

22 JANUARY 2021, FRIDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR confiscates P124,000 worth of unregistered chainsaws

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

January 21, 2021

ELEVEN unregistered chainsaws worth more than P124,000 were confiscated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in its intensified anti-illegal logging campaign in Pampanga in 2020.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) head Laudemir Salac said their campaign against illegal chainsaws came from the marching order of environment secretary Roy Cimatu to prevent the actual cutting of trees in the forest areas to save the remaining natural resources.

"This is one of our strategies or innovations to curb timber poaching in our forest lands in the province. Instead of the traditional approach of apprehending suspected illegal loggers while transporting forest contrabands, we go after those unregistered chainsaws, which may be used in illegal cutting of trees," he explained.

He said timber poachers usually used chainsaws which are not registered with the DENR and this approach may help prevent the actual cutting of standing trees in our forest.

"Along with this, we also intensify further our illegal logging operations including the strict monitoring of lumber sources and supply of our registered lumber dealer and hardware," he added.

Section 6 of Republic Act No. 9175 or the Chainsaw Act of 2002 states that all persons who own or are otherwise in possession of chainsaws must register with the DENR.

It identifies those persons authorized to possess and use a chainsaw such as those with subsisting timber license agreement or a private land timber permit, an orchard, tree, and industrial farmer, a license wood processor and the chainsaw shall be used for cutting of timber that has been legally sold to the applicant, and those shall use for a legal purpose.

The law also states that the selling, purchasing, re-selling, transferring, distributing, or possessing a chainsaw without a proper permit from the DENR shall be imprisoned for a maximum of six years or a fine of not more than P30,000.

Since 2018, Penro has already confiscated a total of 18 illegal chainsaws worth P214,000.



Want to do business with PPA? Plant trees first before getting its nod

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:25 PM January 21, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Ports Authority is going green.

PPA now requires those who want to do business with the agency to plant trees or mangroves before it entertains their papers.

On Thursday, the PPA said that applicants or grantees of contracts, accreditations, and permits, among others, are required to plant 1,000 seedlings of trees or mangroves within their business locations.

The rule is provided under PPA Administrative Order No. 14-2020.

The planting activities will be done in coordination with the local office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The order complies with the Republic Act 9729, better known as the 2009 'Climate Change Act,' said PPA General Manager Jay Santiago.

"All grantees or persons or entities applying with the PPA for the issuance of accreditation certificate, certificate of registration (COR), appointment and authorization, including those awarded with contracts for the provision of services in the ports are subject to the condition that the applicant/grantee shall plant trees and/or mangroves," he said in a statement on Thursday.

"Compliance with the requirements shall be made not later than one year after the issuance of the documents or from the effectivity of this order, whichever comes first," Santiago added.

Non-compliance will be enough ground for the cancellation of accreditation, permit to operate, Certificate of Registration, appointment, contract, or the non-renewal thereof.

Different port service providers must plant the following additional number of seedlings: Port Terminal Operator, 100,000; Cargo Handling Operator, 50,000; Passenger Terminal Building Operator, 50,000; Roll On Roll Off Operator, 25,000; Private Port Operator, 500,000; and Harbor Pilot, 10,000.

Contractors of the agency for the supply of goods and services must plant at least 1,000 seedlings for contracts amounting to P5 million and another 1,000 seedlings for every additional P5 million contract amount or fraction thereof.

Meanwhile, the applicant/grantee shall coordinate with the local Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) or concerned office or unit of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the type of seedlings to be planted and the location where the seedlings shall be planted.

Once completed, the grantee shall secure a certificate of completion from the said office, which shall be submitted to the PPA where the document was secured or awarded.



All PPA Port Management Offices and Head Office Responsibility Centers shall monitor compliance and coordinate with the CENRO.

"This is a big step for the agency. With guidance from the Department of Transportation, we can help in slowing down Climate Change and its negative effects, particularly for an emerging economy like the Philippines," Santiago said.

"Climate change has really affected us the past couple of years, and this endeavor is one good proactive measure to ensure comfortable lives for Filipinos for years to come," Santiago added.

The order, which was published on Jan. 19, will take effect on Feb. 2.

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Want to do business with PPA? Plant trees first before getting its nod

By: Daphne Galvez - Reporter / @DYGalvezINQ - Inquirer.net | January 21, 2021 - 06:37 PM

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Planting tree to get deal

Starting 2 February, every applicant for contracts, accreditations and permits of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) can only be obtained in exchange of planting mangrove trees, especially in coastal areas of the country near the residence of an applicant. PPA said the program is its share in mitigating Climate Change. Based on PPA Administrative Order 14-2020 of PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago, the requirement covers applicants and grantees of contracts, accreditations and permits. The target is the planting of 1,000 seedlings in coordination with the local office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. According to the PPA, the directive takes effect after the 15-day publication period reckoned from 19 January 2021.



Interior Secretary Eduardo Año has tasked the PNP to mount a campaign against illegal logging, following the unprecedented flooding in many parts of the country during recent typhoons.

AFP/Ted Aljibe, File

PNP ordered to run after illegal loggers

[Romina Cabrera](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 22, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — From its war on drugs, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has a new battle to fight, this time against illegal logging.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año has tasked the PNP to mount a campaign against illegal logging, following the unprecedented flooding in many parts of the country during recent typhoons.

Año gave the instruction to PNP chief Gen. Debold Sinas at a recent management committee meeting.

“In addition to war on drugs and criminality, one of the priorities of the PNP is war on illegal logging,” Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) spokesman Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said at a press briefing.

Malaya said Año particularly blamed logging activities in Cagayan and Isabela provinces in the Cagayan Valley region for the massive flooding in the region.

“Illegal loggers in Cagayan have not stopped. One of Secretary Año’s orders is an intensified campaign against illegal logging – to be spearheaded by the PNP,” Malaya said in Filipino.

President Duterte earlier ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to look into mining and logging activities in the region after most parts of Cagayan Valley were submerged in muddy floodwaters.

He vowed to improve efforts against illegal mining and logging to prevent a repeat of the disaster.

At least 24 were left dead following the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses and the massive flooding in Region 2.

The DILG, its attached agencies and local government units (LGUs) have also pledged support for a national tree planting initiative, involving the planting of 200 million trees.



Malaya said they hope to start the tree planting program by next year. “The DILG will release memorandum circulars and department orders encouraging massive planting of trees in support of the national greening program, from the barangay up to the highest level of LGU,” Malaya added.

Meanwhile, Malaya said that the DILG is satisfied with the action taken by LGUs in their pre- and post-disaster relief and rehabilitation efforts.

“I can say – in my time – they did their best. We witnessed the efforts of LGUs,” he said. “Many of them, a vast majority of them, rose up to the challenge from pre-to post disaster relief and rehab.”

He noted the COVID-19 pandemic and the onslaught of strong typhoons one after another had been a big challenge for local chief executives.

At least one local chief executive – Tuguegarao City Mayor Jefferson Soriano – is in hot water for not being in his jurisdiction at the height of Typhoon Ulysses. He was on a family vacation in Batangas when Ulysses devastated the Cagayan province. He is under investigation by the DILG.



Ilocos Norte eyes to develop more coffee plantations

By Leilanie Adriano January 21, 2021, 6:45 pm



COFFEE SEEDLINGS. Coffee seedlings are being propagated in full blast this year to expand coffee farming in various towns of Ilocos Norte. After Piddig and Pagudpud, more coffee farms are expected to rise in the towns of Solsona, Bangui and Dingras. (Photo courtesy of PGIN-ENRO)

LAOAG CITY – The rich aroma of coffee produced in this northern part of Luzon excites Ilocano farmers and coffee lovers here as they look forward to growing their own and sipping their own at the comfort of their homes.

Through a public and private partnership agreement, the province of Ilocos Norte is eyeing to develop and expand more coffee plantations in the towns of Pagudpud, Bangui, Dingras and Solsona.

According to Community Development Officer Estrella Sacro of the Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO), a total of PHP3 million has been allocated this year for the expansion of coffee farming in the province.

“We are currently propagating Robusta coffee seedlings and these will be distributed to our farmer-cooperators in the different towns of Ilocos Norte,” said Sacro in an interview Thursday.

Two years ago, farmers in Pagudpud started to revitalize coffee growing in its lowland and hilly areas in support of the government’s National Greening Program (NGP) and to boost livelihood in the area.

The first batch of coffee seedlings have started to bear fruits and in no time it will be processed and introduced as a home-grown brand of “Kapeng Ilokano”.

Sacro said the development of more coffee farms in the province is seen to boost the local economy amid the existing threat of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

The ENRO is taking the lead in the propagation of more coffee seedlings and this will be distributed to all interested farmers.

In Piddig town, its local government unit also initiated the country’s first and largest national convergence program for coffee with the development of about 1,200 hectares of upland and lowland plantations of high-grade Arabica, Excelsa and Liberica coffee varieties.

The Piddig coffee is now being sold in various trade fairs and exhibits as well as in some commercial establishments. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1128105>



Pena: The solid waste law is 20 years old

[ROX PENA](#)

January 21, 2021

REPUBLIC Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Law, is now 20 years old. Approved on January 26, 2001, it was the first law signed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo after taking over the Presidency from Joseph Estrada during the so-called EDSA-2 People Power Revolution.

Prior to RA 9003, there was no system of managing solid waste in the country. It is basically a “tapon-hakot-tambak” (throw-collect-dump) system, which is not environmentally sound. Open dumpsites are everywhere. The practice of 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycling) and composting is not institutionalized.

