

22 APRIL 2021, THURSDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Cimatu Urge Everyone to Restore a Healthy Earth Day

by **Village Connect** about 12 hours ago

## Cimatu Urge Everyone to Restore a Healthy Earth Day



As the country celebrates Earth Day on April 22, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu emphasized the importance of having each Filipino play an active role to collectively make a substantial impact in addressing climate change and other environmental issues.

With this year's Earth Day theme "Doing our Fair Share to Restore the Earth," Cimatu challenged the public to join efforts to combat climate change and environmental destruction, especially during a global health crisis.

"From individuals to communities, we can all be part of the solution in addressing climate change and many other environmental issues. When we stop environmentally harmful activities, not only do we save nature, we also minimize the risk on the spur of new viruses," Cimatu said.

The DENR chief cited that water and energy conservation, proper waste segregation, and leading eco-friendly lifestyle are among the various actions one can do from the comfort of their homes amid the restrictions caused by the pandemic.

"When done consistently, the seemingly small things we do for the environment all together actually creates a significant impact for the Earth's healing," Cimatu said.

He added: "Amid the pandemic, the Department has been actively doing its part on reforestation, river and coastal cleanups, biodiversity conservation, and solid waste management, among many programs. May each of us also do our share in caring for our environment and planet in any way we can."

Earth Day Network Philippines (EDNP), the DENR's partner for the Earth Day celebration, has also recommended 30 environmental actions, such as composting food waste, buying local products, planting native trees, among many others.

Other tips are posted on EDNP's social media page.

The DENR, in partnership with EDNP, urged the public to join the virtual celebration on April 22 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm with main activities happening in the afternoon, including the delivery of the State of the Philippine Environment Address. The event will be live-streamed on Facebook thru <https://www.facebook.com/earthdayphilippines>.



The said event will also launch the handbook Sustainable Development Goals–Laudato Si’: Towards Ecological Solidarity by the Living Laudato Si’ Philippines and the jingle-making contest by the DENR Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan.

There are also scheduled webinars on “Eco Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges” on April 29 organized by DENR and EDNP.

The “Mind Your Business! An EnviPreneurship” webinar on April 27, led by the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), aims to help micro, small, and medium enterprises on environmental sustainability for their businesses.

DENR-EMB is also inviting children five to 12 years old to join “E-Doodle Mo, Kid,” a doodle art contest to express care for the Earth and the environment through art from the safety of their homes.

The contest will run until April 23 with voting via EMB’s Facebook page from April 26 to 30.

Observed every April 22 of each year, Earth Day is a global movement celebrated by more than 190 countries that advocates for sustainable action for the environment in various ways and to change human behavior.



## Makiisa sa Earth Day 2021 – Cimatú



April 21, 2021 @ 6:40 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Bilang pagdiriwang ng bansa sa Earth Day bukas Abril 22, 2021 (Miyerkules), binigyang-diin ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatú ang kahalagahan ng pagkakaroon ng bawat Filipino ng mahalagang papel upang maibsan ang malaking epekto ng climate change at iba pang environmental issues.

Ayon sa DENR ang tema ng Earth Day ngayong taon na “Doing our Fair Share to Restore the Earth,” hinamon din ni Cimatú ang publiko na tumulong upang labanan ang climate change at environmental destruction partikular na ngayong nahaharap tayo sa global health crisis.

“From individuals to communities, we can all be part of the solution in addressing climate change and many other environmental issues. When we stop environmentally harmful activities, not only do we save nature, we also minimize the risk of the spur of new viruses,” sabi ni Cimatú.

Ayon sa DENR chief, ang water at energy conservation, proper waste segregation at pagkakaroon ng eco-friendly lifestyle ang ilan sa mga dapat gawin ng bawat isa mula sa kanilang mga bahay dahil na rin sa ipinatutupad na limitasyon dulot ng pandemya.

“When done consistently, the seemingly small things we do for the environment all together actually creates a significant impact for the Earth’s healing,” saad pa ni Cimatú.

Dagdag pa nito: “Amid the pandemic, the Department has been actively doing its part on reforestation, river and coastal cleanups, biodiversity conservation, and solid waste management among many programs. May each of us also do our share in caring for our environment and planet in any way we can.”

Ayon naman sa Earth Day Network Philippines (EDNP), ang partner ng DENR para sa Earth Day celebration, 30 environmental actions ang kinakailangang gawin kabilang na dito ang composting ng food waste, pagbili ng local products, pagtatanim ng native trees at iba pa.

Ang iba pa dito ay makikita sa social media page ng EDNP.



Ang DENR, katuwang ang EDNP, ay hinihikayat ang publiko na sumali sa virtual celebration sa Abril 22, 8 am hanggang 5pm kung saan ay ibibigay ang “State of the Philippine Environment Address.” Ang mga kaganapan ay mapapanood sa Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/earthdayphilippines>.

Ilulunsad din sa nasabing pagdiriwang ang handbook na Sustainable Development Goals—Laudato Si’: Towards Ecological Solidarity by the Living Laudato Si’ Philippines at ang patimpalak ng DENR Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan sa paglikha ng awit. *Santi Celario*





A caretaker shows a mangrove forest, protected and maintained by the local government, in Barangay San Rafael IV in Noveleta, Cavite yesterday as the nation observes International Earth Day today. The mangrove forest is home to hundreds of bird and crab species.

Russell Palma

## Earth Day enjoins Filipinos to combat climate change

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 22, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — As the country celebrates Earth Day today, Filipinos are called to join efforts to combat climate change and environmental destruction.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu yesterday stressed the need for every Filipino to play an active role to collectively make a substantial impact in addressing climate change and other environmental issues, especially during a global health crisis.

Harping on this year's Earth Day theme, "Doing our Fair Share to Restore the Earth," Cimatu said: "From individuals to communities, we can all be part of the solution in addressing climate change and many other environmental issues. When we stop environmentally harmful activities, not only do we save nature, we also minimize the risk on the spur of new viruses."

He cited that water and energy conservation, proper waste segregation and leading an eco-friendly lifestyle are among the various actions one can do from the comfort of their homes amid the restrictions in place during the pandemic.

"When done consistently, the seemingly small things we do for the environment all together actually create a significant impact for the Earth's healing," Cimatu said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) chief added: "Amid the pandemic, the department has been actively doing its part on reforestation, river and coastal cleanups, biodiversity conservation and solid waste management, among many programs. May each of us also do our share in caring for our environment and planet in any way we can."

Earth Day Network Philippines (EDNP), the DENR's partner for the Earth Day celebration, also recommended several environmental actions such as composting food waste, buying local products and planting native trees.

The DENR, in partnership with EDNP, urged the public to join the virtual celebration today from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with main activities happening in the afternoon, including the delivery of the State of the Philippine Environment Address.

Earth Day is a global movement celebrated by more than 190 countries to advocate sustainable action for the environment in various ways and to change human behavior.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/04/22/2092906/earth-day-enjoins-filipinos-combat-climate-change>



# DOF, CCC highlight campaign vs. single-use plastics for upcoming Earth Day 2021 celebration

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on April 21, 2021



QUEZON CITY, April 21 (PIA) -- The Department of Finance (DOF) and Climate Change Commission (CCC) are gearing up for the 51st-anniversary celebration of Earth Day on Thursday, April 22, through a full-day webcast of activities highlighting the country's campaign against single-use plastics.

According to DOF Secretary and CCC Chairperson-Designate Carlos G. Dominguez, the climate body's emphasis on addressing the challenge of single-use plastics will be under the theme of "PINASiglang Mundo," which ties into the global theme for this year to "Restore Our Earth" and drive planetary protection and action.

"On this year's Earth Day, we are called to Restore Our Earth. To do that, one of the most important actions we have to take is to push for effective policies and realistic solutions to address the growing challenges from single-use plastics pollution, and to set us on the path of sustainable consumption and production," Dominguez said.

This year's Earth Day 2021 celebration highlights the role of every individual and member of the community to address the global climate crisis and its resulting effects on ecosystems, biodiversity, food and water, public health, industries, and communities.



The theme also ties in with the United Nations declaration of 2011 to 2030 as the “UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,” which emphasizes the year 2030 as the deadline for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the year that the scientific community defined as the closing of opportunity to limit global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius—the threshold for survival for highly climate-vulnerable countries like the Philippines.

“We call on every Filipino to join us in this year’s celebration and to support the goal for a much healthier and more resilient Philippines. We must now be more conscious of the power in our daily decisions to reduce our carbon footprint and embrace sustainable practices,” Dominguez added.

The CCC said that this year’s celebration will gather stakeholders from across many sectors, unite their efforts, and mobilize support for the growing advocacy to ban or phase out single-use plastics, promote responsible consumption and production, and pursue ecosystem restoration.

The webcast will open with a live “Jam For Earth” session led by GMA 7 singer-songwriter Aicelle Santos and a series on “My Earth Day Pledge” featuring testimonials and commitments from leaders in government, the business sector, academe, and civil society.

Earth Day 2021 will also have a focus episode of “Stories for a Better Normal,” hosted weekly by Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, that will bring together legislators to discuss and share updates on the proposed legislation to ban single-use plastics and implement an extended producers responsibility (EPR) scheme.

Efforts of Filipinos from all walks of life to shift away from plastics through the #WalangPlastikan challenge will also be highlighted during the event.

A panel discussion on community experiences and technological innovations to reduce single-use plastics will be hosted by Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Ruth Castelo and feature social enterprises and businesses promoting zero-waste, and the conservation group Oceana, which is also a member of the Break Free From Plastic coalition.

The Earth Day celebration will conclude with another session of Jam For Earth with special guests.

Partners for the event are the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Education, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, Office of Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, and The Climate Reality Project Philippines, in collaboration with the Break Free from Plastic Philippines coalition, Philippine Information Agency, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Local Government Academy, League of Cities of the Philippines, British Embassy Manila, and the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc.

Presidential Proclamation No. 1481 in April 2008 declared April 22 as “Philippines’ Earth Day.” More than a billion people celebrate the event in over 190 countries around the world. (PIA NCR)





## Earth Day participants plant 500 mangroves in Bago



BAGO. About 70 participants of the "Bike and Mangrove Planting" plant 500 mangroves in Barangay Sampinit in Bago City Wednesday as part of the Earth Day celebration in the province. (Olive Seruelo photo)

[ERWIN P. NICAVERA](#)

April 22, 2021

SOME 500 bakhaw and bungalon species of mangroves were planted by about 70 participants of "Bike and Mangrove Planting" held in Barangay Sampinit, Bago City Wednesday morning, April 21, 2021.

Spearheaded by the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Bacolod and the Provincial Environment Management Office (Pemo), the activity was part of the Earth Day celebration in the province.

Pemo, in a statement, said participants came from various catholic schools, including La Consolacion College - Bacolod, University of Negros Occidental - Recoletos, Colegio San Agustin - Bacolod and St. Joseph School-La Salle, bikers and concerned environmental groups in the province.

The 500 mangroves were planted in the five-hectare mangrove site of "Panggas," a project of the Diocese of Bacolod, Provincial Government of Negros Occidental and Catholic Education Association of the Philippines.

The City Government of Bago provided the area in Barangay Sampinit as a mangrove reforestation site of "Panggas" by virtue of a Memorandum of Agreement signed three years ago.

Aside from mangrove planting, participants also conducted a clean-up activity where they collected two sacks of plastic wastes.

"'Panggas' means to plant. It is a project that was launched to contribute to finding solutions to the climate crisis problem," Pemo said.

The activity was in line with the three-day Earth Day celebration themed "Restore Our Earth," as well as of the 500 years of Christianity this year, it added.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1892427/Bacolod/Local-News/Earth-Day-participants-plant-500-mangroves-in-Bago>



Photo from Pixabay shows seedlings.

Pixabay via jag2020

## 'Seedlings for free': DENR-NCR to set up 'Community Pan-Tree'

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - April 21, 2021 - 5:35pm

MANILA, Philippines — Inspired by community pantries that have sprouted across the Philippines, the regional office of the environment department in Metro Manila said it will set up its own and give away free seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetables to celebrate Earth Day.

“Magtanim ayon sa kakayahan. Umani ayon sa pangangailangan,” Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region said Wednesday.

(Sow according to capacity. Reap according to necessity.)

DENR-NCR said the “Community Pan-Tree” is its contribution to “efforts addressing the issue of food security in the region and the promotion of resiliency in the community amid the pandemic and changing climate.”

It added the initiative also aims to help Metro Manila residents cope with the stress caused by the health crisis through urban gardening and planting.

