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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH host ng ASEAN meetings para sa peatlands conservation sa katapusan ng Hunyo



June 22, 2021 @ 6:25 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Ang 6TH Meeting of ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) Meeting at 3rd Programme Steering Committee Meetings of ASEAN Peatlands Programmes and Projects na gaganapin sa Hunyo 28 hanggang 30, 2021 ay magiging host ang Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sa press release sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, layunin ng pulong na “keep the country on track in conserving the peatlands as it aims to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS).”

“We want to continuously educate the public about the importance of peatlands in our ecosystems, and we could only do this by being updated with the latest methodologies on how our neighboring countries also keep their peatlands sustainably managed,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Ayon sa DENR ang mga peatlands ay wetland ecosystems na mailalarawan bilang naipong organic matter na nagmula sa patay at nabubulok na halaman na naiipon sa ilalim ng “high water saturation” o “waterlogged condition.”

Ang peatland ay tumatakip lamang sa tatlong porsiyento ng Earth’s land surface ngunit kaya nitong mag-imbak ng dobleng carbon tulad ng lahat ng kagubatan sa mundo na pinag sama-sama kung ito ay pananatiling basa, kaya’t importante itong bahagi ng ecosystem kung ang pag-uusapan ay ang ‘carbon sequestration.’ Ito rin ay mayamang ecosystem na sumusuporta sa biodiversity at mahalaga rin ang nagiging papel nito upang mapagaan ang epekto ng climate change.

Kaugnay nito sa kasalukuyan, mayroon tayong kumpirmadong siyam na peatlands sa buong bansa na ikinokonsiderang bahagi ng tropical peatlands sa ASEAN region.

Samantala kaugnay nito ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns and concurrent Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Edilberto Leonardo, isa sa mga paksa sa gaganaping pulong ay ang implementasyon ng ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems o APSMPE para sa 2014 hanggang 2020.

“With the increasing effects of climate change, we have to strategize to protect our peatlands by preventing the conversion, draining and forest fire that might happen on such significant ecosystems,” sabi ni Leonardo.

Ayon pa kay Leonardo, ito rin ang dahilan kung bakit kasama ng DENR ang Bureau of Fire Protection na nasa ilalim ng Department of the Interior and Local Government, sa aktibidad at nagsisilbi ring isa sa Alternate National Focal Point ng Philippine Delegation.



Ang ATFP ay itinatag bilang “subsidiary body” ng Committee under the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution upang masiguro ang implementasyon ng APMS, kabilang na ang Programme.

Kabilang sa mga layunin ng APMS ay ang “enhancing the awareness and capacity on peatlands; addressing the transboundary haze pollution and environmental degradation; promoting sustainable management of peatlands; and promoting regional cooperation.”

Pangungunahan ng DENR ang tatlong pulong —Programme Steering Committee (PSC) 3 of the Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN, PSC3 of the Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia, at ang ASEAN Task Force 6 or ATF6 meeting.

Kabilang sa mga dadalo sa pulong ang mga kinatawan mula sa ASEAN member-states; donors tulad ng International Fund for Agricultural Development European Union, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; and implementing partners such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Center for International Forestry Research, Global Environment Centre, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, and World Resources Institute. **Santi Celario**



Environmental law enforcement nilagyan ng pangil ng DENR



June 22, 2021 @ 11:00 AM 20 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Mas pinalakas pa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang environmental law enforcement nito sa buong bansa.

Ito ay matapos na pirmahan ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang administrative order na bumubuo sa Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS).

“We have a growing number of fallen environmental heroes. This is how serious we do our jobs here at DENR, but I hope and pray that no more lives will be lost because of defending our environment,” ani Cimatu sa selebrasyon ng ika-34 founding anniversary ng DENR.

Ang ELEPS ay magsisilbing interim service habang ang DENR ay maghahantay na maipasa ang Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) bill na ipinanukala sa Senado at House of Representatives.

Sa ilalim ng ELEPS, ang mga enforcement officer ay maari nang magsagawa ng intelligence operations, maaring magpalabas ng notice of appearance para sa imbestigasyon, at maging ang magpatupad ng desist orders, closure orders, at notices of violation.

Dagdag pa sa DENR administrative order, sakop ng ELEPS ang “all environmental laws as enumerated in the Supreme Court Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases involving enforcement or violations of environmental and natural resources laws, rules and regulations,” tulad ng Terrestrial Laws, Coastal, Marine, and Aquatic Resources Laws, Aerial Law, at iba pang Environment and Natural Resources Laws.

Kabilang din sa function ng ELEPS ang end-to-end duties—mula sa pagapaptupad ng alituntuning, pagpapatigil ng mga operasyon ng lumalabag, pag-aresto, pagkumpiska ng ilegal na bagay, paghahanda ng pagsasampa ng kaso sa mga nakagagawa ng environmental criminals.

Ang ELEPS din ang makikipag-ugnayan sa Department of Justice (DOJ), Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), at government-owned and controlled organizations sa paglaban sa environmental crimes.

Sa kabila nito, hindi naman iisyuhan ng armas ang mga miyembro ng ELEPS. **RNT**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/environmental-law-enforcement-nilagyan-ng-pangil-ng-denr/>



A police officer takes photos of an illegal clearing in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape during a documentation mission to mark World Rainforest Day yesterday. Officials led by Interior and Local Government Assistant Secretary Manuel Felix, Rizal Provincial Police director Col. Joseph Arguelles, Masungi Georeserve volunteers and members of the Dumagat-Remontado indigenous group took part in the mission to take photos and videos of damage to trees in the area, which serves as Metro Manila and Rizal's defense against floods and landslides.