In the late 90s, our group, the Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines, pushed for the enactment of a law that would address solid waste. I remember joining our senior (elderly) members and fellow director Bebet Gozun (who would later become DENR Secretary) in lobbying at the Senate. One Senator even gave us the cold shoulder.

The unsafe and unsanitary dumping of solid waste created mountains of garbage all over the country. It was worst in Metro Manila because of limited land space. And so the inevitable happened. In July 2000, a huge garbage dumpsite in Payatas, Quezon City, collapsed due to heavy rains killing hundreds of people. This tragedy prompted the passage of RA 9003.

So what has improved after 20 years? Open dumpsites have long been prohibited but some are still in operation. The law mandates the use of sanitary landfills (SLF) for final disposal. The government made it easy for local government units (LGUs) to comply with this provision by allowing cheaper designs based on the volume of garbage they generate.

According to the DENR, there are currently 189 SLFs in operation servicing 399 LGUs across the country. The number of SLFs remains small 20 years after RA 9003 took effect. The DENR is targeting to establish around 300 more SLFs nationwide by 2022 through public-private partnership.

With the passage of the DENR Administrative Order on Waste to Energy (WTE) in 2019, WTE plants are now being considered by LGUs. In Mabalacat City, there was a groundbreaking ceremony last year for a WTE facility in Barangay Sapang Balen.

The DENR has also announced the scheduled public consultations this January on the possible list of Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products (NEAP). This is one of the controversial provisions of RA 9003. Some companies fear it might affect their products or packaging. After 20 years, no list has been prepared. Products shall not be prohibited until there are alternatives available to consumers at a cost that is no more than 10 percent greater than the disposable product.

Other than technical solutions, the government must also find ways to encourage people to do the basic things such as segregation, the 3Rs and composting. I suggest they also do an audit as to how solid waste management was incorporated into the academic curriculum as mandated by RA 9003, and if it's effective in educating the young.



Majestic future for ‘King of Birds’

Published 3 hours ago on January 22, 2021 02:30 AM

By **TDT** @tribunephl



Exercising his freedom, juvenile flies above the forests. / Photograph courtesy of IUCN

It is a little-known fact that the Philippine national bird may be another source of global pride for Filipinos. Aside from being considered as one of the largest and most majestic in the world, the Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) is also found exclusively in the country, making it a truly meaningful and fitting national symbol.

However, information about the Philippine Eagle remains largely scarce. It does not help as well that the predator bird is listed as a critically endangered species by the leading global environmental group International Union for Conservation of Nature.

In order to mitigate such threat of extinction, nonprofit organizations such as the Philippine Eagle Foundation have been on a mission to learn as much as it can about this remarkable creature through proper scientific field surveys across the country, locating its nesting territories and studying its existence in its natural habitats.

Such a task is challenging indeed, but with the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as well as private sector partners such as Energy Development Corporation, PEF is proud to share that great strides have already been achieved toward the documentation of the Philippine Eagle — leading to the ultimate goal of being able to successfully and sustainably propagate its species.



NWRB ONLINE APPOINTMENT



January 22, 2021 @ 12:08 AM 6 hours ago

BALAK ba ninyong bisitahin ang tanggapan ng National Water Resources Board o nais ng mga client o stakeholders na magpa-schedule ng virtual na pagpupulong?

Ipinagbibigay-alam ng NWRB sa pamumuno ni executive director Seville David, Jr. na ang tanggapan ng ahensya ay maaaring tumanggap ng appointment sa pamamagitan ng online transaction upang makatiyak na habang nasa panahon ng General Community Quarantine (GCQ), sumusunod ang ahensya sa alintuntunin at protocol ng pamahaan bilang bahagi ng pag-iingat sa Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic.

Kung may katangunan, i-search ang www.nwr.gov.ph, basahin ang frequently ask questions ng mga client/stakeholder, baka sakaling nandoon na ang kasagutan ng inyong inquiry. Isulat ang inyong kahilingan, kapag natanggap na nila ang inyong request, i-po-process agad at makatatanggap kayo ng confirmation kung kailan ang meeting at meeting place. Maaaring sa tanggapan ng NWRB o sa pamamagitan ng Zoom.

Ang opisina ng NWRB ay matatagpuan sa 8th floor, National Irrigation Authority Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Pero para sa mga urgent concerns ng ating mga kliyente, maaari kayong magpadala ng inyong mensahe sa mga sumusunod na email address -nwrphil@gmail.com para sa general NWRB concerns and queries; wrd@nwr.gov.ph para sa issuance of conditional water permit, resolution of cases, resolution of petitions, issuance of permit to drill for observatory monitoring wells, registration of water use for domestic, at issuance of NWRB endorsement as requirement for registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

wud@nwr.gov.ph para sa issuance of provational authority for Certificate of Public Convenience and other related applications and petitioners; ppd@nwr.gov.ph para sa Certificate of Water Availability at issuance of NWRB certification to the Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA);

med@nwr.gov.ph, billing@nwr.gov.ph at afd@nwr.gov.ph para sa application or renewal of registration of well driller, issuance of groundwater table depth for proposed memorial park, calibration of water meter, issuance of Statement of Accounts, at other administrative concerns; at foi@nwr.gov.ph at 8888@nwr.gov.ph para sa Freedom of Information (FOI) at complaints.

Sasagutin at paglingkuran ang mga inquiry ng Office of the Executive Director, Water Right Division, Water Utilities Division, Policy and Program Division, Monitoring and Enforcement Division, Administrative and Financial Division.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/nwr-online-appointment/>



Clark investors seek reversal of DENR order on water quality

By [Ashley Manabat](#)

January 18, 2021



Clark Freeport— “Arbitrary and unnecessary.”

This was how the Clark Investors and Locators Association (CILA) has described the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2016-08 on Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards (GES) as it expressed its objection and apprehensions against the order.

Dr. Frankie Villanueva, former president of CILA and now chair of its foreign investment advocacy, safe and technology (FAST), said it appears that (DAO) No. 2016-08 was a “midnight” directive by then DENR secretary Ramon Paje bereft of any study, or technical research.

Villanueva said the Clark Water Corp. (CWC) is set to implement the order with the establishment of a P1.5 billion waste water treatment facility on Friday, January 15.

Villanueva explained that this will mean a possible rate increase of 100 percent by the CWC, which is “unjustifiable at this time of the raging pandemic.”

He said the DAO No. 2016-08 appears to be without basis as CILA’s request for a study were ignored.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/18/clark-investors-seek-reversal-of-denr-order-on-water-quality/>



Farmers press gov't to resolve land cases

Published January 21, 2021, 5:40 PM

by [Merlina Hernando-Malipot](#)

Ahead of the 34th commemoration of the Mendiola Massacre, farmers from Southern Tagalog on Thursday called the attention of various government agencies to address their concerns — including “massive land grabbing and conversion” in the region.



(KEITH BACONGCO/ MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Almost a hundred farmers from Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, and Rizal went to Manila to hold a dialogue with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and seek resolution to long-standing land disputes covering thousands of hectares of productive agricultural lands which they charged as having been taken over by individuals, companies and government corporation.

The farmers started their protest action by marching from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to the DAR office in Quezon City. They also went to the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Camp Crame. Eddie Billones of Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka sa Timog Katagalugan (KASAMA-TK) said that farmers from the provinces traveled to Quezon City and sought a face-to-face dialogue with Secretary John Castricones as officials of DAR-IV “cannot give clear resolutions on land cases and disputes that have been going on for decades in the region.”

Billones said that the CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) is a “permanent target of lucrative land conversion” and so-called development projects under the Build, Build, Build Program. “The region is lined-up with infrastructure and power generation projects but farmers remain poor and landless,” he added.

KASAMA-TK is the regional chapter of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) in the CALABARZON region.

The farmers are also expected to ask Secretary William Dar and the DA for “urgent aid and assistance” to farmers affected by successive calamities. The KMP and KASAMA-TK demand P10,000 cash aid and P15,000 production subsidies from the DA.

The groups said that billions of pesos worth of palay, coconut, vegetables, and various crops were destroyed in the region by the Taal volcano eruption and back-to-back typhoons in the previous year.

The farmers are also set to join a multisectoral protest at Mendiola on Friday, Jan. 22 for this year’s commemoration of the Mendiola Massacre.



- Headline
- Editorial
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- Feature Article




Bago ang ika-34 na taong paggunita sa Mendiola Massacre bukas, nagtungo ang ilang magseesaka at mangingisda mula sa Southern Tagalog sa DENR, DA, at DAR para iprotesta ang umahoy malawakang land grabbing at conversion sa rehiyon.

👤 Anakpawis Party-list



661 Comments 45 Shares





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Viggo Arzobal, Division Office
Tel: 935-551-6222 to 25; 935-6622 to 29
935-5511 to 40; 935-6250; 429-9899
Website: www.denr.gov.ph | Email: web@denr.gov.ph

DEC 14 2020

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 108-20

SUBJECT : DECLARING CERTAIN FOREST AREA WITHIN THE ZAMBALES MOUNTAIN RANGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANGATARAM, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AS CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE ENDEMIC AND THREATENED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA WHICH SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE "MANGATARAM CRITICAL HABITAT"

Pursuant to Section 25 of Republic Act No. 9147, otherwise known as the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act", Rules 25.1-25.5 of Joint DENR-DA-PCSD Administrative Order No. 37, Series of 2004, the joint implementing rules and regulations of RA 9147, consistent with DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2 Series of 2007 "Guidelines on the Establishment and Management of Critical Habitat", and in order to protect the habitat and population of the endemic and threatened species of wild fauna and flora found there, certain portions within the Zambales Mountain Range, specifically situated in the Municipality of Mangataram, Province of Pangasinan is hereby designated as a Critical Habitat and shall be known as the "MANGATARAM CRITICAL HABITAT".

