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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR's Cimatú leads CCAM-DRR pre-Sona event at PICC in Pasay City



[BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

JULY 19, 2021

4 MINUTE READ



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatú

Call it President Duterte's "last hurrah" before he steps down from the Palace on June 30, 2022.

A week before the event, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been tasked to lead a Cabinet Cluster tasked to outline the gains and the thrusts to be carried out into the post Covid-19 era.

This will be President Duterte's last State of the Nation Address (Sona) before he steps down to give way for the transition of power in Malacañang.

As the head of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), the DENR will be reporting on the government's accomplishments in building resilient and sustainable communities and, at the time, of the coronavirus crisis during the pre-Sona forum slated for July 22.

With the theme, "Pamanang Katatagan," the forum is one of the five pre-Sona forums leading up to the anticipated sixth and final Sona of President Duterte on July 26.

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



DENR's Cimatú leads CCAM-DRR pre-Sona event at PICC in Pasay City

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

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

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

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

"Concrete, measurable and sustainable accomplishments that have been nurtured, build on for the last five years and will steer us even into the post-Covid-19 era will be certainly the hallmarks of this forum," Cimatú said in a news statement.

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

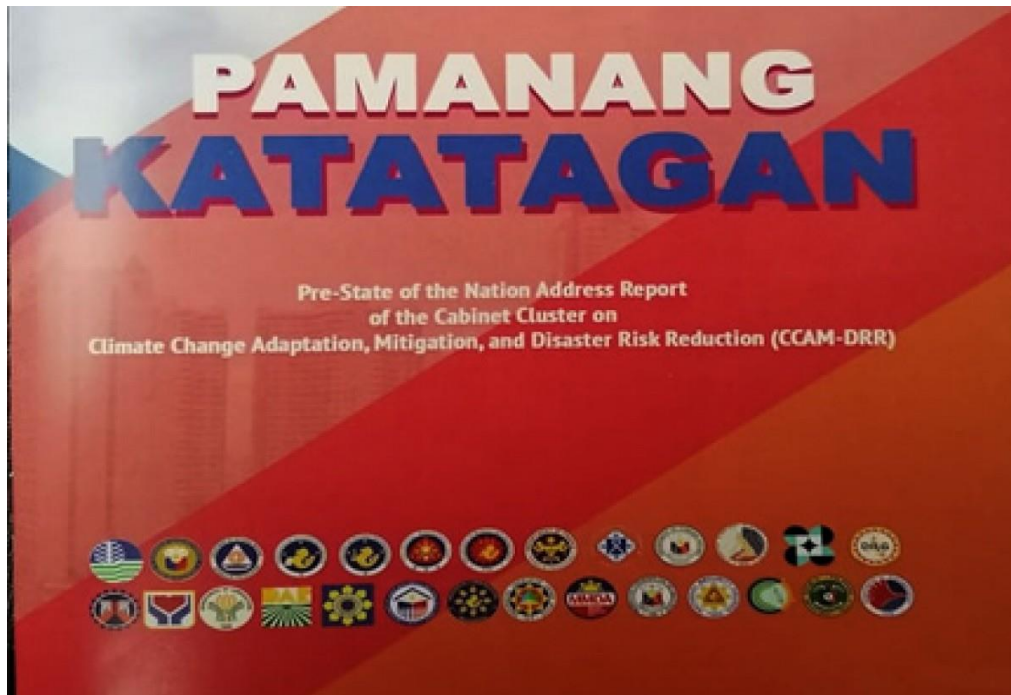
"Pamanang Katatagan" is the final installment of the five pre-Sona forums staged under the umbrella theme "Pamanang Pagbabago: The 2021 pre-Sona Forums."

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

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

DENR-led Cabinet cluster to outline gains, thrusts into post-COVID-19 era at pre-SONA forum

Published on: July 19, 2021
By DENR



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

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

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[DENR to outline gains, thrusts into post-Covid-19 era at pre-SONA forum](#)

JUL 19, 2021, 12:14 PM



Santiago Celario
Writer

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

The forum, with the theme, "*Pamanang Katatagan*," is one of five government-led forums to be held in the run-up to President Rodrigo Duterte's sixth and final State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 26.

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RIVER REHAB, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PRAYORIDAD NG DENR

July 19, 2021 [Rannie Lao](#)



PRAYORIDAD ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang pagsasagawa ng malawakang clean-up sa mga ilog at tamang pamamahala ng solid waste sa nalalabing termino nito sa kagawaran.

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

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

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

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

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



RIVER REHAB, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PRAYORIDAD NG DENR

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

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

“I still have a little than a year to go. I would like to see the mark of professionalism from the central office down to the PENROs and CENROs,” dagdag pa ni Cimat. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



MALAWAKANG CLEAN-UP AT TAMANG PAMAMAHALA NG SOLID WASTE, PRAYORIDAD NI CIMATU



July 18, 2021 @ 11:25 PM 1 day ago

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Kampanya ng DENR sa pagsalba ng watersheds, pinaunlakan ng Japan



July 19, 2021 @ 4:53 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines—Pinaunlakan ng Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) ang alok ng Philippine government na isalba ang *watershed resources* ng bansa.

Nagtulong ang JICA at Forestland Management Project (FMP) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang isulong ang lokal na pamamahala sa kagubatan ng mga probinsya ng Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Ifugao, Nueva Ecija, at Iloilo.

Tinawag nilang “Save Our Watershed” ang kampanyang ito na siyang tutulong upang mabawasan ang kahirapan, epekto ng *climate change* at matulungan ang kalikasan sa panahon ng mga sakuna.

Ang mga *watershed* ang tumutulong upang maiwasan ang pagbaha at pagguho ng lupa at ito rin ang nag-iimbak sa suplay ng tubig.

Matatandaang lubos na naapektuhan ang suplay ng tubig sa Cagayan Valley noong tumama ang bagyong Ulysses taong 2020 na siyang nagtulak na maisulong ang kampanyang ito.

Ayon kay JICA Chief Representative, importante ang pagkonserba sa mga *watershed* sa bansang gaya ng Pilipinas na madalas tamaan ng mga bagyo.

“We hope that the Save Our Watershed campaign will pave the way for intensified and countrywide action involving more stakeholders, including partnerships with local government units, private sector, civil society, academe, and media. This complements JICA-DENR partnerships with some 149 people’s organizations through FMP,” lahad niya.



Kampanya ng DENR sa pagsalba ng watersheds, pinaunlakan ng Japan

Sa ngayon, ang kampanyang “Save Our Watershed” ay nakatulong na upang makapagtanim ng mga puno sa 71,300 ektaryang lupain.

“We hope that the spirit of this Save Our Watershed campaign ripples through our DENR regional offices, foreign-assisted projects, and LGUs with initiatives on watershed conservation,” saad ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu. **RNT/Riza Guarin-trainee**



14.6K hectares of bamboo plantations established in C. Luzon

By Zorayda Tecson July 19, 2021, 7:22 pm



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – More than 14,600 hectares of bamboo plantations have been established in Central Luzon since 2012 to rehabilitate degraded forest areas and stabilize river banks in the region.

DENR Region 3 (Central Luzon) Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr., in a social media post on Monday, said the propagation of bamboo in the region is in support of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu's order to plant and use bamboo as priority species to rehabilitate river banks and the Manila Bay.

Cimatu considers bamboo as an effective resource to rehabilitate degraded forestlands and promote the development of sustainable bamboo plantations for the wood industry.

"Help us plant more bamboo species to make our communities resilient against disasters and calamities," Moreno said, addressing villagers.

Known as the "poor man's lumber," bamboo has become a "green gold" resource because of its increasing value in the global economy and its sustainability, being among the fastest-growing and versatile forest products in the country.

