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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# DENR chief Cimatu's wife dies

Published February 21, 2021, 9:31 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu's wife, Fe Aguillon Cimatu, has passed away.

This was confirmed Sunday morning, February 21, in a viber message to this reporter by DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, the Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns chief.

The previous day, Antiporda posted on his personal Facebook account a message of condolence to Sec. Cimatu.

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10159406366438653&id=751863652](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10159406366438653&id=751863652)

“Our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathies to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu over the passing of his beloved spouse, Mrs. Fe Aguillon Cimatu. Your whole DENR Family, and my family as well, are deeply saddened. Our love, thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of grief,” he wrote.

The post did not indicate the cause of Sec. Cimatu's wife's death.

Fe, a businesswoman, was a native of San Jose, Antique. The couple had one son.

Antiporda also serves as head of the new Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force or MBAPTF.



## Asawa ni DENR chief Cimatú pumanaw na



February 21, 2021 @ 1:09 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pumanaw na ang asawa ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatú na si Fe Aguillon Cimatú.

Kinumpirma ito umaga ng Linggo ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns chief.

Nag-post din si Antiporda sa Facebook ng pakikiramay nito kay Cimatú.

“Our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathies to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú over the passing of his beloved spouse, Mrs. Fe Aguillon Cimatú. Your whole DENR Family, and my family as well, are deeply saddened. Our love, thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of grief,” ani Antiporda.

Hindi naman tinukoy ang sanhi ng pagpanaw ng asawa ni Cimatú.

Si Fe ay isang negosyante na mula sa San Jose, Antique at may isang anak. **RNT/ELM**



# DENR to file cases vs. Runruno illegal settlers

By Benjamin Moses M. EbreoPublished on February 21, 2021

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya, Feb. 21 (PIA) - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will be filing charges against illegal settlers who refuse to leave the geohazard areas at barangay Runruno in Quezon town.

Edgar Martin Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer said the legal move is needed since many of the illegal settlers who come from the provinces of Quirino, Isabela and Ifugao provinces continue to defy their order to leave their homes as they are situated in geo-hazard areas.

"We have been continuously telling them of the risks and their violations in living in the geo-hazard and forest zone areas. So far, many have complied with our order and there are still some who refuse to leave the area," he said.

Martin recently attended the Sangguniang Panlalawigan hearing on the environmental issues and concerns in Runruno headed by Board Member Flodemonte Gerdan.

Martin said that since the Runruno tragedy that killed 10 illegal settlers during the onset of typhoon 'Ulysses', a series of dialogues and information campaign activities have been conducted by the DENR, MGB, PNP, LGU and other agencies to convince the illegal settlers to leave their high risk abodes.

He said that out of the 411 illegal settlers, only 28 families refuse to leave the geo-hazard areas in sitios Bit-ang 1 and 2, Balcony and Compound.

"Most of these illegal settlers have been compensated properly by the FCF Minerals Corporation since the previous years," Martin said.

He added that a 21-hectare relocation area in barangay Boliwao is now being procured by the local government unit of Quezon for the illegal settlers.

Martin however said that only 37 families from Quezon town have qualified to be relocated in the area, based on the criteria set by the National Housing Authority(NHA) which also pledged P50 million for the development of the relocation site.

He said that checkpoints have been set-up in barangay Runruno to prevent illegal entrants from entering the geo-hazard areas including installation of billboards warning the entry of entrants.

Martin said the move to relocate the illegal settlers in the geo-hazard areas in barangay Runruno is part of the government's Build Back Better Program after typhoon 'Ulysses' severely flooded most of Cagayan Valley region's provinces and cities.(MDCT/BME/PIA 2-Nueva Vizcaya)



# NV informal settlers near foreign mine face eviction

By Leander C. Domingo, TMT

February 22, 2021

**QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya:** Illegal settlers near London-based FCF Minerals Corp. here have been warned that they will face eviction if they continue to defy government orders to abandon declared geohazard areas.

The warning came after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is ready to file charges against illegal settlers for having ignored the orders.

Edgar Martin, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office chief, said these geohazard areas are prone to landslides, endangering peoples' lives, especially during heavy downpour.

Last year, at least 10 illegal settlers refused to leave the areas despite local government-led evacuation activities during the onslaught of Typhoon "Ulysses" (international name: "Vamco") when 10 people perished in a landslide.

The illegal settlers are from the provinces of Quirino, Isabela and Ifugao.

Local government officials said some of these settlers set up camp in mineral-rich areas, expecting to be offered a large sum of money in case FCF Minerals Corp. needed to operate there.

The London-based mining firm runs the Runruno gold-molybdenum project under a financial and technical assistance agreement with the national government.

The local officials said of the 411 illegal settlers, 28 families still refuse to leave the geohazard areas in the sitios of Bit-ang 1 and 2, Balcony and Compound in Runruno village here.

Martin said most of these illegal settlers have already been compensated by FCF Minerals Corp. in previous years.

Meanwhile, the municipal government of Quezon has been going through the process of acquiring a 21-hectare relocation area in Barangay Buliwao for the illegal settlers.

In addition to this, the National Housing Authority has pledged some P50 million for the development of the relocation area for at least 37 families.

"The move to relocate the illegal settlers from the geohazard areas in Barangay Runruno is part of the government's Build Back Better Program after Typhoon 'Ulysses' severely flooded most of the Cagayan Valley region's provinces and cities," Martin said.

He added that they have been continuously reminding the illegal settlers about the risks and the penalties for settling in the geohazard and forest zone areas.

Many have complied, but some insisted on staying in the areas, Martin said.

He added that there have been a series of dialogues and information campaign activities that were conducted by the DENR, the Mines and Geo-sciences Bureau, the Philippine National Police and other agencies to convince the illegal settlers to leave, but to no avail.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/22/news/regions/nv-informal-settlers-near-foreign-mine-face-eviction/843645/>



## Pagudpud touted as friendliest beach for sea turtles

By Leilanie Adriano February 21, 2021, 3:22 pm



RELEASED. Baby sea turtles find their way home on Sunday (Feb. 21, 2021) after hatching in a makeshift hatchery in Barangay Saud in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte. More pawikan releases are expected in the next few days as there is a growing number of pawikans that are being spotted laying their eggs in the area. (Photo courtesy of Raymond Sesuca)

LAOAG CITY – The coastal town of Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte has become the friendliest beach for sea turtles in the northern Philippines as more baby “pawikans” are being released into the open sea early this year.

On Sunday morning, a group of pawikan conservation volunteers in Pagudpud helped release 13 vulnerable green sea turtle hatchlings as they swam through dappled sunlight in the ocean shallows after hatching on a makeshift hatchery in Barangay Saud.

Raymond Sesuca, one of the volunteers of the Pagudpud Pawikan Conservation Group, said the 13 newly hatched baby pawikans emerged from the second nest which they have been guarding and monitoring for days since they relocated some 139 sea turtle eggs from the shoreline.

