

21 OCTOBER 2020, WEDNESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# CIMATU KUMPYANSA SA PANUKALANG BATAS NA MABUBUO NG DENR ENFORCEMENT BUREAU



October 21, 2020 @ 1:15 AM 5 hours ago

MAYROON nang bersyon sa Senado ang bill na naglalayong bumuo ng enforcement bureau sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources na lalo pang nagbibigay ng pag-asa na hindi magtatagal ang bill ay magiging ganap na batas.

Naging mataas ang kumpiyansa ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa panukalang batas na ipinasa sa mababang kapulungan matapos maghain si Senator Nancy Binay noong Oktubre 12 ng isang counterpart bill sa Senado na bubuo sa Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau sa ilalim ng DENR.

“We extend our gratitude to Senator Binay for advancing the EPEB bill in the Senate, thus increasing the chances of the draft law making it into legislation,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Pinasalamatan din ni Cimatu si Deputy Speaker at Antique Representative Loren Legarda na naghain ng House Bill 6973 noong Hunyo 15 na may layuning magkaroon ng EPEB sa ilalim ng DENR. Ito ay nakabinbin sa House committees on government reorganization and natural resources.

Simula noong isang taon pa nang magpursige si Cimatu na magkaroon ng enforcement arm ang DENR dahil na rin sa sunod-sunod na pagpatay sa environment workers, karamihan ay mga forester, habang ginaganap nila ang kanilang tungkulin na protektahan ang kalikasan.

Inamin ng environment chief na kulang ang ngipin ng ahensya sa pagpapatupad ng mga batas pangkalikasan ng bansa, habang marami sa mga DENR frontline workers ay patuloy na nanganganib ang buhay.

Aniya, sa pamamagitan ng pagkakaroon ng permanenteng enforcement bureau, magiging mas epektibo ang DENR sa pagpuksa ng environmental crimes tulad ng illegal logging at smuggling ng wildlife species.

Kaya umaapela ang dating Armed Forces chief sa Senado at Kamara sa mabilis nitong pag-aksyon at pagpapasya sa dalawang magkahiwalay na EPEB bills na kapwa nakabinbin sa dalawang kapulungan ng kongreso.

“Any delay comes at the risk of losing more precious lives of those within our ranks at the DENR and those of our partners in civil society at the frontlines fighting environmental criminals,” pagdidiin pa nito.



Ayon naman kay DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force Executive Director Nilo Tamoria, ang pagpasa ng EPEB Act ay matatawag na “equally crucial” sa pagpapatupad ng development plan agenda ng bansa sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic.

“The establishment of the EPEB squarely addresses the requirements under the new normal setting as highlighted in the ‘We Recover as One’ report prepared by a technical working group of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases,” paliwanag ni Tamoria.

Nakasaad pa sa ulat na ang COVID-19 pandemic ay “manifestation of the chronic effects of human activity on wildlife resources and habitats at an unprecedented rate, resurfacing in more damaging impacts on environmental and public health.”

Ayon pa sa report, ito ay isang panawagan upang magkaroon ng isang magkahalong pinalakas, pinataas na antas at innovative na mga aksyon upang matugunan ang lumalalang banta sa kalikasan, kalusugan at klima.

“In the new normal state, managing pollution and sustainable use of natural resources vis-a-vis addressing the threat of future pandemics under a changing climate become even more challenging,” ayon pa sa 76-page na report.



# Manila Bay – A national icon

(The Philippine Star) - October 21, 2020 - 12:00am

Manila Bay is an iconic water body, the coastal gateway to our nation's capital. It is a major economic center for shipping, commercial industries and tourism. With its historical importance and golden sunsets, the preservation of the bay should be kept as a national icon.

The main problem besetting Manila Bay at present is its poor water quality which makes swimming unsafe. The fecal coliform (bacteria in animal and human waste) count (an indicator of water quality) in the water of the bay is "extremely high." With the safe level of 100 MPN (most probable number) per 100 millimeters (mm) of water, the fecal coliform count in the bay in 2018 was 110 million MPN/100 mm!

In January 2019, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the national agency tasked with the protection of the environment, launched its Manila Bay Clean-Up Program (2017-2022) in response to the Supreme Court Mandamus on Manila Bay in December 2016 and upon the order of President Duterte. The program has the objective of "bringing back Manila Bay to life and to make it safe for swimming." It includes the "cleaning up of designated esteros and waterways, the reduction of fecal coliform levels and toxic discharges from houses and establishments by causing connection to existing STPs (sewage treatment plants)."

According to the DENR, there are around 233,000 informal settler-families residing along the waterways of Manila Bay which directly discharge their wastes into the bay. Of the 19 beach resorts along the bay, nine have "highly polluted waters." There are 17 principal river systems from eight provinces that drain into the bay.

Through the efforts of the DENR in cooperation with the 13 Mandamus government agencies, local government units and the private sector, the fecal coliform count in Manila Bay was reduced to 54 million MPN/100 ml in 2020 from 110 million MPN/100 ml in 2018.

There is definitely more work and support needed to bring the fecal coliform count in Manila Bay to the level where swimming in it will be safe. It can be done with political will and the help of all stakeholders concerned, as what was done for Boracay Island. We wish the DENR and its partners all the best. – Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III, former executive director, Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development



[Home](#)>[Editorial](#)>[Miscellaneous](#)>Maynilad Unveils Sewer Rehab Project In Central Manila

# Maynilad unveils sewer rehab project in Central Manila

Saturday, October 17, 2020 [People's Tonight](#)



Photo shows (from left) Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez, Manila City Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso, DENR ASec. Daniel Darius Nicer representing DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, MWSS Administrator Emmanuel Salamat, and Maynilad COO Randolph Estrellado.

**WEST** Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) formally unveiled last October 15, 2020 its Php969.14-million Central Manila Sewerage System (CMSS) Rehabilitation Project in simple rites held at Arroceros, Manila.

Gracing the event were Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ASec. Daniel Darius Nicer representing DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Emmanuel Salamat, and Manila City Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso.

In his speech during the event, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno commended Maynilad for pursuing the rehab project. “Natutuwa kami sa Maynilad dahil nagkaroon na naman ng effort para maging malinis ang maduming tubig na galing sa mga bahay bago lumabas sa ating mga katawang tubig.”

Mayor Isko assured the water company of his city’s full support for the project, notwithstanding its possible impact on traffic conditions. “Sa mga kababayan ko na nandito, hinihingi ko ang inyong pang-unawa. Bagama’t may sakripisyo ngayon, ang mga anak natin ang makakatikim ng ginhawa sa hinaharap.”