According to studies, there are 62 bamboo species in the Philippines, and 21 of these are considered endemic to the country.

Four bamboo species are planted in Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP) sites in the region: the Bayog (*Bambusa blumeana* variety *Luzonensis*); Kawayan Tinik (*Bambusa blumeana*); Kawayan Kiling (*Bambusa vulgaris*); and Giant Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus giganteus*).

Aside from its extensive use in the construction and handicraft industries, bamboo plays a vital role in developing disaster-resilient communities by rebuilding eroded soil and stabilizing critical areas against landslides.

It also helps in mitigating the impacts of climate change and global warming by absorbing a high amount of carbon dioxide and emitting a high level of oxygen. *(PNA)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1147543>



DENR reports 14, 6999 hectares of bamboo planted in Central Luzon

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

July 19, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported that more than 14,600 hectares of bamboo plantations have been established in Central Luzon since 2012, through the Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP).

The DENR said this is part of the bid to rehabilitate degraded forest areas and stabilize river banks in the region.

Known as the "poor man's lumber," bamboo has grown to be a "green gold" resource because of its increasing value in global economy and its sustainability as among the fastest-growing and versatile forest products in the country.

In fact, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu eyes bamboo species as an effective resource to rehabilitate degraded forestlands, and likewise promotes the development of sustainable bamboo plantations for the wood industry.

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Illegal logs lumutang sa ilog sa Isabela



July 19, 2021 @ 5:23 PM 12 hours ago

ISABELA – Halos humigit kumulang 1,000 board feet ng mga common hardwoods ang palutang-lutang na narekober ng Ilagan City Police Station at Provincial Task Force sa bahagi ng ilog sa Barangay Bintacan, Ilagan City, Isabela

Sinabing halos mahigit isang libong board feet ang kanilang narekober na inabando na palutang-lutang sa ilog.

Ang mga narekober na kahoy ay dinala na sa Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon.

Hanggang sa ngayon ay inaalam ng pulisya kung sino ang nasa likod ng mga ilegal na pinutol na kahoy na pinapaanud sa ilog. **(REY VELASCO)**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/illegal-logs-lumutang-sa-ilog-sa-isabela/>



DENR-Davao Region seizes illegal timbers



Contributed photo

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

July 19, 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DENR-Davao Region seizes illegal timbers

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

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



‘Dolomite beach’ sa Baywalk binuksan na



Dinagsa ng mga pamilya ang dolomite beach sa Baywalk Manila nang ito ay muling buksan sa publiko simula kahapon hanggang Martes. Inabisuhan ang mga bisita na panatilihin ang health protocols.

The STAR/Edd Gumban

[Mer Layson](#) (Pang-masa) - July 19, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Binuksan muli ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko ang tinaguriang ‘dolomite beach’ sa Baywalk sa Maynila kahapon ng umaga.

Subalit, limitado lamang ang kapasidad ng beach at nasa 120 katao lamang kada limang minuto ang pinapayagang mamasyal dito.

Limitado lamang ang oras nang pagbubukas mula alas-8:00 ng umaga hanggang alas-11:00 ng umaga at mula alas-3:00 ng hapon hanggang alas-5:00 ng hapon at mananatiling bukas ang dolomite beach sa publiko hanggang sa Martes, Hulyo 20.

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

Nabatid na nagpuwesto sila ng magkaibang entrance at exit sa beach para hindi magsiksikan ang mga tao.

Naglagay rin sila ng mga karatulang nagsasabing bawal ang maglangoy, pagkain, paninigarilyo, pagkakalat ng basura at pagpulot ng buhangin sa beach.

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

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2021/07/19/2113431/dolomite-beach-sa-baywalk-binuksan-na>



5 minutes for mental health? Questions as Manila dolomite beach briefly opens to public

By [Jeline Malasig](#)

- July 19, 2021 - 12:23 PM



Families flock at the "dolomite beach" at Manila Bay, which was opened to the public on July 18, 2021. Visitors are asked to observe strict health protocols. (The STAR/Edd Gumban)

The "Dolomite Beach" in **Manila Baywalk** opened to the public on Sunday with individuals allowed a maximum of a five-minute stay in the regulated area.

Reports said that its opening was a [surprise](#).

The **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** said that Filipinos can [visit](#) the artificial white sand along Manila Bay until July 20, Tuesday, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

They must strictly adhere to the minimum health protocols such as the wearing of face masks and face shields and observance of physical distancing.

Only up to 120 people can be accommodated every five minutes in the area, which is near the United States Embassy in Manila. This means visitors are only allowed to stay for five minutes.

Seniors and minors with adult companions can enter in the vicinity but pets are not allowed.

Eating, drinking, littering and picking up dolomite sand is prohibited.

Visitors are similarly not allowed to swim on the bay since its waters have not yet reached the standard acceptable levels of fecal coliform.

After the three-day opening, the DENR would conduct an assessment to see if they will open the artificial white beach area again.

The agency targets to finish the second phase of the project by October.



Last month, [coconut palms](#) were planted along the baywalk “as part of its “beautification and restoration.”

The overall initiative is part of the **Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program** which aims to clean, rehabilitate and preserve the historic bay.

Meanwhile, the five-minute duration given for Filipinos to enjoy the scenery of the artificial white sand prompted questions from some social media users who recalled the Palace’s remarks on the matter.

“Pero may effect nga ba?” a [Twitter user](#) said, pertaining to the “mental health” comments of President Rodrigo Duterte’s spokesperson before.

“May sense ba talaga ‘to? Anong silbi ng paglalakad ng 5 minutes sa pekeng buhangin?” another [online user](#) wondered.

“Mamamasyal 5 minutes, mas mahal pa pinamasahe nila papunta diyan hahaha!” a different Filipino [exclaimed](#).

“Is that dosage enough?” another [Twitter user](#) wrote in response to the five-minute duration.

The Palace last year defended the dolomite beach project by claiming that walking along the artificial white sands could benefit one’s mental health, especially amid a pandemic.

“Kasi alam mo, sa gitna ng pandemya, kinakailangan din na pangalagaan ang mental health,” presidential spokesperson Harry Roque previously said to [reporters](#).

“I think ‘yung pagpapasyal sa mga lugar gaya ng Manila Bay na may white beach, hindi mo maka-quantify ang epekto niyan pagdating po sa mental health ng ating mga kabababayan, ‘yung kapayapaan ng pag-iisip at ‘yung break from ‘yung dangers ng pandemic,” he added.

“Right now, Manila Bay is known for its sunset, probably the best sunset in the world. With the white beach there, it will be one of the most picturesque sceneries in the whole world,” Roque further claimed.

Indie musician **Chall** protested against the project by [uploading a video](#) of him on loop staring at a picture of the artificial white sands for his supposed mental health.

Responding to the criticisms, [the DENR said](#) that the rehabilitation project amid the COVID-19 pandemic “is not untimely.”

It said that it was approved by Congress under the 2019 General Appropriations Act and that it underwent competitive bidding under Republic Act 9184.

The agency added that the contract was awarded prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and that “the government cannot simply stop a project when it is already under a contractual obligation to proceed.”

“Beach nourishment mainly aims to rehabilitate and protect the coastal resources in the area to prevent coastal flooding and erosion,” it further said.

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2021/07/19/196190/5-minutes-for-mental-health-questions-as-manila-dolomite-beach-briefly-opens-to-public/>



BEACH BUMS

July 20, 2021



Visitors take photos at the dolomite-covered part of Manila Bay on Monday, the second day the area was opened to the public. PHOTO BY ENRIQUE AGCAOILI



GMA News

10h · 🌐

TINGNAN: Dolomite sand beach sa Manila Bay, binuksan sa publiko kahapon, July 18, 2021.

