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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR's Cimatu wants Boracay rehab program extended for another year

Published March 19, 2021 4:34pm

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan —Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu said Friday that he is planning to ask President Rodrigo Duterte to extend the Boracay Island rehabilitation program for another year.

Citing delays in rehabilitation work due to the COVID-19 restrictions, he said he wants to double down on the rehabilitation efforts as several things still need to be done to complete the island resort's restoration.

Cimatu pointed out that rehabilitation efforts have suffered so much delay due to the pandemic.

EDNR's top man was on Boracay Island to lead the meeting on the continuation of Boracay rehabilitation activities.

He said that the Boracay rehabilitation task force is supposed to end its term this coming May, with still a lot of things to be completed.

Among the projects that Cimatu wants to do is to build housing units in Malay for workers in Boracay.

Also, he said he is planning to clear the island of illegal settlers.

In 2018, President Duterte, in [Proclamation No. 475](#), ordered the temporary closure of the world-famous island resort due to pollution.

In one of his speeches in 2018, Duterte even called Boracay, along with Manila Bay, as a "cesspool."

On 26 April 2018, Boracay was closed for a six-month rehabilitation project. And on 26 October 2018, it [reopened to foreign and local tourists](#).

But the planned rehabilitation efforts were to continue until the end of 2019, months before strict lockdowns were imposed in mid-March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. —with Jun N.

Aguirre/LBG, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/780381/denr-s-cimatu-wants-boracay-rehab-program-extended-for-another-year/story/>



Boracay task force seeks 1-year extension

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

MANILA, Philippines — The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) has sought an extension of its term for another year pending the creation of a permanent body that will oversee the island's sustainable development.

Environment Secretary and BIATF chairman Roy Cimatu said the extension would allow the task force to complete its projects that have been stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cimatu said a BIATF resolution seeking the extension was submitted to President Duterte for his approval.

The task force, which is co-chaired by the Departments of Tourism and the Interior and Local Government, was created under Executive Order 53 issued on May 8, 2018, the term of which was supposed to end in 2020.

On May 11 last year, the President issued EO 115 extending the term of the BIATF until May 8 this year.

"We have been hoping that all the good work we have done in Boracay would be continued and sustained by a more permanent body," Cimatu said during a recent meeting of the task force.

The bill creating the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) is pending at the House of Representatives.

The BIATF submitted its position paper explaining its preference for its proposed bill over seven other versions submitted to the legislative chamber.

Cimatu said the BIDA should take over the current functions of the task force, noting that the limited carrying capacity of Boracay "does not leave space for further development that envisions enterprise and business that may adversely impact the island and its ecosystems."

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/03/20/2085621/boracay-task-force-seeks-1-year-extension/amp/>



Boracay task force eyes one-year term extension

Published 4 hours ago on March 20, 2021 02:30 AM

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



Pending the creation of a permanent regulatory body that oversee Boracay Island's sustainable development and balanced growth, the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) on Friday proposed a one-year term extension.

In a statement, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary and BIATF chair Roy Cimatu said that the term extension will allow the task force to complete all its projects that have been stalled by the pandemic.

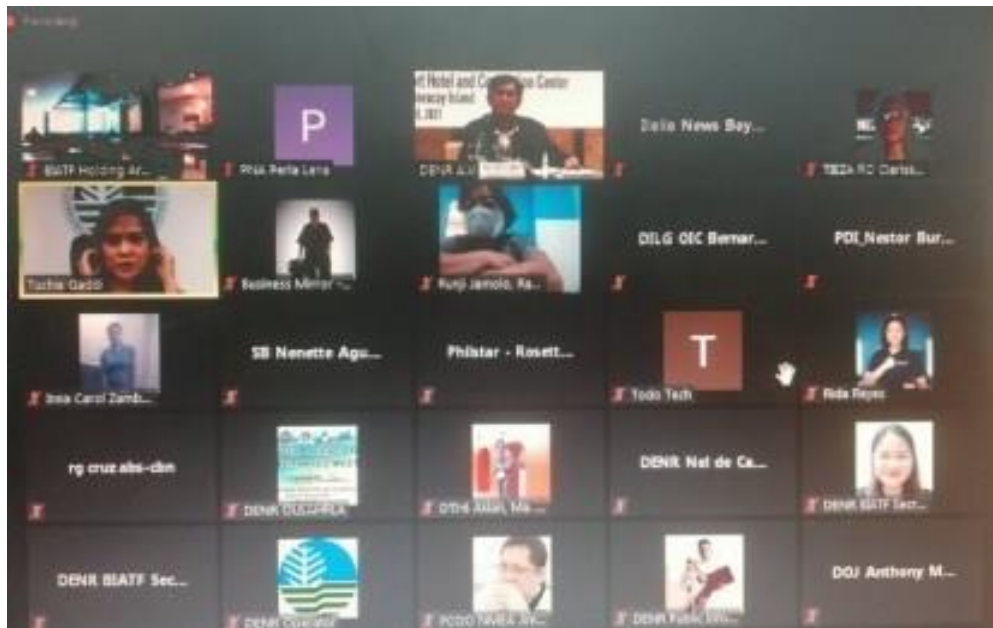
A resolution signed by the BIATF has been submitted to President Rodrigo Duterte for his approval to extend the term of the task force for another year.

To recall, the task force — co-chaired by the Department of Tourism and the Department of the Interior and Local Government — was created on 8 May, 2018 under Executive Order (EO) 53.

The task force's term was supposed to end in 2020, two years after its creation, but the President issued EO 115 on 11 May 2020, extending the term of the BIATF until 8 May 2021.

"We have been hoping that all the good work we have done in Boracay would be continued and sustained by a more permanent body," Cimatu said.

"We have accomplished much since this body was created by our President with the mission of ensuring the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of Boracay Island after its degeneration into a cesspool as a result of a few decades of runaway and haphazard development," he added.



Boracay task force seeks one-year extension

March 19, 2021 3 min read

ILOILO CITY – The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) is seeking a one-year extension of its term in the absence of a bill creating the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA), which is still pending in Congress.

“We unanimously endorse this proposal, the extension of the term for the task force for another one year,” Environment Secretary and task force chair Roy Cimatu said in a virtual press conference on Thursday afternoon.

The BIATF was created under Executive Order (EO) 53 and signed by President Rodrigo Duterte in 2018 with a term of two years. It was amended through EO 115 extending their term until April this year.

The document seeking another extension has been submitted to the Office of the President, Cimatu added.

Meantime, Cimatu said the task force stands by its proposal for the BIDA to serve as a regulatory body rather than a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC).

“Whatever is the BIDA, it should be environmental oriented,” he said.

Aklan Governor Florencio T. Miraflores also thanked Cimatu for seeking the extension.

“Also for supporting our position in the province that if there is a more permanent body to supervise the operations to protect the island, an authority that should only be a regulatory body. We oppose the proposal that the authority should be a government-owned and controlled corporation,” the governor said.

As a GOCC, he added, BIDA will violate lot of provisions of the Constitution and the local government code and it “goes against the thrust of the national government for more local autonomy”.



Local government officials oppose the latest version of the BIDA bill that seeks to create a body that will govern Boracay Island.

Miraflores hoped that Congress would listen to them, as he added that “they all have the good intentions”.

He said that they support for the task force to “continue its life in the meantime that a regulatory body is still pending in Congress”.

Cimatu said the rehabilitation of Boracay was not completed this year as per their target due to the pandemic and other disturbances in their time frame.

Among those needing to be done is the relocation of informal settlers occupying the timberland that was deferred as a “gesture of humanitarian consideration” due to the pandemic and the transfer of workers in Boracay to the mainland to decongest the island and increase its carrying capacity.

However, the accomplishment for road projects was pegged at 70 percent while the compliance to the required beach easement was at 80 percent. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/03/19/boracay-task-force-seeks-one-year-extension/?fbclid=IwAR39HPNRBxqoncTXvQEHcFfOZWa554C3Mt3OaXNj8VDAnb-7fy4RKivydyo>



DENR seeks extension of Boracay task force for another year

March 19, 2021 | 7:03 pm



PHILSTAR

THE Environment department has asked President Rodrigo R. Duterte to extend the term of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) for one more year.

In a press release on Friday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the BIATF submitted a signed resolution to the President asking for the extension.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, who chairs the BIATF, said the term extension will “allow the task force to complete all its projects which were stalled due to the global health emergency.”

The BIATF was created on May 8, 2018, under Executive Order (EO) No. 53 to lead the rehabilitation of the popular tourist island that Mr. Duterte described to have turned into a “cesspool.” Boracay was closed to tourists for six months.

The term of the task force was originally set to end in 2020, but Mr. Duterte issued another order extending it to May 8, 2021.

“We have accomplished much since this body was created by our President... with the mission of ensuring the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of Boracay Island after its degeneration into a cesspool as a result of a few decades of runaway and haphazard development,” Mr. Cimatu said.