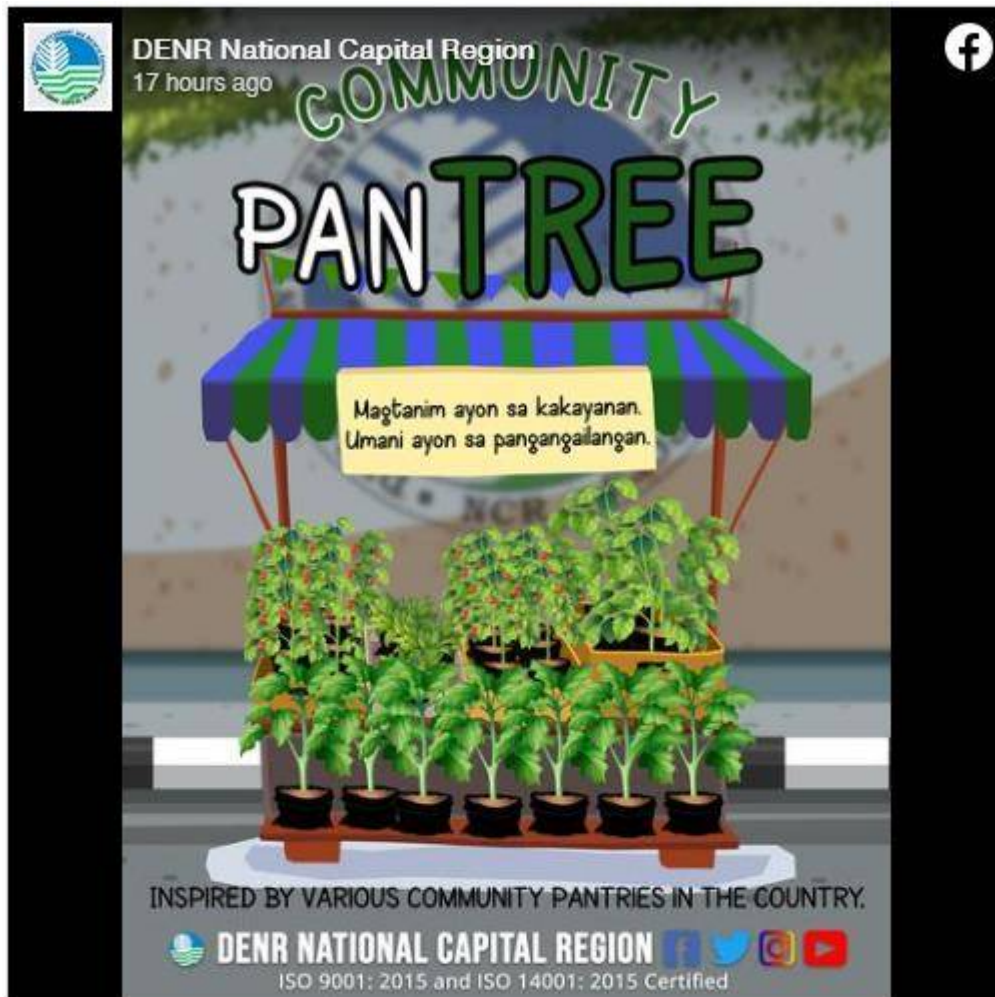
Movement restrictions brought by the pandemic fueled demand for greenery as locked-down Filipinos turn to plants to relieve stress and boredom.

The “Community Pan-Tree” will be open on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DENR-NCR Technical Services Office in North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Those near the DENR-NCR office who want to avail of free seedlings should bring their own pots, if available, and practice public health protocols when they visit the “Pan-Tree.” Those who do not have pots for seedlings may bring recycled plastic containers.

The agency said it is aiming to expand the project and establish more pantries through its field offices.

“Private individuals and groups who share a passion for urban gardening may also donate plants in support of the project,” it said.



In celebration of Earth Day 2021 and to help Metro Manilans cope with the stress caused by the pandemic through urban gardening and planting, DENR National Capital Region will be establishing a Community Pan-TREE. Inspired by the various community pantries that started sprouting in various areas of the country, DENR National Capital Region's Community Pan-TREE will be giving away seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetables to those in need. Private individuals and groups ... See More

702 79 1K





## DENR gives away ‘pan-tree’ seedlings to mark Earth Day

posted April 21, 2021 at 10:20 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is giving away free seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetables in celebration of Earth Day.

Inspired by the community pantries for the poor, the DENR launched its own “Community Pan-Tree.”

In a statement, the DENR-National Capital Region said it is the agency’s “humble contribution to efforts addressing the issue of food security in the region.”

“To help Metro Manilans cope with the stress caused by the pandemic through urban gardening and planting, DENR National Capital Region will be establishing a Community Pan-TREE,” it said.

“Magtanim ayon sa kakayahan. Umani ayon sa pangangailangan,” it added.

The “Community Pan-Tree” is open today (Thursday) from 9 a.m. To 3 p.m. at the DENR-NCR Technical Services Office on North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The agency urged the public to “bring your own pots” and suggested reusing old plastic tubs or other recycled containers for the saplings they will get from the pantry.

“Private individuals and groups who share a passion for urban greening may also donate plants in support of the project,” it said.

Earth Day is an annual global event celebrated every April 22 since 1970.



# DENR mounts 'Community Pan-tree' to celebrate Earth Day 2021

Jamaine Punzalan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 21 2021 03:28 PM | Updated as of Apr 21 2021 09:47 PM

MANILA - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday said it would give away free seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetables to celebrate Earth Day, taking a cue from community pantries for the poor that have sprouted across the country.

DENR's "Community Pan-Tree," is the agency's "humble contribution to efforts addressing the issue of food security in the region," the DENR-National Capital Region said in a statement.

"To help Metro Manilans cope with the stress caused by the pandemic through urban gardening and planting, DENR National Capital Region will be establishing a Community Pan-TREE," the statement read.

"Magtanim ayon sa kakayahan. Umani ayon sa pangangailangan," it said.

(Sow according to our capacity. Reap according to our necessity.)

The "Community Pan-Tree" will open on April 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the DENR-NCR Technical Services Office in North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The agency urged the public to "bring your own pots" and suggested reusing old plastic tubs or other recycled containers for the saplings they will get from the pantry.

"Private individuals and groups who share a passion for urban greening may also donate plants in support of the project," it said.

Those who live far, however, need not travel as we will try to expand the project and establish one near your area through our Field Offices.

Earth Day, an annual global event celebrated every April 22 since 1970, seeks to raise awareness on the state of the planet and encourage action towards environmental protection.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/21/21/denr-mounts-community-pan-tree-to-celebrate-earth-day-2021?fbclid=IwAR38LKVEva64CGZOqdmwIuu1sAZTAy2\\_SZj45Dx5sZLLyttPFpud8lQVLSQ](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/21/21/denr-mounts-community-pan-tree-to-celebrate-earth-day-2021?fbclid=IwAR38LKVEva64CGZOqdmwIuu1sAZTAy2_SZj45Dx5sZLLyttPFpud8lQVLSQ)

## Plantitos, plantitas unite: DENR offers free fruit, vegetable seedlings to those in need

Aileen Cerrudo • April 21, 2021



**MANILA, Philippines** — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has opened a 'Community Pan-tree' that gives out free fruit and vegetable seedlings to those in need. The DENR said it was inspired by the community pantries that are currently trending throughout the county.

This is why, in celebration of Earth Day 2021, the department will be giving away seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetables.

It also encourages individuals and groups who share the passion for urban greening to also donate plants in support of the project.

In celebration of Earth Day 2021 and to help Metro Manilans cope with the stress caused by the pandemic through urban...

Posted by [DENR National Capital Region](#) on [Tuesday, April 20, 2021](#)

The Community Pan-Tree will open on Thursday, 22 April 2021, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the DENR-NCR Technical Services Office in North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The DENR also reminds individuals to bring their own pots if available and adhere to health and safety protocols. **AAC**

Source: <https://www.untvweb.com/news/plantitos-plantitas-unite-denr-offers-free-fruit-vegetable-seedlings-to-those-in-need/>





# EMB: Restoration of environment is everyone's responsibility

By Leonard T. Pineda, |Published on April 21, 2021

ILOILO CITY, April 21 (PIA) – The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Western Visayas reminded the public that "restoration of the environment is everyone's responsibility."

In line with the celebration of Earth Day 2021 on April 22, lawyer Ramar Niel V. Pascua, EMB-6 regional director, said it is important that people help one another to bring back nature's health.

"We can all be catalysts of change through various personal and civic actions set by earthday.org through movements against climate crisis," he said.

Pascua said that people are already suffering from the consequences of their actions and it is time they should be reminded of the appropriate climate action.

Meanwhile, EMB-6 has spearheaded various activities for Earth Day 2021, including the "Hiligaynon Haiku Writing Contest" and the "KANTALIKASAN Environmental Song Writing Competition."

The haiku writing contest underscores appreciation of the environment, one with nature, care for ecology, and restoration of our earth.

On one hand, the themes for the environmental song writing contest must revolve on environment-related topics, environmental protection, conservation, and preservation. (JSC/LTP/PIA6 Iloilo)



# Cimatu urges LGUs to invest in climate, risk resiliency projects

April 21, 2021, 4:52 pm



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (*file photo*)

**MANILA** – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu is urging local government units (LGUs) to pursue investments in the Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) to boost the country's preparedness in mitigating the impact of climate change.

Cimatu, also chair of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), issued this call as he cited the need to create communities that are better prepared to deal with future disruptions similar to the coronavirus pandemic and climate crisis.

"As we seek to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis and build the resiliency of our communities to the impacts of climate change, investments in the protection and restoration of our environment are imperative so we can deliver significant economic and environmental benefits at a time when both are urgently needed," Cimatu said in a recent virtual meeting on the Risk Resiliency Program-Program Convergence Budgeting (RRP-PCB).

The meeting was participated in by DENR field offices, League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, Philippine League of Local Environment and Natural Resources Officers, and Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR member-agencies.

Citing reports, the DENR said 70 percent of cities in the country are already dealing with the effects of climate change.

It also said 90 percent of urban areas are in coastal regions, making them more at risk from sea-level rise and other climate-related threats than others.

"These impacts threaten to undermine decades of developmental milestones. Only through integrating climate and disaster risks, as well as potential opportunities into our development planning and budget can we build resilient and sustainable societies," Cimatu said.

The RRP-PCB is a significant innovation adopted by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), provided in the National Budget Memorandum No. 138, Series of 2021, to provide an opportunity to strengthen convergence among national government agencies and support in scaling up climate response.

The RRP, formulated by the CCAM-DRR Cabinet Cluster is the government's program in improving the resilience of the country's natural systems and the adaptability of the communities living in climate hazard vulnerable provinces and major urban areas.

These include Masbate, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Negros Oriental, Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Southern Leyte, Siquijor, Sarangani, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Sulu, Lanao del Sur, Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo, and Metro Davao.



Priority is given to these areas with high poverty incidence rates and are heavily exposed to climate hazards.

The DENR enjoined the LGUs to consider in their plans and budget allocation the key investments under the RRP, such as community livelihood and enterprise continuity project, integrated water resources management project, enhancing coastal protection project, climate information services, and seismic resiliency.

During the meeting, DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change Analiza Rebuelta-Teh explained the policy actions and strategies in the environment and natural resources sector as outlined in the paper, "Towards a Water-Secure and Resilient Philippines".

To be able to achieve resiliency, Rebuelta-Teh said there is a need to streamline the management of health care and infectious wastes, especially at the community and household levels.

She also said the protection and conservation of natural resources, especially in degraded hot spots and critical ecosystems, should be prioritized.

Water security, especially in Covid-19 pandemic-affected areas, should be ensured, Rebuelta-Teh added.

She pointed out that these policy actions are aligned with the priorities and strategies set by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases. **(PR)**





## Cimatu urges LGUs to invest in climate, risk resiliency projects

April 21, 2021 4 min read

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She pointed out that these policy actions are aligned with the priorities and strategies set by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/04/21/cimatu-urges-igus-to-invest-in-climate-risk-resiliency-projects/?fbclid=IwAR0mIJjblthovPZb-MQtBtFanNWkvNv0VfMBHwGIOOI62gwnWCf05wf4K8E>



# MAY PARANGAL UKOL SA “CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCY” ANG DENR



April 20, 2021 @ 1:01 AM 2 days ago

INILUNSAD ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Gender and Development Office at Climate Change Service ang Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards na may titulong “Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards.”

Layunin nito na makapagbigay ng pagkilala sa Filipino “movers and workers” na patuloy na gumagawa ng hakbang upang mapalakas ang kampanya laban sa climate and disaster resiliency.

Ang Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards na sumusuporta sa Global Good Stories Movement ay layuning mahanap at mabigyan ng pagkilala ang mga kuwento ng bawat indibidwal o grupo kung ano ang epekto ng climate change and disaster sa kanilang komunidad at paano nila ito nabigyan ng solusyon sa pamamagitan ng mga programa sa pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa kanilang kapaligiran at konserbasyon, climate change at disaster risk reduction.

Ang Global Good Stories Movement naman ay isang samahan na nagbabahagi ng kanilang paniniwala sa katagang “we can change the story of the world by changing the storyline.”

Ang nationwide search ay bukas sa magagandang istorya tungkol sa women leadership, community livelihood development, integrated water resources management at coastal/upland protection.

Kabilang din dito ang istorya tungkol sa critical resilient infrastructure, climate and disaster information services, solid waste management, marine conservation at coastal governance, road sharing and non-motorized mobility, edible landscaping and food gardens.

Kasali rin dito ang eco-governance, environmental legislation, environmental education, arts for the earth, environmental jurisprudence, youth leadership, environmental diplomacy, marine enforcement, renewable energy, cultural heritage, beach restoration, environmental litigation at water use and recycling.

Dapat na ang mga inisyatibang ito ay hindi bababa sa tatlong taong ipinatupad o sinimulan noong pang 2018.



Ang mga kalahok ay huhusgahan base na rin sa mga sumusunod na criteria: climate and disaster resiliency content – 60%, visual appeal of the photographs and video – 30% at geographical reach of the initiative – 10%.

Makatatanggap ang mananalo ng Php 50,000 para sa first prize, Php 40,000 para sa second prize, at Php 30,000 para sa third prize. Mayroon ding Php 15,000 bawat isa ang pitong mapipiling consolation prizes.

Ang parangal ay gagawin sa June 2021 bilang bahagi ng selebrasyon ng Philippine Environment Month.

Sa mga nagnanais na lumahok, maaaring magsumite ng kanilang entries sa [cco.denr@yahoo.com](mailto:cco.denr@yahoo.com), at [ccs.denr@gmail.com](mailto:ccs.denr@gmail.com), bago ang May 4, 2021.

Maaari ring isumite ang entry sa pinakamalapit na DENR Community o Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office o sa DENR regional offices.





E-mail Address: andres5421@yahoo.com

## CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCY RECOGNITION AWARDS INILUNSA

INILUNSA na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Gender and Development (GAD) Office at Climate Change Service (CCS) ang Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards na may titulong "Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards."

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, layunin nito na makapagbigay ng pagkilala sa mga Filipino "movers and workers" na patuloy na gumagawa ng hakbang upang mapalakas ang kampanya laban sa climate

and disaster resiliency.

