

20 JUNE 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cimatu: Dredging in Cagayan River 'on-track'

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) June 20, 2021

ON Friday, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the dredging activities in one of the three priority sandbars along the Cagayan River is on track and will be completed by July this year.

"We are pressing on to stay on track despite the roadblocks brought about by the onset of the rainy season and the logistical hurdles posed by the coronavirus pandemic. But we are pushing forward to finish clearing the sandbar in Lal-lo, Cagayan by the second or third week of July," said Cimatu, who is also the chairperson of Task Force Build Back Better.

He said the task force had already dredged 253,743 cubic meters or 74 percent of 44,304 cubic meters that make up the 11.4-hectare sandbar in Lal-lo, Cagayan.

The dredging operations in two other critical sandbars in the constricted portion of Cagayan River, called the Magapit Narrows, is also being fast-tracked, he added.

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

The Environment chief said the dredging of the sandbar in Barangay Dummun, Gattarran town has already started on June 14, involving an estimated volume of 882,707 cubic meters to be dredged within the projected project period of 170 dredging days.

Meanwhile, the third-priority sandbar is located at Barangay Casicallan Norte, which is also in Gattaran town.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has already deployed its biggest excavating equipment, according to Cimatu.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/06/20/news/regions/cimatu-dredging-in-cagayan-river-on-track/1803901>



After white sand, Baywalk gets coconut palm tree makeover

By [Rhodina Villanueva](#)(Philstar.com) - June 20, 2021 - 12:00am



Joggers rest near coconut palm trees at the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard yesterday. The DENR recently planted adult coconut palm trees to complete the beach makeover of the Manila Bay coastline.

MANILA, Philippines — Matured coconut palm trees about three to four meters high are being planted along the Manila Baywalk as part of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)'s effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, who led the initial planting of 10 coconut palms last Wednesday, said the target is to plant around 60 matured coconut palms to complement the DENR's beach nourishment project.

"So we will undertake coconut planting as part of our restoration and continuing rehabilitation of Manila Bay," said Cimatu, noting that the aim is to bring back the "tropical aura" along Roxas Boulevard.

Based on the assessment conducted by the DENR field office in the National Capital Region (NCR), coconut palms were previously planted in the area but were cut down due to over maturity.

"These coconut trees or palms will add to the aesthetic value of the area because they will give an otherwise plain landscape a distinctly tropical aura, the way this area was years ago," said Cimatu.

The DENR chief added: "It will not only beautify the baywalk portion of the Manila Bay coastline. It will also serve as a living reminder of how much the coconut tree has contributed to our way of life."

The maintenance of the project will be monitored by the DENR-NCR in collaboration with the Parks Development Office of Manila.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/20/2106770/after-white-sand-baywalk-gets-coconut-palm-tree-makeover/amp/>



Beach look, palm trees sa Roxas Boulevard nakumpleto na ng DENR



June 19, 2021 @ 11:02 AM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Mistulang beach na ang Manila baywalk makaraang makumpleto ang paglalagay ng puting buhangin at palm trees.

Sinabi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na sinimulan na nila ang pagtatanim ng mature coconut palm trees sa baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard.



“This area has been planted with coconuts before. Subalit sa ginawang assessment ng ating field office, marami na ang mga naputol o namatay sa paglipas ng panahon,” lahad ni Cimatu.

“So we will undertake coconut planting today as part of our restoration and continuing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.”



“It will not only beautify the baywalk portion of the Manila Bay coastline. It will also serve as a living reminder of how much the coconut tree has contributed to our way of life.” **RNT/FGDC**



DENR completes Baywalk's beach look, plants palm trees on Roxas Boulevard

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 19 2021 09:20 AM



Handout

MANILA — From white sand to palm trees, the Manila baywalk is getting a complete beach do.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Saturday it has started planting mature coconut palm trees at the baywalk on Roxas Boulevard— another phase in the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay at the capital.

This follows its controversial P389-million project dumping crushed dolomite on part of the bay's shore to create an artificial beach, which government said was part of efforts to beautify the bay and help improve Filipinos' mental health during the pandemic.

It has been criticized for being wasteful, as hundreds of millions were spent on the project in the middle of a crippling health crisis.

The agency had a ceremonial planting on Wednesday, where 10 palms were planted.

"This area has been planted with coconuts before. Subalit sa ginawang assessment ng ating field office, marami na ang mga naputol o namatay sa paglipas ng panahon," said Cimatu, noting old pictures showing coconut palms lining Roxas Boulevard.

(But in the assessment of our field offices, many were already cut or died with the passing of time.)

"So we will undertake coconut planting today as part of our restoration and continuing rehabilitation of Manila Bay," he added.

Cimatu, whose agency also recently added boulders to the so-called dolomite beach, said the trees would "add to the aesthetic value of the area because they will give an otherwise plain landscape a distinctly tropical aura, the way this area was years ago."

"It will not only beautify the baywalk portion of the Manila Bay coastline. It will also serve as a living reminder of how much the coconut tree has contributed to our way of life," he added.

The DENR will work with Manila's Parks Development Office in maintaining the trees, he said.

Government has been initiating projects to rehabilitate the Manila Bay, where the waters had been notoriously dirty and the shore littered with trash.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/19/21/denr-completes-baywalks-beach-look-plants-palm-trees-on-roxas-boulevard>



Pagtatanim ng mga coconut palms sa Manila Baywalk, tuloy-tuloy na isinasagawa ng DENR

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Jun. 19, 2021 at 10:45am



uloy-tuloy ang ginagawa ngayon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na pagtatanim ng “matured coconut palms” sa kahabaan ng Baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard, bilang bahagi ng pagsisikap na maibalik ang dating ganda ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, nasa 60 matured coconut palms ang itatanim sa kahabaan ng baybayin bilang bahagi ng beach nourishment project ng ahensiya na layuning maibalik ang “tropical aura” ng Manila Bay.

Aniya, may mga lumang larawan ang Manila Bay na makikita ang coconut palms na nakahilera sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard.

Sabi pa ni Cimatu, ang pagpapatili sa proyektong ito ay babantayan ng DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) sa pakikipagtulungan ng Parks Development Office ng Manila.



Posibleng pagbawi ng open-pit mining ban, pinag-aaralan pa ng DENR



June 18, 2021 @ 8:19 AM 2 days ago

MANILA, Philippines – Pinag-aaralan pa rin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang posibleng pag-alis ng ban sa open-pit mining.

Paglilinaw ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, hindi sakop ng Executive Order No. 130 na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte noong Abril 14 ang pag-aalis ng ban sa open-pit mining.