“It’s now the 18th hatchling from the second nest of 139 eggs. One was released last Friday, four yesterday, and 13 today,” he said.

The Saud marine turtle hatchery contains at least three nests. The first nest hatched last Feb. 4 with at least five successful releases while the two remaining are due anytime this week.

The group said it needed to relocate the sea turtle eggs found along the Pagudpud shoreline last November and December as they were threatened when the tide rises and in the presence of predators such as crablets and dogs.

On the same day, three marine sea turtles were also found in nearby Ayoyo village as these were accidentally netted by fishermen.

The group, along with wildlife enforcement personnel, immediately responded in the area to facilitate the rescue and released them immediately.



Three marine sea turtles were rescued and released on Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021 in Barangay Ayoyo in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte. (Photo by Raymond Sesuca)



It was learned that the cold months of December until February are the usual time for pawikan to return and lay eggs in the same area where they are hatched.

To ensure the protection, maintenance, and sustainability of the established pawikan hatcheries in Pagudpud town, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in coordination with the barangay and municipal officials of Pagudpud led by mayor Rafael Ralph Benemerito II and the conservation group, will be meeting next week to formulate measures for the protection and conservation of marine sea turtles.

Community Environment and Natural Resources officer Noemi Ruadap lauded on Sunday the efforts of the conservation volunteers as she urged everyone to do their share in protecting and conserving pawikans. (PNA)

Source:

[https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1131373?fbclid=IwAR0SFgAKOxFwvIxEPXc\\_8FEo2lUb0sTgi4pGMvBy8OvtnBc1C2hA7B2a0uE](https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1131373?fbclid=IwAR0SFgAKOxFwvIxEPXc_8FEo2lUb0sTgi4pGMvBy8OvtnBc1C2hA7B2a0uE)



## Pagudpud touted as friendliest beach for sea turtles

February 21, 2021 3 min read

**LAOAG CITY** – The coastal town of Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte has become the friendliest beach for sea turtles in the northern Philippines as more baby “pawikans” are being released into the open sea early this year. On Sunday morning, a group of pawikan conservation volunteers in Pagudpud helped release 13 vulnerable green sea turtle hatchlings as they swam through dappled sunlight in the ocean shallows after hatching on a makeshift hatchery in Barangay Saud. Raymond Sesuca, one of the volunteers of the Pagudpud Pawikan Conservation Group, said the 13 newly hatched baby pawikans emerged from the second nest which they have been guarding and monitoring for days since they relocated some 139 sea turtle eggs from the shoreline. “It’s now the 18th hatchling from the second nest of 139 eggs. One was released last Friday, four yesterday, and 13 today,” he said. The Saud marine turtle hatchery contains at least three nests. The first nest hatched last Feb. 4 with at least five successful releases while the two remaining are due anytime this week. The group said it needed to relocate the sea turtle eggs found along the Pagudpud shoreline last November and December as they were threatened when the tide rises and in the presence of predators such as crabs and dogs. On the same day, three marine sea turtles were also found in nearby Ayoyo village as these were accidentally netted by fishermen. The group, along with wildlife enforcement personnel, immediately responded in the area to facilitate the rescue and released them immediately.



Three marine sea turtles were rescued and released on Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021 in Barangay Ayoyo in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte. (Photo by Raymond Sesuca)

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Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2021/02/21/pagudpud-touted-as-friendliest-beach-for-sea-turtles/?fbclid=IwAR1QS\\_AZmgYeFsBUBLZzrdjvPP\\_osIIYgzvHzw3yDaJ\\_DHepd6t0pHtjXB](https://maharlika.tv/2021/02/21/pagudpud-touted-as-friendliest-beach-for-sea-turtles/?fbclid=IwAR1QS_AZmgYeFsBUBLZzrdjvPP_osIIYgzvHzw3yDaJ_DHepd6t0pHtjXB)





# 54 baby sea turtles released back to sea in Puerto Princesa City

By: [Romar Miranda](#) - Correspondent / [@RVMirandaINO](#)

[Inquirer Southern Luzon](#) / 05:20 PM February 21, 2021



54 olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) hatchlings were released into the ocean on Saturday in Puerto Princesa City by the Palawan Medical Society (PMS) to increase awareness and participation in environmental protection. The olive ridley sea turtles have been classified as “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). Photos contributed by Johann Fabello

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Philippines — Fifty-four olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) hatchlings were released into the ocean on Saturday, in Barangay Simpocan, a coastal village in this city.

Dr. Paul Saludez, president of the Palawan Medical Society (PMS), said this was the second activity of the medical organization to increase awareness and participation in environmental protection.

“We are hoping to sustain these efforts by involving Palawenyo doctors and their families to pass on the idea of protecting wildlife,” Saludez said.

The activity was done in partnership with the Committee on Environmental Protection of the Palawan Medical Society, and the Medical Staff Organization (MSO) of the MMG-PPC Cooperative Hospital.

The medical group, during their inaugural advocacy in 2020, had also released some 73 baby sea turtles.

Baby sea turtles are believed to undergo “natal homing,” a critical period of imprinting on the magnetic field of their “home areas” and then use this information to return as their breeding ground as adults years later, according to a scientific study published by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2008.

Olive ridley sea turtles have been classified as “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).

/MUF

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1398311/54-baby-sea-turtles-released-back-to-sea-in-puerto-princesa-city>



## 25 buhay na reptiles nasabat sa NAIA



February 21, 2021 @ 1:22 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nasabat ng mga operatiba ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) ang ismagel na buhay na mga reptiles sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Ayon sa BOC-Port of NAIA, nasabat ang dalawang venomous spitting cobras, walong pit vipers, at 15 sailfin lizards na may market price na P300,000.

Nakalagay ang mga ito sa bamboo chimes at parol na dadalhin sa Taiwan nitong Pebrero 18.

Idineklara itong “souvenir items” ng isang “Adrian Lim” mula sa Pasay City at consigned ang isang “Ryan Su” ng Taiwan.

Kaagad ibinigay sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga nakumpiskang mga buhay na reptiles.

Sasampahan naman ng kasong paglabag sa RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act) and RA 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act) ang nagpadala at tatanggap ng kargamento. **RNT/ELM**



## The risks of climate change not to be ignored

By BusinessMirror

February 22, 2021

The planet faces a catastrophic rise in temperature that can cause flooding that will have cascading effects on water availability and food production around the world. In particular, climate change will cause droughts in large sections of the globe, threatening biodiversity and food security for billions of people. The Philippines is among the countries most affected by typhoons, which cause strong winds, heavy rainfall, floods and landslides.

