

22 OCTOBER 2020, THURSDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



"Hindi natin papayagan na muling matambakan ng basura ang ating mga katubigan."

Ito ang pahayag ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno noong ibahagi ang mga larawang ito sa Manila Bay at Baseco Beach matapos ang mga pag-ulan. Nagpasalamat siya sa paglilinis ng DPS Team Mandaragat at DPS Baseco Beach Warriors sa mga lugar na ito.

Tag: Mayor Isko Moreno



5K

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Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2240896369400438&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0



Daily Tribune

14h · 🌐



Dolomite versus garbage versus black sand

Which do you think will prevail in the days, weeks or months to come? | Photos by Bob Dungo

#manilabaywhitesandbeach



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Basura inanod sa Manila Bay `white sand'


By Abante Tonite — Last updated Oct 21, 2020

NEWS



19 0

Pinaghalong mga basura at itim na buhangin ang inanod sanhi ng sama ng panahon dulot ng bagyong 'Pepito' sa itinambak na dolomite sand sa Manila Bay.

 Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Kabilang ang mga boteng plastic, styro cup, mga water lily, at itim na buhangin ang inanod sa `white sand'.

Nabatid na nilinis kaagad ng mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga inanod na basura. Habang nilinis naman ng mga tauhan ng Manila Department of Public Safety ang mga inanod na basura mula sa US Embassy hanggang sa Manila Yacht Club.

Samantala, nabatid na ginagawa na umano ang Phase 2 ng P389 milyong dolomite sand beach project sa 500 metrong lawak ng Baywalk. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/basura-inanod-sa-manila-bay-white-sand/>



Rains bring trash, water hyacinths to Manila Bay 'white sand' beach

Published October 21, 2020 7:50am

Due to incessant rains brought by Tropical Storm Pepito, trash and water hyacinths were washed ashore in Manila Bay's "white sand" area, as seen on video posted by Super Radyo dzBB's Isa Avendaño-Umali on Twitter on Wednesday.

A 500-meter stretch of coastline near the US Embassy in Manila has been filled with sand made from tons of crushed dolomite boulders from the Visayas.

The use of artificial sand has been met with criticism, with environmental groups saying the facelift focuses only on aesthetics and has little to do with rehabilitation.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda has denied that the crushed dolomite, for which the government spent millions of pesos, has been washed out by the rain as claimed by the project's critics.

What happened, according to him, was that black sands were "[washed in](#)" by the bay's current. —**KBK, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/760766/rains-bring-trash-water-hyacinths-to-manila-bay-white-sand-beach/story/>



Dolomite beach now showing Manila Bay's 'true color'

October 21, 2020 1 min read

There was once a black sand beach in Manila Bay until the DENR stepped in to rehabilitate and beautify it with crushed dolomite rocks from Cebu that instantly changed it into a stunning white sand beach look ala-Boracay that earned high praises from the public and even from PRRD himself.



But Mother Nature has its own way of showing things their natural and original look and appeal. No, it's not oil slick down there at the shoreline rather, it's Manila Bay's original black sand slowly showing its true color courtesy of tropical depression Pepito. And like before, bad weather washes ashore assorted litter and trash as shown in photo below. (ism)

Jhun Mabanag / BENJAMIN CUARESMA



Source: https://maharlika.tv/2020/10/21/dolomite-beach-now-showing-manila-bays-true-color/?fbclid=IwAR2Ss0zZnoLWB_9qgQWBkNirOaq3FTg7r77_kSMiPCStCM7LCqUeN23R
[Tak](#)



Keeping it clean

Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 21 2020 01:09 PM



Maintenance workers clean up debris washed up along the coast of the Manila Bay on Wednesday, a day after Tropical Storm Pepito made landfall in the country. Biologists from the University of the Philippines have urged the government to implement a science-based rehabilitation program to help in the recovery of Manila Bay's biological functions, instead of beautification projects such as the fake white beach that used crushed dolomite rocks.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/10/21/20/workers-clean-manila-bay-dolomite-area?fbclid=IwAR3XPsJPB957myHIYfW7FO1Sc8vbNeMK8x4ib8jsDKtgn6L59PbuGbjNdE0>



Black sand covers portions of Manila Bay

By [Anjo Alimario, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Oct 21, 2020 7:26:42 PM



Manila was not spared from continuous rains brought by 'Pepito'. The capital was a witness to the Manila Bay face lift and some of you might have wondered, how is the controversial dolomite holding up amid the rains?

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/videos/2020/10/21/Black-sand-covers-portions-of-Manila-Bay.html>



PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunaphl_bob

GARBAGE and black sand again soil the dolomite stretch of the Roxas Blvd. after tropical storm 'Pepito' dropped heavy rains in Metro Manila.

'An anthology on the Philippine claim to North Borneo' (4)

From page A1

time when French Indo-China had fallen to communism, the Marcos government did not prioritize the Philippine claim to North Borneo in the mid-1970s. In 1977, Marcos even

advantage of avoiding a phraseology which was offensive to Malaysia while not foreclosing any claim to Sabah."

It is reassuring to know from Commissioner Bernas that the Philippine claim to North Borneo has not been abandoned.



 **UNTV News and Rescue** ✓
9h · 🌐

Inanod ng matinding ulan ang mga basura sa white sand project sa Manila Bay. Patuloy ring lumalawak ang natatabunan ng black sand sa itinambak na artificial white sand.



UNTV
NEWS & RESCUE

**BASURA SA
DOLOMITE
SAND**

YOUTUBE.COM

Dolomite sand sa Manila Bay, pinasok na ng mga basura dahil sa matinding pag-ulan

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Hindi bababa sa 200 sako ng basura ang nakolekta sa white sands ng Manila Bay matapos ang pag-ulan dahil sa bagyong #PepitoPH.



YOUTUBE.COM

Sako-sakong basura, inanod sa Manila Bay dahil sa bagyong Pepito

#FrontlinePilipinas | Hindi bababa sa 200 sako ng basura ang nakolekta sa white sands ng Man...

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178 Comments 1 Share

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2240707622752646&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0



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#FrontlinePilipinas | Hindi bababa sa 200 sako ng basura ang nakolekta sa white sands ng Manila Bay matapos ang pag-ulan dahil sa bagyong #PepitoPH.

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 Philippine News Info
14h · 🌐

DOLOMITE UPDATE
Nilinis na ang dolomite beach sa Manila Bay kung saan inanod ang tambak na basura at water lilies kasunod ng pananalasa ng bagyong #PepitoPH.
Jonathan Cellona



   62

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MANILA BAYWALK

Manila Bay Update Bagyong PEPITO! Miz July

5,375 views • Streamed live 23 hours ago

191

4

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Miz July

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#ManilaBay

#SaveManilaBay

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October 21, 2020 by Miz July: **Manila Bay Update Bagyong Pipito**

Early morning clean up at Manila Bay along Roxas Blvd.

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXZoqUd1T_w&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MizJuly



Environmental group pushes for reopening of public parks

By: [Ihesset O. Enano](#), [Jodee A. Agoncillo](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:47 AM October 21, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — With the easing of quarantine measures, residents of Metro Manila should be allowed to enjoy public parks as long as they follow health and safety guidelines, an environmental group said on Tuesday.

The Nilad Metro Manila Environmental Network said that the scores of people who trooped to Manila Bay's artificial white sand beach last month indicated a demand for open spaces, after more than seven months of being stuck in their homes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

“This is not simply for leisure but a health measure to promote the physical and mental well-being of people,” it added, stressing that public green spaces must be reopened while maintaining safety and health measures.