Ernie Peñaredondo

CHR pushes stricter implementation of environmental laws

[Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 23, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) yesterday expressed support for the creation of an office that will ensure the strict enforcement of environmental laws in the country.

CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia described as a “positive step” the creation of an interim office within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that will be in charge of implementing existing laws protecting the country’s rich ecosystems.

The interim office was established pending the approval of the proposed legislation that would create a permanent Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau that will consolidate in a single office the DENR’s mandate to enforce environmental laws.

“CHR emphasizes that much is at stake if we will continue to disregard the environment and let violators, such as illegal loggers and wildlife poachers, scot-free,” said De Guia.

“An adequate, healthy environment is a necessary condition to make all other human rights possible, including rights to life, food, health and adequate standards of living,” she added.

De Guia cited the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that underscores the government’s obligation to uphold everyone’s right to live in an environment conducive for their health and well-being.

She also stressed the need to recognize the duty of individuals and corporations to also protect the environment for the generations to come.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/06/23/2107410/chr-pushes-stricter-implementation-environmental-laws>



IN LIGHT OF THE SIGNING OF A DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER THAT ESTABLISHED ELEPS

CHR expects 'stronger commitment' from DENR to enforce environmental laws

INQUIRER.net / 12:51 PM June 22, 2021



Photo from DENR Facebook

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on Tuesday said it expects a “stronger commitment” from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in enforcing environmental laws with the end goal to protect human rights.

CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia pointed out that an “adequate” and “healthy” environment is needed to make human rights possible, including the rights to life, food, health, and adequate standards of living.”

“CHR looks forward to DENR’s stronger commitment to protect human rights through better enforcement of environmental laws and better rationalization of environmental programs, especially as the country faces the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic,” she said in a statement.

De Guia issued the statement in light of the signing of a DENR administrative order that established the Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS), which will serve as an interim service while the agency awaits the approval of the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau bill (EPEB) that was filed in the Senate and House of Representatives.

ELEPS, under the office of the environment chief, [aims to strengthen](#) the implementation of different environmental laws in the country.

With these bills lobbied by the DENR, CHR also noted that enforcing these laws will be a “positive step” toward the protection of human rights.

“The Commission on Human Rights sees the push of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to better enforce environmental laws as a positive step to protect the human rights of all Filipinos,” the agency said.

The human rights agency mentioned that a lot is at stake if the communities will continue to disregard the welfare of our environment. — **Sofia Vertucio, trainee**

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1449296/chr-expects-stronger-commitment-from-denr-to-enforce-environmental-laws>



Environmental violators dapat managot – CHR



June 22, 2021 @ 7:55 PM 10 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Iginiit ng Commission on Human Rights (CHR) na dapat panagutin ang mga illegal logger, wildlife poacher, at iba pang paglabag sa kalikasan.

“CHR emphasizes that much is at stake if we will continue to disregard the environment and let violators... go scot-free,” pahayag ni CHR Spokesperson Jacqueline Ann de Guia.

“An adequate, healthy environment is a necessary condition to make all other human rights possible, including rights to life, food, health, and adequate standards of living,” saad pa nito.

Suportado rin ng CHR ang pagsulong ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng mas maayos na pagpapatupad ng environmental laws.

Aniya, sa dami ng batas upang maproteksyunan ang kalikasan ilan sa mga ito ay hindi napatutupad ng maaayos.

“The CHR sees the push of the DENR to better enforce environmental laws as a positive step to protect the human rights of all Filipinos,” ani De Guia.

“With the creation of interim ELEPS in DENR, as well as the anticipation of a more permanent EPEB, CHR looks forward to DENR’s stronger commitment to protect human rights through better enforcement of environmental laws and better rationalization of environmental programs, especially as the country faces the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic,” dagdag nito.

Ayon pa kay De Guia na responsibilidad ng bawat Filipino na proteksyunan ang kalikasan para sa susunod na henerasyon. **RNT/ELM**

DENR to hear Filinvest unit's pitch to expand coal-fired plant next month

June 22, 2021 | 8:44 pm



PHIVIDEC

THE POWER generation unit of a Filinvest Development Corp. subsidiary is applying to double the capacity of a 405-megawatt coal-fired plant in Misamis Oriental, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said as it announced hearings on the matter on July 16.

The hearing will examine the proposal of FDC Misamis Power Corp., which operates the plant in Northern Mindanao's PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate.

According to the FDC Misamis proposal posted on the Environment Management Bureau's website, the expansion involves the construction of three circulating fluidized bed boilers and the addition of three steam turbines at a cost of between P20 billion and P30 billion.

It will take about three years to complete upon the acceptance of the engineering, procurement, and construction deal, FDC Misamis said.

"The basic rationale for the expansion project is to contribute to the sustained and robust development of Mindanao which requires electricity as a major infrastructure support," the company said.

The hearing will take place via videoconference, part of a process that will allow the DENR to evaluate the project's environment performance report and management plan.

Last year, Filinvest Development Corp.'s power arm FDC Utilities, Inc. said FDC Misamis has released funds as required by Energy Regulation 1-94 to provide financial assistance to its host communities.

The funds consist of cash tied to the volume of power generated on the site and are intended to aid communities where power companies operate. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-to-hear-filinvest-units-pitch-to-expand-coal-fired-plant-next-month/>



Baguio aims to plant 10K trees for Pine Tree festival

By Liza Agoot June 22, 2021, 8:33 am



GREENING PROGRAM. Cordillera residents plant a pine tree in this undated photo. The public is urged to avail of the Community Plant Tree program where pine and other tree seedlings are given for free by the DENR. (Photo courtesy of Redjie Melvic Cawis/PIA-CAR)

BAGUIO CITY – The city government is targeting to plant 10,000 pine seedlings from June 25 to September this year in celebration of the Pine Tree Festival and as part of its re-greening program.