The 2015 Paris Agreement calls for capping global warming at well below 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level. Unfortunately, the United Nations World Meteorological Organization (WMO) confirmed the fact that 2020 was one of the warmest years on record. In fact, the world is experiencing unprecedented weather extremes in every region and every continent. This has caused the melting of land ice on Antarctica, Greenland and mountain glaciers resulting in the rise of the average global sea level by 3.5 centimeters.

It is common knowledge that the Philippines faces an average of 20 tropical typhoons every year, and in the past 20 years, the country experienced 317 extreme weather events, according to a Manila-based international policy group whose objective is to advance resilience and low carbon development.

In 2019, the major causes of extreme weather damage were strong winds, heavy rainfall, floods and landslides. A recent report of German think tank Germanwatch indicated that globally since 2000, more than 480,000 people were killed, and in terms of the adverse effects on the economy, the total damage was estimated at \$2.5 trillion. The likelihood that developing countries will be particularly affected is a fact. What compounded the situation was the coronavirus pandemic, which made it more difficult to cope with the various types of risks caused by climate change.

The private sector in the Philippines is starting to do its part in mitigating climate change. Some banks have of late suspended the financing of investments in coalmines and in companies that generate power using coal and fossil fuels as these cause carbon emissions.

An overlooked risk of climate change is its effect on the health of the population as soaring pollution levels can cause exposures to various ailments such as lung diseases, strokes and heart diseases. Still another danger of climate change is the safety of food and water supplies by fostering organisms that eventually can cause food poisoning and microbial contamination of drinking water. Extreme weather events can also spawn epidemics in areas where people can't avoid walking through dirty floodwaters. The foregoing is just a limited summary of the health risks linked to global warming.

Recognizing the vital importance of protecting the environment, the Philippines, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), agreed to promote sustainable use of natural resources, expanding access to renewable energy and reducing risks from natural disasters. It is anticipated that this partnership with the support of adequate financial resources will aid greatly in ensuring the success of this bilateral agreement.

President Duterte recently committed to take measures to further mitigate the impact of climate change. Furthermore, prominent private individuals like former US Vice President Al Gore and teenage activist Greta Thunberg are constantly advocating the grave importance of action against climate change, which is not to be ignored as it threatens humanity.

*The author is the Editor of Insurance Philippines magazine.*

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/02/22/the-risks-of-climate-change-not-to-be-ignored/>

# CCC: Scale-up disaster risk measures as PH among top countries affected by extreme weather events

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on February 21, 2021



***Photo of First Scout Ranger Regiment rescue operation in San Miguel, Bulacan at the height of intense rains caused by Typhoon "Ompong" (PIA file photo)***

CALOOCAN CITY, Feb. 21 (PIA) -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) renews call to strengthen the country's science-based disaster risk reduction planning to reduce the irreversible impacts of climate change and to mitigate damage from floods, typhoons, and other natural disasters.

The Philippines was ranked fourth among countries most affected by extreme weather events from 2000-2019, according to Global Climate Risk Index 2021 by Germanwatch.

The ranking is said to be attributed to the aftermath of devastating typhoons over the last decades, including Typhoon Ondoy (2009), Typhoon Pablo (2012), Super Typhoon Yolanda (2013), and Typhoon Ompong (2018), which were responsible for the loss of thousands of lives, as well as the massive damage to agriculture and infrastructure. Another factor is the long process of recovering from the previous year's impacts.

Overall, 317 extreme weather events were recorded in the country from the 20-year period, the highest among the top 10 countries on the report.

Philippines, along with Haiti and Pakistan, is continuously ranked among the most affected countries both in the long-term index and in the index for the respective year.

The Global Climate Risk Index yearly analyzes and ranks to what extent countries and regions have been affected by impacts of climate-related extreme weather events, which include storms, floods, and heatwaves, among others. It also indicates a level of exposure and vulnerability to these extreme weather events which countries should understand as warnings in order to be prepared for more frequent and/or more severe events in the future.

With this report, the CCC underscored the need to identify gaps within the systems in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the development, investment, and land use planning processes.



The major factors that led to severe damage to the communities due to these extreme typhoons include excessive rainfall due to climate change; improper land uses, which include the construction of settlements and cultivation in flood-prone areas; siltation of waterways due to excessive soil erosion because of illegal logging and deforestation; and poor or non-implementation of the solid waste management policies on the local level.

In a latest bulletin from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Tropical Storm Auring was estimated at 595 km East Southeast of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur with maximum sustained winds of 75 km/h near the center and moving eastward at 15 km/h. Despite slight weakening, PAGASA warned that Auring could still bring heavy to intense rains, floods, and landslides to several areas in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Residents in flood-prone and landslide prone areas are advised to monitor the weather bulletins and take appropriate action should flooding occur as Auring is expected to stay within the Philippine Area of Responsibility until Tuesday.

Just this week, parts of Davao were severely affected by widespread flood due to local thunderstorms, displacing more than thousands of families and brought massive damage to agriculture and infrastructure.

With this, the CCC stresses the importance of disaster preparedness and risk management as the country remains one of the most affected by extreme weather events due to climate change over the past two decades.

As one of the countries most vulnerable to climate hazards, the Commission also called on the developed countries to accelerate and scale up the support to the country in areas of finance, green technology, and capacity development in order to build resilience against typhoons and other climate impacts.

Lastly, the CCC said that stronger policy measures must be formulated to help avert future loss and damage and ensure sustainable and resilient recovery in light of the escalating climate-related disaster risks compounded by factors caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. (PIA NCR)



GMA News

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Naging kulay pula ang tubig-dagat sa Brgy. San Roque at Brgy. Baybay Triunfo sa Ozamiz City. Naging palaisipan ito sa mga residente na ayon sa kanila, unang beses nangyari na nagbago ang kulay ng tubig sa dagat. Kumuha na ng water sample ang maritime police at nakipag-coordinate sa BFAR para ma-examine ang tubig at malaman ang dahilan ng naturang insidente. | via [One Mindanao](#)

- Joan Gecale Debalucos
- Maritime Pulis Ozamiz Marpsta



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# Banned Narra and Kamagong wood seized

[Raymund Catindig](#) (The Philippine Star) - February 21, 2021 - 12:00am

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan, Philippines — Authorities seized at least 5,000 board feet of sawn Narra and Kamagong lumber from three keepers in Sta. Ana town in Cagayan yesterday.

Police identified those arrested as Boy Damaso, Johnny Damaso and Rodel Abaya, all residents of Brgy. San Vicente.

Cagayan Valley police director Brig. General Crisaldo Nieves said the hot lumber was discovered at a lot owned by a prominent businessman of Cauayan City in Isabela.



## 13 colorum na chainsaw isinuko sa Cagayan



February 21, 2021 @ 2:17 PM 16 hours ago

CAGAYAN, Philippines – Umabot sa labing tatlong piraso ng mga colorum na chainsaw ang karagdagang isinuko ng pulisya sa bayan ng Alcala rito sa nabanggit na lalawigan.