“With the prioritization of our health-care system caused by the global pandemic, the need to carry out a plan to protect and conserve our green spaces must also be seen as a way toward complete recovery and mitigation of communicable and noncommunicable diseases,” the group said.

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

Recent data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed that only 12,152.79 hectares out of Metro Manila's total land area of 55,922.22 ha, or only 21 percent, were allotted to green spaces.

The capital city of Manila accounted for one of the biggest deficits, with only 140.4 ha of green space in an area of over 3,800 ha.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1350550/environmental-group-pushes-for-reopening-of-public-parks>



Nickel miners plant 6.59M trees

By Kris Crismundo **October 21, 2020, 7:54 pm**

MANILA – The Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) reported Wednesday that its member companies have planted 6.59 million trees covering 3,167 hectares of land as of August 2020 as part of its environmental protection and enhancement programs (EPEP).

In a virtual press conference, PNIA president Dante Bravo said there was an increase of 13.9 percent in the number of trees planted by the industry group since 2019.

In the first eight months of the year alone, Bravo said PNIA members planted an additional 809,656 trees covering 322 hectares of land particularly in Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Zambales, and Palawan where industry group members are operating.



TREE PLANTING. Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) member companies intensify their progressive rehabilitation efforts as part of its environmental protection and enhancement programs (EPEP). As of August 2020, PNIA has planted over 6.59 million trees in communities where the mining companies operate. (Photo courtesy of PNIA)

“In our perspective, implementing our EPEPs is one of our ways to show the community how we value their land, waters, and environment. We make it a point to improve what is already in the area and contribute to the beauty, safety, and preservation of the community,” he said.

Bravo said that from January to August this year, PNIA members invested over PHP202 million in their various progressive rehabilitation efforts.

“Our members do not just plant for the sake of planting just to meet the requirements of the government. We conduct research to identify which tree species will be most beneficial for the specific environment of each mine site,” he added.

Over 70 species of trees were planted by PNIA including narra, agoho, molave, rubber, palawan cherry, golden shower, and maribuhok as well as fruit-bearing trees like coconut, rambutan, cashew, jackfruit, cacao, pineapple, coffee, and calamansi.

Aside from the EPEP, the mining industry initiated bamboo planting even before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources mandated this last June.

“Between January to August 2020, our members have planted 23,000 seedlings, bringing their total to over 46,000 bamboo seedlings planted over nearly 100 hectares,” Bravo said.

He said the industry has also rolled out livelihood classes in communities to maximize the use of bamboo and harness economic benefits from bamboo farming.

“PNIA members endeavored to sustain, if not enhance our environmental programs, ensuring we always go beyond what is mandated by the government and making sure that these programs are inclusive and beneficial for the local communities. We remain steadfast in our dedication to environmental rehabilitation and enhancement programs, even during the pandemic, and will continue with rehabilitating as we operate” he added. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1119262>



Nickel Miners Plant 6.59M Trees

BY THE MANILA JOURNAL EDITORS
POSTED ON OCTOBER 22, 2020



Photo by [Noah Buscher](#)

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Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) member companies intensify their progressive rehabilitation efforts as part of its environmental protection and enhancement programs (EPEP). As of August 2020, PNIA has planted over 6.59 million trees in communities where the mining companies operate. (Photo courtesy of PNIA)

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NHCP promotes tree planting for quincentennial commemoration

By Catherine Teves **October 21, 2020, 7:21 pm**

MANILA – The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) is encouraging local government units (LGUs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) to include tree planting in their respective activities for the 2021 Quincentennial Commemorations in the Philippines (2021 QCP).

"It'll be our offering for the next generations," said NHCP Chairperson Dr. Rene Escalante, who also serves as Vice-Chairperson and Executive Director of National Quincentennial Committee (NQC), that is in charge of 2021 QCP.



(The 2021 Quincentennial Commemorations in the Philippines grabbed from its Twitter account)

Aside from providing ecological benefits for future generations, he said trees beautify surroundings.

Supporting wildlife, conserving water, preserving soil, improving air quality and providing raw materials are among the trees' benefits, noted experts. They also said trees absorb carbon dioxide, one of several greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

Escalante expects LGUs nationwide to spearhead their respective flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies on April 27 next year -- 2021 QCP's big day when the country will commemorate the 500th anniversary of Philippine warrior Lapulapu's battle and victory against foreign intervention in Mactan Island.

LGUs generally have plazas where local officials can lead such ceremonies to honor Lapulapu, he noted. Warriors of Lapulapu defeated and killed Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and several of his men who sought to convert the locals to Christianity, which is what rival chieftain and the foreigners' newfound ally, Rajah Humabon, wanted.

Magellan and his men arrived in the country on March 16, 1521 while on an expedition to find a westward sea route from Spain to spice-rich Moluccas group of islands located northeast of the Philippines' neighbor Indonesia.

Spices were prized commodities in Europe at the time. The expedition of Magellan began in 1519 and eventually became the first to circumnavigate Earth, with the remaining vessel of his five-ship fleet returning to Spain in 1522.

Aside from Lapulapu's victory and related events, the 2021 QCP will also commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Philippines' involvement in what turned out to be a global first in marine navigation.

EO 55 series of 2018 created multi-agency NQC, noting there is need to "systematically organize, coordinate and synchronize the commemoration of the quincentennial of the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan in the Philippines and other historic events that happened from 1519 to 1522 in different localities and in other countries where Magellan's voyage made landfall, by creating a committee that shall take charge of the preparations for the said commemoration in the Philippines".

"Pursuant to RA 10086 or the 'Strengthening People's Nationalism Through Philippine History Act,' the State shall provide the means to strengthen people's nationalism, love of country, respect for its heroes and pride for the people's accomplishments by reinforcing the importance of Philippine national and local history in daily life with the end view of raising social consciousness," EO 55 added. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1119144>



Marcventures to develop bauxite mine in Samar

By: [Karl R. Ocampo](#) - Reporter / [@kocampoINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:16 AM October 22, 2020

Listed nickel miner Marcventures Holdings Inc. (MHI) is set to develop a mining property in Samar for its bauxite properties.

Once approved by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, this will make MHI the only firm in the country with bauxite as a mineral commodity.

According to MHI president Isidro Alcantara, the company has set aside P2.5 billion to develop the project, adding that the company was expecting the issuance of its environmental compliance certificate (ECC) by the first quarter of next year. Construction is projected to be completed in two years.

MHI acquired the bauxite mine in Samar in 2016 after a merger with Asia Pilot Mining Philippines and the holding company of Brightgreen Resources Corp. Asia Pilot owns two mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) covering 12,129 hectares while the Brightgreen group owns a separate MPSA with an area of 4,860 hectares.

Bauxite is a highly valued commodity used for aluminum production. Aluminum alloys are vital to several industries including aerospace, transportation and construction.

Countries such as China, Australia and the United States are big users of aluminum while the main sources are Australia, China, India and Brazil.

“We will be going into discussions with potential partners because there is no experience in bauxite mining here in the Philippines,” Alcantara said. “Aluminum applications are rising, demand for it is rising and prices are very good.”

Aside from developing a new mining area, MHI is also looking to expand its mining operations in Surigao with a budget of P250 million. The property will be connected to the firm’s existing facility and infrastructure in the area and is expected to increase the company’s reserves substantially.

Despite disruptions caused by the pandemic, 2020 has been a good year for MHI. For the first half of the year, it reported a net income of P137.52 million, reversing a net loss of P258.54 million in the same period last year.

Alcantara said the turnaround was due to the company’s increased tonnage as well as the significant reduction in its mining overhead costs.