"This award will be a testament of the zeal and passion of all the people who do not merely talk but labor in the peripherals to bring knowledge and assistance on climate change concerns to those who need them most," ani Cimatu.

Ang Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards na sumusuporta sa Global Good Stories Movement ay layuning mahanap at mabigyan ng pagkilala ang mga kuwento ng bawat indibidwal o grupo kung ano ang epekto ng climate change and disaster sa kanilang komunidad at paano nila ito mabigyan ng solusyon sa pamamagitan ng mga programa sa pagbibig-

ay ng proteksiyon sa kanilang kapaligiran at konserbasyon, climate change at disaster risk reduction.

Samantala, ang Global Good Stories Movement naman ay isang samahan na nagbabahagi ng kanilang paniniwala sa katagang "we can change the story of the world by changing the storyline."

"We know there are pockets of good stories and narratives at different levels. As we seek them out, document and publicize them, we hope such can create even more ripples of hope for expanded good stories," saad ni DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change Analiza Rebuena Teh, na siya ring chairperson ng DENR National GAD Focal Point System.

Ang nationwide search ay bukas sa magandang

istorya tungkol sa women leadership, community livelihood development, integrated water resources management, at coastal/upland protection.

Kabilang din dito ang istorya tungkol sa critical resilient infrastructure, climate and disaster information services, solid waste management, marine conservation, at coastal governance, road sharing and non-motorized mobility, edible landscaping and food gardens.

Kasali rin dito ang eco-governance, environmental legislation, environmental education, arts for the earth, environmental jurisprudence, youth leadership, environmental diplomacy, marine enforcement, renewable energy, cultural heritage, beach restoration, environmental litigation, at water use and recycling.

Ang mga inisyatibang ito ay hindi bababa sa tatlong

taong ipinatupad o sinimulan noong 2018.

Ang mga kalahok ay huhugahan base na rin sa mga sumusunod na criteria: climate and disaster resiliency content (60 percent), visual appeal of the photographs and video (30 percent) at geographical reach of the initiative (10 percent).

Makatatanggap ang mananalo sa Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards ng P50,000 para sa first prize, P40,000 sa second prize, at P30,000 para sa third prize.

Mabibigyan naman ng P15,000 bawat isa ang pitong mapipiling consolation prize. Iaanunsiyo at gagawaran ang mga mananalo sa katapusan ng Hunyo 2021 bilang bahagi ng selebrasyon ng Philippine Environment Month.



## Mga bagong aplikasyon sa pagmimina, dadaan sa butas ng karayom – Cimatú



April 21, 2021 @ 6:01 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Tiniyak ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatú na dadaan sa masusing pag-aaral ang lahat ng nakabinbing aplikasyon para sa pagmimina.

Ito ay para matiyak na hindi magiging masama ang epekto nito sa kapaligiran matpaos bawiin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang halos siyam taong moratorium sa bagong mining operation.

“There is no automatic approval even if these mining applicants submit all the requirements,” paliwanag ni Cimatú bilang paglilinaw sa pag-isyu ni Pangulong Duterte ng Executive Order (EO) 130 na nagtatanggal sa ban ng bagong kasunduan sa pagmimina sa bansa.

Ayon sa DENR ang EO 130 na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte noong Abril 14 ay nag-aamiyenda sa Section 4 (Grant of Mineral Agreements Pending New Legislation) ng EO 79 na inisyu ni dating Pangulong Benigno Aquino III noong 2012.

Sinabi ni Cimatú, ang lahat ng nakabinbing aplikasyon ay maaaprubahan lamang matapos dumaan sa masusing pag-aaral at balidasyon ng Final Exploration Report, Mining Feasibility Studies, at iba pa.

Ang Final Exploration Report na pagtitibayin ng MGB Central Office ay nagpapakita na ang mineral resources at reserves ay marami at maaari itong umabot ng sampung taong pagmimina o “commercial extraction life” para sa metallic minerals habang pitong taon naman para sa non-metallic.

Samantala, kaugnay nito ang Mining Feasibility Study ay nagpapakita naman na ang halagang makukuha sa pagmimina ay kayang bayaran ang lahat ng gastusin sa mining operation kabilang na dito ang operating cost, administration overhead, milling cost kung sakaling may processing plant, environmental cost, social development cost at safety and health cost.

Bukod dito, sinabi pa ni Cimatú na ang kumpanya ay kinakailangang may financial capability na bayaran ang national at local taxes, royalties, local government fees, iba pang national government fees, interest at pambayad sa mga utang.

Ipinaliwanag pa ni Cimatú na kapag ang naging resulta ng feasibility studies ay nagpapakita ng “less than ideal returns” mula sa operasyon, ang aplikasyon ay hindi maaaprubahan.



“It is also possible that new requirements will come up based on the newly issued Order. The MGB-DENR-Department of Finance Working Group is set to convene to draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations of EO 130,” aniya.

Bukod dito, kailangang patunayan ng aplikante na ang benipisyong makukuha sa mining operation, na isang national interest, ay higit sa panganib mula sa masamang epekto nito sa kapaligiran.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na naglagay na ang DENR ng karagdagang environmental measures upang matiyak na magkakaroon ng balanse sa pangangalaga sa kapaligiran at ng economic at social concerns ng mining industry.

Kabilang din sa environmental measures na kailangang tupdin ng mining companies ay ang “prohibition of developing or opening new areas until the mined-out areas had been progressively rehabilitated; rehabilitation of areas should have the desired slope of not more than 50 percent slope (or 45 degrees) and proper drainages; and establishment of buffer zones or no mining zones to provide a buffer between the mining operations and rivers, and other important structures.” *Santi Celario*



## DENR vows review of mining applications



By Eireene Jairee Gomez

April 22, 2021

Following the lifting of the moratorium on new mining operations, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has vowed to scrutinize pending applications for mineral agreements to minimize mining operations' impacts to the environment.

“There is no automatic approval even if these mining applicants submit all the requirements,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a statement on Wednesday.

President Rodrigo Duterte signed last April 14 Executive Order (EO) 130 that lifted the ban on new mining agreements in the country. It amended Section 4 (Grant of Mineral Agreements Pending New Legislation) of EO 79 issued by former President Benigno Aquino 3rd in 2012.

According to Cimatu, the pending applications will only be approved by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) after a thorough review and validation of the final exploration report and mining feasibility studies, among others.

The final exploration report, which will be validated by the MGB Central Office, should show that the delineated mineral resources and reserves are plentiful to last at least a 10-year mine life or commercial extraction life for metallic minerals and seven years for non-metallic.

Meanwhile, the Mining Feasibility Study should show that the cost to develop the mine can pay for all the costs related to the mining operation including operating cost, administration overhead, and milling cost if there is a processing plant, environmental cost, social development cost, and safety and health cost.

Aside from these, the company should also have the financial capability to pay national and local taxes, royalties, local government fees, other national government fees, and interest and charges on loans. If the feasibility studies show less than ideal returns from the operation, then the application will not be approved, Cimatu noted.

“It is also possible that new requirements will come up based on the newly issued order. The MGB-DENR-Department of Finance Working Group is set to convene to draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations of EO 130,” he added.

Moreover, applicants should prove that the benefits of the mining operation will far outweigh the risks from adverse environmental effects.

Cimatu said the DENR has already put in place additional environmental measures to ensure a balance in the care for the environment and the economic and social concerns of the mining industry.

In 2018, Cimatu issued Administrative Order 2018-19 to provide new environmental policies that will ensure sustainable environmental conditions at every stage of the mining operation and minimize the disturbed area of a mining project at any given time.

Mining companies are also required to establish a progressive rehabilitation fund with a minimum amount of P5 million, as well as pay the mine waste and tailings fee based on the amount of tonnage of mine wastes and tailings that the company generates every semester.





These fees will be for the payment of damages caused by a leak of tailings pond or mine waste to the adjoining lands.

The mining companies also have to deposit the initial fund, an average of 8 percent, of the cost of the final mine rehabilitation and decommissioning plan even before the mines can start commercial operation.

The MGB has so far issued 309 mineral production sharing agreements across the country.



## Applications for mining deals to be scrutinized

posted April 21, 2021 at 10:30 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

Following President Rodrigo Duterte's decision to lift the moratorium on new mining operations, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Wednesday vowed to scrutinize pending applications for mineral agreements to ensure that they would not pose adverse effects to the environment.

"There is no automatic approval even if these mining applicants submit all the requirements," Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

Duterte, through Executive Order No. 130, lifted the ban on new mining agreements.

The environment chief said pending applications would only be approved by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau after a thorough review and validation of the final exploration report and mining feasibility studies.

The report to be validated by the MGB central office should show that the delineated mineral resources and reserves are plentiful to last at least a 10-year mine life or commercial extraction life for metallic minerals and seven years for non-metallic.

The mining feasibility study should show that the cost to develop the mine can pay for all the costs related to the mining operation including operating cost, administration overhead, and milling cost if there is a processing plant, environmental cost, social development cost, and safety and health cost.

According to Cimatu, should the feasibility studies show less than ideal returns from the operation, then the application would be disapproved.

He said the DENR has already put in place additional environmental measures to ensure a balance in the care for the environment and the economic and social concerns of the mining industry.



# Pending mining applications may be subject to new rules

By [Jed Macapagal](#) -April 22, 2021



Mineral-rich. MGB conducts stockpile validation on a mining firm on Dec. 19, 2020 in Caraga region, host to the most number of MPSAs in the country. (MGB-Caraga photo)

Following government's move lifting the moratorium on new mining deals, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said pending applications are not automatically approved.

The DENR cited the possibility of imposing new requirements once Executive Order (EO) 130, the directive of President lifting the ban, is fully implemented.

"It is also possible that new requirements will come up based on the newly-issued order.

The MGB (Mines and Geosciences Bureau)-DENR-Department of Finance (DOF) Working Group is set to convene to draft the implementing rules and regulations of EO 130," said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, in a statement.

Mining is one of the most-heavily regulated industries with a host of requirements before, during and post operations.

EO 130 also mandates the DENR to formulate terms and conditions in new mineral agreements that can maximize government revenues and share from production,

The DENR can review existing contracts for a possible renegotiation of mutually acceptable terms.

The EO has also tasked the DENR and the DOF to rationalize existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms.

Under current rules, applicants for mining projects are required to submit final exploration reports validated by the MGB to show the planned mining sites have at least a 10-year mine life or commercial extraction life for metallic minerals and seven years for non-metallic.

Miners also need to submit a mining feasibility study that would show the cost of developing the mine can cover expenses for mining operation including operating cost, administration overhead and milling if there is a processing plant, environmental, social development as well as and safety and health costs.



The application will not be approved if it shows “less than ideal returns.”

Cimatu said companies should have the financial capability to pay for the national and local taxes, royalties, local government fees, other national government fees and interest and charges on loans.

He added applicants must also prove the benefits of the mining operation, which is a national interest, will far outweigh the risks from adverse environmental effects.

Mining companies are prohibited from developing or opening new areas until the mined-out areas have been progressively rehabilitated with rehabilitation areas to have a desired slope of not more than 45 degrees and equipped with proper drainages apart from the establishment of buffer zones or no mining zones to provide a buffer between the mining operations and rivers or other important structures.

Mining companies are also required to establish a progressive rehabilitation fund with a minimum amount of P5 million, as well as pay the mine waste and tailings fee based on the amount of tonnage of mine wastes and tailings that the company generates every semester.

Mining firms also have to deposit the initial fund or an average of 8 percent of the cost of the final mine rehabilitation and decommissioning plan even before the mines can start commercial operation.

The DENR said the MGB has so far issued 309 mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) all over the country.

Of that, bulk or 51 MPSAs are in Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, and Dinagat Islands in Caraga.

Meanwhile, 40 MPSAs are in Zambales , 36 in Calabarzon, 32 in Central Visayas, 26 in Bicol region, and 19 in Samar and Leyte (Western Visayas).

Another 18 MPSAs are issued in Davao Region that are mostly inside and surrounding the Diwalwal mineral reservation while the rest of the MPSAs are spread in other regions.





# DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, tiniyak na dadaan sa masusing pagsusuri ang lahat ng mining application bago aprubahan

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Apr. 21, 2021 at 3:46pm



Tiniyak ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu na dadaan pa rin sa masusing pag-aaral ang lahat ng nakabinbing aplikasyon para sa pagmimina upang matiyak na hindi magiging masama ang epekto nito sa kapaligiran.

Kasunod ito ng pagtanggap ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa 9-year moratorium sa bagong mining operations.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang lahat ng nakabinbing aplikasyon ay sasailalim sa masusing balidasyon ng Final Exploration Report at ng Mining Feasibility Studies.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na naglagay na ang DENR ng karagdagang environmental measures upang matiyak na magkakaroon ng balanse sa pangangalaga sa kapaligiran at ng economic at social concerns ng mining industry.

Nakapag-isyu na ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ng 309 Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) sa buong bansa.

Ang 51 MPSAs na ito ay matatagpuan sa Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur at Dinagat Islands sa Caraga.

40 naman sa mga MPSAs na ito ay nasa Zambales (Central Luzon), 36 sa Calabarzon, 32 sa Central Visayas, 26 sa Bicol Region, 19 sa Samar at Leyte (Western Visayas).

Karamihan naman sa 18 MPSAs na na-isyu sa Davao Region ay sa loob at sa paligid ng Diwalwal Mineral Reservation.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/denr-sec-roy-cimatu-tiniyak-na-dadaan-sa-masusing-pagsusuri-ang-lahat-ng-mining-application-bago-aprubahan/>

# New Mining Projects Won't Adversely Affect Environment, DENR Chief Says



BY BUSINESSMIRROR

APRIL 22, 2021

3 MINUTE READ



**In File Photo: Cargo ships loaded with nickel ore in Claver, Surigao del Norte, where a nickel mining boom began in the 2000s, April 9, 2017. The Philippines exports more nickel ore than any country in the world.**

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu on Wednesday vowed to scrutinize pending applications for new mining projects to ensure that these would not cause any adverse effects to the environment.

