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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR magbibigay ng technical assistance sa Tawi-Tawi Tumbagaan Island mine rehab



January 22, 2021 @ 7:01 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na handa itong magbigay ng tulong para sa rehabilitasyon ng mined-out site ng Tumbagaan island sa Tawi-Tawi sa naturang lalawigan na kinasasakupan ng Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Ayon kay Undersecretary for Enforcement, Mining and Muslim Affairs Jim O. Sampulna kahit na ang Tawi-Tawi ay hindi nasa ilalim ng hurisdiksyon ng DENR's ang ahensya ay nakahandang tumulong sa BARMM's Ministry of Environment Natural Resources, and Energy (MENRE) para sa kanilang environment inisyatiba.

Sinabi pa ni Sampulna na inatasan siya ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na maghanda sakaling ang BARMM government ay hihingi ng tulong.

"If they will seek technical assistance, we are willing to extend expertise, not just in mining but in all other aspects that BARMM needs such as in lands, forestry, biodiversity, and environment," ani Sampulna.

Nilinaw pa ni Sampulna na ang DENR ay walang awtoridad para magsagawa ng mining operation sa Tawi-Tawi kasunod ng panawagan ng publiko sa DENR na umaksyon sa kautusan ni President Rodrigo Roa Duterte para sa agarang pagpapahinto ng mining activities sa Tambagaan island.

"However, the DENR fully supports the order of the President to suspend the mining operations in the said area for its rehabilitation."

"BARMM is now conducting an investigation on the site to fast track the rehabilitation," sinabi pa ni Sampulna.

Ipinaliwanag pa ng opisyal na ang BARMM ay may sariling environment office.

"BARMM now has the MENRE, which is responsible for environmental initiatives in the Muslim autonomous region." dagdag pa naturang opisyal. (Santi Celario)

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/denr-magbibigay-ng-technical-assistance-sa-tawi-tawi-tumbagaan-island-mine-rehab/>



Tagalog PR: DENR nagpasalamat sa Manila-based vloggers dahil sa pagsuporta sa Manila Bay rehab

By DENR Published on January 22, 2021

LUNGSOD QUEZON, Enero 22 -- Nagpasalamat si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns Benny D. Antiporda sa Manila City vloggers dahil sa regular at tamang pagbibigay ng mga ito ng kaganapan sa isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.



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Ayon kay Antiporda, patuloy ang mga vloggers sa pagbibigay ng positibong “vlogs” o video blogs at nagbabahagi ng mga kaganapan simula nang umpisahan ang Manila Bay rehabilitation na tinawag na “Battle for Manila Bay” noong 2019.

“Most of their posts have been viewed by thousands of people, which have contributed in informing the public on the status of the historic bay. The vlogs about Manila Bay have proven that they are very effective in informing and educating the Filipinos,” sabi ni Antiporda.

Nagpasalamat din si Antiporda kay Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso dahil sa patuloy nitong pagsuporta sa mga programa at proyekto ng DENR.

Sa kanyang huling pulong sa Manila-based vloggers, sinamantala ni Antiporda ang pagkakataon upang magbigay ng kasalukuyang kaganapan sa mga nagawa ng DENR sa ikalawang taon ng Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

Kabilang na dito ang pagbaba ng fecal coliform level ng baybayin, pagtatayo ng solar-powered sewage treatment plant sa Roxas Boulevard at mangrove planting activity sa BASECO lagoon sa Tondo, Manila.

Inanunsiyo din ni Antiporda na nasa 30 porsiyento na ang Manila Bay beach rehabilitation project. Ang paglalagat ng dolomite sand sa 500-meter coastline sa Manila Bay ay matatapos ng isa o dalawang buwan.

“Sinasabi nilang dinagdagan ang dolomite. Hindi totoo iyon. Walang ganon. Wala pong na wash-out, na wash-in po ang black sand. I-rereiterate po namin na pumasok po ang black sand, nilinis po nila iyon,” saad ni Antiporda.



Dagdag pa nito: "Maraming naririnig na haka-hakang negatibo na sinasabi, pero handa naman po kaming tanggapin. Let's just wait for the project to finish and that's the time siguro na bago sila humusga. That's the time na we will face them kung sakali talagang may pagkakamali at pagkukulang. But based on our studies, perfect po ang proyektong ito para sa ating taong bayan."

Bukod sa Manila Bay rehabilitation ay ibinahagi din ng DENR official ang mga programa sa solid waste management at isa sa mga ito ay ang pag-turn-over ng composting machines sa local government units na kayang mag-convert ng food waste sa soil conditioners.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na ang DENR-Environment Management Bureau ay nagpaplano na humingi ng tulong sa Department of the Interior and Local Government upang makagawa ng patakaran sa pangangasiwa ng food wastes. (DENR)

United States helps bolster Philippines' capacity to combat wildlife crime

By US Embassy in the Philippines Published on January 22, 2021

MANILA, Jan. 22 --- On January 22, U.S. Embassy in the Philippines' Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Director Kelia Cummins joined Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo, Jr., DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau Officer-in-Charge and Assistant Director Amelita DJ. Ortiz, and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Programme for Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime Regional Coordinator Giovanni Broussard for the virtual turnover of 400 Rapid Reference Guides (RRG) and 30 electronic tablets to authorities for use in the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime in the Philippines.



International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Director Kelia Cummins, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Programme for Combatting Wildlife Coordinator Giovanni Broussard, and other stakeholders at the virtual turnover of 400 RRG on January 22.

The RRG, a compendium of relevant provisions of Philippine law, rules and regulations, and appropriate sentences, is a practical instrument for frontline investigators in preparing wildlife crime cases for successful prosecution. This project is part of a Php38.5 million (\$800,000) Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime in Southeast Asia grant implemented by UNODC in Southeast Asia and funded by INL.

The Biodiversity Management Bureau brought together many stakeholders, including the Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime, Anti-Money Laundering Council Secretariat, National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police (PNP)-Maritime Group, PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, PNP-Aviation Security Group, Philippine Ports Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Customs, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, other representatives from the DENR-Regional Offices and DENR-Legal Affairs Service, to assist with the development of the field reference guide.



DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau Wildlife Resources Division Officer-in-Charge and Head, Legal Unit Atty. Theresa Tenazas holds copies of the Rapid Reference Guides (RRG) and one of the turned-over electronic tablets.

Utilizing UNODC's regional expertise regarding practices for countering wildlife trafficking, the stakeholders developed an application to make the RRG available to a larger number of investigators and prosecutors via phones or tablets.

The INL-sponsored program provided 30 tablets for practitioners in the criminal justice system in charge of the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crimes. (US Embassy in the Philippines)



U.S. helps bolster PH capacity to combat wildlife crime

Friday, January 22, 2021 People's Tonight16



Photos show (L) DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau Wildlife Resources Division Officer-in-Charge and Head, Legal Unit Atty. Theresa Tenazas holds copies of the Rapid Reference Guides (RRG) and one of the turned-over electronic tablets

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Source: <https://journal.com.ph/editorial/miscellaneous/u-s-helps-bolster-ph-capacity-to-combat-wildlife-crime/>



DENR heightens crackdown on illegal chainsaws to protect Pampanga forests

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 12:01 PM January 22, 2021

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Pampanga on Friday reported confiscating 11 unregistered chainsaws last year, bringing the haul to 29 in three years.

Laudemir Salac, DENR provincial officer, said the seizure of illegal chainsaws was part of the agency's strategies or innovations to curb timber poaching in forest lands in the province.

“Instead of the traditional approach of apprehending suspected illegal loggers while transporting forest contrabands, we go after those unregistered chainsaws, which may be used in illegal cutting of trees,” Salac said in a statement.

The Chainsaw Act of 2002 (Republic Act No. 9175) requires the registration of chainsaws with the DENR. It carries a penalty of six years in prison or a fine of P30,000.

The 11 chainsaws are estimated to be worth P124,000.