Layon ng EO 130, na nag-alis sa siyam na taong moratorium sa mineral agreements, na mapalago muli ang ekonomiya at suportahan ang mga proyekto at programa ng gobyerno

“There is nothing in the executive issuance on mining which is EO No. 130 which lifts the ban on open-pit mining. I have conferred with [DENR] USec. Benny Antiporda and he says the matter is still being studied by the DENR,” ani Roque sa Palace press briefing kahapon.

Pero, binigyang-diin muli ni Roque na hindi pa rin katanggap-tanggap sa Pangulo ang open-pit mining.

Nobyembre 2017 nang sang-ayunan si Pangulong Duterte ang open-pit mining ban dahil sa mga pinsalang idinudulot nito sa kapaligiran.

Ipinaalala rin ni Roque ang panawagan ng Pangulo sa mining industry na maghanap ng mga paraan kung paanong makakapagmina ng mineral nang hindi sinisira ang kalikasan.

“But I understand from USec. Benny Antiporda that both the President and Secretary [Roy] Cimatu agreed that the mining industry must reinvent mining in a manner that would ensure that it is sustainable and would cost the least damage to the environment,” dagdag ni Roque.

Ang open-pit mining ay pinapayagan sa ilalim ng Philippine law, pero kinontra ni Pangulong Duterte ang mga rekomendasyon alisin ang ban laban dito.

Ang Pilipinas ay ang pinakamalaking supplier ng nickel ore sa buong mundo at kabilang rin sa mga top producer ng tanso at ginto. *RNT*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/posibleng-pagbawi-ng-open-pit-mining-ban-pinag-aaralan-pa-ng-denr/>



Invasive squirrels: Cute and cuddly but serious threat to biodiversity

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JUNE 20, 2021



A Finlayson's squirrel roams freely, jumping from one tree to the next, at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City.

They may appear to be cute and cuddly. But the Finlayson's squirrel (*Callosciurus finlaysonii*), a nonnative species in the Philippines, is now considered an invasive alien species that threatens Luzon.

The proliferation of the Finlayson squirrel species was first reported in Metro Manila as early as 2000. Now, sightings of the species in Batangas and Nueva Ecija raised concern about the proliferation of the species in other parts of Luzon.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region IV-A, or Calabarzon area, has confirmed threat posed by the Finlayson's squirrel in the province of Batangas.

On the other hand, the DENR Region 3 (Central Luzon) has yet to validate the reported sightings of the invasive squirrel in the area.

Nuisance wildlife

Whether they are naturally occurring or was just introduced in an area, squirrels are often referred to as nuisance wildlife and they present their own unique set of dangers when it comes to their interaction with humans, according to PestWorld.org.

"They can become aggressive when they feel frightened or threatened," it says in an article about squirrels posted in its official website.

Squirrels generally look alike and for the untrained eye, it's hard to distinguish one species from another.

Squirrels are generally small rodents with slender bodies, bushy tails and large eyes, it says in its website.

Their fur is short, soft and silky, and ranges in thickness from species to species and the color of their fur is highly variable. They can be whitish, gray, yellow, red, brown, or even black.

Finlayson's squirrel

Also known as Variable squirrel because of its variable color and pattern, the upper side of the Finlayson's squirrel is of a darker color than the underside, according to the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB).

They thrive naturally in lowland forests, open woods, plantations, and even in dense forests.



The species is highly tolerant of degraded and fragmented habitats. Like other squirrel species, Finlayson's squirrel is a canopy-dweller and feeds mainly on fruit and crops.

Survivor

While it is native to Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, the Finlayson's squirrel has been introduced to other countries such as Italy, Japan, and Philippines where it is now considered an invasive alien species.

According to the DENR-BMB, there's no record of the lifespan of the species in the wild, but in captivity, they are known to survive a maximum of 12 years.

These squirrels are ultimate survivors and threaten other species in the Philippines, including its very own native species.

Native squirrel species

The DENR-BMB said there are nine recorded native species of squirrels in the Philippines. But they are mostly found in Palawan and Mindanao. Luzon has no native species on record.

These are the Philippine pygmy squirrel (*Exilisciurus concinnus*), Northern Palawan tree squirrel (*Sundasciurus juvenus*), Southern Palawan tree squirrel (*Sundasciurus steeri*), Palawan flying squirrel (*Hylopetes nigripe*), Palawan montane tree squirrel (*Sundasciurus rabori*), Philippine tree squirrel/ Mindanao tree squirrel (*Sundasciurus philippinensis*), Mindanao flying squirrel (*Petinomys crinitus*), Culion tree squirrel (*Sundasciurus moellendorffi*) and the Busuanga tree squirrel (*Sundasciurus hoogstraali*).

All these species are endemic to the Philippines, particularly in some islands of Palawan and in Mindanao faunal region.

Establishing populations

The Finlayson's squirrels have successfully established breeding populations in Metro Manila, specifically in the areas with sprawling tree vegetation, like in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City; Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, Quezon City; and Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa City.

The invasive squirrels had been documented to feed on fruits, vegetables, and young shoots of coconut trees. However, they can also attack smaller animals, including birds and their eggs. Since there are no known native squirrels in Luzon, it was widely believed that the invasive species was introduced in the Philippines through the illegal pet trade.

DENR Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamera through a Zoom meeting on June 9, confirmed to the BusinessMirror that the Finlayson's squirrels have also established breeding populations in Batangas.

Attacking farms

"There was a turn-over last November 9, 2020. There were six heads of squirrels. Out of six, upon turnover, one is already weak. The squirrels were turned over by CENRO Calaca to the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center of DENR Region IV-A," Tamera said.

"The caretaker of the farm captured the squirrels using trap for rodents," he said.

In Central Luzon, the DENR Regional Information Officer, Don Guevarra told the BusinessMirror in an interview over Messenger on June 9 that there is no confirmed or verified report of a breeding population existing in the region.



“We still need to verify with the PENROs (Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Office) if there are indeed squirrels in their area,” he said.

Creeping population; threat to farms, wildlife

DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns Edilberto Leonardo, also the concurrent DENR-BMB director, in a telephone interview confirmed that the invasive squirrel are now creeping and establishing breeding populations in Luzon.

Interviewed over the phone on June 15, Leonardo said the squirrels must be recovered but it will require the help of the communities. He appealed to communities to help capture the squirrels and turn them over to the DENR for proper handling and disposal, if necessary.

“We cannot just extinguish them in the wild because we don’t want other species to be affected, like rodents,” he said.