“There is no automatic approval even if these mining applicants submit all the requirements,” Cimatu said in a news statement following President Duterte’s issuance of Executive Order (EO) 130 that lifted the ban on new mining agreements in the country.

EO 130, signed by President Duterte last April 14, amended Section 4 on the Grant of Mineral Agreements Pending New Legislation of EO 79 issued by former President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III in 2012.

The DENR chief vowed that pending applications would only be approved by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) “only after a thorough review and validation of the Final Exploration Report and Mining Feasibility Studies.”

As a new policy, Cimatu said, only delineated mineral resources and reserves that are plentiful to last at least a 10-year mine life or commercial extraction life for metallic minerals and seven years for non-metallic, will be considered.

The Mining Feasibility Study, he said, should also show that the cost to develop the mine can pay for all the expenses related to the mining operation, including operating costs, administration overhead, and milling cost if there is a processing plant, environmental cost, social development cost, and safety and health cost.

Only financially capable companies, or companies that are able to pay national and local taxes, royalties, local government fees, other national government fees, and interest and charges on loans, would be allowed to operate.

If the feasibility studies “show less than ideal returns from the operation,” Cimatu said the application would likely be turned down.

“It is also possible that new requirements will come up based on the newly issued order. The MGB-DENR-Department of Finance Working Group is set to convene to draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations of EO 130,” he said.



Moreover, applicants should prove that the benefits of the mining operation, which is of national interest, would far outweigh the risks from adverse environmental effects.

Cimatu said the DENR has already put in place additional environmental measures to ensure a balance in the care for the environment and the economic and social concerns of the mining industry. In 2018, Cimatu issued Administrative Order 2018-19 to provide new environmental policies that will ensure sustainable environmental conditions in every stage of the mining operation and minimize the “disturbed” area of a mining project at any given time.

Under the Duterte administration, environmental measures have been put in place, requiring mining companies to implement progressive rehabilitation, and limiting the areas to be disturbed at any given time.

Mining companies are also required to establish a progressive rehabilitation fund with a minimum amount of P5 million, as well as pay the mine waste and tailings fee based on the amount of tonnage of mine wastes and tailings which the company generates every semester.

These fees will be for the payment for damages caused by a leak of tailings pond or mine waste to adjoining lands.

The mining companies also have to deposit the initial fund, an average of 8 percent, of the cost of the Final Mine Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Plan even before the mines can start commercial operation.

The MGB has so far issued a total of 309 mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) all over the country. Of the total, 51 MPSAs are in Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, and Dinagat Islands in Caraga.

Forty MPSAs are in Zambales (Central Luzon), 36 in Calabarzon, 32 in Central Visayas, 26 in Bicol region, and 19 in Samar and Leyte in Eastern Visayas.

Eighteen MPSAs were also issued in Davao Region, mostly inside and surrounding the Diwalwal Mineral Reservation. The rest of the MPSAs are spread to other regions.

There are only 50 operating large-scale metallic mines in the Philippines as of December 1, 2020, according to a document posted at the MGB’s website entitled Mining Industry Statistic.



# Newly-formed Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition gives Cimatu reason to smile; here's why

Published April 21, 2021, 3:25 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sounded quite happy, if not relieved, to finally have a partner in the seemingly never-ending restoration of the 26,126-hectare (ha) Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (RTVM / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

This key partner comes in the form of the Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition, which officially launched on Wednesday, April 21 during a virtual event.

“This is precisely the kind of movement that we would like to see more of—an initiative of the citizenry in protecting and restoring our environment,” Cimatu said in pre-recorded message that was played during the event.

The coalition is composed of nearly 70 civil society groups, private sector actors, and other stakeholder groups dedicated to promoting the protection and restoration of the all important UMRBPL which affects some 20 million Filipinos in its vicinity, particularly in Rizal province and the National Capital Region (NCR).

In the particular, the group wants to help authorities conserve biodiversity, prevent flooding and landslides, and address climate change through the restoration of the UMRBPL. Cimatu was one of the guest speakers Wednesday.

He said that the UMRBPL is one of the department's priority sites for intensified watershed management.

“Hence, I would be very happy to assist the Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition live up to its declared objective of protecting and restoring these protected landscape and nearby protected areas,” the Cabinet official said.

Cimatu said the DENR has been endeavoring to restore UMRBPL “for at least a decade”. “The challenges are not simple; the floods brought by typhoons Ondoy in 2009 and Ulysses in November 2020 were so destructive not just because of the volume of rainfall but also because of a variety of factors including timber-poaching; fuel, food-gathering; charcoal-making; influx of informal settlers into the protected area, illegal mining and quarrying, and land conversion,” he said.

“It is obvious that we will need the support and participation of various stakeholders. So we look forward to partnering with the Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition to restore the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape and nearby areas,” Cimatu added.





As a step forward, Cimatú pitched the expansion of the strict protection zone, which only accounts for 8,883 hectares or 34 percent of protected area.

The DENR boss also mentioned the need to update the 2012 protected area management plan; conduct a survey and registration of the occupants of the protected area; carry out the relocation of the informal settlers; and engage the local government units (LGUs) and local communities, especially tenured migrants, in protecting the area.

In his parting shot, Cimatú told the coalition “Ikinagagalak namin ang inyong pakikiisa tungo sa mas malinis at ligtas na kapaligiran (We are happy to have your help in keeping the environment clean and safe).”

The launch took place a day before the annual celebration of Earth Day.



## SMC, DENR, DPWH To Start Pasig River Cleanup May, To Extract 600,000 Metric Tons Of Waste



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#) April 21, 2021

Preparations for a historic effort to clean up the Pasig River, to be fully funded by San Miguel Corporation (SMC) and jointly undertaken with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) are now in full swing, with the first intensive studies on the riverbed currently underway, the company reported.

SMC is looking to remove 600,000 metric tons of waste per year from the Pasig River, with actual cleanup to start in May.

SMC president Ramon S. Ang said that the company has already completed the initial bathymetric survey of the Pasig River, from the Pandacan, Manila area going upstream. Further studies of the Manila Bay to Pandacan area are also now underway, using new equipment the company acquired.

Bathymetry is the study of the ocean, lake, or river floors, to determine their topography and characteristics underwater. The studies are the first to be done for these sections of the Pasig River.

"This is a very important environmental effort, and we want to do it right. Cleaning up the Pasig River has been a dream for many Filipinos, even our older generations, so we want to make sure our plan is strategic and effective. While we will use science and utilize modern technology, this project can only succeed with the cooperation of all stakeholders," Ang said.

"We are grateful for the support of Secretary Roy Cimatu and Secretary Mark Villar. They will be key to making this project a success. Their expertise and ability to mobilize support from many stakeholders are vital to this initiative," he added.

Ang said that the company recently took delivery of a marine echo sounder, a hydrographic survey equipment that uses sonar to determine the depths of water, by sending acoustic waves into the water.

Apart from bathymetric survey, SMC said it is also looking to conduct a soil test from Manila Bay to Pandacan, every 400 meters. The company has also coordinated with the DPWH to request its consultants to conduct its own hydrographic study and dredging plan.

"According to the DPWH, there have been no previous studies or dredging plans for the Pasig River near the Manila Bay. There were previous studies with JICA but that was for the area near Marikina river. So this is a historic effort. With government and private sector working together, combining our efforts, resources, and technical know-how, I'm sure we will succeed in cleaning up Pasig River," Ang said.



Apart from the studies, Ang relayed that the draft memorandum of agreement between SMC and the DENR is now undergoing review, with DPWH also a signatory, in order to formalize the formation of a joint venture between SMC and the government agencies.

Ang said that apart from the survey equipment, SMC has also acquired equipment specifically for the Pasig River cleanup. These include a Cutter Suction Dredger and 800 metric ton hopper barge capable of removing 50,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste per month, or a total of 600,000 metric tons per year.

The company is also acquiring an amphibious excavator for dredging shallow waters and for river widening.

Currently, SMC is already undertaking another massive and historic river cleanup project—its P1 billion initiative to dredge the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River system.

Earlier this month, or less than a year since SMC started work on that project, SMC reported dredging a total of 168,000 metric tons of waste from the Tullahan. It is set to double its daily dredging capacity to 1,500 metric tons per day. The project is aimed at helping mitigate flooding in Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, Quezon City, and Bulacan.

SMC's Pasig River cleanup project is part of its P95 billion project to build the Pasig River Expressway, an elevated toll road along the banks of the Pasig, which will connect the east and west sides of Metro Manila, from R-10 road in Manila to Edsa and C-5.

The project is seen to decongest traffic in Rizal, Cainta, and Marikina. It will also provide easier access to the central business districts of Makati, Ortigas, and Bonifacio Global City, and also connect to the Skyway system



## SMC: Massive Pasig River Cleanup Begins Next Month

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA APRIL 22, 2021



Aerial view of Manila with the Pasig River

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) said it is gearing up for the massive cleanup of the Pasig River as part of its P95-billion Pasig River Expressway Project.

An elevated toll road along the banks of Pasig River, the Expressway Project will connect the east and west sides of Metro Manila, from R-10 road in Manila to Edsa and C-5.

With its completion, traffic in Rizal, Cainta, and Marikina is expected to improve.

It will likewise provide easier access to the central business districts of Makati, Ortigas, and Bonifacio Global City, and also connect to the Skyway system.

In a statement, SMC said preparations for the “historic effort” to clean up the Pasig River, to be fully funded by the company, will be jointly undertaken with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

In preparation for the activity, the first intensive study on the riverbed is currently underway, the company reported.

SMC is looking to remove 600,000 metric tons of waste per year from the Pasig River, with actual cleanup to start in May.

SMC President Ramon S. Ang said the company has already completed the initial bathymetric survey of the Pasig River, from the Pandacan, Manila area going upstream. Further studies of the Manila Bay to Pandacan area are also now underway, using new equipment the company acquired.

Bathymetry is the study of the ocean, lake, or river floors, to determine their topography and characteristics underwater. The studies are the first to be done for these sections of the Pasig River.

“This is a very important environmental effort, and we want to do it right. Cleaning up the Pasig River has been a dream for many Filipinos, even our older generations, so we want to make sure our plan is strategic and effective. While we will use science and utilize modern technology, this project can only succeed with the cooperation of all stakeholders,” Ang said.

“We are grateful for the support of [DENR] Secretary Roy Cimatu and Secretary Mark Villar. They will be the key to making this project a success. Their expertise and ability to mobilize support from many stakeholders are vital to this initiative.”

Ang said the company recently took delivery of a marine echo sounder, a hydrographic survey equipment that uses sonar to determine the depths of water, by sending acoustic waves into the water.

Apart from bathymetric survey, SMC said it is also looking to conduct a soil test from Manila Bay to Pandacan, every 400 meters. The company has also coordinated with the DPWH to request its consultants to conduct its own hydrographic study and dredging plan.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/04/22/smc-massive-pasig-river-cleanup-begins-next-month/>





## Pasig River cleanup starts next month

Cleaning up the Pasig River has been a dream for many Filipinos, even our older generations, so we want to make sure our plan is strategic and effective

Published 5 hours ago on April 22, 2021 03:00 AM

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



Photograph courtesy of Ramon S. Ang FB page There have been no previous studies or dredging plans for the Pasig River, which is the focus of a cleanup drive by San Miguel Corp.

Preparations for the historic effort to clean up the Pasig River, to be fully funded by San Miguel Corp. (SMC) and jointly undertaken with the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Public Works and Highways (DPWH), are now in full swing with the first intensive studies on the riverbed currently underway.

SMC said it is looking to remove 600,000 metric tons of waste per year from the Pasig River, with actual cleanup to start in May.

SMC president Ramon S. Ang said the company has already completed the river's initial bathymetric survey, from the Pandacan, Manila area going upstream. Further studies of the Manila Bay to Pandacan area now are also underway, using new equipment the company acquired.

Bathymetry is the study of the ocean, lake, or river floors to determine their topography and characteristics underwater.

The studies are the first to be done for these sections of the Pasig River.

"This is a very important environmental effort, and we want to do it right. Cleaning up the Pasig River has been a dream for many Filipinos, even our older generations, so we want to make sure our plan is strategic and effective. While we will use science and utilize modern technology, this project can only succeed with the cooperation of all stakeholders," Ang said.

"We are grateful for the support of Secretary Roy Cimatu and Secretary Mark Villar. They will be key to making this project a success. Their expertise and ability to mobilize support from many stakeholders are vital to this initiative," he added.

Ang said the company recently received the delivery of a marine echo sounder, a hydrographic survey equipment that uses sonar to determine the depths of water, by sending acoustic waves into the water.



Apart from the bathymetric survey, SMC said it is also looking to conduct a soil test every 400 meters from Manila Bay to Pandacan. It has also coordinated with the DPWH to request its consultants to conduct its own hydrographic study and dredging plan.

“According to the DPWH, there have been no previous studies or dredging plans for the Pasig River near the Manila Bay. There were previous studies with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), but that was for the area near Marikina River. So, this is a historic effort. With government and private sector working together, combining our efforts, resources and technical know-how, I’m sure we will succeed in cleaning up Pasig River,” Ang said.

Apart from the studies, the SMC president relayed the draft memorandum of agreement between SMC and the DENR is now undergoing review, with DPWH also a signatory, in order to formalize the formation of a joint venture between SMC and the government agencies.

Ang said apart from the survey equipment, SMC has also acquired equipment specifically for the Pasig River cleanup. These include a cutter suction dredger and an 800-metric ton hopper barge capable of removing 50,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste per month, or a total of 600,000 metric tons per year.

The company is also acquiring an amphibious excavator for dredging shallow waters and for river widening.

Currently, SMC is already undertaking another massive and historic river cleanup project — its P1 billion initiative to dredge the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River system.

Earlier this month, or less than a year since it started work on the project, SMC reported dredging a total of 168,000 metric tons of waste from the Tullahan River. It is set to double its daily dredging capacity to 1,500 metric tons per day. The project is aimed at helping mitigate flooding in Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, Quezon City and Bulacan.