Pawang mga branded at isa lang ang walang serial number sa mga naisukong chainsaw sa magkahiwalay na Barangay Dalaoig at Pussian dito sa nasabing bayan.

Ang mga nag-surrender ng kanilang gamit na chainsaw ay kinilalang sina Fidel Ramos, Michael Daludado, Melchor Butay, Johari Erjas na mga residente ng barangay Daloig, Gerardo Garma, Virginia Serrano, Reymundo Sebastian, Celedonio Cardenas Jr. Benjamin Sayo Jr., Reynante Naceno, Kennedy Berbano Jr., Marvin Asuncion, Efren Bargado pawang mga residente ng barangay Pussian.

Bago ang pag-surrender sa nasabing mga chainsaw pinuntahan ng PNP Alcala ang nasabing mga lugar para magsagawa ng kampanya kaugnay sa mga ipinapatupad na environmental laws.

Pansamantala nasa custody na ng PNP Alcala ang mga isinurender na chainsaw para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon. **Rey Velasco**





## Conserving the Alocasia species

If you have joined the so-called 'plantdemic' or the rising interest in ornamental plants since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, you may have been indirectly endangering the Alocasia species

Published 4 hours ago on February 22, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Julio Yap](#)



If you are a "plantito" or a "plantita," you might have already heard sanderiana, scalprum, sinuata, zebrina and heterophylla.



With the continuous application of new technologies developed with the help and active participation of cooperators, new varieties of ornamental plants can be expected.

These are the different varieties of Alocasia plant from the family Araceae found in the Philippines.

If you have joined the so-called "plantdemic" or the rising interest in ornamental plants since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, you may have been indirectly endangering the Alocasia species.

Experts said that the rising demand for this plant in the market may threaten the diversity of its species.



The intensive process of examining the irradiated species will eventually lead to a favorable trait.



With the problem on hand, there should be an immediate action to conserve the species.

In response, the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) has collaborated with the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), which are both under the Department of Science and Technology (DoST), have partnered with De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) Campus, in the breeding of Alocasia through gamma irradiation and chemical treatments.

If you have been a 'plantparent' or a plantito or plantita, this initiative will be truly exciting.



The rising demand for Alocasia may threaten the diversity of its species.

PCAARRD said that based on a study, the mentioned treatments conducted in lower doses of gamma rays can improve the growth rate performance of Alocasia's root structure.

By subjecting the plants to gamma rays, plant mutations were observed, such as leaf cupping, leaf deformities and double leaf.

This is not really a disadvantage as Alocasia plants that will show promising mutated characteristics can be developed into new varieties for registration and commercial production.

Aside from gamma irradiation and chemical treatments, the project has gathered 27 accessions of Alocasia across the country consisting of 12 native species, two introduced species and two hybrids.

In terms of preserving the species, karyotyping was done wherein possible genetic problems and plant disease were determined through examination of irradiated samples.

The intensive process of examining the irradiated species will eventually lead to a favorable trait.



Subjecting the plants to gamma rays, plant mutations were observed, such as leaf cupping, leaf deformities and double leaf.



It can be noted that lower doses of gamma rays can enhance the germination of Alocasia's immature seeds.

### **Ornamental plant propagation**

If you have been a "plantparent" or a plantito or plantita, this initiative will be truly exciting.

This project will also benefit those who are in the business of propagating ornamental plants.

But in order to develop new or improved varieties of Alocasia and other ornamental plants by gamma irradiation, there is the need to transfer the technology of developing new varieties by mutation induction through the use of gamma radiation to the private sector, and to initiate the establishment of a thriving industry for this species and other ornamental plants with the help of the project cooperators.

Experts said that the rising demand for this plant in the market may threaten the diversity of its species.

The project deals with the use of gamma radiation in agriculture, specifically its application in plant breeding, to develop mutant varieties.

Radiosensitivity studies, evaluation/selection, vegetative generation advancement, and mass propagation techniques are its components.

The project's research, development and extension activities are in the confines of the PNRI thrust for agriculture.

However, these activities would require the participation of the industry's key-players to promote mutual cooperation between the proponent and the cooperators.

Through the PNRI and PCAARRD, the government could provide gardening enthusiasts and entrepreneurs with new and improved varieties of Alocasia and other ornamental plants that small and medium scale-growers may propagate and commercialize for additional income and employment.

It is hoped that the produce would be exported and may become globally competitive with other varieties of the same plant in the niche market.

With the continuous application of new technologies developed with the help and active participation of cooperators, new varieties of ornamental plants can be expected every year even from commercial growers who are convinced to apply the technologies that were promoted to them.

The implications of this outcome are the constant production of new varieties in commercial quantities for export, which may eventually lead to a steady increase in foreign reserves, and employment of more individuals every year or a decrease in unemployment rate.



## ‘Wala Usik Economy’ to develop innovations on reducing waste



BACOLOD. The virtual and face-to-face round of “Wala Usik” business consultation under our new project “Rethinking Plastics - Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter” in the cities of Bacolod and Talisay recently. (Contributed photo) February 21, 2021

A LOCAL non-government organization is promoting the “Wala Usik Economy” and developing business innovations to reduce waste in the Cities of Bacolod and Talisay, funded under the “Rethinking Plastics–Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter” project.

“Wala Usik,” a native phrase meaning nothing is wasted, adapts the principles of zero-waste and circular economy in the local context.

This project builds on the pioneering work of the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. (PRRCFI), which in 2019 piloted Bacolod’s first zero-waste cafe and partnered with eight other sari-sari stores across Negros Island to prototype micro-refilling stations.

The PRRCFI said in a press statement it will further iterate a strong business case for “Wala Usik” with innovative solutions for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) such as sari-sari stores, carinderias, eateries, canteens and restaurants.

The group said these innovations will involve refilling operations, deposit-return schemes, dispensing technologies, distribution and delivery mechanisms, to reduce or prevent single-use plastic waste, amid the current health and socio-economic challenges.

“Helping small businesses and the local economy pivot during the pandemic, while also working towards ecological sustainability and better solid waste management, is what the Wala Usik Economy will aim to achieve,” it said.

The “Wala Usik Economy” has already started to engage stakeholders from the public and private sectors with a series of virtual and on-site consultations this month in Bacolod and Talisay.

In March, it will start seeking innovation partners among MSMEs, and through a Hackathon, startups or early-stage business concepts receiving prize money and business development support from the project, which will run until February 2022.

The PRRCFI said the “Rethinking Plastics Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter” project supports a transition towards a circular economy for plastics in seven countries in East and Southeast Asia to contribute to a significant reduction of marine litter.

The project works in the areas of plastic waste management, sustainable consumption and production of plastics as well as the reduction of litter from sea-based sources to reduce plastic waste and its leakage into the sea, among others.