The CMSS Rehabilitation Project involves the upgrade of approximately 9,600 linear meters of sewer lines within 30 barangays in parts of Sta. Cruz and Malate areas in Manila. The project is intended to ensure the sewerage system’s continued reliability, and to accommodate a larger volume of wastewater generated by the increasing number of households and establishments in the area.

Targeted for completion in June 2021, the project will help to sustain sewerage coverage expansion in the West Zone, ultimately helping to reduce pollution load in the Manila Bay.

Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez thanked the DENR, MWSS and the City of Manila for their support of this major undertaking. “To date, we have already invested more than Php41 billion for the improvement and expansion of the wastewater infrastructure, including our ongoing construction of new sewage treatment plants in Valenzuela, Las Piñas, and Cupang and Tunasan in Muntinlupa,” he said.



Maynilad's CMSS Rehabilitation Project supports the clean-up activities in the City of Manila, the priority area of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program of the DENR. It is part of Maynilad's long-term wastewater management program, which seeks to protect community health and the environment through the proper treatment of effluents, in compliance with the continuing Supreme Court mandamus to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay.

Source: [https://journal.com.ph/editorial/miscellaneous/maynilad-unveils-sewer-rehab-project-in-central-manila/?fbclid=IwAR1IwDh2Nr-jiLhYO-KM\\_DVXkxCyWUnPvUg-1kPkVGFESRn8kn9WaP819Qs](https://journal.com.ph/editorial/miscellaneous/maynilad-unveils-sewer-rehab-project-in-central-manila/?fbclid=IwAR1IwDh2Nr-jiLhYO-KM_DVXkxCyWUnPvUg-1kPkVGFESRn8kn9WaP819Qs)



BASECO COMPOUND

## MANILA BAY BASECO SUBDIVISION PAILAWAN MUNA BAGO SIMULAN ! Miz July

3,810 views • Oct 19, 2020

146 0 SHARE SAVE



Miz July

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MANILA BAY BASECO UPDATE OCTOBER 19,2020 Update po tayo sa Subdivision ni Yorme

#ManilaBay

#SaveManilaBay

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#MizJuly

#BasecoBeach

Maraming salamat po sa lahat sa Walang SAWANG Pag Suporta sa Channel ko mga

Kadorabelle At Yun ay Hindi Galing sa Ilong ng May SINGAW 🙏🙏😊😊 God Bless

Everyone,Wait Kung Ikaw ay AMPLAYA HINDI KA PO NARRAPAT SA CHANNEL KO 🙏🙏😊



October 20, 2020 by Miz July: **Updates on Manila Bay Baseco Subdivision Paiilawan Muna bago Simulan**

Preparations for the installation of lamp post for street lights are ongoing for the construction of the Manila Bay Baseco Subdivision. Houses will be allocated to Baseco beneficiaries whose residences were gutted by fire. This is a project of Mayor Isko Moreno.

Source:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG5FTz5pX\\_o&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=MizJuly](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG5FTz5pX_o&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MizJuly)



## MANILA BAY PARA KANG NASA ZAMBALES!

10,155 views • Streamed live on Oct 18, 2020



505



9



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Oct 19, 2020 by Engr. Berto

He covered Manila Bay portion of Roxas Blvd. particularly portion of Manila Yacht Club and compared it to Zambales beaches with its natural black sand. The vlogger acknowledges an unnamed volunteer he met. The volunteer committed to help in the clean up for 30 days every mornig.





#Manilabay #ManilabayUpdate #ManilaUpdate

### Binagyo ang Manila Bay White Sand Dolomite Inanod ba?

2,773 views • Oct 20, 2020

113

2

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kumusta po mga KaLights! Silipin natin ang lagay Ng Manila Bay as off October 20, 2020.kumusta na ba ang Manila Bay kapag may bagyo at kumusta ang lagay Ng Dolomite White Sand kapag malakas Ang alon sa Manila Bay

#Manilabay #ManilabayUpdate #ManilaUpdate

October 20, 2020 by Lights on You: **Binagyo ang Manila Bay, dolomite sand inanod ba?**

Portion of Manila Bay covered by dolomite sand was shown to be stable despite heavy rains and strong waves.

Source:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhDTs98qQ7U&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=LightsOnYou](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhDTs98qQ7U&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=LightsOnYou)



News5

8h · 🌐

Lumawak naman ang bahagi ng Manila Bay Sands na natakpan ng itim na buhangin. | via Romel Lopez



YOUTUBE.COM

Maynila, inulan dahil sa bagyong Pepito

#FrontlinePilipinas | Maghapong inulan ang ilang lugar sa Maynila dahil sa bagyong #PepitoP...

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# Fisherfolk to eliminate water hyacinth

Published 3 hours ago on October 21, 2020 03:10 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will tap the services of about 100 fishermen to help clear tributaries, including the 27-kilometer stretch of Pasig River and Laguna Lake, of water hyacinth.

Undersecretary Benny Antiporda will meet with fisherfolk at the office of Taytay, Rizal Mayor Joric Gacula on 26 October, to discuss the strategy on how to clear waterways of water lilies.

“For a start we will be coordinating with 10 to 20 fishermen to map out our strategies,” Antiporda told the *Daily Tribune* in a phone interview.

Fishermen will also earn additional money from the project as they will be paid P150 for every kilo of water hyacinth they will harvest.

The so-called problem plants can be used as raw materials for paper, bags and mats. Some are added to compost pits.

Antiporda went with an inspection team on Monday at the Napindan Channel along Pasig River to survey the situation, which has also disrupted the services of the ferry system.

Laguna Lake Development Authority assistant general manager Generoso Dungo, River Basin Control Office Deputy executive director Rabindranath Quilala and representatives from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the local government of Taytay and Department of Public Works and Highways Region 4A joined the inspection.

The team drafted an initial plan to remove and finally control the increasing volume of water hyacinth as well as other solid wastes on the Pasig River.

Antiporda also said that they are coordinating with recycling companies.

“We are also calling on people who may have uses for the water hyacinth. Contact DENR,” he said.

An average of 150 cubic meters of water hyacinth are being recovered daily by the MMDA. One dump truck is equivalent to 12 cubic meters while one long dump truck can hold 32 cubic meters. Five to seven trucks collect daily.