Rhenan Diwas, chief of the City Environment and Parks Management Office, on Monday said that while the program was put on hold because of the pandemic, thousands of tree seedlings have been propagated to be planted throughout the tree festival season.

The event coincides with Arbor Day in the Philippines, celebrated every June 25 by planting trees. The tree festival is extended until September when the city celebrates its charter anniversary.

“The essence of celebrating the Tree Festival Season is for us to participate in the re-greening of our city thus we call individuals, families, groups, organizations, and others to join us in our tree planting activities,” Diwas said.

Families, groups, and organizations interested to join the tree planting are urged to register.

Aside from the city's tree-planting activities, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera Administrative Region (DENR-CAR) has also launched the Community Plant Tree program to drum up the celebration of environment month.

Ralph Pablo, regional director of DENR-CAR said they are giving free pine and other tree seedlings to barangays with free spaces and to individuals who want to grow them.

The Cordillera Region logged a 99 percent accomplishment rate in the implementation of the Enhanced National Greening Program.

Benjamin Ventura, assistant executive director for technical services of the DENR-CAR said the region has planted 122,618 hectares region-wide compared to its target of 122,631 hectares from 2011 to 2021. (PNA)



DOT to tourists: Interact responsibly with marine wildlife

June 22, 2021, 7:43 pm



Apo Island in Negros Oriental. (Photo courtesy of Tommy Schultz via DOT Philippines)

MANILA – In celebration of World Environment Month this June, the Department of Tourism (DOT) reiterates the need for tourists to educate themselves on sustainable interaction with marine wildlife.

“Observing marine wildlife in its natural habitat is incredibly fulfilling and quite an experience you cannot forget,” Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said in a statement on Tuesday. She stressed, however, that while this is an extraordinary experience, “irresponsible interaction with marine wildlife can cause severe long-term damage to them and their environment.”

“Respecting the ocean and its inhabitants must be the top priority of every tourist who wants to connect with marine wildlife. Learning how to properly engage with these species is a small but crucial step in protecting and sustaining our marine biodiversity,” Puyat added.

She said the DOT will conduct awareness seminars to educate tourism stakeholders on sustainable and responsible marine tourism guidelines come second half of the year, especially now that local tourism continuously picks up on coastal destinations.

These guidelines are part of the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020 – 01 on Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of Marine Wildlife Tourism Interaction in the Philippines issued last year by the DOT in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agriculture (DA), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The memorandum guidelines include the establishment of zones in marine tourist destinations (No Approach Zones, Interaction Zones, and Waiting Zones), the Code of Conduct for persons and sea vessels within the zones, the Prohibited Acts within Dedicated Interaction Sites, specific regulations per type of marine activity, and the responsibilities of the lead agencies in compliance monitoring and enforcement of the said regulations.

The circular was crafted to ensure that tourism interactions do not adversely affect marine wildlife behavior and population, particularly large marine vertebrates, such as “dugong”, cetaceans (dolphins, whales, and porpoises), whale sharks, other sharks, manta rays, and marine turtles.



Future plans in the memorandum also include identifying, accrediting, and recognizing marine wildlife tourism sites in the country that are dedicated and compliant with the regulations. These highlight how collaboration between public and private institutions is beneficial for preserving the Philippines' natural resources. **(PR)**



SMC, Bantay Dagat team up to protect seas, sustain lives

posted June 22, 2021 at 08:55 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

San Miguel Corporation has partnered with “Bantay Dagat” (Sea Guardian) in Calatagan, Batangas as part of its corporate-wide initiative to promote healthy seas and ensure sustainable livelihood for small fishing communities, especially in areas where it operates.

SMC has donated patrol boats to the Calatagan community task force that enlists fisherfolk in coastal villages to help enforce coastal and fisheries laws--particularly against the use of illegal fishing methods and illegal equipment.

A boat each was also given to the Municipality of Calatagan and the Philippine Air Force based in Batangas to boost patrolling in the area.

SMC also made a larger donation of 19 motorized boats for local fisherfolk groups, to be used primarily for their livelihood.

“With our humble contribution to the local Bantay Dagat task force, we hope to provide them additional tools to help curb illegal fishing and other activities that are destructive to marine ecosystems in this area,” SMC president Ramon S. Ang said.

“Our goal is to help preserve and protect marine resources, so that local fishermen can sustain and even improve their livelihoods for the long-term. The sea is their primary source of food and income. We want to help where we can make the biggest difference--in this case, empowering locals to better protect the seas and their livelihoods -- and bring tangible, sustainable benefits in communities where we operate,” he added.

Last February, the Provincial Government of Batangas honored the Calatagan Bantay Dagat as the best sea guardian group in the BRAVO (Batangas Recognition Awards for Verde Passage Outstanding Marine Protected Areas and Bantay Dagat) Awards.

The BRAVO awards recognize local government units in the administration of marine protected areas and Bantay Dagat groups in the protection of municipal waters.

Just beyond the Batangas coastline lies Verde Island Passage, a strait between Luzon and Mindoro that known around the world as among the richest in terms of marine biodiversity.

“Malaking bagay po para sa amin ang pagkakabigay ng mga bangka. Malaking tulong po sa aming operations, malaking tulong rin para sa maliliit na mangingisda,” said Vivencio de Guzman, a member of the Bantay Dagat in Calatagan, Batangas.

Some 57 fishermen will co-own the boats and benefit from the donation. The fishermen, who have never owned their own fishing boats, are mostly relocatees from the towns of Calatagan and Balayan.