SMC’s Pasig River cleanup project is part of its P95 billion project to build the Pasig River Expressway, an elevated toll road along the banks of the Pasig, which will connect the east and west sides of Metro Manila, from R-10 Road in Manila to EDSA and C-5.

The project is seen to decongest traffic in Rizal, Cainta and Marikina. It will also provide easier access to the central business districts of Makati, Ortigas and Bonifacio Global City, and also connect to the Skyway system.





# Conservation work at Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park in the Philippines

By XinhuaPublished: Apr 21, 2021 12:47 PM



A worker from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) clears the fallen branches and collects the garbage washed from the Manila Bay at the Mangrove Forest of the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park in Las Pinas City, the Philippines, April 20, 2021. (Photo: Xinhua)



Workers from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) clear the fallen branches and pick up the garbage washed from the Manila Bay at the Mangrove Forest of the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park in Las Pinas City, the Philippines, April 20, 2021. (Photo: Xinhua)



A worker from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) collects the garbage washed from the Manila Bay at the Mangrove Forest of the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park in Las Pinas City, the Philippines, April 20, 2021. (Photo: Xinhua)



Workers from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) clear the fallen branches and pick up the garbage washed from the Manila Bay at the Mangrove Forest of the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park in Las Pinas City, the Philippines, April 20, 2021. (Photo: Xinhua)

Workers from the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources cleared the fallen branches and collected the garbage washed from the Manila Bay in the mangrove forest in the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park.

The park, located in Las Pinas City, is a critical habitat for various kinds of mangrove trees and many migratory bird species.





# Zamboanga City lines up Earth Day activities

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. April 21, 2021, 5:54 pm



Zamboanga City Hall (PNA-Zamboanga file photo)

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** – The city government here has lined up activities in line with the observance of Earth Day on Thursday.

Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar said Wednesday that planting and maintenance activities will be conducted at the mangrove forest in Masepla, the former transitory site, in Barangay Mampang, east of this city.

The activities will be spearheaded by the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR).

Salazar said the undertakings form part of this city's coastal area project enhancement, specifically mangrove forest restoration of its ecological functions, such as mitigating the impact of climate change, among others.

The OCENR grows and maintains a mangrove propagules nursery in Barangay Mampang to support the coastal rehabilitation project of this city.

Earth Day, held every April 22, marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Last year marked 50 years of Earth Day observance.

The Earth Day is an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

This year's observance is anchored on the theme "Restore the Earth" which emphasizes that "a Clean Environment Is Essential for Healthy Living: The more you don't care about our environment, the more it will become polluted with contaminants and toxins that have a harmful impact on our health. Air pollution can cause respiratory diseases and cancer, among other problems and diseases."

"Restoration is imperative to fighting climate change and making the Earth a safer, healthier, and more equitable place to live. It's time to step up. It's time to make a change," Salazar said. **(PNA)**

# Villar Urges The Public To Help ‘Restore Our Earth’ During Earth Day 2021 Celebration;

Observes Las Pinas- Paranaque Wetland Park Anniversary

BYBMPLUS APRIL 21, 2021



Earth Day 2018 (File photo)

IN consonance with the theme of this year’s Earth Day celebration on April 22, “Restore Our Earth,” Senator Cynthia A. Villar yesterday called on everyone to participate in initiatives to bring back a greener and healthier environment.

Villar also cited the global significance of the 175-hectare mangrove forest and marine habitat Las Piñas-Paranaque Wetland Park, one of the world’s most important wetlands included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. It was first declared a Critical Habitat And Ecotourism site in 2007 with the issuance of Proclamation No. 1412, series of 2007. And was legislated as a protected area under the E-NIPAS law in June 2018

Earth Day 2021 focuses on the restoration of the world’s ecosystems through natural processes, emerging green technologies and innovative thinking.

Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment, has been advocating environmentally sustainable practices like urban gardening, which she started in Las Pinas in 2011. Even with small spaces, residents can grow vegetables in the comfort of their own homes.

She noted that urban gardening has become popular not only in the Philippines but also in other countries. She noted that even in metropolitan cities like New York and in European countries, residents living in small apartments and condominium units, find ways to put up vegetable gardens in their homes.

A staunch environment advocate, the senator has likewise filed in the Senate legislations in order to restore the health of “Mother Earth.”

Among these bills are the following: SB No. 1331 – An Act Institutionalizing the Practice of Extended Producers Responsibility In Waste Management, SB No. 333 – Single-Use Plastic Product Regulation Act, SB No. 2036 – National Wetlands Conservation Act and SB No. 2078 – Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Aside from the Earth Day 2021 celebration spearheaded by the Climate Change Commission on April 22, wherein she will deliver a speech, Villar will also join two events related to the occasion.

On April 21, 2021, she will virtually give a message at the Launch of the Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition. On April 19 – 24, 2021, there will be a virtual presentation of “Better Earth, Better Reality Pledge” of various



With regards to the Las Pinas- Paranaque Wetland Park, Villar has been strongly fighting its planned reclamation, insisting that Ramsar's recognition should be coupled with responsibilities to protect it.

“That is our commitment not only to ourselves, but also to the various species that thrive here like the birds, trees, mangroves and plants as well as the people who rely on it for their livelihood,” said the senator.

She extolled the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park is a favourite destination of bird watchers due to the amazing rare species of birds found here like the Black-winged Stilt, the endangered Chinese Egret and the endemic Philippine Duck.

“It serves as haven for 84 bird species, including indigenous and migratory birds from as far as Siberia, that nestle on the mangrove trees. The beach area serves as their feeding ground,” she added.

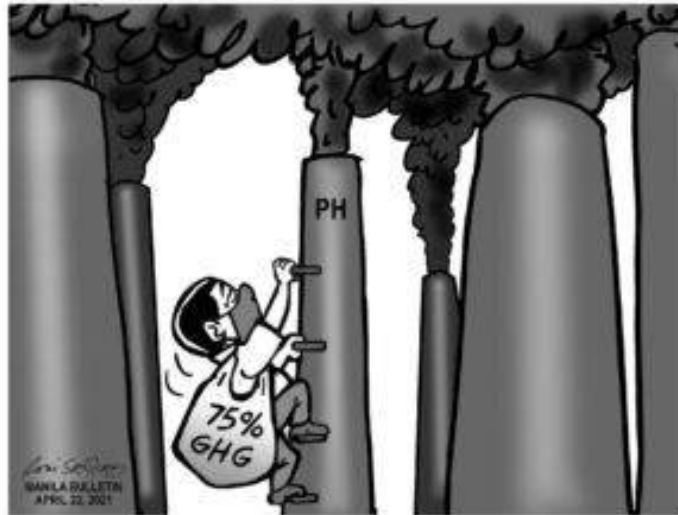
She further stated that this “wildlife sanctuary” is also a natural barrier against storm surges and high tides that can cause massive flooding in Las Piñas, Parañaque and



# PH Earth Day 2021: Commitment to protect the environment

Published April 22, 2021, 12:02 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



This year's Earth Day celebration is marked by the Philippines' first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), approved by President Duterte, which sets a 75-percent greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and avoidance by 2030, to fulfill the country's commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Over the 2020-2030 decade, the country seeks to modernize by employing a low carbon and resilient development strategy in key sectors: Agriculture, waste, industry, transport and energy. The baseline is the country's projected cumulative economy-wide emission of 3,340.3 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent gases for the same period.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III invoked the principle of climate justice. As chairman-designate of the Climate Change Commission, which facilitated a multi-sectoral NDC formulation process, he affirmed that the NDC would be the country's principal tool to "mitigate the climate crisis and make our economy more resilient and our growth sustainable."

Compared to the preliminary 70 percent target set by the country in 2015, the new NDC of 75 percent represents a significant leap in GHG reduction. Considering that the Philippines is a low carbon-emission country, 72.29 percent is "conditional" or contingent upon the support of climate finance, technologies and capacity development, which shall be provided by developed countries, as prescribed by the Paris Agreement. The remaining 2.71 percent is "unconditional" or shall be implemented mainly through domestic resources.

The irony is palpable. Global warming, the phenomenon that triggers disruptive alternating climate cycles such as El Niño and La Niña, has brought on a series of disastrous typhoons in the Philippines that have killed thousands of Filipinos and inflicted massive destruction of homes and livelihood. According to the reputable GermanWatch that has been publishing a Global Climate Risk Index for almost two decades, the Philippines ranks fourth among countries in terms of the Long-Term Climate Risk Index. Based on a 10-year survey from 2020 to 2019, the country — along with Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti — is "recurrently affected by catastrophes" and by the strong impact of "exceptionally intense extreme weather events" such as typhoons Yolanda (Haiyan, 2013), Pablo (Bopha, 2011), Sendong (Washi, 2011).

Attaining the NDC will have to start where there is highest energy consumption. Global studies show that about half of energy produced by fossil fuels is consumed in buildings: lighting, cooling, homes, factories and offices. Another third of all energy consumed is accounted for by transportation: trucks, buses, cars and transit fleets.





The United Nations and the Asian Development Bank have initiated projects to build sustainable cities in the Philippines that could model pathways toward a greener and gentler environment. Lipa, Tagbilaran and Cagayan de Oro cities have been assisted in strengthening their environmental planning and management with support from the UN-Habitat and the UNEP global Sustainable Cities Program. Iloilo City has also emerged as an exemplar in urban planning with a long-term plan to decongest and expand into Jaro district.

Green cities could set the pace for a sustainable, resilient future.



## EDITORIAL - Restore our Earth

(The Philippine Star) - April 22, 2021 - 12:00am

When this terrible pandemic is over and it will be over, no matter how much later than we hope the world will still be grappling with a long-running crisis that is threatening lives and livelihoods. Climate change continues to destroy natural habitats and drive certain species to extinction, spawn extreme weather, undermine food security and directly threaten coastal communities as sea levels rise.

Today the international community marks Earth Day as the planet is fully preoccupied with the battle against COVID-19. Yet there is also room for environmental awareness in this pandemic. The public health crisis has shown the importance of hygiene and clean surroundings to keep out deadly pathogens. The origin of the coronavirus has also highlighted the importance of stopping wildlife trafficking.

People have discovered – or rediscovered – the importance of the outdoors and good air quality as well as the benefits of using bicycles. Governments are moving to develop more green spaces in urban centers and provide the necessary infrastructure for biking, jogging and other physical activities. Regenerative agriculture is gaining ground.

Climate change, however, continues to pose a serious threat, and remains a key concern for today's Earth Day observance. Since the first Earth Day in 1970, much progress has been achieved in protecting the planet. In many countries including the Philippines, laws have been passed to promote clean air, clean water, green energy, better waste management and reforestation; protect threatened or endangered species, and support the sustainable use of natural resources.

Yet Earth Day organizers emphasize that the battle is far from over and continues to suffer setbacks even as the impacts of climate change grow. The problem still calls for a unified global response, and the theme of this special day strongly resonates: together we have the power to restore our Earth.



## Ganito Kasi 'Yan

ni ANDY VERDE DZKH anchorman

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ISANG taong extension ang hiling ng Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) ng kanilang termino habang hindi pa nabubuo ang "permanent regulatory body" na subabay sa sustainable development ng isla at sa balanced growth nito.

Nabatid kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary at BIATF chair Roy A. Cimatu, ang kanilang hinihinging extension ay upang makumpleto ng task force ang lahat ng proyekto na natigil dahil na rin sa pandemya.

Ang resolusyon na pir-mado ng BIATF ay isin-umite na kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte para sa pag-apruba nito na magka-

roon ng term extension na isang taon.

Binuo ang task force, kung saan co-chair ang Department of Tourism at Department of the Interior and Local Government, noong May 8, 2018 batay na rin sa bisa ng Executive Order No. 53. Dapat na natapos ang termino ng task force noong 2020 o dala-wang taon matapos ito mabuo.

Ngunit dahil sa EO No. 115 na inilabas ni Pangulong Duterte noong May 11, 2020, ang termino ng BIATF ay nagkaroon ng extension hanggang 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 per-

## EXTENSION HILING NG BIATF PARA SA BORACAY

manent body," sabi ni Cimatu sa ginanap na BIATF meeting kamakailan sa Boracay.

"We have accomplished much since this body was created by our President Rodrigo Roa 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 run-away and haphazard development," dagdag pa nito.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na ang BIATF Bill na bubuo sa Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) ay kasalukuyang naka-pending pa rin sa House of Representative. Nagsumite na rin ang BIATF ng position paper na nagpapaliwanag ng kanilang preference sa kanilang proposed bill sa kabila ng pitong bersiyon na isinumite sa legislative chamber.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang BIDA bilang regulatory agency ang papalit sa

tungkulin ng task force, "because we believe 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." "We are urging the House of Representatives to pass the BIATF Bill," aniya.

Binigyang-diin pa ni Cimatu na ang pangunahing tungkulin ng task force ay "to ensure the sustained protection of the island and its environment so that we may leave it in a pristine state for the next generation and those after them."

Sa kanilang position paper, sinabi ng BIATF na ang government-owned ang controlled corporation's proprietary functions ay makaaapekto sa primary purpose ng BIDA, ito ay ang kasiguruhan ng ecological integrity ng isla.

Ipinaliwanag pa dito na ang substitute bill na investment-driven na pumapayag sa pagkakaroon ng

casino at reclamation na kabaligtaran sa kagustuhan ng pangulo. Bukod dito, base pa sa position paper ng BIATF, ang bill "substantially changes the powers and functions of the BIDA."

Nakasaad din dito ang pagkakaiba ng "Declaration of Policy" at substantive provisions at ang pag-sakop ng bill sa constitutionally-mandated policy sa local autonomy.

"The BIATF's proposed bill underwent several negotiations and consultations among BIATF member-agencies and non-member agencies, and this group of diverse opinions unanimously concluded that a regulatory body similar to the BIATF would best serve the needs of Boracay Island and its people," ayon pa sa position paper.