Source: <https://business.inquirer.net/310149/marcventures-to-develop-bauxite-mine-in-samar>



Containers of imported potential waste intercepted in Subic

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 21 2020 11:46 PM



Containers filled with potential waste materials were intercepted at the Subic Bay International Terminal on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020. *Bureau of Customs handout photo*

MANILA - The Bureau of Customs said Wednesday it has intercepted containers of potential imported waste materials at the Subic Bay International Terminal.

The BOC said in a statement the containers were about to leave the terminal when they were seized by its personnel along with officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

According to the BOC, the shipment arrived from the United States and was consigned to a certain Bataan Twenty Twenty Inc.

They were declared as "American Old Corrugated Cartons for Repulping."

Further examination of the shipment revealed prohibited waste materials which were illegally imported, authorities said.

Possible charges of violation of Section 1400 of RA 10863, or the Customs Modernization and Tarrif Act (CMTA), as well as other pertinent environmental laws may be filed against who are behind the shipment, the BOC said.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/21/20/containers-of-imported-potential-waste-intercepted-in-subic?fbclid=IwAR26GO06YjUEwOOgJJ2H9FrdaNxpQoQW025_3HR5oTAT9LeyffzJ2TZByMk



News5
7h · 🌐

...

Naharang ng Bureau of Customs ang dalawang container vans ng basura sa Port of Subic kanina. Dumating mula U.S. ang vans na naglalaman ng old cartons at iba pang ipinagbabawal na waste materials na ilegal na inangkat.

🇵🇭: Bureau of Customs



👍👍👍 Josef Calica, Khadija Bayam-Benpolok and 3.4K others

1.3K Comments 431 Shares

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2240917916064950&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0



ONE News
8h · 🌐

The Bureau of Customs in collaboration with DENR intercepted two container vans of waste at the Port of Subic on Wednesday. The shipment from the U.S. was declared as old cartons for repulping but further examination showed prohibited waste materials were included, Customs officials said.

Bureau of Customs



👍👍👍 186

35 Comments 12 Shares



Environment groups laud PNP Maritime Group's quick action

By The Manila Times

October 22, 2020

ENVIRONMENT groups have lauded the Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group for apprehending commercial fishing vessels in the municipal waters of Languyan, Tawi-Tawi. According to a joint statement issued by the environment groups Oceana, Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Philippine Earth Justice Center and Pangisda Natin Gawin Tama, the constant monitoring of the PNP Maritime Group had led to the capture of five light boats — LB Khalil 6, LB Khalil 4, LB Rain, LB Balyena 7 and LB Yaz. The vessels were apprehended for fishing using super lights, which is strictly prohibited by law.

“This would not be possible without the effort and strict monitoring of the police maritime team led by BGen. Omega Jireh D. Fidel, director of the Maritime Group, PNP and the first special operations unit of the Philippine National Police Maritime Group led by LtCol. Fernando Cunanan Jr.,” the statement said. The environment groups said despite the threat of the coronavirus, the PNP Maritime Group tried to implement local laws including the Fisheries Code as amended by Republic Act (RA) 10654.

Section 98 of the Amended Fisheries Code bans the use of super lights or fishing light attractor within municipal waters and bays, especially in municipal waters.

Local ordinances allowing fishing within the 10.1-to-15-kilometer portion of the municipal waters should comply with the requisites under RA 10654, the statement said.

“The amended Fisheries Law requires harvest control mechanisms to limit fishing efforts based on the health of fishing grounds. The local government units, in collaboration with national agencies, have the duty to determine proper harvest control rules and reference points as well as establish a catch documentation system in place for the management of their municipal waters,” noted Gloria Estenzo Ramos, Oceana vice president.

Under RA 10654, a vessel monitoring system is also required for commercial fishing vessels to prevent their illegal intrusion into municipal waters. The Department of Agriculture issued the vessel monitoring rules under Fisheries Administrative Order 266, published on Oct. 15, 2020.

These measures for coastal local authorities to be effective managers in regulating and monitoring fishing grounds are in accordance with the Implementing Guidelines of the Department of the Interior and Local Government Memorandum Circular 2018-59 on regulation and monitoring of fishery activities in municipal waters, and Memorandum Circular 2018-147 on implementation of the Fisheries Compliance Audit.

“By protecting the municipal waters from illegal fishing encroachment, we are protecting the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the marginal fisher folks to the preferential use of their traditional fishing grounds. There is no level playing field when the banned commercial fishing is tolerated, or worse, allowed, as the municipal fisher folks’ sustainable fishing method, such as hook-and-line, is no match to the sophisticated and highly efficient fishing gears employed by commercial fishing vessels, such as the super lights,” the statement said.

THE MANILA TIMES

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/10/22/news/regions/environment-groups-laud-pnp-maritime-groups-quick-action/783684/>



LOOK: Rare white baby turtle found on beach

By: [Ryan Arcadio](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 07:05 PM October 21, 2020

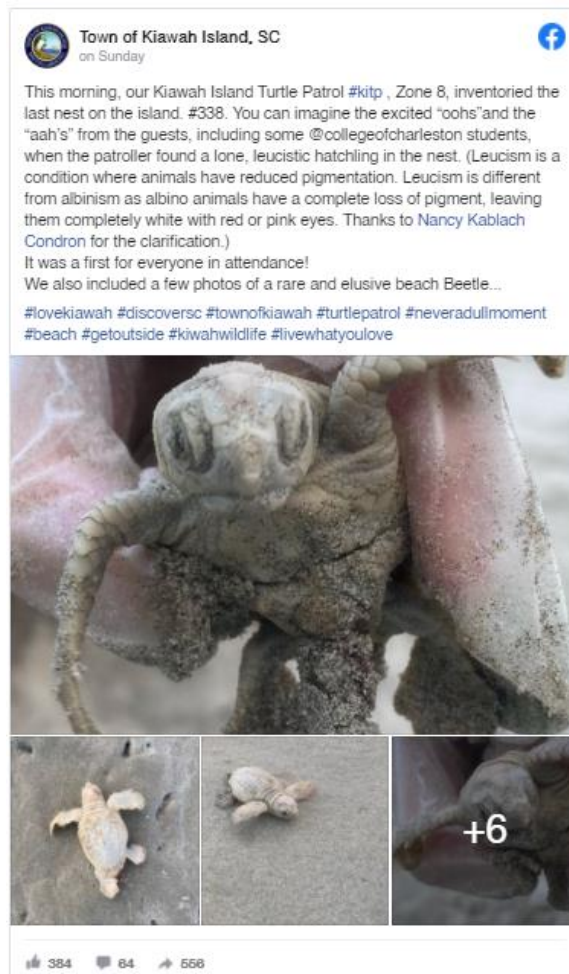


The white baby turtle found on a beach in South Carolina, USA (Image: Facebook/[@townofkiawahisland](#))

A rare, white turtle hatchling was spotted on the shores of Kiawah Island in South Carolina, USA.

The young animal was found by the Kiawah Island Turtle Patrol while checking the last nest on the island on Oct. 18. Following the discovery, the team took photos of the white turtle and posted them on the island town’s official Facebook page.

“It was a first for everyone in attendance!” the town’s local government said.





though the town initially believed it was an albino turtle, it soon clarified that this was not the case. Instead, they learned that the young turtle has leucism, a condition where animals have reduced pigmentation.

“Leucism is different from albinism as albino animals have a complete loss of pigment, leaving them completely white with red or pink eyes,” the town added while thanking a certain Nancy Kablach Condron for informing them of the condition.