Ang underscored the importance of balancing livelihood and the need to preserve marine resources for fishermen.

“While providing them new homes has been our foremost priority, we also learned that many of the Balayan and Calatagan fishermen have never owned fishing boats. This has made both community patrolling and earning a livelihood very difficult for them. Fortunately, we were able to source these boats also from local communities, and we formed the fishermen into groups so they can share ownership and the upkeep of these boats,” said Ang.



Ang said that even as the fisherfolk have been engaged in fishing their whole lives, SMC is helping to teach them other ways to generate income.

“This way, they can have more sources of income. At the same time, this will ease the strain on fishing resources. With less reliance on fishing as the sole source of income, there will be more time for marine resources to replenish, resulting to increased sustainability for the long-term.”

New boat owners Val de Galicia and Virgillio Bascuguin Jr. thanked Ang for the donation: “Makakatipid na ako at mas gagaan ang trabaho ko dahil may sarili na akong bangka,” de Galicia said.

Bascuguin, for his part, said: “Dati nakikisama lang ako sa may bangka, ngayon may sarili na ako. Masaya ako at gumaan ang akin buhay. Dati nagbabayad ako para makisabay pero ngayon may ari na ako ng bangka.”



Green sea turtle found in Dinagat dies of wounds, tumors

By Alexander Lopez June 22, 2021, 4:39 pm



GREEN SEA TURTLE. The Provincial Veterinary Office in the Province of Dinagat Islands applies medical treatment to a green sea turtle that was found in Canburay Island in the area on June 17, 2021. The sea creature eventually died of wounds and tumors that affected its vital organs. *(Photo grabbed from Dinagat Islands Information Office Facebook Page)*

BUTUAN CITY – A green sea turtle found by a fisherman in the province of Dinagat Islands has died of wounds and tumors.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Information Office of Dinagat Islands said the sea turtle was rescued by fisherman Arnel Surigao in Canburay Island in the town of Libjo on June 17, 2021. It, however, died later.

“The fisherman found the green sea turtle floating and was observed (to be) weak,” the statement said.

The rescued turtle was immediately reported to the Municipal Agriculture Office of Libjo and was coordinated at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the area.

“The Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) immediately conducted medication and examination on the rescued green turtle,” the information office said.

It added that aside from the wounds, the sea creature also had multiple tumors on its eyes, mouth, and flippers causing its death despite treatment.

In a further examination by the PVO, the sea turtle had a tumor called papillomatosis (lumps).

“The papillomatosis is among the diseases that commonly affect sea turtles,” the PVO said in a statement.

On June 18, a necropsy was also done by the DENR and found granulomatous in the internal organs of the turtle. Granulomatous weakens and causes death among sea turtles, the statement added.

The green sea turtle had 95 centimeters curved carapace length and 64 cms. curved carapace width. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1144530>



TINGNAN: Balyenang napadpad sa dalampasigan, sugatang dolphin naibalik sa dagat

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 22 2021 05:33 PM

Isang balyena at sugatang dolphin ang natulungan at naibalik na sa karagatan sa magkahiwalay na insidente sa Antique at Iloilo.

Isang pilot whale o balyena ang napadpad sa dalampasigan ng Barangay Baybay sa Pandan, Antique, Martes ng madaling araw.



Nagtulong-tulong ang mga mangangisda sa lugar para maibalik sa dagat ang napadpad na balyena sa Antique. *Contributed photo*

Ang balyena ay may haba na 15 talampakan at 2 talampakan naman ang dorsal fin nito.

Matapos masuri ng mga eksperto ay ligtas naman na naibalik sa gitna ng dagat ang balyena sa tulong na rin ng mga mangangisda sa lugar.



Ginamot ng awtoridad ang sugat ng dolphin bago ito muling ibinalik sa dagat sa Miagao sa Iloilo. *Larawan mula sa Oma Miagao Fisheries Crm*

Sa Miagao, Iloilo, nailigtas ng mga mangangisda ang isang sugatang dolphin noong Lunes ng umaga.

Ayon sa Municipal Fisheries Office ng Miagao, nakatanggap sila ng report na may nakitang sugatan na dolphin sa lugar.

Kaagad namang rumesponde ang awtoridad at iniligtas ang dolphin at dinala sa pampang para gamutin.

May haba na 7 talampakan ang dolphin.

Matapos magamot ay kaagad naman na ibinalik sa gitna ng dagat ang dolphin.

— Ulat ni Rolen Escaniel

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/22/21/tingnan-balyenang-napadpad-sa-dalampasigan-sugatang-dolphin-naibalik-sa-dagat?fbclid=IwAR145T0EnYN05tTI0bj2fBZ4O6ycMfCIEZ2DepVaRuCq1O9NGVXpIvtOI4>



Metro Clark sanitary landfill renews 3 ISO quality seals

posted June 22, 2021 at 11:10 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Metro Clark Waste Management has reaffirmed its commitment to environmental sustainability and quality management by renewing three ISO certifications in 2021.

MCWM bags certifications on Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001:2015), Occupational Health and Safety (ISO 45001:2015), and Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2015) for the sixth year in a row since it has secured the global standard credential in 2015.

Securing an ISO certification is an arduous process, something MCWM accomplished during a pandemic, and while in the middle of a major expansion of its facilities, such as a new leachate treatment facility, an expanded final disposal area, and all the supporting infrastructure.

“These ISO certifications are a testament not only to our commitment to our stakeholders but also to uplifting the standards of the waste management industry in the Philippines. We aim to become an example to our peers as we ensure strict adherence to RA 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, as well as emulate the best waste management industry practices from around the globe,” said MCWM’s Chairman and Director for Technical Services, Holger Holst.

