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DENR Supports Calls for Bicycle Law

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) supports the call to promote bicycle riding in the country to keep cyclists safe while on the road

by [Village Connect](#) about 13 hours ago



DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said that the use of a bicycle “is not only good for the health of the cyclist but also for other people and the environment.”

“This pandemic has taught each and every one of us a lot of lessons in life, especially in the way we conduct our daily business. Taking care of our environment is also taking care of our health,” Cimatu said.

“This proposal for the use of bicycles should be supported as it has become an alternative mode of transportation that is efficient and emission-free not only here in our country but also elsewhere around the world,” he added.

Data from the DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) showed a significant decrease of 39% monthly average concentration of Total Suspended Particulates (TSP) from the Air Quality Monitoring Stations of EMB National Capital Region for the period March 2020 to April 2021. TSP refers to particles ranging in size from 0.1 micrometer to about 30 micrometers in diameter.

However, from March 2020 to April 2021, the monthly average concentration of PM (particulate matter) 10 increased by 43%. On the other hand, the monthly average concentration of PM 2.5 also increased by 5%. EMB attributes this to the motor vehicle emissions in Metro Manila, since there are still private and public transport vehicles on the roads.

PM 10 is 10 micrometers and smaller in diameter such as dust, pollen and mold. PM 2.5 is 2.5 micrometers or smaller in diameter from soot, smoke, metals, chemicals, dust and other elements that can easily be breached and are usually associated with respiratory illnesses.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns Benny D. Antiporda pointed out that while Congress has yet to pass a law on the safety of cycling in the country, he hopes that LGUs would pass ordinances designating bicycle lanes in the localities to ensure cyclists safety.

“It’s high time that we enact a bicycle law to protect our commuters. With the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our people have now been traveling using their bicycles on their way to work, and it is only right to assure them of their safety while traveling,” he said.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Proclamation No. 1052 in November 2020 designating a “National Bicycle Day” to be observed every 4th Sunday of November to promote the environmental benefits of bicycles.



Under the proclamation, the DENR is tasked to enjoin other national and local government agencies, including LGUs and the private sector, to participate and support the implementation of the national bicycle proclamation.

Antiporda is also the Supervising Undersecretary for Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service wherein this office played a crucial role in lobbying for champion to institutionalize this activity to become a national movement.

Since battling COVID-19 for over a month, Antiporda said cycling has been one of his activities to boost his immune system. He also suggested to other people to try cycling as the air outdoors is less risky than being inside any enclosed space.

“Using this mode of transportation not only helps in improving the health and well-being of the public, but also ensures a sustainable, clean and healthy environment,” he noted.

Senate and House leaders have called for the use of bicycles and the safety of cyclists, the most recent of which was House Bill 8156 authored by Las Pinas Rep. Camille Villar which seeks to provide bicycle lanes in all main roads and highways.



Bicycle Law suportado ng DENR



May 21, 2021 @ 4:38 PM 13 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Dahil sa kakulangan ng transportasyon dulot ng pandemya, nakita ang kalahagahan ng bisikleta kung kaya't suportado ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang panawagan na itaguyod ang pagbibisikleta sa bansa upang maging ligtas ang mga siklista habang nasa kalsada.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang paggamit ng bisikleta ay hindi lamang maganda sa katawan ng siklista bagkus ay mainam din ito maging sa ibang tao at kapaligiran.

“This pandemic has taught each and every one of us a lot of lessons in life, especially in the way we conduct our daily business. Taking care of our environment is also taking care of our health,” sabi ni Cimatu.

“This proposal for the use of bicycles should be supported as it has become an alternative mode transportation that is efficient and emission-free not only here in our country but also elsewhere around the world,” dagdag pa nito.

Sa isang press release sinabi ng DENR batay sa datos ng DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), naitala ang “significant decrease of 39% monthly average concentration” ng Total Suspended Particulates (TSP) mula sa Air Quality Monitoring Stations ng EMB NCR mula noong Marso 2020 hanggang Abril 2021. Ang TSP ay ang particles na may sukat na 0.1 micrometer hanggang 30 micrometers na diameter.

Samantala, mula naman noong Marso 2020 hanggang Abril 2021, ang monthly average concentration ng PM (particulate matter) 10 ay tumaas ng 43%. Ang monthly average concentration ng PM 2.5 ay tumaas din ng 5%. Ayon sa EMB ito ay dahil na rin sa motor vehicle emissions sa Metro Manila dahil mayroon pa ring pribado at pampublikong sasakyan sa kalsada.

Ayon sa DENR ang PM 10 ay may sukat na 10 micrometers o mas maliit sa diameter tulad ng dust, pollen at mold. Ang PM 2.5 ay may sukat na 2.5 micrometers o mas maliit sa diameter mula naman sa soot, smoke, metals, chemicals, dust at iba pang elemento na mas madaling nalalanghap na siyang kadalasang sanhi ng respiratory illnesses.

Binanggit ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda na habang hindi pa naipapasa ng kongreso ang batas para sa “safety of cycling in the country,” umaasa ito na magpasa ang local government units (LGUs) ng mga ordinansa na nagtatalaga ng bicycle lanes sa kanilang nasasakupan para na rin sa kaligtasan ng mga siklista.



“It’s high time that we enact a bicycle law to protect our commuters. With the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our people have now been travelling using their bicycles on their way to work, and it is only right to assure them of their safety while travelling,” aniya.

Noong Nobyembre 2020 nang lagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang Proclamation No. 1052 na nagtatalaga ng “National Bicycle Day” na ipagdiriwang tuwing ikaapat na Linggo ng Nobyembre para isulong ang environmental benefits ng bisikleta.

Idinagdag pa ng DENR sa ilalim ng proklamasyon, itinatalaga ang DENR na makipagtulungan sa local government agencies kabilang na ang LGUs at private sector na makilahok at suportahan ang implementasyon ng national bicycle proclamation.

Si Antiporda ay siya ring Supervising Undersecretary for Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service at ang kanyang tanggapan ay may mahalaga rin na ginampanan na ma-institutionalize ang gawaing ito upang maging isang pambansang pagkilos.

Simula nang makipaglaban sa COVID-19 ng mahigit isang buwan, sinabi ni Antiporda na ang pagbibisikleta ang isa sa kanyang naging gawain upang maitaas ang kanyang immune system. Iminungkahi rin nito sa ibang tao na subukan ang pagbibisikleta dahil ang hangin sa labas ay mas ligtas kumpara sa kulob na lugar.

“Using this mode of transportation not only helps in improving the health and well-being of the public, but also ensures a sustainable, clean and healthy environment,” banggit pa nito.

Nanawagan na ang mga mambabatas sa senado at kongreso sa paggamit ng bisikleta at sa kaligtasan ng mga siklista. Ang isa rito ay ang House Bill 8156 na iniakda ni Las Piñas Rep. Camille Villar na layon na magtalaga ng bicycle lanes sa lahat ng pangunahing kalye at highways. **Santi Celario**



Cimatu backs bike riding; QC sets rider listup program

posted May 21, 2021 at 09:20 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Friday backed calls to promote bicycle riding and keep cyclists safe while on the road. He said the use of a bicycle “is not only good for the health of the cyclist but also for other people and the environment.”

“This pandemic has taught each and every one of us a lot of lessons in life, especially in the way we conduct our daily business. Taking care of our environment is also taking care of our health,” he said.

“This proposal for the use of bicycles should be supported as it has become an alternative mode of transportation that is efficient and emission-free not only here in our country but also elsewhere around the world,” he added.

Also, to ensure the safety of bike riders and other active transport users in Quezon City, Mayor Joy Belmonte on Friday launched a voluntary bike registration program.

She urged bicycle-riding groups and other active transport users to register their bikes through the program.

“As an advocate of active transportation, I encourage bikers and bike riding groups to register their bicycles through this program for us to be able to assist them and ensure their safety,” she said.

Based on the data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Environmental Management Bureau, there was a significant decrease of 39 percent in the monthly average concentration of total suspended particulates (TSP) from the air quality monitoring stations in Metro Manila from March 2020 to April 2021.

From March 2020 to April 2021, the monthly average concentration of particulate matter 10 increased by 43 percent.

The monthly average concentration of PM 2.5 also increased by 5 percent.

The agency credited such observations to the motor vehicle emissions in the National Capital Region due to private and public transport vehicles on the roads.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda cited while the House of Representatives has yet to pass a law on the safety of cycling, local government units must pass measures designating bike lanes to ensure cyclists safety.

“It’s high time that we enact a bicycle law to protect our commuters. With the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our people have now been travelling using their bicycles on their way to work, and it is only right to assure them of their safety while travelling,” he said.

Belmonte said: “I hope that through this bike registration program, more residents will be inspired to take alternative transportation because they can be assured of their safety and security here in Quezon City.”

She tasked the Department of Public Order and Safety’s Green Transport Office to implement the program.

Ordinance SP 2988 of 2020 or the QC Safe Cycling Ordinance has paved the way to the voluntary bike registration that shall maintain all pertinent information on cyclists and active transport users for the purpose of ensuring the continuous improvement of safe cycling and active transport program.



Retired police general Elmo San Diego, DPOS chief, said the program would help bikers locate their bikes in case of loss or theft, and assist them in the event of an accident.

“The importance of this bike registration program is to help our bikers in case their bicycles cannot be located or are stolen. We can aid them, and they can avail of the assistance of the police in investigating missing bikes because the owners can readily present a certificate of ownership issued by DPOS,” he said.