Nananatili rin ang paninindigan ni Cimatu "to ensure that profit will never again lord over environmental protection."

# Tagalog News: Pagkuha at pagbenta ng higanteng taklobo, bawal ayon sa PCSD

By Michael C. Escote Published on April 21, 2021



Sinabi ni PCSD Executive Director Atty. Teodoro Jose S. Matta kahapon sa isang virtual press conference na hindi totoong legal na at otorisado na ang pagkuha ng mga taklobo kahit ito man ay 'fossilized na o sariwa pa. (Screenshot mula sa PCSD virtual press conference.)

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan Abr. 21 (PIA) -- Mariing iginiit ng Palawan Council for Sustainable and Development (PCSD) na ilegal ang pagbebenta at pangongolekta ng mga giant clams o higanteng taklobo.

Sa online press conference na ipinatawag ng PCSD kahapon, sinabi ni PCSD Executive Director Atty. Teodoro Jose S. Matta na hindi totoong legal na at otorisado na ang pagkuha ng mga taklobo kahit ito man ay 'fossilized na o sariwa pa.

Pinabulanan rin ni Atty. Matta ang ipinakakalat na impormasyon ng isang grupo sa lungsod ng Puerto Princesa na pinapayagan na ang pangunguha nito kung saan bahagi umano ito ng national redemption program partikular na ng Office of the President para magkaroon ng hanapbuhay ang mga mamamayan.

Wala rin aniyang katotohanan na pinayagan na ito ng PCSD at ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) sa pamamagitan ng isang kautusan.

"Sinasabi nila na legal under the national museum law or Republic Act No. 10066 [National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009] yung kanilang collection na stock piling, fossilized, hindi rin po totoo ito dahil sa batas bawal po ang commercial trading," giit pa ni Atty. Matta.

Aniya, kasalukuyan nang iniimbestigahan ang grupong ito at itinuturing na mga person of interest.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni BFAR Assistant Regional Director Roberto Abrera, na batay sa section 102 ng Republic Act 10654 o ang Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, ang mapapatunayang nagkasala ay maaaring pagmultahin ng P500,000 -P5 milyon at pagkumpiska sa uri ng lamang dagat.

Maaari rin aniyang makulong ng 12 taon hanggang 20 taon at pagkasenla ng fishing permit.

Inirekomenda naman ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) PENRO Eriberto Sa os na bumuo ng isang Task force Giant Clams para mas lalo pang matutukan ang problemang ito ngayon sa Palawan.





Nitong mga nakaraang linggo ay halos sunod-sunod na nakakumpiska ng mga giant clam ang mga otoridad kung saan ang pinakahuli ay sa green island sa bayan ng Roxas na mahigit 150 tonelada at tinatayang nasa P1.2 bilyon ang halaga nito.

Ayon naman kay Jovic Fabello, tagapagsalita ng PCSD, umaabot sa P2,000 kada kilo ang bentahan ng taklobo kaya nai-engganyo ang mga lokal na mangingisda na kumuha at magbenta nito.

Ang giant clam o "taklobo" ay nakatala sa Appendix II ng Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), bilang 'endangered species' sa ilalim ng PCSD Resolution No. 15-521. (MCE/PIA-MIMAROPA, Palawan)



## Cities take waste management seriously

However, the Covid-19 pandemic has fueled the demand for personal protective equipment and other disposable medical supplies, just like masks, face shields and hospital wastes that should not just be thrown away anywhere

Published 5 hours ago on April 22, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Cherk Balagtas](#)



Amid the pandemic, the lack of people to clean and collect garbage also make it difficult to keep the environment clean, which is much needed today, as the Covid-19 virus and its variants have spread in the country and around the world.

Garbage piles attract various insects and germs and are often a problem, especially in poor areas.

Therefore, there is a need for proper solid waste management. In this way, it does not accumulate. In fact, the collection of garbage is done daily in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela (CAMANAVA).

Before the pandemic, several private companies had been collaborating with the local governments to help boost the implementation of Republic Act (RA) 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. Several companies also signed a memorandum of agreement in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that will promote proper waste segregation, recycling and reuse of recyclable items, such as plastics, bottles and others.

This greatly helped reduce the volume of trash for disposal, and it also opened up income opportunities from garbage while mitigating pollution.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic has fueled the demand for personal protective equipment and other disposable medical supplies, just like masks, face shields and hospital wastes that should not just be thrown away anywhere.

“Our programs for the cleanliness and orderliness of Caloocan will continue even in the midst of the pandemic. From then until now, one of our priorities has been to improve and maintain cleanliness in our city,” Caloocan City Mayor Oca Malapitan said.

In these times of rising environmental awareness, discussing proper waste disposal in health care is of paramount concern not only for environmentalists or other members of the health sector, but also for society as a whole.

In order to properly disseminate existing technology and knowledge regarding this particular concern, the Department of Health (DoH) has released the revised health care waste management manual, in close collaboration with other government agencies, civil society, the academe and various professional groups, which is now observed in the CAMANAVA cities, especially in hospitals.



Not only that, the wearing of masks and face shields are mandated in establishments, public transportation and workplaces in Valenzuela City. Mayor Rex Gatchalian encourages Valenzuelanos to always observe discipline in the city and live up to the motto “Valenzuela, May Disiplina” in every household by following safety precautions and ordinances passed in the city.

The alarming rise in the improper disposal of these wastes urged the DENR to issue an advisory to local government units to ensure compliance by their constituents in the proper segregation, handling and disposal of wastes following the provisions of RA 9003 and 6969, otherwise known as Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act.

To strengthen its implementation at the local level, the Valenzuela City Council passed Ordinance 769, Series of 2020, or Mask and Face Shield Disposal Ordinance of Valenzuela City, last year during the council’s 50th regular session.

“With the wearing of masks and face shields becoming a way of life as a protection against Covid-19, the so-called coronavirus waste is seen rising, and improper disposal of the infectious yet polluting waste does not only degrade the environment, but also endangers the future of public health as well,” Mayor Gatchalian said.

There are many potential hazards associated when dealing or handling health care waste, such as physical, chemical and biological hazards.

Health care facilities should identify all these specific environmental and occupational hazards during handling, storing, treating and disposing of health care waste.

A team consisting of environmental services staff and workers who will be using the equipment, as well as trained industrial hygienist, safety officer, infection control nurse, occupational health practitioner, facility engineer and other professionals, can work together to identify such hazards and ways to reduce if not to eliminate them.

Source: [https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/04/22/cities-take-waste-management-seriously/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=cities-take-waste-management-seriously](https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/04/22/cities-take-waste-management-seriously/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=cities-take-waste-management-seriously)

# LOOK: Endangered plant named after Bangsamoro people

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 21 2021 06:12 PM



*Photo from Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) official website*

MANILA - An endangered plant in Lanao del Sur has been named after the Bangsamoro people, the regional government of the Muslim-dominated entity said Wednesday.

The Begonia Bangsamoro - a flowering plant distinguished through its edgy leaves and pink blooms - has been declared a part of the begonias genus, according to Phytotaxa, a scientific journal on systematic botany.

"Begonia bangsamoro becomes the 2,002nd species of the world's sixth-largest plant genus," the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) said on its official website.

The plant was discovered by researchers Dave Buenavista, Yu Pin Ang, Mc Andrew Pranada, Daryl Salas, Eefke Mollee, and Morag McDonald within the forest and riverbanks of Ginapukan River where it thrives, it said.

The regional government said it plans to craft policies "to ensure the protection of any rare, threatened, or endangered species and habitat critical to their survival" as the Begonia Bangsamoro is included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

"The Bangsamoro Government, thru the ministry, shall give priority to the protection, conservation, and development of natural resources that will support ecological balance and biodiversity conservation in the region," said Abdulraof Macacua, BARMM's environment minister.

The Begonia Bangsamoro faces a "potential decline due to expanding plantation of cash crops and continuous clearing of the forests," according to information from BARMM's website.

Aside from the Begonia Bangsamoro, other endangered plants in Mindanao include the giant staghorn fern and the lady's slipper orchid.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/21/21/begonia-bangsamoro-plant-lanao-del-norte-name-history?fbclid=IwAR36H2XEwrksna8Izk1gwPpluxX2fwOk6vzgy7wkEDxvGMGdFN7cmC-opQU>





Mountains in Rizal are seen in this February 7, 2021 photo.  
Philstar.com/EC Toledo IV

## Coalition calls for quarry-free Upper Marikina Watershed

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - April 21, 2021 - 9:45pm

MANILA, Philippines — A network of organizations is pushing to make the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) in Rizal province quarry-free to conserve the biodiversity in the area, prevent disastrous flooding events, and address climate change.

The Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition (UMWC)—a network of over 60 groups—was launched Wednesday, ahead of the Earth Day. The coalition aims to promote the protection of the UMRBPL.

The Upper Marikina Watershed is a 26,126-hectare protected area that forms the upper area of the drainage basin of the Marikina River. It covers areas in Antipolo City, Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo and Tanay in Rizal.

Billie Dumaliang, one of the coalition's convenor, said UMWC was formed because extractive activities such as quarrying still persist in the watershed despite laws and policies protecting UMRBPL. Dumaliang also serves as the trustee and advocacy officer Masungi Georeserve, an award-winning conservation area in Baras.

The coalition said there are at least six Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) existing or overlapping with the UMRBPL, covering about 1,500 hectares of protected forestland. Another 658 hectares appear to be under MPSAs in adjacent protected and conserved sites.

MPSAs, which are issued by the government, give contractors the right to mine within a contract area.

"The urgency to rescind all MPSAs and found therein and stop other destructive activities cannot be undermined as shown by the havoc brought by Typhoon Ulysses which submerged more than 30,000 houses and displaced more than 200,000 fellow Filipinos," Dumaliang said.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, who chairs the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, said the formation of the coalition is needed.

"The coalition should step up to be the initiator of the protection and rehabilitation activities for the watershed and be the active watchdog against private entities doing illegal activities as well as the government regulators that are enabling these illegal activities to flourish," she said.



### **Important watershed**

Edmund Rico, executive director of Center for Conservation Innovations, said the UMRBPL and the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve (KWFR) are “really important” protected areas as they serve as habitats of threatened flora and fauna and ancestral domains of indigenous peoples.

Rico said the UMRBPL lost 2,247 hectares of good forest cover between 2003 and 2010. KWFR, meanwhile, lost 789 hectares during the same period.

“There is increasing forest cover loss as population increases in those protected areas,” he said.

According to the Forest Management Bureau, the two watersheds also play a vital role in regulating the flow of water toward the densely populated Metro Manila.

Rico recommended there should be rainforestation in critical watershed areas. Rainforestation is a forest restoration strategy that promotes the use of native tree species.

He added the protection for surviving pristine forests within the watershed must be augmented.

# SFA Locsin Urges Asean, UK To Boost Cooperation In Climate-Change Action; Covid Response, Recovery

BYBUSINESSMIRROR APRIL 22, 2021



Locsin at the Open-Ended Troika Meeting

SECRETARY of Foreign Affairs (SFA) Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. joined foreign ministers and top representatives of the region's member-states, the Asean secretary-general and United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab at the Asean-UK Open-Ended Troika Dialogue.

The meeting via video conference on April 8 saw exchanges of views on ways of enhancing cooperation in tackling socioeconomic challenges caused by the pandemic, starting on the path to sustainable recovery, as well as advancing climate-change priorities.

The foreign ministers recognized the importance of rebuilding sustainable, green and resilient economies, as well as fostering fruitful and substantive means of cooperation between Asean and the UK in tackling climate change.

Locsin shared that, despite initial setbacks in securing vaccine supplies for the Philippines, vaccine czar Carlito G. Galvez Jr. has already secured firm commitments from suppliers for several million doses of the vaccine to be delivered in time for the subsequent phases of the country's vaccine-rollout plans. The SFA also shared the progress of the government's negotiation with the Russian Federation on securing Gamaleya vaccines.

On climate change, the secretary called for more decisive action to resolve climate change, and urged Asean member-states and the UK to deliver on their respective countries' commitments to the Paris Agreement—particularly on deep and drastic cuts in carbon emissions. He also emphasized the connection between climate change and the prevalence of zoonotic disease outbreaks, aside from other drivers such as global warming and biodiversity degradation.

As president of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, or COP26, scheduled in Glasgow, Scotland this November, the UK plays a pivotal role in leading high-level discussions in transitioning to green and sustainable practices toward achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

On Myanmar, Locsin expressed the Philippines's concern over the latest developments: "We are closely following the situation, especially the recent escalation of [the former's army's] action, leading to the rising number of deaths among peaceful protesters." He urged security forces to exercise restraint and refrain from using excessive force against unarmed demonstrators, as he called once more for the return to the status quo ante—the full restoration of the previously existing state of affairs in Myanmar. The secretary also called for the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political detainees.

Member-states are currently studying the UK's application to become a dialogue-partner of Asean. Image courtesy of DFA-ASEAN

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/04/22/sfa-locsin-urges-asean-uk-to-boost-cooperation-in-climate-change-action-covid-response-recovery/>



# Taking action on conservation and climate

[AUSSIE DIPLOMACY MATTERS](#) - [Steven J. Robinson](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 22, 2021 - 12:00am

I am in Bukidnon this Earth Day to release a rescued and rehabilitated Philippine Eagle back to its forest home. The Australian embassy has supported the local government and Philippine Eagle Foundation on this important wildlife conservation project.

The magnificent nature of this region provides a poignant reminder of why we must respond to the global environmental challenges we all face, including climate change.

Whether here helping our friends in the Philippines or back home, Australia is committed to ambitious and practical actions to protect the environment and combat the impacts of climate change.

Australia is the driest inhabited continent in the world, with the oldest living cultures and, like the Philippines, some of the richest biodiversity in the world. For over 65,000 years the traditional knowledge and practices of the First Australians, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, have preserved and protected Australia's natural environment.