Ibinahagi ni YouScooper John Villanueva Puzon ang ilang larawan ng dolomite sand beach sa Manila Bay na bukas na muli sa publiko. Pinapayagang bumisita ang mga residente mula kahapon hanggang sa Martes, July 20, 2021. Limang minuto lamang ang puwedeng itagal ng mga bibisita sa white sand area.

Photo Courtesy: John Villanueva Puzon

PANOORIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://bit.ly/3zcL9Ya> ✓

See Translation





Cop, 2 minors nabbed for hunting 'flying foxes' in GenSan

By Richelyn Gubalani July 19, 2021, 5:56 pm



FLYING FOXES. Photo shows the illegally hunted large flying foxes (*Pteropus vampyrus*) recovered by environment and police personnel from a policeman and two other minors in an enforcement operation in Barangay Conel, General Santos City on Sunday afternoon (July 18, 2021). The suspects will be charged with violation of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation a Protection Act. (Photo courtesy of General Santos City police station no. 4)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Police and environment personnel arrested a policeman and two other minors after being caught in possession of illegally hunted bats in a village here over the weekend.

Capt. Abdulsalam Mamalinta Jr., acting chief of city police Station 4, identified the suspects as S/Sgt. Ibañez Faldas, 33, a member of Polomolok municipal police station in South Cotabato, and aliases Kyle, 17, and Carlo, 15.

He said the three were found with 59 heads of large flying fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*) in an enforcement operation led by personnel from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) around 2 p.m. Sunday in Purok Guadalupe, Barangay Conel.

Mamalinta said the illegal activity was discovered by CENRO personnel based on a tip from concerned residents.

He said the agency, through its head Elvira Lumayag, immediately coordinated the matter with their station and confirmed the presence of the suspects.

Aside from the large flying foxes, which is considered as among the critical fruit bat species, he said they confiscated from the suspects a 12-gauge shotgun without serial number and six assorted motorcycle units.

“The investigation is ongoing regarding the extent of the illegal hunting activity in the area and the possible involvement of other persons,” Mamalinta said in a report.



Cop, 2 minors nabbed for hunting 'flying foxes' in GenSan

The police official said Faldas and the two minors, all residents of Barangay Silway 8 in Polomolok, will be charged through inquest with violation of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

The policeman is currently detained at Station 4 in Barangay San Isidro while the minors were brought to the local government-run Bahay Pag-Asa in Barangay Sinawal for temporary custody.
(PNA)



Serpent eagle freed in Cagayan town

By: [Villamor Visaya Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@VillVisayaJrINQ](#)
[Inquirer Northern Luzon](#) / 10:32 AM July 19, 2021



This serpent eagle is released back into its natural habitat in Baggao town, Cagayan province, after a farmer rescued it.
(Photo from MENRO-Baggao)

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A serpent eagle (*Spilornis holospilus*) was released back into the forests after a farmer rescued it in Baggao town, Cagayan province Friday.

Frederic Tomas, Baggao municipal environment and natural resources officer, said on Sunday (July 18) that farmer Jacinto Dela Cruz found the eagle in Barangay Carupian on July 16, while a dog was about to attack it.

Dela Cruz then turned over the bird to the local government unit, which immediately freed it.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1461289/serpent-eagle-freed-in-cagayan-town#ixzz716oQY9Le>

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Planned Pasig River expressway may just make traffic, pollution worse — groups



[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - July 19, 2021 - 9:14am

MANILA, Philippines — Transport, environmental and heritage institutions said the proposed Pasig River Expressway (PAREX) project of conglomerate San Miguel Corp. will not only make congestion in Metro Manila worse but will also pose threats to health and the environment because of increased pollution.

SMC presented its plans to build a P95-billion thoroughfare that will connect the eastern and western portions of Metro Manila through a 19-kilometer elevated expressway over the Pasig River during an online public consultation on July 14.

The planned expressway will have six lanes and will be divided into three segments.

PAREX is seen by its proponent as a solution to solve traffic and clean up the heavily-polluted Pasig River that cuts across the capital region.

But transport advocacy group Move As One Coalition stressed PAREX will only worsen traffic due to induced demand, or the increase in people using that road because it is there. Eventually, they said, the volume of traffic will be too much for the new expressway, leading to congestion.

"If you have an expressway that is primarily for the use of private motor vehicles, we are in effect encouraging the use of private motor vehicles within a dense urban area like Metro Manila," Robert Siy Jr., coalition convenor, said.



Planned Pasig River expressway may just make traffic, pollution worse — groups

"Investment in an expressway like this, which is for the main use of private motor vehicles, delivers the message to everyone that you need to have a private motor vehicle in order to move around our city efficiently," he added.

Engineer Egay Doña, representative of the SMC, said that induced demand is possible but stressed the project is better than doing nothing.

"If we don't do anything, we will still be challenged by bumper to bumper traffic along EDSA... Actually this project is supposed to alleviate that traffic but I do understand the concern," he said.

"In fact, this is the phenomenon we have observed: if you build a good road, if you build a facility, it entices generation of more traffic but if we don't do anything, the same traffic will be plying the congested roads."

Environmental concerns

In a [statement released in April](#), Move As One Coalition said PAREX will increase greenhouse gas emissions in the Philippines. It is feared to impede the country's effort to meet its commitment to slash these emissions by 75% by 2030.

[In a separate statement released in June](#), they said the elevated expressway could make the lives of "millions who have a constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology" worse.

The coalition also said the proposed expressway will make the rehabilitation of the 27-kilometer Pasig River impossible. They said the river "can be revived and transformed into a green public space where people can enjoy the best views, stroll, cycle, and have fun."

The construction of elevated expressway is also seen to destroy the sightlines of heritage structures along the historic Pasig River.

"It's not actually a solution but a problem that will not solve the intended traffic concerns, that will not solve air pollution, that will not solve the health of our riverine ecosystem that could be cleaned up even without the expressway," policy researcher Ken Abante said.

Health impacts

Organizations also pointed out the expressway will worsen air pollution in Metro Manila, increasing people's vulnerability to air pollution-related deaths.

"We must anticipate the pollution, the emissions of all these slow-moving vehicles," Siy said.

Architect and environmental planner Leandro Poco called for an assessment of the project's impacts on human health.

"Health impacts I think are primary not just to the users but to the people on ground level who are the most affected by pollution and by the prospect of this expressway cutting through their neighborhoods," he said.



Planned Pasig River expressway may just make traffic, pollution worse — groups

No detailed design yet

Doña said the SMC has yet to develop the project's detailed engineering design.

“Once approved, we can start with the rigors of doing the detailed engineering design. We will finish that in one year. While we're working on the detailed engineering design, we'll start the construction of the longer segment. In the end, we hope to complete all the segments at the end of the fourth year,” he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

The public scoping held last week was part of the requirements for the project's environmental permit, which will be issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

SMC is expected to conduct a baseline study after the technical scoping. Then a review and a public hearing will be conducted. A final review will be conducted before the department decides if it will grant or reject the conglomerate's application for Environmental Compliance Certificate.



SMC Global Power to complete reforestation, carbon capture project

[Danessa Rivera](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 20, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. (SMCGP), the power unit of diversified conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC), targets to complete its reforestation and carbon capture project by September.

By then, SMCGP would have planted three million trees, aligning with its renewable energy push.

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

Planting of the remaining 320,000 trees is expected to be completed by September in the seven provinces and Bulacan.

From 2019 to 2020, the company, together with farmer and fisherfolk organizations at or near planting sites, had planted nearly two million seedlings and propagules.