The BIATF is currently co-chaired by the Department of Tourism and the Department of Interior and Local Government, with local officials and other stakeholders as members. — Angelica Y. Yang

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-seeks-extension-of-boracay-task-force-for-another-year/>



‘One more year for Boracay body’

posted March 19, 2021 at 10:30 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu wants a one-year extension for the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) pending the creation of a permanent regulatory body that shall oversee the island’s sustainable development and balanced growth.

Cimatu, as BIATF chairperson, said the term extension would allow the task force to complete all its projects that have been stalled by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The task force passed a resolution, which has been submitted to President Rodrigo Duterte for his approval, to extend the term of the task force for another year.

The task force is co-chaired by the Department of Tourism and Department of the Interior and Local Government. It was created on May 8, 2018 under Executive Order No. 53.

Its term was supposed to end in 2020, two years after its creation, but the President issued EO No. 115 on May 11, 2020, extending its term until May 8, 2021.

“We have been hoping that all the good work we have done in Boracay would be continued and sustained by a more permanent body,” Cimatu said.

“We have accomplished much since this body was created by our President Rodrigo Duterte on May 8, 2018 with the mission of ensuring the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of Boracay Island after its degeneration into a cesspool as a result of a few decades of runaway and haphazard development,” he added.

The DENR chief said the BIATF Bill on the creation of the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) is currently pending in Congress.

The BIATF has also submitted its position paper explaining its preference for its proposed bill over seven other versions submitted to the legislative chamber.

“We are urging the House of Representatives to pass the BIATF Bill,” Cimatu said.



Task force okays saliva test for Boracay tourists

By [MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO](#)

MARCH 19, 2021



2. Multisectoral groups on Boracay express their opposition to a House Bill setting up a GOCC that will turn Boracay into a special economic zone, on a paraw, or native boat's sail. (Contributed photo)

TOURISTS and holiday makers can now take a Covid-19 saliva test, instead of the nasal swab RT-PCR test, for entry into Boracay Island.

The quicker and less expensive test method was approved in Thursday's meeting of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), chaired by Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, who was on the island for the meeting. The saliva test, however, must be taken only at medical facilities and establishments approved by the Department of Health and the Food and Drug Administration, said Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat, who attended the meeting via Zoom.

For now, only the Philippine Red Cross is accredited by DOH to administer the saliva test. But Romulo Puyat told the BusinessMirror, she will propose to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to expand the number of accredited medical facilities "to include the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital and the Philippine Children's Medical Center."

The BIATF also approved a resolution to extend its term of office "until the BIDA (Boracay Industry Development Authority) is passed," said Interior Undersecretary Epimaco V. Densing III in a separate Viber message. The resolution will be submitted to President Duterte for his approval, Densing added.

The House of Representatives is currently deliberating an unnumbered substitute bill creating BIDA as a government-owned and-controlled corporation (GOCC), which many island stakeholders have opposed.

In the Senate, there are several Senate bills also proposing to set up a Bida but with ordinary regulatory powers. Several multi-sectoral groups in Boracay have opposed the House's Bida-as-a-GOCC bill, because it duplicated functions of many government agencies. Even the Department of Finance took issue with said House bill for creating an unnecessary agency that will give fiscal incentives that government is now trying to rationalize.

(See, "More groups nix House's Boracay GOCC plan," in the [BusinessMirror](#), March 12, 2021.)

Densing informally met with some of the multi-sectoral groups on Wednesday and said, "Kakampi namin sila [BIATF supports them]."

"As the fate of the BIDA bill lies in the hands of our legislators and to the wisdom of our President, let us give special attention nonetheless to its creation as a regulatory agency. Bottom line, the main concern of this task force is to ensure the sustained protection of the island and its environment, so then we may leave it in a pristine state for the next generation. Then thus, after them, let it be our legacy. My dear colleagues I remain in my stand to ensure that profit will no longer lord over environmental protection," said Cimatu in his opening remarks.



Minors allowed to fly

Romulo Puyat, meanwhile, also recommended to the IATF that persons below 15 and above 65 years old traveling from Manila to Boracay should not be restricted from going to the airport and flying since Boracay is under Modified General Community Quarantine, as long as the passenger has a valid plane ticket.

On Wednesday National Task Force (NTF) spokesman Retired General Restituto Padilla backtracked on his earlier announcement of a ban on minors from traveling. The DOT chief clarified the supposed ban after she received messages from anxious friends and netizens who had already booked vacations with their children this Holy Week.

Padilla's text message to her reads: "Just a clarification. I stand corrected. The NTF allows minors to travel with their families point to point. The only restriction is their movement within Metro Manila, especially to malls and crowded areas consistent with the announcement of the MMDA [Metropolitan Manila Development Authority]. Thank you! They may also avail of domestic air travel with their families especially during the season of lent and their academic break."

Even Pasay City Mayor Imelda Calixto said in her latest Executive Order ICR 34 dated March 16, 2021, amending earlier prescribed GCQ guidelines: "Persons younger or older than the permitted ages, may leave home only for indispensable reasons, specifically...[iii] for purposes of air/sea travel as shown on pre-booked tickets/..." The Ninoy Aquino International Airport is in Pasay.



New PENR Office to usher Antique's cultural, environmental heritage

By Liez'I Marie Lamasan Published on March 19, 2021

SAN JOSE, Antique, March 19 (PIA) -- A balangay-inspired structure of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) will soon rise overlooking the Malandog River in Maybato Sur of the capital town of Antique.

Department of Natural Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu led the groundbreaking ceremony of the new PENRO building, which is anchored on the Malandog River Rehabilitation and Development (MaRiReDep) project.

"Today marks another milestone in the history of DENR here in the province of Antique as we embark in the realization of protecting the Malandog River and by preserving and recovering its natural heritage," Cimatu addressed local officials during the ceremony.



Groundbreaking. Key officials of DENR led by Secretary Roy Cimatu break ground on the construction of the new PENRO building in Maybato Sur, San Jose, Antique. (pia6-LML)

Cimatu said that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has approved the amount of P50 million for the construction of the Phase 1 building component.

The two-storey "green" building, with a floor area of 1,516.77 square meters, will utilize renewable energy sources such as the wind and solar.

Meanwhile, an additional budget of P58 million is yet to be approved for the second phase of the site development.

The expansion for the second phase includes road works, canopy space, office furniture, perimeter fence, parking, rainwater catching facilities, and placement of ornamental plants.

Cimatu had a marching order that the construction will be finished by December 2021.

He also emphasized MaRiReDep as one of the priority projects of DENR in the province.

"It is an exemplar of good environmental governance for the national government, local government and the private sector converge to work together considering its historical, cultural, and socio-economic significance," Cimatu said.



According to PENRO, the iconic Malandog River, which also forms part of Hamtic and Sibalom towns, is significant being the cradle of the pre-historic Malayan settlement in the country.

Meanwhile, House Deputy Speaker and Antique Lone District Representative Loren Legarda, in her virtual message, cited various environment and natural resources offices as essential in conserving and protecting the biodiversity and the tangible and intangible heritage of the province.

Legarda further urged the community to practice the implementation of Republic Act 9003 which underscores the ecological solid waste management.

She said that a minimum of three garbage bins will be placed to avoid wastes be thrown in the Malandog River.

Also attending the groundbreaking ceremony were DENR 6 key officials to include Regional Executive Director Francisco Milla, Jr. and the PENRO heads.

As for the provincial and local government, those who graced the occasion were Vice Governor Edgar Denosta, Sangguniang Panlalawigan members, San Jose mayor Elmer Untaran, Sibalom mayor Gian Carlo Occeña and Hamtic mayor Julius Pacificador. (LTP/LML-PIA6 Antique)



DENR-BMB launches online platforms for wildlife law training, education

By DENR Published on March 19, 2021

QUEZON CITY, Mar. 19 -- Determined to ensure the continuity of the government's wildlife conservation and protection efforts, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is capitalizing on information technology to educate the public on the importance of protecting the environment and wildlife species amid the continuing challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the addition of two online learning platforms "enables the DENR to uphold its mandate of educating the people about the country's wildlife resources despite the prevailing COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) pandemic."

"Thanks to technology, we are able not only to communicate remotely, but also make sure that the Filipinos can continue to educate themselves about the environment, especially in protecting our wildlife species," Cimatu said.

He also expressed gratitude to the DENR's partner-organizations as "these breakthroughs would not be possible without their help."

The DENR, through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), unveiled the eTraining Course on Basic Wildlife Law Enforcement (BWLE) and the Wildlife Philippines Podcast, under the DENR-Asian Development Bank/ Global Environment Facility Project on Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines and the US Department of the Interior- International Technical Assistance Program -Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Project 3, respectively, during the World Wildlife Day Celebration last March 3.

The BWLE training course, which can be accessed at <https://elearn.adb.org>, is composed of seven modules with 19 stand-alone topics.

Through the modules, participants will be introduced to various topics that include Wildlife Law Enforcement in the Philippines; Species Commonly Involved in Wildlife Crimes; Substantive Laws on Wildlife Resources Protection; Other Crimes against Wildlife; Roles and Responsibilities of Government Agencies in Wildlife Law Enforcement; and Procedural Laws on Wildlife Resources Protection.