The collected plants are taken to a drying area, where local government units and non-governmental organizations pick them up for their livelihood programs.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/21/fisherfolk-to-eliminate-water-hyacinth/>



# Toyota adopts mangrove plantation

By ... -October 21, 2020



*Signing for the agreement were (from left) TMP vice president for General Services Department Cathy Benitez, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) representative Alvin Jonson, and City Environment & Natural Resources Office officer-in-charge (OIC) Isagani Amatorio.*

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Local Government of Lian, Batangas to clean-up, rehabilitate and preserve a 10-ha mangrove plantation area along the coastlines of Lian.

This project supports DENR's National Greening Program and is aligned with the global All-Toyota Green Wave Project.

Under the MOA, TMP has committed to plant 25,000 mangrove propagules by 2023 and provide necessary resources that will help protect marine life and biodiversity in the area, which then help in providing livelihood for the local community.

Volunteers from TMP and Lian Fisherfolk Association planted 5,000 mangrove propagules in the adopted area and collected over 471 kg. of wastes. Throughout the activities held, volunteers followed strict health protocols set by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases to ensure the safety and health of participants.

TMP remains committed to the environment as it continuously implements programs aligned with the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050 aimed at creating a more sustainable future for the next generations.

Source: [https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news\\_special\\_feature/toyota-adopts-mangrove-plantation/](https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/toyota-adopts-mangrove-plantation/)



# Solon warns vs deceptive, illegal online merchants

Saturday, October 17, 2020 Marlon Purificacion

**SENATOR** Win Gatchalian said that reports on consumer products with hazardous chemicals that continue to flood online platforms should set off alarm bells to concerned authorities. The senator said online platforms should be more aggressive in going after deceptive, prohibited, and unconscionable sales and practices.

EcoWaste Coalition claimed that mercury-laden products are being sold illegally by third-party dealers in e-commerce marketplaces and had notified lead regulatory agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural resources (DENR) on their recent discovery.

The group found out that mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers are being offered for sale by online dealers. Mercury thermometers are used to measure body temperature while sphygmomanometers are used to measure blood pressure and liquid mercury in flask containers.

The government phased out mercury-containing medical devices in September 2010 following an administrative order issued by the Department of Health (DOH).

*"We have to accept the reality that online shopping is the new normal. And while online transactions continue to thrive along with the proliferation of unscrupulous sellers, we cannot just sit back and wait until a proper mechanism is in place,"* Gatchalian, principal author of the proposed Internet Transactions Act, said.

The Internet Transactions Act (Senate Bill No. 1591), which seeks to make online transactions more consumer friendly and strengthen the country's digital economy, also proposed strict regulations to protect consumers from unethical and unscrupulous business practices on the internet.

Under SBN 1591, e-commerce platforms shall share solidary liability with an online merchant. Covered in this provision are instances when the online platform fails to ascertain that the products pose risks to the life and health of consumers and if the online merchant is not duly registered with the appropriate regulatory agencies.

*"These online marketplaces should not only be responsible but also conscientious on what they are offering to the public,"* said Gatchalian, Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs.

During the last Senate hearing on SBN 1591, Gatchalian raised concerns on the online consumers' exposure to counterfeit items as the internet has broadened accessibility to a wide range of products and services, including prohibited items.

*"We should not allow these e-commerce marketplaces to rake in profits from illegal business practices. Consumers should be mindful of the quality of the items that they purchase online and they need to be assured that the products being offered to them are not harmful,"* Gatchalian concluded.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/nation/solon-warns-vs-deceptive-illegal-online-merchants/?fbclid=IwAR07oiy2mgsNZDIHysPL0g6bJK4Fx-fPf50KXFA43mHoyEn0XvOazvROyins>



Buwaya na nahuli sa Bongao, Tawi-Tawi nitong Oktubre 19, 2020. Photo courtesy: Yadz Wan Tang

## Buwaya, nahuli sa Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

Oktubre 20, 2020 7:53am GMT+08:00

SINULAT NI: PEEWEE BACUÑO

Isang buwaya na may habang 5.8 talampakan ang nahuli ng mga residente sa Barangay Nalil, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi pasado alas-onse nitong Lunes ng gabi.

Ayon Yadz Wan Tang na siyang kumuha ng larawan, una itong nakita ng mga kabataan dakong alas-diyes ng gabi nitong Lunes.

Nakapasok daw ito sa fishpond kung kaya't nagpasiya silang hulihin na ito.

Naging pahirapan daw ang paghuli sa buwaya dahil malakas ito.

Nag-post daw sila sa Facebook upang maiparating sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pangyayari.

Nasa pangangalaga na raw ng isang residente ang buwaya habang hinihintay nila ang pagdating ng mga kawani ng DENR.

Hindi raw ito ang unang pagkakataon na nakakita sila ng buwaya sa lugar.

Wala pang dalawang linggo ang nakalipas ay isang malaking buwaya rin ang [nahuli sa Simunul, Tawi-Tawi](#). —KG, GMA News

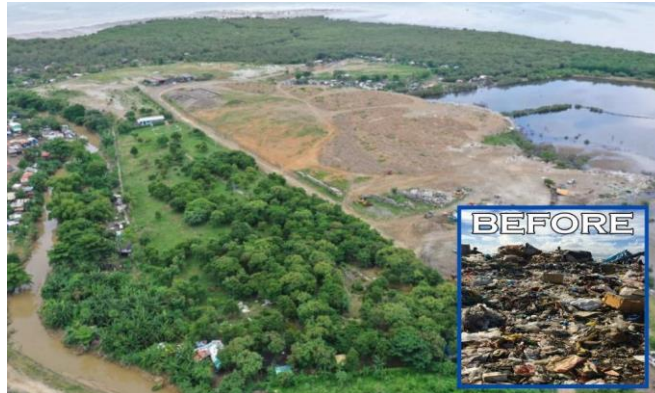
Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/760578/buwaya-nahuli-sa-bongao-tawi-tawi/story/>



# Mandaue dumpsite now an ecopark

Published 3 hours ago on October 21, 2020 03:00 AM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



AERIAL shot of the Mandaue Green Learning Park. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MANDAUE INVESTMENT PROMOTIONS

The 10-hectare former dumpsite in Barangay Umapad in Mandaue City has been transformed into an ecology park.

Initially, two hectares were converted into a green area and forest park while the other five hectares are being developed by San Miguel Corporation into an eco-park.

There are 115 houses with 500 individuals living in the area. Residents staying in the dumpsite for more than 20 years are thankful for having a livable environment.