It is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the GIZ and Expertise France in China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. **(EPN)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1886666/Bacolod/Business/Wala-Usik-Economy-to-develop-innovations-on-reducing-waste>



# War and Romance on Manila Bay

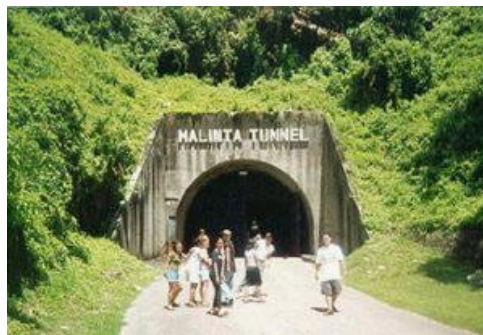
Published February 22, 2021, 12:33 AM

by [Jaime Laya](#)

## WALA LANG

Seniors old enough remember cannon booms, smoke, and flashes of light reaching Dewey Boulevard from across the bay, from Bataan and Corregidor where Filipino and American soldiers were making a stand against Japanese invaders. That was exactly 79 years ago in February 1942.

Manila and Clark Field were bombed by the Japanese on the same day as the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 8, 1941. War had begun and President **Manuel L. Quezon** and Gen. **Douglas MacArthur** evacuated government and the military high command to Corregidor on Dec. 26, just before the Japanese entered Manila the following week on Jan. 2.



The entrance to Malintâ Tunnel, Corregidor Island  
(photograph from Google Images)

Malintâ Tunnel, bored into the island's rock, became government and military nerve center. Packed in its main and lateral tunnels were offices, hospital, sleeping quarters, ammo, and food storage, everything.



A 1983 photo of the ship-shaped concrete Fort in the foreground and the real ship USS New Jersey in the background

(photo by PH2 Paul Soutar)

Now a peaceful tree-covered tourist destination, the Corregidor of February 1942 was all fully armed soldiers, their commanders strategizing amid whistling bombs and cannon fire as the enemy approached.

The Treasury — gold bars, silver peso coins, paper money, negotiable securities — had also been evacuated to Corregidor. The gold became submarine ballast, paper money and securities were incinerated after listing down serial numbers. One of the defenders' final tasks was to dump 425 tons of silver coins into the sea at a marked spot between Corregidor and Caballo Islands to prevent their falling into Japanese hands.

Outnumbered and underequipped, the leadership retreated to regroup and fight another day. Quezon and his family left by submarine on Feb. 20, headed for Australia and the US, followed by MacArthur three weeks later, promising, "I shall return." Bataan fell on April 9 and the Death March began. Corregidor and the other island forts held off but finally the highest-ranking military man remaining, Lt. Gen. **Jonathan M. Wainwright**, raised the white flag on May 6.



The American Regime Forts had been named after Civil War and Spanish-American War generals replacing the centuries-old Spanish names. Therein lie romance and tragedy.

Writing in 1939, American journalist **Walter Robb** relates that some 200 years earlier, the lovely daughter of an aristocratic Spanish-Mexican family, **Maria Velez**, was promised in marriage by her parents to the eldest son of another Hidalgo family. In fact, Maria was in love with a younger brother but her parents were adamant, saying that as younger son, her choice would inherit neither title nor wealth. Maria tried but failed to persuade her parents to change their minds. Indeed, all contact between the two was blocked.

Distraught, the young man decided to be a priest. He joined the Franciscan Order and asked to do missionary work in Las Islas Filipinas, as far away from his disappointment as he could go. For her part, the young lady insisted on entering the Real Monasterio de Santa Clara in Manila, also as far away from her lost love as she could go.

In Manila, the Franciscan Prior decided that the young man was too callow for a lonely provincial assignment and accordingly appointed him to a less demanding post, Vicar of Santa Clara monastery.

As Vicar, the young man lived in simple quarters adjoining the monastery chapel. His duties were mainly to say Mass, celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours, hear confessions and otherwise attend to the nuns' religious needs. The nuns heard Mass behind a lattice draped with black curtains, their only contact with the outside world being through a nun stationed unseen behind a turnstile in the vestibule where visitors could leave offerings.

The nun Maria immediately recognized her beloved's voice on his very first Mass and it was no surprise that she promptly felt a need for frequent confession. Both nun and priest were trapped in their vows but they finally decided they could not bear eternal separation and began plotting.

The plan was for her to be disguised as a Franciscan friar joining the Vicar on his usual sunset constitutional on the Pasig River quay just outside the Monastery. There a sampan would be waiting to bring them to the headland at the entrance of Manila Bay where galleons bound for Acapulco filled up with fresh water and where they would board.

All doors to the Monastery were locked and the first problem was how to open the door between cloister and chapel. The Vicar had a key made saying that his dog had been bitten and might go mad. Robb clarifies, "It is well known that if the key of such a holy place as a nunnery is tied round a dog's neck and let dangle there, he will not go mad ..." The two therefore sailed off into the sunset thinking, "... their humble sampan was as grand as the golden barge that carried Sheba to Solomon, and the guileful Chinese rowers were a retinue of Ethiopians."

They reached their destination and proceeded by horse and carabao to the prearranged rendezvous. Unfortunately, tulisán were waiting in ambush, intent on the gold they learned the two had brought for their future life together. Maria Velez was killed and her gallant defender left for dead. Search parties arrived, headed by the Franciscan Order's disciplinarian, the Corregidor. The friar was brought back to Manila, thrown into an isolation cell where he spent the rest of his days.

The beautiful Maria Velez gave her name to Bataán's Mount Mariveles and Mariveles town. The view from the mountain and from passing ships encompasses memorials to the dramatic personae—the pursuing Corregidor, the hopeful La Monja and El Fraile, the beasts Caballo and Carabao that the tragic lovers had happily mounted on their final journey, and, in the distance, Los Cochinos (pigs), the partners-in-crime rowers and tulisán counting their take from the ill-fated pair.



*Notes: (a) The tale of the nun and her confessor (slightly embroidered by your column writer) is in Walter Robb, Filipinos (Manila: The author, 1939); and (b) The Real Monasterio de Santa Clara was located next to Fort Santiago from its founding in 1621 until its destruction in February 1945 during the Battle of Manila. The Monastery is now by C-5 in Quezon City still with a nun behind a turnstile often with eggs from a garden-party-hosting matrona petitioning for a rainless evening.*

*Comments are cordially invited, addressed to [walangwala888@gmail.com](mailto:walangwala888@gmail.com)*



# DOH logs 9,737 new Covid-19 recoveries

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor February 21, 2021, 5:47 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday reported 9,737 new recoveries that pushed the country's overall tally of recovered cases from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) to 522,843, or 93.2 percent of those who tested positive for the virus.

In its 4 p.m. case bulletin, the DOH also reported 1,888 new confirmed cases and 20 new deaths, bringing the overall tally of active cases to 26,238 and the death toll to 12,088.