Leonardo said the potential economic damage to farms and agricultural areas of invasive squirrels will be enormous, including damage to the country’s biodiversity.

“It will affect our biodiversity,” he said.

In case of population outbreak, the DENR may take appropriate actions, but in a humane way,” he said.

He said communities can help by trapping the squirrels and turning them over to the DENR. “If the countries where they naturally occur accept them back, we will turn them over. If not, we may accept them and keep them in our rescue center for proper disposal,” he said.

‘Don’t shoot them’

Leonardo advises those who wish to hunt them like the pest they are to do it at their own risks. He reminded them that Republic Act 9147, otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, prohibits such cruelty to animals.

“It is illegal to hunt them in the wild,” he said.

He said the best way is to trap them, as doing so will help prevent those captured from further breeding.

“We need to prevent the spread of their population because they might reach and start to invade our Protected Areas,” he said.

According to the official, the invasive squirrels affecting Metro Manila and other areas in Luzon was a result of their release into the wild.

He warned pet lovers not to release their pets into the wild as they may become a pest in the future, citing the case of the invasive squirrels that have established breeding populations in the wild.

Pet trade

Emerson Sy, a wildlife trafficking specialist, said the proliferation of squirrels in Metro Manila is now spreading fast. “There are also squirrels now in Rizal Province,” he told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on June 16.

A squirrel pair, he said, was recently monitored being sold online. A pair of the Finlayson’s squirrel can fetch P2,500 to P6,000 in the domestic market. He said some of those being sold may have been captured from the wild.



According to Sy, there's a need to tighten watch on the illegal pet trade as he confirmed that unscrupulous traders are trading the Finlayson's squirrels, physically, and online.

He warned that these pet lovers may eventually get tired and release the squirrels into the wild, thereby establishing a viable squirrel population in the area.

"It would be great if the BMB can come up with a policy on invasive species. For instance, there is a special order on the collection of the invasive Chinese softshell turtle. We are now exporting the species for a few years now," he said.

Prolific breeders

According to the DENR-BMB, like other rodents, Finlayson's squirrels are prolific breeders. They have a high reproductive rate because sexual maturity is reached early. Females reach sexual maturity in 2 years and that they have a short gestational period.

Female squirrels are likely to have multiple litters per year. Females have only 1 to 2 offspring during reproduction periods but the species has a polygynous mating system in which both males and females have multiple mating partners during a breeding season.

The DENR-BMB said they feed on agricultural crops, hence it may cause potential loss of income to farmers.

They had been documented to feed on fruits (e.g. lanzones, durian, banana, santol, duhat, mango), vegetables (e.g. patola, patani) and young shoots of coconut trees.

Besides being a potential pest to agriculture, Finlayson's squirrel also poses a potential threat to the Philippine environment, including: loss of native biodiversity (e.g., birds, lizards, and insects) due to predation and competition; spread of non-native diseases; and invasion of protected areas resulting in disruption of ecosystem services. Protected areas and watersheds nearest to Metro Manila are exposed to the highest risk of exotic squirrel invasion.

As early as 2014, the BMB has been trying to fight the proliferation of the invasive squirrels in Metro Manila, but to no avail.

The BusinessMirror learned from sources at the DENR that a Department Administrative Order along with a Technical Bulletin would soon be released to eliminate the invasive squirrels.

Until then, however, these cute and cuddly but pesky rodents will continue to breed under the protection of the Wildlife Act.



A father to the wild, cop adopts crocs

Published June 19, 2021, 6:00 PM by [Liza Abubakar-Jocson](#)

The roles taken on by Police Col. Roel Lami-ing are taking fatherhood to a whole new level. As police provincial director, Lami-ing leads and guides hundreds of PNP personnel deployed all over Zamboanga Del Sur.

At home, Lami-ing is head of a family that includes not only humans but exotically endangered creatures.

Lami-ing and wife Junevell, who serves as Guipos municipal vice mayor, have recently entered into an agreement to adopt two Philippine fresh water crocodiles under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) "Adopt a Wildlife Species Program."



WILD PAIR. The two crocodiles adopted by Police Col. Roel Lami-ing which, contrary to public perception, are being considered by him and his wife as 'stress relievers'. (Police Col. Roel Lami-ing/MANILA BULLETIN)

As adoptive parents of crocodiles Chuy-Chuy and Claudia, the couple agreed to care for and raise public awareness on endangered species.

"Yun passion, interest namin mag-asawa na mag-adopt ng endangered species, yun mga animals subject for extinction. Nakita namin na kailangan din sila alagaan," said Lami-ing. From two crocodiles, the brood has expanded to include another croc, "Dagat; several Anglo-Nubian goats; deer; and ostriches- most of which came from Lami-ing's areas of assignment in Mindanao.

Contrary to public perception, the animals, all housed inside the Lami-ing compound, are considered by the couple as "stress relievers."

The police official also dispels the notion that caring for the animals is expensive and difficult.



Police Col. Roel Lami-ing and wife Junevell, have entered into an agreement to adopt two Philippine fresh water crocodiles under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) "Adopt a Wildlife Species Program."
(P/Col. Roel Lami-ing/MANILA BULLETIN)



“Para kang nag-aalaga ng tao. Like a human being, you give the necessary care,” said Lami-ing, who bared plans to build a mini-zoo.

With this next project, Lami-ing is going a step further in sharing to the world his paternal love for the wild.



Household waste segregation can aid PH climate action

By Catherine Teves [June 19, 2021, 2:55 pm](#)



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is urging households nationwide to segregate waste to help the country meet its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Practicing segregation will enable households to recover waste for composting, DENR Climate Change Information and Technical Support Division chief Albert Magalang said Friday.

"Without waste segregation, composting won't be successful," Magalang said during the Ang Tinig Klima program that tackled the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to help meet the Paris Agreement's global goal of avoiding the onslaught of climate change.

Composting is an age-old method of making fertilizer using decomposed organic matter. Among the compostable waste are fruit and vegetable peelings, leftover food, and fish and animal entrails, according to the National Solid Waste Management Commission.

Experts said composting puts such waste to good use and significantly reduces the methane emission of decomposing organic matter.

Methane is among the GHGs that are increasingly accumulating in the atmosphere, making global temperatures rise and changing the climate.

The Philippines' NDC has set a 75 percent GHG emission reduction and avoidance target by 2030 in the country's agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy sectors.

Aside from using public funds, the government will seek foreign funding assistance for implementing the NDC.

Magalang said the DENR hopes foreign sources could help fund the provision of high-tech composting facilities in the country to boost GHG emission reduction nationwide.