Section 1. Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the State to conserve the country's wildlife resources and their habitat for ecological and economic sustainability. As such, habitats outside Protected Areas under the Republic Act 7166 (National Integrated Protected Areas System) where threatened species are found may be designated as Critical Habitat. It is also the policy of the State that all designated critical habitats shall be protected and managed in coordination with the local government units and other concerned groups, from any form of exploitation or destruction which may be detrimental to the survival of the threatened species dependent therein.

Section 2. Objectives

The objectives of this Administrative Order are as follows:

- To protect and conserve the 4,622.89 hectares of forest area at Bantayan-Candayan 2nd, Candayan 3rd, Candayan 4th, Lantak-Langko, Cataratahan, Pacoia, and Malabobo in the Municipality of Mangataram, Province of Pangasinan which serve as habitat of several species of threatened and endemic wild fauna that include Philippine deer (*Rusa murina*), Philippine warty pig (*Sus philippensis*), Philippine duck (*Anas boschas*), Flame-breasted Frigate (*Fregata minor*), Philippine eagle-owl (*Nyctalephus*), Luzon long-eared (*Otus longicauda*), and Eastern hornbill (*Euceros lucasorum*), the threatened fish species (*Mystus philippinus*, *Channa striata*, *Tribolodon alcockii*), and several species from the Dipteroptera family, and other endemic and threatened species of flora and fauna.
- To provide a legal framework for the protection of Mangataram Critical Habitat from destructive resource uses and developmental activity or other types of land uses.
- To establish a locally-driven ecosystem management approach that guarantees the dynamic and full participation of Local Government Units, communities, people organizations and other stakeholders integrating threatened species conservation as part of local development planning process and way of life of the people, and.
- To sustainably manage the 4,622.89 hectares of forest land which is the most important and one of the few remaining forest block in Pangasinan, as viable habitat for endemic and threatened species, to maintain ecological services as well as other biodiversity and cultural values of the area, and, to develop the non-destructive type of land use of the area that supports sustainable community livelihoods.

Section 3. Technical Description

The Mangataram Critical Habitat covers an approximate area of four thousand four hundred twenty two and 89/100 (4,622.89) hectares as indicated in the terrain attached area map (Annex "A") which forms an integral part of this Order, subject to private rights it bears in any, and in general survey and delineation, which is particularly described as follows:

CORE ZONE

Beginning at a point marked "1" on the map being 559°20'52"W, 4450.957 meters from PR502 Control Monument "P90-3214" with geographic coordinates 15° 42' 15.254"N, 120° 16' 56.234"E located at Brgy. Cataratahan, Mangataram, Pangasinan

| Line | Bearing | Distance (meters) |
|-------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1-2 | S 57-10-19 E | 2608.00 |
| 2-3 | N 36-55-47 E | 900.77 |
| 3-4 | S 57-43-29 E | 200.2 |
| 4-5 | N 73-58-24 E | 319.68 |
| 5-6 | S 3-56-1 W | 791.60 |
| 6-7 | S 63-26-6 W | 312.24 |
| 7-8 | S 15-2-39 W | 406.47 |
| 8-9 | S 36-8-31 W | 170.99 |
| 9-10 | N 80-26-0 W | 140.04 |
| 10-11 | S 34-12-57 W | 281.44 |
| 11-12 | S 26-33-54 E | 86.73 |
| 12-13 | S 62-35-33 W | 235.94 |
| 13-14 | S 35-30-19 W | 175.68 |
| 14-15 | S 62-21-34 W | 189.81 |
| 15-16 | S 55-47-3 E | 593.81 |
| 16-17 | S 18-5-26 W | 244.84 |
| 17-18 | N 89-29-2 W | 172.23 |
| 18-19 | S 24-31-11 E | 194.41 |
| 19-20 | S 61-18-6 E | 494.86 |
| 20-21 | S 8-47-7 W | 518.09 |
| 21-22 | S 82-55-16 W | 259.21 |
| 22-23 | S 16-24-16 E | 346.12 |
| 23-24 | S 55-14-30 W | 623.22 |
| 24-25 | N 89-12-55 W | 225.00 |
| 25-26 | S 76-41-11 W | 208.87 |
| 26-27 | S 37-55-47 W | 285.22 |
| 27-28 | S 1-41-30 W | 145.63 |
| 28-29 | S 1-41-30 W | 590.07 |

BUFFER ZONE

Beginning at a point marked "1" on the map being 518°54'37"W, 3078.075 meters from PR592 Control Monument "P90-3214" with geographic coordinates 15° 42' 15.254"N, 120° 16' 56.234"E located at Brgy. Cataratahan, Mangataram, Pangasinan

| Line | Bearing | Distance (meters) |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1-2 | S 61-11-21 E | 123.837 |
| 2-3 | N 76-54-29 E | 422.355 |
| 3-4 | S 4-28-12 W | 982 |
| 4-5 | S 62-55-41 W | 322.322 |
| 5-6 | S 15-31-27 W | 119.15 |
| 6-7 | S 19-28-2 W | 264.951 |
| 7-8 | S 39-56-59 W | 236.798 |
| 8-9 | N 88-44-27 W | 141.225 |
| 9-10 | S 34-30-31 W | 150.628 |
| 10-11 | S 20-28-20 E | 124.211 |
| 11-12 | S 59-20-24 W | 301.216 |
| 12-13 | S 39-32-33 W | 173.031 |
| 13-14 | S 71-38-54 W | 63.784 |
| 14-15 | S 22-37-12 E | 40.34 |
| 15-16 | S 18-26-6 W | 348.356 |
| 16-17 | S 87-52-44 W | 83.841 |
| 17-18 | S 59-45-20 E | 529.824 |
| 18-19 | S 9-23-44 W | 235.68 |
| 19-20 | S 9-23-44 W | 420.113 |
| 20-21 | S 83-12-40 W | 196.875 |
| 21-22 | S 14-47-11 E | 816.124 |
| 22-23 | S 56-8-20 W | 721.223 |
| 23-24 | N 88-6-57 W | 235.963 |
| 24-25 | S 74-20-16 W | 172.417 |
| 25-26 | S 37-49-30 W | 207.931 |
| 26-27 | S 1-27-47 W | 789.995 |
| 27-28 | S 85-49-46 W | 298.688 |
| 28-29 | S 20-9-53 W | 292.555 |
| 29-30 | S 89-11-26 W | 1427.567 |
| 30-31 | N 37-7-51 W | 136.227 |
| 31-32 | N 89-37-44 E | 1436.764 |
| 32-33 | N 21-4-49 E | 297.647 |
| 33-34 | N 86-20-27 E | 267.411 |
| 34-35 | N 1-41-30 E | 735.754 |
| 35-36 | N 37-55-47 E | 285.223 |
| 36-37 | N 76-41-11 E | 208.866 |
| 37-38 | S 89-12-35 E | 224.996 |
| 38-39 | N 55-14-30 E | 623.215 |
| 39-40 | N 16-24-15 W | 346.12 |
| 40-41 | N 82-55-16 E | 259.21 |
| 41-42 | N 8-47-7 E | 518.089 |
| 42-43 | N 61-18-6 W | 484.859 |
| 43-44 | N 24-31-11 W | 194.408 |
| 44-45 | S 89-29-2 E | 172.229 |
| 45-46 | N 18-5-26 E | 244.835 |
| 46-47 | N 55-47-3 W | 93.814 |
| 47-48 | N 62-21-14 E | 183.909 |
| 48-49 | N 35-39-19 E | 175.675 |
| 49-50 | N 62-35-33 E | 235.942 |
| 50-51 | N 26-33-54 W | 86.734 |
| 51-52 | N 34-12-57 E | 281.442 |
| 52-53 | S 80-26-0 E | 140.035 |
| 53-54 | N 36-8-31 E | 170.994 |
| 54-55 | N 15-2-39 E | 406.473 |
| 55-56 | N 69-28-6 E | 312.248 |
| 56-57 | N 3-56-1 E | 791.603 |
| 57-58 | S 73-56-24 W | 319.683 |
| 58-59 | N 57-43-29 W | 200.204 |
| 59-60 | N 38-56-47 E | 52.012 |
| 60-1 | N 53-54-9 E | 51.019 |
| Total BUFFER ZONE AREA | | 99.12 hectares |

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), in coordination with the DENR Region 1 shall undertake ground verification of the above-said coordinates within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Order. Natural topographic features of the area, vegetative cover or permanent markers shall be used as boundary monument/indicators. In case there are modifications on the technical descriptions of the area, the final map as verified by the NAMRIA shall be endorsed by the Regional Executive Director and the HMR Director to the DENR Secretary for approval.

Section 4. Management of the Mangataram Critical Habitat. The DENR Region 1 shall manage the Mangataram Critical Habitat in partnership and coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and other partner/association.

Section 5. Critical Habitat Management Plan. The DENR Region 1 and the Municipal Government of Mangataram, in coordination and collaboration with other local stakeholders shall jointly prepare and cause the implementation of the Critical Habitat Management Plan (CHMP).