Australia has committed over A\$15 billion to make our natural resources, environment and water infrastructure more resilient to climate disasters. This includes habitat regeneration, helping native animal recovery from disasters and building knowledge for better land management. By July 2021, Australia will establish a new information service, Climate and Resilience Services Australia, to inform national emergency management so we can better prepare for, and deal with, climate risks.

The Australian Government recognizes that climate change is the biggest long-term threat to the health of coral reefs worldwide, including those in the Great Barrier Reef, one of Australia's national iconic sites. Australia has committed over A\$2.7 billion to the effective management and protection of the Great Barrier Reef. We have launched a A\$150-million Reef Restoration and Adaptation program that brings together world leading marine science to research strategies that can help reefs recover from bleaching events and to adapt to changing ocean temperatures.

Australia is also committed to supporting neighboring and global communities to tackle climate change. Australia has pledged at least A\$1.5 billion over the period 2020 to 2025 for global climate finance to help our neighbors deploy renewable energy and improve their climate change and disaster resilience. We're sharing our climate adaptation expertise, experiences and skills with the world.

In the Philippines, Australia is investing approximately A\$18 million or P630 million in our Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities Against Disasters and Change or SHIELD program over 2021-2026, in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The program will be implemented in ten Philippine provinces most vulnerable to disaster and climate change impacts and will support initiatives in Metro Manila and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). SHIELD aims to make all people in communities safer and more resilient to the impacts of disasters and climate change.





Australia has joined the Coalition for Climate Resilience Investment, which aims to shift private investment towards climate resilient infrastructure and support vulnerable communities to attract private sector investment. Additionally, we are joining the Call for Action on Raising Ambition for Climate Adaptation and Resilience, to encourage greater ambition, finance and coordination to protect against growing climate risks.

Of course, adaptation action must go hand in hand with reducing emissions.

And Australia is getting on with the job.

We remain resolutely committed to the Paris Agreement and are on track to meet and beat our 2030 target, having reduced emissions by almost 17 percent since 2005. Our emissions have fallen faster than many other advanced economies or the OECD average.

Australia is aiming to reach net zero emissions as soon as possible.

To keep this momentum going, Australia has developed a Technology Investment Roadmap – a comprehensive plan to invest in the technologies we need to bring emissions down, here and around the world.

We are aiming to leverage A\$70 billion of new investment in low emissions technologies by 2030. We're focused on accelerating technologies like hydrogen, carbon capture use and storage, soil carbon, energy storage to back up renewables and decarbonize transport, and low or zero emissions steel and aluminium.

But whether we are responding to the challenges of conserving wildlife biodiversity or tackling climate change, we need to do it together.

Scientists tell us that even with the most ambitious global emissions reductions, we will still need practical, collective actions that will strengthen the resilience of our local environments.

So just as we have worked together to help the Philippine Eagle here in Bukidnon, we will continue to work with the Philippines and partners around the world to face environmental and climate challenges of the future.

\* \* \*

Steven J. Robinson AO is the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines. Follow him on Twitter [@AusAmbPH](https://twitter.com/AusAmbPH).



# DOH logs 19.7K new Covid-19 recoveries

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor April 21, 2021, 5:17 pm



**MANILA** – The country’s coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) recovery tally climbed to 829,608 after 19,699 new survivors were reported on Wednesday.

The latest data from the Department of Health (DOH) showed an 86.2-percent recovery rate from a cumulative total of 962,307 cases.

The DOH also logged 9,227 new infections, bringing the total number of active cases to 116,434.

Of the active cases, about 96.7 percent are mild, 1.3 percent are asymptomatic, 0.8 percent are severe, 0.52 are moderate, and 0.6 percent are in critical condition.

An additional 124 new deaths, meanwhile, pushed the death toll to 16,265 or 1.69 percent of total cases.

Data submitted on Monday likewise showed that 19.5 percent of 37,235 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"Some 26 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, 14 were recovered cases. Moreover, 36 cases that were previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation," the DOH said.

One laboratory was not operational on April 19 while eight labs were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Currently, 65 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds, 49 percent of 13,500 isolation beds, 55 percent of 6,000 ward beds, and 45 percent of 2,000 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19.

Meanwhile, 82 percent of 800 intensive care unit beds, 61 percent of 3,800 isolation beds, 70 percent of 2,200 ward beds, and 80 percent of 800 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region.

The DOH said the testing numbers reported in the case bulletin will be based on the output from DOH-accredited laboratories two days ago starting April 21 to “minimize the confusion arising from the incomplete data.” **(PNA)**



# COMMUNITY PANTRY, SAP PAREHONG INAASWANG, HINUHUDAS



April 21, 2021 @ 11:42 AM 19 hours ago

MERON talagang mga tao na wala nang ginawa kundi mang-aswang ng para sa iba.

At ang nakasusuka, mga Bro, kung kailan may krisis, saka sila sumasalakay.

Kung nakaririnig tayo ng mga aswang na sumasalakay sa Social Amelioration Program o SAP, hindi rin nakaliligtas ang muling pinausong Community Pantry.

## COMMUNITY PANTRY NINA KRISTO, APOSTOLES

Hindi bago ang Community Pantry.

Noon pa 'yan nagaganap, kahit noong panahon pa ni Kristo at matapos itong mamatay at umakyat sa langit.

Maalala ninyo ang milagro sa tinapay at isda na kinambalan ng milagro sa alak na laman ng New Testament?

Si Kristo mismo ay lumikha ng Community Pantry sa pamamagitan ng pagpaparami ng tinapay at isda.

Sa pamamagitan nito, walang nagugutom sa mga tagasunod noon kay Kristo.

May kasama pang pinakamasarap na pantoma ng mga manginginom kung may kasalan.

Ang Last Supper na may tinapay na at alak pa, sampol din ng Community Pantry.

Matapos mawala sa eksena si Kristo, ginawang patakaran ng kanyang mga apostol ang pagtanggap ng mga donasyon ng mga may kaya sa buhay at ipamahagi sa iba ayon sa pangangailangan ng mga ito.

Kasama sa mga nagdonasyon si Barnabas na nagbenta ng house ang lot at ibinigay sa mga apostol ang pinagbentahan para ipamahagi sa mga nangangailangan.

Kaya naman wala ring nagugutom sa mga komunidad na kinapapalooban ng mga apostoles.

Magbuklat kayo ng Biblia, mga Bro at makikita ninyo ang mga Community Pantry nina Kristo at mga Apostol.

Makikita ang mga CP sa isda at tinapay Last Supper ni Kristo sa Gospels at makikita ang CP ng mga Apostol sa Gawa ng mga Apostol, lalo na sa Kapitulo 4.



Kita n'yo, mga Bro?

### **MGA ITLOG AT IBA PA ANG INASWANG**

Maganda ang layunin ng nagtayo ng CP sa Pasig City, para sa mga nangangailangan.

Pero may sumingit na umaswang o tumangay ng dalawang tray na itlog.

Anak ng tokwa, 60 itlog ang laman ng dalawang tray at kung tig-lima sa bawat pamilya, pwedeng 12 pamilya na binubuo ng mag-asawa at tatlong anak ang makakuha nito nang pantay-pantay.

Pero tinangay nga lahat ng iisang babae at nang mabuking, ipamimigay raw niya ang mga itlog sa kanyang mga kapitbahay na nangangailangan.

Ganu'n. Ganu'n talaga?

Pero may sumbong ding iba na unahan talaga ang pagpunta sa mga CP at walang kapit-kapitbahay.

Kung naamoy na may CP sa isang pwesto, anak ng tokwa, ang nakaamoy, pinagdadala ng mga plastik o sako ang mga miyembro ng pamilya o kamag-anak pero ni kalabit sa kapitbahay o kaibigan ay hindi ginagawa.

Para nga naman sila makarami at isipin pang sinasadya ang pagdadala ng malalaking sisidlang plastic o sako.

Pagdating ng iba, ubos na ang laman ng CP ni Manay o ni Inday o ni Manong.

At maghintay na lang sa pilahan ang nawalan ng donasyon... kung meron man.

### **MGA ASWANG LAHI NI HUDAS**

Nabanggit natin, mga Bro, na pinasimulan ni Kristo ang Community Pantry at isinagawa rin ito ng kanyang mga Apostol.

Pero gaya ng alam ng lahat ng ka-Kristiyanuhan, nagkaroon ng isang Hudus mismo sa mga Apostol ni Kristo.

Bago pa magbenta ng mga house and lot ang mga mayayaman para ipamahagi sa mga nangangailangan ng mga Apostol, nagbenta na si Hudus.

Ibinenta si Kristo ng 30 pilak at sinarili ni Hudus ang pinagbentahan ngunit hindi ganito ang ginawa ng katulad nina Barnabas at maging ng mga Apostol.

Hanggang ngayon, may Hudus talaga at buhay na buhay ang lahi nito, kahit sa panahon ng pandemya.

Sa SAP, may mga local government unit na nakademanda dahil inaswang nila at kanilang mga kamag-anak nang buo o bahagi ng SAP na dapat para sa mga biktima ng pandemya.

Bago pa ang pandemya at bago dumating ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, may mga umaswang din sa mga pondo ng pabahay para sa libo-libo at milyong biktima ng Yolanda at ang mga imported na delata, napalitan ng mga lokal na sardinas.

Kung kailan may mga krisis at pandemya, lumilitaw naman ang mga aswang at hudus.





Pinagkakakitaan nila ang pagkakasakit, paghihirap at kamatayan ng kapwa tao nila.

### **MGA ASWANG WAKASAN**

Kung pag-aralan ang mga aswang, lumalabas na may nagmumula mismo sa hanay ng mga mamamayan at meron din sa hanay ng mga nasa pamahalaan.

Ito ang mga salot na kabilang sa mga dapat na wakasan natin nang tulong-tulong at nagkakaisa.

Sa parte ng pamahalaan, natigil ang malakihang pang-aaswang sa pondong bayan nang sabihin ng Supreme Court na illegal at labag sa Konstitusyon ang mga Disbursement Acceleration Program na nagkahalaga noon ng nasa P140 bilyon at Priority Development Assistance Fund na P70 milyon taon-taon para sa bawat kongresman at P100 milyon naman para sa bawat senador.

Iba pa ang P50 milyon para sa mga maraming senador at P100 milyon para sa apat sa mga ito para sa mga bumoto at nagpatalsik noon sa Supreme Court kay namayapa nang Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Iba pa ang mga malakihang aswangan sa mga multi-bilyong kontrata sa mga imprastrakturang pambansa gaya ng mga tren, airport, superhighway at iba pa at maging sa mga bakuna, gaya ng P3.5 bilyong Dengvaxia.

Sa hanay ng mga mamamayan, naririyang ang aswangan sa itlog, sardinas, noodles, gulay at iba pa.

Naririyang din ang nadatnan ng administrasyong Duterte na aswangan sa bigas-National Food Authority kaya umabot sa P170B ang utang ng NFA.

Matagal na sanang maunlad at kaya nating tumayo at hindi dadapa sa kahit anong krisis, gaya ng pandemya at iba pang mga kalamidad na dumarating sa atin kung wala ang mga aswang na 'yan.

Paano tayo magkakaisa at magtutulungan laban sa mga aswang at hudas sa lipunan at pamahalaan?

## Pagasa: Signal No. 1 still up in Luzon as ‘Bising’ heads ‘slowly’ for Cagayan



By Arlie O. Calalo

April 21, 2021

TYPHOON “Bising” has slowed down but maintained its strength as it moved toward mainland Cagayan and may exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, the state-run weather agency said on Wednesday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in its 11 a.m. advisory that Signal No. 1 is still up over Batanes, Cagayan including Babuyan Islands, the eastern portion of Apayao (Luna, Santa Marcela, Flora and Pudtol), the eastern portion of Kalinga (Pinukpuk and Rizal), the eastern portion of Isabela (Ilagan, San Mariano, Palanan, Divilacan, Maconacon, San Pablo, Cabagan, Tumauini, Santa Maria, Delfin Albano, Santo Tomas, Quezon, Quirino, Gamu, Naguilian, Benito Soliven, Reina Mercedes, Mallig, Burgos, Roxas, Cauayan City, Luna, San Manuel, Cabatuan, Aurora, Dinapigue, San Mateo, Alicia, Angadanan, San Guillermo, Echague, Jones, San Agustin and San Isidro), the northeastern portion of Quirino (Maddela) and the northern portion of Aurora (Casiguran and Dilasag) in Luzon.

Weather forecaster Chris Perez said the typhoon was moving northwestward at 10 kilometers per hour (kph) and has maximum sustained winds of 175kph near the center and gustiness of up to 215kph. As of 10 a.m., Perez said the center of the eye of Bising, expected to gradually weaken throughout the remainder of the forecast period, was 360km east of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

Based on the agency’s forecast track, the typhoon will move generally northward or north-northwestward until Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning when it would be nearest to the landmass of Northern Luzon.

“Afterwards, Bising, which may exit the PAR on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, will move northeastward away from the landmass throughout Thursday and east-northeastward on Friday and Saturday,” Perez said.

Pagasa said the eastern portions of Cagayan and Isabela will experience stormy weather while the rest of Cagayan Valley, Apayao, Kalinga, eastern portion of Mountain Province, the eastern portion of Ifugao, Aurora, Camarines Provinces, Catanduanes and Polillo Islands will experience rains with gusty winds caused by the typhoon.

Cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms may prevail over the rest of the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Norte, Nueva Ecija, Albay and the rest of Quezon while Metro Manila and the rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies and isolated rain showers due to localized thunderstorms, the weather bureau said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/04/21/news/pagasa-signal-no-1-still-up-in-luzon-as-bising-heads-slowly-for-cagayan/866222/>



# Philippines to deploy more assets in West PHL Sea to assert claims, combat illegal fishing

By LLANESCA T. PANTI, GMA News

Published April 21, 2021 8:50pm



The Philippines will deploy additional assets to the West Philippine Sea (WPS) to assert the country's territorial claims in the disputed area and prevent illegal fishing, among other incursions.