“There can be no shortcuts to proper waste management, as the potential harm to the environment, to our own employees and to surrounding communities is no joke. Our ISO certifications simply reflect that complete compliance to the laws set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), and other environmental authorities, as well as ensuring our clients’ and employees’ safety, is of paramount importance to us,” concluded Holst

MCWM is the country’s first-ever engineered sanitary landfill operating in Sitio Kalangitan, Clark Special Economic Zone. It is the exclusive developer of the solid waste management system of the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone, including New Clark City. The 100-hectare landfill can handle waste of up to 4,000 tons per day, which services leading multinationals in the consumer products and petroleum industries as well as over 100 LGUs including the capital cities of Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, and Pangasinan.



Repollo to DPS: Look at the situation at the Inayawan transfer station

By: Mae Fhel Gom-os - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital|June 22,2021 - 10:25 AM



CDN File Photo

CEBU CITY, Philippines – Piles of garbage can be found at the transfer station that is located in Barangay Inayawan in Cebu City.

And its presence have been causing so much inconvenience to the 5, 000 to 6, 000 households that are nearby, says Barangay Captain Kirk Bryan Repollo.

Repollo also complained that barangay officials were not consulted before Department of Public Services (DPS) authorized the deposit of garbage at the transfer station.

These garbage should have been brought to the city's disposal area located in the mountain barangay of Binaliw, he said.

“[The] Binaliw landfill is not receiving anymore [the] garbage transfer from the city, and the standing order is to deliver [garbage] to the transfer station in Inayawan. And there was no coordination with the garbage disposal, unsay nahitabo? Nganong di na modawat? Ang existing transfer station kay puno na gyud... Kami sa Inayawan ang mag-suffer pirmi (what happened? why won't they accept [the garbage] the existing transfer station is already full. We in Inayawan are made to suffer.),” he said.

Repollo raised his concerns during the general assembly of the Liga ng mga Barangay – Cebu City Chapter that was held on Monday, June 21.



Liga ng mga Barangay – Cebu City Chapter assembly that was held on Monday, June 21. | Mae Fhel Gom-os



Transfer Station

Councilor Franklin Ong, who is also the Liga president, said in an interview that he only learned of the issue on Sunday, June 20.

Ong said he was surprised to learn that garbage collectors again deposit garbage at the transfer station in Barangay Inayawan since Thursday, June 17.

Aside from the fact the landfill and its transfer station has already reached its full capacity, Ong said, garbage collectors had to again endure long queues for them to enter the city-owned facility.

“From this, we would like to check. We will check and see what’s really the reason behind. We hope that we can help unsay matabang nato (in whatever way we could). We have to work together with this para masulbad nato atong problema sa atong solid waste management sa siyudad (in order for us to address the city’s problems with its solid waste management),” Ong added.

Garbage Disposal

During the assembly, Repollo said, he received information that the city’s allocation for garbage disposal was already depleted, the reason why its garbage is no longer accepted at the Binaliw facility.

A source told him that the city government allocated P373.63 million for the disposal of its garbage into the private facility in Barangay Binaliw.

The city brings at least 1, 200 tons of garbage per day to the facility, he said.

But just recently, the said allocation was already used up.

However, he admitted that his information is still subject to verification.

“Because what happened is, there’s this private company, which is [the] existing contractor for the transfer station. They are the ones who are renting or they are paying the Binaliw Landfill facility so that the garbages from the transfer station will be delivered to Binaliw. So ang Binaliw maoy final receiver sa basura (The Binalaw [facility] if the final recipient of our garbage),” he added.

Grace Luardo, head of the Garbage Collection and Disposal Division of DPS, said during the Liga assembly that it was Atty. John Jigo Dacua, the DPS head, who ordered that garbage be brought to the Inayawan transfer station.

“Modawat man ang Binaliw, pero ang atoa... kanang dapat moagi gyud kuno og transfer station, dili daw diretso didto. Gipa-stop ni Atty. Jigo kay mao lagi dapat moagi gyud daw sa transfer station sa Inayawan,” said Luardo.

(Our garbage is still accepted at the Binaliw [facility] but these will have to be brought to the transfer station first, not sent directly there. Atty. Jigo decide to have the practice of directly bringing garbage there stopped because of the need to first bring these to the transfer station in Inayawan.)

Luardo said that constant travels to Barangay Binaliw has already caused at least three garbage trucks to be destroyed.

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/383945/repollo-to-dps-look-at-the-situation-at-the-inayawan-transfer-station>



Abaca can be ally vs. plastics pollution, deforestation

By Catherine Teves [June 22, 2021, 7:36 pm](#)



Abaca planting activity (File photo)

MANILA – A plant that is abundant in the Philippines may well help address plastics pollution and deforestation while promoting climate protection and the shift towards a circular economy (CE).

Francheska Zaide, co-owner of material solutions company Orera Technology, said abaca plant (scientific name 'Musa textilis Nee'), source of world-famous abaca fiber or Manila hemp, presents such possibility for being an eco-friendly alternative to plastic and paper materials commonly used in products and packaging.

"We at Orera believe if we shift our focus to natural fiber as alternative, for food packaging at least, our solid waste will be drastically reduced," Zaide said during the Bounce Back Greener online forum Environmental Management Bureau organized to tackle eco-friendly packaging solutions on Tuesday.

She said there is a need for eco-friendly alternatives as plastics are threats to the environment, health, and climate.

Use of paper materials requires cutting of trees so deforestation increases, she added.

"There are other solutions available in the market - that's packaging made from natural fibers," she said.