“A dream come true,” Mandaue Mayor Jonas Cortes told the Daily Tribune of the project he envisioned when he first assumed his post in 2007.



# Environment group wants public green spaces to reopen to the public

Published October 20, 2020, 1:00 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Hoping to promote the physical and mental well-being of Filipinos, an environmental group is pushing for the reopening of public green spaces with the assurance that safety and health protocols are enforced.

With the prioritization of healthcare system caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Nilad Metro Manila Environmental Network campaign coordinator Kevin Paul Aguayon also highlighted the need to carry out a plan to protect and conserve green spaces as a way towards complete recovery and mitigation of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Citing recent studies, Aguayon noted that the main purpose of green spaces is to serve as “lungs” and promote a well-balanced ecosystem.

“The influx of people at the bay walk area in Manila Bay to enjoy the artificial ‘white sand’ beach indicates a demand for the use of parks,” Aguayon said.

“We could have avoided the concentration of people in Manila if other major green parks in Metro Manila are open and people are encouraged to spend time in these open spaces while practicing social distancing and other health protocols,” he added.

He also pointed out that this will not be simply for leisure but a health measure to promote the physical and mental well-being of people.

“Malls and churches are already open. Why not follow this up with the opening of major parks and allow people to enjoy the health benefit of using the open space for physical and mental exercise?,” asked Aguayon.

With the available guidelines for the use of malls, churches, and other public places, he said local government units (LGUs) can adopt similar guidelines to ensure the safe and free use of parks.

LGUs can also mobilize barangay leaders to control and regulate the movement of people inside parks, he added.

“Allowing people to spend time in parks, even for a brief period each day, boosts awareness about the importance of preserving and expanding green spaces. Hopefully, it can also inspire policymakers and urban planners to develop more parks in communities,” he said.

Nilad, together with other environmental organizations, have been campaigning for the protection of green spaces throughout the year with the theme “Protect Our Green Corridors.”

They cited their success in the preservation of green spaces, such as in the Arroceros Forest Park in Manila City with the stoppage of the construction of a gymnasium.

The groups also continue to campaign for the protection of the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat for Eco-tourism Area against massive reclamation and solid waste dump that endanger the life of endemic species.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/20/environment-group-wants-public-green-spaces-to-reopen-to-the-public/>





## Rio Tuba community 'upcycles' for soil conditioners

By [BMPlus](#) October 20, 2020



*The bigger challenge, and probably the most important component, is to get the residents of the mining community of Rio Tuba in Palawan to participate in this upcycling program.*

Rio Tuba Nickel Mining (RTN) is the first in the mining industry to use the bioreactor technology of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) that converts biodegradable wastes into organic fertilizers and soil conditioners.

RTN, a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), adopts this innovative soil conditioning technology through DOST's technology transfer program, which was developed to promote efficient solid waste management practices in the communities.

According to Wilbern Blitz Paeste, Mining Technology and Geosciences Specialist at RTN, the key in using the bioreactor is to arrive at the right mix of household wastes to increase the nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and carbon content necessary to reach the "soil fertilizer" status of the compost.

Paeste says that materials fed in the bioreactor are biodegradable wastes from the communities, classified as – *dry waste, wet waste, and animal manure.*

The bigger challenge however, and probably the most important component, is to get the residents of the mining communities to participate in the upcycling program so enough household wastes are collected to be turned into fertilizers or soil conditioners.

"Segregation is a challenge. We need to educate the people on how critical segregation is to the success of this program" says Bong dela Rosa, RTN Community Relations Manager.

This breakthrough in the production of soil conditioner using household wastes is a game changer in the mining industry where tons of fertilizers are needed to help improve the soil condition in the mined-out areas.

Lateritic soil in mining areas are relatively low in soil nutrients and uncondusive for agriculture. The challenge of nutrient deficiency of lateritic topsoils can be addressed only with proper intervention in order for the mined-out areas to be ready for rehabilitation programs.



In a series of Waste Analysis and Characterization Study, it is shown that each household can produce at least 1.5 kg of wastes per day. What are needed to produce soil conditioners are wet wastes or table leftovers, fruits and vegetable peelings, and backyard wastes such as leaves and the likes. No plastics included of course.



*The right mix of household wastes to increase the nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and carbon content necessary to reach the "soil fertilizer" status of the compost.*

In Rio Tuba, 80 kilos of household wastes are collected per day with about 64 houses and select establishments initially participating in the program.

“It is encouraging to see the communities participate, showing commitment to segregation and becoming conscious of the individual’s role in the production of soil conditioners,” exclaims Engr. Cynthia E. Rosero, RTN’s Resident Mine Manager.

“Aside from using our own organic fertilizers in the mine’s rehabilitation programs, the goal is to be able to provide soil conditioners that the communities and our employees can use in their backyard gardening in exchange for household wastes, as result this will limit our dependence on expensive commercial fertilizers,” ends Paeste.



## Red tide alert raised for eastern Bataan, northern Palawan

October 20, 2020 | 6:50 pm



PHILSTAR

THE Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has warned consumers against eating shellfish harvested from eastern Bataan, specifically Mariveles, Limay, Orion, Pilar, Balanga, Hermosa, Orani, Abucay, and Samal, and Inner Malampaya Sound in northern Palawan after the detection in those waters of red tide contamination.

BFAR said the newly-identified areas join other red-tide positive areas such as Puerto Princesa Bay, Milagros, Masbate; Dauis and Tagbilaran City, Bohol; Tambobo Bay, Negros Oriental; Daram Island, Zumarraga, and Irong-irong and San Pedro Bays, Western Samar; Cancabato Bay, Leyte; Matarinao Bay, Eastern Samar; Balite Bay, Davao Oriental; and Lianga Bay and Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur.

BFAR added that all types of shellfish and *Acetes* sp. or *alamang* harvested from these areas are not safe for human consumption.

However, other marine species captured in the areas can be eaten by humans with proper handling.

“Fish, squid, shrimp, and crab are safe for human consumption provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly, and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking,” BFAR said.

According to BFAR, red tide occurs due to high concentrations of algae in the water. Eating contaminated shellfish can result in paralytic shellfish poisoning, which affects the nervous system.