Tree varieties in the upland plantation are Narra, Molave, White Lauan, Palosapis, Agoho, Batino, Igang, and Malabayabas, while mangrove varieties include Bakawan Babae, Bakawan Lalaki, Bungalon, and Api-Api. The survival rates of upland trees and mangrove propagules planted are at 89 and 91 percent, respectively.

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

Started in 2019, SMCGP’s reforestation and carbon capture program dubbed Project 747 aims to plant seven million trees or a million trees every year over 4,000 hectares in at least seven provinces to help mitigate climate change.

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

Incentives are provided to partner organizations for activities like nursery establishment and maintenance plantation establishment and maintenance. Aside from the Biochar program, appropriate livelihood programs are also identified depending on the area.

Project 747 complements SMC’s goal of adding cleaner and renewable power facilities into its power portfolio after dropping plans to put up three clean-coal power plants with a capacity of 1,500 megawatts (MW) as part of SMC’s larger sustainability goals.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/07/20/2113634/smc-global-power-complete-reforestation-carbon-capture-project>



Group sees China ‘intrusion’ in implementation of Dumaguete City land-reclamation project



BY [JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

JULY 19, 2021

2 MINUTE READ

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Monday warned that the implementation of a controversial land reclamation project proposal in Dumaguete City may open the gates to Chinese “encroachment” in surrounding waters.

“All the more reason to oppose this reclamation project that would involve a Chinese construction firm as this may be a prelude to another takeover of our waters and plunder of marine resources,” the group said in a news statement.

Expressing its strong opposition against the proposed 174-hectare reclamation in Dumaguete City, the group said the involvement of China-based construction firm Poly Changda Overseas Engineering Co. is fueling their suspicions.

Pamalakaya warned against what it called “sellout of pristine marine waters to China,” which the group said is plundering the Philippines’s exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea.

“The environmental catastrophe that the reclamation project would bring to the marine ecosystem is one thing, but having a Chinese firm as its subcontractor is quite another. We all know how China rampantly occupies our exclusive economic zone and exploits our marine resources at the expense of the livelihood of our fisherfolks and the national patrimony,” Fernando Hicap, a former Anakpawis party-list representative and current national chairperson of the group said.

Pamalakaya earlier added its voice to the growing opposition against the Dumaguete reclamation project due to devastating impacts to the marine environment, coastal communities, and local fish supply.

“Having China in the picture makes the Dumaguete reclamation project not only an environmental and socioeconomic concerns, but also a matter of national patrimony. This is not development, this is profit-driven project and foreign takeover in disguise,” Hicap said.

The group said it would unite the local fishing communities with the environmental and science sectors in opposing the “destructive” reclamation project, and the “creeping Chinese encroachment” of different parts of the Philippine seas.

“Akin with how we resist Chinese incursion in the West Philippine Sea, we will expose and oppose this apparently new wave of Chinese plunder and encroachment in the Philippine waters,” Hicap said.



Reclamation in Dumaguete faces new opposition

By Mary Judaline Partlow July 19, 2021, 8:37 pm



RECLAMATION PROJECT OPPOSED. Nancy Estoloso (right), president of the People's Development Council (PDC), submits to Lawyer Fran Tolcidas, secretary of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Dumaguete City, their opposition letter to a P23-billion proposed reclamation project on Monday (July 19, 2021). The PDC was established through a city ordinance to act as "partners" of the local government on policy formulation, among other endeavors. *(Photo courtesy of PDC)*

DUMAGUETE CITY – The People's Development Council (PDC) here on Monday submitted its position paper/letter to the Sangguniang Panlungsod opposing the planned 174-hectare coastal reclamation project here, citing at least two immediate concerns.

The PDC was established through a city ordinance to act as "partners" of the local government on policy formulation, among other concerns and endeavors.

The PDC is the latest sector/group to issue a statement against the PHP23-billion unsolicited proposal of EM Cuerpo, Inc. to the city government for a massive offshore reclamation that would pave the way for a "Smart City", complete with 5G technology, high-rise buildings, malls, waste water treatment facilities and other businesses aimed at generating jobs and pump-priming the local economy.

"Niining mga nanglabay nga mga adlaw, dako ang kabalaka o kakugang sa mga miyembro sa PDC sa proyekto nga 174 hectares reclamation project nga gipagawas sa social media (These past days, PDC members were shocked and worried over the 174-hectare reclamation project that was reported on social media)," the letter read.

The group said that after having gleaned additional information based on Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo's presentation on the said project and other sources, it is raising two major proposals -- the holding of a public consultation and seeking transparency regarding the planned venture.

The PDC also emphasized the need to consult scientists and other experts to determine the project's impact on the environment and the people.



Reclamation in Dumaguete faces new opposition

On transparency, they said the people must be informed about everything regarding the reclamation project, such as the processes, the people, private sectors, and others involved in it, the group said.

The PDC is asking the mayor and members of the city council to rescind the resolution granting authority to the local chief executive to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the city and the proponent; conduct massive public consultation; and present all documents from the proponent, the MOU, subcontractors, and others.

The letter noted that the PDC is a body created by virtue of a city ordinance for the establishment of a partnership between the city and non-government organizations, people's organizations, and the private sector.

PDC representatives sit on 11 standing committees of the Sangguniang Panlungsod as mandated by the ordinance to help in policy formulation, but the group said in its letter "apan ang among gibati nga kami gibaliwala (we feel that we are being ignored)." (PNA)



Probe on improper disposal of medical wastes underway

(The Freeman) - July 20, 2021 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu City Health Department is conducting an investigation into the alleged improper disposal of medical wastes traced to one of the city's vaccination centers.

Dr. Jeffrey Ibones, officer-in-charge of Cebu City Health Department and head of Cebu City Vaccine Operations Center, said an investigation is underway to determine why used COVID-19 vaccine syringes from Don Bosco vaccination site were disposed of without observing the protocols.

"Amo panang gitan-aw unsay nahitabo ana niya kay isolated case rana siya, murag dili man gyud ang tanan gyud no, tingali'g naa lay nasagol [o] unsay nahitabo ana, kay naa man gud na siyay sudlanan," Ibones said.

Ramil Ayuman, officer-in-charge of Cebu City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, posted on Facebook images of medical wastes mixed in ordinary biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes.

Ibones explained that vaccination centers have protocols to observe in the disposal of wastes, especially those considered as biohazards.

"Naa may tigkuha ana ang DPS (Department of Public Services), unya sa PASSI (Pollution Abatement Systems Specialists Incorporated), mao nay atong protocol kay naa man gyud tay mga assignment ana kinsay mga na assign," Ibones said.

Meanwhile, environment and cause oriented groups back Vice Mayor Michael Rama's call for a comprehensive review of the city's solid waste management program.

The group led by EcoWaste Coalition and Sanlakas Sugbo along with 15 other individuals trooped to City Hall yesterday to deliver a letter to Mayor Edgardo Labella and Rama.

The groups call for just solution to the plight of sectors affected by the current system. The LGU is also urged to provide livelihood to waste pickers and other poor sectors affected by the strict adherence to Republic Act 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act.

The group also emphasized the non-burn technologies consistent with the ban on incineration to treat municipal solid, hazardous and infectious wastes as mandated by the Philippine Clean Air Act and RA 9003.