Mga iligal na nangunguha ng taklobo sa Palawan, binantaan ni Cimatú



May 21, 2021 @ 5:21 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Nagbabala si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatú sa publiko na mag-ingat sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga indibidwal na nagpapanggap na scientific researchers na ang tanging hangarin ay makakuha ng giant clams para sa iligal na pagbebenta.

Sa isang press release sinabi ni Cimatú matapos makakumpiska ang Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) kasama ng concerned government agencies ng 300 piraso ng giant clams sa Johnson Island at 150 tonelada ng giant clams sa Green Island, kapwa matatagpuan sa Roxas, Palawan noong Marso at Abril, ayon sa pagkakababanggit.

“Our vast wildlife resources, especially in Palawan, considered as the country’s ‘last ecological frontier,’ should be protected with utmost responsibility from frauds. This is the reason behind the DENR’s stringent laws and policies on wildlife and its scrutiny of individuals who want to gain access or control over these species,” sabi ni Cimatú.

Kaugnay nito ayon kay PCSD Executive Director Teodoro Jose Matta, nakipagpulong siya sa isang siyentipiko na nagpakilala bilang Dr. Rosalee Tequillo na nagsasabing siya ang national facilitator ng National Redemption Program for Fossilized Giant Clams at bumibili ng giant clams para sa scientific purposes.

Paliwanag ni Matta, “there was an admission on the part of Dr. Tequillo that they were engaged in the collection and possession of giant clamshells or ‘taklobo’ (Tridacna gigas) but she was not able to prove that it was for scientific purposes. Her mention of the ‘buyer’ has inclined us to believe that it was not truly for scientific or breeding or propagation purpose.”

Aniya, wala ring naipakitang valid na dokumento si Tequillo na nagpapatunay na ang kanilang gawain ay ligal.

“She was also not able to present any document from the Office of the President (OP) about the National Redemption Program. The only evidence she presented is a document purportedly from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) National Director Commodore Eduardo Gongona which they use to justify their collection and possession of giant clam species,” sabi rin ni Matta.

Sa pamamagitan ng PCSD, naghahanda na rin ang DENR na kasuhan ang mga sangkot sa illegal trade ng giant clams sa Johnson Island at Green Island sa Roxas, Palawan dahil sa paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.



Sinabi pa ni Matta, PCSD will “remain firm in its commitment to clamp down on illegal wildlife trade in Palawan and ensure a sustainable environment for Palaweños.”

Ang PCSD ay attached agency ng DENR sa bisa ng Executive Order No. 734 series of 2008.” **Santi Celario**



Tamang pagtapon sa face masks, muling ipinaalala ng DENR sa publiko



May 21, 2021 @ 2:05 PM 16 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Muling pinaalalahanan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ang publiko hinggil sa tamang pagtatapon ng personal protective equipment partikular na ang ginamit na facemask.

Ang paalala ay sinabi ni Antiporda sa ginanap na virtual media forum na “Report to the Nation” ng National Press Club of the Philippines (NPC) kung saan umapela ito sa mga lokal na pamahalaan lalo na sa publiko na tulungan ang gobyerno sa tamang pagtatapon ng mga nagamit na facemask.



Aniya, sa kada bahay ay maglaan ng isang plastic bag o kahit supot man lang kung saan itatapon lamang dito ang mga nagamit na facemask, lagyan ng label at ibilin ito sa mga basurero.

“Kung mapapansin niyo ngayon, wala na sa ospital ang mga hazardous waste nay an kundi nasa bahay na dahil marami po sa atin ay nagho-home quarantine. Yung ibang mild cases, nasa bahay na lang,” ani Antiporda.

Inihalimbawa naman ni Antiporda ang ginagawang pag-iingat ng lokal na pamahalaang lungsod ng Quezon kung saan nag-iikot sila sa bahay-bahay ng mga COVID-9 positive patient kung saan sila mismo ang kumukuha ng kanilang mga basura at maitapon ito ng may pag-iingat upang hindi kumalat ang impeksyon.

“Hindi lamang po airborne ang virus, kundi pati sa facemask ay dumidikit din po yan. Pwede naman natin poi to maiwasan, konting effort lang po yan kaya’t nakikiusap ang inyong pamahalaan na tulungan ninyo po kami.” apela ni Antiporda.



Sa oras na makolekta ang mga nasabing hazardous waste ay isasailalim ito sa treatment kung saan may inilalagay na kemikal ditto bago dalhin sa special cell na nakahiwalay sa isang sanitary landfill.

Nanawagan naman si Antiporda na iwasan ang pagrerecycle ng mga nagamit na facemask dahil delikado umano ito dahil maaaring kumalat pa ang virus na nakakapit ditto.

“The main purpose of facemask is to protect us to come up with the shield against the virus, ngayon bakit natin babalikan at hahawakan na alam natin na may virus. As much as possible iwasan po natin siya,” saad ni Antiporda.

“We must conduct proper segregation, proper disposal, definitely we will save lives.” giit pa ni Antiporda. **Jay Reyes**



Charges await two Luzon mayors in open dumpsite fiasco; Antiporda reveals who they are

Published May 21, 2021, 4:03 PM

by [Elson Quismorio](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will press charges against two mayors in Luzon in connection with the operation of illegal open dumpsites.



(File photo / Office of DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda)

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda identified the two mayors as Mayor Norberto Gamboa of Sta. Ana, Pampanga; and Mayor Julio Parayno III of Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

“Expect nga po na within May, pinipilit po namin na mai-file na yung kaso ng Sta. Ana dito sa Pampanga at sa Urdaneta, Pangasinan (Expect that within May, we will press for the filing of charges regarding Sta. Ana in Pampanga and Urdaneta, Pangasinan),” Antiporda said Friday, May 21 during a virtual news forum held by the National Press Club (NPC).

Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 prohibits the existence and operations of open dumpsites in the Philippines.

Asked by the forum moderator if the mayors and subordinate officials of the local government units (LGUs) would be included on the charge sheet, Antiporda replied: “Yes. Of course. Ganun po ang gagawin natin. Lahat po kakasuhan natin (That’s what we will do. We will charge them all).”

“Panahon na po para magising tayo na ang basura ay hindi tine-take for granted (It’s about time we realize that the garbage problem shouldn’t be taken for granted),” he said.

Back in January, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu tasked Antiporda to close down all illegal open dumpsites in the country. The latter quickly went to work.

The undersecretary bared Friday that the last known operating open dumpsite in Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental had been [shut down](#).

He said that officials found in violation of RA 9003 would immediately get suspended for one year. “Tatlong taon lang po ang termino ng alkalde. Malaki mawawala sa inyong sweldo (A mayor only has a three-year term. You will have lost a huge portion of your accumulated salary),” he noted.

Antiporda said the emergence of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic last year slowed down the filing of charges against erring local executives.



“Since mayroon tayong pandemic, hindi po ganun kabilis ang aksyon po ng ating mga...counterpart agencies. Kaya medyo nade-delay po tayo dyan. Pero tuloy-tuloy po yung pagfa-file natin ng kaso (Since we’re dealing with the pandemic, our counterpart agencies incurred difficulties and delays. But rest assured that the filing of cases will continue),” said the former NPC president-turned-DENR official.



On Endangered Species Day, attention drawn to harm inflicted on PH plants, animals

By: [Cristina Eloisa Baclig](#) - Content Researcher/Writer / [@CeBacligINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:01 PM May 21, 2021



MANILA, Philippines—For several countries, including the Philippines, May 21 is Endangered Species Day, an occasion to spread awareness about plants and animals that are facing extinction as a result of human activities.

Worldwide, at least 37,400 species are at risk of disappearing, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

The Philippines, according to data by the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and National Resources (BMB-DENR), is among the world's 17 mega-diverse countries and hosts more than 52,177 known species.

Over half of these species are indigenous to the region and cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

However, despite having a "very high degree of land and animal endemism," the BMB-DENR said the Philippines is also considered as a biodiversity hotspot as the number of endangered and threatened species continues to grow due to habitat loss and abuse of animals.

On the 16th commemoration of Endangered Species Day, let's take a look at the Philippines' threatened and endangered species and what steps are being taken to protect them. PH's 'critically endangered' and 'endangered species'

The DENR considers a species critically endangered if it is "facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future."

Endangered species are those that are not critically endangered but are unlikely to survive in the wild for several reasons.

To classify species as critically endangered or endangered, the DENR follows internationally accepted criteria including:

- Destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range
- Over-utilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes
- Other natural or man-made factors harming the existence of wildlife
- Reduction in a species' population size and area of occupancy
- Reduced population and/or continuing decline in population



As of 2019, the DENR recorded a total of 60 critically endangered species. Of these, eight were mammals, 32 birds, six reptiles, one amphibian and 13 invertebrates.

Some of the critically endangered species in the Philippines on the list were:

- Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*): A small, stocky buffalo that is endemic to the Philippine island of Mindoro. According to assessment by the IUCN Red List, the species' population has been continuously decreasing since 2016. From what used to be around 10,000 in population in the 1900s, the Mindoro dwarf buffalo population has declined to 300.
- Dugong (*Dugong dugon*): Commonly known as sea cows, this grey-brown bulbous mammal with a flattened fluked tail, has no dorsal fins, with paddle-like flippers and a distinctive head shape is the first marine mammal to be legally protected in the Philippines. Aside from being occasionally hunted, dugong are often found dead on the shores after becoming entangled in fishing nets.