"To be successful, however, households must contribute to such reduction bid by segregating waste," he said.

Widespread public support for the NDC's implementation, he said, would show the country's seriousness in helping address climate change.



The Philippines has committed to reducing its GHG emissions despite not being a major source of these discharges, as climate change is threatening survival on Earth.

Experts have already warned that the Philippines is among the countries most vulnerable to and at high risk for climate change impacts.

These impacts on the Philippines are increasing weather events, as well as sea levels and temperatures, they said. (PNA)



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June 19, 2021 2 min read

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DENR field offices get brand new vehicles



NEW VEHICLE. Penro Pampanga chief Laudemir Salac receives the brand new service vehicle for the DENR field office in Pampanga from Executive Director Paquito Moreno, Jr. (Ian Ocampo Flora)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

June 19, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led by Executive Director Paquito Moreno, Jr., turned over recently five brand new motor vehicles to its field offices in Central Luzon over the weekend.

Among those who received new vehicles include the field offices of Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac to further intensify the cleanup and rehabilitation of the Manila Bay area in Central Luzon.

The said vehicles will also be used in the mobilization of human resources for the effective monitoring and implementation of environmental laws, especially on the rehabilitation efforts being undertaken for Manila Bay and its various water tributaries in Central Luzon.

Manila Bay has a total coastline of 190 kilometers. Of these, 142 kilometers or 75 percent falls under Region III with Bulacan (43 km), Pampanga (21 km) and Bataan (78 km) including Nueva Ecija in the upstream and Tarlac in the midstream portion of the Manila Bay region.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1898275/Pampanga/Local-News/DENR-field-offices-get-brand-new-vehicles>



Chips of agarwood are prepared for inventory by law enforcers as Nathaniel Avelino and Mark Gil Espino look on. Image posted on Facebook by the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday.

STAR/File

2 arrested for selling P1.9 million agarwood

[Ralph Edwin Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 20, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Two men were arrested for allegedly trying to sell 17.75 kilos of agarwood for P1.95 million without a government permit, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said yesterday.

In a statement, the NBI said its Environmental Crime Division apprehended Nathaniel Avelino and Mark Gil Espino in an entrapment on June 15. The operation was staged after the EnCD received information about a group selling agarwood for P150,000 per kilo.

The NBI conducted the sting along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service and the DENR's National Capital Region office.

The law enforcers confiscated a total of 17.75 kilos of agarwood, a cell phone, a van and a weighing scale.

Avelino and Espino were charged for violation of Section 77 of Presidential Decree 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines and Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act before the Quezon City prosecutor's office on June 16, the NBI said.

Agarwood, a fragrant resinous wood, is one of the most expensive raw materials used in perfumes and costs at least P160,000 in the Philippines, according to the DENR.

It is extracted from the heartwood of lapnisan and lanete trees that are infected with a type of mold. The trees are included in the national list of plants threatened with extinction.

High-grade agarwood can be sold for as high as \$30,000 per kilo and its trafficking has spawned indiscriminate cutting of lanete and lapnisan trees, the DENR said.



2 nagbebenta ng Agarwood laglag sa NBI



June 19, 2021 @ 3:23 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Naaresto ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang dalawang indibidwal sa Quezon City dahil sa pagta-transport at pagbebenta ng Agarwood nang walang government permit.

Sinabing ang Agarwood ay isang endangered forest product.

Tinukoy itong sina Nathaniel N. Avelino at Mark Gil V. Espino, ayon kay NBI Officer-In-Charge (OIC) Director Eric B. Distor.

“Avelino and Espino were arrested in an entrapment operation which stemmed from an information received by the NBI-EnCD regarding a group of individuals who are engaged in the selling and possession of an endangered forest product known as Agarwood.”RNT/FGDC



Mayor vs mining ‘guilty of oppression’

By: [Karl R. Ocampo](#), [Romar Miranda](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:38 AM June 19, 2021



Brooke’s Point Mayor Jean Delos Angeles Feliciano. Photo from Maryjean Delos Angeles Feliciano Facebook

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman has found Mayor Jean Feliciano of Brooke’s Point, Palawan, guilty of “oppression or grave abuse of authority” for stopping the operations of Ipilan Nickel Corp. (INC) and demolishing its field offices and facilities in 2018.

The decision was issued almost four years after INC was embroiled in a controversy for its clearing operations that reportedly destroyed some 20 hectares of forest in its concession area in Brooke’s Point, an agricultural town near the southern tip of mainland Palawan. INC is a subsidiary of the Philippines’ second-largest nickel producer, Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc. Feliciano was ordered suspended from service for one year without pay.

Reached by phone on Friday, the mayor, a longtime environmental lawyer, said she would “wear the decision with pride” that she lost a public office for protecting the environment.

She said she had yet to receive a copy of the decision but was prepared to file a motion for reconsideration or to fight it in a higher court if necessary.

“I am still lucky and thankful because others have died for love of country while I will just lose a position,” she told the Inquirer.

Tree cutting permit

In 2016, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) granted INC a yearlong special tree cutting permit as part of a mineral production sharing agreement.

The permit allowed INC to earth-ball 14,439 trees and cut 13,489 trees in a 52-ha area.

In 2017, then Environment Secretary Gina Lopez, since deceased, revoked the company’s environmental compliance certificate (ECC) following a nationwide mining audit conducted by the DENR.

INC filed a motion for reconsideration. Feliciano then issued a closure order, a cease-and-desist order, and a demolition order which, she later said, were all ignored by the company.

In August 2017, a Palawan court issued a temporary environmental protection order compelling INC to stop all its mining activities and start rehabilitating the forest areas that it had cleared.

After an aerial and ground inspection of the company’s mining area in the same month, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who had replaced Lopez by then, ordered INC to stop its tree clearing.



In February 2018, the mayor led hundreds of residents and antimining advocates in demolishing the company's gate and fences as well as guardhouses and office buildings mostly made of light materials.

The demolition team was accompanied by policemen and soldiers.

Feliciano, who was swept to power in the 2016 elections by the Brooke's Point residents' strong antimining position, said then that she was exercising her "police powers" in ordering the demolition of the INC facilities.

But in its decision, the Office of the Ombudsman said the cancellation of the company's ECC "[had] yet to attain finality at the time pending a decision on [its] motion for reconsideration, making the ECC valid and subsisting."

"Without authority, Mayor Feliciano led the demolition of gates, fences, staff house and other structures in the mine site," the Office of the Ombudsman said.