However, the rare turtle might not live a long life due to its condition. The Olive Ridley Project, a sea turtle conservation group, noted that the white color makes the animal more obvious to predators. /ra



'Cash for rats' drive in Pampanga town off to good start with at least 4,000 rodents dead

By: [Tonette Orejas](#) - [@ttorejasINQ](#)

[Inquirer Central Luzon](#) / 06:26 PM October 21, 2020



RAT CONTROL. Trying to save their fields, farmers in San Luis, Pampanga kill rats for a P5 reward for every dead rodent and their tails as proof. PHOTO FROM REINEL PAWID

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The campaign to eradicate rats in San Luis, Pampanga was off to a good start, with farmers killing 4,277 of the rodents and claiming rewards from a total of P1 million in bounty.

“That’s a very good number,” Mayor Jay Sagum said, referring to the number of rat tails that farmers presented to the municipal agriculture officer (MAO) in just an hour on Wednesday (Oct. 21).

Farmers collected a total of P21,385 from the reward of P5 per dead rat, Sagum said.

In the two-month control program that aims to annihilate 200,000 rats, MAO Rolando Fronda said he expected more rodents to be wiped out in November as farmers prepare the lands for the third cropping season.

Some farmers, like Del Pamintuan, earned more by selling for P120 per kilo the meat of the rats, which are called dagang palay because they feast on unhusked rice. These are fried or cooked adobo-style.

But Fronda advised against eating house rats.

Catching rats is not an easy task. The soil is excavated by hand tractors or shoveled. When the rats surface, farmers aim for the head and strike it with wood.

Sagum and the local council put up the campaign as rats have been attacking 4,870 hectares being tilled by at least 2,500 farmers cultivating rice and vegetables.

TSB

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1350919/cash-for-rats-drive-in-pampanga-town-off-to-good-start-with-at-least-4000-rodents-dead>



Deforestation at Ipo Dam watershed continues

Published October 22, 2020 1:35am

A satellite footage taken in 2019 shows that there are almost no more trees in a portion of Mount Oriod, an area which is part of the Ipo Dam watershed, due to timber poachers.

In Ian Simbulan's report on "Stand for Truth," a volunteer from the University of the Philippines Mountaineers said the destroyed area is so huge that it could fit the Rizal Park and the Quirino Grandstand.

"2007 pa lang nakakakita na kami. Kasi nung taong 'yun, 2007 nag adapt 'yung UP Mountaineers ng area doon sa Ipo water shed para mag tanim ng mga puno. So habang nag tatanim kami, nakakarinig kami ng mga chainsaw," Fredd Ochavo said.

"Tapos may mga nakikita rin kaming mga tablón na lumulutang sa ilog. Kasi doon nila pinapandaan 'yung mga tablón," he added.

The cutting of trees is strictly prohibited in all watersheds in the country.

"[I]tong mga nakaraan na buwan, meron kasing ibang mga mountaineers na umaakyat din mula sa ibang grupo, tapos kapag nakakakita sila ng mga illegal activities... sinusumbong," he said.

Ochavo said timber poachers were taking their chance to cut down trees amid the quarantine brought by the coronavirus disease 2019.

"So dahil nga may quarantine, bibihira 'yung mga bibisita, so hindi sila natatakot. Alam nilang walang makakaita sa kanila," Ochavo said.

The volunteer said trees are vital, especially during the rainy season.

"Mahalagang mahalaga na maraming puno, lalo na ngayong tag-ulan. Dahil walang pumipigil sa pag bagsak ng tubig, walang mga ugat, kaunti 'yung mga ugat ng mga puno na pumipigil, 'yung bumabagsak karamihan puro putik na," Ochavo said.

"Tas 'yung tubig maburak kasi kung baga wala nang nagko-control sa erosion ng lupa. Dahil marumi 'yung tubig na 'yon, 'yung mga water treatment plants dito sa Metro Manila, nahihirapan linisin," he added.

Ochavo said the primary challenge is forest protection, adding that government's funds were lacking to protect the remaining forest.

"Yung pondo nila para sa kagamitan, sa uniporme, sa bota, sa mga backpack, 'yung mga kinakailangan para umakyat ng bundok, kapos din," he said.—**Joahna Lei Casilao/LDF, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/760915/deforestation-at-ipo-dam-watershed-continues/story/?just_in

NIA defers release of water from Magat Dam

Marje Pelayo • October 21, 2020



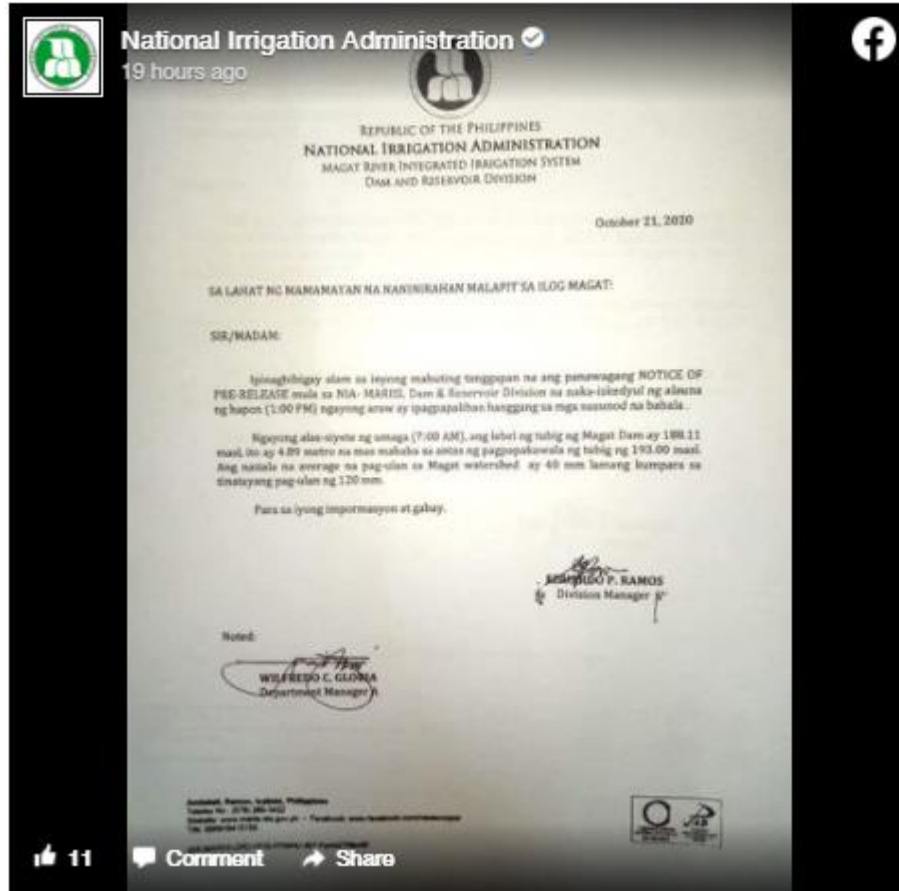
MANILA, Philippines — The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has issued a notice advising residents near Magat River that the earlier released advisory on the supposed release of water from Magat Dam in Isabela has been deferred until further notice.

The announcement was in coordination with the NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System Dam and Reservoir Division.

A notice of pre-release was issued earlier on Wednesday (October 21) for the supposed release of water at 1:00 PM in anticipation of the heavy rainfall from the passing Tropical Storm Pepito.

As of 7:00 AM today, Magat Dam's water level rests at 188.1 meters which is 4.89 meters lower than the spilling level of 193 meters.

According to NIA, the Magat Watershed has recorded only 44 mm average rainfall which is way lower as compared to the expected 120 mm.