Pampanga has a few forest patches, mostly destroyed by Mt. Pinatubo's June 1991 eruption, slowly regenerating on their own or through limited reforestation projects by local governments and non-government organizations with Aeta, an indigenous people. INQ

LZB



Crackdown sa ilegal na pagpupuputol ng puno, pinaigting para sa Pampanga forests – DENR



January 22, 2021 @ 5:30 PM 13 hours ago

Pampanga – Paaigtingin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Pampanga ang pagbabantay sa pagpuputol ng puno makaraang maiulat ang nakumpiskang 11 unregistered chainsaws noong 2019.

“Instead of the traditional approach of apprehending suspected illegal loggers while transporting forest contrabands, we go after those unregistered chainsaws, which may be used in illegal cutting of trees,” saad ni Laudemir Salac, DENR provincial officer.

Isinasaad sa Chainsaw Act of 2002 (Republic Act No. 9175) ang rehistrasyon ng chainsaws sa DENR.

Taglay naman nito ang penalty na P30,000. **RNT/FGDC**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/crackdown-sa-iligal-na-pagpupuputol-ng-puno-pinaigting-para-sa-pampanga-forests-denr/>



DENR-LMB hailed as top performing agency in FOI award

By DENR Published on January 22, 2021

QUEZON CITY, Jan. 22 -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Land Management Bureau (DENR LMB) was awarded for the second consecutive year as one of the "Top Requested and Performing Agencies" in the eFOI (Freedom of Information) portal for 2020 in a virtual ceremony organized by the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO).

Recognized for championing freedom of information, the LMB garnered the award due to its high rate of responses to information requests made by the public.

"I'd like to commend the LMB for exercising information transparency and responsibility amidst the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Your commitment in the service is truly admirable. Let us continue this success for 2021," said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

The LMB has managed to successfully process at least 90% of the information requests despite the imposed quarantine by establishing an FOI Desk in the Public Assistance Section (PAS) under the Records and Knowledge Management Division (RKMD) to answer land queries and requests.

"We are honored to be recognized again as one of the 'Top Requested and Performing Agencies' for this year. This motivates us to continue working and providing Filipinos with access to information particularly on land matters. We thank PCOO for recognizing our efforts on FOI," said LMB Director Atty. Emelyne V. Talabis.

The FOI Awards is an annual event which aims to recognize the remarkable contributions of government offices in the executive branch, including government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and local water districts (LWDs) to the development and progress of the PCOO's FOI program.

The 2020 FOI Awards with the theme "Committed, Responsive and Revolutionary," rallies to: Commit—that government institutions shall continue to uphold the people's right to access information and initiate important discourses in bridging current policy and implementation gaps; Respond—that government institutions shall pursue to make critical and informed decisions based on timely, credible, and verified information and take on an active role in addressing disinformation; and, Revolutionize—that government institutions shall seek and adopt innovative methods in building and reconstructing better systems and approaches which facilitate the effective disclosure of information all amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FOI program is being implemented under Executive Order (EO) No. 2 series of 2016, which operationalizes in the Executive branch the people's right to information and to do full public disclosure and transparency in the public service. (DENR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1064604>



MGB-7 distributes IEC materials on understanding landslides to LGUs

By Mines and Geosciences Bureau 7Published on January 22, 2021



The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB-7) recently turned over more than 500 poster-brochures on understanding landslides to several Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) offices of local government units (LGUs) in Cebu Province.

The materials will be posted in various public areas in the community and in the households to educate the people about landslides and other geohazards around them.

MGB-7 Director Armando Malicse consistently reminded LGUs to be guided by the geohazard maps, implement early warning signs, and conduct preemptive actions.

The IEC materials were distributed in December 2020 in Alcoy, Dalaguete, Boljoon, Balamban, Pinamungajan, and Toledo City.

The bureau will continue to distribute the materials to the rest of the LGUs this year.

This is in support to the government's continuing efforts to create disaster-resilient communities in the country. (PR)



Tree, mangrove planting now mandatory for every PPA contract, permit issued

By PPA Published on January 22, 2021

MANILA, Jan. 22 -- True to its commitment to help promote environmental protection and sustainability, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has ordered the mandatory planting of trees and mangroves for every contract, accreditation and permits issued by the agency.

The order takes effect on the 2nd of February after the 15-day publication period reckoning from 19 January 2021.

PPA Administrative Order No. 14-2020, signed by PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago, requires the applicants/grantees of contracts, accreditations and permits, among others, to plant 1,000 seedlings of trees or mangroves in coordination with the local office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) within their respective business locations.

Santiago said this will be the new norm in the agency in granting contracts in compliance with Republic Act 9729 otherwise known as the 'Climate Change Act of 2009'.

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

"This order will be the PPA's humble contribution to the country's move towards a greener environment which in turn will be beneficial to the future generation," Santiago added.

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

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

In addition to the 1,000 seedlings mentioned, PPA Administrative Order 14-2020 likewise mandated the different port service providers to plant the following additional number of seedlings: Port Terminal Operator, 100,000; Cargo Handling Operator, 50,000; Passenger Terminal Building Operator, 50,000; Roll On Roll Off Operator, 25,000; Private Port Operator, 500,000; and Harbor Pilot, 10,000.

The order also provides that contractors of the agency for the supply of goods and services, shall be required to plant at least 1,000 seedlings for contracts amounting to P5 million and another 1,000 seedlings for every additional P5 million contract amount or fraction thereof.

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



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

To ensure that the order is strictly followed, all PPA Port Management Offices and Head Office Responsibility Centers shall monitor compliance and coordinate with the CENRO.

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

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

PPA PMO Misamis Oriental/Cagayan de Oro Port Manager Isidro V. Butaslac, Jr., recently led the mangrove planting drive in Opol, Misamis Oriental as part of the agency's Corporate Social Responsibility. (PPA)



‘Plant trees’: PPA to contract grantees

By [Myla Iglesias](#) -January 22, 2021



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Pagpapalalim at paglilinis sa Marikina River

On Jan 22, 2021



NANG manalasa ang sunod-sunod na bagyo sa Pilipinas noong nakaraang taon, naranasan na naman ang kaliwa't kanang baha sa iba't ibang lugar sa Luzon, kabilang ang Marikina City. Halos lahat na yata ng paraan ay ginagawa na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) para masolusyunan ito.

Kabilang sa mga ginagawa ngayon ng dalawang ahensya ay ang pagpapalalim at paglilinis sa mga ilog.

Sa ganitong paraan, maaaring maibsan o hindi na maulit ang mga nangyaring baha noon.

Tama ang ginagawa ng MMDA at DENR, hindi na kailangang hintayin pang may dumalaw pang bagyo bago isagawa ang pagpapalalim sa mga ilog.

Unang sinimulan ang pagpapalalim (dredging) sa Cagayan River.

Well, masyado na nga namang mababaw ang pinakamahabang ilog sa bansa kaya nang manalasa ang Bagyong Ulysses noong November 2020, talagang umapaw ito.

Lumubog ang buong Cagayan at nadamay pati ang Isabela.

Maging ang Marikina at iba pang lugar ay nalubog din sa baha.

Kaya, ayon kay City Mayor Marcelino "Marcy" Teodoro, uumpisahan na rin daw ng MMDA ang pagpapalalim sa Marikina River para maiwasan din ang pagbaha.

Nagiging suki na kasi ng baha kada taon ang Marikina, Rodriguez, San Mateo at Taytay, Rizal sa sobrang babaw na ng nasabing ilog.

Sabi nga ni MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos, Jr., kapag hindi napalalim ang Marikina River, mauulit ang mga pagbaha.

Halos walang tigil ang ginagawang paglilinis ng Marikina LGU sa mga basura sa ilog mula nang tamaan ito ng kalamidad.

Nang bumaha nga noong nakaraang taon, ayon kay Teodoro, sangkaterbang basura ang inanod na nagmula sa ilog.

Ipaprayoridad ng MMDA ang pagpapalalim sa mga ilog para maiwasan ang mga katulad na insidente.

Bukod dito, magtatalaga rin ang MMDA ng mga permanenteng personnel na magsasagawa ng dredging activities at restoration ng mga dike sa Marikina.