Common symptoms of paralytic shellfish poisoning include headaches, dizziness, and nausea. Severe cases may include muscular paralysis and respiratory issues. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/red-tide-alert-raised-for-eastern-bataan-northern-palawan/>



## Dolphin found dead in Negros town

October 20, 2020 | Filed under: News, News Roundup, Regional News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

BY GLAZYL MASCULINO



**CHILDREN** get curious upon seeing the dead dolphin that was found floating in the waters off Barangay San Isidro, Calatrava, Negros Occidental Monday. (Photo courtesy of Tats K Delantar via Facebook)

BACOLOD CITY – A dead dolphin was found floating in the waters off Barangay San Isidro, Calatrava, Negros Occidental on Monday.

Residents brought the dolphin to the shore and took some photos. Some children even got curious upon seeing it.

It was reported to weigh about 350 to 400 kilos.

Personnel of the Department of Agriculture responded and checked the carcass.

Maj. Roberto Indiap Jr., town police chief, said authorities discovered three injuries on the dolphin but could not determine what caused such wounds.

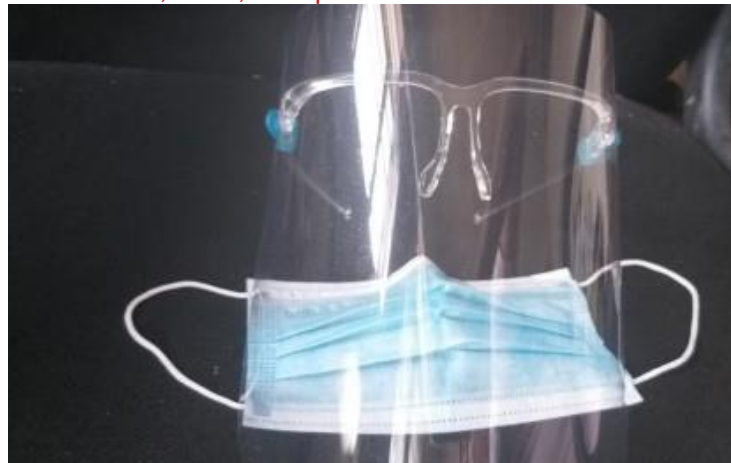
“It had injuries in the head and body,” he added.

They decided to bury the dolphin in Barangay Bantayanon, since it was already decomposing. **(Glazyl Masculino)**



# Solon calls for proper disposal of face masks, face shields

By Filane Mikee Cervantes October 20, 2020, 3:17 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – A party-list lawmaker on Tuesday stressed the need to create stricter measures on the proper disposal of medical waste, including face masks and face shields, as part of defeating the coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

DIWA Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay said the mandatory wearing of face masks and face shields at all times in public places to prevent the spread of Covid-19 has resulted in an incremental increase in medical waste.

Aglipay noted that such medical waste is carelessly disposed of, which may eventually lead to an "environmental disaster".

"The proper disposal of such medical waste is not only a vital part of defeating Covid-19 but also a means to ensure that future generations have a 'balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature' as guaranteed by no less than the 1987 Philippine Constitution," he said.

Aglipay filed House Resolution 1244 urging the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) to create stricter guidelines on the disposal of face masks and face shields and other waste materials utilized to treat, detect, and prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Aglipay said such guidelines should be publicized so that the public may be duly informed.

The country has logged 359,169 cases with 310,303 recoveries and 6,675 deaths as of Monday. (PNA)



# Coronavirus infections in PH surpass 360k mark with 1,640 new cases

By: Katrina Hallare - Inquirer.net | October 20, 2020 - 07:18 PM

MANILA, Philippines — There are now 360,775 COVID-19 infections in the Philippines after the Department of Health (DOH) recorded 1,640 new cases on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

The latest data from the DOH showed that of the total cases, 43,443 are classified as active cases.

Previously, the DOH identified that there were 42,191 active cases. But this was from the total COVID-19 cases recorded at 359,169 on Monday.

Of the active cases, 83 percent are mild, 11.6 percent are asymptomatic, 3.4 percent are critical, and two percent are severe.

Cavite and Quezon City were classified as the top areas having the most number of new cases recorded, having 86 cases, respectively. This is followed by Batangas with 69, Bulacan with 62 and the City of Manila with 61.

The DOH also announced 369 new recoveries and 17 more deaths, bringing the total to 310,642 and 6,690, respectively.

There were 34 duplicate, of which 26 were recovered cases and two were deaths, that have been removed from the total case count.

Moreover, there were four cases previously tagged as recoveries but later identified as deaths.  
JE



## MGA MISTERYO SA 2021 BUDGET, MASOSOLB AT MARERETOKE NI PDU30



October 19, 2020 @ 8:39 AM 2 days ago

SA wakas, naaprubahan nitong Biyernes sa Kamara ang General Appropriations Bill o panukalang pambansang budget para sa taong 2021.

Ito'y makaraang hilingin sa buong Kongreso ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagpasa ng panukala kasabay ng pag-certify as urgent nito upang hindi mabalam ang pag-apruba rito bilang batas at magamit agad simula sa Enero 1, 2021.

Sa Oktubre 28, 2020 isusumite ng Kamara ang soft copy na panukala sa Senado na magse-session naman sa Nobyembre 9 sa halip na sa Nobyembre 16, na talagang pagbubukas ng official na session makaraan ang bakasyon ng lahat ng mambabatas.

### **APRUB NA SA PLENARYO PERO RERETOKIHIN PA RIN**

Merong lang tayong napuna, mga Bro.

Aprub na sa kabuuan ng Kamara o plenaryo ang panukala nitong Biyernes at sa mata ng taumbayan, wala nang dapat na baguhin pa.

Pero magtataka ka dahil reretokihin pa rin pala.

Ang sabi, magsusumite ang mga kongresman ng kani-kanilang panukalang badyet para sa pagbabago at isusumite nila sa araw na ito.

At ang mabubuo ang siyang magiging soft copy na isusumite sa Senado sa Oktubre 28.

Tanong ng ating Uzi, ba't ganu'n?

Tanong pa niya, wala kayang mangyayaring misteryo sa indibidwal na panukala na 'yan?

### **SENADO MAPANURI**

Inaasahan nating kikilos ang mga senador gaya ng dati.

Maging mapanuri at titingnan at bubusisiin nila nang husto kung ano-ano ang mga pinaglaanan ng mga kongresman ng salaping bayan.

Nagmula kasi ang panukala mismo sa Malakanyang at bawat departamento at ahensya sa ilalim nito, nagkaroon na ng panukala.



Ngunit dumaan ang mga panukala sa kapangyarihan ng Kamara na magdagdag-bawas sa mga panukala.