It said Feliciano should have dealt with the company in "good faith" before rushing to issue adverse orders and to destroy mining properties.

Food basket

As the mayor of Brooke's Point, "she was no longer merely performing her duties but was already ruling a mob and unjustly preventing INC from exercising its rights ..." it added.

Feliciano said she would continue to champion the environment for the benefit of farmers and residents dependent on agriculture.

"Brooke's Point is the food basket of Palawan," she said. "The vegetables and rice in the [capital city] Puerto Princesa are being supplied by our town. If the environment is destroyed, what will happen to the farmers? What will happen to the livelihood and future of our people?"

The decision of the Office of the Ombudsman comes after the lifting of the nine-year moratorium on mining. On April 14, President Duterte signed Executive Order No. 130 allowing the government to enter into new mining agreements and to review existing mining deals.

Lawyer Grizelda Mayo-Anda expressed concern at the Office of the Ombudsman's "troubling" decision.

"For environmental defenders like Mayor Jean who used her power to protect the environment and the forest of Brooke's Point, it is actually a challenging decision. Around 25,000 trees were cut. You can understand why she wants to protect the area, and in good faith, with no personal interest," Mayo-Anda said. —*With a report from Inquirer Research INQ*



Keeping giant clams to sustain PHL marine ecosystem

BY RODERICK ABAD JUNE 20, 2021



The Philippines is rich in flora and fauna, with some species considered endemic or can be found only in the country. These include the locally known taklobo (*Tridacna gigas*)—the largest bivalve mollusk in the world that can weigh over 250 kilograms and grow up to five feet.

Despite its gigantic size and longevity (it can live up to a hundred years), however, this giant clam has become scarce.

Declared extinct in the 1980s due to poaching, destructive fishing practices, and water pollution, the late National Scientist Dr. Edgardo Gomez, who is also a former Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) trustee, took broodstock of the taklobo from the Pacific Islands to breed at the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP MSI) to sustain the species in the country.

For more than three decades, the UP MSI, of which Gomez was founding director, successfully cultured nonnative taklobos from these tropical islands.

After a lead from a Palaweño marine scientist in 2017, the MFI team and Gomez went to Puerto Princesa, Palawan, to survey and confirm the presence of five closely-guarded, remaining potential spawners of the Philippines's true native Taklobo in Honda Bay.

The discovery sparked a light of hope that amplified initiatives to restore the healthy population of the locally-extinct Philippines' true native clam together with other shell species through the String of Pearls project, backed up by the recently launched community fundraiser Adopt-a-Shell project.

Historic milestone

Despite the pandemic, MFI reported the milestone of having spawned 132 million of the native taklobo at the end of 2020. Once mature, they will be deployed to effectively managed marine protected areas (MPAs) and marine management zones in select coastal reefs in north Palawan, Oriental Mindoro, and Batangas.

Clams are indicators of a healthy and sustainable marine ecosystem. Like others, the taklobo prevents algal blooms that lead to depletion of oxygen in the water, which marine life needs to survive.



The large population of clams also helps in creating fish habitats—on a larger scale given their size—because they give off calcium carbonate that is incorporated into coral reefs.

Despite their pivotal role, however, taklobos are not spared from local and foreign poachers, who sell giant clam meat and shells for a hefty price in the black market. In 2020 and early this year, several incidents of clamshell poaching reached the media and were made public.

Last March alone, 324 shells of taklobos weighing 80 tons were confiscated from poachers. This was followed by the seizure of P1.2 billion worth of illegally harvested giant clams with a total weight of 200 tons.



#SerbisyongBayanihan #UNTVNewsandRescue #LagingHandaPH

1 bagong Manila Bay coral garden, nadiskubre sa Maragondon

38,720 views • Jun 19, 2021

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Sa patuloy na panunumbalik ng dating ganda at linis ng Manila Bay, nadiskubre ang isa pang coral garden sa cove ng Barangay Patungan sa Maragondon na bahagi pa ng Manila Bay.

SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxDFwkN_qg0&ab_channel=UNTVNewsandRescue



A resident walks past uprooted banana trees washed up on a river bank after Typhoon Molave hit the town of Pola, Oriental Mindoro province, on October 26, 2020.

Commentary: Changing minds on climate change

[Paco Pangalangan](#) (Philstar.com) - June 19, 2021 - 5:50pm

The average temperature on earth is now 1-degree Celsius hotter than it was in the pre-industrial era 1800s. However, half of that degree only happened in the last four decades and at this rate, the earth's temperature will continue to rise until it hits the critical 1.5-degree mark by 2050.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identified the 1.5-degree marker as the tipping point beyond which the occurrence of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, droughts and floods, will increase dramatically.

According to Dr. CP David, who recently spoke at a Stratbase ADR Institute's virtual event on the need for a proactive approach to climate resilience, the window to address climate change is closing. He warned that the window is now just 30 years and warned that not acting on climate change now may prove to be devastating for the planet. "It is up to us then to recognize this threat and seriously address the climate crisis," he added.

Despite the urgent need for climate action, David pointed out that the climate crisis is still not a "top-of-mind issue" and wrongly downplayed because of its slow onset nature.

Slow onset events (SOEs) include sea-level rise, increasing temperatures and forest degradation. As the name suggests, evolve gradually over the years, increasing in frequency and intensity.

The slow onset nature of climate change makes it difficult for people to understand the catastrophic risks. In fact, studies show that climate change is a distant issue for many and in more ways than one.

For instance, some see the impacts of climate change as the distant future's problem and view the extreme weather events occurring today as simply one-offs rather than the result of the earth's warming.

Perhaps others may feel that climate change has no direct effect on them and would rather concern themselves with more immediate economic or health issues. Others might recognize the need to address climate change but are unaware that solutions and best practices are closer to home than they think.

The lack of broader public understanding of climate change could also be one reason why many of the speakers during Stratbase ADR Institute's virtual event discussed climate resilience best practices related to data and information exchange.



On the one hand, Quirino Gov. Dax Cua and Dr. Mahar Lagmay of Project NOAH discussed using data to inform the public and policymakers of the very direct and immediate climate risks they face.

Cua, for example, shared how the accurate data was a big reason the local government of the Quirino province was given the Gawad-Kalasag National Award, the country's premier awards for Disaster Risk Reduction & Management.

According to Cua, the province of Quirino implement a Community-based Monitoring System to gather and disaggregate data to inform evidence-based planning, especially during calamities, and used Advanced Geographical Information System in designing prevention and mitigation plans.