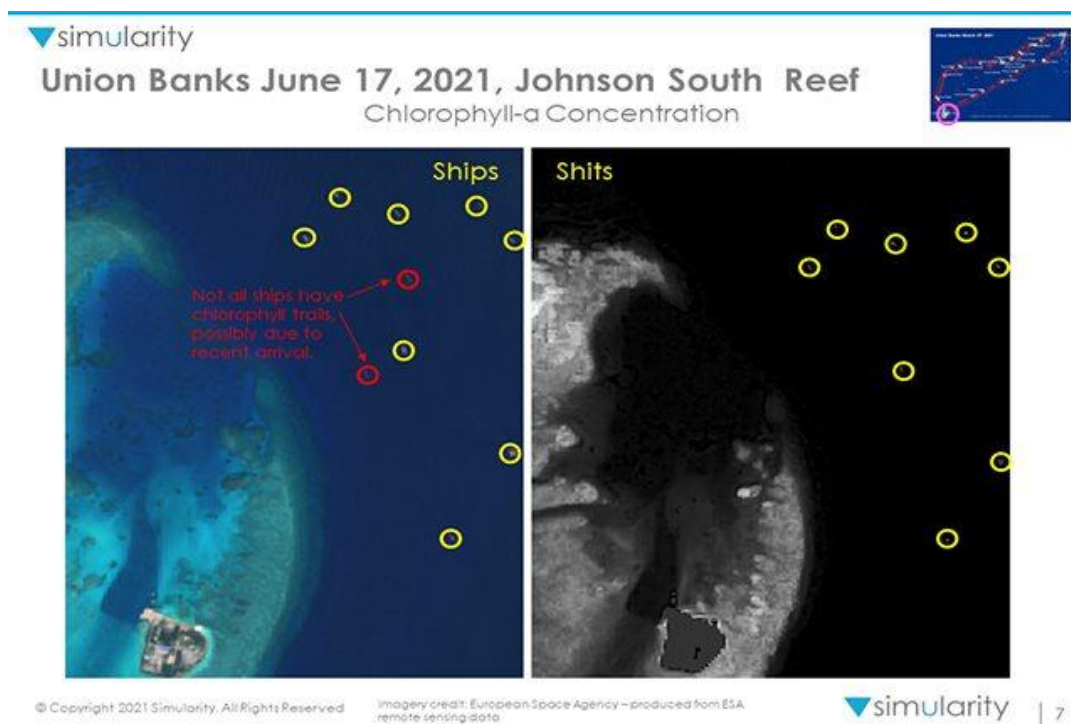
The groups expressed that they couldn't continue this failed approach as it brings bigger financial cost to the city and heavy impact on the environment and public health. — **Dianah Rule D. Salinguhay and Sly Anthonette E.Baseo, CNU Interns . FPL (FREEMAN)**



Reported dumping of human waste in West Philippine Sea gets featured by 9GAG

By [Catalina Ricci S. Madarang](#)

- July 19, 2021 - 1:39 PM



Satellite image from Similarity showing how anchored ships created chlorophyll-a blooms in Union Banks, located entirely within the country's exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea. (Similarity/Released)

The Philippines earned buzz on international communities again. This time, it's about the reported dumping of human waste in the West Philippine Sea.

Hong Kong-based online platform 9GAG, home to memes, stories and edited videos around the world, wrote about the controversial report on its website and [titled it](#) "Human Waste Dumped From Chinese Ships In South China Sea Visible From Space."

The article, which was also shared on social media on July 14, [cited the findings](#) of US-based tech firm **Similarity** in its report titled "Sewage from Anchored Ships is Damaging Spratlys Reefs."

Citing photos captured via satellite imagery, the report showed that hundreds of anchored ships in the Spratlys Islands in the **West Philippine Sea** had been dumping raw sewage onto the reefs for the last five years.

"This is why aliens don't visit us," 9GAG captioned its social media post with the article retelling the report.

In the comments section, social media users, criticized the reported dumping incident.

"Perhaps they're trying to mark that area as their territory or build another man-made island," a Facebook user [said](#).



Reported dumping of human waste in West Philippine Sea gets featured by 9GAG

The same criticisms were also expressed under the comments section of 9GAG article.

“Mostly greed and no concern about ecology or sustainability...destroy everything in its path. Almost the same everywhere but China is doing it at huge scale, and once an area is dead they move to another one, and so on, and one day it will be your backyard,” an online user [said](#).

“China is just a country pushing through 100 years of technology and humanity development in a really short time and weird way,” another user [wrote](#).

In the Similarity report, it was stated that the amount of human waste created excess nutrients and thus, chlorophyll-a concentration that damaged the coral reef ecosystems within Philippine waters.

Liz Derr, co-founder and chief executive officer of Similarity, admitted that she could not verify immediately if the ships were from China.

However, she pointed out the photos of ships the Philippine Coast Guard took before, citing “they are clearly Chinese.”

The Chinese Embassy in Manila dismissed the findings in the report as “fake news.”

“It all started with a foreign agency issuing a report full of lies. Some media immediately spread fake news based on the fabricated report. Finally, some anti-China forces used fake news to accuse and demonize #China,” it said.

It further accused the report of creating “sinophobia” in the Philippines.

“It’s a typical ‘whole industry chain’ aiming at creating hatred and Sinophobia in the Philippines. Will people with common sense see through the trick?” it said.

The **Department of National Defense** last week said that it launched a probe into the reported dumping of sewage onto the WPS.

“We have taken note of the news circulating online about the alleged dumping of waste in the South China Sea. Be that as it may, I have directed the Western Command who has jurisdiction over the WPS to verify and investigate,” [said](#) Defense Secretary **Delfin Lorenzana**.

Lorenzana, however, criticized Similarity’s use of an old photo in its study.

“However, the photo of a ship seen dumping waste accompanying the report was found to have been taken in the Australian Great Barrier Reef in 2014. Therefore, this intent to mislead has cast great doubt on the accurateness of the Similarity report. We also question the conclusion reached by Similarity from just looking at satellite photos,” he said.

Similarity late last week stood by its research, saying, “the imagery and algorithm we used to identify Chlorophyll-a from satellite imagery in our latest report is well researched and validated.”

“The image in question was not used in our research. We never claimed it was from the Spratlys. It was included to provide context for what we are able to see from space, with an image credit: ‘Image source: unknown ship from Marine Executive,’” it [said](#).

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2021/07/19/196203/reported-dumping-of-human-waste-in-west-philippine-sea-gets-featured-by-9gag/>



EDITORIAL - Sinisira at dinudumihan ang West Philippine Sea

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- July 20, 2021 - 12:00am



HINDI raw papayag si President Duterte na magtapon ng dumi ng tao sa West Philippine Sea (WPS) ang China, sabi ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque. Makakatikim umano nang masasakit na salita mula sa Presidente kapag nangyari ito. Ayaw daw ng dumi o basura ng Presidente. Patunay ito nang ipabalik ng Presidente ang mga container ng basura galing ng Canada noong 2017. Nagalit umano ang Presidente sa Canada.

Kaya kung totoo ang report ng Similarity, isang US based technology firm na daan-daang barko ng China ang nagtatapon ng mga dumi ng tao sa Spratly Islands, makakatikim sila ng mura sa Presidente. Sana nga ay mangyari kung totoo ang report ukol sa dumi na tinatapon sa dagat.

Ayon sa report, nakunan ng European Space Agency ng satellite images ang mga barko habang itinatapon ang anila'y dumi ng tao. Lumabas ang report ng Similarity noong nakaraang Hulyo 12.

Sisirain ng dumi ng tao ang corals at iba pang yamang-dagat. Dahil ang mga corals ay tirahan ng isda, posibleng wala nang matirahan ang mga ito at apektado ang pinagkukunan ng pagkain ng mga tao sa rehiyon. Kapag nasira ang corals, dekada ang bibilangin bago manumbalik ang mga ito. Dahil dito babagsak ang commercial fishing sa South China Sea.