Of the active cases, about 87.3 percent are mild, 6.1 percent are asymptomatic, 2.8 percent are severe, 0.91 percent are moderate, and 3 percent are in critical condition.

"There were seven duplicates that were removed from the total case count, and of these, two recoveries have been removed. Moreover, 12 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths," it added.

DOH data on Feb. 21 showed that 1,826 or 6.3 percent of 29,084 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"Two labs were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Data Repository System on February 20, 2021," it said.

Some 21,400 beds are dedicated to patients with Covid-19. Available are 62 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds, 68 percent of 13,500 isolation beds, and 77 percent of 6,000 ward beds.

About 79 percent of 2,000 ventilators are available for Covid-19 patients' use.

The DOH reminded the public the importance of observing minimum public health standards -- the proper wearing of face masks and full-coverage face shields, physical distancing, and not staying outdoors for a long period. (PNA)





## ANYARE SA US, UK COVID-19 VACCINES? BUMILI NA TAYO SA IBA



February 22, 2021 @ 12:45 AM 6 hours ago

ISA sa pinakahuling balita ukol sa bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease 2019 o COVID-19 ang balak ng National Task Force sa pangunguna ni Secretary Carlito Galvez na magpunta sa India upang direkta silang makipag-usap ukol sa suplay ng bakuna.

May dalawang bakuna na sariling gawa ng India at ito ang Covishield at Covaxin, bukod pa ang AstraZeneca na pinagsosyohan ng India at AstraZeneca na kompanyang United Kingdom.

Gagawin ang pakikipag-usap na tumbok ang pagbili natin ng bakuna sa gitna ng sobrang bagal na pagkilos ng World Health Organization sa pagdedeliber ng mga bakunang ipinangako nito para sa mahihirap na bansa.

Kasali ang mahal kong Pinas sa 130 bansa sa kasalukuyan na wala pa ni isang piraso ng bakuna.

### SUMANDIG MASYADO SA WHO

Maganda naman talaga ang programa ng WHO na bumuo ng Covax Facility para sa pagkakaroon ng bakuna ng mga may perang bansa at Advance Market Commitment para naman sa mga mahihirap.

Hindi kasi basta makakuha ng bakuna kahit may pera ang isang bansa dahil kinokopo ng mga bansang doon nakatayo ang mga pabrika ng bakuna.

Halimbawa ang United States na, ayon kay German Chancellor Angela Merkel, ay binibili lahat ang gawa ng Pfizer/BioNTech sa US at Moderna habang kinorner naman ng United Kingdom ang AstraZeneca dahil sa UK naman nakatayo ang pinakamalaki sa mga pabrika nito.

Sa pamamagitan ng Covac Facility at AMC, makatitiyak ang lahat ng bansa ng patas, mabilis at murang bakuna, ayon sa WHO.

Bumibili ang WHO ng bultuhan kaya mura ang bakuna sa halagang \$3 bawat dose.

Gayunman, nababalaho ang organisasyong ito dahil nasa 2 bilyong dolyar pa lang ang pera nito at kinakailangan pa nitong magkaroon ng mahigit 5B dolyar para maisagawa nito ang programa nito.

Dalawang bilyong dose ang dapat nitong bilhin at hahatiin ito ng tig-isang bilyon para sa mga may pera at walang pera, gaya ng Pinas.

Pero dahil kapos nga at mas pinili ng katulad ng US at UK na pairalin ang “sarili muna bago ang iba”, walang magagawa ang WHO kundi magkamot ng ulo at magreklamo.



Ang UK nagbuhos ng 84 milyong pound o \$117.7B para sa paggawa ng bakunang AstraZeneca habang nagpakawala naman ang US ng mahigit \$10B.

Kasama sa pinondohan ng US ang AstraZeneca sa halagang \$1.2B; Moderna – \$430M; Johnson and Johnson – \$456M; Novavax – \$60M; Merck -\$38M; at Sanofi – \$30M.

Sisiw ang pondo ng WHO sa pagbili at sinamantala naman ng mga kompanya ng gamot ang pagbenta muna sa mga mayayamang bansa kaysa magbenta sa WHO.

Ang mayayamang bansa, handang magpakawala ng salapi kahit overpriced pa ang bakuna maturukan lang nila ang sariling mamamayan at kahit magkandehetot-hetot sa COVID-19 ang iba.

Ito ang isang malaking paliwanag kung bakit hanggang ngayon ay walang maideliber ang WHO na bakuna sa Pinas.

### **MABIBIGAT NA KONDISYON**

Ayon mismo sa WHO, may tatlong kondisyon ang mga kompanya ng bakuna upang magdeliber sila ng bakuna sa ibang bansa na mahihirap at pati na rin sa mga may pera.

Lumalabas na kauna-unahan at pinakaimportante ang pagbibigay ng lahat ng bansa sa kanila ng indemnification agreement.

‘Yun bang === kailangang libre sila sa anomang pananagutan gaya ng pagkamatay ng mga mababakunahan, maospital at magkakasakit at ang mga bansa o kanilang pamahalaan at sasagot sa lahat ng ito.

Rason ng mga kompanya, bago lang ang bakuna at hindi nila alam ang mangyayari sa mga susunod na panahon gaya ng nangyari sa Dengvaxia na gawa ng Sanofi Pasteur na naging dahilan ng pagkamatay ng mahigit 600, karamihan bata, sa Pilipinas.

Ayaw ng mga kompanya na matulad sila sa Sanofi Pasteur na ngayo’y nakademanda sa Pilipinas.

“Wa indemnification, wa bakuna” ang patakaran.

Ang isa pang kondisyon ay dapat may emergency use authorization o general use authorization at hindi rin sila magdedeliber kung wala nito.

Isa pa ang kondisyon din mismo ng WHO na dapat may programang malinaw at aprubado naman mismo ng WHO.

Meron na tayo ng lahat ng ito.

Pero sa huli, sinabi mismo ng WHO na dapat magbayad ang mga bansa at hindi na libre gaya ng naunang plano nito.

Kaya “no money, no bakuna” rin.

Pero bakit hanggang ngayon, walang ibinibiyaheng bakuna para sa Pinas?

Kasi naman, inuubos ng mayayamang bansa gaya ng US, UK ang bakuna upang matapos na sila sa pagbabakuna sa darating na Hulyo.

At dahil tila hanggang 6 buwan lang ang bisa ng mga bakuna, kasama sa ginagawa ng mayayamang bansa ang pag-iimbak ng bakuna na pupwedeng gamitin nila sa mga susunod na buwan habang may pandemya pa.



Paano ngayon makabibili ng bakuna ang mahihirap na bansa, maging ang WHO ng 2 bilyong bakuna?