Ito ang pangako ni Abalos matapos itong makipagpulong kay Teodoro at sa iba pang opisyal ng lungsod.

Magiging katuwang aniya ng Marikina ang MMDA upang lumalim, lumaki at lumawak ang kapasidad ng Marikina River at maiwasan ang mas matinding pagbaha sa hinaharap.

Sinasabing nangako rin ang MMDA chief na aayusin nito ang mga dike sa Provident Village na nawasak makaraang manalanta ang bagyo noong isang taon.

Aba'y laking pasasalamat ni Mayor Teodoro kay Abalos dahil tumutulong ang MMDA sa lungsod bago at pagkatapos ng mga kalamidad.

Hindi naman kasi kakayanin ng Marikina LGU ang pagpapalalim at paglilinis ng ilog kung wala itong magiging katuwang sa pagsasagawa ng dredging operations tulad ng MMDA.

Good job at Mabuhay po kayo, Mayor Marcy at MMDA Chair Abalos!



Cagayan River dredging to begin on Feb. 2

Aileen Cerrudo • January 22, 2021



CAGAYAN, Philippines — The dredging of the Cagayan River is set to begin on February 2, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The government aims to remove the sandbars along the narrow area of the river to prevent severe flooding in the Cagayan Valley.

The DPWH said the three sandbars cover around 235 hectares and a volume of seven million cubic meters. They are located in Magapit Narrows which the DPWH noted as a constriction point in the center of the Cagayan River.

The sandbars are specifically located in Barangay Bangag in Lal-lo and in Barangay Casicallan Norte and Dummun in Gattaran.

The DPWH will coordinate with other agencies to speed up the process of dredging the river. **AAC (with reports from Grace Doctolero)**



UNTV News and Rescue

15h · 🌐

Sisimulan na sa February 2 ang dredging sa Cagayan River bilang solusyon sa malawakang pagbaha sa Cagayan Valley.



YOUTUBE.COM

Dredging sa Cagayan River, sisimulan na sa February 2

Sisimulan na sa February 2 ang dredging sa Cagayan River bilang solusyon sa malawakang pa...

👍❤️😄 252

24 Comments 64 Shares



Mining in times of calamity

posted January 22, 2021 at 04:30 pm

by [Emil Jurado](#)

"We should distinguish between legal and illegal mining activities."

It has become a common refrain: Every time natural disasters occur and cause death as well as damage to properties, mining is demonized.

I have purposely delayed commenting on the subject because doing so right after several typhoons hit the country last year might be construed as insensitive. Those affected were still grappling from their loss and the agitation from anti-mining groups were at fever pitch.

But, Santa Banana, let's get real. Is mining to be blamed every time natural disasters are strange? People should learn to delineate illegal from large-scale mining. I find the statement by the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines spokesman Rocky Dimaculangan that "illegal mining OPERATIONS DO NOT FOLLOW THE SAME STRINGENT SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT STANDARDS REQUIRED (caps mine) of legitimate large-scale mining operators, including tailings and water management, air and water monitoring, miner habilitation, and reforestation."

And here lies the root cause of miseries encountered by people when typhoons wreak havoc on their lives and livelihood. Illegal miners do as they please without regard to the risks their operation causes. On the other hand, large-scale or legal mining companies are subject to the strictest government regulation.

Worse, my gulay, illegal miners dig for minerals and create mini-communities mostly in areas designated as geo-hazard by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB). And yet, illegal mining thrives in cahoots with people of influence.

Influential people who make money out of these illegal miners don't need college degrees to understand that it is totally absurd to allow people to create communities at the foot of mountains or in low-lying areas too close to the shore.

A case in point is a landslide which killed in the gold-mining barangay Runruno in Quezon town in Nueva Vizcaya. Lest we jump into uninformed conclusion, those who perished were not even in the vicinity of FCF Minerals Corporation's area of operations, but in an MGB geo-hazard-classified area since 2018, according to records.

Regardless of that fact, the company assisted the community all throughout the calamity. Emergency Response Teams were dispatched even before the landslide to respond to emergencies. They spearheaded road-clearing operations for easy access. The team was there until the completion of the retrieval operations. The company also provided food for all the rescuers and provided financial assistance to the affected families.

But, still on the other hand, my gulay, why have they been allowed to live and make an illegal living in the area? Why were they allowed without permits in total disregard of the dangers that their activities pose, not only to them, but to the general public and the environment?

Quick to the rescue are anti-mining activists who are funded by non-government organizations (NGOs) supported in dollars by wealthy philanthropic foundations, grants from local, state and federal agencies located mostly in the United States, and private donations from leftist organizations, my gulay!

These activists have been rebuffed time and again by government agencies concerned but twist the narrative in the media to paint them as victims. For instance, the MGB turned down a request of a lawyer for a cease-and-desist-order against the Runruno Gold Project of FCF Minerals Corp. in Nueva Vizcaya province, finding no legal basis to issue that cease-desist-order against the company and/or cancel its FTAA (financial or technical assistance agreement) No.004.

MGB acting director Wilfredo Moncano issued the statement in response to a July 13 letter sent by Victor Alena who was acting on behalf of the non-government organization Action for Consumerism and Transparency in Nation Building.



The agency said “with regard to our concern on the mine tailings and other toxic materials, please be informed that FCF has been granted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources the government environmental compliance certificate (ECC-CO-1001-001) for its mining operation. Likewise, the contingent liability and rehabilitation fund steering committee has approved the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP) of FCF through certificate of approval No.100-2011-03.” I think that’s clear enough.

The agency also said the ECC and the EPEP bear the commitment and plan of FCF for the comprehensive and strategic environmental management, including the tailings storage facility.

“Please note that the mining operations of FCF is being regularly monitored by MGB through our Regional Office No. 2. It is also subject to the monitoring of a monitoring team pursuant to the provisions of Section 185 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, the consolidated implementing rules and regulation of Republic Act. No. 7942, the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.” Moncano said.

Often, Santa Banana, the problem lies when the media give emphasis to the calamity, giving a statement that disasters and calamities can be traced to logging and mining without differentiating between illegal and large-scale mining. Those in the latter group are monitored by the MGB in compliance with stringent DENR rules and regulations. It’s the media that exacerbate the problem since media people often try to make a big issue about mining influenced by NGOs that are clearly anti-mining.

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In a previous column, I said that the vaccine rollout program is as clear as mud. I was referring to the testimonies of those in charge of the rollout, like vaccine czar Carlito Galvez, particularly on prices. Other countries that procured this vaccine from China got it at much cheaper prices. This is what I meant when I said I smelled a rat.

Indeed, anomalies in pricing could make some people richer by the millions of pesos. We are no strangers to corruption in our country.

Now comes President Duterte saying that the deal with Sinovac is already sealed, with the presidential spokesman saying the Chinese drug costs only P650 per dose, not P1,814.75 per dose. These statements contradict those of the vaccine czar.

Santa Banana, this raises several questions: Was there really an attempt at corruption? Who are responsible? At the rate things are going, guess we’ll never know what really happened with the people who got their doses in advance.

My only conclusion about the vaccine rollout is that it’s a mess, my gulay!

Another question I’d like to ask is, why does Duterte say that the Sinovac deal is done when the Food and Drug Administration and a panel of experts have not yet given Sinovac the EUA or Emergency Use Authorization? In other words, the Sinovac is in place because there has been a previous agreement between China and the Philippines. It’s clear that Duterte favors Sinovac.

According to health experts, what is essential in buying a vaccine are safety and its efficacy. Price comes third. So, will Filipinos accept the vaccine from Sinovac when its efficacy is only 50 percent?



2-YEAR QUARRY BAN? DENR NOT SO KEEN

By **Panay News** -Friday, January 22, 2021

BY DOMINIQUE GABRIEL BAÑAGA

BACOLOD City – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is not keen on hastily issuing suspension orders for quarry operations in Negros Occidental.

Local officials earlier proposed a two-year moratorium on quarrying if proven that this contributed to the destructive floods that hit several towns and cities early this month.