RUSH TO SAFETY. A pangolin and its young look for shelter in the wilds of Southern Palawan. PHOTO BY GREGG YAN

- Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*): The country's national bird and one of the rarest bird species in the world, the Philippine Eagle can be seen only in some parts of the Philippines, including Luzon, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao. Illegal logging and shooting, according to the Philippine Eagle Foundation, contribute to "Haring Ibon's" decline in numbers. Philippine Eagle Week is observed annually from June 4 to 10 under Proclamation No. 79 signed on Feb. 24, 1999, by then-President Joseph Estrada.



BIRD OF PREY. Sightings of the critically endangered Philippine eagle have been reported in several provinces in Mindanao, like Sarangani, prompting local officials to push for the protection of the island's forests, the bird of prey's habitat. PHOTO BY LYN

RILLON



THREATENED, TOO. An adult *Crocodylus mindorensis* basks in the morning sun. Photographed in 2012 on the island of Palawan in the Philippines. PHOTO BY GREGG YAN



- Philippine crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*): The population of the Philippine crocodile, also known as the Mindoro crocodile, has been decreasing since 2016. According to data by the IUCN Red List, the species' estimated population is currently 92 to 137. Some of the main threats to this species were entanglement in fish nets, hunting, and killing.

The DENR listed 61 species that are considered endangered in the Philippines. It is composed of nine mammals, 40 birds, five reptiles, one amphibian, and six invertebrates.

Some of the familiar species were:

- Clamian deer (*Axis calamianensis*): Often found in Busuanga, Calauit, Culion, Marily, and Dimaquiat Islands in Palawan, the Clamian deer have a life span of 12-20 years. However, its population began to decline due to human settlement and agricultural expansion in their habitats. Also known as "hog deers," the species is also often hunted for food.
- Palawan pangolin (*Manis culionensis*): Due to its nocturnal habits and elusiveness, there is a gap in research and knowledge about this species' current population, according to studies cited by the IUCN. The species, which is endemic in Palawan, is unfortunately heavily hunted and is used for Chinese medicine because of its scales, which are basically carotid and have no medicinal value. Palawan pangolins are considered to be two steps away from extinction as of 2019.
- In 2019, Tawilis (*Sardinella tawilis*), the only freshwater sardine in the world, has also been tagged by the IUCN as an endangered species. Threats to the survival of tawilis include "overexploitation, pollution, and competition and/or predation with introduced fishes," the IUCN said. "Overfishing, illegal use of active fishing gears such as motorized push net and ring net, proliferation of fish cages, and deterioration of water quality" are also among the threats to tawilis

Poached, threatened plant species

According to the DENR's National List of Threatened Philippine Plants and their Categories and the List of Other Wildlife Species, as of 2017 at least 400 plants are either endangered or critically endangered.

<https://nolisoli.ph/86615/plant-poaching-houseplant-denr-csanjose-20200916/>

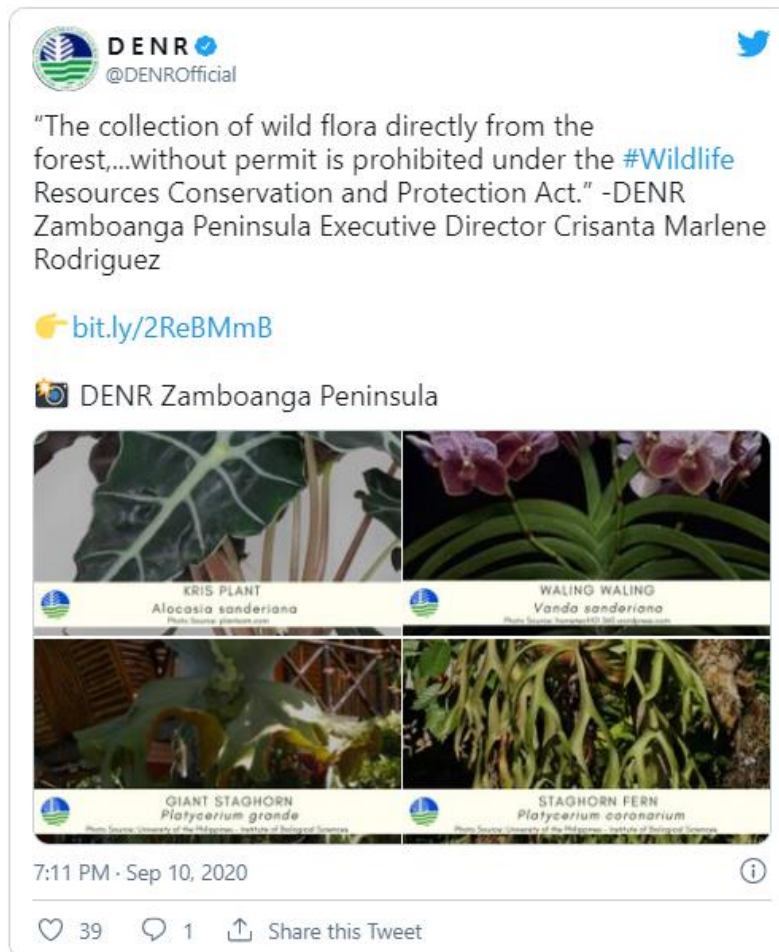
In separate Facebook and Twitter posts last year, the DENR listed 10 threatened plant species that are commonly poached or illegally uprooted in the Philippines.





Included on the list were:

- Orchids including Dendrobiums, Hoyas, Lady Slippers, Phalaenopsis, and Waling-waling.
- Ferns including Staghorns, Ant ferns, Maidenhairs, Pakpak-lawin, and Pugad-lawin.
- Medinillas
- Begonias
- Tree Ferns
- Alocacias
- Zingibers or wild gingers
- Molave for Bonsai
- Cycads
- Agarwood



Wildlife conservation efforts

In the Philippines, Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act help protect endangered species by penalizing wildlife crimes.

Under the law, “no person or entity shall be allowed possession of wildlife unless such person or entity can prove financial and technical capability and facility to maintain said wildlife.”

Violators face up to 12 years in jail and fines ranging from P100,000 to P1 million.

Last December, the House of Representatives approved a measure seeking to impose heavier penalties for the exploitation and abuse of wildlife in the country.

Under the consolidated bill, the penalties for serious offenses, like killing wildlife, are imprisonment of 12 years and one day to 20 years and a fine of P200,000 to P2 million.

The minimum punishment for minor infractions is a prison term of one month and one day, plus a fine of P20,000.



The DENR has also been active in promoting wildlife conservation—even during the pandemic. In March, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) turned over a new wildlife ambulance to the DENR to “strengthen the Philippine government’s wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts.”

Ways to help protect endangered species

The DENR has been cautioning Filipinos against collecting threatened, endangered, or critically endangered animals or plants.

The government also advised the public against supporting wildlife traffickers and those involved in the illegal trade of animals and plants.

According to the United States-based Endangered Species Coalition, there are also several other ways to protect endangered species.

Some of these were:

- Learning more about the endangered species in your area or country.
- Minimizing the use of herbicides and pesticides which are harmful pollutants that can affect wildlife.
- Reduce the use of water and avoid dumping hazardous chemicals in bodies of water that are inhabited by wildlife.
- Practice recycling and opt for sustainable products.
- Organize or participate in cleanup campaigns
- Report any wildlife crimes or harassment of threatened and endangered species

TSB



Protecting the ecosystems that protect our species and humanity

By ACB Published on May 21, 2021



Almost a third of the Asian elephant population benefit from the conservation actions at the protected areas. Photo by Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex.

LAGUNA, May 21 -- With the dangerous decline of species coupled with the devastating COVID-19 pandemic that has been linked to wildlife, the world is compelled to rethink and examine humanity's relationship with nature. The Endangered Species Day reminds us of this vital interconnection, and we hope that today's commemoration will bring further attention to the status of these important biological resources, and encourage positive actions to halt biodiversity loss.

The ASEAN region, with its rich ecosystems and favourable climates, hosts almost 20 per cent of the world's known plants and animals, yet these are disappearing at an alarming rate. In 2019, Allan, et al. reported that the ASEAN region has a "high number of species on the brink of extinction" due to various anthropogenic activities, such as large-scale land use conversion that directly affect the natural habitats of fish, bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species, thus leading to their reduced survival rates.

Rare and endemic species and large predators are often the most at risk of being classified as endangered due to threats such as hunting, poaching and illegal trade for their aesthetic or medicinal values. Some species, like the songbirds or passerines, are status symbols and therefore much-coveted by buyers and collectors all across the globe.

Wildlife trade is a lucrative business, fetching as much as USD 107 billion in 2019 for the legal transactions, while illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is said to be worth USD 7-23 billion annually, according to IPBES. With 140 out of 221 critically endangered species in the ASEAN falling prey to overharvesting for subsistence and commercial wildlife trade, the region is regarded as the "source, transit and destination markets" for wildlife species and products for both legal and illegal trade.

Despite this grim situation, efforts to slow down the alarming rate of biodiversity loss are creating small but significant dents. The fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO 5) released last year states that conservation actions have contained the extinction rate, saving between 28 and 48 species from extinction since 1993. The rate of extinction of endangered species remains high, cautions the GBO 5. However, with the ongoing efforts to protect and conserve these species, extinction rates have been reduced by an estimate of 200-400 per cent. One of these key actions is the continued protection of the ecosystems that support wildlife and the expansion of these protected areas where species conservation is ensured.