The interactive module topics are complete with graphics, gamification, reference documents and articles that learners can download and review offline.

The course contents are based on the consolidated Law Enforcement Training Modules, Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual of Operations, and Basic Wildlife Law Enforcement Training Modules, with some incorporated developments by the DENR and other wildlife experts.

Meanwhile, the Wildlife Philippines Podcast was developed through the collaboration of more than 20 higher education institutions under their Institutes of Environmental Governance.

The podcast provides educational trivia and important facts about biodiversity conservation and wildlife protection to educate and raise awareness on the country's biodiversity, environmental challenges and best practices.



Learners can access Wildlife Philippines through Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts.

The DENR- BMB has also announced the implementation of an automated system for the issuance of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permits through eCITESPH soon.

The system will be eventually linked to or integrated into the Philippines national single window system for trade facilitation.

CITES works by subjecting international trade of threatened animal and plant species to certain controls--import, export re-export and introduction from the sea.

BMB OIC and Assistant Director Amelita Ortiz said the system will "improve control of international trade in endangered species."

"With the automation of CITES permits, and the use of modern information and communication technologies to simplify compliant trade, we will strengthen CITES implementation to combat illegal trade," Ortiz said.

She explained that the automation of CITES processes will help "enforce regulations, increase transparency, facilitate processing and electronic data exchange with customs and other agencies, and reduce opportunities for corruption and the use of fraudulent documents."

"Electronic information exchange with other countries will put an end to current practices using fraudulent paper permits to launder illegal trade in endangered species in the international supply chain," she added. (DENR)



DENR officers rescue migratory bird



RESCUED. The wildlife team of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources provincial office in Zambales rescued on March 15, 2021 a wounded raptor in Sitio Lawin in Barangay San Rafael, San Marcelino town, Zambales province. (DENR)

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

March 19, 2021

THE wildlife team of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) provincial office in Zambales rescued on Monday, March 15, a wounded raptor in Sitio Lawin in Barangay San Rafael, San Marcelino town in Zambales.

According to Marcelino Maliksi, a resident of Barangay San Rafael, the bird was injured, with wound in the right wing, when he found the species lying in a rice field.

He immediately reported the incident to the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) based in Iba town.

The DENR identified the bird species as Grey-faced buzzard scientific *Butastur indicus*. It is now in the custody of the Botolan Wildlife Farm in Botolan town to undergo treatment and rehabilitation, after which it will be released to the wild.

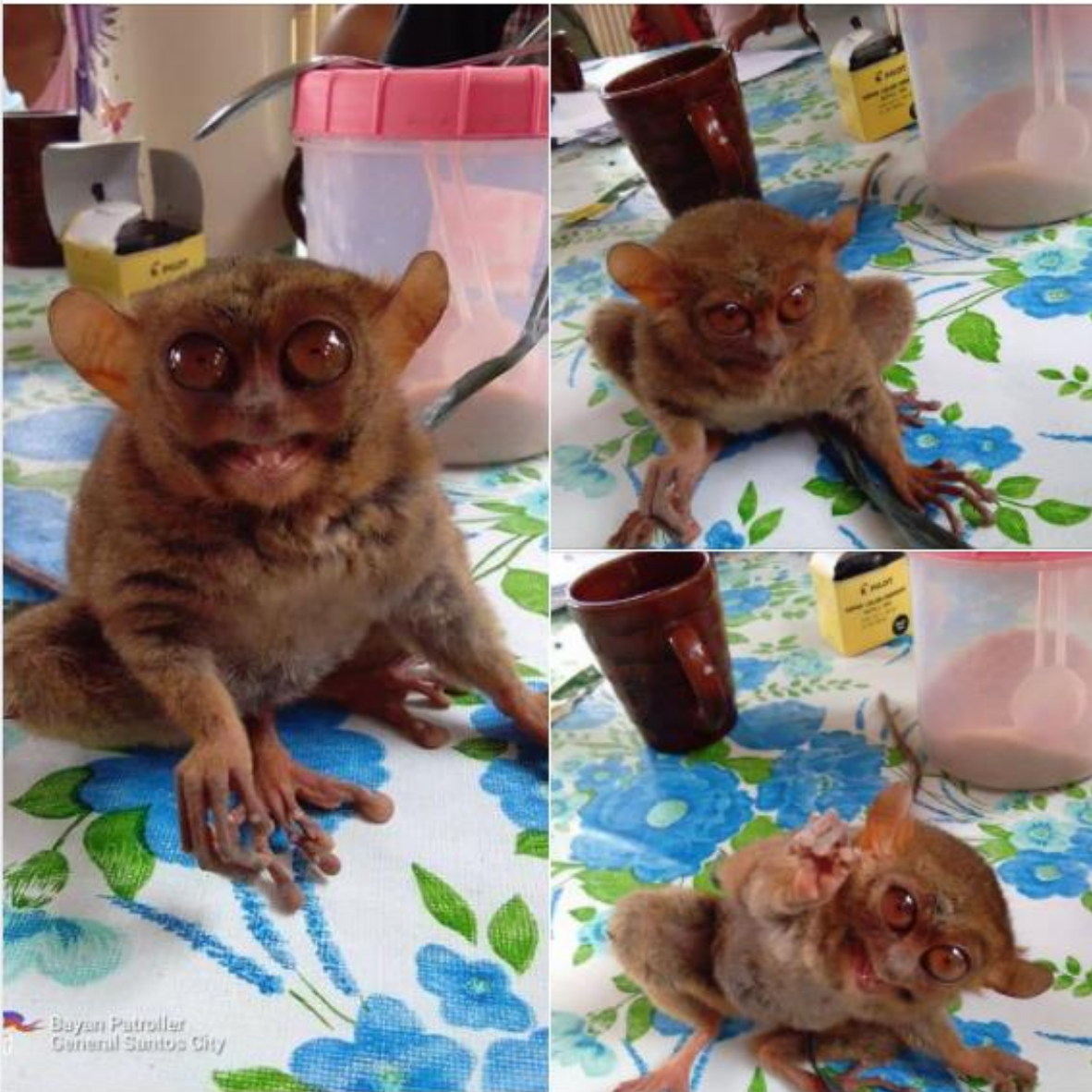
According to research, the Grey-faced buzzard is an Asian bird of prey and is typically between 41 and 46 centimeters in length, making it a medium-sized raptor. This species migrates from Japan and Korea to South East Asia during the winter season and is a bird of open land.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1889295/Pampanga/Local-News/DENR-officers-rescue-migratory-bird>



March 18, 2019 · 🌐

TINGNAN: Isang tarsier ang natagpuan sa General Santos City noong nakaraang linggo. Ayon sa isang officer ng City Environment & Natural Resources Office o CENRO, isang bata ang nakakita sa tarsier sa tabing-ilog sa Bgy. San Jose. Naghihina umano ito kaya dinala sa kanilang "sitio hall". Agad ding pinakawalan ang tarsier kinahapunan. | via [Bayan Mo](#), [Ipatrol Mo](#)



Bayan Patroller
General Santos City

👍👍👍 Kryshlaine Raquel and 18K others

5.9K Comments 15K Shares



DENR awards 68 free patents to San Jose, Tarlac residents

By Gabriela Liana BarelaPublished on March 19, 2021

TARLAC CITY, March 19 (PIA) -- Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) awarded a total of 68 agricultural free patents to qualified beneficiaries of barangay Burgos in San Jose, Tarlac.

Patent Processing and Issuance program is under the Commonwealth Act 141 or otherwise known as the Public Land Act of 1936.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Celia Esteban said this is to perfect the ownership of the beneficiaries who have been in actual possession, occupation and cultivation of the land for 30 years or of their predecessors-in-interests.

"Having a document or title that will legalize the ownership on a piece of land is very important," Esteban emphasized.

In addition, she announced that beneficiaries should have their titles declared to the Office of Municipal Assessor for taxation purposes to contribute in their town's funds for improvement and development.



A total of 68 residents of Barangay Burgos in San Jose, Tarlac receive free patents from Department of Environmental and Natural Resources. (DENR Tarlac)

Meanwhile, Mayor Romeo Capitulo expressed his gratitude to the department for the programs received by his constituents.

"We thank DENR for their never-ending support to the people of San Jose, not only on land titling but also on the benefits and support we enjoy from other DENR activities and programs," he conveyed.

Public Land Act is the general law governing the classification, delimitation, survey, and disposition of alienable lands of the public domain.

One of the modes of acquiring public lands under this law is by voluntary administrative legalization of imperfect title, which is more popularly known as "free patent". (CLJD/GLSB-PIA 3)



150 Yolanda housing beneficiaries receive land titles



Photo by A. Alamos/K.E. Napala/CIO

Photo by A. Alamos/K.E. Napala/CIO

[RONALD O. REYES](#)

March 19, 2021

A TOTAL of 150 Yolanda housing project beneficiaries received their land titles during the turnover ceremony at the Tacloban Astrodome on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

Senator Bong Go, along with National Housing Authority General Manager Marcelino Escalada Jr. and other government officials, personally awarded the titles to the recipients of St. Francis Village 1 & 2, North Hill Arbours 1 & 2, and Villa Diana.