DENR officials, however, surmised that the massive *floods* in the province were *not* caused by quarrying, said Cindy Ferrer, information officer of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Region 6.

She cited the recent aerial assessment of OCD-6, DENR and the Department of Public Works and Highways in the northern portion of Negros Occidental.

Ferrer said one of the observations they noticed was the rivers have become shallow especially in the low-lying areas. This may have contributed to the series of massive floods.

They also noticed obstructions, stockpiling of sand and gravel, illegal structures, fish ponds, siltation and sandbars in the mouths of the rivers.

Earlier this week, Vice Gov. Jeffrey Ferrer proposed a two-year moratorium on quarrying activities in the province.

Next week, representatives from DENR are expected to provide the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) with more insights on what caused the recent flooding, and present sustainable solutions.

Meanwhile, the provincial government is set to conduct ocular inspections on about 200 mountain and river quarry operations.

These aerial surveys will determine if catch basins in the mountainous areas were damaged, causing them to overflow and flood the lowlands.

SP member Andrew Montelibano of the 3rd District will lead the inspection.

Allegations of environmental abuses by quarry operators were brought to the SP's attention, leading Montelibano to vow to review all quarry permits and be strict in the issuance of new ones.



“There is a need to balance the development of our infrastructures and the protection of our river systems. We build something but we destroy something, too,” he stressed. Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson earlier announced he will review the permits granted to quarry operators.

The assessment, according to Lacson, will be in coordination with all concerned local government units.

“Because many areas are now made of concrete and impermeable materials, there is limited ground for water to seep in when there is a heavy rain,” the governor said.

He reiterated that, “There should be no conflict between economic growth and the protection of the environment.”

Lacson likewise appealed to Negrenses to follow proper waste disposal or the flooding will happen again./**PN**



Gonzaga: Recent flooding not due to quarrying



[VIOLETA LOPEZ GONZAGA](#)

January 22, 2021

A KNEE-JERK reaction?

Widespread flooding in the towns and cities in Negros Occidental led the vice governor to immediately call for meetings where the blame was readily placed on sand and gravel quarrying.

There is in fact a pending resolution before the Sangguniang Panlalawagan to pass for a year or more moratoriums for sand and gravel quarrying in the whole province. Is this really a rational measure? I doubt whether the Provincial Environmental Office (Pemo) field officers who go around different quarry sites in the province will certify this view. Negros-based Environmentalists will readily dispute the concerned vice governor, as a prime cause for widespread flooding.

As Errol Abada, a former student and leading Negrense environmental advocate rightly analyzed, "The heavy flooding in Talisay, Silay, and Victorias in Negros Occidental is due to intense rain. The forest, particularly within the Northern Negros Natural Park, that may mitigate the impacts of this flooding has diminished through the years. Dredging of rivers along these areas is not the main solution, as proposed by some local officials. Get back to the basics of forest protection and rehabilitation (to include mangroves and beach), pursue diverse and sustainable agriculture, and implement climate-resilient land use plans, including infrastructure, housing, and settlement. Consider the connectivity of ecosystems of the entire landscape and seascape from NNNP and its surrounding sites. Look into the solid waste, as well, and disaster risk reduction measures. "

The flooding at San Carlos City a few days ago validates Errol Abada's view. The flooding is due mainly to the fact that a large part of the Mount Kanlaon Natural Park, and Northern Negros Natural Park in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental "has been devoid of forest/natural cover and is now converted into agriculture and settlement," or I may add, resort and tourism facilities. Greed on the part of persistent illegal loggers in remote hard to monitor areas of Mt. Kanlaon, set to kaingin or swidden patch or cut for charcoal making before Bantay Gubat guards reach them in their seasonal forays (not a regular one as they are mostly part-timers, not paid full time), real estate land developers like in Don Salvador Benedicto and cities like Victorias are to be blamed too.

I understand three major rivers from adjoining Manapla and E.B. Magalona likewise flow into Victorias that acts as a basin, but the recent clearing of trees at upland Gawahon to give way to coffee shops and tourism facilities may also be a contributing factor.

The spurt of development and construction boom in the province despite the pandemic may be offset by a sudden stop to sand and gravel quarrying which permits have been withheld before for four years. Our vice governor may not be aware of the fact that the Pemo with the Regional DENR and the Governor's Office have instituted very strict guidelines and criteria for the issuance of new permits and the renewal of existing ones. I know this as a very close kin's application for renewal has taken him four years before its approval. For the record, the unreasonable length of time for processing was due to the previous moratorium set under short-lived DENR Secretary Gina Lopez, and the long bureaucratic red tape--from the barangay endorsement through the city, the province, and the many government line offices involved.



Dear vice governor, please reconsider your pronouncement, listen closely to the Pemo field officers who go all around the province to carefully do environmental assessment with NGO specialists to assess whether a proposed quarrying site is fit for extraction. Also, it is the legal holders of quarry permits who put in place, mitigating measures against soil erosion and degradation of their quarry sites being mandated by Provincial Ordinances and Pemo guidelines to plant hundreds of indigenous trees by their riverbanks. Vice governor, please run after real estate developers who cover up estuaries and natural water flows to increase their acreage for land development, realtors in watershed Northern Negros areas like upland San Carlos and Don Salvador Benedicto fast being turned to summer residencies of affluent Negrenses and settlers. Support persevering and environmentally-minded developers, do not stop compliant licensed sand and gravel quarries who are paying faithfully hundreds of thousands, nay millions of taxes to the province. Do not have a blanket rush policy formation. Consult field researchers and analysts. I volunteer as a policy analyst and program formulation forger.



Investigation on Gumatdang River starts

By Dexter A. See

January 22, 2021

ITOGON, Benguet: Mayor Victorio Palangdan ordered the Itogon Municipal Police Station to conduct an investigation on the alleged recent contamination of the Gumatdang River, which could be traced to the possible resumption of the processing of ore by small-scale miners either within the vicinity of the river system or from Baguio City.

Palangdan said he received reports from Gumatdang village officials, who described that the river waters turned bluish recently.

He stressed that further investigation should be conducted if water from the river had traces of the chemicals used to process the ore of pocket miners and were illegally discharged to the river system.

“The presence of these chemicals are a serious threat to marine life and the health and safety of the residents living in the areas that will be traversed by the river,” said Palangdan.

The mayor did not elaborate if the Department of Environment and Natural Resources should be part of the investigating team but cited that law enforcers should immediately engage in small scale ore processing that go straight to the river.

The local chief executive claimed that the resumption of the processing of ore by the pocket miners in the area is still prohibited based on the prevailing temporary suspension order issued by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu for the suspension of all small-scale mining operations in the Cordillera that was issued after the tragic landslide incident that transpired at Level 070 in Ucab at the height of Typhoon “Ompong” (international name: “Mangkhut”) in September 2018.

He directed the law enforcers to immediately arrest those responsible for the contamination of the Gumatdang River and to confiscate the equipment being used for the illegal processing of the ore, which will be used as evidence in the filing of the appropriate charges against the alleged pocket miners.

Palangdan pointed out that there are ongoing efforts being done by the concerned government agencies and the local government to provide alternative sources of livelihood for the residents to allow them to recover not only from the suspension of small-scale mining activities, but also the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/01/22/news/regions/investigation-on-gumatdang-river-starts/830559/>



The bicycle used by Jon Sarmiento in his "Padyak Touro" campaign and the Bongabong Watershed in Oriental Mindoro are pictured in this January 19, 2021 photo.

Jon Sarmiento, Facebook

As cycling booms, farmer tours Mindoro to teach communities about climate crisis

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - January 22, 2021 - 9:36am

MANILA, Philippines — At a time when most discussions and campaigns about climate change have shifted online due to pandemic, Jon Sarmiento, a farmer based in Mindoro, has set out on a journey around the island to make people understand the climate crisis and urge them to do something about it.

For half a month, Sarmiento will go around the provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro on a bicycle campaign called "Padyak Touro" to teach communities of indigenous Mangyans, fisherfolk, farmers as well as local leaders about the urgency of addressing the climate crisis.