### **AGAWAN NG KAKAMPI SA KAPANGYARIHAN**

Ngayon ay tarantang-taranta ang G7 o bansang binubuo ng US, UK, France, Canada, Italy, Japan at Germany sa pagdeliber ng Russia at China ng kanilang mga bakuna sa iba't ibang bansa.

May 50 bansa nang bumibili at nakikipagkaibigan sa Russia para makabili ng Sputnik V sa halip na mga gawang US at UK.

Marami na ring bansa sa Asya, Latin America at mismo sa Europa ang nakikipagkaibigan at bumibili rin ng bakuna na gawang China gaya ng Sinovac at Sinopharm sa halip din na mga bakunang US at UK.

Sabi ni Emmanuel Macron, Pangulo ng France, kailangan nang mamigay ng kahit 4-5 porsyento ng pondo ng US at European Union para sa bakuna sa ibang bansa para mapigilan ang Russia at China na maging kaibigan at ka-partner ng ibang bansa, hindi lang sa negosyo kundi maging sa kapangyarihang pulitikal sa mundo.

Anak ng tokwa, pandemya na nga at halos 2.5 milyon na ang namamatay, 'yan pang agawan sa kapangyarihan sa mundo ang inuunang atupagin ng mayayamang bansang ito.

Kung hindi pa umarangkada ang Russia at China sa pamamahagi ng bakuna sa iba, hindi pa sila kikilos para sa iba.

Pero teka, 4-5 porsyento lang ng pondo nila para sa bakuna ang pakakawalan nila para sa iba?

Walang pagkakaiba diyan sa sinasabi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na bubusugin ka lang nila ng amoy ng pan o tinapay pero hawak ka nila ang tali sa leeg mo para hindi ka rin makakagat at makakain ng tinapay.

### **TAMANG HAKBANG ANG BABALING SA IBA**

Sinusuportahan natin ang balakin ng mga awtoridad natin sa NTF na bumiyahe at makipag-usap sa iba para makabili na tayo ng bakuna.

Ke gawa ang bakuna ng Russia, ng China o ng India.

Mapamamahal nga lang tayo pero kung mananatli, halimbawa, ang presyo ng Sputnik V ng Russia na nasa \$10 lang kada dose at \$3-4 rin ang Covishield at Covaxin ng India, \$14 ang Sinovac ng China, bakit hindi tayo kukuha ng mga ito?

May presyong \$32-\$37 ang Moderna samantalang \$19.50 naman ang Pfizer/BioNTech at tanging ang AstraZeneca ang \$4 bawat dose.

Para magkaroon na tayo ng tiyak na bakunang kailangan natin, hindi lang tayo dapat umasa sa WHO at higit na hindi umasa sa mga pinakamayayamang bansa sa Amerika at Europa.

Dahil may pera rin lang naman tayo, dapat na talagang makipag-usap at bumili na tayo sa iba.



# Palace assures aid for 'Auring' victims

By Azer Parrocha February 21, 2021, 5:14 pm



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque (File photo)

MANILA – Malacañang on Sunday assured the public that immediate relief and assistance will be given to those affected by Tropical Storm Auring (international name “Djuan”).

“We are closely monitoring Tropical Storm ‘Auring’ and the communities on its track. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and line government agencies have been providing relief and assistance to those affected,” Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in a press statement.

To date, Roque said the Department of Social Welfare and Development has relief stockpiles and standby funds amounting to PHP1,204,692,327 in its Central Office, Field Offices and National Resource Operations Center.

He said the Department of Health has also prepositioned a total of PHP19,508,368 worth of medicines, medical supplies, health kits in its Centers for Health Development.

Deployable response groups (DRGs) were also deployed by the Philippine Coast Guard in affected areas to assist in evacuation and /or rescue operations in coordination with the concerned local government units, he added.

Meanwhile, Roque urged the public to observe safety precautions.

“We ask the public, especially residents of affected areas, to remain vigilant, be prepared and ready for possible evacuation in case their local authorities advise them to do so as a precautionary measure,” he said.

He also advised the public to regularly check the latest weather advisories and other information related to Auring.

In its 2 p.m. weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said moderate to heavy rain is expected over Eastern Visayas, Caraga, Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon, and Camiguin.

Also expected are light to moderate with at times heavy rain over the Zamboanga Peninsula, Bicol Region, Mimaropa, Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, Quezon, and the rest of Visayas and Northern Mindanao.

Auring was last spotted at 320 kilometers east of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur. It is packing maximum sustained winds of 65 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 80 kph.

The tropical storm was also monitored moving northwestward of Dinagat Islands-Eastern Samar-Leyte area at 15 kph. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1131389>



# NDRRMC assures preparedness of LGUs for TS Auring

February 21, 2021 5:34 PM by [Kristan Carag](#)



National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) spokesperson Mark Timbal assured the public of the preparedness of local government units for the onslaught of Tropical Storm Auring.

*“Iyong mga isinagawang kahandaan in terms of iyong pagsasaayos ng ating mga evacuation center para dagliang matuluyan ng mga kababayan natin in case of evacuation,”* Timbal said on Saturday, February 20, during a virtual press briefing.

Timbal said that local government units, and regional disaster councils have also conducted an inventory of relief items, rescue personnel, equipment, and vehicles in case of an emergency situation.

The NDRRMC official also confirmed that a preemptive evacuation has been implemented in areas expected to be hit by Tropical Storm Auring.

Timbal said that NDRRMC, and the regional disaster council have distributed face masks, and other personal protective equipment (PPE) to evacuees in order to ensure that minimum health standards will still be observed in evacuation centers.

The NDRRMC also reminds local government units to ensure that evacuees can still observe social distancing while evacuating, and staying inside the evacuation centers.

*“Ang ating guidance sa ating mga LGUs ay panatilihin na hindi magsisiksikan at organisado dapat ang distribution ng mga relief items at ng mga health items din kagaya ng mga PPE,”* Timbal said.

*“Tuluy-tuloy din iyong ating pagbibigay ng mga supplies of the PPEs and medical equipment sa mga LGUs at mga facilities na nangangailangan ng tulong,”* he added.



## BAGYONG AURING NAGDULOT NG MATINDING PAGBAHA, PAGKAWALA NG SUPPLY NG KURYENTE SA SURIGAO DEL SUR

written by [Judith Estrada-Larino](#) February 21, 2021



Nagdulot ng matinding pagbaha at pagkawala ng supply ng kuryente sa Surigao Del Sur ang Bagyong Auring.

Mismong si Surigao Del Sur Governor Alecander Ayec Pimentel ang nagpakita sa social media ng matinding pagbahang inabot ng Tandag City.

Ayon naman kay Abel De Guzman, pinuno ng PDRRMC ng Surigao Del Sur bagamat hindi nag landfall ang bagyong auring sa kanilang lalawigan matinding pagtaas ng tubig ang dinanas nila kung saan 8,000 pamilya ang kanilang inilikas.

