down the daily average of COVID cases in NCR to at least 500 from the current 1,070 cases, and the plus areas to 200 per day.

In an interview Monday night with OneNews “The Chiefs,” Health Undersecretary Leopoldo Vega expressed optimism that decline in COVID cases would continue despite the easing of quarantine restrictions.

Vega pointed out that heightened restriction would keep the people from becoming complacent as they would likely strictly follow minimum health protocols.

“In other words, heightened restriction only means it has to be calibrated, this has to be different from the old GCQ because there might emerge a sense of complacency among the people and they forget everything as if it’s back to normal and that’s when we experience this kind of surge,” Vega explained.

Vega further reported that for the past months, the DOH has been working to improve the health care capacity. Authorities have also strengthened border controls to keep COVID-19 variants at bay.

### **Variants everywhere**

De Guzman, meanwhile, also reported that other COVID-19 variants have been detected in the country’s 15 regions.

She said said variants of concern were found in 35 percent of the total 5,991 samples subjected to genome sequencing.

“B 1.1.7 (UK variant) were found in 12 regions and B.1.351 (South African) variants were found in 15 regions,” De Guzman noted. Both UK and South African variants were detected in 11 regions nationwide.

She noted that P.1 (Brazil) and B.1.617.2 (Indian) variants were detected only among incoming travelers. There was a 15 percent increase in the detection of variants among incoming travelers.

“Based on latest data we can see the rising proportion of cases positive for variant of concern,” De Guzman said.

Most of the samples were collected from areas where variants had already been detected.

As of May 14, the Philippine Genome Center has detected a total of 967 cases of UK variant infection, 1,109 South African, 12 Indian variant, two Brazil variant and 158 Philippine variant.



She said samples are being collected from areas with high COVID cases to determine if variants are spreading or if they are contributing to overall increase in cases.

Undersecretary Vega said most of the variants detected came from incoming travelers.

“There has been no proof really that there has been local transmission, but this variant came from incoming passengers from abroad,” he said.

He assured the public that the health care system is sufficient to manage COVID cases.

Vega said they have also undertaken measures to improve the One Hospital Command system of referring and navigating patients needing hospitalization and other services.

#### Fewer admissions

Also in an interview with The Chiefs, Philippine General Hospital (PGH) spokesman Jonas del Rosario said the people are now aware of the possibility of a surge and thus are now more compliant with minimum health protocols.

“Generally people are not as careless as before,” he said, noting that COVID admissions in PGHs have dramatically dropped in the past weeks.

He said PGH’s telemedicine program has greatly helped unload the hospital of COVID patients who can get treatment at home.

Meanwhile, the OCTA Research Group said eight local government units (LGUs) in Metro Manila are now classified under “moderate risk” following the continuous decrease in new COVID-19 cases.

According to OCTA, the DOH classifies as high risk those that have an average daily attack rate of more than 10 infections per 100,000 population.

From May 11 to 17, the following LGUs recorded an average daily attack rate that is below the stated threshold: Navotas (4.49), Malabon (7.65), Manila (7.86), Caloocan (8.83), Muntinlupa (9.06), Taguig (9.39), Pasay (9.40) and Parañaque (9.94).

Other Metro Manila LGUs that are still considered high risk are Valenzuela (10.23), Marikina (10.35), Las Piñas (11.09), Quezon City (11.37), Pasig (13.21), Mandaluyong (13.29), Makati (14.08), Pateros (16.18) and San Juan (17.56).

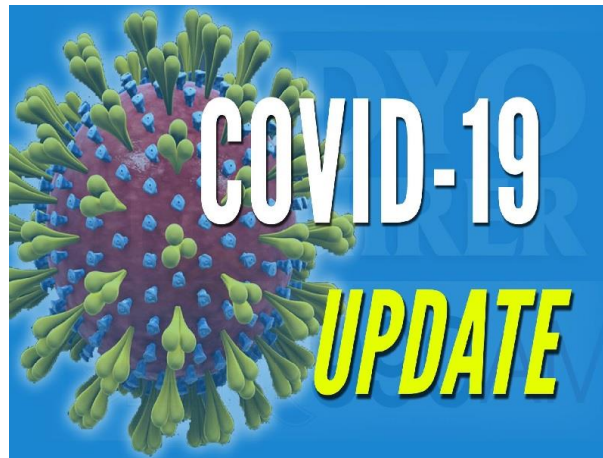
During the period, Metro Manila recorded an average of 1,417 new cases per day or a daily attack rate of 10.26 per 100,000 population.

OCTA said the number of new cases in the region continues to decrease, with the positivity rate – which indicates the number of persons a positive individual can infect – dropping further to 0.57. – **Janvic Mateo, Gilbert Bayoran**



# Global death toll bunsod ng COVID-19, higit 3.40 milyon na

By Angellic Jordan May 18, 2021 - 01:30 PM



Lagpas 3.40 milyon na ang bilang ng mga nasawing COVID-19 patient sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, umakyat na sa kabuuang 3,404,457 ang nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa bunsod ng nakakahawang sakit.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang nasawi dahil sa COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 600,533.

Sumunod na rito ang Brazil na may 436,862 na pumanaw bunsod ng pandemiya.

Nasa 278,751 naman ang death toll sa India habang 220,489 ang napaulat na nasawi sa Mexico.

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

- United Kingdom – 127,684
- Italy – 124,296
- Russia – 116,211
- France – 107,812
- Germany – 86,870
- Colombia – 81,809
- Spain – 79,432
- Iran – 77,222
- Poland – 71,675
- Argentina – 71,027

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 164,279,345 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 144,203,333 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/292192/global-death-toll-bunsod-ng-covid-19-higit-3-40-milyon-na>



# Half a million CoronaVac to arrive in PH on May 20

May 18, 2021 4:24 PM by [Christhel Cuazon](#)



*Another batch of COVID-19 vaccines from Chinese manufacturer Sinovac has arrived in the country on Friday, May 7.  
(Photo courtesy: National Task Force Against COVID-19)*

At least 500,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines from Chinese manufacturer Sinovac will arrive in the country on Thursday, May 20, vaccine czar Carlito Galvez confirmed on Tuesday.

The country earlier received 1.5 million doses of government procured CoronaVac doses.

Aside from CoronaVac, the Philippines also received AstraZeneca and Sputnik-V vaccines.

In its latest data, the government has so far administered over three million doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

19 MAY 2021, WEDNESDAY



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