Source: <https://www.untvweb.com/news/nia-defers-release-of-water-from-magat-dam/>



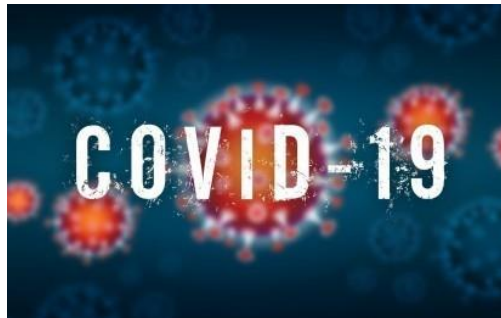
PH Covid-19 recoveries climb to 311,506

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [October 21, 2020, 5:17 pm](#)

MANILA – The total number of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) recoveries nationwide has reached 311,506 with 911 new recovered cases reported on Wednesday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) also reported 1,509 new confirmed cases, pushing the overall tally of active cases to 43,990.

Of the active cases, about 83 percent are mild, 11.6 percent are asymptomatic, 2 percent are severe, and 3.4 percent are in critical condition.



The majority of the newly announced cases are from Rizal with 83, Cavite with 82, the City of Manila with 66, Baguio City with 65, and Iloilo City with 57 infections.

The DOH added that there are 60 deaths logged Wednesday, which brought the death toll to 6,747.

Of the 60 deaths, 45 or 75 percent occurred in October, seven or 12 percent in September, and eight or 13 percent in August.

"Some 41 duplicates were removed from the total case count and 31 of these were recovered cases and three were deaths. Moreover, 16 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation," the DOH said.

As of Tuesday, the 114 licensed reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) laboratories and 33 licensed GeneXpert laboratories have conducted a total of 4,187,385 tests nationwide.

DOH said it has 21,500 total bed capacity dedicated to Covid-19 patients.

Occupied are around 47 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds; 42 percent of 13,600 isolation beds; and 37 percent of 6,000 ward beds.

It added that around 24 percent of 2,200 ventilators are in use. (PNA)



TAMANG PAGTATAPON NG FACESHIELD AT FACEMASK, ISINUSULONG

written by **Jennelyn Valencia- Burgos** October 22, 2020



Hinimok ng isang mambabatas sa Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) ang pagpapalabas ng istriktong guidelines para sa tamang disposal ng mga gamit na face mask at face shield.

Layon ng inihaing House Resolution 1244 na mapagpatupad ang gobyerno ng mahigpit na panuntunan na susundin sa tamang pagtatapon ng face mask, face shields at iba pang waste materials na ginagamit sa pang-medikal o may kaugnayan sa COVID-19.

Ayon kay Diwa Partylist Rep. Michael Edgar Aglipay, dahil sa araw-araw na paggamit ngayon ng publiko ng face mask at face shield, nagkakaroon ng hindi magandang epekto sa kapaligiran dahil sa pagtaas ng waste materials.

Kapag hindi aniya naging maingat sa pagtapon ng mga ito, posibleng maging banta pa ito sa kalusugan ng nakararami.



EUROPA BALIK-LOCKDOWN SA COVID-19



October 21, 2020 @ 8:36 AM 21 hours ago

NAGHALUNGKAT ang Ultimatum ng mga nagaganap sa real time kung tawagin.

Alas-12:00 ng gabi nang gawin nito ang paghahalungkat at ito ang kanyang mga natagpuan.

ANG KUNEHO

May alaga ka bang kuneho?

Kung wala, heto ang ilang kwento rito.

Nanganganak at pito tuwing manganak ang kuneho at limang beses itong manganak sa loob ng isang taon.

Nangyayari pa nga na mas maraming beses pa itong manganak kaysa lima lang dahil pupwede itong magbuntis agad basta nagka-boypren at may ginawang misteryo.

Kasi naman, hindi katulad ng babaeng tao na minsan sa isang buwan itong may tsansa na mabuntis.

Ang kuneho, kung nilundag siya ng kanyang boypren, doon na rin naglalabas ng itlog ang kanyang obaryo para makisama sa laway ng bf niya.

TAO MAS MAGALING SA KUNEHO

Kung sa palagay ninyo ay mas magaling ang kuneho sa paggawa ng kani-kanilang lahi, nagkakamali kayo.

Ang China nga lang na isang baby lang ang pinapayagan para sa mag-asawa habambuhay, mayroon itong mahigit sa 1,439,323,776 mamamayan.

Pero ang China na may pinakamaraming rabbit sa buong mundo, mayroon lang itong nasa 250M kuneho.

Isa pa, kinatatakutang baka maging extinct ang kuneho sa mga darating na panahon at isang dahilan dito ang paggawa natin sa kanila na pagkain.

Kabilang sa mga nag-uulam ng maraming rabbit ang mga Tsino, Italyano, North Koreano at Egyptian.



Lasang manok kasi ang rabbit kaya pupwedeng fried o tinola at ang maganda, isa itong white meat na mas maganda sa kalusugan kaysa sa mga red meat kung tawagin gaya ng mga karneng baboy, baka at kalabaw.

Sa halip na maging extinct, ang tao naman, lundag nang lundag ang dami.

Noong 1959, may 3 bilyong tao lang sa mundo ngunit pagdating ng 1999, nagdoble ang bilang natin sa 6 bilyon.

Noon namang 2011, naging 7 bilyon tayo at ngayong Oktubre 21, 2020, anak ng tokwa, 7,819,831 na tayo at maging 8 bilyon na pag-alis ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Malakanyang.

Halos kapantay ng China ang India na kapareho niyang bilyonaryo sa tao sa pagkakaroon ng 1,380,004,385.

Heto ang ibang mga bansang kasali sa Top Ten United States – 331,002,651; Indonesia – 273,523,615; Pakistan – 220,892,340; Brazil – 212,559,417; Nigeria – 206,139,589; Bangladesh – 164,689,383; Russia – 145,934,462 at Mexico – 128,932,753.

Ngayon naman, ang mahal kong Pinas, may 109, 581,078 at madagdagan pa ito hanggang Disyembre at pang-14 tayo sa may pinakaraming tao sa mundo na may mahigit 215 na bansa.

Mas magaling tayo sa kuneho.

MALAYONG MAGING EXTINCT

Hindi talaga malilipol ang tao kahit pa may pandemyang COVID-19, may nakamamatay na ibang mga sakit, may giyera, may disgrasya at iba pa.

Tingnan na lang natin ang pandemya noong 1918 na pumatay umano ng nasa 50-100 milyon sa loob ng dalawang taon.

Ngayon ay may pandemya na pumatay na rin ng 1,125,347 sa nakalipas na 10 buwan at still counting.

Kasama ang pandemya ngayon, mayroon nang 47,366,862 na namatay sa buong mundo sa sakit, abortion, HIV-AIDS, yosi, alak, suicide, droga, kalamidad, disgrasya sa kalsada at iba pa.

Pero ang ipinanganak ngayon, may 112,825,657 at higit sa doble ang namamatay.

Pagkatapos, inaasahan pang marami ang ipanganganak ngayong panahon ng pandemya dahil may panahon na sa paggawa ng baby ng mga mag-asawa, magboboypren na nakulong sa lockdown at iba pa.

PINAS HUMUHUPA PERO KARAMBOLA SA EUROPA AT IBA PA

Sa kwentong COVID-19 naman, mga Bro, karambola ang mga taga-Europa at iba pang bansa dahil sa paglundag ng bilang ng mga maysakit.

Ang United Kingdom ang may pinakamalaking bilang ng nahawa sa nakalipas na 24 oras sa 21,331 bagong kaso at 241 patay.