Kung may katotohanan ang report na ito, hindi lamang ninanakawan ng isda at mga lamandagat ang Pilipinas kundi ginagawa pang kubeta ng China. Sobra na ang ginagawang ito ng China kaya



EDITORIAL - Sinisira at dinudumihan ang West Philippine Sea

nararapat maimbestigahan. Pero hanggang saan aabot ang imbestigasyon gayung wala namang kinikilala ang China. Maski nga ang UN Arbitrary Tribunal na nagsabing ang mga pinagtatalunang isla ay pag-aari ng Pilipinas ay hindi nila kinikilala. Kapisasong basurang papel daw ang hatol ng arbitration. Kung ito ay pinagtatawanan ng China, paano pa ang imbestigasyon sa dumi na itinatapon umano ng mga ito.

Magmura nga kaya ang Presidente kapag napatunayang dumi ng tao ang itinapon sa West Philippine Sea? Mapagsasalitaan kaya niya nang matatalim at masasakit ang China na pinagkakautangan ng loob dahil sa mga donasyong bakuna?



Climate change sees Swiss Alps add over 1,000 lakes – study

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 08:28 PM July 19, 2021



A picture taken on June 26, 2021, from Thyon shows a view of the 4358 meters high Dent Blanche mountain (L) next to the 4478 meters high Matterhorn mountain in the Swiss Alps. (Photo by Fabrice COFFRINI / AFP)

Geneva, Switzerland — Climate change has dramatically altered the Swiss Alp landscape – at a quicker pace than expected – as melting glaciers have created more than 1,000 new lakes across the mountains, a study published Monday showed.

The inventory of Swiss Glacial lakes showed that almost 1,200 new lakes have formed in formerly glaciated regions of the Swiss Alps since the end of the Little Ice Age around 1850.

Around 1,000 of them still exist today, according to the study published by the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag).

That is far more than the few hundreds the researchers had expected to find at the beginning of the project.

“We were surprised by the sheer numbers,” Daniel Odermatt, head of the Eawag Remote Sensing Group that carried out the study, said in a statement.

He said the “marked acceleration in formation” was also surprising, pointing out that “180 have been added in the last decade alone”.

Glaciers in the Swiss Alps are in steady decline, losing a full two percent of their volume last year alone, according to an annual study published by the Swiss Academies of Science.

And even if the world were to fully implement the 2015 Paris Agreement – which calls for capping global warming at least two degrees Celsius – two-thirds of the Alpine glaciers will likely be lost, according to a 2019 study by the ETH technical university in Zurich.



Climate change sees Swiss Alps add over 1,000 lakes – study



This picture taken on October 01, 2019, shows the surface of the Aletsch glacier above Bettmeralp, Swiss Alps. – The mighty Aletsch — the largest glacier in the Alps — could completely disappear by the end of this century if nothing is done to rein in climate change, a study showed on September 12, 2019, by ETH technical university in Zurich. (Photo by Fabrice COFFRINI / AFP)

The Eawag assessment showed that there was an initial peak in glacial lake formation in the Swiss Alps between 1946 and 1973 when nearly eight new lakes appeared on average each year.

After a brief decline, the lake formation rate surged between 2006 and 2016, with 18 new lakes appearing each year on average, while the water surface swelled by over 400 square meters (4,300 square feet) annually.

This, Eawag said, is “visible evidence of climate change in the Alps”.

The comprehensive inventory was made possible by large troves of data gathered from the Switzerland’s glaciers since the mid-19th century.

In total, the researchers were able to draw on data from seven periods between 1850 and 2016.

For each of the 1,200 lakes formed since 1850, the scientists recorded the location, elevation, shape, and area of the lake at different times, as well as the type of material of the dam and surface drainage.

Based on such basic information, researchers can estimate hazards, including the risk of sudden emptying in the event of a dam failure.

Eawag warned that the growing number of glacial lakes increases the risk of such outbursts and thus the danger of flood waves for the settlements below.

Read more: <https://technology.inquirer.net/?p=110849#ixzz716GipXIg>

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Great Barrier Reef outlook poor despite coral ‘recovery’ – scientists

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 02:05 PM July 19, 2021



This file photograph taken on November 20, 2014, shows an aerial view of the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of the Whitsunday Islands, along the central coast of Queensland. AFP

BRISBANE — The Great Barrier Reef’s outlook remains “very poor” despite coral recovery over the past year, Australian government scientists said Monday, just days before a Unesco ruling on the site’s world heritage status.

The United Nations cultural agency recommended last month that the world’s largest reef system be placed on its [endangered list](#) because of damage to the corals largely caused by climate change.

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) said the corals were currently in a “recovery window” after a reprieve that followed a decade of harmful heat stress and cyclones.

But such opportunities were becoming rarer due to the impact of climate change, the government agency, which has monitored the reef for 35 years, said in its annual report released Monday.

“The increasing prominence of climate-related extreme weather events and crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks is causing more severe and frequent pressures, giving the reef fewer opportunities like this to recover,” CEO Paul Hardisty said.

The scientists surveyed 127 reef sites in 2021 and found hard coral cover had increased at 69 of the 81 locations surveyed in the past two years, largely driven by fast-growing table and branching Acropora corals.

Separate scientific research released last October found the 2,300-kilometer (1,400 miles) system had lost half its corals since 1995, with a series of ocean heatwaves causing mass coral bleaching.



Great Barrier Reef outlook poor despite coral ‘recovery’ – scientists

Britta Schaffelke, research program director at AIMS, said the latest findings provided a “glimmer of hope... that the reef still has resilience”.

But she added that its “outlook into the future is still very poor because of the dangers of climate change and other factors that are impacting on the organisms that make up the reef.”

Australia has launched a last-minute lobbying effort to avoid a World Heritage downgrade, sending the country’s environment minister to Paris to meet with Unesco officials and even taking [key ambassadors on a reef snorkeling trip](#) last week.

UNESCO has urged Australia to take urgent climate action but Canberra has long resisted calls to commit to net zero emissions by 2050.

The conservative government has said it hopes to meet the target “as soon as possible” without harming its commodity-dependent economy, insisting tackling climate change requires a global effort.

The reef was worth an estimated US\$4.8 billion a year in tourism revenue for the Australian economy before the coronavirus pandemic and there are fears an “in danger” listing could weaken its tourist appeal.

A decision is expected around July 23.

Placed on the World Heritage list in 1981, the Great Barrier Reef is one of seven sites globally threatened with a downgrade due to ecological damage, overdevelopment, overtourism or security concerns.

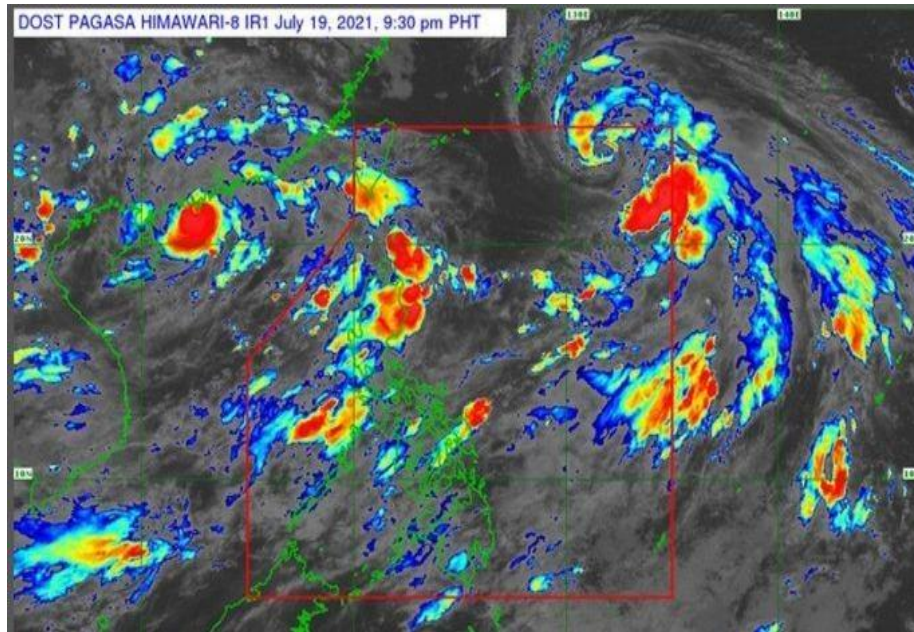
Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1461439/great-barrier-reef-outlook-poor-despite-coral-recovery-scientists#ixzz716pI4r1a>

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Fabian intensifies; flood alert raised

By [Helen Flores](#) (Philstar.com)
- July 20, 2021 - 12:00am



The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said moderate to heavy rains will be experienced in the next 24 hours over the Ilocos region, Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro and Palawan.