Sarmiento said the impacts of climate crisis such as rising sea level and stronger typhoons are being experienced in Mindoro, an island off the southwestern coast of Luzon.

Residents of the island also deal with frequent flooding events, which destroy farmlands, but many dismiss these as just natural phenomena.

"People don't understand climate change that's why their proactive response and mitigations and adaptation mechanisms are not that high, even the government," he said in an interview with **Philstar.com**.

Research: Many believe in effect of climate change, few feel informed about it

A research published by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative last year suggested that seven in 10 Filipinos believed they would be "somehow affected" by the effects of climate change. Concerns over its impacts revolved around health, income loss, damage to agriculture and property and change of livelihoods.

But the same study also found that 60% of the survey respondents said they had not heard of and did not feel well informed about climate change.

Renee Karunungan, a doctoral researcher at Loughborough University, said the failure to mainstream climate change and its links to disasters contributed to the low public awareness. Climate change is also taking a back seat because there are other "everyday realities" that people are facing such as poverty.



An urgent matter



Jon Sarmiento holds a discussion about climate crisis with local leaders in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro on January 20, 2021.

Jon Sarmiento

To emphasize that the stakes are high and the issue is urgent to ordinary folks, Sarmiento calls the phenomenon exactly what it is: a crisis, an emergency.

“I stress that this is a climate crisis, a climate emergency so people will understand what are the interventions in case of emergency, what will people do if they’re in a crisis situation,” he said.

During the 15-day tour, Sarmiento will discuss the effects of the climate crisis on farmers, fishers and indigenous peoples—vulnerable sectors to the warming of the world’s temperature.

Sarmiento, who also owns an organic farm called Kuatro Marias in Oriental Mindoro's Victoria town, will teach communities and leaders about climate resilient farming, sustainable food production systems and even sustainable tourism.

“I also share adaptation and mitigation measures. I do not only raise awareness about the problem, I also share best practices to people,” he said.

Environmental organizations have been asking the government to issue a climate emergency declaration to establish a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to address the crisis and ensure a rapid transition to renewable energy.

While President Rodrigo Duterte has not declared a climate emergency himself, the House of Representatives passed a resolution last year declaring one. But like most declarations worldwide, it is non-binding.

Born during the pandemic



Jon Sarmiento and farmers in Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro pose for a photo on January 20, 2021.

Jon Sarmiento



Sarmiento saw the rise in the number of bikers as an opportunity to do “Padyak Touro.”

“I encourage people to organize and I will go to them.”

“Biker communities in Mindoro also accompany me. I aim to educate them [about the problem] so they can also become carriers of the message of the climate crisis,” he said.

The campaign was also “triggered” when the Philippines dealt with back-to-back strong typhoons late last year while grappling with the coronavirus crisis.

Typhoon Quinta (Molave) cut a path of destruction through Mindoro in late October then, Super Typhoon Rolly (Goni), the world’s strongest storm in 2020, came and pummelled southern Luzon. A week after Rolly, Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco) tore through a vast swath of Luzon.

The three powerful typhoons forced millions to seek refuge in evacuation centers, claimed the lives of at least 125 people and wreaked damage to houses, infrastructure and agriculture totaling billions.

“I go to different barangays, sectors to talk about climate emergency because it seems that nobody is doing this because the focus is on COVID-19. I told them more people will die because of climate emergency, more lives are at risk because of this situation,” Sarmiento said.

In November last year, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent warned that climate change will have a “more significant medium and long term impact on human life and on Earth” than COVID-19. Hence, the world should address the threats of the climate crisis with the same urgency as fighting the pandemic.

Concrete actions

Aside from educating communities about the climate crisis, Sarmiento is also lobbying for concrete policy actions.

On the local level, they drafted policy actions declaring critical watersheds in Mindoro reserve areas and establishing municipal food councils.

Food councils will be tasked to facilitate access to sustainable and resilient production and marketing resources, ensure availability of adequate and affordable supply in the market, and monitor and act on food loss and food waste.

Sarmiento is also pushing for a “farmers and fisherfolk climate emergency fund” to address the needs of these critical sectors and help them adapt to the changes in agriculture and food production.



Trees and more thrive in Cavite's Buhay Forest

By [Dennis Abrina](#)

January 23, 2021

MAGALLANES, Cavite: The local government unit (LGU) here is gradually opening its doors to tourists while observing safety and health standards to avoid the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).



The vertical and ground birds' nests in Buhay Forest are Instagrammable. PHOTO BY DENNIS ABRINA

Offering a getaway is Buhay Forest (Life in the Forest) in Barangay San Agustin of this town, 71 kilometers away from Manila and a perfect place to commune with nature in a "bubble" away from the coronavirus.

Buhay Forest, which covers 10 hectares, is a trekking paradise atop Magallanes town, some two hour's drive from Manila via Cavitetx.

In a recent interview, Freddie Sisante, municipal environment and natural resources officer, said former Magallanes mayor Napoleon Beratio proposed the development of Buhay Forest in 2012 as an eco-tourism site.

According to Sisante, Beratio led a massive reforestation drive to protect and preserve the forest cover of that part of Magallanes.

"The Buhay Forest concept offers visitors and trekkers an easy climbing adventure to the Magallanes highland's summit where there is a camping area, a hut, restrooms and picnic tables and benches," he said.

One has to ascend some 178 manageable steps and 248 more up a pathway to the top that faces a cliff.

Trekkers taking the Barangay San Agustin route will only take a few minutes to climb uphill while those who opt for the Barangay Ramirez route may be rewarded with the experience of feeling one with the Divine

The place comes with 11 picnic tables scattered across a 500-sqm picnic area, benches, six swings, two seesaws, and vertical and circular birds' nests, which are just the right backdrop for taking souvenir pictures

One can also cross a bridge or go up to a viewing tower to case the surrounding areas.

"Matatanaw po ninyo ang mga bulubundukin ng (You can view the rolling hills of) Mt. Gumuhong Bundok to the north [on] the Nasugbu, Batangas side; Mt. Marami in Maragondon, Cavite [on] the northwestern side; Mt. Ulila in the west; Mt. Ipus [on] the southwestern side; and Mt. Kaytalang [on] the southern part, including a view of Mt. Palay-Palay and Pico de Loro [on] the Maragondon side," Sisante said.



Mayor Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista said the local government's camping and trailing rules state that hikers and tourists must leave no trace of garbage in the area and must always keep the highland clean. Buhay Forest is open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Those 15 years old and below and 65 years old up are disallowed from entering, according to guidelines of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging of Infectious Diseases.

Overnight stays are still disallowed, and it is still mandatory to wear face masks and face shields.



Trak ng basura hinarang: driver, helper dinampot

By: Abante News Online — Last updated Jan 22, 2021

METRO



INARESTO ng Cavite Police ang isang driver at helper ng isang dump ruck matapos mabuking na mga basura na itatapon ang laman ng kanilang sasakyan pero walang kaukulang permiso sa Tanza, Cavite

Kasong paglabag sa Sec. 48 Para 13 (Ecological Waste Management Act) ang kinakaharap ng driver na si Eduardo Sarzuelo, 48, at helper nito na si Benjie Saparco, 27, dahil sa reklamo ng Tanza Municipal Enviroment ang Natural Resources Office (MENRO)

Sa ulat ni Corporal Nikko Paul Barranco ng Tanza, Municipal Police Station, alas-7:30 kamakalawa ng gabi nang parahin ng Tanza Office of Public Safety (TOPS) ang isang dump truck na may plakang NEJ 4966 na minamaneho ni Sarzuela dahil sa paglabag nito ng batas trapiko (Disregarding Traffic Officer) sa Anteo Soriano Highway, Brgy Bucal, Tanza, Cavite.

Nang hingan ng lisensiya si Sarzuela, at siyasatin ang truck ay naglalaman ito ng tinatayang 34 cubic meter na mga basura.