Conserving these essential ecosystems and wildlife species are among the key priorities of the ACB. In cooperation with the 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS), the ACB is supporting key areas in the region, particularly those with high conservation value and are deemed as the “cream of the crop” – the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP). The ACB’s AHP programme provides crucial support through training, provision of equipment to help in the patrolling and law enforcement in the areas, and alternative livelihood programmes to ensure these key habitats and the wildlife depending on them continue to flourish. With the combined efforts and close cooperation of the AMS and the ACB, the ASEAN now has 50 AHPs and more than 2,000 protected areas across the region, and we continue to seek ways to expand and protect more ecologically- and biologically-distinct areas.

A number of these AHPs also serve as important feeding and watering sites of migratory birds. Migratory bird species transcend geographical and political boundaries, and the ASEAN Flyway Network is another key initiative that helps facilitate regional cooperation among the AMS and various stakeholders. With the ASEAN region located at the heart of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, it is paramount that we also ensure the conservation of these ecosystems vital to the survival of migratory birds.

This 2021, the ACB along with development partners will be conducting a series of online training, webinars and meetings that aim to further develop capacities of AHPs and protected area managers and staff to monitor effectiveness and also to deepen their understanding on the various challenges such as the economics of biodiversity and the need to ensure sustainable financing for the AHPs and protected areas.

This year marks an important turning point for biodiversity and the environment. With the start of the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, as well as the finalisation of regional and global biodiversity targets in time for crucial international meetings such as the 15th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) and the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP 26), we have more opportunities to restore degraded areas, and allow endangered species populations to recover.

Species know no borders or boundaries. The ecological connectivity of our rich biodiversity means that the ASEAN shares many species, thus regional and transboundary cooperation is a necessary endeavour in protecting our wildlife. Bigger areas of interconnected ecosystems mean that we can support and conserve more wildlife populations.

Every species has a role in the ecosystem. With protection, effective management systems and good laws and governance, the threats to their existence are reduced, and the irreversible loss of species and ultimately, their extinctions are averted. Saving endangered wildlife and restoring nature to its healthy state are key measures we need to take if we want to realise our collective vision of living in harmony with nature. This, however, will require scaling up our transformative actions through a whole-of-community approach in ensuring a world for Wildlife Without Borders. (Dr. TMSLim/ACB)



41 olive ridley turtle hatchlings freed in Zamboanga del Sur



ZAMBOANGA. Personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of Ramon Magsaysay, Zamboanga del Sur has released 41 Olive ridley turtle hatchlings recently. A photo handout shows the hatchlings rushing towards the shore after they were freed in Bulanit village in Labangan town in the same province. (SunStar Zamboanga)

May 21, 2021

PERSONNEL of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of Ramon Magsaysay, Zamboanga del Sur released 41 olive ridley turtle hatchlings in the province.

Rosevirico Tan, Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional information officer, on Friday, May 21, 2021, said the turtle hatchlings were released last week at the shore of Bulanit village in Labangan town, Zamboanga del Sur.

Tan said the release of the turtle hatchlings came after Jason Placido, a resident of Bulanit village, saw the marine turtle hatching and immediately reported it to village Councilor Taha Ayunan.

In turn, Ayunan reported to the Cenro of Ramon Magsaysay for proper documentation and disposition.

Tan said information gathered that the hatchling nestled in Bulanit village on March 22.

He said the International Union for Conservation of Nature has classified olive ridley turtles as vulnerable at a global state due to multiple threats to their population.

The olive ridley sea turtle, also known commonly as the Pacific ridley sea turtle, is a species of turtle in the family Cheloniidae.

The species is the second-smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world. (SunStar Zamboanga)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1895338/Zamboanga/Local-News/41-olive-ridley-turtle-hatchlings-freed-in-Zamboanga-del-Sur>



Village chief seeks DENR assistance to probe resort project in Sum-ag



RMN Bacolod photo

[MERLINDA A. PEDROSA](#) May 21, 2021

BARANGAY Sum-ag village Chief Rodney Carmona has sought the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu to investigate the alleged ongoing beach resort project at the entrance of Sum-ag River in Bacolod City.

In his letter dated May 19, 2021 and addressed to Cimatu, Carmona said there is an ongoing beach resort project at the entrance of Sum-ag River and utilized about two or three hectares of mangrove areas on the adjacent location of Purok Mabinuligon II of Barangay Sum-ag and part of Purok Balas, Barangay Pahanocoy.

On May 19, Barangay Sum-ag officials inspected the project construction site.

Carmona said they found out that the developer was able to construct a mini wharf at the entrance of Sum-ag River using concrete boulder materials, which made the entrance narrow.

“It is clearly dangerous and it became a navigational hazard for the incoming and outgoing fishing vessel utilizing Sum-ag River as docking area,” he said.

He added the project using heavy equipment and manpower was able to illegally cut full-grown mangroves without an application or authority from the barangay, which greatly affect the living condition of the residence of Mabinuligon II and nearby areas, at the same time, depriving the growth of fishes in its breeding ground.

Carmona also submitted the petition letter of the fisherfolk association to the DENR, denouncing the beach resort development project.

Carmona said he is hopeful that the DENR will act on their complaint.



Oceana: Dolomite used to beautify Manila Bay now in the sea

By: [Ador Vincent Mayol](#) - Senior Reporter / [@inquirervisayas](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 02:00 PM May 21, 2021



Photo by Grig C. Montegrando/Philippine Daily Inquirer

CEBU CITY—A waste of people’s money.

This was how environmental lawyer Gloria Estenzo-Ramos described the government move to dump more crushed dolomite supposedly to beautify Manila Bay.

According to Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines, dumping artificial white sand on the bay is nothing but a “band-aid” solution to the problem.

Oceana, the largest international ocean conservation and advocacy organization that works to protect and restore the world’s oceans through targeted policy campaigns, has urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to immediately order the contractor to stop the dumping of new loads of crushed dolomite on the bay walk area of Manila Bay.

Ramos said the government should have been more circumspect in using its funds, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We wish the government would be responsive to the needs of our time,” she said.

“Many Filipinos are still without a vaccine (against COVID-19). And here comes the government trying to beautify Manila Bay by using crushed dolomite,” she added.

“It’s beautification against public emergency. We’re basically wasting money and remember these are the people’s money,” Ramos said.

Ramos’ call came after a fresh coat of dolomite sand was dumped on Manila Bay early this month.

According to Oceana, the dolomite dumped in the area from September to December 2020 had already been reclaimed by the sea, and from December 2020 to February 2021, the dolomite beach had eroded by at least 300 square meters.

“They are refilling it again and even extending the area,” Ramos said in a statement.

In September 2020, the University of the Philippines (UP) Marine Science Institute pointed out that the dolomite sand will only erode, given the hydrodynamic conditions of the bay.



Even on the breakwater near the bay walk area, rising sea level and larger waves during storms, made more intense by climate change, can penetrate and pound the shore where the dolomite sand was used.

“Continuously replacing the sand will be even more expensive,” the UP Marine Science Institute said.

Ramos said dumping dolomite on Manila Bay will not help solve the root of its environmental problem which is poor water quality.

She instead proposed these:

- Reduce organic and plastic pollution
- Install water treatment facilities
- Ban mangrove-cutting
- Rehabilitate degraded areas

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia earlier confirmed that the dolomite sand that was recently poured on the shores of Manila Bay was again taken from the mountains of Alcoy town, south Cebu.

Despite a ban on the domestic sale and shipment of dolomite sand from Alcoy, Garcia said she allowed the transport of 8,600 cubic meters of dolomite sand and 6,600 cubic meters of dolomite pebbles to finish the Manila Bay rehabilitation project on the request of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

She said she did not lift the cease and desist order (CDO) against the sale and shipment of dolomite in the country.

“I did not lift that (CDO),” the governor said.

“We gave an exception upon the request of Secretary Cimatu because they needed to finish the Manila Bay project,” she said.

“I won’t take part in the dolomite debate. If that was given clearance, then, we will allow. So we allowed but at a very specific volume,” she added.

Garcia earlier issued a CDO to Philippine Mining Service Corp. (PMSC) and Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC) to stop the companies from selling dolomite as a substitute for sand and gravel, which is not allowed by their permits.

TSB



Facemasks, trash found in watershed eyed as drinking water source in Davao

Published May 21, 2021 8:49pm



Used facemasks and trash have found their way into a watershed that is being eyed as a source of drinking water in Davao City, an environmental group said Wednesday.

Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) executive director Mark Peñalver said his group used to retrieve around five to six sacks of trash from the Panigan Tamugan watershed a day.

On April 30, however, the group retrieved 25 sacks of trash.

“So surface source na po ‘yung tinatap ng water district for the future drinking water of Davao City [The water district in the area is now tapping surface water as source for the future drinking water of Davao City],” Peñalver said in a report by Mark Salazar’s report on “24 Oras.”

The IDIS suspected that the sacks of trash were washed down the river by the recent flooding in the Panigan Tamugan area.

“So ang assumption namin is medyo maliit ‘yung nakuha ngayon because ‘yung ibang waste is na-carry na ng river, no, papunta sa Davao River or doon sa labasan talaga [We assume that only a small amount of garbage had been collected by the local government because the remaining waste was swept away toward the Davao River or the mouth of the river],” he said. The IDIS said it has already filed a complaint before the Davao City Government.