She said water and energy consumption to make such packaging is currently high but more than offsets adverse impacts of plastics and paper on the environment, health and climate.

Zaide said the country is rich in natural resources like sugarcane, corn, areca palm and abaca plants which are sources of natural fiber.

The research and development findings as well as Orera's experience working with such plants showed abaca and areca palm to be the two most sustainable materials available in the country, she noted.

"Not only is abaca the most abundant in the Philippines but it also helps us achieve our main goal of promoting CE," she said.



CE is a waste- and resource use-minimizing economic model for sustainable production and consumption, keeping products and materials in use as long as possible.

This model is the emerging alternative to the prevailing linear economy which involves collecting raw materials for processing into products customers buy, use and eventually dispose as waste.

Abaca has potential for CE application as the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) said this material is durable and recyclable.

"Abaca papers can be recycled several times more than paper from wood or other natural fibers," PhilFIDA said.

PhilFIDA also said abaca is the strongest natural fiber on earth and possesses qualities superior to those of other materials, making it a favorite of various industries worldwide.

It said abaca has non-slipping characteristics, superior tensile strength and mechanical properties, and not damaging to the environment and can even be made into organic fertilizer.

The Philippines supplies some 87 percent of global abaca requirement for producing cordage, specialty paper, textile, furniture and fixtures, handicraft, novelty items, meat casing, cosmetics and skincare products as well as grocery bags, according to PhilFIDA.

Abaca also has automotive, construction and other industrial applications, PhilFIDA added.

Catanduanes, Davao Oriental, Northern Samar, Lanao del Sur and Davao del Sur are the country's top abaca-producing provinces, it said. (PNA)



Study cites ‘flaw’ in Solid Waste Management law

BYCAI ORDINARIO JUNE 22, 2021



In file photo: Collected waste in Batangas, where Nestlé Philippines and the marine conservation social enterprise Pure Oceans have entered into a partnership to design, procure, and operate a prototype boat called Basura Bangka that will transport plastic waste from coastal and island communities to recycling facilities.

The failure of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Act to identify a working body and subnational waste committees has been a major hurdle for the enforcement of the solid waste management law 20 years after it was passed, according to a study released by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

In a webinar recently organized by PIDS, Senior Research Fellow Sonny Domingo, who co-wrote the study with Research Analyst Arvie Joy Manejar, presented the findings of their research that analyzed the country’s SWM regulatory policies.

RA 9003 has been institutionalized both at the national and subnational levels with the implementation largely devolved to local government units (LGUs).

“Despite the implementation of RA 9003 for more than two decades now, Domingo noted that the country is still grappling with management issues,” PIDS said in a news statement.

Under the law, Domingo said, barangays are in charge of segregating and collecting residential solid wastes while cities/municipalities handle special and hazardous wastes. It also mandates the forced closure of existing open dumpsites and the transition to sanitary landfills and requires the creation of SWM boards at each LGU to oversee the implementation of SWM plans.

However, Domingo said “much of the implementation burden falls on focal persons from various bodies and task forces.” This despite the crucial role played by local chief executives in prioritizing SWM.

“Communities are passive while barangays are heavily dependent on cities and municipal governments. We have local populations that are not contributing in terms of local discourse, decision making, participation, and compliance in activities on solid waste management,” Domingo pointed out.

To address the issue, Domingo said the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) recommended the immediate institutionalization of municipal and city environment and natural resources offices. However, it was not sufficient since the NSWMC failed to create safety nets and alternative livelihood programs for those working in the informal sector displaced by these facilities.



Meanwhile, Domingo emphasized the need to harmonize policy and institutional direction. He also proposed that technology options and interventions need to be developed and institutionalized for easy adaptation within localities.

“State-of-the-art solid waste management facility design with vertical linkage to markets for sustainability has to be packaged. This is doable. Technology designs are there. We just have to package everything and come up with a local version that is applicable to our local government units,” he said.

Nestlé PH Ramps Up Solid Waste Management Education For World Oceans Day



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#) June 22, 2021

There is no denying that one of the greatest environmental challenges the world faces today is the plastic waste crisis. Globally, the Philippines is the third largest source of ocean plastic waste.

Fortunately, more and more Filipinos are becoming more conscious of their lifestyles and are starting to adopt sustainable choices and decisions to reduce their carbon footprint and plastic consumption.

Companies like Nestlé Philippines are intensifying their initiatives to address the plastic waste crisis in the country.

“As a food and beverage manufacturing company, Nestlé Philippines is committed to tackle plastic waste as an urgent priority in all stages of its value chain. We are also working to drive new understanding and behavior on waste and waste management and are supporting both our consumers and our employees in their efforts to live a more sustainable lifestyle,” said Arlene Tan-Bantoto, Nestlé PH SVP and head of public affairs, communications and sustainability.

In time for World Oceans Day, Nestlé PH launched the Isabuhay sa Bahay Challenge to empower its employees to take a more active role in helping care for the planet by accomplishing different tasks. Through this initiative, the company and its employees will strengthen their promise to the planet that they made during their Net Zero Fair last April.