In his speech, Go assured the housing recipients of the continued support from the government under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte.

The senator also distributed 25 bicycles, tablets, and shoes during the event.

He also reiterated the government's healthcare support program in the region through the establishment of the Malasakit Center in Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center.

Meanwhile, Fe Chona Bahin, acting city head of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), delivered a message on behalf of Mayor Alfred Romualdez following the distribution of cash assistance to the jeepney, pedicab, and motorcab drivers during the ceremony.

According to the Tacloban City Information Office, the financial aid was under the DSWD's Individuals in Crisis Situation program. (SunStar Philippines)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1889239/Tacloban/Local-News/150-Yolanda-housing-beneficiaries-receive-land-titles>



122 poor Leyte families tapped in massive tree planting

March 19, 2021 2 min read

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has forged partnerships with 122 poor families in Leyte province to carry out the enhanced National Greening Program (NGP).

The DENR said on Friday that poor families will be planting trees in 763 hectares, including 200 hectares for bamboo trees, 63 hectares for fruit-bearing trees, and another 469 hectares for indigenous species.

The government has set aside a PHP12.86-million budget as compensation for poor families engaged in planting and ensuring the survival of the trees with technical support from DENR.

“We have been encouraging the participation of families in the National Greening Program as partners of DENR when developing plantation or rehabilitating qualified areas,” said DENR Eastern Visayas regional information officer Maita Reina Sugcang in a phone interview.

The department has been adopting the “family approach” as one of the modes in implementing the enhanced NGP where families are assigned to establish forest plantations composed of timber and non-timber species like rattan.

“Within production zones, beneficiary families can also establish agroforestry plantations composed of timber, non-timber, and high-value crops such as coffee, cacao, rubber, and other fruit trees, provided that the area must be planted with more forestry species than high-value crops,” Sugcang added.

Covered areas in Leyte are Tacloban City, San Miguel, La Paz, MacArthur, Carigara, Jaro, Burauen, Julita, and Dulag.

The NGP is one of the flagship programs of the DENR to reforest 1.5 million hectares of denuded lands nationwide from 2011-2016 for food security, poverty alleviation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity conservation.

The project is extended until 2022 since there are still many open areas potential for reforestation activities. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/03/19/122-poor-leyte-families-tapped-in-massive-tree-planting/?fbclid=IwAR3K5c9p8WdR315X1n4WhUhjMaT9V5PFY--Vn3TRxnvWOauONtgCwBGuZwM>



Angeles government employees, volunteers plant 600 trees



TREE PLANTING. Angeles City Vice Mayor Vicky Vega-Cabigting, Mayor Lazatin's Chief Adviser and Tactician IC Calaguas, and Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel spearheaded the tree planting activity on March 19, 2021 at the Barangay Sapangbato Watershed, with members of the Gender and Development Office headed by Mina Cabiles, Angeles City Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office led by Irish Bonus Llego, Angeles City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office headed by Rudy Simeon, Mayor's Office Records headed by Jermaine Jam Aguila, Angeles City Tourism Office led by Anneleen Antonio-Sugui, Information Communication Technology Division led by Michael Lising, Environment Management Office headed by Engineer Don Dizon, City Environment and Natural Resources Office led by Archie Lazatin, and Clark International Airport Corporation. (Angeles City Information Office)

[CHARLENE A. CAYABYAB](#)

March 19, 2021

AS PART of the celebration of Women's Month, 113 female City Hall employees and volunteers planted 600 trees on March 19 at the Barangay Sapangbato Watershed.

Mayor Carmelo Lazatin Jr. recognized the significant role of women in the development of our society, particularly in the protection and the preservation of the environment.

"Kinikilala natin ang mahalagang kontribusyon ng ating mga kababaihan sa pag-unlad ng ating lipunan, lalo na sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan," Lazatin said.

Angeles City Vice Mayor Vicky Vega-Cabigting, Lazatin's Chief Adviser and Tactician IC Calaguas and Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel spearheaded the tree planting activity, with members of the Gender and Development (GAD) Office headed by Mina Cabiles, Angeles City Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office (Acedipo) led by Irish Bonus Llego, Angeles City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (ACDRMO) headed by Rudy Simeon, Mayor's Office Records headed by Jermaine Jam Aguila, Angeles City Tourism Office (Acto) led by Anneleen Antonio-Sugui, Information Communication Technology Division (ICTD) led by Michael Lising, Environment Management Office headed by Engineer Don Dizon, City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) led by Archie Lazatin, and Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC).

Also present during the activity were members of the Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) community headed by Jhune Angeles, and the President and Vice President of the Abacan River Angeles Watershed Advocacy Council Inc. (Araw-ACI) Renato "Abong" Tayag, and Sonny Dobles.

Meanwhile, Calaguas said the tree planting activity is also in line with the ongoing programs of the City Government for the environment, especially in the rehabilitation of the Sapangbato Watershed.

"Bawat punong i tinanim ngayong araw, malaki ang mai tutulong sa ginagawa nating programa para sa Sapangbato Watershed. Para din ito sa kinabukasan ng lahat ng Angelenos, para maseguro na hindi tayo magkakaroon ng water shortage sa siyudad," Calaguas said.



It can be recalled that in January 2021, Lazatin initiated a strong stand in protecting the 560-hectare Sapangbato watershed, by asking the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to entrust the city the management of the former military reservation land so it can be developed into a protected forest park and watershed.

Since he won the mayoral election in 2019, Lazatin and Araw-ACI's Tayag have already started discussing shared goals of protecting Angeles City's water sources and reservoirs, including the rehabilitation of the Sapangbato Watershed.

The group planted 600 trees, including narra, molave, dau, poay and other fruit bearing trees, donated by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) and Cenro.

In recognition of their hard work for the day, the participants took home a "tree certificate" and Beutederm products including soap, skin soothing oil, balm, and Belle Powder.

As part of the city's safety and health protocols against Covid-19, all the participants in the tree planting activity underwent rapid antigen testing a day before the event, and were all declared negative.

All health protocols were observed like social distancing and wearing face mask and face shield.



PCC OKs joint venture for Manila Bay reclamation project

By Kris Crismundo March 19, 2021, 3:23 pm



MANILA – The Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) announced Friday that it approved the joint venture between the City Government of Manila and Waterfront Manila Premier Development Inc. to build the Manila Waterfront City.

The anti-trust body said it found that the transaction would not result in substantial lessening of competition, but will create a new market that is pro-competition.

“There are neither affected customers nor any commercial activity in the relevant geographic market,” the PCC decision read.

The Manila Waterfront City is a reclamation project covering 318 hectares of foreshore and offshore areas in the south of Manila South Harbor to develop a new central business district, a gateway, a marina, a waterfront, and hubs for entertainment, health, and education.

“The transaction is a new area of investment formed for the creation of a residential and commercial real estate development project. This will expand the existing market and likely create an opportunity for the emergence of new markets for commercial and residential real estate within the City of Manila,” the PCC added.

The parties notified the PCC that the project will be a 51-49 percent share in favor of the Manila City government.

The local government will contribute rights over municipal waters, while Waterfront Manila will share capital and expertise.

This project is the 211th transaction approved by the anti-trust body. **(PNA)**



PCC approves Manila Bay reclamation joint venture

posted March 19, 2021 at 06:58 pm

by [Manila Standard Business](#)

The Philippine Competition Commission said Friday it approved the proposed joint venture between the city government of Manila and Waterfront Manila Premier Development Inc. to reclaim 318 hectares of Manila Bay and develop it into a mixed-used project.

The development, covering offshore areas south of Manila South Harbor, would be known as the Manila Waterfront City.

Under the proposed joint venture, Manila, as the project owner, will contribute the rights to reclaim on its municipal waters, while Waterfront Manila, the developer, will finance and develop the project.

It is envisioned as a master-planned development complete with a central business district.

The anti-trust government body issued the decision on March 9 approving the transaction which would involve the P34.37-billion reclamation project.

Once developed, the project will include a central business district, a gateway, a marina, a waterfront and entertainment, health and education hubs. It also aims to decongest Manila and boost business opportunities in the city.

The PCC said it approved the joint venture because it would not result in the substantial lessening of competition in the market for commercial and residential real estate development in the city.



In Zambales, Aetas endure 24-year wait to call land their own

By: [Tonette Orejas](#) - [@ttorejasINO](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:00 AM March 19, 2021



TRIBAL DOMAIN The ancestral domain of Aetas from the Abellen tribe in Cabangán, Zambales, has been mined, logged and claimed by lowlanders but it has yet to be titled to its original inhabitants. —PHOTOS BY TONETTE OREJAS

CABANGAN, ZAMBALES—For over two decades now, 533 Aeta families belonging to the Abellen tribe at Sitio Maporac here still cannot claim as their own the land that their ancestors inhabited and protected for generations, in the absence of a certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT).

The first certificate of ancestral domain claim (CADC) in the country, issued on March 8, 1996, by then President Fidel Ramos to the Aeta families of Maporac, has yet to be registered by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) with the Land Registration Authority (LRA) as a CADT, the Inquirer learned.