“To prohibit activities within the conservation area and to really monitor these activities in order to protect the integrity of the quality of water in Panigan Tamugan watershed,” he said.

An ordinance has already been passed requiring residents to separate their used face masks from normal household waste.

The Watershed Management Council has also passed a resolution to monitor the area.

“Incineration is not an option for facemasks. because facemasks are made of long-lasting plastic. So if you burn facemasks, you create another problem, which is air pollution,” Peñalver said.



The group urged residents to do away with disposable face masks and use reusable or washable cloth ones instead.

“We haven’t yet seen really [a way] how to repurpose or how to properly manage this facemask?” he said.

“So the call of environmental organizations is for non-frontline persons to use reusable or washable facemasks,” he added. **-Joahna Lei Casilao/MDM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/788419/facemasks-trash-found-in-watershed-eyed-as-drinking-water-source-in-davao/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0jvZCxYZEcgBzEBO88KqqMbBf-Mc4U5liODcM1JCJsIvdAcmHFKrskivo



Nangangamoy na mga gamit nang surgical gloves, nabistong nakaimbak sa bahay sa Cavite

Mayo 21, 2021 5:12pm GMT+08:00



Tinatayang nasa tatlong toneladong nagamit na at nangangamoy na mga surgical gloves ang nakumpiska ng mga awtoridad sa isang bahay sa Tanza, Cavite.

Sa ulat ni Raffy Tima sa GTV "Balitanghali" nitong Biyernes, sinabing isinagawa ng mga pulis at Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) ang pagsalakay sa isang housing unit sa Wellington Subdivision sa Tres Cruces dahil na rin sa reklamo ng ilang residente tungkol sa mabahong amoy.

“Meron kang makikita talaga na, sabi nga ni doktora, parang dugo tsaka mga betadine. So talagang makita mo siya na pinaggamitan na siya,” ayon kay Menandro Dimaranan, ng Tanza-MENRO.

Enero pa raw nang napansin ng mga residente ang dinadalang mga surgical gloves sa naturang housing unit.

“Kaya ‘yung mga kapitbahay, so sa takot, eh, nagsumbong sa authority kaagad para ma-check kung ano ba talaga ‘yung nangyari,” sabi naman ni Police Lieutenant Colonel Rolando Baula, hepe ng Tanza Police.

Natuklasan din na apat na unit ang pinagtambakan ng mga gamit na mga gloves.

“Bibiruin mo apat na unit na talagang makikita mong bulto. Sa ano ko nga, sa estimate ko, mga humigit-kumulang sa tatlong tonelada,” ani Dimaranan.

Nadakip ng mga awtoridad si Ernesto Latuan at kaniyang tauhan.

“Dini-dispose lang po talaga nila,” paliwanag ni Latuan.

Sinabi rin ni Latuan na pinsan niya talaga niya ang may-ari ng mga gloves at pinakiusapan lang siyang itabi ang mga ito.

Hinala ng mga awtoridad, planong ibenta muli ang mga gloves kapag nalinisan.

“Delikado talaga. Malay mo kung may COVID ‘yun tapos anong linis ginawa. ‘Yung ibang malinis na kasi, meron siyang mga plastic na nakalagay M, L, S, ‘yung mga ganoon. Ibig sabihin



pinaghihiwalay-hiwalay nila,” ayon kay Dimanaran.

Mahaharap si Latuan at ang kaniyang tauhan sa paglabag sa Republic Act 6969 na tungkol sa pagkontrol sa mga toxic substances at hazardous at nuclear waste, at RA 9003 na tungkol sa ecological solid waste act.

Hinahanap din ang mga nagdadala ng naturang basura sa bahay.--**FRJ, GMA News**



3 toneladang gamit na surgical gloves, nire-reuse, nakumpiska

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | May 21, 2021



PHOTO: Circulated photo

Tinatayang 3 tonelada ng gamit na surgical gloves na pinaniniwalaang inipon para linisin at ayusing muli saka ibebenta ang nakumpiska ng mga awtoridad sa Tanza, Cavite, kahapon.

Sa ulat ng mga operatiba ng Tanza Police at kawani ng Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), natagpuan ang saku-sakong gamit na gloves sa isang housing unit sa Wellington Subdivision sa Tres Cruses.

“Meron kang makikita talaga na, sabi nga ni doktora, parang dugo tsaka mga betadine. So, talagang makikita mo siya na pinaggamitan na siya,” ani Menandro Dimaranan, opisyal ng Tanza MENRO.

Ayon sa mga residente ng subdibisyon, madalas nilang makita ang mga bulto ng surgical gloves na dinadala sa nasabing housing unit, kaya nagpasya ang mga ito na magreklamo sa barangay dahil sa mabahong amoy nito.

“Kaya ‘yung mga kapitbahay, so sa takot, eh, nagsumbong sa authority kaagad para ma-check kung ano ba talaga ‘yung nangyari,” sabi ni Police Lieutenant Colonel Rolando Baula, hepe ng Tanza Police.

Gayundin, sa kanilang pag-iinspeksiyon, nabatid ng mga awtoridad na ang mga gamit na gloves ay hindi lamang nakatambak sa iisang bahay.

“Biruin, mo apat na units na talagang makikita mong bulto. Sa estimate ko, mga humigit-kumulang sa tatlong tonelada,” ani Dimaranan.

Agad namang inaresto ng mga pulis si Ernesto Latuan, may-ari ng housing unit at kanyang mga empleyado.

“Dini-dispose lang po talaga nila,” katwiran ni Latuan.

Paliwanag ni Latuan, ang mga surgical gloves ay pag-aari ng kanyang pinsan na nakiusap umano sa kanya na iimbak ang mga ito.

Subalit, hinala ng mga awtoridad na ang mga gloves ay kanilang lilinisin at saka nila ibebenta.



“Delikado talaga. Malay mo kung may COVID ‘yun, tapos ano'ng linis ginawa? ‘Yung ibang malinis na kasi, meron siyang mga plastic na nakalagay M, L, S, ‘yung mga ganoon. Ibig sabihin, pinaghihiwa-hiwalay nila,” sabi pa ni Dimaranan.

Sinampahan na ng kaso si Latuan at kanyang mga empleyado dahil sa paglabag sa Republic Act 6969 o Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990 at RA 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.



Can our waste management keep up?

By: [Hyacinth Tagupa](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#) [Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:06 AM May 21, 2021

Discarded face masks, plastic face shields, and gloves have been piling up over the last year or so, on top of the usual garbage we generate. A spike in waste due to anti-COVID-19 measures is already evident. In Metro Manila alone, some 280 metric tons of additional medical waste is being generated every single day during the pandemic, says a recent forecast from the Asian Development Bank.

This development puts a spin to our age-old waste management issues. Traditionally, the emphasis has been on our discipline as individuals: Each person must segregate their trash; reduce, reuse, and recycle; and obey municipal disposal rules. And many of us have been doing these. But now, it's clear that the garbage problem of the pandemic requires much more than individual responsibility—there need to be concrete systemic actions to address it.

It's not within the individual's power, for example, to manage the ballooning amount of medical waste that inevitably comes out of our hospitals. The onus is on health care facilities and local governments.

The Department of Health has a waste management manual for how medical facilities should minimize, handle, and dispose of their waste. But implementation of these rules has been spotty even before the pandemic started, with hospitals and disposal firms getting caught negligently discarding their waste.

Besides hospitals, our general household trash still contributes to the garbage problem. But it's not enough to just keep appealing to the public to be personally responsible with their garbage.

People can only do so much in reusing their face shields to the hilt and carefully segregating their face masks in special trash bags. If local garbage collectors dump them all into the same dumpsite anyway, what use are our personal efforts?

Enforcement of our existing waste management policies is all the more crucial now. The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act No. 9003) requires LGUs to implement waste reduction, recycling, and composting plans. Yet it only takes a quick look at municipal waste management facilities and landfills to see that this law is barely enforced, if at all.

If our local governments could hardly handle our pre-pandemic garbage problem, how can they hope to tackle the unavoidable waste consequences of the pandemic?

Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said last month that RA 9003 needs to be updated with new technologies on waste disposal. He highlighted the potential use of waste-to-energy (WTE) projects, which could be more cost-efficient alternatives to landfills.

Currently, WTE projects are the subject of debate. In particular, the incineration method has been found to emit toxic gas pollutants, which means it would run counter to another environmental law in the country, the Clean Air Act. More importantly, it would also cause harm to the environment and to human health.

As this controversial solution is being introduced (WTE bills are pending in the Senate), it seems that important questions are being overlooked.

One: Why is the current solid waste management law so poorly implemented? A typical problem is that these rules are enforced only for a brief honeymoon period, occasionally gaining renewed interest before dying out again. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources regularly calls out various LGUs across the country for their poor compliance with RA 9003, particularly



for the mismanagement of landfills. It's remarkable that we've had this law since year 2000, yet these violations are still seen as recently as this year.

Two: Why isn't there pressure for private companies to cut their nonrecyclable waste production? The disposal of garbage is only part of the issue; plastics and other nonbiodegradable waste must be curbed at the source. In the Philippines, several consumer-goods corporations are consistently the top polluters of plastic waste over the years, according to a recent brand audit by the global Break Free From Plastic Movement.

The report recommends, among others, that companies foster alternative product packaging and that the government establish a national ban on single-use plastics. Currently, even citywide prohibitions on plastic bags are lacking vigor; the bans exist, but you'd still find plastics being used all over, with no sign of ban enforcement.