NESTLÉ ISABUHAY SA BAHAY WORKSHOP
June 7, 2021 | 6:00 PM

WORKSHOP FACILITATOR
Ms. Anna Oposa
Executive Director and Chief Marketing Officer of the 100% Recycled Philippine Soda

WORKSHOP TOPICS

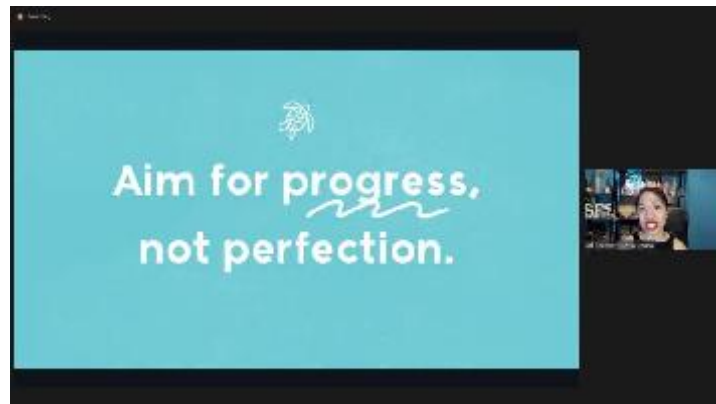
- Save the Nation through Segregation: Segregation 101
- How to Be a Soilmate: The use of backyard composting
- Zero-Waste Ways: Level 1 (from your house), Level 2 (from your office), Level 3 (from your community)

In order to prepare them for the challenge, employees attended a training workshop facilitated by the Executive Director and Chief Mermaid of Save Philippine Seas, Ms. Anna Oposa, that focused on zero-waste lifestyle tips, an introduction to segregation, and composting – three important areas that can help them practice responsible solid waste management at home.

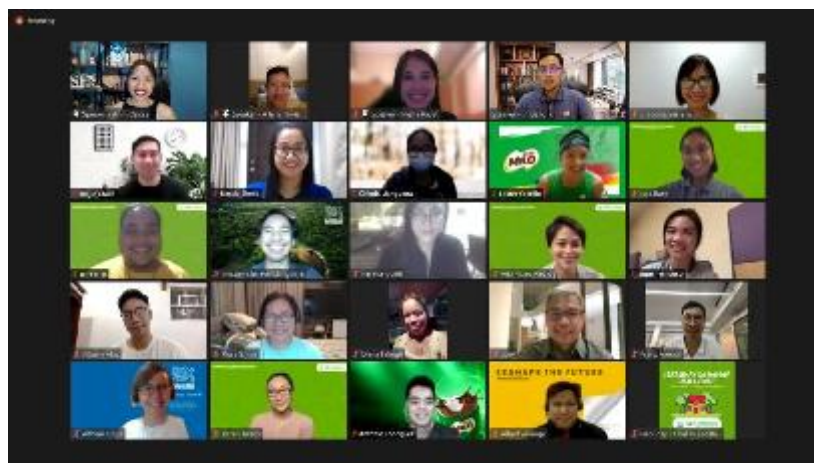


“Every lifestyle change you make depends on your context, resources, and capacity. Whatever you are able to commit to is already a step in the right direction,” Ms. Oposa said.

Participants’ takeaways from the session included practical ways to cut down waste at home; the importance of segregation, and the types of waste that fall under the recyclable, residual, and biodegradable categories; and lastly, the methods and benefits of composting. More than just practicing these activities at home, Ms. Oposa encouraged the attendees to extend their efforts to the community by supporting sustainability efforts of corporations and organizations like Nestlé, reaching out to people in authority when needed, and influencing others by example.



For Nestlé PH, addressing the complex challenge of plastic waste requires support from key sectors and partners, including consumers.



Towards making a waste-free future a reality, the company is engaged in various efforts that encourage a change in behavior. Among these are the development of solid waste management education modules endorsed by the National Solid Waste Management



Commission. These modules have been rolled out to thousands of public schools for grades 1-10 students through Nestlé's partnership with the Department of Education under the Nestlé Wellness Campus program. Condensed versions of the modules are also available to parents and teens for use at home.



Nestlé has also established collection points in collaboration with its partners where people can take their plastic waste for further processing, so they do not end up in landfills. In partnership with Plastic Credit Exchange, collection points have been set up in SM Malls in MOA, SM North Edsa, and SM Fairview.

Know more about Nestle Philippines' initiatives as well as how to be a Kasambuhay for the Environment by visiting [nestle.com.ph](http://pageone.ph/nestle-ph-ramps-up-solid-waste-management-education-for-world-oceans-day/) where you can download a copy of the solid waste management modules and view a list of other locations where you can drop off your used soft plastics.



SoCot town seeks permanent relocation for 119 displaced families

By Allen Estabillo June 22, 2021, 2:11 pm



DAMAGED. Photo shows one of the damaged portions of the main road leading to Barangay Lamcade in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato that was affected by the emergence of ground tension cracks. A joint team from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Region 12 and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office conducted a geological inspection and assessment of the affected areas on Monday (June 21, 2021) and declared them unsafe for settlement. *(Photo courtesy of Lake Sebu Information Office)*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The municipal government of Lake Sebu in South Cotabato is working on the permanent relocation of some 119 families from an upland village affected by the emergence of huge ground fissures or tension cracks.

Christopher Ofong, Lake Sebu's information officer, said on Tuesday the local government is evaluating the possible relocation sites for residents of four sitios (zones) in Barangay Lamcade that evacuated last week due to the “progressing” tension cracks.

He said a joint team from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Region 12 (MGB-12) and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) conducted a geological inspection and assessment of the affected areas on Monday and declared them unsafe for settlement.

The tension cracks were found in portions of sitios Tekansad, Upper Lemnongu, Lower Lemnongu, and Tbob, he said.

“Based on their survey, the tension cracks are still moving or continually expanding so it’s not safe for the residents to return there,” he told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) in a phone interview.

Ofong said the evacuees are currently staying in tents and makeshift sheds by the roadside in an elevated area in Sitio Tekansad that is close to the boundary of Barangays Lamcade and Lamdalag.

He said the MGB-12 team headed by its supervising geologist Ariel Austin Acosta assessed the present site as safe but the evacuees could not permanently stay there as it is privately owned.