Data from the NCIP showed that the registration of the tribe's CADT-CAB-0110-151 is still ongoing 24 years since CADC No. 042 was applied to be converted into a CADT following the enactment of the Indigenous People's Rights Act (Ipra) of 1997 (Republic Act No. 8371).

What their tribal chief, Salvador Dimain, showed to the Inquirer during a March 12 visit was a poor copy of a still unnumbered original certificate of title for the CADT approved by the NCIP board on Jan. 27, 2010.

The billboard announcing the awarding of CADC 042 at the entrance of Barangay New San Juan here has corroded, the words almost unreadable.



HOPING For 24 years, Aeta elder Denesia de la Cruz Mura and more than 500 families have been waiting for the registration of a title to their ancestral domain.



Diminished

Dimain said the size of the domain diminished from 6,230 hectares to 5,430.5 ha over the years.

The NCIP report said the agency needed to continue doing “research of overlapped titled properties,” based on maps by the LRA, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

According to the NCIP, it still has to do community validation and dialogue.

“Our waiting is taking too long. All the seven elders I have taken with me to the DENR [to validate the claim] had died except for one,” Dimain said.

That lone surviving elder, Denesia de la Cruz Mura, told Dimain as well as tribal and elected leaders in the “kapulungan” (council) “not to give up on the fight for the land until I’m dead.” Mura did not leave the Maporac settlement within the domain when Mt. Pinatubo erupted on June 15, 1991, and lahar buried the community several times.

“You don’t leave the land,” she said.

But a dispute with Jose Pedenes and his heirs continues to get in the way of the Aetas’ dream to get a CADT.



PROOF OF OWNERSHIP A corroded billboard in Cabangan town announces the recognition of a claim over lands by Aetas in 1996.

Cleared

An April 30, 1973, letter of the defunct Commission on National Integration (CNI) showed that between 1957 and 1958, Pedenes came with armed Philippine Constabulary men to claim ownership of the Maporac settlement within the domain through Tax Declaration No. 34350. Denesia remembered that Pedenes had the area bulldozed and cleared of crops and trees. Maporac Aetas had demanded the cancellation of the tax declaration, then CNI farm management technician John Sabangan said in the letter. Apparently, it was not canceled.

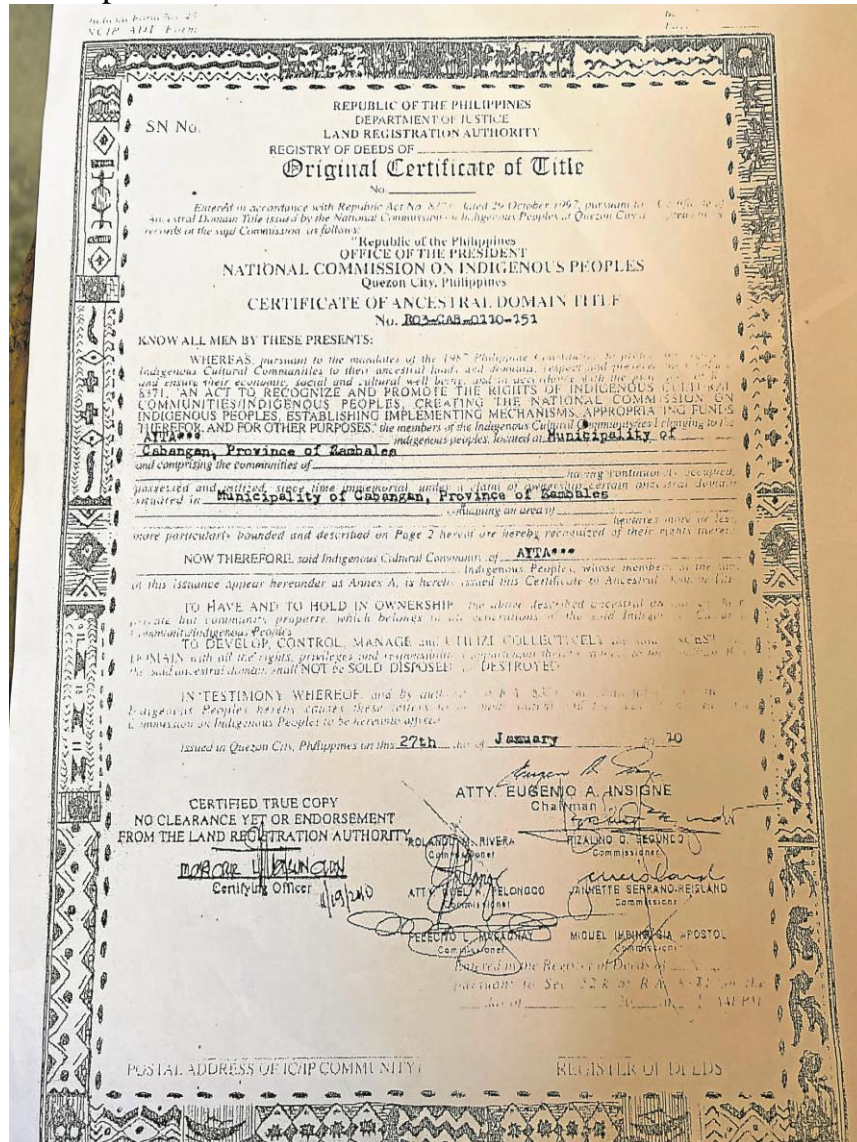
When the tribe’s secretary, Janet de Guzman, went to the NCIP regional office on March 3, she said she was encouraged by an NCIP employee, whom she did not name, to convince the Aeta elders to sign an agreement recognizing Pedenes’ ownership of the land because his approved survey plan was “as good as a title.”

Dimain said: “Why should we recognize him as owner when we owned this land. Do you pay for a land that you owned?”



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

NCIP files showed an approved survey plan in 1944 that Pedenes submitted to prove ownership of a parcel of land in Maporac.



A reproduction of a land title for 5,430 hectares to 533 Aeta families. The document has yet to be registered with the Land Registration Authority.

Settling disputes

According to Dimain, the Ipra mandates the settling of disputes through customary laws, which his tribe has been asserting.

But the problem, he added, is that the NCIP does not have the final say on disputes. Its decisions can be appealed in the Court of Appeals through a petition for review—a route that the Maporac Aetas have yet to take.

He said the fight to own the land had taken much longer. While his grandfather “Puto” (Emilio) and father Francisco knew the expanse of the ancestral domain, the then Bureau of Non-Christians gave them a map approximating the area in 1927.

The feud with Pedenes prompted Dimain to apply the tribe’s land ownership in 1972, or 45 years after they got hold of the map. He reapplied during the Ramos administration in the 1990s.

In between, the land was mined and logged by large companies without the consent of the tribe.



Opposition

The conversion of CADC to CADT was opposed by the local government through Resolution No. 2000-01.

According to the resolution, the CADC area “covered private properties and other DENR programs detrimental to the welfare of owners/applicants; and is deemed inappropriate and unjust to the other sectors of the community.”

In those decades, they have waited peacefully.

“Everyone in the tribe is waiting. We are praying to Apo Namalyari (the deity on Mt. Pinatubo) to touch our officials to be just,” Dimain said.



PHOTOGRAPH BY AL PADILLA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_al

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources volunteer cleans the vicinity of the Parañaque Police Station 1.

Climate body lauds adoption of bill banning single-use plastics in House panel

By Ma. Alaine P. AllaniguePublished on March 19, 2021



QUEZON CITY, March 19 (PIA) -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) today welcomed the adoption of a bill banning single-use plastics in a meeting of the House of Representatives Committee on Ecology on Thursday, March 18, lauding the move as a critical step in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change.

The House bill consolidates the 38 bills and four House resolutions seeking to phase-out or regulate single-use plastics, including a bill filed by House Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco. The resulting substitute bill was adopted in a meeting presided over by Committee Chair Rep. Glona Labadlabad, and will now be submitted to the plenary after several meetings and consultations with stakeholders and experts held by a technical working group chaired by Rep. Francisco "Kiko" Benitez.

"We have been addicted to the use of plastics. It's been implicit in many of our habits and it plays an important role in the way our economy works, but at the same time we are in the middle of an environmental crisis that really cannot wait for us to take much longer in order to address the cries of Mother Nature," said Benitez, who acknowledged the need to address the concerns of industry but emphasized the urgency needed to protect the environment.

Benitez also discussed the bill's salient points during the Committee's deliberation.

"There is a transition period and tiers of single-use plastic products that will be regulated in varying degrees—the first tier is intended to be phased out within one year," Benitez explained.

"The second component of the bill is an Expanded Producers Responsibility to reduce and recover single-use plastic products in the market and avoid their leaking into the environment through the development of alternative products, offsetting their plastic footprints, and buyback schemes of whatever is released into the market," he added.

"The third component is environmental education to help modify the behavior of our consumers and wean us away from our difficult addiction to plastic use," Benitez said.