Dr. Mahar Lagmay also highlighted the importance of using hazard and climate data to create more people-centered warning systems. According to Lagmay, technology is at a point where hazards can be mapped and key indicators can be tracked in real-time.

"Technology has advanced to such a degree that the cost of the sensors are very minimal. And we could densify the network of sensors that could give us data that would, in turn, make us have better decisions," Lagmay said.

On the other hand, Butch Meily of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) and Nazrin Castro of Climate Reality Project Philippines discussed why it is essential for sectors to collaborate to mainstream actionable information and best practices on climate change.

According to Castro, the government, the private sector and civil society must converge expertise and resources to help the public overcome the lack of access to climate risk information, innovations and financial instruments. She furthermore recognized the need to break down silos work hand in hand to disseminate actionable information on climate change on the ground.

For Butch Meily, president of the private sector-led resilience initiative PDRF, multisectoral collaboration is also essential to raising awareness on climate change. One example he gave was PDRFs recently launched iADAPT training platform, a free resource that anyone can access to learn more about disaster preparedness, awareness and training.

PDRF represents a partnership of the Philippines' biggest business groups and is co-chaired by Ayala Corp. Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, PLDT/Smart Communications Chairman Manuel Pangilinan and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle.

In an earlier statement, Zobel said that "now, more than ever, everyone must play a role in building resilience and mitigating risks as more devastating calamities arise in the future. I think we should be contributors of resilience and help minimize the contributions we make in worsening the situation."

Another example of multisectoral initiatives to share knowledge on climate change is the partnership between the non-government organization Save Philippine Seas and Globe Telecom. Together, they rolled out marine biodiversity programs in Boracay and Siargao to equip the community and business stakeholders to raise awareness for best practices on sustainability and biodiversity.

The slow onset nature of climate change has left the public indifferent to its looming risks. An extensive mainstream campaign that hammers on the direct repercussions to one's personal existence based on science will change the passive mindset.



However, the window of opportunity to address climate change is closing. The urgency of this challenge requires us to look past our silos, share best practices and work together to take urgent action to combat climate change.

Paco Pangalangan is the executive director of think tank Stratbase ADR Institute.



In Cebu City, majority of garbage collected, or 78 percent, composed of plastic



COASTAL CLEANUP. An employee of the Talisay City Ecological Solid Waste Management weighs the garbage collected by volunteers along the shores of Barangay Dumlog Saturday morning, June 19, 2021. A total of 12 tons of garbage was collected in the city's six coastal barangays during the activity. / Talisay City Mayor Samsam Gullas' Office

June 19, 2021

THE Cebu City Coastal Management Task Force (CMTF) collected 13 tons of garbage during a four-hour cleanup on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

CMTF subcommittee chairman Reyamar Hijara said plastic made up 78 percent of the garbage collected. This was followed by wood (seven percent), paper (4.8 percent), metal (2.6 percent), glass (two percent) and other kinds of garbage (14 percent).

Hijara said around 3,800 volunteers from CMTF's partner agencies and organizations participated in the activity.

The cleanup was conducted in the Mahiga Creek near Innodata, a portion of Kamputhaw River under the Tinago-Tejero Bridge, a portion of Kamputhaw River near T. Padilla Market, the Ermita coast, the mouth of the Guadalupe River, Pasil coast; Sawang Calero, a portion of the Guadalupe River near Pahina San Nicolas Barangay Hall, a portion of Guadalupe River near the University of San Carlos South in Sambag 1, a portion of Kamputhaw River under Sudlon Bridge, Arabal River under the Kinalumsan Bridge in Mambaling, a portion of the Kinalumsan River near the Tisa Elementary School, South Road Properties tower and Il Corso coast.

Hijara said they will conduct another cleanup in September.

During last quarter's cleanup in March, the CMTF collected a total of 13.615 tons of garbage.

The City Government has been conducting cleanups pursuant to an ordinance authored by Cebu City Vice Mayor, now Acting Mayor Michael Rama.

The ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Institutionalizing the Cleanups of Rivers, Natural Waterways and Coastal Areas within the Jurisdiction of the City of Cebu" was approved by the City Council on Dec. 2, 2020.

In Talisay, the City Government collected 12 tons of garbage in the six coastal barangays of Poblacion, Poooc, Biasong, Dumlog, Cansojong, Tanke and San Roque on Saturday as part of its monthly cleanup.



In his official Facebook page, Mayor Gerald Anthony “Samsam” Gullas said it was the first cleanup activity since the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic began at the end of March last year. Before that, the last one they conducted was in the last quarter of 2019, he said.

Gullas said with the city slowly recovering from the health crisis, he hopes to continue their monthly coastal cleanups.

He also urged his constituents to participate in the activity.

“Let us keep our coastal areas clean, especially atong (our) beach area kay kita man gihapon ang mahimulos aning tanan (because it’s also for our benefit),” Gullas added. (JLL, JKV)



13K tons of garbage collected in Cebu City's 'biggest' coastal clean-up

By: Delta Dyrecka C. Letigio - CDN Digital Multi-Media Reporter | June 19, 2021 - 07:07 PM



Coastal and river clean-up in Cebu City on June 19, 2021. | Photo courtesy of Cebu City PIO

CEBU CITY, Philippines — The fourth Cebu City-wide coastal and riverside clean-up collected a total of 13,000 tons of garbage in the four-hour activity conducted by various groups on June 19, 2021.

Reymar Hijarra, the subcommittee chairperson for the Coastal Management Task Force (CMTF), said that this was the first time that the volunteers in the city alone reached 3,800.

The numbers should be more as parishes outside the city under the Archdiocese of Cebu also conducted their own clean-ups in their respective areas, essentially making the clean-up province-wide.

“Yes, this is very much larger than before. We also have some ‘big’ partners joined up this time like the Cebu Link Joint Venture, Cebu Contractors Association, and JCA Sinulog – Cebu so I believe sa next nato nga clean-up in September, it would be exponential,” said Hijarra in a text message to the media.

According to the data released by the Department of Public Services (DPS), most of the garbage collected was plastic materials and trash.

The breakdown of the collected garbage goes as follows: 78 percent plastics, 4.8 percent paper, 7 percent wood, 2.6 percent metal, 2 percent glass, and 14 percent other materials.

DPS notes that the highest pollutant remains to be plastic and is most likely thrown from the households.

In a previous statement, Acting Mayor Michael Rama said that the clean-up drive hopes to encourage more people to be more aware of what they are doing to the environment.

So far, the volume of garbage remained about the same as in the past clean-ups and it can be noted that prior to Saturday's activity, major dredging works have been conducted in the riverways due to flooding in the past days.