Ano-ano kaya ang makakapa ng mga senador sa inaprubahang panukala sa plenaryo at mga pagbabago rito makaraan na dulot ng mga indibidwal na panukala ng mga kongresman?

Mayroon naman kayang basta pipikitan na lang ng mga senador?

Ang sabi, walang pork barrel o pagkakaperahan ng mga mambabatas sa Kamara at Senado.

Pero sa pag-entra ng mga panukala ng mga indibidwal na kongresman at maaaring ang mga senador, hindi kaya magkakaroon ng mga hokus-pokus?

Matatandaang kahit na diniskalis ng Supreme Court ang pork barrel dahil labag umano sa batas at Konstitusyon ito, ang bali-balita, naisingit pa rin ng mga mambabatas makaraan ang P70 milyong pork barrel para sa bawat kongresman at P200 milyon naman para sa bawat senador.

Simple lang ang rason – walang pork barrel kung hindi makikialam ang mga mambabatas sa paggagamitan ng kanilang mga indibidwal na P70M at P200 badyet.

Ang totoo, tumatabingi ang kilay ng mga mamamayan sa katwiran ng mga mambabatas.

## **IKALAWA AT IKAAPAT NA KONGRESO**

Kung paano magkakaroon ng pagbabago sa aprubado ng plenaryo badyet sa pamamagitan ng Ikalawang Plenaryo ngunit ginawang indibidwal ng mga kongresman, naririyang din ang ika-apat na plenaryo.

‘Yun bang === Bicameral Conference Committee.

Kung paano nireretoke ng mga indibidwal na kongresman ang aprubadong badyet sa plenaryo, reretokihin pa rin ng Bicameral Conference Committee ang aprubado ng plenaryo ng Kamara at Senado.

Hehehe!

Ano kaya ang mangyayari, mga Bro?

## **RERETOKIHIN DIN NI PDU30**

Gaya ng alam ng lahat batay sa naganap sa mga nakaraang panukalang badyet, personal na binabasa at binubusisi mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang isusumite sa kanya ang gawa ng Bicameral Conference Committee ngunit sinasabing aprubado ng dalawang plenaryo ng Kamara at Senado.

Kasabay ng pagbabasa at pagbubusisi ni Pang. Digong, nakabukas ang kanyang tainga sa mga sinasabi ng mga nakakikita ng mga anomalya.

Tingnan ninyo ang nangyari sa badyet noong 2018.





Kung hindi tayo nagkakamali, may bineto ang Pangulo na ilan at ginawang kondisyunal din ang ilan na nagkakahalaga ng kung ilang bilyong piso noong 2018.

Noon namang 2019, tinigbak ng Pangulo ang nasa P95 bilyong singit sa Department of Public Works and Highways at iba pang sabit na pagkakagastusan.

Sabi niya, ayaw niyang mahaluan ang badyet ng korapsyon.

Sa badyet para sa 2020 naman, may pinigilan si Pang. Digong na proyekto ng mga kongresman at hindi nito pinagalaw ang pondo na nasa pagitan ng mahigit sa P16B at mahigit sa P83B.

Dahil sa mga aksyon ni Pang. Digong, ang pera ng mga kongresman, ayon sa mga senador, ay naging tobats o bato.

Maaaring magkakaroon muli ng mga ibe-veto ng Pangulo o hindi popondohan na mga proyekto.

At maaaring binubuo ang mga ito ng mga pinag-awayan ng mga kongresman ukol sa Speakership at chairmanship ng mga komite.

Umaasa tayo na, gaya sa mga nakaraang aksyon, hindi pahihintulutan ng Pangulo ang pambababoy at pagnanakaw sa salaping bayan.



# 23 areas under Signal No. 1 as Pepito threatens to intensify into tropical storm

**Published** October 20, 2020 8:28am

**Updated** October 20, 2020 10:10am

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA New

Twenty-three areas, all in Luzon, remained under Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 on Tuesday morning due to Tropical Depression Pepito, which is seen to develop into a tropical storm before its expected evening landfall.

In an 8 a.m. bulletin, state weather bureau PAGASA said the following areas are under Signal No. 1:

- Isabela
- Quirino
- Nueva Vizcaya
- Abra
- Kalinga
- Mountain Province
- Ifugao
- Benguet
- Ilocos Sur
- La Union
- Pangasinan
- Aurora
- Nueva Ecija
- Tarlac
- Zambales
- Bulacan
- Pampanga
- Bataan
- Metro Manila
- Rizal
- northern portion of Quezon (General Nakar, Infanta, Real) including Polillo Islands
- extreme northern portion of Camarines Norte (Vinzons)
- Catanduanes

Pepito is expected to make landfall over the Aurora-Isabela area on Tuesday evening.

"'PEPITO' may reach tropical storm category before making landfall. However, there remains a possibility that this tropical cyclone makes landfall as a tropical depression," PAGASA said.

At 7 a.m., Pepito was located at 375 kilometers East of Infanta, Quezon with maximum sustained winds of 55 km per hour and gustiness of up to 70 km/h moving west northwestward at 25 km/h.



According to PAGASA, Pepito will move west-northwestward and make landfall over the coast of Aurora-Isabela area in the evening.

It is expected to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Thursday morning.

## Forecast

In its latest bulletin, PAGASA said moderate to heavy rains are expected over the Bicol Region, Marinduque, Romblon, Quezon, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela, mainland Cagayan, Pangasinan, and Benguet, PAGASA said.

Light to moderate with at times heavy rains, meanwhile, may be experienced over Metro Manila, Cordillera Administrative Region, MIMAROPA, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Bangsamoro, Northern Mindanao, and the rest of Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and CALABARZON.

PAGASA also warned of possible flooding including flashfloods, and rain-induced landslides during heavy or prolonged rainfall in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to these hazards.

It advised its Regional Services Divisions to issue local thunderstorm or rainfall advisories and heavy rainfall warnings if needed.

High winds (strong to near gale) will be experienced in areas under Signal No. 1, according to PAGASA.

Due to the northeasterly surface wind flow, high to gale-force winds with occasional gusts will be expected in Batanes, Babuyan Islands, and the coastal and mountainous areas of mainland Cagayan, Apayao, and Ilocos Norte.

## Flooding

Rains from Pepito [caused flooding](#) in several areas.

In Lopez, Quezon, portions of the Maharlika Highway became flooded on Tuesday. Floodwaters in some barangays reached waist level.