Nang hingan ng dokumento ay walang naipakita si Sarzuela dahilan upang arestuhin kasama ang kanyang helper at maging ang minamanehong sasakyan. (Gene Adsua)



Balik na naman ang maitim na hangin sa Metro Manila

ni [Bong Revilla](#) - @Anak ng Teteng | January 22, 2021

Marso 15 noong nakaraang taon nang magdeklara ng community quarantine ang pamahalaan sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa at ilang panahon ding nawala ang mga sasakyan sa buong Metro Manila.

Mahirap sa panig ng mga kababayan nating nais magtungo sa nais nilang puntahan dahil walang masakyan ngunit nagdulot naman ito ng positibong resulta sa ating kalikasan makaraan ang ilang buwan.

Ayon sa mga eksperto ay nagkaroon umano ng malaking pagbabago sa nalalanghap na hangin sa buong Metro Manila mula nang pansamantalang mahinto ang paglabas sa kalye ng mga sasakyan.

Maging ang napakaitim na usok na tila isang napakaitim na ulap na nakakulapol sa tapat ng bahagi ng Metro Manila ay unti-unti umanong nagliwanag at kahit sandali ay nakaranas ang marami na makalanghap ng sariwang hangin.

Ang mga namamasyal sa overlooking area ng Antipolo City ay napansin ang malaking pagbabago sa Metro Manila dahil malinaw na nilang naaaninag ang mga gusali na dati-rati ay natatakpan ng maitim na usok.

Ngunit ngayong unti-unti ay nagbabalik na lansangan ang mga sasakyan ay muli na namang nagbabalik ang dating sitwasyon sa Metro Manila na lubhang napakarumi ng hangin.

Base naman sa paliwanag ng Department of Health (DOH) ang hanging tinatamasa natin ngayon sa buong Metro Manila ay nagdudulot ng non-communicable diseases kahit marumi ito sa ilong.

Ngunit hindi ito ligtas dahil may mga sakit ding nakukuha sa maruming hangin tulad ng allergies, acute respiratory infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, cancer at cardiovascular diseases.

Kaya malaking tulong din ang pagsusuot ng face mask sa panahong ito lalo na sa mga taong lantad sa lansangan tulad ng mga traffic enforcer, tindero, pasahero, tsuper at mga kahalintulad nila na madalas sa kalye.

Hindi nila maiwasang malanghap ang maruming hangin mula sa usok ng mga sasakyan, mga sinusunog na basura, plastic, goma at iba pang harmful wastes na masama sa ating kalusugan.

Ang Greenpeace Southeast Asia at ang Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air ay may pag-aaral na ang usok mula sa mga sasakyang gumagamit ng gasolina, diesel at maging ang sinusunog na coal ang isa sa mga dahilan ng kamatayan ng maraming Pilipino.

Umaabot umano sa 27,000 katao ang binabawian ng buhay taun-taon dahil sa nakalalasang hangin ayon sa kanilang pag-aaral at ikatlo ang ating bansa sa buong Asya na marami ang namamatay dahil sa air pollution.

Nakakaalarma rin ang ulat na umaabot sa mahigit P304 bilyon ang nawawala sa ating ekonomiya dahil lamang sa air pollution at 80 porsiyento ng pinagmumulan nito ay ang mga sasakyang hindi maayos ang maintenance.

Nakadagdag pa ang inilabas na ulat ng United Nations (UN) na lahat ng bata sa buong mundo ay bigo umanong bigyan ng proteksiyon laban sa mapanganib na kalusugan dulot ng climate change kabilang na ang air pollution.



Lumalabas na ang labis na carbon emissions ay banta sa kinabukasan ng mga bata at papasanin nila ang karagdagang mga panganib sa kalusugan mula sa nakamamatay na heat waves hanggang sa pagtaas ng pagkalat ng mga tropikal na sakit.

Kaya napapanahon ang inilunsad ng Land Transportation Office (LTO) na Private Motor Vehicle Inspection Center (PMVIC) na mayroong gadgets at apparatus na siyang magdedetermina ng accurate evaluation kung nasa kondisyon pa ang sasakyang kailangan na ngayon bago magparehistro.

Sa makabagong paraang ito ay makatitiyak na makaiiwas ang lahat sa aksidente at makasisigurong hindi magbubuga ng maitim na usok ang sasakyan na siya nating kailangan para mapanatiling malinis ang ating hangin sa kapaligiran.

Hindi na ngayon mairerehistro ang mga sasakyang nagbubuga ng maitim na usok dahil hindi na puwede ang palusot sa PMVIC na computerized din ang inilalabas na resulta ng eksaminasyon.

Anak ng Teteng!



GMA News

8h · 🌐

Naoperahan na ang rescued Philippine Eagle na si Saranggani. Natanggal na ang holen na bumara sa right clavicle ng agila.

Gayunpaman, simula pa lamang ito ng recovery ni Saranggani. Sa mga nais tumulong, bisitahin ang www.philippineaglefoundation.org/donate.

| via Philippine Eagle Foundation

Bisitahin ang www.gmanews.tv para sa iba pang mga balita.



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News5
19h · 🌐

Ilang larawan sa protesta ng ilang grupo sa Mendiola ngayong anibersaryo ng Mendiola Massacre. Ang sigaw nila, hustisya at karapatan sa sariling lupa.

🇵🇭: Philippine Collegian



👍👎👏 1.1K

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People aged 10-65 in MGCQ zones allowed to go out starting Feb. 1

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos January 22, 2021, 9:40 am



(File photo)

MANILA – People aged 10 to 65 can now go outside of their homes beginning February, so long as they are in areas placed under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ), Malacañang announced on Friday.

This developed after the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) approved the recommendation to relax age-based restrictions for areas placed under MGCQ, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said.

“Pupwede na pong lumabas ang mga batang nasa edad na 10 taong gulang at senior citizens na hanggang 65 years old (Children aged 10 and above, and senior citizens aged 60 to 65 are now allowed to leave their residences),” Roque said in a video aired on state-run PTV-4.

Roque said individuals below 10 years old and over 65 years of age are still required to remain in their residence “at all times.”

He said local government units (LGUs) are enjoined to adopt the easing of age restrictions for areas under general community quarantine (GCQ).

“Yung mga lokal na pamahalaan naman po sa mga lugar na GCQ or general community quarantine eh hinihikayat po natin na sana payagan na rin lumabas ‘yung 10 to 65. Pero uulitin ko po, desisyon pa rin po iyan ng mga lokal na pamahalaan (Local governments in GCQ zones are encouraged to also allow those aged 10 to 65 to leave their homes. However, the decision will still come from the local governments),” Roque said.

Initially, only persons aged 15 to 65 are allowed to go out of their homes.

On Tuesday, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said he would ask the IATF-EID to let children as young as 10 years old leave their residences to help spur the economic activities in the country amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

Lopez said 10-year-old children should be allowed to go to malls with their parents since they are also able to comply with the minimum health protocols.

He also noted that families accounted for 30 percent to 50 percent of outdoor consumption, based on the feedback his office received from malls and restaurants.

Lopez’s proposal backed the recent call of Socioeconomic Planning Karl Kendrick Chua to let more children leave their homes to revive the Philippine economy.

Chua earlier said restrictions on children and family activities, which dampen demand for non-essential services, are dragging down the recovery of the country’s economy. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1128190>



Swab test sa ika-5 araw aprub ng IATF

By [Gemma Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 23, 2021 - 12:00am



Nilinaw naman ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque na bukod pa ito sa mandatory swab test pagdating ng mga pasahero mula sa 34 bansang pinatawan ng travel restriction ng Pilipinas.

The STAR/Michael Varcas, file

MANILA, Philippines — Bilang dagdag seguridad laban sa COVID-19, ipinag-utos ng Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) ang pagsasailalim sa swab test sa ika-5 araw ng pagdating dito sa Pilipinas ng mga biyahero mula sa ibang bansa.

Nilinaw naman ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque na bukod pa ito sa mandatory swab test pagdating ng mga pasahero mula sa 34 bansang pinatawan ng travel restriction ng Pilipinas.