Ipinabatid pa ni De Guzman na nasa 126 barangays mula sa labing pitong munisipalidad ang naapektuhan ng mga pag ulang dala bagyong auring.

Karamihan aniya sa mga evacuees ay nasa evacuation centers at mga bahay na hindi naman apektado nang pagbaha.

Nawalan din ng supply ng kuryente ang maraming lugar sa Surigao Del Sur habang tuluy tuloy naman ang pag-rescue sa mga residente sa munisipalidad ng Lanuza.

Inabisuhan na ng local government ang publiko na kaagad makipag-ugnayan sa kanila para sa rescue operations at iba pang emergency situations.

<https://twitter.com/dwiz882/status/1363336586910339076>



## Auring damages dike, bridges in Surigao del Norte

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabriellLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:06 PM February 21, 2021



Part of the Budlingin Bridge in Alegria collapsed. (Photo from the Facebook page of the Philippine Information Agency – Surigao del Norte)

MANILA, Philippines — Several structures in Surigao del Norte towns sustained extensive damage as winds and rain brought by Tropical Storm Auring hit the Caraga Region on Sunday.

Photos uploaded on Facebook by the Public Information Agency (PIA) in the province showed the dike of the Claver Baoy River collapsing due to the strong surge of floodwaters in the Claver town.

Another PIA photo shows part of the Budlingin Bridge in the Alegria town had also collapsed, making it inaccessible.

Other PIA photos shows overflowing at the Bonifacio River in Surigao City and Tandag River in Tandag City, where several barangays were affected.

According to other reports from the Caraga Region, a huge part of Surigao del Sur was without power due to Auring's strong winds.



A portion of the Claver Baoy River dike collapsed due to the strong flow of floodwaters in Claver town. Photo from the Facebook page of the Public Information Agency – Surigao del Norte)

As of 8:00 p.m., Auring was located 275 km east of Surigao City, with maximum sustained winds of 65 kph and gusts of up to 80 kph.

It was far from the Mindanao landmass, but satellite images showed that thick clouds, brought by both Auring and the northeast monsoon, continued to cover huge parts of the Visayas and Mindanao.



Bonifacio River in Surigao City (Photo from the Facebook page of the Public Information Agency – Surigao del Norte)



Tandag City, Surigao del Norte (Photo from the Facebook page of the Public Information Agency — Surigao del Norte)

[atm]





# PH Consulate in Los Angeles advises Filipinos to be vigilant over 'heightened threat environment' across the US

Published February 21, 2021, 10:19 AM

by [Roy Mabasa](#)

The Philippine Consulate General's office in Los Angeles has advised all Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in Southern California, Southern Nevada and the State of Arizona to be "vigilant" and exercise precautions following a "heightened threat environment" across the United States in the aftermath of the Jan. 21 Presidential inauguration.



Los Angeles (Unsplash)

Quoting a National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) bulletin issued by the US Department of Homeland Security, the Consulate said, "information suggests that some ideologically-motivated violent extremists with objection to the exercise of governmental authority and the presidential transition, as well as other perceived grievances fueled by false narratives, could continue to mobilize to incite or commit violence."

The NTAS bulletin takes effect from January 27, 2021 to April 30, 2021.

"Filipinos and Filipino-Americans are therefore advised to exercise vigilance, take safety precautions, avoid areas of protests, heed local government bulletins, and to carry emergency and medical contact details," the Consulate said in an advisory posted on its official social media account and website.

On January 6, 2021, the U.S. Congress building in Capitol Hill descended into chaos and violence as hundreds of pro-Donald Trump rioters stormed the building, leaving four people dead and forcing lawmakers to evacuate to safety, including then Vice President Mike Pence.

The US Homeland Security department has raised concern that a range of issues that motivated Domestic Violent Extremists (DVEs) will remain through early 2021 and some may be emboldened by the Jan. 6 insurrection in the US Capitol to target elected officials and government facilities.

Among the issues that may drive the DVEs to carry out violence includes anger over COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 election results, and police use of force.

Since the onset of COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic, attacks and racial slurs against Asian Americans have increased, according to the group Stop Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Hate.

The group said it received more than 2,808 first-hand reports of anti-Asian hate across 47 states and Washington, D.C. from March 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020.



Data gathered by the AAPI for the nine months period in 2020 showed that roughly 71 percent were cases of verbal harassment while shunning or avoidance made up about 21 percent. About 9 percent of the incidents involved physical assaults, and 6 percent included being spit on.

Just last week, an elderly Filipino woman was attacked while on a San Diego trolley. Witnesses helped her report the incident to the police while the victim was treated at a local hospital.

In a separate incident in New York City, 61-year old Filipino-American Noel Quintana was slashed on his face with a box cutter inside a subway train while his assailant escaped. Aside from the Stop AAPI Hate movement, various advocacy groups and even Hollywood stars have joined the cause to speak out against violence targeted towards Asian Americans during the pandemic

On Jan. 27, or less than a week after he assumed office, US President Joseph Biden called the rising anti Asian-American xenophobia as both “unacceptable” and “un-American” and ordered the US Justice Department to partner with the Asian-American community to prevent the further occurrence of hate crimes.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/21/ph-consulate-in-los-angeles-advises-filipinos-to-be-vigilant-over-heightened-threat-environment-across-the-us/>



# NEVER BEFORE SEEN YELLOW PENGUINS SEEN IN ATLANTIC

February 21, 2021 2 min read

Sourced from the web by Glen S. Ramos

MANILA — Guess what the new colors of penguins are? What we know as black and white are now yellow!

Belgian Wildlife photographer Yves Adams captured this fascinating “never-before-seen” photo of a yellow penguin while snapping photos of a colony of 120,000 king penguins in South Georgia, an island in the southern Atlantic, in December 2019, where he spotted the rare yellow bird in a black and white colony of penguins.

He shared his captured images of the rare yellow penguin to the New York Post.

“It was heaven that he landed by us,” Adams said. “If it had been 50 meters away, we wouldn’t have been able to get this show of a lifetime.”

According to ornithologists, the penguin’s color is due to the pigmentation condition leucism — with fully yellow plumage, and even yellow peepers.

Adams shared more images of the animal in his Instagram this week, making bird buffs swoon.

Yves Adams found the yellow bird at Salisbury Plain, on the islands of South Georgia.

(With report from New York Post)

Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2021/02/21/never-before-seen-yellow-penguins-seen-in-atlantic/?fbclid=IwAR3mlp9zI5f098xjk3oZIrBOqCtrmNyOAEc\\_ujwD6CocPYaHTWj8zoroSq0](https://maharlika.tv/2021/02/21/never-before-seen-yellow-penguins-seen-in-atlantic/?fbclid=IwAR3mlp9zI5f098xjk3oZIrBOqCtrmNyOAEc_ujwD6CocPYaHTWj8zoroSq0)

22 FEBRUARY 2021, MONDAY



**DENR**

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