The CMTF hopes that more people will consciously make it a habit to clean the waterways and throw their trash properly so one day the city can finally see a reduction of collected garbage during clean-ups. /rcg

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/383531/13k-tons-of-garbage-collected-in-cebu-citys-biggest-coastal-clean-up>



WWF-Ph NYC, Experts Push for Culture of Environmental Planning

WWF-Philippines' National Youth Council met with environmental planners on the 15th of June to talk about sustainable urban development and the future of Philippine cities for their latest Conservation Conversation. Photograph © WWF-Philippines

by **Village Connect** about 11 hours ago



WWF-Philippines Ambassador Robi Domingo joins the WWF-Philippines National Youth Council and their panel of environmental planning experts for the latest Conservation Conversation. Photograph © WWF-Philippines

In order to address the issues posed by rising urbanization, the youth should champion the culture of environmental planning in the Philippines.

This was discussed during the latest episode of the Conservation Conversation webinar organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines' National Youth Council (NYC) where they were joined by urban planning experts last June 15 to discuss sustainable urban development in the country.

The event was hosted by WWF-Philippines National Youth Ambassador Robi Domingo. NYC members Romina Lim and Yza Nazal represented the youth council during the webinar. They were joined by Environmental Planner Peter Daniel G. Friginal of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Environmental Planner Dr. Edgar M. Reyes, Jr., Assistant Professor at the Department of Community and Environmental Resource Planning (DCERP) of UP Los Baños and Christopher E. Rollo, Country Programme Manager of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat).

"There has been good progress towards making our cities more safe, resilient, inclusive, and sustainable – but more needs to be done to reduce carbon footprints and to prepare for the effects of climate change. Many youths, the torchbearers of the 2030 sustainable development goals, stand ready to make that change possible," Nazal said.



The Makati skyline. Cities are an important focal point for combatting climate change and securing the wellbeing of millions, as they are home to around 55% of all people and produce approximately 60% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Photograph © WWF-Philippines



The webinar discussed key considerations that ought to be made and ways of thinking that ought to be adopted when planning for the sustainable development of cities.

“What values do we infuse when we plan? We make sure that our cities are inclusive, connected, and that they serve everybody, and that it is resilient,” shared Rollo, as he explained what he believes are among the most important aspects in planning a city.

“We have lost a lot of opportunities because of the way our environment has been built over the years, but we can change that over time by following certain principles, approaches, and tools. We also have indigenous knowledge that we have forgotten over the years because we have lost our sense of value when it comes to what is a good, inclusive city,” added Rollo.

The recent Conservation Conversation was also an opportunity for the panelists to promote the field of environmental planning. The Environmental Act of 2013 was passed to train and develop local environmental planners, to provide guidance in the production of Comprehensive Land Use Plans and to direct the country’s growth sustainably.

“It’s very heartening that there’s an explosion, actually, of licensed environmental planners in the Philippines. Back in the 1990s, there were less than a hundred, but now I think we’re at 6,000. I hope these 6,000-strong environmental planners have it in their hearts and as their passion to help promote a culture of environmental planning,” shared Friginal.

Cities are an important focal point in both combating climate change and in ensuring the wellbeing of millions. Around 55% of the world’s population lives in cities [1]. Cities are in turn responsible for 60% of greenhouse gas emissions [2], and are recognized among experts as being major contributors to climate change.

The panel also stressed the importance of involving the youth in city planning. With fresh perspectives, the youth have an important role to play in ensuring as future leaders and inheritors of today’s cities.

“The youth are like fresh clay in a mold. If we fashion them rightly by equipping them with appropriate knowledge, skills, and even attitude towards achieving sustainable human settlements, then I can imagine a future that is bright and sustainable for everyone,” shared Dr. Reyes as he challenged the youth to build their knowledge on sustainable development and to organize and take up the advocacy.

NYC’s Nazal rallied her fellow youths to continue in raising the bar in advocating for environmental and sustainability issues.

“Let us continue pursuing our individual and collective efforts to switch to green lifestyles while calling on our local and national governments to pursue more sustainable urban development policies. Support WWF-Philippines, and help build a climate-smart future,” Nazal said.



Fight vs climate change weak – UN

By [Global Times](#) June 20, 2021

UNITED NATIONS: UN climate negotiations have not broached the crucial issue of how the world pays for the fight against global warming, the organization's climate chief told Agence France-Presse (AFP) on Wednesday, as three weeks of virtual talks approached their conclusion.

The discussions, the first under the UN's watch since December 2019, were designed to bring countries closer together on key issues left over from previous sessions ahead of November's COP26 - the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference - in Glasgow.

But "not all of the issues were addressed, simply because there is not enough time. Finance was not addressed at the session," Patricia Espinosa told AFP.

The informal talks were supposed to broach a range of topics, including final elements of the "rulebook" to the 2015 Paris Agreement governing carbon markets and how financial contributions to the climate fight are reported.

Countries aimed to hash out final elements of the "rulebook" to the 2015 Paris Agreement governing carbon markets and how financial contributions to the climate fight are reported.

Rich nations have yet to live up to their pledge to provide \$100 billion a year to countries most at risk from the impact of climate change. Last week the G7 or Group of Seven leaders recommitted to that goal yet funding available for climate adaptation remains significantly below the target.

Espinosa said the informal talks - held online due to Covid-19 - had largely achieved their objective in getting nations speaking again.

"We managed to get all the parties to come together and start talking about the substantive issues," she said in an interview. "This is important because of the fact that for the past year and a half we have not been able to meet at all."

Espinosa said realizing the commitment on finance would be a "central element for a successful outcome at COP26."

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"\$100 billion is a lot of money but we also know what is required for the deep transformation that is needed is much more," she said.

The nature of the rich world's obligation to support developing countries to adapt to the impact of climate change was very different from normal development assistance, she said.

"We are facing a problem that has an origin in the way that the developed world was able to grow and therefore we have a global problem and responsibilities," Espinosa said.

Espinosa said for COP26 to be a success, nations would need to redouble commitments to slash emissions and help pay for climate change impacts.



'Living fossil' fish can live for 100 years – study

By Associated Press June 20, 2021



OLD FISH This image provided by Marc Herbin shows the development stages of the coelacanth fish. The 'living fossil,' still around from the time of the dinosaurs, can live for 100 years, according to a study released on the June 17, 2021 edition of *Current Biology*. And for females it may seem longer because scientists calculate that the live-birth bearing fish stays pregnant for five years. AP PHOTO

THE coelacanth - a giant weird fish still around from dinosaur times - can live for 100 years, a new study found.