"The last component is the sharing of revenues from fees and penalties between the National Solid Waste Management Commission and the barangays to help provide the barangays a source of fund to enhance material recovery and solid waste management programs on the ground," he concluded.



CCC Commissioner Rachel Herrera, one of the resource persons present at the Committee's meeting, lauded the bill's approval. "The House Committee on Ecology's adoption of the bill banning single-use plastics brings us closer to achieving our targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. If passed into law, this will help Filipinos survive climate impacts as we will reduce risks of flooding and manage our increasing carbon footprint," Herrera added.

In its Roadmap for Sustainability on Single-Use Plastics, the United Nations Environment Programme warns that the world's capacity to cope with plastic waste has already been overwhelmed. With only 9 percent of the world's plastic waste being recycled and the rest ending up in landfills, dumps, or in the environment, the report estimates that there will be 12 billion tons of plastic litter in landfills and the environment by 2050. Aside from the environmental impact, the UN also warns of the numerous health problems and vast economic damage caused by plastic waste.

The CCC, led by its Chairperson-designate Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez, has been advocating for the passage of the bill and lending its expertise as the TWG refined and consolidated proposals. The CCC has earlier emphasized that it is aligned with the aims of the bill "to advance realistic solutions to address the challenge of single-use plastics pollution and provide a clear pathway for the pursuit of sustainable consumption and production."

To recall, the Climate Change Commission is the lead policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government programs and ensure mainstreaming of climate change in national, local, and sectoral development plans towards a climate-resilient and climate-smart Philippines. (PIA NCR)



Put your IG stories to good use, Pinoy youth told amid worsening plastic pollution

Published March 19, 2021, 6:53 PM

by [Bethena Unite](#)

Use your social media accounts as a platform to share your personal solutions to the worsening global plastic pollution, Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda urged young Filipinos Friday, March 19, during the 1st Consumer Youth e-Forum.



Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda (Congresswoman Loren Legarda Official Facebook Page / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Speaking at the forum organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and National Youth Commission (NYC) Legarda encouraged the youth to utilize their social media presence in informing and influencing their fellow youngsters on how to eradicate the plastic problem in their own little ways.

As someone who finds joy in sharing her recycling and “plantita” activities on her Instagram and Facebook accounts, Legarda urged the young ones to do the same.

“If I may suggest, maybe I could do a 30-second or one-minute video. Let’s develop this forum. It’s good to have an output, the DTI and NYC forum can have a solo IG on best practices, i-upload natin(let’s upload it),” Legarda said.

“I’m not an influencer or social media-savvy person but you now I just do my own in between my work or pampawala ng stress kasi tuwang-tuwa ako mag-post ng aking mga tinatanim at hina-harvest at kinakain (to relieve stress because I find joy in posting about my plants and harvest). Now, if we all do that... every day we can have an IG story, showing how we implement RA (Republic Act) 9003,” the former senator urged.

During the forum, which was held in celebration of the World Consumer Rights’ Day 2021, Legarda also challenged the youth to collaborate and help in the mission to do away with single-use plastic and lead a sustainable lifestyle.

“The challenge for you now is to pull together more of your fellow young Filipinos to make sure your actions can have a wider reach and a greater impact. To collaborate and link up with more young people so you can speed up and scale up your initiative and inspire many more to act for our planet,” she said.



The House of Representatives leader also recommended to the DTI and NYC the conduct of a nationwide road show with millennials, youth groups, and consumer groups to spread awareness over existing various laws protecting the environment.

Among these are RA 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Law; Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act; Renewable Energy Law; Environmental Education Awareness Act; and the Climate Change Act.

The virtual forum was also attended by DTI Usec. Ruth Castelo; DTI Asec. Anne Claire Cabochan; Ryan Enriquez of the NYC; Antoinette Taus, founder of the Communities Organized for Resource Allocation Inc.; and Jeremy Marquez, director of the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines.



COVID-19 recovery must be attuned to climate pathway –Filipina Resilience Champs

By Jimmyley E. GuzmanPublished on March 19, 2021



PASIG CITY, March 19 (PIA) -- Filipina leaders in climate and disaster risk resilience highlighted the extraordinary roles of women in the field of disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA), and in national pandemic recovery during the 38th episode of "Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Pathways," with the topic "Juana Laban sa Krisis sa Klima at Pandemya: Kaya!"

The online conversation hosted by three-term Senator, now Deputy Speaker and Antique Representative Loren Legarda, was a special episode in celebration of the National Women's Month. Atty. Lesley Jeanne Cordero, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist of World Bank; Ms. Lara Jean Salaysay, a Climate Reality Leader and Project Development Officer of the Department of Education (DepEd); and Ms. Louise Mabulo, a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Young Champion of the Earth 2019, joined as guests.

"We've been advocating for women in politics and governance, and this is nothing new today in times of pandemic. I'm so happy that many have taken up the action to embrace women in governance and women in resilience," said Legarda, who is a UNISDR Global Champion of Resilience, UNFCCC National Adaptation Plan Champion, and Commissioner of the Global Commission on Adaptation.

The Filipina champions of resilience shared their trailblazing work in DRR, CCA, and in national pandemic recovery.

"We need to communicate better. We need to speak in a language that is understood by the people affected by disasters, as well as the local government units so they can participate, they can help, and they can contribute in the rehabilitation and recovery efforts," said Atty. Cordero.

"Ang programa natin sa climate change education ay para sa ating mga learners, kumbaga ito ay child-centered. Gusto po natin na sila ang bida, sila ang nagsasalita, at sila din yung kikilos para sa climate change adaptation at mitigation. Naniniwala po tayo na sa climate crisis, lahat tayo ay may pag-asa, lalung-lalo na ang kabataan. Sa DepEd, tinutulungan natin sila na i-unlock ang kanilang potential upang solusyunan o mag-adapt at mitigate sa climate change," said Salaysay.



"We're breaking down the negative stigma associated with agriculture. We think of agriculture as associated with poverty, unsustainability, and failure, which is problematic, hindi to maganda para sa mga farmers natin at industries. What we're trying to do is to show people and yung mga kabataan ngayon that farming is cool, and it's really fun, and that it can be used as a means for green stewardship," said Mabulo.

Legarda emphasized the need to harness the strength of women in reducing social vulnerability and increasing local capacity to ensure the sustainability, inclusivity and resilience of local, and national development pursuits. By ensuring that they are able to adapt to climate and disaster risks, and be leaders and active communicators, this will also allow them to be champions of resilience.

"I hope the issue of climate, DRR and resilience will go viral. When will that happen? I want to meet more and to be more with young women like you. Let us continue doing our COVID recovery attuned to the climate pathway during this pandemic," Legarda concluded.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, "Stories for a Better Normal" aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities by demonstrating ways in which a 'better normal' can be realized within our communities.

This online discussion is organized in partnership between the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda and the Climate Change Commission, with support from the Department of Education, Philippine Information Agency, Philippine Commission on Women, Institute for Climate and Sustainable



Hataw D'yaryo ng Bayan

23h · 🌐

PINASINAYAAN ni Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos ang kauna-unahang Solid Waste Granulator at Brick-Making Facility ng ahensiya mula sa mga basura ng Vitas Pumping Station, sa Brgy. 147, Tondo, Maynila. (BONG SON)



👍 8

2 Shares



Garbage, flooding problems

Friday, March 19, 2021 People's Tonight12



WITH its decision to set up a granular and brick-making facility in Tondo, Manila, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is on track in addressing the flooding and garbage problems in the country's premier region.

Set up at the Vitas pumping station in Tondo, the facility is capable of "*processing wastes*," including plastics, into bricks, hollow blocks, concrete barriers, compost and charcoal.

MMDA Chairman Benjamin "*Benhur*" Abalos Jr. led the inauguration of the facility yesterday.

Ads by **optAd360**

Various quarters acknowledged that garbage clogging waterways, like rivers, esteros and drainage canals, is one of the major causes of flooding in the heavily-populated metropolis.

And what's saddening and revolting is even the so-called biodegradable materials, like plastic, tires, glass, bottles and batteries, are thrown into drainage canals and other waterways.

If not disposed properly, these non-biogradable things cause pollution, block drains and even harm animals.

That's why we commend the MMDA for setting up the facility, which is part of its flood management project that aims to address the flooding and garbage problems in the metropolis.

In a speech during the inauguration, Abalos Jr., a former city mayor, said such facility is seen to prolong the service life of a sanitary landfill through the reduction of solid waste.

Hopefully, local government units (LGUs) in various parts of the country, with the same flooding and garbage problems as MM, will establish the same facility now – and fast.

It will be good for the LGU and the public.



LIFESTYLE

Turning trash into art

Gilbert Angeles creates art from scratch by using leftover paint, old plywood and worn-out paintings.

Published 6 hours ago on March 20, 2021 12:40 AM

By [Raye Sanchez](#) [@tribunephil_raye](#)



'LIVING Hope," 36 x 48, 2020.

Reducing pollutants to help rejuvenate the Earth is now a worldwide effort. Minimizing waste is one of the easiest ways people can save the environment.

Gilbert Calderon Angeles found his own means of helping achieve a greener planet through his art.