- The CHMP must be able to address: a) management objectives; b) key management issues; c) site management strategies and activities such as but not limited to habitat protection, rehabilitation, community organizing, promotion of environmental education and awareness, conservation, and other developmental activities towards the sustainable management of the area; d) administration; and e) monitoring and evaluation, among others.
- In the implementation of the CHMP the DENR Regional Office and partner shall ensure that:
 - existing ecosystems in the critical habitat are preserved and are kept in a condition that will support and enhance the existing population of the endemic and threatened species of wild fauna and flora;
 - development activities surrounding the Critical Habitat shall undergo necessary assessment processes so as to safeguard the ecological integrity of the area; and,
 - all applicable environmental laws, including Section 37 (c) of RA 9147 governing protected area within critical habitats as defined under Section 6 hereof are strictly followed.

Section 6. Prohibited Acts. The exercise of the following activities inside the Mangataram Critical Habitat are prohibited and punishable in accordance with Section 27(j) and Section 28 of RA 9147:

- dumping of waste products detrimental to wildlife;



known as the "MANGALATAREPICHICAL HABITAT".

Section 1. Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the State to conserve the country's wildlife resources and their habitats for ecological and economic sustainability. As such, habitats outside Protected Areas under the Republic Act 7586 (National Integrated Protected Areas System) where threatened species are found may be designated as Critical Habitat. It is also the policy of the state that all designated critical habitats shall be protected and managed in coordination with the local government units and other concerned groups, from any form of exploitation or destruction which may be detrimental to the survival of the threatened species dependent thereon.

Section 2. Objectives

The objectives of this Administrative Order are as follows:

- 2.1 To protect and conserve the 4,423.69 hectares of forest area at Barangays Casuaran, Calabagan 2nd, Calaybayna Sur, Larena Heights, Caturayonan, Paozon, and Malabico in the Municipality of Mangatarem, Province of Pangasinan which serve as habitat of several species of threatened and endemic wild flora that include Philippine Deer (*Rusa murina*), Philippine Army Pig (*Sus philippensis*), Philippine Duck (*Anas boschas*), Philippine Hornbill (*Bucconius philippinus*), Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jeffersiana*), Philippine Hornbill (*Bucconius philippinus*), Luzon Scops Owl (*Otus longicornis*), and Rufous Hornbill (*Bucconius bitorquatus*); the threatened flora species: *Platyrrhiza philippensis*, *Cinnamomum malabico*, *Tillandsia diversicata*, and several species from the Dipterocarpaceae Family, and other endemic and threatened species of floral and fauna;
- 2.2 To provide a legal framework for the protection of Mangatarem Critical Habitat from destructive resource uses and developmental activity or other types of land uses;
- 2.3 To establish a locally-driven ecosystem management approach that guarantees the dynamic and full participation of Local Government Units, communities, people's organizations and other stakeholders integrating threatened species conservation as part of local development planning process and way of life of the people; and,
- 2.4 To sustainably manage the 4,423.69 hectares of forest land which is the most important and one of the few remaining forest blocks in Pangasinan, as viable habitat for endemic and threatened species; to maintain ecological services as well as other biodiversity and cultural values of the area; to develop the non-destructive type of land use of the area that supports sustainable community livelihoods.

Section 3. Technical Description

The Mangatarem Critical Habitat covers an approximate area of four thousand four hundred twenty three area and 693.69 (4,423.69) hectares as indicated in the herein attached area map (Annex "A") which forms an integral part of this Order, subject to private rights if there be any, and to ground survey and delineation, which is particularly described as follows:

| CORE ZONE | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|
| Beginning at a point marked "1" on the map being 559°20'52"W, 4450.957 meters from PR692 Control Monument "PNG-3214" with geographic coordinates 15° 42' 15.254"N, 120° 16' 56.234"E located at Brgy. Catarataran, Mangatarem, Pangasinan | | |
| Line | Bearing | Distance (meters) |
| 1-2 | S 57-30-19 E | 2638.00 |
| 2-3 | N 38-56-47 E | 900.77 |
| 3-4 | S 57-43-29 E | 250.2 |
| 4-5 | N 75-56-24 E | 819.68 |
| 5-6 | S 3-56-1 W | 791.60 |
| 6-7 | S 63-26-6 W | 312.24 |
| 7-8 | S 15-2-39 W | 405.47 |
| 8-9 | S 90-8-31 W | 170.99 |
| 9-10 | N 80-26-0 W | 160.00 |
| 10-11 | S 34-12-57 W | 281.44 |
| 11-12 | S 26-33-54 E | 86.73 |
| 12-13 | S 62-35-35 W | 235.94 |
| 13-14 | S 35-39-19 W | 175.68 |
| 14-15 | S 62-21-14 W | 183.91 |
| 15-16 | S 55-47-3 E | 93.81 |
| 16-17 | S 28-5-26 W | 244.84 |
| 17-18 | N 89-29-2 W | 172.23 |
| 18-19 | S 24-31-11 E | 194.41 |
| 19-20 | S 51-18-6 E | 484.66 |
| 20-21 | S 8-47-7 W | 538.08 |
| 21-22 | S 80-55-16 W | 239.21 |
| 22-23 | S 16-24-18 E | 346.12 |
| 23-24 | S 55-14-30 W | 623.22 |
| 24-25 | N 89-12-35 W | 235.00 |
| 25-26 | S 76-41-11 W | 208.87 |
| 26-27 | S 37-55-47 W | 285.22 |
| 27-28 | S 1-41-30 W | 145.89 |
| 28-29 | S 1-41-30 W | 590.07 |
| 29-30 | S 65-20-27 W | 267.41 |
| 30-31 | S 21-4-49 W | 297.65 |
| 31-32 | S 83-37-44 W | 1486.78 |
| 32-33 | N 40-35-54 W | 1005.70 |
| 33-34 | N 3-21-57 E | 1043.69 |
| 34-35 | N 49-4-25 W | 1743.83 |
| 35-36 | N 24-16-47 W | 1359.19 |
| 36-37 | N 19-31-57 W | 2209.23 |
| 37-38 | N 36-18-34 W | 2510.57 |
| 38-39 | S 88-58-19 E | 2149.52 |
| 39-40 | N 56-35-54 E | 874.73 |
| 40-41 | N 24-17-53 E | 729.19 |
| 41-42 | N 22-57-7 W | 584.21 |
| 42-43 | N 89-11-46 E | 439.32 |
| 43-44 | N 0-5-30 E | 535.61 |
| 44-45 | S 53-35-59 E | 1196.63 |
| 45-46 | N 16-12-32 E | 568.71 |
| 46-47 | S 29-26-53 E | 658.88 |
| 47-48 | N 14-33-13 E | 682.29 |
| 48-49 | S 58-57-4 E | 417.72 |
| 49-1 | S 0-56-20 W | 4923.77 |
| Total CORE ZONE AREA | | 4,323.68 hectares |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 13-14 | S 72-59-24 W | 53.764 |
| 14-15 | S 22-37-12 E | 40.34 |
| 15-16 | S 16-26-6 W | 348.356 |
| 16-17 | S 67-52-44 W | 83.841 |
| 17-18 | S 59-45-20 E | 529.824 |
| 18-19 | S 9-23-44 W | 235.68 |
| 19-20 | S 9-23-44 W | 420.133 |
| 20-21 | S 83-12-40 W | 196.875 |
| 21-22 | S 14-47-11 E | 316.124 |
| 22-23 | S 56-8-20 W | 721.223 |
| 23-24 | N 88-6-57 W | 235.063 |
| 24-25 | S 74-20-16 W | 172.417 |
| 25-26 | S 37-43-30 W | 207.931 |
| 26-27 | S 1-27-47 W | 788.965 |
| 27-28 | S 85-49-06 W | 298.688 |
| 28-29 | S 20-9-53 W | 292.556 |
| 29-30 | S 89-11-26 W | 1427.567 |
| 30-31 | N 37-7-51 W | 136.227 |
| 31-32 | N 83-37-44 E | 1436.754 |
| 32-33 | N 21-4-49 E | 297.647 |
| 33-34 | N 88-20-27 E | 267.411 |
| 34-35 | N 1-41-30 E | 735.754 |
| 35-36 | N 37-55-47 E | 285.223 |
| 36-37 | N 76-41-11 E | 208.866 |
| 37-38 | S 89-12-35 E | 224.996 |
| 38-39 | N 55-14-30 E | 623.215 |
| 39-40 | N 16-24-15 W | 246.12 |
| 40-41 | N 82-55-16 E | 239.21 |
| 41-42 | N 8-47-7 E | 518.089 |
| 42-43 | N 61-18-6 W | 484.658 |
| 43-44 | N 24-31-11 W | 194.408 |
| 44-45 | S 89-29-2 E | 172.229 |
| 45-46 | N 18-5-26 E | 254.835 |
| 46-47 | N 55-47-3 W | 93.814 |
| 47-48 | N 62-21-14 E | 183.909 |
| 48-49 | N 35-39-19 E | 175.679 |
| 49-50 | N 62-39-33 E | 235.942 |
| 50-51 | N 26-33-54 W | 86.734 |
| 51-52 | N 34-12-57 E | 281.442 |
| 52-53 | S 80-26-0 E | 160.036 |
| 53-54 | N 86-8-31 E | 170.994 |
| 54-55 | N 15-2-39 E | 406.473 |
| 55-56 | N 63-26-6 E | 312.243 |
| 56-57 | N 3-56-1 E | 791.603 |
| 57-58 | S 78-56-24 W | 819.683 |
| 58-59 | N 57-43-29 W | 200.204 |
| 59-60 | N 38-56-47 E | 52.012 |
| 60-1 | N 53-54-9 E | 51.019 |
| Total BUFFER ZONE AREA | | 99.12 hectares |

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) in coordination with the DENR-Region I shall undertake ground verifications of the above-said coordinates within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Order. National topographic Station of the area, vegetative cover or permanent markers shall be used as boundary measurements/indicators. In case there are modifications on the technical descriptions of the area, the final map as verified by the NAMRIA shall be endorsed by the Regional Executive Director and the DENR Director to the DENR Secretary for approval.