Sa inilabas na panibagong protocol ng IATF, ang mga bagong darating sa bansa ay manatiling naka-quarantine sa loob ng 14 araw hanggang sumailalim muli sila sa COVID test sa ikalimang araw ng pananatili dito.

Ang hakbang ng IATF ay base sa rekomendasyon ng Department of Health (DOH) matapos na makapasok sa bansa ang UK variant ng COVID-19 at magpositibo nito ang isang 29-anyos na lalaki na nanggaling sa Dubai. Nagnegatibo ang pasyente sa unang test subalit nagpositibo matapos ang re-swabbing.

Samantala, nilinaw ni Roque na ang mga dayuhan na personnel ng isang international organizations kasama ang kanilang asawa at mga anak na Filipino citizen na babalik dito sa bansa ay exempted na sa travel ban subalit kailangan pa rin nilang sumailalim sa quarantine at testing protocol.

Habang ang mga dumating naman para sa medical at emergency cases kabilang ang kanilang medical escorts ay sasailalim pa rin sa testing at quarantine protocols na itinakda ng DOH.

Ang karagdagang hakbang ng IATF ay bilang pagpapaigting sa seguridad upang maiwasan ang pagdami ng kaso ng UK variant ng COVID-19 na sinasabing mas nakakahawa.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/01/23/2072399/swab-test-sa-ika-5-araw-aprub-ng-iatf/amp/>



ASYMPTOMATIC SA COVID-19, MALAKING BANTA; MAGPA-TEST PARA MAKILALA



January 22, 2021 @ 3:03 PM 16 hours ago

Sinusubaybayan natin ang paglaganap ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19 mula noong 2019 hanggang ngayon.

Kung titingnan natin ang mga nagaganap, mga Bro, sa kabila ng milyon-milyon nang nababakunahan laban sa nasabing sakit sa buong mundo, naririyon pa rin ang katotohanang mahigit sa 500,000 katao ang nagkakasakit at libo-libo ang namamatay rito araw-araw.

Sa United States at Europa lamang na pukpukan na ang mga pagbabakuna, nakapaninindig-balahibo ang mga nagaganap.

Sa US, araw-araw na naglalaro sa humigit-kumulang sa 200,000 ang nagkakasakit at nitong nagdaang tatlong araw, heto ang mga namamatay: Enero 19 – 3,347; kinabukasan – 4,326; at ngayon – 3,850.

Ang Spain naman, biglang lumundag ngayong araw sa 148, 269 ang dating bilang ng nagkakasakit araw-araw na naglalaro sa 40,000-80,000.

Ang mga bansang United Kingdom, Brazil at Mexico naman ay halos araw-araw na may patay na nasa 1,500.

Ganyan katitindi ang nagaganap sa ibang bansa.

Dapat ba tayong magpasalamat at magrelaks dahil naglalaro lang sa mahigit 1,000-2,000 araw-araw ang nagkakasakit sa mahal nating Pinas at bibihira na lalagpas sa 100 ang namamatay?

HEALTH PROTOCOL SIRA SA TAGLAMIG

Panahon ng taglamig o winter sa Europa, US, Russia, Canada, China at iba.

Dahil dito, hindi makalabas nang husto ang mga tao para magtrabaho at mamasyal dahil pinupuno ng mga yelo at snow ang kanilang mga kalsada at lugar.

Sabi ng mga eksperto, ito ang perpektong panahon para lumaganap ang COVID-19 sa nasabing mga lugar.



Paliwanag nila, madali ang hawaan ng mga pamilya dahil lagi silang magkakasama sa iisang bubong at sira lahat ang mga social distancing at health protocol sa loob ng mga tahanan, condominium at iba pa na tirahan ng mga tao.

COVID-19 VARIANT O MUTANT

Pero may nakababahala at walang iba kundi ang mga bagong anyo ng virus ng pandemya na tinatawag nilang mga variant, mutant at kung ano-ano pa.

Unang lumitaw ang mga sinasabi nilang bagong anyo na UK variant, South African variant, Brazilian variant at iba pang libo-libo nang bagong anyo ng COVID-19 at Setyembre 2020 nagsimulang madiskubre at lumaganap.

Itong UK variant nga ay nakapasok na sa Pinas mula sa United Arab Emirates sa pamamagitan ng ilan sa nasa 200 pasahero ng Emirates Flight No. EK 332 na dumating sa Pinas nitong Enero 7, 2021.

Nasa 13 umano sa mga pasahero ang naging positibo sa COVID-19 at ang Pinoy na taga-Kamuning, Quezon City ang may UK variant.

Malalaman pa lang kung may variant din ang iba pang nagpositibo.

Mahalagang tanong sa mga variant o mutant:

Kasimbagsik o higit ba silang mabagsik kaysa orihinal na COVID-19?

KATAKOT-TAKOT NA TAKOT

Dahil sa mga varian o mutant, mga Bro, katakot-takot ang nadarama ng lahat, maging sa mga Filipino.

Una, pinag-aaralan pa nang husto kung ilan na ang namamatay sa variant, bukod sa mga namamatay sa orihinal na virus.

Pero ang isang nakatatakot, higit na mabilis manghawa ang mga may variant kaysa ang mga may orihinal na COVID-19.

At kung ganoon, ito ang isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit kahit may nababakunahan na ay grabe pa rin ang paglaganap ng pandemya?

Isa pang kinatatakutan: Baka hindi umano epektibo ang mga bakuna ngayon sa mga variant o mutant dahil sa orihinal na virus nakatuon ang mga ito.

Paano na nga ngayon na pinasok na tayo ng mga variant o mutant?

Nagpapasalamat tayo na naging maagap ang mga awtoridad natin sa pagkilala sa mga may COVID-19 at mga variant nito.

Pero paano ang mga nakalusot at gumagala ngayon sa mahal kong Pinas?



TESTING MALAKING REMEDYO

Sa gitna ng lahat ng mga pangyayari sa pandemya, lalo na ang hindi pagtigil ng hawaan at paglaganap ng virus kahit may mga bakuna na, isa sa pinakamahalagang dapat gawin ay tuloy-tuloy na testing.

Tingnan na lang natin ang testing sa Quirino Grandstand sa Rizal Park o Luneta na isinagawa kamakailan ng pamahalaan ni Mayor Isko Moreno, may natagpuang ilang positibo.

Marami ring natatagpuang positibo ang mga lokal na pamahalaan sa iba't ibang lugar ng bansa ng iba pang mga local government unit.

Nagaganap ito sa mga test na isinasagawa sa mga naglalakbay mula sa isang lugar patungo sa iba.

Makaraang magpositibo, inilalagay ang mga ito sa mga isolation o quarantine facility sa loob ng 14 araw upang paglabas nila at hindi na positibo, hindi sila makahawa ng iba.

Sa kasalukuyan, dahil na rin sa limitadong salapi ng pamahalaang nasyunal at lokal, ang mga may sintomas lang karaniwan ang tine-test o sinusuri.

Ang mga asymptomatic o walang sintomas ngunit may dala palang virus ay hindi natin nalalaman at magulat na lang tayo kung biglang may nahawaan at naging symptomatic o may klarong sintomas hanggang sa maospital o mamatay.

Kaya naman, maituturing ang mga asymptomatic na nakatatakot din kaya dapat gawan ang mga ito ng paraan para makilala at matulungan na rin upang hindi makapanghawa ng iba.

Sa ngayon, pinagagana ang mga uri ng test gaya ng antigen test na dinaraan sa pagsusuri sa dugo, saliva test o sa pamamagitan ng laway at sa real time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction o RT-PCR.

Paano nga ba palakasin at palawakin ang test o pagsusuri upang matagpuan ang mga asymptomatic at ihiwalay ang mga ito upang hindi sila makahawa?

O magpa-test tayo kung may nagsasagawa nito.

Kung libre, maraming salamat po sa mga nanlilibre at kung kaya naman nating magbayad, go tayo.