Before he discovered how waste like candy wrappers, junk food packets, shampoo sachets, among others, can also be used to create artworks, Angeles was not content with the medium that he practiced. The discovery played a huge part in starting his advocacy.



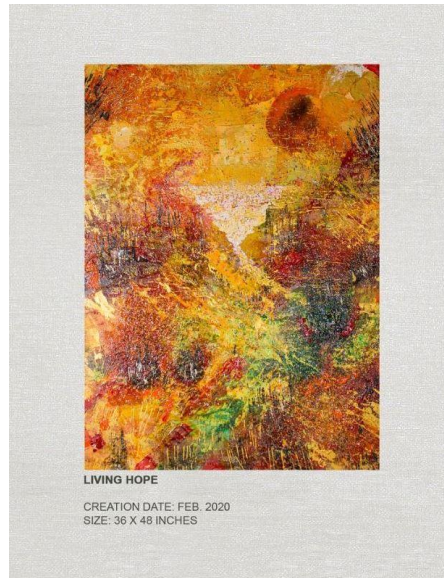
Gilbert Calderon Angeles put up the Green Artz movement to champion sustainable art.



Turning to post-consumer waste art, Angeles put up the Green Artz movement to champion sustainable art practices and inspire other artists.

Angeles uses shredded laminated sachets which is beneficial since shredded plastic expands and strengthens when mixed with paint. He makes sure to create everything from scratch by using leftover paint, old plywood and worn-out paintings.

The shredded plastic is sourced from eco-friendly construction company Green Antz, the same company that uses shredded plastic to create eco-bricks.



'LIVING Hope,' 36 x 48, 2020.

During Angeles' exhibit at Conrad Manila last 4 March, members of the media had a hands-on experience with creating art.

As he demonstrated his work, Angeles also talked about the benefits of this art form, including its therapeutic effect (as I myself experienced).

Twenty-three of his works are showcased at Gallery C's latest Of Art and Wine installment until 9 May. The exhibit is aptly titled "New Earth, New Life, New Hope."



Twenty-three of Gilbert's works are showcased at Gallery C's latest Of Art and Wine installment until 9 May. / PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF CONRAD MANILA AND GILBERT ANGELES

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/03/20/turning-trash-into-art/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=turning-trash-into-art



WHO flags workplace clustering of COVID-19 cases in Philippines

Published March 19, 2021 4:24pm By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday urged Filipinos to immediately isolate themselves if they are experiencing symptoms as it flagged a clustering of COVID-19 infections in workplaces.

Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe, WHO Philippines country representative, said it was “critically important” that symptomatic individuals are isolated and tested early amid the emergence of new and more transmissible coronavirus variants.

“Worryingly, what we are seeing is several clusters of cases being reported from multiple workplaces. Oftentimes, these clusters are related to infection that was acquired in the community and then brought into [the] workplace,” he said at a briefing.

“People who exhibit symptoms [must] isolate themselves early, have themselves tested, and manage themselves without putting their family members or their coworkers at risk by turning up at workplaces,” he added.

Quezon City, one of the areas battling a fresh spike, earlier reported that [most of its new cases were linked to workplaces](#).

The Department of Health also observed workplace clustering as it warned that the current surge is similar to [last year’s peak](#).

Abeyasinghe urged city and regional health authorities to “pay increased attention” to clustering in offices.

“This will be a critical element so that we suppress infection. It’s not just limited to behaviors that we adopt and practice in our homes but it also relates to what we do in our workplaces, what we do when we use public transport, et cetera,” he said.

“All of these measures, everybody needs to contribute to them. I know it’s been a very very long time everybody is tired everybody wants to see an end to this pandemic... but this is what it is, we are continuing to deal with [it].”

The Philippines logged [7,103 new infections](#) on Friday, its highest single-day tally ever, bringing total infections to 648,066 with 73,264 active cases. -MDM, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/780378/who-flags-workplace-clustering-of-covid-19-cases-in-philippines/story/>



MAGPATINGIN AT SUMUNOD SA PAYO NG DOKTOR SA BAKUNA VS COVID-19



March 19, 2021 @ 3:13 PM 15 hours ago

MAY namatay na Pinoy health worker makaraang maturukan ng bakunang laban sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Babae ang biktima, 47-anyos at naganap ang malungkot na pangyayari sa isang ospital sa Metro Manila.

Naturukan siya ng bakunang Sinovac noong Marso 4 makaraan siyang magsabi na may asthma, diabetes at hypertension siya.

Dumating ang Marso 8, lumitaw na tinamaan pala siya ng COVID-19 at sinabihan siyang magpa-confine ngunit tumanggi siya.

Nang bumigat ang kanyang pakiramdam, saka na lang siya nagpa-admit sa ospital nitong Marso 10 at makaraan ang tatlong araw o Marso 13, pumanaw na siya.

SA COVID-19 AT SARILING SAKIT NAMATAY

Tatlong beses na palang tinamaan ng COVID-19 ang biktima at panghuli ang kinamatayan niya.

Una siyang nagpositibo noong nakaraang taon at tinamaan ulit siya noong Pebrero 22.

Lumitaw sa pag-aaral na hindi siya namatay sa bakuna kundi sa virus na sumakay sa sakit niyang asthma, hypertension at diabetes, paliwanag ng mga doktor mula sa Department of Health, Food and Drugs Administration at iba pa.

Ang bakunang ginamit sa biktima ay maituturing na isa sa pinakaligtas na bakuna at ginagamit na ito ng milyon-milyong tao sa iba't ibang bansa.

7 PATAY SA HK HINDI RIN SA BAKUNA

May pito naman, karamiha'y senior citizen, sa Hong Kong ang namatay makaraang mabakunahan ng Sinovac.

Ngunit idineklara ring hindi sa Sinovac namatay ang pitong biktima kundi sa sakit nilang pagtutubig sa baga, sirang puso, pagbabara ng ugat sa puso, hypertension, grabeng bronchitis at iba pa.



Lahat sila, may dala nang mga malalang sakit nang mabakunahan ngunit nagkataon lang umanong nasawi ang mga ito.

Inawtopsyang umano ang lahat ng nasawing ito at doon nga nila nalamang may mga sakit na sila bago sila naturukan ng bakuna.

Magkagayunman, patuloy pa rin ang imbestigasyon ng mga eksperto nila mula sa Department of Health para malaman nila nang buo kung may kaugnayan ang bakuna sa pagkamatay ng mga biktima.

Umabot na sa 100,000 ang nababakunahan ng Sinovac sa Hong Kong habang may ilang libo na rin na naturukan ng Pfizer/BioNTech.

MGA BAKUNA HIGIT NA NAKALILIGTAS

Gaya ng paninindigan ng sarili nating mga awtoridad, wala pang makitang malinaw na pruweba kung ang bakunang Sinovac mismo ang dahilan ng pagkamatay ng mga biktima.

Kaya naman, sa Pilipinas at Hong Kong, tuloy-tuloy ang paggamit ng Sinovac, maging sa ibang bansa, gaya ng Indonesia, Thailand at iba pa.

Katulad ng Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca na nauugnay rin sa kamatayan makaraang ang pagbabakuna, ganito rin ang nagaganap sa Sinovac.

Lahat ng gobyerno, maging ang World Health Organization, ay nagsasabing higit na malaki ang kapakinabangan ng buong bansa o sangkatauhan sa pagbabakuna kaysa hindi pagbabakuna.

Higit na marami ang naliligtas sa pagkakasakit, pagkakaospital at kamatayan mula sa COVID-19 ngayong laganap na ang pagbabakuna.

At mula sa kaligtasan sa pandemya, rito rin magsisimula ang panunumbalik ng normal na pamumuhay ng lahat.

Sa normal na pamumuhay, lahat maging malaya sa kanilang gagawin sa lahat ng larangan: ekonomiya, edukasyon, pulitika, pamamasyal at iba at hindi na sila gagambalain at itatali pa sa mga lockdown at samu't saring pagbabawal na sadyang taliwas sa malayang buhay.

SUMANGGUNI SA DOKTOR BAGO MAGPABAKUNA

Dahil sa mga kamatayang nagaganap, kabilin-bilinan sa mga nagpapabakuna na magpa-tsekap muna sila sa mga doktor bago sila sasalang sa bakunahan.

Huwag na huwag silang magsinungaling ukol sa kanilang nararamdaman bago at kahit makaraan ng pagbabakuna.

Mayroon kasing mga bawal at hindi bawal na mabakunahan.

Mayroon ding pwedeng bakunahan ngunit dapat palipasin ang ilang panahon gaya ng pagkakaroon ng sakit na dapat gumaling muna.



Mahaba-haba naman ang panahon ng paghihintay bago ang tawag sa pagbabakuna makaraan tayong mag-aplay kaya may panahon para sa tsekap.

Kung hindi kaya ang magpatsekap sa mga pribadong doktor, naririyang naman ang mga doktor sa ating mga barangay clinic, ospital ng gobyerno at barrio doctor.

O magpabakuna na tayo makaraang matsekap ng doktor.