Sumunod na ang iba pang mga taga-Europa gaya ng Italy na may 10,874 bagong kaso (bk) at 89 patay; Poland – 9,291 bk; 107 patay; Belgium – 8,227 bk, 30 patay; Netherlands – 8,165 bk, 46 patay; Romania – 3,400 bk, 65 patay; Switzerland – 3,008 bk, 7 patay at Germany – 2,857 bk, 23 patay.

Dahil sa pagsirit ng COVID-19 sa Europa, makikita natin sa rekord ngayon na muling nauna ang Germany sa atin na noong mga nagdaang araw ay nasa likuran na natin ito.

Maging ang Indonesia na napag-iiwanan na natin sa rami ng impeksyon ay sumipa nang sumipa ulit at muling nangunguna sa 10 bansa sa Southeast Asia na kinabibilangan natin sa pagkakaroon ng 3,602 bagong kaso at 117 patay.

Sa 215 bansa at ilang teritoryo sa buong mundo na may COVID-19, pang-19 ang Indonesia at pang-20 ang Pinas sa pagkakaroon ng 1,640 bagong kaso at at 17 patay.

Nasa doble ang bilang ng patay sa Indonesia sa pagkakaroon ng 12,734 kumpara sa Pilipinas na 6,690.

Ang nangyayari ngayon sa Europa, muling pinairal ang maraming lockdown sa mga pinagbubuksang eskwela, mga pinagtatrabahuhan at mga hospitality na lugar gaya ng mga hotel, tourist area, sports, sinehan at maging party at sports.

At alam ba ninyo ang isa sa pinakabilin-bilinan din ngayon sa Europa?

Magsuot ng face mask.

Sana may nalaman tayong kahit kaunting kaalaman sa balita nating ito at gamitin natin sa pandemya at iba pa.



Duterte's legacy

posted October 22, 2020 at 12:05 am

by [Florencio Fianza](#)

"With all the campaigns and the issues the President has to face, what shall it be?"

With 20 months to go until he steps down, President Duterte's rating is still sky high at 91 per cent. It is something unheard of in this country or anywhere else. He could basically walk on water and do whatever he wants. If he could still run for re-election, he would be staring at a sure second term. Since he cannot, he must nonetheless be feeling very confident that the legacy he will leave behind will be one of the best.

When the President was campaigning for the Presidency, he had a few definite things in mind. The anti-drug war was, of course, foremost. Peace and order was another. Signing a peace deal with the various dissident armed groups like the CPP-NPA and the other Muslim rebellious bands in Mindanao, as well as constitutional amendment to push for a federal form of government, plus the anti-corruption campaign, were also mentioned.

But nothing was mentioned about foreign affairs which is now a dominant part of his administration's activities due to our problem in the West Philippine Sea with China. There was also no mention of bringing the country to the orbit of China, nor trying to leave our long-standing defense agreement with our treaty ally, the United States. After several months in office, his administration announced the huge Build Build Build program.

For the first time, we started hearing about the country adopting an independent foreign policy. This was probably partly influenced by the constant negative reactions by Western countries to some of his domestic programs, notably his anti-drug campaign. Little did we realize that this independent foreign policy was about taking the country into the orbit of China, a country that has claimed almost the entirety of the South China Sea, encroached on our exclusive economic zone and refused to recognize the Hague arbitral ruling we won in 2016.

The President, however, has chosen to ignore these Chinese actions and proceeded to bring us close to China. The Chinese are now all over the country and may perhaps be one legacy he will leave behind.

Let us try to peek into the crystal ball and see if there is anything that might indicate a single program of his that will define his presidency in the years to come. Prior to the pandemic, he had a chance of accomplishing a sizable number of his plans. With the pandemic, we are no longer so sure. We are now in the worst recession in our history. Since we are banking on a vaccine to bring us back to normalcy, even as this will only be available next year, the Duterte administration has about a year for economic recovery. Most economists believe this is not enough.

Still, his economic team is betting that recovery is possible because the economy is fundamentally sound. Also, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Build Build Build program was moving relatively well, although there were delays on some of the projects. The economic growth was respectable and among the highest in Asia. Mr. Duterte's environmental initiatives have also elicited praises from many sectors, notably the Boracay and Manila Bay clean-up efforts. Majority of Filipinos in survey after survey approve of his anti-drug war regardless of the number of people that have been killed in the process.

So, what will define his presidency? Will it be his Build Build Build project? His Boracay and Manila Bay environmental clean-up efforts together with the closure of open-pit mines? His signing a peace pact with the MILF? His so-called independent foreign policy and pivot toward China? Maybe his brutal anti-drug war? There is also his much publicized anti-corruption campaign and the government response to the pandemic that is currently ravaging the country. This has the potential of derailing many of his accomplishments because we are not yet seeing any light at the end of the tunnel.

There are actually many to choose from to best describe the Duterte years. But if we have to choose just three, the ones that will probably stick out are first, his anti-drug campaign that resulted in the killing of thousands of people and has severely affected the international reputation of the country. The second would be our country's open tilt towards China and his handling of the Chinese intrusion to our exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea. The third is a tossup between his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and his Build Build Build program.

I could of course be wrong in choosing one or two of the three but I am certain that his war on drugs will be up there in the list. It is his flagship project. He loves to talk about it and never misses the opportunity to discuss it every chance he has regardless of the occasion.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/337451>



2 more storms brewing after TS Pepito's exit

posted October 22, 2020 at 01:30 am

by [Manila Standard](#)

Rainfall from Tropical Storm "Pepito" flooded parts of Luzon Tuesday evening, particularly in Quezon Province and Pampanga, forcing hundreds of residents to evacuate, authorities said.



AFTERMATH. Following incessant rain at the height of Tropical Storm Pepito, tons of garbage wash ashore at Manila Bay, blackening the dolomite 'white sand' on Baywalk Beach near the US Embassy, on Wednesday, October 21. Norman Cruz

In Pagalungan, Maguindanao, more than 10,000 residents were displaced by flash floods that hit the low-lying town.

"This is the worst flooding that I have experienced in my life here in Pagalungan," Mayor Salik Mamasabulod said in an interview Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the state weather bureau said it was monitoring two storms outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), with one of them possibly entering the country before the weekend.

Pepito (international name Saudel) strengthened into a severe tropical storm at 2 p.m. on Wednesday as it continued to make its way out of the PAR.

More than 5,000 families living in three provinces in Luzon were affected by the inclement weather, a ranking official of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said Wednesday.

But officials of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), however, said "no major untoward incident" has been reported so far, even as nine barangays in Nueva Ecija and Quezon's Lopez town were submerged in flash floods.

It also submerged 37 low-lying villages in the coastal towns of Pampanga, sending local disaster officials to warn affected families.

Pepito will continue to dampen most parts of Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said, as the storm exits the PAR on Thursday.

The continuous rains triggered by the tropical storm caused the rise of water level in Benguet Province's Binga Dam, prompting authorities to release water from the facility.

Local police in Lopez reported that some 1,000 vehicles were stranded along the town's national highway due to flooding as of 8 a.m., while landslides were reported in Sta. Ana Cagayan.

The landslides had since been cleared out and roads are now passable, according to NDRRMC spokesperson Mark Timbal.

"No casualties have been reported so far. We're hoping the LGUs preparation resulted in this," he said.

"The challenge here is those who command our COVID-19 response on the ground are also our emergency responders... Our evacuees should also be protected and physical distancing should still be observed," he added.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office in Aurora, meanwhile, said the storm caused "minimal damage" but prompted the evacuation of some 177 families.