MANILA, Philippines — The state weather bureau warned residents of western Luzon yesterday of possible floods and landslides due to monsoon rains triggered by severe Tropical Storm Fabian and another storm outside the Philippine area of responsibility.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said moderate to heavy rains will be experienced in the next 24 hours over the Ilocos region, Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro and Palawan.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the center of Fabian was located 1,075 kilometers east northeast of extreme Northern Luzon, packing winds of 95 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 115 kph.

Fabian (international name In-fa) was “almost stationary” over the sea, the agency said in its 5 p.m. bulletin.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Cempaka was estimated at 945 kms. west northwest of extreme Northern Luzon as of 4 p.m., with maximum sustained winds of 75 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph.

It was moving northwest slowly.

PAGASA said the southwest monsoon will also bring moderate to rough seas (1.5 to 3.1-meter waves) over the western seaboard of Palawan, including the Kalayaan Islands.

The agency advised residents and disaster managers in Batanes and Babuyan Islands to continuously monitor the tropical cyclone bulletins as any further southward shift in the track of Fabian may result in the hoisting of tropical cyclone wind signal No. 1 over these areas.



Fabian intensifies; flood alert raised

Fabian, the country's sixth tropical cyclone, was forecast to exit the Philippine area of responsibility by Thursday afternoon or evening.

PAGASA said Metro Manila, Cordillera Administrative Region, Calabarzon, Western Visayas, Batanes, Cagayan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Bulacan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms due to the southwest monsoon.

Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers or thunderstorms will prevail over the rest of the country, also due to the southwest monsoon.

20 JULY 2021, Tuesday



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5.3K new Covid-19 recoveries Monday: DOH

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz July 19, 2021, 9:13 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Monday reported 5,332 new recoveries from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), with the country’s total now at 1,439,049 or 95.1 percent of all reported infections since last year.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH reported 5,651 new infections, bringing the country’s active cases to 47,561 or 3.1 percent of the total cases.

Of the active cases, most at 91.9 percent have mild symptoms, followed by those with severe symptoms at 2.7 percent, asymptomatic at 1.9 percent, moderate symptoms at 1.88 percent, and those in critical condition at 1.6 percent.

The agency likewise reported 72 new deaths caused by Covid-19, with the country’s total casualties at 26,786 or 1.77 percent of all infections.

Based on the latest testing data, 50,385 Covid-19 tests were administered on Saturday with 11 percent returning positive for the disease.

Meanwhile, health care facilities in Metro Manila remained at moderately low utilization, with 1,100 beds in intensive care units (ICU) at 43 percent occupancy, 4,600 isolation beds at 38 percent, 3,400 ward beds at 34 percent, and 32 percent of 1,000 ventilators in use.

For the whole country, 3,500 ICU beds are at 54 percent utilization, 19,400 isolation beds at 46 percent occupancy, 12,100 ward beds at 44 percent, and 36 percent of 2,800 ventilators in use. **(PNA)**



COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas humataw na sa 1.51 milyon

(Philstar.com) - July 19, 2021 - 4:00pm



The Pasig City government starts vaccinating Pfizer vaccine for the persons with disability and with comorbidities at Pasig Sports Center on July 17, 2021.

The STAR/Boy Santos

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 5,651 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Lunes, kung kaya't nasa 1,513,396 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

lahat ng kaso: 1,513,396

nagpapagaling pa: 47,561, o 3.1% ng total infections

bagong recover: 5,332, dahilan para maging 1,439,049 na lahat ng gumagaling

kamatay lang: 72, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 26,786

Patay sa Delta variant sa Pilipinas umabot na sa 3

Umabot na sa tatlo ang kumpirmadong namamatay sa mas nakahahawang Delta variant ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, matapos lumabas sa datos ng DOH na isang 78-anyos na babaeng unvaccinated ang pumanaw dito sa probinsya ng Antique.

Kaugnay ng tumitinding banta ng Delta variant sa Pilipinas, itinusan na ng Philippine National Police ang mga pwersa nito sa Basilan, Sulu at Tawi-Tawi na patindihin ang pagpapatrolya sa mga island provinces para mapigilan ang lalong pagpasok ng naturang variant mula sa mga karatig bansa.



COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas humataw na sa 1.51 milyon

Bumagsak naman ngayon ang local shares sa Philippine Stock Exchange matapos lumabas ang balita ng detection ng COVID-19 Delta variant sa Pilipinas, bagay na tila sinyales ng papalaking pagkabahala ng mga investors dahil sa banta nito sa economic recovery.

Naghahanda naman ngayon ang rehiyon ng Bikol sa pagdating ng nasa 12 COVID-19 positive crew members sakay ng M/V Tug Clyde at Barge Claudia, na siyang pare-parehong nanggaling sa bansang Indonesia.

Sa bagong datos na inilabas ni presidential spokesperson Harry Roque kanina, lumalabas na umabot na sa lagpas 15 milyong doses ng COVID-19 vaccine na ang naituturok sa Pilipinas simula Marso.

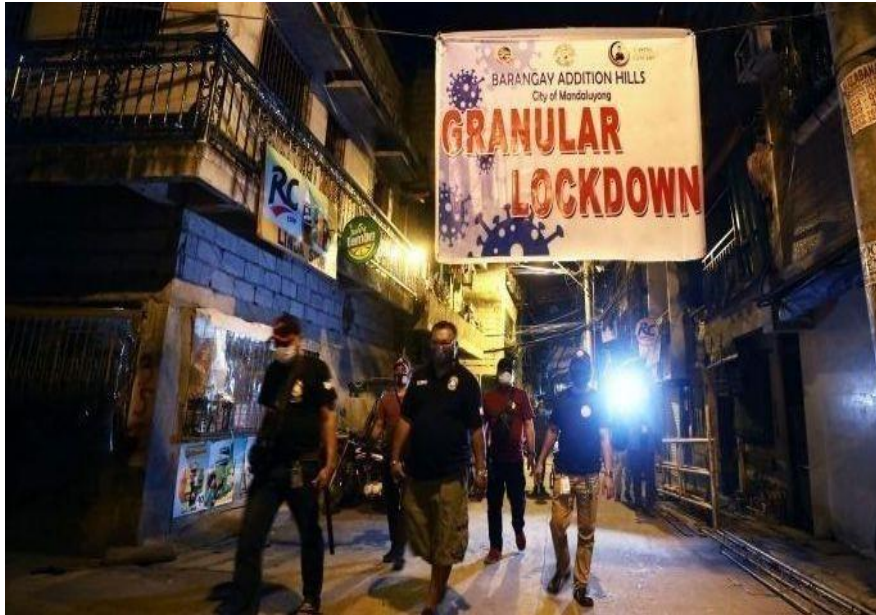
Umabot na sa 188.65 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng World Health Organization. Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 4.06 milyong katao.