At a busy street corner in my neighborhood, garbage bags stack up into hills every Wednesday, awaiting the inconsistent garbage collection. I wondered aloud to a friend: Can our waste management system ever keep up? He shot back: "Nah, it was never there to begin with."

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For more news about the novel coronavirus click [here](#).

[What you need to know about Coronavirus.](#)

For more information on COVID-19, call the DOH Hotline: (02) 86517800 local 1149/1150.

The Inquirer Foundation supports our healthcare frontliners and is still accepting cash donations to be deposited at Banco de Oro (BDO) current account #007960018860 or donate through PayMaya using this [link](#).

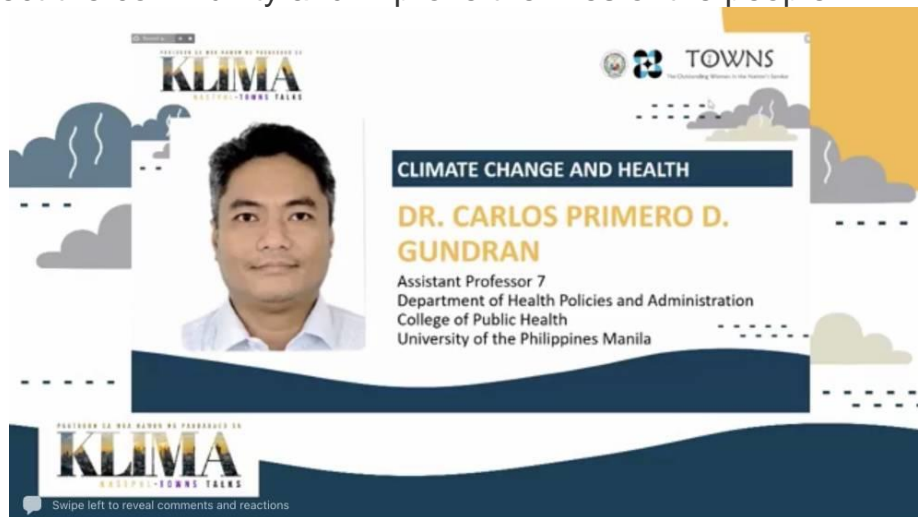


Expert airs concern over gov't's implementation of environmental laws

Published May 21, 2021, 1:27 PM

by [Jhon Aldrin Casinas](#)

While the Philippines has passed several laws seeking to protect the environment, an expert raised concern over the government's supposed inability to implement measures that could protect the community and improve the lives of the people.



Dr. Carlos Primero Gundran

Dr. Carlos Primero Gundran, an assistant professor from the College of Public Health of the University of the Philippines-Manila, acknowledged that the country has many laws pertaining to the protection of the environment.

But he believes that the people are not informed enough of the existence of such laws, and that the government is not putting enough efforts in implementing the legislations.

“I know na isa tayo sa mga bansa na marami talaga tayong batas (that we are one of the countries that really have a lot of laws). Unfortunately, magaling tayong gumawa ng batas pero mukhang hindi naman alam ng community lahat ng batas na ito (we are good at making laws but the community doesn't seem to know all these laws),” Gundran said.

“I don't think na implement natin (we have implemented these laws), which is sad. Nangunguna tayo sa mga batas pero hindi natin siya na implement (We are leading in making laws but we do not implement them),” he added.

Gundran was one of the panel of experts in a webinar series on climate change organized by the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL), in partnership with The Outstanding Women in Nation's Service Inc. (TOWNS) on Friday, May 21.

In his presentation, he reported that the Philippines consistently ranked among the top five countries worldwide most affected by natural disasters and reported victims.

“Climate change exacerbates the impacts of disasters,” Gundran said, adding that the changing global climate have contributed to the effects of disasters making them more severe and affecting more people.

According to him, among the effects of climate change that could affect the health of the people are extreme temperatures, extreme events, air quality, vector- and water-borne diseases, and mental health.



Effects of climate change on mental health

Gundran explained that the effects of climate change such as extreme weather events like severe typhoons and intense heat could affect the mental wellbeing of an individual.

“Climate change causes extreme weather events. If you are exposed to extreme events, that has an effect to your mental health,” he explained.

“The effects of the climate change to our environment, and that change in the environment affects you, cause you suffering, cause you grief, that affects your mental health,” he added.

The expert recommended that the government should be more active in implementing environmental legislations that would improve the community and its constituents.

“I think what we should do, gawin natin, implement natin (we should implement these laws).

Yung mga leaders natin, i-promote talaga natin yung mga batas (Our leaders should really promote the laws) which are actually there to serve the community, to improve the community hindi lang yung self interest,” Gundran said.

“I think we should be public service oriented and we should apply the laws that would improve everyone in the community,” he added.



Here is how this company promises to mitigate climate change

Nestlé Posted at May 21 2021 03:37 PM

The pandemic is not the only global crisis that happened in 2020; it was also a year where the disastrous effects of [climate change](#) were more tangible around the world. From record levels of CO2 in the atmosphere, scorching temperatures, and alarming melting of permafrost, these indicators show that even when people are sheltering at home, climate change is a real and continuous threat.

As one of the world's largest food and beverage manufacturers, Nestlé is called upon to take a leadership role in tackling one of the greatest threats to society today – climate change. Accordingly, Nestlé is leveraging its global size, scale, and reach to make a difference as it urgently pursues its ambition to halve its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and reach net zero not later than 2050.

Locally, Nestlé Philippines recently declared new commitments to achieve net zero emissions as a "*Kasambahay* for the Environment" as it observes its 110th year. The commitments were announced during the company's virtual 2021 Net Zero Fair attended by employees and their family members, as well as program and business partners. These commitments aim to support the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to reduce and avoid carbon emissions by 75% as of 2030.

In tackling the plastic waste crisis, the company is innovating and developing technology to make its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025. At the same time, it is collaborating with public and private sector partners to ensure that none of its packaging ends up in the environment while educating consumers about solid waste management.

In August 2020, the company achieved its most important environmental milestone thus far, by becoming the country's first multinational fast-moving consumer goods company to attain plastic neutrality. This means Nestlé Philippines is collecting and co-processing, and therefore diverting from nature, the equivalent amount of plastic that it puts out in the market. Since then, it has collected 18,000 metric tons of plastic waste in the last seven months.

The company has also switched to clean energy, and now its factories in Luzon, as well as its Makati office, run on 100% renewable electricity.

Through its NESCAFÉ Plan and the Common Code for the Coffee Community or 4C, Nestlé Philippines is enabling Robusta coffee farmers in Mindanao to learn regenerative agriculture and sustainable coffee production. In particular, the company is helping 1,500 smallholder farmers to reduce their carbon footprint.

On top of these programs, Nestlé Philippines Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki announced additional commitments to accelerate the journey to net zero. These include collecting and diverting an annual average of 26,000 metric tons of plastic waste away from landfills and oceans – an important step towards guaranteeing none of its waste ends up in the environment – thereby sustaining plastic neutrality, reducing virgin plastics consumption by 1/3 by 2025, and reducing 30% of GHG emissions (GHG emissions in factories refer to GHG emissions scope 1+2 as per the GHG Protocol following the United Nations Criteria) by 2025 in local operations such as factories, administrative offices, and logistics.

Marzouki expressed confidence that the company will fulfill these commitments with the support and participation of its employees and partners. During the Fair, employees and their families formally pledged in a contract with the planet to actively involve themselves in creating a net



zero environment by making sustainable choices, properly managing solid waste, and planting trees.

In a message of support, Senator Win Gatchalian, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy, said: "The contributions of the private sector will provide the needed boost in achieving carbon neutrality. Your efforts to transition to regenerative agricultural practices should be adopted as well by others in the manufacturing sector as it will benefit nature and improve the income of farmers."

"Nestlé's strategy to cut in half its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050 are perfectly aligned with the targets of our country's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. By accelerating its actions to tackle climate change, Nestlé will help our country attain its goals in building climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience," said Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu in another message of support.

Nestlé Philippines SVP and Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Arlene Tan-Bantoto acknowledged the importance of partnerships with the public and the private sectors in making the company's ground-breaking environmental initiatives possible. "We are addressing climate change through coordinated action, continuing innovation, and multisectoral engagement, with open accountability as we report our progress. We are the Good Food, Good Life company. We want to leave the legacy of a cleaner, healthier, and more livable planet for the next 110 years," she added.

"Nestlé Philippines will take a leading role in working towards net zero GHG emissions by integrating sustainable practices in our operations. We will continue to seek out partnerships and collaborate with consumers, the government, industries, NGOs, and other stakeholders, as we journey to a net zero future," Marzouki said. "Tackling climate change cannot wait, and neither can we. And so let us all move forward for the sake of our children and future generations, rising to the challenges that lie ahead, together and united."

To know more about Nestlé Philippines' environmental goals and initiatives, visit its [website](#) or watch this [video](#).

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/advertorial/life/05/21/21/here-is-how-this-company-promises-to-mitigate-climate-change?fbclid=IwAR3pcUxpHDmws0qsirC1Ob25rTp8WzIFAsXKh_uu5yN0hk6bIY1O1-1C2OY



Forest rangers struggle to prevent poaching amid lockdowns

By [Kanupriya Kapoor via Reuters](#) - May 21, 2021 - 3:36 PM



A view of a deforested area in the middle of the Yari plains, in Caqueta, Colombia March 2, 2021. (Reuters/Luisa Gonzalez/File Photo)

SINGAPORE — Ranger Atul Deokar’s walkie-talkie crackled one October night. He heard his colleagues’ panicked voices shouting for back-up: They had been surrounded by 70 villagers armed with axes and sharpened sticks and demanding to hunt in India’s protected Pench Tiger Reserve.