Section 4. Management of the Mangatarem Critical Habitat. The DENR-Region I shall manage the Mangatarem Critical Habitat in partnership and coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU) and other pattern stakeholders.

Section 5. Critical Habitat Management Plan. The DENR-Region I and the Municipal Government of Mangatarem, in coordination and collaboration with other local stakeholders shall jointly prepare and oversee the implementation of the Critical Habitat Management Plan (CHMP).

- a. The CHMP shall be able to address: a) management objectives; b) key management issues; c) site management strategies and activities such as but not limited to habitat protection, rehabilitation, community organizing, protection of environmental education and awareness, monitoring, and other developmental activities towards the sustainable management of the area; d) administration; and e) monitoring and evaluation, among others;
- b. In the implementation of the CHMP the DENR Regional Office and pattern shall ensure that:
 - i. existing ecosystems in the critical habitat are preserved and are kept in a condition that will support and enhance the existing populations of the endemic and threatened species of wild flora and fauna;
 - ii. development activities surrounding the Critical Habitat shall undergo necessary assessment processes so as to safeguard the ecological integrity of the area; and,
 - iii. all applicable environmental laws, including Section 27 (a) of RA 9147 protecting published and viable critical habitats as defined under Section 6 hereof are strictly enforced.

Section 6. Prohibited Acts. The conduct of the following activities inside the Mangatarem Critical Habitat are prohibited and punishable in accordance with Section 27(a) and Section 28 of RA 9147:

- a. dumping of waste products detrimental to wildlife;
- b. spacing or otherwise occupying any portion of the critical habitat;
- c. mineral exploration and/or extraction;
- d. hunting;
- e. logging; and
- f. quarrying.

Section 7. Funding. The DENR Regional Office shall allocate funds for the operation and implementation of the CHMP. As such, the DENR Regional Office shall include funds for the purpose in their Annual Work and Financial Plan. The LGU shall also endeavor to engage LGUs and other partners to provide funds for the management of critical habitat.

Section 8. Repealing Clause

All orders, circulars and issuances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Separability Clause

If any provision of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 10. Effectivity

This Order takes effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation and acknowledgment by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) of the UP Law Center.

ROY A. LIMATU
Secretary






CCC invites public to join Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 launch

By Ma. Elaine P. AllaniguePublished on January 21, 2021

QUEZON CITY, Jan. 21 (PIA) -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) invites all to join the online international Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS 2021) this 25th and 26th of January which aims to accelerate, innovate, and scale-up the world's efforts in adapting to the inevitable effects of climate change.

The online summit, to be attended by global leaders who have committed to address the climate crisis, will help calibrate the accelerated action initiated by the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) and leverage further support for the global movement for adaptation. This will serve as a platform for governments, development partners, the scientific community, international organizations, youth groups, representatives of civil society, and financing institutions to deliver resources and inspire change to help societies build back better and act as a vanguard contribution to the transitions required for a climate-resilient world, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference will also reflect on the progress in tackling extreme weather- and climate-related hazards, demonstrate how successful approaches can be scaled up, and present a roadmap leading to COP26.

Further, participating heads of states will launch a comprehensive Adaptation Action Agenda with clear commitments to deliver concrete new endeavors and partnerships. A range of anchor and side events with CAS 2021 Action Themes shall also be held from around the world during the summit. House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda will be a panelist for the anchor event on Locally-Led Adaptation.

Moreover, the summit will have a significant focus on securing new investments to ensure that millions of smallholder farmers can adapt to the stresses brought by climate change on food production. The GCA has called for major new funding for agricultural research, expanded access to farmer advisory services, as well as expanded access to risk management and financial services.

The GCA was launched in 2018 with the mandate to encourage the development of measures to manage the effects of climate change through technology, planning and investment. The Philippines is represented by Deputy Speaker Legarda as a commissioner.

Know more about the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 by visiting their website at <https://www.cas2021.com/>.

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

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1064534>



Group wants Biden to reverse US 'ecological injustices' to PH

Published January 21, 2021, 7:06 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

A local environmental group on Thursday urged US President Joe Biden to start holding to account the United States in its ecological and climate injustices to the Philippines within the first 100 days of his presidency through the "Global People's Green New Deal."



Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment said the new deal should function as an unconditional just compensation mechanism to aid the recovery of the Philippines from the accumulated damages brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change-amplified typhoon and flood disasters from super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) to typhoon Ulysses (Vamco).

"We pose the 10-point Planetary Emergency Initiative agenda to the Biden administration as a comprehensive framework for accountability of the US as a top polluter country to compensate for losses and damages from the Philippines' long-standing climate and ecological crises," the group said.

Kalikasan also urged the Biden-Harris government to start addressing the elephant in the global climate talks room—the US Military Industrial Complex.

"POTUS 46 must address the carbon emissions of the US Military, which between 2001 and 2017 has emitted around 1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases, approximately equivalent to emissions of a roundtrip travel from Manila to Baguio 9.8 billion times," the environment group said.

"In his first 100 days as President of the United States, Biden should take the steps in abrogating lopsided military deals, treaties, and agreements, such as the Mutual Defense Treaty, Visiting Forces Agreement, and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement," it added.

Kalikasan noted that these deals have only created more destruction to the ecological system of the Philippines, especially during military exercises. "It is because of these agreements that incidents like the grounding of a US Navy Minesweeper in the Tubbataha Reef Natural Park occur and are insufficiently compensated," it said.

"In these crucial first 100 days, we join the American people in holding the Biden-Harris administration to their electoral promises of climate justice and a push back against the social cancer that is Trumpism. From the Black Lives Matter protests to the Global Climate Strikes, we must continue waging democracy in the parliament of the streets," Kalikasan said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/21/group-wants-biden-to-reverse-us-ecological-injustices-to-ph/>



Transformation programs: A must in making sustainability happen

By [Rene E. Ofreneo](#)
January 21, 2021



IN updating the Philippines' "Nationally Determined Contributions" under the Paris Agreement, the Climate Change Commission will be doing the country a great service if it develops the NDCs into a truly "transformative" climate change action program. The CCC should also ask each government agency to come up with a concrete, measurable and time-bound implementing program on how to meet the agency's climate change adaptation/mitigation target or goal. Without such a program, the CCC's system of "tagging" various government programs as climate-change-responsive is meaningless.

The point is that the government should go beyond making routine rhetorical statements on climate change mitigation, adaptation and adjustment, if these are not backed up by clear, doable and fully-budgeted programs of action. Remember the Neda declaration after the Yolanda disaster in 2013—Build Back Better, to enable the country to manage future climate-related calamities better. One policy response under this BBB program is the launching of the National Greening Program with an ambitious goal of planting over 1.5 billion trees. The NGP was further "enhanced" under the Duterte administration. And yet, when Ulysses came in November last year, we saw the deteriorating forest landscape: forest lands without forests. The NGP and its enhanced version have failed to deliver reforestation. In short, there is a huge gap between rhetorics on resiliency building and actual accomplishments in environmental renewal and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The gap is also illustrated in another major area of economic life, energy development. In 2008, the government enacted the Renewable Energy Act for the purpose of accelerating the utilization of renewable energy and reducing Philippine dependence on dirty carbon-emitting fossil fuel, which accounts for almost 10 percent of the country's imports. But what has been happening? A study by Engineer Jose Logarta and the late Engineer Roberto Verzola (FES, 2017), shows how the explosive growth of coal and gas power industry had reduced the share of renewables from 45 percent in 1990 to 24 percent in 2016. This happened despite the global trend in favor of the renewables and the reality that renewables such as solar have become cheaper compared to coal and gas.

Last year, the DOE announced a moratorium on the development of new coal plants. Fine. However, it was silent on whether it will phase out the existing coal plants, old and new, that will enlarge the share of coal (once the big new coal plants come on stream) and make the country dependent on coal until the 2030s and beyond.

Relatedly, the DOE has been pushing for incentives for those investing on natural gas development, including the establishment of terminals and pipelines around the country. With the Malampaya gas field drying up, natural gas, like most of the coal consumed locally, shall come in as expensive imports. And like coal, the "cleaner" natural gas is also GHG-emitting. Where then is the resolve to go renewable and green?



Clearly, the challenge to the CCC and other government advocates of greening is to give life to the feel-good rhetorics on mitigation and adaptation by walking the talk. The CCC and other agencies should also give special attention to the situation of the poor. The CCC lists “poverty reduction” under the “non-negotiable elements” of the NDC program. But this is not fleshed out. As it is, we have seen how in the name of environmental renewal, the poor are further marginalized. This is clearly illustrated in the failure of the DOTR to come up with a “just transition” program for the poor jeepney drivers and operators, who have been asked to switch to the expensive e-jeepney models sans any realistic program of assistance. Incidentally, there are no clear strategies in the CCC presentation of the NDC during the CCC-CSO consultation meeting last December on how climate adaptation and mitigation measures can benefit the poor first and foremost.