The National Task Force (NTF) on the WPS issued the statement just two days after President Rodrigo Duterte said he wanted to be friends with China and was "not so much interested in fishing" because there's not enough fish to quarrel about in the area.

The statement also came amid the [continued presence of Chinese vessels](#) in the Julian Felipe Reef, a boomerang-shaped feature located 175 nautical miles of Bataraza, Palawan and clearly within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

"In compliance with the directive of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to sustain our sovereignty patrols in the WPS, increase safety of life at sea operations and intensified operations against illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing, the NTF-WPS has coordinated for the deployment of more assets under the control of its Area Task Forces (ATF)," the NTF-WPS said in a statement.

"To augment the vessels and aircraft currently under the control of the ATFs, the government has deployed four Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) vessels, one PCG aircraft, five Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) vessels, as well as Philippine National Police - Maritime Group's high speed tactical watercraft and rubber boats," the NTF-WPS added.

The PCG also constructed five lighthouses on the islands of Pag-asa, Patag, Panata, Parola, and Likas.

The Navy, on the other hand, has provided desalination and solar powered lighting facilities for these features in support of law enforcers stationed at the detachments.

As it is, the NTF-WPS reported that the ATF-West maintains nine island detachments in the municipality of Kalayaan with the biggest contingent at Pag-asa island.

Likewise, the ATF-West covers the Malampaya Gas Field and the resource-rich Recto Bank.

The Pag-asa island also hosts the Rancudo Airfield built in 1978.

The ATF- North, on the other hand, covers Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), the islands north of Cagayan, Batanes province, the Philippine Rise and the latter's Extended Continental Shelf. The ATF-North also maintains detachments on the islands of Batanes.



"The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the Western and Northern Luzon Commands, continues to support law enforcement and sovereignty patrols of the BFAR, PCG and PNP, utilizing Philippine Navy and Philippine Air Force maritime and air assets under its disposal," the NTF-WPS pointed out.

"The NTF-WPS is resolute in upholding Philippine sovereignty over our territory as mandated by the Constitution, and protecting our sovereign rights over our exclusive economic zone in accordance with international law," the NTF-WPS added.

Duterte said before the UN General Assembly in September 2020 and the ASEAN Summit in November 2020 that the 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling which upheld the Philippines' legal claims in the WPS is part of international law and "beyond compromise and reach of passing governments to dilute, diminish or abandon."

But two days ago, the President said that China will never comply with such a ruling, and that the Philippines can only take back the islands that China took by force.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque Jr. followed it up by saying that the Hague ruling cannot be enforced because there is no international police to implement international law. -MDM, GMA News

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/784654/philippines-to-deploy-more-assets-in-west-phl-sea-to-assert-claims-combat-illegal-fishing/story/?utm\\_source=GMAnews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3Ytm2aADkKTpai3EIMTujs4MRNDZHtrUcSuMT5No64SnBa5kabkR-NBGk](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/784654/philippines-to-deploy-more-assets-in-west-phl-sea-to-assert-claims-combat-illegal-fishing/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3Ytm2aADkKTpai3EIMTujs4MRNDZHtrUcSuMT5No64SnBa5kabkR-NBGk)





# Climate action for people and planet: the time is now'

Published April 22, 2021, 12:22 AM

by [United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres](#)



[UN Secretary-General António Guterres](#)

In this pivotal year for humanity, now is the time for bold climate action.

The science is irrefutable and globally agreed: To stop the climate crisis from becoming a permanent catastrophe, we must limit global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

To do this, we must get to net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by mid-century. Countries making up about two-thirds of the global economy have committed to do so. This is encouraging, but we urgently need every country, city, business and financial institution to join this coalition and adopt concrete plans for transitioning to net zero.

Even more urgent is for governments to match this long-term ambition with concrete actions now, as trillions of dollars are mobilized to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. Revitalizing economies is our chance to re-engineer our future.

The world has a strong framework for action: The Paris Agreement, in which all countries committed to set their own national climate action plans and strengthen them every five years. Over five years later, and with damning proof that if we don't act we will destroy our planet, it is time for decisive and effective action as the United Nations convenes all countries in Glasgow in November for COP26.

The new national plans must cut global greenhouse gas pollution by at least 45 percent by 2030 compared to 2010 levels. Many have been presented already, and set out clearer policies to adapt to the impacts of climate change and boost access to renewable energy.

But so far, those plans achieve less than a 1 percent cut in emissions. This is a true red alert for people and planet.

In the months ahead, beginning with the upcoming Leaders Summit hosted by the United States, governments must dramatically step up their ambitions – particularly the biggest-emitting countries that have caused the vast bulk of the crisis.

Phasing out coal from the electricity sector is the single most important step to get in line with the 1.5-degree goal. Immediate action to remove the dirtiest, most polluting fossil fuel from power sectors offers our world a fighting chance.

Global coal use in electricity generation must fall by 80 percent below 2010 levels by 2030. This means that developed economies must commit to phase out coal by 2030; other countries must do this by 2040. There is simply no reason for any new coal plants to be built anywhere. One third of the global coal fleet is already more costly to operate than building new renewables and storage. COP26 must signal an end to coal.



As the world moves toward clean air and renewable energy, it is essential that we ensure a just transition. Workers in impacted industries and the informal sector must be supported as they move jobs or reskill. We must also unleash the vast power of women and girls to drive transformation, including as equal participants in governance and decision-making.

The countries that contributed least to climate change are suffering many of the worst impacts. Many small island nations will simply cease to exist if we don't step up the response. The developed countries must deliver on their commitments to provide and mobilize \$100 billion annually by:

- Doubling current levels of climate finance.
- Devoting half of all climate finance to adaptation.
- Stopping the international funding of coal.
- Shifting subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The G7 Summit in June offers the opportunity for the world's wealthiest countries to step up and provide the necessary financial commitments that will ensure the success of COP26.

While governments must lead, decision-makers everywhere have a vital role to play.

I ask all multilateral and national development banks, by COP26, to have clear policies in place to fund the COVID recovery and the transition to resilient economies in developing countries, taking into account crippling debt levels and huge pressures on national budgets.

Many local governments and private businesses have committed to net zero emissions by 2050, and have engaged in significant reviews of their business models. I urge all to set ambitious targets and policies.

I encourage young people everywhere to continue to raise their voices for action to address climate change, protect biodiversity, stop humanity's war on nature and accelerate efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Time is running out, and there is much hard work ahead, but this is no time to raise the white flag. The United Nations will keep flying our blue flag of solidarity and hope. This Earth Day and over the crucial months ahead, I urge all nations and all people to rise together to this moment.

# Biden aims to cement US credibility on climate and galvanize world leaders at virtual summit

By Kevin Liptak, CNN

Published Apr 22, 2021 3:44:06 AM



Courtesy: MANDEL NGAN/AFP/Getty Images

(CNN) — President Joe Biden's ability to galvanize global momentum faces its first major test this week when he convenes 40 of his foreign counterparts for talks on combating the climate crisis.

At the virtual summit's center will be an aggressive new pledge to halve US carbon emissions, according to administration officials, a target number that has come to symbolize the new President's commitment to stave off global warming.

But at a broader level, the two-day summit that takes place on Thursday and Friday will amount to an attempt at reasserting American leadership to a world that's grown skeptical of promises from US leaders that can be easily reversed as soon as a new president enters office or can be quickly stymied by a gridlocked Congress. Some Biden administration officials have expressed concern over US standing in the international climate sphere after four years of neglect, and are hoping this week's summit will once again cement their seat at the table.

The results will be immediately apparent. The White House has made clear it hopes other countries will follow the United States in making new pledges to significantly slash their emissions, particularly major economies that produce the bulk of the world's greenhouse gasses. Biden's ability to wrest those announcements from his counterparts will be put to the test, making this week's summit a high-stakes gauge of his diplomatic skills.

Not all of the leaders beaming in are considered friends. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping have both confirmed their attendance. White House officials have said the issue of climate change must be an area of cooperation, even as relations with Moscow and Beijing reach new lows. But what Putin and Xi say when it's their turn to speak -- and whether they'll use the occasion to ding Biden at his own summit -- remains anyone's guess.

## A new kind of summit

Known to favor a back-slap and handshake style, Biden will be limited to a computer screen as he seeks to restore American credibility on the world stage while also convincing fellow leaders to make bold pledges to stave off global warming. Officials said the logistics of a virtual summit made pull-asides or individual bilateral meetings difficult to organize, and Biden has found previous virtual meetings with foreign leaders somewhat stilted.

This week's meeting is the largest virtual summit of world leaders to be convened over the past pandemic-altered year. When he begins traveling abroad, potentially as soon as June, Biden is expected to continue pressing on the climate issue leading up to a major summit in Scotland in November.

The urgency of the matter was underscored this week in a new report from the International Energy Agency, which estimated carbon emissions from energy use are on track to spike by 1.5 billion tons in 2021 as heavy coal consumption in Asia -- China, in particular -- outweighs rapid growth in renewable sources. That would be the second largest annual increase in energy-related emissions in history.



## Aiming to reclaim the leadership mantle

Biden hopes this week's event will place the US back at the fore of global efforts to combat climate change after four years in which the issue was neglected. While former President Donald Trump frequently touted the cleanliness of American air and water, he took steps to roll back the carbon reduction efforts made by the Obama administration.

A few months into his presidency, Trump withdrew the United States from the Paris climate agreement against the urging of top leaders, who said global unity on the issue was paramount. At a heated G7 summit held cliffside in Sicily, leaders like German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sought to use their first encounter with Trump to press him into remaining in the deal.

But Trump refused, announcing in the Rose Garden he had been "elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris."

White House officials insist progress on cutting emissions did not completely stop under Trump; instead it shifted to state and local governments, along with actions taken in the private sector. Indeed, after Trump declared he was looking out for Pittsburgh and not Paris, the mayor of Pittsburgh declared he would continue pressing ahead on reducing carbon emissions anyway.

"We're pretty close to being on the trajectory we said we would be on," a senior administration official said on Wednesday. "The fact that the change in the administration led to a top-line view that it wasn't a priority didn't in fact effect a lot of the trajectory in the country."

Biden, who has already reentered the Paris deal, hopes to send a signal both to foreign leaders and an audience at home that he is adopting a different approach than the previous administration.

## US credibility damaged under Trump

Repairing the damage done to the United States' credibility when it comes to international climate policy will be a tall order.

Trump's decision to leave the Paris deal marked the second time the US has bailed on an international climate agreement after it led the negotiations. The first exit was from the Kyoto Protocol, a previous climate pact that the US signed during the Clinton administration, only to drop out during George W. Bush's presidency.

"What we do at home does matter, and that characterization and how others see us acting will be both a beacon for what we want them to do and a signal that we are back and are fully engaging," a senior administration official said in previewing the summit on Wednesday.

"There is a significant sign that we expect action at this meeting. We're looking for people to make announcements, to raise their ambition, to indicate next steps that they intend to be taking to help solve the climate problem," the official said.

Biden plans to deliver inaugural remarks to launch the summit on Thursday morning before sending leaders into break-out sessions centered on themes like climate financing and strengthening resilience in countries vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The major takeaway will be his pledge to cut US greenhouse gas emissions from their 2005 levels in half by 2030, though the White House was still finalizing that target, officials told CNN. The number had been closely watched, with environmental advocates suggesting anything less than a 50% cut would prove a disappointment.

When President Barack Obama first joined the Paris climate agreement, he pledged to cut emissions by a range -- 26% to 28% -- by 2025, making the new 50% cut a major jump. But other nations have begun announcing higher targets. The United Kingdom on Tuesday said it was setting a target of reducing emissions by 78% compared to 1990 levels by 2035.





Even a 50% cut will be difficult to achieve in the United States, where Republicans and some moderate Democrats remain wary of taking steps that could eliminate jobs in fossil fuels like natural gas and coal. A lack of political consensus in the United States has led to further wariness among foreign leaders at American promises on the issue.

This story was first published on CNN.com, "[Biden aims to cement US credibility on climate and galvanize world leaders at virtual summit.](#)"



## Brazil vows to cut forest losses



By Global Times  
April 22, 2021

**BAHIA:** Brazil's updated national climate change plan would allow the country to step up forest losses to a rate 78 percent above those before President Jair Bolsonaro took office and 20 percent above 2020's levels, Brazilian researchers said.

As Bolsonaro prepares to take part in US President Joe Biden's international climate summit this week, Brazil's plan shows a lack of ambition to tackle climate change that could undermine global efforts, they said.

Bolsonaro's administration has overseen large-scale expansion of farming, ranching and mining in the Amazon and other natural areas of Brazil as the country pursues economic development.

The president sent a letter to Biden on April 14 recommitting his country to eliminating illegal deforestation by 2030, as it originally promised under the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015.

Brazil and the United States have been negotiating since February on a possible deal to boost cooperation on tackling the problem, though no announcement is expected this week.

But Brazil's environment minister, Ricardo Salles, has said the country would need \$10 billion annually in foreign aid to reach economy-wide net-zero emissions by mid-century, a climate change goal.

About \$1 billion of that would allow Brazil to eliminate illegal deforestation ahead of the 2030 target, he said. In its previous 2015 climate plan, Brazil had said efforts to slash emissions would "not be contingent upon international support."

The revised national climate change plan takes advantage of methodological changes to boost Brazil's base emissions in 2005, from which it is measuring cuts, said Minas Gerais Federal University researchers. That would effectively allow the country to continue increasing its emissions through 2030 while meeting promised percentage decreases, researchers said.

Márcio Astrini, executive secretary of Brazil's Climate Observatory, said Bolsonaro's promises to eliminate illegal deforestation by 2030 amounted to "an international fraud."

The study by Minas Gerais Federal University and other researchers showed Brazil could deforest 13,400 square kilometers of land annually each year until 2025 while staying within its updated Paris Agreement commitment.



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