The rangers fired into the air after the villagers attempted to set fire to the hut in which the patrol were holed up — ending a 30-minute standoff that reflects the pressure that forests and wildlife have come under in Asia, Africa, and Latin America as a result of the pandemic.

Forest officials on all three continents told Reuters similar stories of facing off with poachers, as the economic fallout from coronavirus lockdowns left many struggling for goods to barter, firewood, and food.

While there are no comprehensive data to show where forest poaching has risen most, many countries “have noted indeed an increase in wildlife and forestry crime during the pandemic,” said Interpol’s Rory Corcoran, assistant director of the illicit markets department.

“The poached wildlife is mainly for local consumption,” he said.

That pressure on wildlife is likely to continue, experts say, even as economies start a tentative recovery. Sub-Saharan Africa is on track to record the world’s slowest growth this year, according to the IMF, while COVID surges are expected to slow a return to growth in Latin America and Asia.

In India, where the economy was expected to contract by 7.7% in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the pandemic led to major unemployment and disruption to food distribution. The forest ranger, Deokar, said he has witnessed the fallout firsthand.

“All those jobless young people, they have idle hands now, and they are completely dependent on the forest for anything they can find to eat or sell for money,” Deokar told Reuters by phone. “This makes our job more difficult.”

Cat and mouse

With worldwide pandemic lockdowns, national parks have been empty of camera-clicking tourists. And rangers say they are seeing more animals out in the open, venturing back into areas normally trafficked by day-tripping jeeps on sight-seeing excursions.



But they are also seeing local residents and poachers increasingly venture into protected parks: At least 15 rhinos were killed in southern Africa. Deer and at least one tiger were hunted in India. The reported spike in illegal activity was particularly bad in Latin America.

In Costa Rica, ranger Leonel Delgado described a game of cat and mouse with people hunting everything from rodents to deer for meat, to jaguars as trophies or due to fears the cats will attack livestock.

“The hunters know that the park rangers ... are going to patrol areas they normally go to, so they look for other places to get in,” Delgado said of the Central American country’s Braulio Carrillo National Park.

“That forces you to widen the range of areas you have to patrol.”

In several Latin American, Asian, and southern African countries, rangers were put on double-duty or asked to cover twice as much ground. In other places, rangers were unable to patrol all of their protected park areas, according to a survey by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

In Zimbabwe, with the temporary closure of the Stanley and Livingstone Private Game Reserve, staff once busy monitoring wildlife and guiding tourism activities have shifted their focus to boundary patrols, and undergone training to learn how to fend off trespassers. This has included taking on night patrols, learning defense techniques in combat situations, and more target practice with weapons.

“We now need to maintain the highest level of security presence,” Picket Chabwedzeka, a manager at the reserve, told Reuters by email.

Trafficking on pause

These stories of forests coming under pressure during the pandemic do not match global data on wildlife seizures at airports, seaports, and in raids.

In fact, worldwide seizures of the three most heavily trafficked animal parts – ivory, rhino horn, and pangolin scales – dropped by 50% in 2020, compared with the previous year, and were 12% lower than the previous five-year average, according to data collected by the Center for Advanced Defense Studies.

But conservation experts say there is good reason for that. With air travel disruptions eliminating traditional routes, traffickers were likely using land or shipping routes instead, or storing animal parts until supply routes are re-established or black market prices rise.

“The supply chain disruption does not mean the trade in these commodities has stopped,” said Olivia Swaak-Goldman, executive director of the international Wildlife Justice Commission, which works with law enforcement to tackle wildlife trafficking.

Even in a normal year, she said the seizures by authorities are just the “tip of the iceberg”. “Traffickers see these (animal products) as an investment, and they are stockpiling, waiting for prices to recover,” she said.

Budget cuts

Experts fear conservation budgets — especially those funded by tourism — may be cut or curtailed as governments grapple with economic recovery.

Less than 1% of government recovery packages are currently aimed at protecting nature, according to the Bangkok-based Freeland Foundation, an anti-trafficking organization. That’s



worrying, as viruses like coronavirus are more likely to jump from animals to humans as forests vanish.

“If the world wants to prevent future pandemics, we need to stay focused on minimizing local and international poaching and trafficking,” said Steven Galster, the group’s founder.

More than half of India’s 28 states have already seen their forest conservation and restoration budgets slashed.

Parks linked to the Frankfurt Zoological Society in at least six Latin American countries, meanwhile, were forced to lay off staff after budgets were cut by an average 20%. And at least 11 African countries reported funding cuts that affected wildlife research, monitoring activities and trafficking investigations, according to a March survey by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

In the southern African country of Zambia, South Luangwa National Park was hit hard, said local law enforcement adviser Benson Kanyembo.

Local communities “are suffering from increasing poverty, resulting in high levels of crime, illegal activities such as fishing, setting snares for bushmeat and cutting timber,” Kanyembo. “There is no breathing space for Mother Nature here.” —**Additional reporting by Oliver Griffin in Bogota; Editing by Katy Daigle and Lisa Shumaker**



China's construction boom is sending CO2 emissions through the roof

By [Laura He](#), [CNN Business](#)

Updated 0938 GMT (1738 HKT) May 21, 2021



Hong Kong (CNN Business) China's plan to build its way out of the pandemic is pushing its carbon emissions to record highs, new research has found.

The country's CO2 emissions from fossil fuels and cement production grew 14.5% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the previous year, according to a Thursday report from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). That's the fastest rate of growth in more than a decade, lead analyst Lauri Myllyvirta wrote. Emissions were also 9% higher than they were in the first quarter of 2019, before the pandemic.

As a result, China's emissions generated nearly 12 billion metric tons of CO2 in the year ending March 2021, a record high.

"The CO2 surge reflects a rebound from coronavirus lockdowns in early 2020, but also a post-Covid economic recovery that has so far been dominated by growth in construction, steel and cement," Myllyvirta said.

Recent data from Carbon Monitor has shown an uptick in China's carbon emissions, too. The global CO2 emissions tracker said the country's emissions in the first quarter increased 21% year-on-year, fastest among the world's major emitters. (Myllyvirta said his estimate is lower than but consistent with Carbon Monitor's. The latter provides real time estimates, while CREA's research considers annual or quarterly government data.)

This latest research highlights a dilemma facing the world's second largest economy. China needs to keep the recovery apace if it hopes to hit President Xi Jinping's goal to double GDP by 2035. But Xi has also vowed to make his country carbon neutral by 2060. Climate policy is seen as a major area of cooperation — and competition — between the United States and China, too.

The 2060 target has always been an ambitious one for the world's largest emitter of carbon. But it's also tough for China to reduce its impact on the climate and achieve a greener economy when its recovery is reliant on projects driven by fossil fuels.

Myllyvirta wrote that China's construction activity had led to an increase in the use of coal, which accounted for around 70% of the growth in emissions in the first quarter. (The rest, he said, was because of growth in oil and natural gas demand.)



About 60% of the uptick in coal usage came from the power sector, according to Myllyvirta. The next two big contributors were the metals and building materials sectors, where activity is increasing because of demand for real estate projects.

Beijing has signaled, though, that it wants to cut down on emissions this year.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pledged in March that a big priority for 2021 is a push for the wider use of clean energy, and an increase in investments in green technology.

The government has also imposed strict climate targets this year, and local governments have rolled out harsh production cut targets for heavily polluting industries, such as steel. For example, Tangshan, one of the world's largest steelmaking hubs, recently required major steel mills to reduce output by between 30% and 50% for 2021. To help account for the squeeze on supply that such cuts might cause, the government has also encouraged more steel imports.

Myllyvirta said he's noticed the government's attempts to force the steel industry to cut its emissions, adding that the sector has a "major significance for China's emissions trajectory."

"But the emissions reduction plan can only work if the current expansion of steel demand for construction slows down," he said. "This goes to the heart of China's macroeconomic policy." Time may be running out for Beijing to tame the surge in its carbon emissions so it can meet interim climate targets.

"If CO2 kept going up at the current rate until the end of 2021 — an approximately 9% annual increase from 2019 — then there would be virtually no space for further emissions growth during 2022-2025, meaning emissions would have to stay flat or fall to meet the 2025 targets," Myllyvirta said.