Casiguran, Aurora town mayor Ricaro Biton said a total of 183 individuals or 49 families were forced to evacuate in facilities and were separated from individuals that might be carrying the coronavirus in Casiguran town, Aurora, where Pepito made landfall on Tuesday evening.

Bitong said the evacuees are now on their way home, adding that the town is under modified general community quarantine and has zero coronavirus cases.



AFTERMATH. In Lopez town of Quezon province, five-foot deep floodwaters render the Candaba Ibaba portion of Maharlika Highway not passable to all types of vehicles. RDRRMC Calabarzon

It was okay, Pepito did not hit us that hard, it made landfall around 9-10 p.m. but it was not that strong," he said, adding he has yet to receive reports on the damage to agriculture.

"It would have been a good harvest season," he said.

"Floodwaters in varying degrees, the deepest is two-feet, engulfed the villages in coastal towns mostly in the province fourth district," said Angie Blanco, the executive director of the Pampanga Provincial Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO), in her latest update.

Blanco said high tide aggravated the condition in the coastal areas of Pampanga — Masantol, Macabebe in the fourth district, and in Guagua and Sasmuan in the second district.

Masantol, Macabebe, and Sasmuan towns are situated near Pampanga River and its tributaries, being a catch basin of floodwater from upland of Nueva Ecija and Sierra Madre mountains.

In Dinalungan town, Mayor Manuel Torres said more than 100 individuals from coastal and river-side areas were also evacuated, while isolating suspected COVID-19 cases.

Assistant Secretary Casiano Monilla, OCD deputy administrator for operations, said 171 families from Cagayan were affected by "Pepito", 168 in Isabela, and three in Quirino; all in Region 2.

Another 4,790 families were affected by the weather disturbance in Region IV-A, he added, without giving specifics or breakdowns on the affected provinces in the region.

Monilla added that the majority of the affected families were the ones evacuated pre-emptively by their disaster risk reduction management units and are now safe.

OCD administrator Ricardo Jalad said that he has directed all regional directors in the affected areas to look into families displaced by "Pepito" to determine whether the local government units are capable of helping them or need assistance from the national government.

In Maguindanao, the affected residents are now staying in temporary shelters along the national highway. Floods are recurring occurrence every time a heavy downpour spawned by a low-pressure area affects eastern Mindanao.

Pagalungan sits beside the Liguasan Marsh, a vast wetland encompassing the three provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat. The marshland also serves as a catch basin of floodwaters from the Agusan and Kabacan rivers traversing the area.

Mayor Salik Mamasabulod said 11 of 12 barangays in Pagalungan have been underwater for the past four days.

"It's not deep but the water did not recede quickly as compared to previous floods," Mamasabulod said, adding that they need immediate flood control projects with the help of both regional and national government.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the Bangsamoro Region in Muslim Mindanao reported that the floods have affected more than 200 hectares of land.

Pepito, the country's 16th storm this year, was last estimated 295 kilometers north northwest of Dagupan City, Pangasinan as of 4 p.m., packing maximum winds of up to 75 km per hour and gusts of up to 115 kph as it emerged over Lingayen Gulf.

The storm is forecast to leave the PAR on Thursday as it continues to move west-northwest at 30 kph.

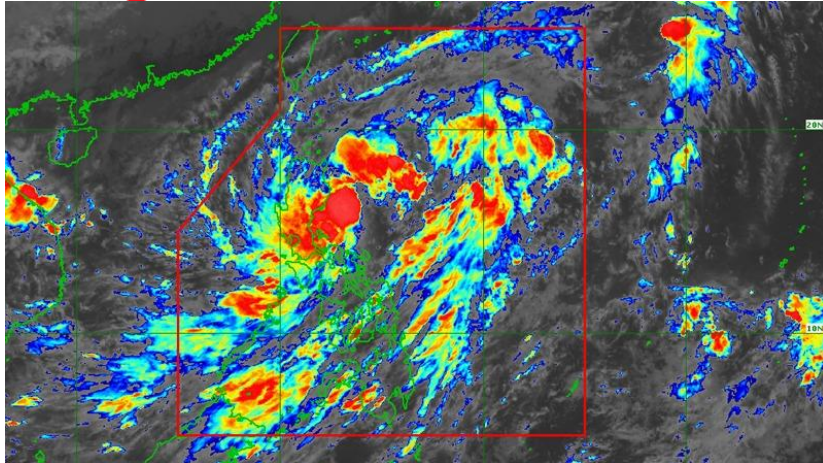


AFTERMATH. In Dinalungan, Aurora, authorities have a hard time and clearing the road of fallen trees. Aurora PPO

PAGASA said the new weather system was estimated at 1,865 km east northeast of extreme Northern Luzon but remains unlikely to enter the PAR and instead is moving westward to Vietnam.



Pepito pa-West Philippine Sea na, signal no. 1 na lang



October 21, 2020 @ 12:33 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Inalis na ang Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 2 sa lahat ng lugar habang patuloy na gumagalaw si Tropical Storm Pepito sa West Philippine Sea.

Nananatili naman ang Signal No. 1 sa kanlurang bahagi ng Pangasinan.

Ayon sa pinakahuling weather bulletin, namataan si Pepito sa 210 kilometro kanluran ng Dagupan City sa Pangasinan na may maximum sustained winds na 85 kph at busgong aabot sa 105 kph patungong kanluran sa bilis na 30 kph.

Bahagyang lumakas si Pepito habang binabagtas ang West Philippine Sea na inaasahang maging mas malakas na bagyo mamayang gabi o bukas ng umaga, Huwebes.

Inaasahang lumabas sa Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) si Pepito bukas ng umaga o hapon, Huwebes, Oktubre 22.

Makararanas pa rin ng mahina hanggang sa katamtaman na minsang lalakas ang buhos ng ulan sa Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, at Palawan.

Nagbabala rin ang PAGASA ng posibleng pagbaha at pagguho ng lupa sa tuloy-tuloy at malalakas na pag-ulan lalo na sa mga flood-prone areas.

Malalakas na hangin at masungit na karagatan naman ang mararanasan sa mga lugar na nasa Signal No. 1.

Inaasahan din ang malalakas na hangin at masungit na karagatan dala ng amihan sa nalalabing bahagi ng Luzon. RNT/ELM



Water level of Angat Dam, other reservoirs slightly up due to Pepito

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Oct 21, 2020 3:38:38 PM



(FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 21) — Some reservoirs in Luzon, including Angat Dam, Metro Manila's main source of water, saw a slight increase in their water levels due to the rains spawned by Tropical Storm Pepito, according to state weather bureau PAGASA.

Edgar dela Cruz of PAGASA's Hydro-Meteorology Division said in a forum that as of 6 a.m. Wednesday, Angat Dam's water level is at 190.17 meters, higher by .92 meters since Tuesday.

The official added Pepito also improved other reserves after days of rain, increasing the water levels of Ipo Dam by .19 meters, La Mesa Dam by .14 meters, Ambuklao Dam by .95 meters, San Roque Dam by .50 meters, Pantabangan Dam by .40 meters, and Magat Dam by .46 meters.

The National Irrigation Administration said its Magat division has scheduled the opening of Magat Dam's floodgates at 4 p.m. after its water level reached 189.97 meters, near the spilling level of 193 meters.

PAGASA also reported the water levels of four major dams namely Angat, San Roque, Pantabangan, and Magat have been on an upward trend for two weeks now due to Tropical Depression Ofel and Pepito.

The level of Angat Dam, Pantabangan Dam, and Magat Dam are also expected to rise by a few more meters by November, as PAGASA expects one to three tropical cyclones to enter the Philippines' monitoring area next month.