— James Relativo



Malacañang mas pabor sa localized lockdown sa pagpigil ng Delta variant

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- July 20, 2021 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Roque na ang isinusulong ng gobyerno ay ang “total health” ng mga mamamayan kung saan lilimitahan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19 habang nagpapatuloy ang paghahanapbuhay upang hindi tumaas ang bilang ng mga nagugutom.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Mas pabor ang Malacañang na ipatupad ang localized lockdown sa mga lugar na posibleng kakitaan ng Delta variant ng COVID-19 upang matiyak na makapagpatuloy pa rin sa paghahanapbuhay ang mas maraming mamamayan.

Inihayag ito Presidential spokesman Harry Roque kasabay sa pagpabor kay Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na ipatupad ang localized granular lockdown.

Sinabi ni Roque na ang isinusulong ng gobyerno ay ang “total health” ng mga mamamayan kung saan lilimitahan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19 habang nagpapatuloy ang paghahanapbuhay upang hindi tumaas ang bilang ng mga nagugutom.

Ayon naman kay Vergeire, lahat ng aksiyon nila ngayon ay “precautionary” at hindi sila maghihintay sa biglang pagtaas ng may COVID-19 dahil sa Delta variant na mas mabilis na makahawa.

Inatasan na nila ang mga local government units na magpatupad ng granular lockdowns kung hindi kayang itaas ang mga community quarantine restrictions sa buong lugar at paigtingin ang “Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate response.

Inihahanda na rin ang kapasidad ng mga ospital para sa mga intensive o critical cases at staffing services.

Pag-uusapan naman sa meeting ng IATF kung ipagpapatuloy o sususpindihin ang pagpapalabas sa mga bata na edad 5 taon pataas.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/07/20/2113741/malacaang-mas-pabor-sa-localized-lockdown-sa-pagpigil-ng-delta-variant/amp/>

20 JULY 2021, Tuesday



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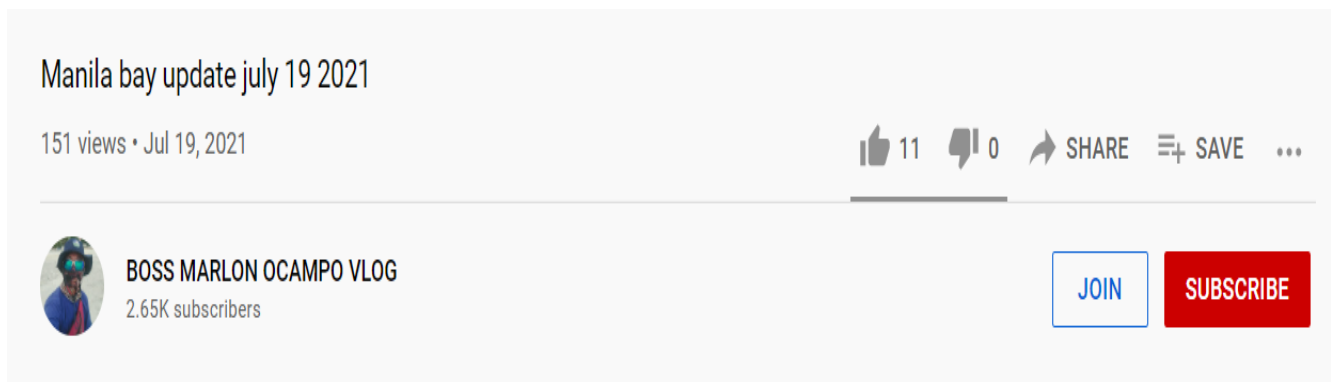
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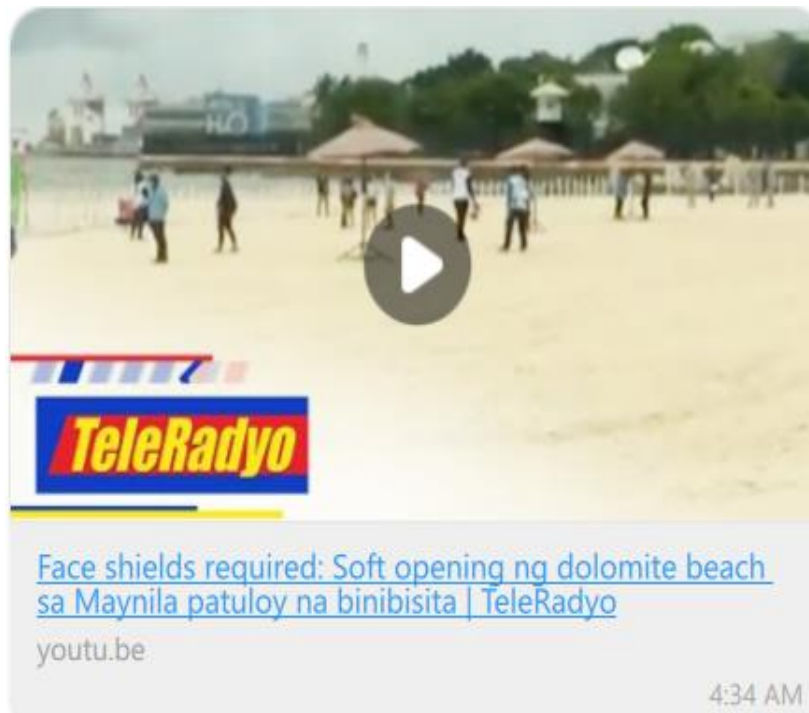
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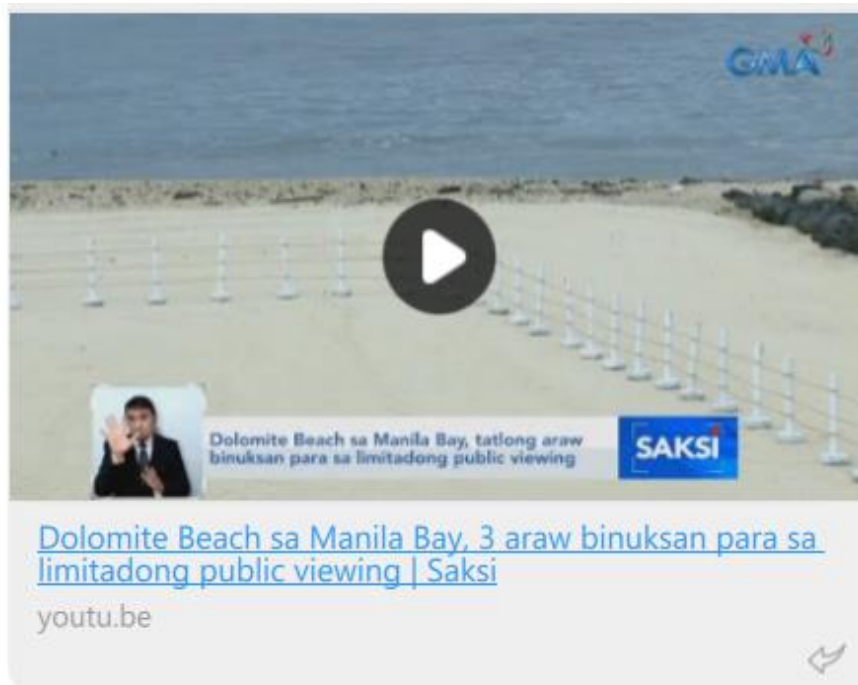
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