In Cotabato, rivers overflowed in President Roxas and Magpet. Residents evacuated in Pikit and Kabacan. One person died in Makilala after being caught in a mudslide.

Meanwhile, in Baggao, Cagayan, some bridges were flooded and landslides were reported.

In Metro Manila, fishermen pulled their bancas to safer ground. —**KBK/KG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/760581/23-areas-under-signal-no-1-as-pepito-threatens-to-intensify-into-tropical-storm/story/>



# ‘Pepito’ to make landfall in Aurora-Isabela, Signal 2 up in Luzon–Pagasa

By Arlie O. Calalo October 20, 2020

SIGNAL No. 2 is up in parts of Luzon as tropical storm “Pepito” is expected to make landfall tonight over the coast of the Aurora-Isabela area, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).



Affected areas are La Union, Ifugao, Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Aurora, southern portion of Isabela (Palanan, San Mariano, Benito Soliven, Naguilian, Gamu, Burgos, San Manuel, Aurora, Cabatuan, Luna, Reina Mercedes, Cauayan City, Dinapigue, San Guillermo, Angadanan, Alicia, San Mateo, Ramon, San Isidro, Echague, San Agustin, Jones, Santiago City and Cordon) and the southern portion of Ilocos Sur (Sugpon, Alilem and Tagudin).

Also under Signal No. 2 are the northern portion of Zambales (Iba, Palauig, Masinloc, Candelaria, Santa Cruz, Botolan, Cabangan) and the northern portion of Quezon (General Nakar), the state-run weather agency said in its 11 a.m. weather bulletin.

Signal No. 1 is up in Metro Manila, Abra, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Rizal, the northern portion of Camarines Norte (Paracale, Jose Panganiban, Capalonga and Vinzons), Catanduanes, the rest of northern portion of Quezon (Infanta and Real) and the rest of Zambales, it said. As of 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Pagasa said “Pepito” intensified into a tropical storm as it moves west-northwestward and will make landfall over the Aurora-Isabela area between 7 p.m. – 11 p.m.

“It will then cross the Luzon landmass and emerge over the West Philippine Sea tomorrow [Wednesday] morning and is expected to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on Thursday morning,” Pagasa said.

At 10 a.m. today, the center of the tropical storm was estimated at 295 kilometers east of Baler, Aurora and is moving north-westward at 25 kilometers per hour (kph).

Pagasa said “Pepito” has maximum sustained winds of 65 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 80 kph.

Meanwhile, Pagasa said it is closely monitoring another tropical depression outside the PAR, which was spotted at about 10 a.m. on Tuesday at 1,735 km east-northeast of extreme Northern Luzon.



With maximum sustained winds of 45 kph and gustiness of up to 55 kph, the new weather disturbance is moving north-northwestward at 15 kph but is less likely to enter the PAR, the weather bureau said. “Pepito” will bring moderate to heavy rains over Bicol Region, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) Quezon, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela, mainland Cagayan, Pangasinan and Benguet.

Light to moderate with at times heavy rains will be experienced over Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula and Bangsamoro.

Flooding, including flashfloods, and rain-induced landslides may occur during heavy or prolonged rainfall, especially in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to these hazards, it said.



# Quakes jolt Eastern Visayas, Nueva Vizcaya

[Helen Flores](#), [Artemio Dumlao](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 21, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Earthquakes rattled parts of Eastern Visayas and Northern Luzon yesterday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said a magnitude 4.8 quake struck seven kilometers southwest of Kawayan, Biliran at about 3:32 a.m.

The quake was felt at Intensity 5, which is classified as strong, in Kawayan and Almeria towns in Biliran and Intensity 4 or moderately strong in Naval, Cabucgyan and Biliran towns in Biliran and Calubian, Tabango, Capoocan and Leyte in Leyte.

The temblor was felt at Intensity 3 in Carigara, Kananga, Palompon, Batbangon and Barugo in Leyte and Intensity 2 in Alangalang and Pastrana in Leyte, Catbalogan and Pagsanghan in Samar and Tacloban City.

Meanwhile, a magnitude 3.5 quake hit 12 kms southwest of Ambaguio, Nueva Vizcaya at about 11:34 a.m.

It was felt at Intensity 3 in Baguio City.

Phivolcs said no damage or aftershocks were expected from the quakes.



## China hits US' 'stained' climate, wildlife record

By Xinhua

October 21, 2020

**BEIJING:** Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the United States is “stained all over” in terms of environmental protection, including climate change, biodiversity, endangered wildlife and solid waste management.

Zhao made the remarks in response to a query about a fact sheet on environmental damage by the US and a report on its damage to global environmental governance.

Both documents were published by the foreign ministry on its website earlier Monday.

The spokesman said the two documents are aimed at exposing the terrible record of the US in the sphere of environmental protection with the help of facts, and laying bare some US individuals' trick of the thief calling out “stop the thief.”

“The United States has not only flagrantly violated its own domestic policies on environmental protection, but also severely undermined the equality, efficiency and outcome of global environmental governance,” Zhao added.

He pointed out that certain US politicians and officials have been going all out to smear China and have been recently seeking every means to slander and defame the country over environmental protection.

“Facts speak louder than words, and people will exercise fair judgment,” Zhao added.



# Cheap plastic is flooding developing countries - we're making new biodegradable materials to help

By [Deirdre McKay via The Conversation](#)

- October 20, 2020 - 12:47 PM



A single use plastic bag seen floating through the water. Image by Brian Yurasits (brian\_yuri) via Unsplash

Squeezed by [lower fuel demand](#) during the pandemic and the [rise of renewable energy](#), the oil industry is staking out a new future for itself in plastics. Instead of powering vehicles or generating electricity, oil companies are increasingly looking to use their product to [manufacture cheap plastic packaging](#), which they can sell in lower to middle income countries.

The problem? Many countries lack the means to recycle even their own plastics. Countries in the developing world are [already inundated](#) with plastic exported for sorting and reprocessing by higher income nations, so oil companies are effectively threatening to flood the [developing world](#) with a new wave of virtually [unrecyclable plastics](#). Companies in the US are setting the groundwork for this right now by lobbying to undermine Kenya's [plastic bag ban](#).

The vast amounts of plastic waste that have already accumulated in the developing world are not being [adequately managed](#). Landfill and incineration are the most common solutions, but burning plastics releases [toxic chemicals](#). In reprocessing or landfill facilities, plastics often escape to [choke rivers and coastal seas](#). Even lying around on the soil, plastics cause problems. A team of researchers in China found that the number and variety of insects and worms in soil was significantly reduced when LDPE - the kind of plastic carrier bags are made from - was [spread over the earth](#).