22 MAY 2021, SATURDAY



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Catholic faithfuls fall in line while being assisted by members of the Hijos del Nazareno as they enter the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila on May 21, 2021.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

COVID-19 cases in Philippines hit 1,171,403

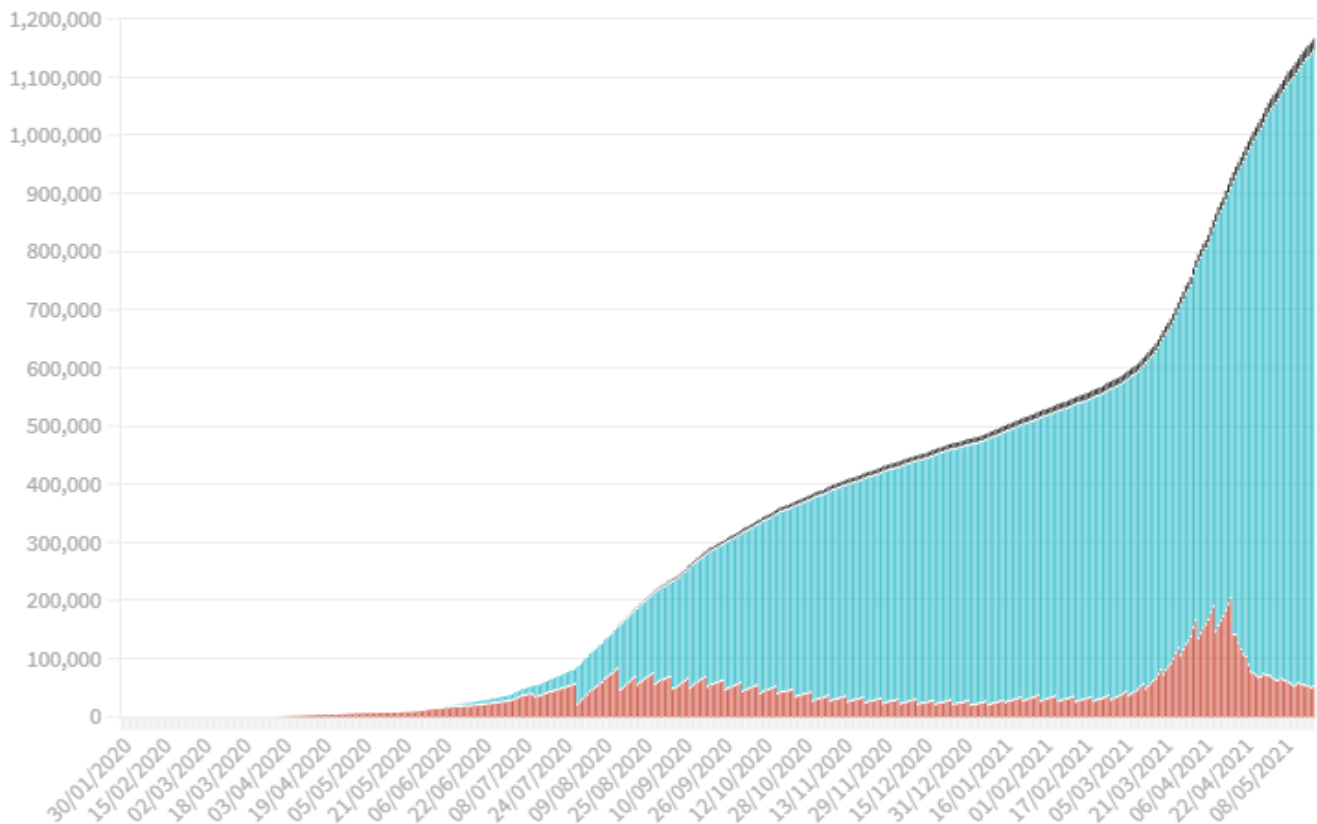
(Philstar.com) - May 21, 2021 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — The total number of COVID-19 cases in the Philippines hit 1,171,403 on Friday after the Department of Health reported 6,258 new infections.

- Active cases: 55,531 or 4.7% of the total
- New recoveries: 2,586, bringing total to 1,096,109
- New fatalities: 141, pushing death toll to 19,673

The coronavirus pandemic in the Philippines

Active Cases Recoveries Fatalities



Source: Department of Health • As of May 20, 2021, 4 p.m.



What's new today?

- Mayors of coronavirus epicenter Metro Manila decided to [allow religious gatherings up to 30%](#) of venue capacity, easing restrictions that the national government previously capped at 10%.
- Another stimulus measure worth P405.6 billion dubbed Bayanihan to Arise as One or Bayanihan 3 cleared the House appropriations, paving the way for it to be tackled and voted upon by the whole chamber.
- The government's pandemic task force placed athletes bound for the Tokyo Olympics, liquified petroleum gas dealers, retailers and attendants in the priority line for COVID-19 vaccination.
- A group within the task force also recommended to include frontline employees of business processing outsourcing industry and the frontline employees of Comelec in the A4 priority list.
- [Only half of Filipinos are confident](#) in the government's evaluation of coronavirus vaccines, according to a new survey by private pollster Social Weather Stations, which also revealed that only 32% were willing to get inoculated.
- As of May 18, 786,528 Filipinos have been fully vaccinated, still far from the government's target of inoculating 58 million to achieve herd immunity. Meanwhile, 2.5 million have received their first dose.



DOH lists 141 new COVID-19 deaths, 6,258 cases

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 21, 2021 3:35:03 PM



The country recorded 141 new COVID-19 fatalities on Friday, making it the fourth day in a row that there were more than a hundred deaths logged in a day, the Department of Health said. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 21) — The country recorded 141 new COVID-19 fatalities on Friday, making it the fourth day in a row that there were more than a hundred deaths logged in a day, the Department of Health said.

The DOH case bulletin said the death toll is now 19,763 or about 1.69% of the total number of cases.

The case tally rose to 1,171,403 after 6,258 more people caught the coronavirus. About 4.7% of this total or 55,531 are active or currently sick patients with 93.5% experiencing mild symptoms, 2% without symptoms, 1.8% feeling severe symptoms, 1.4% in critical condition and 1.22% moderate.

The recovery count also increased to 1,096,109 or 93.6% of the COVID-19 count after 2,586 more people were cleared of the virus.

The DOH said 19 deaths were reclassified as recoveries, while 74 recoveries were identified as deaths after validation. It also removed ten duplicates, including five survivors.

The number excludes data from five laboratories which the DOH says contributed an average of 3.5% samples tested and 1.9% positive individuals in the past 14 weeks.

The daily positivity rate, or rate of individuals that tested positive, stood at 13% out of 44,817 tests conducted as of May 19. The rate continues to stay above the 10% mark over the past few days, which is still high compared to the World Health Organization recommendation that the figure be kept below 5% as higher rates may mean high transmission. The positivity rate earlier peaked at 25% on April 2.

Among Filipinos abroad, 24 more cases were detected, while five patients died and four others recovered, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported. The total number of infected is 18,658 with 1,168 fatalities and 11,400 survivors. There are also 6,090 people undergoing treatment.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/5/21/COVID-19-fourth-day-over-100-deaths.html>



2 AstraZeneca shots could be 85-90% effective, UK data suggests

Alistair Smout, Reuters Posted at May 21 2021 02:28 AM

LONDON - Two doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine may be around 85% to 90% effective against symptomatic disease, Public Health England (PHE) said on Thursday, while cautioning that it did not yet have enough data to be conclusive.

Britain has suffered one of the worst death tolls globally from the pandemic, but has also had one of the fastest vaccine rollouts, generating a lot of data about the use of the shots in real-world settings.

It was the first country to roll out AstraZeneca's vaccine, which faced questions over the construction of its clinical trials, the efficacy of the vaccine and the optimal gap between doses of its shot.

PHE said the preliminary findings were the first of its kind on the effectiveness of two doses of AstraZeneca in a real-world setting but cautioned that it had "low confidence" in the findings, and the results would be inconclusive until more evidence was gathered.

In a weekly surveillance report, Public Health England said the estimated effectiveness of the AstraZeneca vaccine, invented at the University of Oxford, was 89% compared to unvaccinated people.

That compares to 90% estimated effectiveness against symptomatic disease for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

"This new data highlights the incredible impact that both doses of the vaccine can have, with a second dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine providing up to 90% protection," vaccines minister Nadhim Zahawi said.

AstraZeneca welcomed the preliminary findings.

"This latest real-world data from PHE adds to the growing body of evidence that demonstrates the effectiveness of our vaccine against COVID-19," a spokesman said.

"It is reassuring to see the data from both the Pfizer and Oxford AstraZeneca vaccines. They are essentially comparable in terms of effectiveness against symptomatic disease, which is very high after two doses," said Michael Head, Senior Research Fellow in Global Health at the University of Southampton.

Britain has been rolling out the shots manufactured by Pfizer and AstraZeneca since December and January respectively, and in April also started deploying Moderna's vaccine.

PHE said there was a "small reduction in vaccine effectiveness" from 10 weeks after the first dose of the Pfizer shot before the second shot is given.

Britain extended the gap between doses to 12 weeks, though Pfizer warned there was a lack of evidence of its efficacy outside the three-week gap used in trials.

Last week, Britain cut the gap between doses down to 8 weeks for the over 50s, aiming to give maximum protection to more vulnerable people in light of concern about the B.1.617.2 variant first found in India.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/05/21/21/2-astrazeneca-shots-could-be-85-90-effective-uk-data-suggests>

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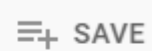
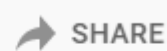
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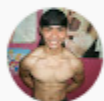
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Sa video na ito mga idol kung kababayan ay makikita ninyo ang pagsusukat para sa baywalk fence (wood fence) at inyong abangan kung ano yung magiging design nito, at Sana mga idol patuloy ninyo akung suportahan sa aking mga update dito sa manila bay at

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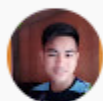
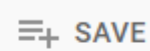
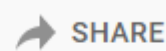
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ito napo ang latest update natin dito sa Manila bay
sana po wag po kayung mag sawang suportahan ang akin channel.maraming salamat po

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Magandang araw sa inyo mga idol kung kababayan, sa patuloy na paglinis at pag ganda ng manila bay kitang kita na natin ang resulta, samahan ninyo muli ako mga idol sa aking pag libot dito sa paligid ng manila bay.

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