If the CCC has difficulty imagining how the NDC can be strategized in support of poverty reduction, it can link the program on disaster risk reduction and resilience building to the attainment of the UN sustainable development goals, SDG by SDG. For example, on SDG 1 (end poverty in all its forms), the primary target of DRRM and resilience building programs should be the impoverished communities, such as developing programs on how to preserve jobs and livelihoods, how to strengthen the poor’s access to social protection and basic services, how to fortify whole communities against climate risks, etc. The Covid pandemic magnified these problems, especially the lack of social assistance and empowerment programs for the informals and their communities. The government response to the Covid pandemic last year also shows weak appreciation by government officials of the situation of the poor as reflected in the exclusion of many poor who are not listed as beneficiaries of the limited amelioration assistance. There is no safety nets for the displaced who lost jobs and livelihoods. A holistic DRRM program for the poor is in order.

The CCC can relate each SDG to the NDC by formulating transformative policy to meet the adaptation and sustainability challenge in poor communities, for example the promotion of sustainable agriculture as guided by geo-hazard mapping and scientific organic agricultural practices as well as by socio-economic reforms such agrarian reform, agricultural credit reform, etc. This shall fall under SDG 2 on food security and ending hunger.

SDG 3 is on health for all. One way of achieving this for the poor is building fully-funded primary health-care facilities in each barangay in accordance with the vision of the 1978 Alma-Ata WHO Declaration on Health for All.

The point is that the CCC and other government agencies will have their hands full formulating programs reducing poverty that are intertwined with the battle against climate change. These programs should go beyond the level of rhetorics. They should be clear, doable and time-bound pro-people transformation programs, complete with just transition programs for those adversely affected. And yes, they should involve the poor, meaning they are not only informed and consulted but also engaged as partners in the formulation and implementation of various mitigation and adaptation programs.

For inquiries, please e-mail reneofreneo@gmail.com.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/21/transformation-programs-a-must-in-making-sustainability-happen/>



PSA report bares poor human-waste disposal practice in parts of Metro Manila, Calabarzon areas

By [Cai Ordinario](#) January 19, 2021



In this file photo: A family walks past rows of houses built on the sidewalk next to the Pasig River.

Despite rapid urbanization, regions such as Metro Manila and Calabarzon still have areas where open defecation occurs, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Based on the results of the 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS), while Metro Manila and Calabarzon have the least number of cases of open defecation, there are still less than 25 cases recorded in these regions.

PSA said open defecation refers to the disposal of human feces in fields, forests, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches or other open spaces, or with solid waste.

"Urban [80.9 percent] and rural [79.9 percent] areas had almost similar proportions of families with access to basic sanitation facilities," PSA added.

"The number of rural residents with families practicing open defecation [5.6 percent] is higher than that of urban residents [1.6 percent]," PSA added.

Overall, based on the APIS, of the 25.848 million families nationwide, around 3.3 percent still endure open defecation.

The highest incidence nationwide is recorded in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Barmm) where 19.6 percent of the 683,000 families who still resort to open defecation.

This is followed by Western Visayas where 11.1 percent of the 1.907 million families in the region still do not have proper sanitation facilities inducing them to resort to open defecation.

Meanwhile, data also showed that basic sanitation facilities in Metro Manila are enjoyed by 79 percent of the 3.449 million families in the region in 2020. This is less than the 79.8 percent recorded in the 2019 APIS.

Data also showed that limited sanitation facilities, covered 19.4 percent and unimproved sanitation facilities at 1.5 percent. In 2019, while limited sanitation was at 14.9 percent and unimproved facilities at 4.9 percent.

For Calabarzon, basic sanitation facilities covered 87.4 percent of the 3.97 million families in the region. This is lower than the 88.7 percent recorded in 2019.

In terms of limited sanitation facilities, this covered 10.9 percent and unimproved sanitation facilities at 1 percent. In 2019, limited sanitation was at 8.4 percent while unimproved facilities, 1.7 percent.



The PSA said improved sanitation facilities are those designed to hygienically separate excreta from human contact. These include wet and dry sanitation technologies.

Wet sanitation technologies include flush and pour flush toilets connecting to sewers, septic tanks or pit latrines while dry technologies include ventilated improved pit latrines; pit latrines with slabs; or composting toilets.

Basic sanitation facilities include the use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households, while limited facilities mean the use of improved facilities shared between two or more households.

PSA said unimproved sanitation facilities means using pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines or bucket latrines.

Image credits: [Bernard Testa](#)



Bahagi ng Montalban Islamic Cemetery natabunan ng lupa mula sa landfill project

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 21 2021 10:17 PM



Nabulaga ang ilang pamilya nang dumalaw sila sa Montalban Islamic Cemetery dahil imbes na puntod ng kanilang mga kaanak, lupa ang tumambad sa kanila matapos itong gawing landfill site. Nagpa-Patrol, Raya Capulong. TV Patrol, Huwebes, 21 Enero 2021

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/01/21/21/bahagi-ng-montalban-islamic-cemetery-natabunan-ng-lupa-mula-sa-landfill-project?fbclid=IwAR2ucceW8mCrl6fV7w6g8IN_1xKmneHMJcP0mpG5LICeLtQzH_4XHnIa148



People wear face masks as they cross Macapagal Blvd. corner EDSA ext in Pasay City on January 18, 2021

The STAR/Michael Varcas

Philippines logs 1,783 new COVID-19 cases as total hits 507,717

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - January 21, 2021 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — Coronavirus cases in the Philippines increased to 507,717 Thursday after the Department of Health recorded 1,783 additional infections.

Of the total confirmed cases, 30,126 or 5.9% are active cases.

Recoveries reached 467,475 after 500 more people were cleared of the virus.

Meanwhile, the death toll increased by 74 to 10,116.

Where most cases were reported

- Quezon City (general community quarantine) – 99
- Rizal (modified GCQ) – 83
- City of Manila (GCQ) – 78
- Bulacan (MGCQ) – 69
- Cavite (MGCQ) – 66

What's new today?

- The Philippines received confirmation of its [participation in the COVAX facility](#), which will enable the early rollout of COVID-19 jabs in the country. Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez said the Philippines could receive between 30 and 40 million free vaccines from the COVAX facility.
- [India's Bharat Biotech](#) submitted an application for the emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine in the Philippines. The pre-evaluation of the application is "ongoing," the country's Food and Drug Administration said.
- The DOH would recommend to the government's coronavirus task force the proposal of requiring inbound travelers to undergo [another COVID-19 testing](#) five days after their arrival in the country. This is to ensure the detection of possible infections before Filipinos coming home from abroad return to their communities.

PH gets 40m more doses

Vaccine czar: First deliveries from Pfizer slated in first quarter

posted January 22, 2021 at 01:40 am

by [Willie Casas and Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

The Philippines will begin receiving COVID-19 vaccines in the first quarter this year through the COVAX Facility, a global procurement system that seeks to ensure that poorer nations have access to coronavirus vaccines.



The country received its confirmation of participation in the COVAX Facility, paving the way for it to begin receiving vaccines in the first quarter. The country can expect to receive 30 million to 40 million doses from the COVAX Facility, said vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr.

He added that the first deliveries would probably be vaccines from Pfizer.

As part of the preparations for the COVID-19 vaccine deployment, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and Galvez visited three cold storages that can be used in the first wave of the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out. These were the First Pioneer Distribution Center of Unilab in Biñan City, Laguna, the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Muntinlupa City and the Zuellig Pharma Corp. in Parañaque City.

Unilab officials said their cold storage facility has a temperature range of +2 to +8 °C and can store a maximum of 5 million doses of vaccines. Zuellig Pharma reported that its facilities can accommodate pharmaceutical products with temperature requirements ranging between -80°C to +25 °C. Zuellig further noted that its +2 to +8 °C cold rooms can store up to 629 million doses in various warehouses, its -15 to -25 °C walk-in freezers can hold up to 40 million doses, and its 14 ultra-cold freezers with -80 to -70 °C temperature range have the capacity to store up to 6.5 million doses.

“The vaccine cluster, on behalf of the government, is grateful to Unilab and Zuellig Pharma for partnering with the government in further strengthening the country’s capacity to curb the pandemic. We also express our commitment to ensure continued support for RITM in its preparations to receive vaccines,” Galvez said.

RITM Director Dr. Celia Carlos revealed that RITM currently has four cold rooms with a +2 to +8 °C temperature range, one -20 °C walk-in freezer, and two borrowed ultra-low temperature freezers with a -70 to -80 °C temperature range. RITM has committed its ultra-low temperature storage facility.

Duque said the vaccine cluster is also in talks with third-party logistics providers to ensure efficiency of the entire supply chain management of COVID-19 vaccines, from the receipt of vaccines from the COVAX Facility to their deployment.

“All of these preparations that we are undertaking are aimed at ensuring that the country is ready to receive, store, and mobilize the COVID-19 vaccines that will come from the COVAX Facility,” he said.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III, meanwhile, said Galvez assured the senators there will be no overpricing in the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines.

Sotto and Senators Panfilo Lacson and Ronald dela Rosa met with Galvez Wednesday night.

Galvez also guaranteed that all payments for the vaccines will go directly to the pharmaceutical companies from the lending institution, which will also set in place proper safeguards, Sotto said.



He said he was satisfied by Galvez's assurances and realized he was obligated to keep silent at this stage on the vaccine prices.

"We were able to see all the necessary documents and proposed agreements. Indeed there are non-disclosure agreements mandated by the pharmaceutical companies internationally. I will inform our colleagues on the important facts ASAP," he said.

He said the Senate inquiry into the government's COVID-19 vaccination program will still resume Friday.

"The hearing will push through and hopefully we will be able to elicit enough information to be able to convince our countrymen that the vaccines no matter what brand will be necessary for us to defeat the virus," Sotto said. Lacson said Galvez's briefing addressed some of the concerns raised by the senators.