However, the elevation in San Roque may decline by one meter next month, dela Cruz said. He did not elaborate.



Air pollution costs Europe \$190B/yr – study

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

October 22, 2020

LISBON: Air pollution costs inhabitants of European cities more than 160 billion euros (\$190 billion) each year due to long- and short-term health impacts, a group of environmental and social watchdogs said in research published Wednesday.

In a sweeping analysis of air quality, health and transport data in more than 400 cities, the CE Delft alliance said pollution from fossil fuels in 2018 cost the average citizen 1,250 euros — about 4 percent of their annual income.

Air pollution increases the likelihood of developing conditions that are known risk factors for coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), they said.

“Our findings provide additional evidence that reducing air pollution in European cities should be among the top priorities in any attempt to improve the welfare of city populations in Europe,” the analysis said.

“The present Covid-19 pandemic has only underscored this.” The study looked at more than a dozen health factors linked to air pollution in cities in order to quantify the “social cost” of exhaust fumes and factory smoke on populations.

The authors put the cost for 130 million citizens in cities studied at 166 billion euros in 2018, the last year for which full data was available. London had the highest social cost from pollution in absolute terms, totalling 11.38 billion euros lost welfare.

Bucharest (6.35 billion euros lost) and Berlin (5.24 billion euros lost) came second and third, respectively. Most of the costs related to the heightened risk of premature death experienced by urban dwellers.

The authors said that while air pollution in cities came from a number of sources including agriculture, household heating and industry, there was a clear link between increased car use and heightened social cost.

“This confirms that reduced commuting and car ownership has a positive impact on air quality, thus reducing the social costs of poor city air quality,” they said. In July, the Air Quality Life Index released annual data showing that air pollution cuts life expectancy for every man, woman and child on Earth by nearly two years.

Nearly a quarter of the global population lives in just four south Asian countries that are among the most polluted — Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

AQLI found that these populations would see their lifespan cut by five years on average, after being exposed to pollution levels 44 percent higher than 20 years ago.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/10/22/news/world/air-pollution-costs-europe-190b-yr-study/783783/>



Air pollution adds over 6.67M deaths to toll in 2019

October 21, 2020, 8:30 pm

ANKARA – Air pollution, the fourth leading risk factor for early death, added 6.67 million deaths to the global toll last year, according to a new study published on Wednesday.

"Air pollution is the leading environmental risk factor for early death, with its total impact exceeding only by high blood pressure (10.8 million), tobacco use (8.71 million), and dietary risks (7.94 million)," the State of Global Air 2020 report highlighted.

On newborn deaths, the report stated that lack of air quality also led to almost 500,000 deaths worldwide last year among babies in their first month of life.



"[Due to unprecedented Covid-19 restrictions], satellite and ground-based air quality monitoring data have shown substantial reductions in concentrations of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and, in some cases, modest reductions for other pollutants such as PM_{2.5}," the report mentioned.

However, it added these positive changes towards clean air were only temporary as, with restrictions lifted, emissions have risen quickly, erasing any gain in air quality.

Across the world, the Covid-19 pandemic has claimed more than 1.12 million lives in 189 countries and regions since last December.

Over 40.83 million cases have been reported worldwide, with recoveries nearing 28 million, according to figures compiled by the US' Johns Hopkins University.

The report noted that the three countries with the highest population-weighted exposure worldwide are India, Nepal, and Niger, while the three countries with the lowest exposure are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, and Canada in 2019 as part of PM_{2.5}, airborne particulates 2.5 microns or less in diameter.

"The impact [of air pollution] on the numbers of people affected is clearly dominated by countries in South and East Asia, most notably in India and China," it said, adding that since 2010, the use of solid fuels has fallen slowly and steadily in most regions, in particular in South Asia and Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Oceania Super Regions. (Anadolu)



Air pollution killed 500k newborns in 2019 – global study

posted October 21, 2020 at 02:00 pm

by [AFP](#)

Air pollution killed 476,000 newborns in 2019, with the biggest hotspots in India and Sub-Saharan Africa, according to a new global study which said that nearly two-thirds of the deaths came from noxious fumes from cooking fuels.

More than 116,000 Indian infants died from air pollution in the first month of life, and the corresponding figure was 236,000 in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to the State of Global Air 2020.

The estimates were produced by the US-based Health Effects Institute and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's Global Burden of Disease project.

The authors wrote they relied on a growing body of evidence linking mothers' exposures during pregnancy to air pollution with the increased risk of their infants being born too small (low birth weight) or too early (preterm birth).

These conditions are associated with serious complications and already account for the vast majority of neonatal deaths in both regions.

The new analysis estimated what percentage of those deaths came from ambient and household air pollution. "An infant's health is critical to the future of every society, and this newest evidence suggests an especially high risk for infants born in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa," said Dan Greenbaum, President of HEI.

"Although there has been slow and steady reduction in household reliance on poor-quality fuels, the air pollution from these fuels continues to be a key factor in the deaths of these youngest infants," he added.

Overall, the report found that air pollution led to 6.7 million deaths worldwide in 2019, making it the fourth leading cause of death behind high blood pressure, tobacco use, and dietary risks.

The authors added that while the Covid-19 pandemic had led to significant societal and personal costs, "many countries around the world have experienced blue skies and starry nights, often for the first time in many years" -- but these gains were short lived.

"Nonetheless, the blue skies have offered a reminder of what pollution takes away," it said.



Buildings are seen covered in thick smog in New Delhi on November 7, 2019. Money Sharma/AFP

Air pollution killed 476,000 newborns in 2019 —global study

Published October 21, 2020 4:18pm

WASHINGTON — Air pollution killed 476,000 newborns in 2019, with the biggest hotspots in India and Sub-Saharan Africa, according to a new global study which said that nearly two-thirds of the deaths came from noxious fumes from cooking fuels.

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Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/healthandwellness/760829/air-pollution-killed-476-000-newborns-in-2019-global-study/story/>



Furry flyers

Published 6 hours ago on October 22, 2020 12:05 AM

By [WJG](#)



Wingsuits used by base or cliff jumpers for gliding were inspired by flying squirrels.

These animals that live in America have a special membrane between the arms and legs that they use for gliding from tree to tree to forage. The membrane acts as an airfoil that lifts squirrels when they are falling and allows them move horizontally.

Flying squirrels and common tree squirrels are endemic in the United States and parts of Central America. But it's not surprising to see such cute creatures in Asia. They are, however, not found so much in forests, but in homes as they are mostly kept as pets.

For sure, these mammals did not find their way to Asia by using their natural ability to glide. There is no such thing as flying squirrel migration either.

They did actually fly to Asia but through airlines. Their flight was sponsored by wildlife traffickers.

Flying squirrel trafficking is illegal in the US even though they are not endangered. The Humane Society of the United States — Florida said this is to prevent inhumane treatment of the animals from capture to export.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission counted at least 3,600 flying squirrels trafficked to Asia through an elaborate trading scheme done by a wildlife dealer in Florida earning from \$213,800 to \$1 million.

According to FWC, poachers in Florida use 10,000 traps to capture flying squirrels in several counties. These are then transported to Bushnell where the dealer issues a license for the animals, describing them as bred in captivity instead of caught in the wild.

South Korean buyers transport them by land to an international wildlife exporter in Chicago where they are smuggled to Asia, the FWC claimed. Couriers in Georgia are involved in the transport of the squirrels.

Authorities in Florida recently busted the flying squirrel trafficking ring, with seven suspects charged.

It looks like flying squirrels won't be flying to Asia anytime soon.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/22/furry-flyers/>