Asean top diplomats air concern over recent activities in SCS

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **January 22, 2021, 8:44 am**



MANILA – Some Southeast Asian top diplomats at the Asean Foreign Ministers' (AMM) Retreat on Thursday aired concerns about the recent activities in the South China Sea, described to have "eroded trust and confidence" in the region.

"We discussed the situation in the South China Sea, during which concerns were expressed by some Ministers on the land reclamations, activities, and serious incidents in the area, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security, and stability in the region," the AMM chairman's statement read.

"We reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation," it added.

It underscored the need for peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The group also called for "non-militarization and self-restraint" in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states.

The AMM Retreat is the first scheduled meeting under Brunei's chairmanship in 2021.

During the virtual conference, the top diplomats also affirmed support to freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea.

But amid concerns about recent activities in the region, they noted the "continuously improving cooperation" between Asean and China, citing "progress" in negotiations toward the early conclusion of the COC.

The two parties are currently working to continue the second reading of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text amid the evolving pandemic situation.

"We emphasized the need to maintain and promote an environment conducive to the COC negotiations, and thus welcomed practical measures that could reduce tensions and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings, and miscalculation," the statement read.

"We stressed the importance of undertaking confidence-building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence amongst parties; and we reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS," it added. **(PNA)**



Climate Change Could Cause Permanent Heatwaves in Lakes, Researchers Warn

[Emily Denny](#)

Jan. 21, 2021 02:30PM EST



The Great Lakes, including Lake Michigan, experienced some of their warmest temperatures on record in the summer of 2020. Ken Ilio / Moment / Getty Images

Heatwaves are not just distinct to the land. A recent [study](#) found lakes are susceptible to temperature rise too, causing "lake heatwaves," [The Independent reported](#).

For the first time, researchers showed how lakes experience [heatwaves](#) and are sensitive to variations in the climate, lead author Dr. Iestyn Woolway, a research fellow at the European Space Agency's Climate Office in the UK, told The Independent.

Published on Wednesday in Nature, the study analyzed how hundreds of lake temperatures changed across the world, from the period between 1901 to 2099. If greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, lakes will experience hotter and longer heatwaves, researchers [found](#).

Woolway and his team studied lake temperatures during heatwaves under two scenarios: high greenhouse gas emissions and low greenhouse gas emissions. Compared to data from the period between 1970-1999, the average temperature of global lakes could increase to about 1.7°C during heatwaves by the end of the century in a high greenhouse gas emission future, [The Independent reported](#).

But high greenhouse gas emissions could increase more than just a lake's temperature during a heatwave. The average length of a heatwave could also increase from eight days to 95 days by the end of the century, The Independent reported.

"As lakes warm during the twenty-first century, their heatwaves will begin to extend across multiple seasons, with some lakes reaching a permanent heatwave state," [the study noted](#).

Over the summer, the Great Lakes experienced some of their warmest temperatures on record. Surface water temperature in all the Great Lakes, except for Lake Superior, experienced temperatures in the 70s, [The Washington Post](#) reported in July. Lake Erie even reported temperatures in the 80s, similar to that of Virginia Beach.

"Ultimately, lake temperatures follow the temperatures of the atmosphere," Dr. Woolway told The Independent.

The Great Lakes water temperatures were six to eleven degrees warmer than normal this past summer, responding to air temperatures in the region that were some of the warmest ever reported, The Washington Post reported.



"Last year was really cold and there was a lot of rain. This year there hasn't been as much rain, and it's been persistently hot," Andrea Vander Woude, manager of the Great Lakes CoastWatch program at NOAA, told The Washington Post.

Some locals in the Great Lake region had nothing to complain about. "I'm loving this," Whitney Miller, a Michigan-based swim instructor, told the Record-Eagle, a newspaper in the region, according to The Washington Post. "Last year I was in a wetsuit up through the 15th of July ... I was a popsicle." However, high temperatures in lakes pose a serious threat to the survival of natural ecosystems, the study found.

Serving as more than just a recreational hotspot, the Great Lakes are an important source for clean water and economic livelihood. Nearly 90 percent of the freshwater in the United States and approximately 20 percent of the world's fresh water supply comes from the Great Lakes, [according to NOAA](#). Millions of pounds of fish are also extracted out of the lakes each year.

Increases in water temperature will reduce habitat for coldwater fish, making the lakes more suitable habitats for invasive species and susceptible to dangerous algal blooms, [The National Wildlife Federation reported](#).

But meeting the [Paris agreement's](#) goal of limiting global warming below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels could slow temperature increases and reduce heatwave length in lakes, the study found.

Relative to the period between 1970 and 1999, lake temperatures during heatwaves could be limited to just a 0.3°C increase by the end of the century if this goal is met. A lake's heatwave duration could also be limited, increasing by only 27 days, rather than 95 days in a high emissions future, according to the study.

To avoid major changes to lake ecosystems, action must be taken now, the researchers stress. "Reducing greenhouse gas emissions must remain at the forefront of our agenda," Dr. Woolway told The Independent.



World's aging big dams pose 'emerging risk': UN

Marlowe Hood, Agence France-Presse

Posted at Jan 23 2021 04:47 AM



Plastic trash is seen near a dam's hydroelectric plant littering the polluted Potpecko Lake, Serbia, January 5, 2021. Picture taken on January 5, 2021. *Branko Filipovic, Reuters*

PARIS - By 2050, more than half the global population will live downstream from tens of thousands of large dams near or past their intended lifespan, according to a UN report released Friday.

Most of the world's nearly 59,000 big dams -- constructed between 1930 and 1970 -- were designed to last 50 to 100 years, according to research from the UN University's Institute for Water, Environment and Health.

"This is an emerging global risk that we are not yet paying attention to," co-author and Institute director Vladimir Smakhtin told AFP.

"In terms of dams at risk, the number is growing year by year, decade by decade."

A well-designed, constructed and maintained dam can easily remain functional for a century.

But many of the world's major dams fail on one or more of these criteria.

Dozens have suffered major damage or outright collapse over the last two decades in the United States, India, Brazil, Afghanistan and other countries, and the number of such failures could increase, the report warned.

Compounding the risk in ways that have yet to be fully measured is global warming.

"Because of climate change, extreme rainfall and flooding events are becoming more frequent," lead author Duminda Perera, a researcher at the University of Ottawa and McMaster University, said in an interview.

This not only increases the risk of reservoirs overflowing but also accelerates the build up of sediment, which affects dam safety, reduces water storage capacity, and lowers energy production in hydroelectric dams.

'CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES'

In February 2017, the spillways of California's Oroville Dam -- the tallest in the US -- were damaged during heavy rainfall, prompting the emergency evacuation of more than 180,000 people downstream.

In 2019, record flooding sparked concern that Mosul Dam, Iraq's largest, could fail.

Ageing dams not only pose a greater risk to downstream populations, but also become less efficient at generating electricity, and far more expensive to maintain.

Because the number of large dams under construction or planned has dropped sharply since the 1960s and 1970s, these problems will multiply in coming years, the report showed.

"There won't be another dam-building revolution, so the average age of dams is getting older," said Perera.

"Due to new energy sources coming online -- solar, wind -- a lot of planned hydroelectric dams will probably not ever be built."



A global fleet of nearly 60,000 ageing dams also highlights the challenge of dismantling -- or "decommissioning" -- those that are no longer safe or functional.

MORE THAN 150 YEARS OLD

Several dozen have been torn down in the United States, but all of them small, Smakhtin said.

More than 90 percent of large dams -- at least 15 meters from foundation to crest, or holding back no less than three million cubic meters of water -- are located in only two dozen countries.

China alone is home to 40 percent of them, with another 15 percent in India, Japan and Korea combined. More than half will be older than 50 within a few years.

Another 16 percent of the world's dams are in the United States, more than 85 percent of them already operating at or past their life expectancy.

It would cost some \$64 billion to refurbish them, according to one estimate.

In India, 64 big dams will be at least 150 years old by 2050. In North America and Asia, there are some 2,300 operational dams at least 100 years old.

Worldwide, there is about 7,500 cubic kilometers of water -- enough to submerge most of Canada by a meter -- stored behind large dams.

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