"We advised him to explain in tomorrow's hearing the same way that he did last night, without violating the terms of the agreement with the vaccine suppliers," Lacson said.

"On our part, we committed to honor and respect those terms so as not to jeopardize the deliveries of the vaccines that he said will start within the first quarter of this year," he added.

Lacson, who had earlier questioned the pricing of vaccines from China, said he had no doubts about Galvez's integrity "and his sincerity to accomplish his task."

In other developments:

* Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the Department of Health is seeking the advice of experts in obstetrics and gynecology on the vaccination of pregnant women. In an interview on GMA News' Unang Balita, she said the World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend vaccinating pregnant women in its recommendations for the emergency use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines.

* The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Thursday confirmed that Bharat Biotech from India has applied for emergency use authorization (EUA) in the Philippines for its COVID-19 vaccine. The World Health Organization said Bharat Biotech is developing an inactivated virus vaccine that comes in 2 doses. Bharat Biotech has advised those with weak immunity, allergies and bleeding disorders not to take the vaccine.

* The Bureau of Customs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport has begun preparations to facilitate the entry of approved COVID-19 vaccines into the country. Port of NAIA district collector Carmelita Talusan said they have started coordinating with concerned government offices, private facilities and regulatory agencies to expedite the release of the vaccine shipments upon their arrival.

* To help ensure the effective and efficient rollout of the country's vaccination program, Senator Pia S. Cayetano yesterday proposed to establish a Vaccine Passport Program that will help the government keep track of every Filipino's record of inoculations against COVID-19. The senator filed Wednesday Senate Bill No. 1999 or the "Vaccine Passport Program Act," which seeks to provide a vaccine passport to all Filipinos.



EDITORIAL - House-to-house vaccination

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 21, 2021 - 12:00am



Maganda ang balak ng Department of Health (DOH) na house-to-house vaccination sa mga matatanda at may mga kapansanan. Pero dapat maging maingat ang DOH ukol dito lalo pa at may napabalitang mga namatay na matatanda sa Norway makaraang mabakunahan. Inalam pa ang pangyayaring ito kung ang bakunang itinurok ang sanhi ng pagkamatay ng mga matatanda na sa unang report ay may mga dati nang sakit at nasa home for the aged. Pfizer ang ginamit na bakuna sa mga matatanda.

Inihayag ni DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III nang dumalo sa pagding ng House Committee on Health na bahagi ng kanilang plano ang pagbahay-bahay na pagbabakuna para sa mga taong walang kakayahang magtungo sa mga itinakdang vaccination centers. Kabilang nga sa mga ito ang mga matatanda at person with disabilities (PWDs) at iba pa na lubhang delikado na kung magtutungo pa sa vaccination centers sapagkat maaaring mahawa ng virus. Ang mga matatanda ay madaling dapuan ng sakit.

Maganda ang balak na ito sa mga matatanda at may kapansanan. Tinatayang may 10 milyong senior citizens sa bansa ang mababakunahan kapag dumating na sa bansa ang bakuna. Ayon kay Duque, maaaring sa Marso ay dumating na ang inaasam na bakuna at tuluy-tuloy na ang pagbibigay nito sa mamamayan. Hindi naman binanggiti ni Duque kung anong bakuna ang gagamitin sa mamamayan. Una nang sinabi ni vaccine czar Garlito Galvez Jr. na nakipag-deal na ang pamahalaan sa Pfizer at hinihintay na lamang ang approval. Nang dumalo sa Senate probe, sinabi ni Galvez na ang deal sa Sinovac ay hindi pa pinal at maaari pang ma-scraped. Ang mga local government units (LGUs) naman na may kakayahang bumili ng vaccine ay may kanya-kanya nang order. Karamihan sa LGUs ay nakipag-deal sa AstraZeneca.

Magandang marinig na may mga nilalatag nang plano ang DOH para sa vaccinatin program. Mas makabubuti kung sisimulan na rin ng DOH ang pagbibigay ng sapat na inpormasyon sa publiko na may kinalaman sa bakuna para maiwasang matakot o mangamba. Ang maliwanag na pagbibigay ng kaalaman sa mamamayan sa panahong ito kaugnay sa bakuna ay lubhang mahalaga. Hindi maiaalis na may matakot sa bakuna sapagkat sariwa pa sa alaala ang kontrobersiya sa Dengvaxia na mga bata ang sinasabing biktima.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2021/01/21/2071843/editorial-house-house-vaccination/amp/>



BREAKING: Magnitude 7.1 quake rattles Mindanao seas; Intensity V felt in GenSan

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:04 PM January 21, 2021



Update

MANILA, Philippines — A 7.1 magnitude quake jolted a large part of Mindanao and was felt as far as Zamboanga City at 8:23 p.m. Thursday, sending people out of houses and buildings here, most of them not wearing their face masks.

A bulletin from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) disclosed that the epicenter of the quake was traced at 231 kilometers southeast of Jose Abad Santos town in Davao Occidental.

The quake, which was tectonic in origin and had a depth of focus of 116 kilometers, came more than a year after the series of destructive quakes that displaced thousands in Mindanao from October to December 2019.

Intensity V was recorded in General Santos City, Intensity IV in Davao City, and Intensity II in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, it added.

Other Instrumental Intensities were also felt in the following:

Intensity V:

Kiamba, Sarangani

Intensity IV:

General Santos

Alabel, Sarangani

Koronadal City, South Cotabato

Intensity III:

Kidapawan City

Bislig City, Surigao del Sur

Gingoog, Misamis Oriental

Intensity II:

Cagayan de Oro City

Surigao City, Surigao del Norte

Borongon City, Eastern Samar

Intensity I:

Catbalogan City, Samar



Entire Mindanao shook

“Almost the entire Mindanao shook after almost five seconds of tremor,” said Engr. Allan Rommel Labayog, analyst of Phivolcs in Zamboanga City, where the quake was felt at Intensity 3.

The quake was felt at Intensity 5 in General Santos City and Kiamba; at Intensity 4 in Davao City, Alabel, Koronadal, Sarangani; and at Intensity 3 in Gingoog, Misamis Oriental and Bislig, Surigao del Sur, aside from Zamboanga City.

“(There are n)o reported damages but we are expecting aftershocks,” Labayog said. **With reports from Julie Alipala, Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao**

This is a developing story, please refresh for updates.

KGA and ac



Delubyo tumama sa Davao Occidental sa magnitude 7.1 na lindol



January 21, 2021 @ 9:00 PM 9 hours ago

DAVAO OCCIDENTAL – Niyanig ng magnitude 7.1 na lindol ang Davao Occidental, Huwebes, ayon sa Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

Tectonic ang origin ng lindol na yumanig bandang alas-8:23 ng gabi an may lalim na 111 kilometers.

Naitala ang epicentre ng lindol sa layong 05.02°N, 127.66°E – 244 km S 66° E ng bayan ng Jose Abad Santos sa Davao Occidental.

Wala namang itiniaas na tsunami alert ang PHIVOLCS.

“Malalim po ‘yong lindol. Wala pong tsunami na mangyayari” ani Philvolcs director Renato Solidum sa interbyu sa Super Radyo.

“Major earthquake ito pero malalim kaya hindi naman ito magiging damaging talaga sa ating mga infrastructure dahil malayo-layo na rin,” dagdag pa ni Solidum.

Naramdaman naman ang Intensity V sa General Santos City, habang Intensity IV sa Davao City.

Intensity II sa Bisig City at Surigao del Sur.

Intensity V – Kiamba, Sarangani

Intensity IV – General Santos; Alabel, Sarangani; Koronadal City, South Cotabato

Intensity III – Kidapawan City sa Bislig, Surigao del Sur; Gingoog City sa Misamis Oriental

Intensity II – Cagayan de Oro; Surigao, Surigao del Norte; Borongan, Eastern Samar

Intensity I – Catbalogan, Samar

RNT

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/delubyo-tumama-sa-davao-occidental-sa-magnitude-7-1-na-lindol/>



On Day One, Biden to undo Trump policies on climate, virus

By [The Associated Press](#)

January 21, 2021



President-elect Joe Biden and his wife Jill Biden arrive at the East Front of the U.S. Capitol ahead of Biden's inauguration, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

In his first hours as president, Joe Biden will aim to strike at the heart of President Donald Trump's policy legacy, signing [a series of executive actions](#) that will reverse his predecessor's orders on immigration, climate change and handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Biden on Wednesday planned to halt construction on Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall, end the ban on travel from some Muslim-majority countries, rejoin [the Paris Climate Accord](#) and [the World Health Organization](#) and revoke the approval of [the Keystone XL oil pipeline](#), aides said. The new president will sign the orders almost immediately after [taking the oath of office at the Capitol](#), pivoting quickly from his pared-down inauguration ceremony to enacting his agenda.

The 15 executive actions are an attempt to essentially rewind the last four years of federal policies with striking speed. Only two recent presidents signed executive actions on their first day in office — and each signed just one. But Biden, facing the debilitating [coronavirus pandemic](#), is intent on demonstrating a sense of urgency and competence that he argues has been missing under his predecessor.

"I think the most important thing to say is that tomorrow starts a new day," said Jeff Zients, Biden's choice to lead a new White House office that will coordinate the federal government's revamped response to the pandemic.

Biden started Inauguration Day by signaling he would seek a return to the Washington traditions and normalcy his predecessor upended.

As Trump, who declined to attend the inauguration, left from Washington in the morning, Biden and his family made their way to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, the historic church where John F. Kennedy's funeral Mass was held. Biden was joined by Democratic and Republican congressional leaders for the service, a nod to the bipartisanship he hopes to inspire in the fight against the pandemic.