Clean water vital for protecting those on the frontline of climate change in post-pandemic world

By [Inter Press Service](#)

March 20, 2021

LONDON: For many, the last year will be remembered as the time our day-to-day lives screeched to a halt. As Covid-19 spread mercilessly across the world, wreaking havoc on health and livelihoods, world leaders, health experts and scientists grappled with how to protect populations and stem the tide of the virus.

It is right that attention has been focused on the immediate threat posed by the pandemic; the global death toll has surpassed 2.6 million people and we have suffered the worst decline in the global economy since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

But while coronavirus has consumed every aspect of our monotonous daily existence for the past year, as we build back, we have a moral responsibility to ensure nobody is left behind as we tackle an even bigger global crisis – climate change.

With our world warming at an alarming rate, it is becoming harder for the world's poorest people to get clean water. WaterAid's latest report: "Turn the tide: The state of the world's water 2021" highlights how people are losing access to clean water and why it is a matter of utmost urgency that we take steps to protect people living in the most climate vulnerable countries of the world.

The 2.2 billion people who do not have a reliable and safe supply of water are without the most fundamental protection against climate change. Extreme weather such as prolonged droughts dry up water sources like springs and wells, while rising sea levels and flooding pollute poorly protected water supplies, threatening to put progress on bringing clean water to all back decades.

With no clean water to drink, cook or wash with, communities falter and people get sick – putting their lives and livelihoods at risk.

By 2040, the situation is predicted to be even worse, with climate change exacerbating the water crisis and helping to make water perilously scarce for 600 million children – that's 1 in 4, and an increase of 20 percent since 2010.

To highlight the impact climate change has on people's access to water, WaterAid created a giant sand portrait on Whitby Beach in the UK ahead of World Water Day on 22 March. It showed an image of 12-year-old Ansha from Ethiopia carrying water on dry, cracked ground, reflecting the impact of drought, while the incoming tide that swept the fleeting art away shows how rising sea levels and excess rainfall can contaminate water.

It is a stark reminder that climate change is happening now and those who have done least to cause it are living with its consequences. Having a reliable source of water is a frontline defense; it means being able to drink clean water every day, whatever the weather.

Less than 1% of total global climate investment goes to basic water infrastructure and services. And while there have been endless promises of billions of dollars (\$100 billion per year was pledged as part of the UN Climate process in 2009, which has not been delivered) too much is being spent in wealthier countries, rather than providing basic services in poorer communities to help protect against climate change and other threats.



Very few low-income countries are among the top recipients of public climate finance for water, despite being the most vulnerable to climate change. Of the 20 countries receiving the most climate funding for water programs, 19 are middle-income countries.

WaterAid is calling for change. On March 31, the UK government will host a virtual climate and development event to build momentum towards this year's UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. WaterAid is urging high income nations to significantly increase their climate finance for adaptation.

This includes fulfilling their previous commitments to give half of the total of climate adaptation finance to vulnerable communities to help them cope with the harsh reality of living with climate change.

The good news is that this is an entirely solvable problem. There is, in most cases, with the right infrastructure, resource management and investment, water available to meet everyone's domestic needs.

The Covid crisis has shown what we can achieve to protect people in an emergency. We need to draw on that same strength to ensure the next generations never need worry about something as fundamental as having clean water close to home.

BY JONATHAN FARR, IPS

The writer is Senior Policy Analyst for WaterAid.



CLEAN WATER SHORTAGE | Polluted waters around the world seen from the sky

March 19, 2021 , 09:24 AM

(Reuters) – About 4 billion people experience severe water shortages for at least one month a year and around 1.6 billion people – almost a quarter of the world's population – have problems accessing a clean, safe water supply, according to the United Nations.

While the UN's Sustainable Development Goals call for water and sanitation for all by 2030, the world body says water scarcity is increasing and more than half the world's population will be living in water-stressed regions by 2050.

In the run-up to the UN's World Water Day on March 22, Reuters photographers used drones to capture dramatic pictures and video of polluted waterways around the world.

In one image, a discarded sofa lies beached in the Tiete river, in Brazil's biggest city Sao Paulo, into which hundreds of tonnes of untreated sewage and waste are tipped each day.

Others show domestic waste clogging the Citarum river in Bandung, Indonesia, and sewage flowing into the Euphrates in Najaf, Iraq.

Dr. Julia Brown, a human geographer specialising in environment and development at the University of Portsmouth, said many countries with water-intensive agriculture and industry lacked adequate safe drinking water.

"When we buy products and buy food and clothing we don't always appreciate that we're actually importing somebody else's water and often those countries where we're importing water from, like in avocados or our denim jeans, they're actually very water-scarce countries," she told Reuters.

Brown added that, while extending access to water was important, maintaining that access in some of the poorest parts of the world was often overlooked.

"NGOs like to have their photographs taken with a shiny new hand pump ... then they walk away and it's handed over to communities to raise the funds to maintain these systems, to make sure that they're repaired. And if they're not?" she said.

"The research indicates at any one time one third of hand pumps across Sub-Saharan Africa are broken."

Writing by Stuart McDill and Alex Richardson; Editing by Mike Collett-White

Source: https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/clean-water-shortage-polluted-waters-around-the-world-seen-from-the-sky?fbclid=IwAR3gxII0yqAc9CKN448TogER-O_9fzcf2P3zyMDy-DS3y8RBuC5jQb-UE1U

Baby elephant gives hope for elephant conservation in Indonesia's ASEAN park

By ACB Published on March 19, 2021



Boni, a female elephant calf, uplifts the spirits of the park personnel of Gunung Leuser National Park and their stakeholders. Photo courtesy of VESSWIC

LAGUNA, March 19 -- The management of Indonesia's Gunung Leuser National Park and conservation groups are in high spirits following the birth of a Sumatran elephant calf within the protected area.

Weighing 69 kilogrammes and with a body circumference of 90 centimetres, a female elephant calf was born at the Special Animal Training Center of GLNP on 1 February 2021.

Indonesia's Director General of Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems (MoEF) Ir. Wiratno named the baby elephant "Boni."

"The baby and the mother Sari are both in good health. We are regularly monitoring their conditions, apart from overseeing the feeding and the mother's vitamin injections", Ir. Jefry Susyafrianto, M.M. head of the GLNP Office said.

GLNP is a designated ASEAN Heritage Park (AHP) and part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra. Covering an area of about 830, 000 hectares, GLNP straddles the border of the provinces of North Sumatra and Aceh.

The national park has a high conservation value as it serves as home to iconic wild animals, such as orangutans, tigers, rhinoceros, leopards, and elephants.

Dwindling population

Under its care, the Special Animal Training Centre of GNLN has nine elephants in total, including Boni and Sari. Sari was among the wild elephants captured in the 1990s as part of the government's efforts to support in situ elephant conservation.

Sumatran elephants have been placed on the list of critically endangered species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List due to their rapidly dwindling population.



It is against Indonesian laws to keep, hunt, trade, and smuggle these. According to the Law Number 5 of 1990, which concerns the Conservation of Living Natural Resources and Ecosystems, a sentence of 5 (five) years in prison and a fine of IDR 100,000,000 " are meted out on violators.

Before Boni, three elephant calves, namely Christ, Albertina, and Eropa were born in 2015.

"The birth of Boni is very meaningful to the park management and conservation advocates, including our local guides. These recent births demonstrate how the elephants' living environment has significantly improved. We are likewise hopeful this will have a positive contribution to the park's tourism," Mr. Susyafrianto said.

Female elephants give birth every five years on average and continue to mate until about the age of 50. Each pregnancy lasts up to 23 months.

Proper veterinary care

With the assistance of civil society organisation Veterinary Society for Sumatran Wildlife Conservation (VESSWIC) under the Small Grants Programme, a partnership between the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the German Development Bank (KfW), the GLNP Office is likewise ensuring that the baby elephant is properly cared for and nurtured.

"Special care must be provided to the young, especially because they are at risk of contracting the Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus (EEHV), which attacks and infects elephants under five years old", Dr. Muhammad Wahyu, Director of VESSWIC said.

VESSWIC has been helping the park in the routine health monitoring of captive elephants and training of mahouts, or persons tending the elephants.

Last year, the organisation conducted an analysis to check cortisol levels in the stools of the elephants in order to determine their stress levels, along with a series of diagnostic tests to detect diseases, such as EEHV and tuberculosis.

"We are happy to hear this news. The timing is auspicious as we celebrate this year's International Day of Forests on 21 March," ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said.

On the International Day of Forests under the theme "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being", the ACB is joining the call to raise awareness and recognise the importance of forests to humankind.

"Taking care of the Sumatran elephants' health at the ASEAN Heritage Park is part of our holistic and integrated approach in protecting and conserving wildlife and their habitats. Caring for Boni highlights wildlife protection as an important aspect of protected area management", Dr. Lim said.

She explained that the Sumatran elephants as seed dispersers positively contribute to healthy and balanced ecosystems. In forest ecotourism sites like GLNP, protecting wildlife likewise ensures the sustainability of livelihoods for communities, as well. (ACB)

20 MARCH 2021, SATURDAY



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