These slow-moving, people-sized fish of the deep, nicknamed a "living fossil," are the opposite of the live fast, die young mantra. These nocturnal fish grow at an achingly slow pace.

Females don't hit sexual maturity until their late 50s, the study said, while male coelacanths are sexually mature at 40 to 69 years. And maybe strangest of all, researchers figure pregnancy in the fish lasts about five years.

Coelacanths, which have been around for 400 million years, were thought extinct until they were found alive in 1938 off South Africa. Scientists long believed coelacanths live about 20 years. But by applying a standard technique for dating commercial fish, French scientists calculated they actually live close to a century, according to a study in Thursday's *Current Biology*.

Coelacanths are so endangered that scientists can only study specimens already caught and dead.

In the past, scientists calculated fish ages by counting big lines on a specific coelacanth scale. But the French scientists found they were missing smaller lines that could only be seen using polarized light - the technique used to figure out the age of commercial fish.

Study co-author Bruno Ernande, a marine evolutionary ecologist at France's marine research institute, said polarized light revealed five smaller lines for every big one. The researchers concluded the smaller lines better correlated to a year of coelacanth age - and that indicated their oldest specimen was 84 years old.

That five-year gestation is "very strange" for fish or any animal, said Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Harold Walker, who wasn't part of the research.

Even though coelacanths are unrelated genetically and show wide evolutionary differences, they age slowly like other dwellers of the deep, sharks and rays, Ernande said. "They might have evolved similar life histories because they are sharing similar type habitats," he said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/06/20/news/national/living-fossil-fish-can-live-for-100-years-study/1803865>

20 JUNE 2021, SUNDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

Philippines sees 6,959 new coronavirus infections

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

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Saturday reported 6,959 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,353,220.

- Active cases: 59,439 or 4.4% of the total
- Recoveries: 9,407, pushing total to 1,270,243
- Deaths: 153, bringing total to 23,538

What's new today?

- With over 10 million COVID vaccine doses expected to arrive in the country this month, high-risk areas in Mindanao, particularly those experiencing surges in COVID-19 cases, will get more vaccines, National Task Force against COVID-19 chief implementer and vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. [said](#) Friday.
- The Department of Health is inclined to [recommend](#) that Filipinos who have been fully vaccinated abroad no longer be required to undergo swab tests for COVID-19 when they arrive in the Philippines.
- Presidential adviser for entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion is [proposing](#) segregation in business establishments between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals to allow a safer reopening of the economy.
- The P57.3 billion secured as loan by the government for the procurement of vaccines is enough to [cover](#) the P25-billion requirement for the vaccination of minors next year, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday.
- A business leader has asked the Department of Tourism to [relax](#) the rules on loans extended to travel firms that suffered losses from the cancellation of holiday trips due to the pandemic.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/19/2106629/philippines-sees-6959-new-coronavirus-infections>



COVID-19 deaths account for 1.5% of 2020 mortality in Philippines

By [Louise Maureen Simeon](#)(Philstar.com) - June 20, 2021 - 12:00am



Data from the PSA showed that registered deaths from January to December 2020 reached 613,267, fewer than the total of 620,414 in 2019.

MANILA, Philippines — Deaths due to COVID-19 accounted for only 1.5 percent of total mortality in the Philippines last year, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported.

Data from the PSA showed that registered deaths from January to December 2020 reached 613,267, fewer than the total of 620,414 in 2019.

Of the total deaths last year, only 9,244 or 1.5 percent were due to a COVID-19 infection as recorded by the Department of Health (DOH).

The COVID-19 fatality rate was highest during the initial phase of the pandemic last year because of limited knowledge about the virus and problems in testing capacity, the data showed.

As testing capacity increased, COVID-19 case figures grew and those diagnosed – most of whom had mild symptoms – were managed better, resulting in the falling fatality rate.

The mortality rate in the country was highest in the months of July, August, September and December when deaths reached 54,385 (9.9 percent growth), 56,792 (13 percent growth), 53,905 (3.6 percent growth), and 53,606 (3.4 percent), respectively.

As for COVID-19, these months also covered the most deaths due to the pandemic as well as the biggest single day record of fatalities at 258, as per the DOH records last year.

In the National Capital Region (NCR), there were 84,331 deaths in 2020, up by 7.3 percent from the 78,604 deaths the previous year. Metro Manila has been the epicenter of the pandemic.

The PSA noted that increases in mortality were recorded in 15 out of 17 cities and municipalities of NCR, with the biggest increase posted by San Juan City at 18.2 percent.

Significant increases were also reported in Pasig City at 12.3 percent and Makati City at 11.3 percent.

Meanwhile, declines in registered deaths during the period were recorded in Navotas and Mandaluyong cities.



In terms of absolute total deaths, however, Quezon City still recorded the most in NCR at 18,447 or 21.9 percent of the total.

Manila ranked second with 12,807 registered deaths, followed by Caloocan City with 10,172.

The three cities comprised nearly half of the total registered deaths last year at 49.1 percent.

On the other hand, Pateros had the least number of deaths registered in NCR, with 457 or 0.5 percent of the total.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

Quarantine restrictions for June 16-30, 2021



GCQ

- GCQ with heightened restrictions: Rizal, Laguna, Cavite
- GCQ with restrictions: Metro Manila, Bulacan
- GCQ: Baguio City, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Abra, Benguet, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Batangas, Quezon, Iligan City, Davao del Norte, General Santos City, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, Cotabato, South Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, Cotabato City

	GCQ	GCQ with restrictions	GCQ with heightened restrictions
Indoor dining	50%	40% (50% with safety seal)	20% (30% with safety seal)
Outdoor dining	ALLOWED	50%	50%
Gyms	50%	20% (30% with safety seal)	NOT ALLOWED
Indoor sports venues, courts, or venues	50%	Gyms at 20%	NOT ALLOWED
Indoor visitor or tourist attractions, museums, libraries, archives, galleries	50%	30% for historical sites, museums (40% with safety seal)	NOT ALLOWED
Meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions	50%	30% (10% if social event)	NOT ALLOWED
Personal care services (beauty salons, barber shops, nail spas)	50%	50% for services not requiring mask removal	30% for services not requiring mask removal
Outdoor tourist attractions	50%	50%	30%
Religious activities, wake services, weddings	30% (can increase up to 50%)	30% (can increase up to 50%)	10% (can increase up to 30%)

20 JUNE 2021, SUNDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQZhNQxgE7k&ab_channe1=JANICELLANDERVlog

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