Biden's top priority is getting a grip on the pandemic, which reached another grim milestone on Tuesday when the U.S. surpassed 400,000 virus deaths. The coronavirus order includes calls for putting in place a mask mandate on federal property and extending the federal eviction freeze.

It also restores the White House's National Security Council directorate for global health security and defense to focus on domestic and global biological threats.

Biden's first actions reach well beyond the health crisis. He intends to order a review of all Trump regulations and executive actions that are deemed damaging to the environment or public health. He will order federal agencies to prioritize racial equity and review policies that reenforce [systemic racism](#). He will revoke a Trump order that sought to exclude noncitizens from the census and will order federal employees to take an ethics pledge that commits them to upholding the independence of the Justice Department.



His orders also seek to fortify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, a signature effort during the Obama administration that provided hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants protection from deportation and a pathway to citizenship.

Susan Rice, Biden's incoming domestic policy adviser, said the new president would also revoke the just-issued report of Trump's "1776 Commission" to promote "patriotic education."

These actions will be followed by dozens more in the next 10 days, aides said, as Biden looks to redirect the country without having to go through a Senate that Democrats control by the narrowest margin.

Notably, the opening actions did not include immediate steps to rejoin the Iran nuclear accord, which [Trump abandoned](#) and Biden has pledged to reimplement. Jen Psaki, the incoming White House press secretary, said that while they were not included in Biden's Day One orders, the new president will in the coming days revoke the Pentagon's ban on military service by transgender Americans as well as the so-called Mexico City policy, which bans U.S. funding for international organizations that perform or refer women for abortion services.

In another effort to signal a return to pre-Trump times, Psaki said she would hold a news briefing late Wednesday in a symbol of the administration's commitment to transparency. Trump's White House had all but abandoned the practice of briefing reporters daily.

Biden will sign the actions during his first visit to the Oval Office in four years. Since then, presidential order actions were often marked by clumsy announcements and confusion. In their first days in office, Trump's team was forced to rewrite executive orders by court order and aides took days to figure out how to use the White House intercom to alert press about events. The repeatedly canceled plans to hype new building programs — dubbed "Infrastructure week" — became a national punchline. Biden aides, by contrast, are aiming to demonstrate they are prepared for the job right out of the gate.

Biden senior aides, led by deputy chief of staff Bruce Reed and campaign policy chief Stef Feldman, began plotting out the executive action plans in November, just days after Biden won the presidency and drafting began in December. The final documents were reviewed by career staff at the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel in recent weeks before Biden's swearing-in to ensure they would pass legal muster.

Aides were due to begin entering the White House complex at the stroke of noon — when Biden officially assumes the office — to begin overseeing national security roles. The urgency was hastened by concerns about security around the inauguration after the U.S. Capitol insurrection.

COVID-19 restrictions, along with tight security surrounding the Inauguration were severely curtailing the number of aides in Biden's West Wing. Aides, one official said, were told to pack snacks to eat in their offices because of pandemic protocols.

Image credits: [Jim Lo Scalzo/Pool Photo via AP](#)



Biden signs 17 orders in sweeping erasure of Trump acts

January 21, 2021, 5:06 pm



Newly-installed US President Joseph "Joe" Biden (Anadolu)

WASHINGTON – US President Joe Biden signed off Wednesday on 17 executive orders aimed at undoing much of his predecessor's legacy on policies that span the gamut from immigration to climate and health policy.

Biden described the efforts as "starting points" as he begins his four years in office following his inauguration at the Capitol earlier in the day, saying his policy agenda is "bold and vital."

"With the state of the nation today, I thought it's no time to waste, get to work immediately," Biden told reporters while donning a mask in the Oval Office. "There's no time to start like today."

The orders place the US on track to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord, the landmark agreement aimed at rolling back carbon emissions that former President Donald Trump chose to unilaterally exit from in a process that was finalized Nov. 4. The accord seeks to limit global warming and achieve a carbon neutral world by 2050.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres quickly welcomed Biden's action but cautioned "there is a very long way to go" before the agreement's lofty goals are met.

"The climate crisis continues to worsen and time is running out to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and build more climate-resilient societies that help to protect the most vulnerable," he said in a statement. "We look forward to the leadership of the United States in accelerating global efforts towards net zero, including by bringing forward a new nationally determined contribution with ambitious 2030 targets."

Biden also moved to have the US rejoin the World Health Organization (WHO), which Trump moved to withdraw from in July amid disagreements over the international health authority's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Guterres lauded the decision, saying it will accelerate the UN's worldwide vaccine distribution efforts and helped to unify the global response to the pandemic.

At home, Biden ordered masks to be worn and social distancing maintained on federal property as well as in interstate commerce in an effort to help stymie the virus's spread as it continues to ravage the country with over 400,000 deaths.

Predecessor's travel ban

Biden also signed an executive order, ending his predecessor's travel ban on several Muslim-majority countries, which the new administration called "discriminatory."

In the proclamation, he said the US "was built on a foundation of religious freedom and tolerance, a principle enshrined" in the country's constitution.



Trump introduced the ban in March 2017 with an executive order followed by proclamations that introduced vetting capabilities and processes, citing attempted entries of "terrorists" or "public safety threats," in a move to prevent individuals from entering the US from Muslim countries and then several other African nations.

"Our national security will be enhanced by revoking the Executive Order and Proclamations," said Biden, ordering all American embassies and consulates to resume visa processing in a manner consistent with the move.

The restrictions were "rooted in religious animus, and xenophobia," White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters at a press briefing.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) welcomed the move, calling it "an important first step toward undoing the anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant policies of the previous administration."

"It is an important fulfilment of a campaign pledge to the Muslim community and its allies," said Nihad Awad, head of the nation's largest Muslim civil rights organization.

Biden signed just four of the 17 expected orders with journalists present, but the White House was expected to provide additional details on the others during an evening press conference. (Anadolu)



UN chief calls on Biden to propose new 'ambitious' climate target

Published January 21, 2021, 8:11 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday welcomed US President Joe Biden's decision to rejoin the Paris climate accord, but called on him to adopt an "ambitious" plan to fight global warming.



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres
(Photo by MICHAEL TEWELDE / AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

"I warmly welcome President Biden's steps to re-enter the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and join the growing coalition of governments, cities, states, businesses and people taking ambitious action to confront the climate crisis," Guterres said in a statement.

"We look forward to the leadership of United States in accelerating global efforts towards net zero, including by bringing forward a new nationally determined contribution with ambitious 2030 targets and climate finance in advance of COP26 in Glasgow later this year."

Guterres emphasized that the climate crisis "continues to worsen and time is running out to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and build more climate-resilient societies that help to protect the most vulnerable."

In a separate statement, Guterres also congratulated Washington for rejoining the World Health Organization as one of Biden's first actions as president.

Supporting the WHO is key to coordinating the global struggle against the Covid-19 pandemic, Guterres said.



Reducing air pollution 'could prevent 50,000 EU deaths'

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 06:43 PM January 21, 2021



Image: nadisja/ISTock.com via AFP Relaxnews

Limiting air pollution to levels recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) could prevent more than 50,000 deaths in Europe annually, according to research published Wednesday that called for urgent action.

The WHO estimates that air pollution kills more than seven million people each year and is one of the leading causes of sickness and absenteeism globally.

Cities, with their crowded streets and high energy use, are hotspots for illness and disease linked to air pollution.

The WHO recommends that fine particulate matter (PM2.5) not exceed 10 milligrams per cubic meter of air, averaged annually. For nitrous oxide (NO₂), the threshold not to be exceeded is 40 milligrams per cubic meter.

Wednesday's study, published in the *Lancet Planetary Health* journal, estimated the premature death burden due to these two pollutants in nearly 1,000 cities across Europe. It found that reducing PM2.5 and nitrous oxide to safe WHO levels could prevent 51,213 premature deaths each year.

Nearly 125,000 deaths annually could be saved if air pollution levels were reduced to the lowest recorded in the study, its authors said.

Mark Nieuwenhuijsen of the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) said the research "proves that many cities are still not doing enough to tackle air pollution."

"Levels above WHO guidelines are leading to unnecessary deaths," he said.

Using city-specific data on air pollution models combined with mortality figures, the researchers formed a "mortality burden score" ranking individual cities from best to worst. Deaths due to air pollution varied widely, with nitrous oxide levels in Madrid, for example, responsible for 7% of annual deaths there.

Cities in the Po-Valley region of northern Italy, Poland, and the Czech Republic were the highest in mortality burden, with the Italian cities of Brescia, Bergamo and Vicenza all within the top five for PM2.5 concentrations.



Those with the lowest mortality burden included Tromso in Norway, Umea in Sweden and Oulu in Finland, as well as the Icelandic capital Reykjavik.

On average, 84% of the population in cities studied were exposed to PM2.5 levels above the WHO guideline.

Nine percent were exposed to higher-than-recommended nitrous oxide levels, the study found.

Sasha Khomenko, study co-author from ISGlobal, said that it was important to implement local emissions reductions measures in light of the high variability in mortality linked to poor air.

“We need an urgent change from private motorised traffic to public and active transportation (and) a reduction of emissions from industry, airports and ports,” she said.

Khomenko also said a ban on domestic wood and coal burning would help heavily polluted cities in central Europe, and called for more trees and green spaces in urban areas. **JB**

22 JANUARY 2021, FRIDAY



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8 araw na siya nanatili sa Manila Bay Walk dahil hinakaw ang kanyang gamit at Pera. Humingi siya

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