As pressure to sell more plastics to the developing world grows, so does the body of evidence demonstrating the harms caused by this waste accumulating in the environment. This calls for locking waste plastics in "safe sinks", like wood-plastic composites.

## Biodegradable composites

Waste plastics from homes and businesses, like used carrier bags, can be collected, cleaned and combined with natural materials such as sawdust. These new composite materials lock plastic debris in a stable form, preventing it from being broken up and scattered into soils and the ocean. New materials could eventually replace plastics derived from petroleum and turn off the tap of new plastics production. But for now, these safe sinks are a vital step.





Our team at Universiti Sumatera Utara (the University of North Sumatra) in Indonesia recently [developed a wood-plastic composite](#) for use in construction. Combining LDPE and durian wood sawdust from a local sawmill, we pressed out composite materials suitable for building homes, fencing and furniture. Our study demonstrated that [termites](#) native to Indonesia can ingest these composite materials when buried in the soil, but we still need further research.

The termites have LDPE in their guts, but we're not yet sure if they are digesting the plastics entirely or just breaking them up into micro and nano-plastics. Some [termites](#) cultivate [microorganisms](#) in their nests which can degrade LDPE plastics. Do ours? If not, introducing new termites or microbes that aren't indigenous to Sumatra might create even bigger problems.

North Sumatra is home to rainforests, rhinos and tigers, and local ecosystems are [vulnerable](#). People living in remote communities typically want the convenience of consumer goods, processed food, medicines and other amenities that come with plastic packaging. But they don't want the waste it generates. Most of these communities lack solid waste management services, so burning and burying are their only options. While people on the nearby Indonesian island of Java enjoy a higher standard of living, their rivers are more [polluted with plastic](#) than any others in the world.

Our wood-plastic composite could replace wood, plastic decking or fencing, diverting plastic waste from the environment and easing the pressure on forests for building supplies. But we also need to test if our biodegradable composite is safe. We don't yet know if it will be more or less of a fire hazard than other building materials available on the Indonesian market. Flammability assessments are important - recycled plastic decking recently caught fire and burned down an ancient [archaeological site in Australia](#).

## Global materials research

Durian wood evolved in concert with insect and microbial life in Indonesia that was capable of decomposing it. Combining plastic waste with materials that are part of local ecosystems could ensure that resulting composites are biodegradable within the environments they're created, wherever that is in the world. Scientists have discovered some aspects of natural systems that can break up and degrade plastics. We used termites and their associated microbes, but [moth larvae](#) and plastic-eating [bacteria](#) might also work.

Worldwide, sawmills are producing dust and flour from local wood that could be combined with ubiquitous plastic waste. Where emerging markets are likely to be targeted with cheap plastic packaging, scientists could adapt our procedure for making composite materials to local conditions.



These composite materials are promising as safe sinks for plastic waste, but they take time to develop. They're most useful for countries inundated with plastic waste which lack the capital investment for most technical fixes, and have an even greater problem developing reliable solid waste management infrastructure. Though plastics are a global issue, it is this kind of low-cost, local research that can help solve the plastics crisis where it is felt most acutely.

*[Deirdre McKay](#), Reader in Geography and Environmental Politics, [Keele University](#). This article is republished from [The Conversation](#) under a Creative Commons license. Read the [original article](#).*



# Japan gets deer-friendly bags to stop animals eating plastic

Published 12 hours ago



The local bank is one of the businesses which has bought the bags

**Japan's famed Nara deer have been considered national treasures for decades - but some of the tourists who flock to see them leave behind a trail of potentially deadly plastic waste.**

Last year, one deer was found with more than 4kg of rubbish in its stomach.

Fed up, a group of locals have come up with a solution: a paper bag made with rice bran that the deer can digest.

Nara Park is home to more than 1,200 free-roaming deer, who are protected by law.

Visitors are allowed to feed them specially-made sugar-free crackers, which do not come in plastic packaging. However, many visitors are believed to feed the deer other snacks, discarding food wrappers along the way.

The deer then smell the bags, think they are food and eat them.

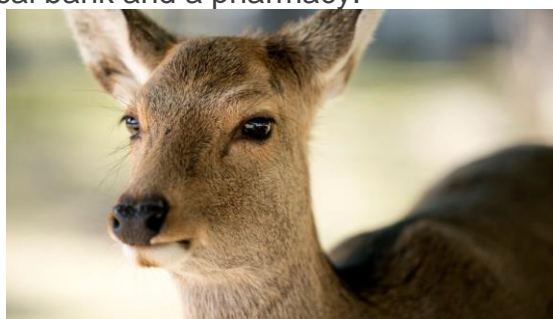
Safe to eat

Nara resident Takashi Nakamura, who runs a paper company in the city, came up with the idea after he heard that deer in the city were dying after swallowing the rubbish by mistake.

He told BBC Japan that he, along with two locals, a cosmetic wholesaler and a designer, worked together to come up with a deer-friendly bag.

The paper bags are up of recycled milk cartons and rice bran - the same ingredient that is used in the deer-friendly crackers.

Mr Nakamura said that around 3,500 bags have been sold to around six local companies, including the city's tourism bureau, a local bank and a pharmacy.



Around 1,200 Sika deer call Nara home

According to news site the Asahi Shimbun, the bag was tested by the Japan Food Research Laboratories, which said it was safe for consumption.



The site adds each bag costs around 100 yen (£0.73; \$0.95), while a normal plastic bag typically costs around a few cents.




A close-up of the paper bag

Nara, a small city and former Japanese capital south of Kyoto, is heaving with Sika deer and has been for centuries.

More than 1,200 have made the city their home, mostly congregating in central Nara Park.  
*Additional reporting by Hideharu Tamura*



 GMA News posted a video to playlist GMAnewsfeed. 17h · 🌐

#### TREE PLANTING DRONES SA AUSTRALIA!

May bagong pag-asa upang mapalago ang kagubatan sa Australia. Ito ang tree planting drones! Nasa 40,000 seeds kada araw ang kaya raw ikalat nito.

Mahalaga ito upang maibalik ang tirahan ng mga hayop gaya ng mga koala. Panoorin ang detalye sa video!



Source:

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=3518896948130891&id=116724526976&fs=0&focus\\_composer=0](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3518896948130891&id=116724526976&fs=0&focus_composer=0)