The MDRRMO and officials of Barangay Lamcade are arranging a negotiation with the landowner for the temporary use of the site, he said.

Ofong said the local government remains open to purchasing a relocation site for the evacuees as is currently exploring funding options, including assistance from the National Housing Authority.



Aside from the current evacuation site, he said MGB-12 and the MDRRMO also conducted a geohazard assessment on a proposed relocation site in Sitio Tebudtud.

The team also conducted a foot survey for the possible rerouting of the affected road leading to the barangay proper of Lamcade, he said.

The proposed road will pass by sitio Nabul, Lembon, Telehek in Barangay Lamdalag, Lemkling in Barangay Klubi, and Lemnongu and Bong in Lamcade.

MGB-12 initially recommended the relocation of households in parts of Lamcade in 2018 following the emergence of tension cracks in the area, which were identified in its geohazard mapping as “moderate to highly susceptible to landslides.”

It said the area has steep slopes as well as “old and inactive landslides” that could further collapse due to the continuing rains.

Meantime, Ofong said help for the evacuees has continued to pour in since last week from various sources, including private donors, which include food supplies, clothing, household items, construction materials, and other necessities.

Provincial Board Member Hilario de Pedro VI facilitated over the weekend the installation of solar lighting systems at the temporary relocation site.

Among those that responded were the provincial government of South Cotabato, second congressional district office, the municipal government of Tboli, and some local government officials, he said. (PNA)



This photo taken on November 20, 2014 shows an aerial view of the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of the Whitsunday Islands, along the central coast of Queensland. Australia will strongly oppose a UNESCO plan to list the Great Barrier Reef as "in danger" over its deterioration caused by climate change, the government said on June 22, 2021.

AFP/Sarah Lai

Australia to challenge UNESCO downgrade of Great Barrier Reef

(Agence France-Presse) - June 22, 2021 - 10:35am

BRISBANE, Australia — Australia will strongly oppose a UNESCO plan to list the Great Barrier Reef as "in danger" over its deterioration caused by climate change, the government said Tuesday.

The UN body released a draft report on Monday recommending the reef's World Heritage status be downgraded because of its dramatic coral decline.

Environmental campaigners said the decision highlighted Australia's lack of action to curb emissions and brought "shame" on the government.

Environment Minister Sussan Ley said Australia would mount a challenge after the "back-flip on previous assurances from UN officials", ahead of the World Heritage Committee's 44th session hosted by China next month.

Ley said the decision did not consider the billions of dollars spent attempting to protect the world's largest coral reef.

"This sends a poor signal to those nations who are not making the investments in reef protection that we are making," she said in a statement.

Australia has resisted calls to commit to a target of net-zero emissions by 2050, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison saying the country hoped to reach carbon neutral "as soon as possible" without harming its commodity-dependent economy.

The plan to add the reef to the World Heritage "in danger" list prompted environmental groups to highlight Canberra's reluctance to take stronger climate action.

The Climate Council said it "brings shame on the federal government, which is standing by as the reef declines rather than fighting to protect it."

Aside from its inestimable natural, scientific and environmental value, the 2,300-kilometer-long (1,400-mile-long) reef was worth an estimated US\$4.8 billion a year in tourism revenue for the Australian economy before the coronavirus pandemic.



"The recommendation from UNESCO is clear and unequivocal that the Australian government is not doing enough to protect our greatest natural asset, especially on climate change," said WWF head of oceans Richard Leck.

In December, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said climate change had become the biggest threat to UN-listed natural world heritage sites and pushed the reef into "critical" condition.

Australia's own government had already downgraded the reef's long-term outlook to "very poor" after back-to-back mass bleaching events in 2016 and 2017.

Bleaching occurs when changes in ocean temperatures stress healthy corals, causing them to expel algae living in their tissues—draining them of their vibrant colours.

"I agree that global climate change is the single biggest threat to the world's reefs but it is wrong, in our view, to single out the best managed reef in the world for an 'in danger' listing," Ley said.

The Great Barrier Reef has now suffered three mass coral bleaching events in the past five years, losing half its corals since 1995 as ocean temperatures have climbed.

The reef has also been battered by several cyclones as climate change drives more extreme weather and outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish—which eat the coral—in recent decades.



Australia's iconic reef in great danger

[By Agence France-Presse](#)

June 23, 2021



Aerial photo taken on June 2, 2021 shows the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, Australia. The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef in Australia's state of Queensland, is described as the "planet's most beautiful marine environment" and is the main conservation target of the Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef, a charity cooperative organization that runs a series of preserving programs. XINHUA PHOTO

BRISBANE: Australia will strongly oppose a Unesco plan to list the Great Barrier Reef as "in great danger" over its deterioration caused by climate change, the government said on Tuesday.

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Tree invasions can do more harm than good when it comes to carbon capture

Invasive trees may capture less carbon than the treeless ecosystem they overrun due to soil disturbance, increased risk of fires, and changes in light absorption, a recent review paper shows.



Globally, more carbon is stored in soil than in all of the Earth's plants and the atmosphere combined. In some cases, when trees invade, they disrupt the soil, releasing more carbon from below the ground than they can capture and store above it.

Image: phil1401 via [Flickr](#). [CC BY NC-ND 2.0](#)

[Liz Kimbrough, Mongabay.com](#)

June 22, 2021

Trees are a logical solution to climate change, but allowing or encouraging trees to spread into areas where they don't typically grow, such as tundra and grasslands, can actually do more harm than good.

A newly published review paper in the journal [Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment](#) asks the question: "Should tree invasions be used in treeless ecosystems to mitigate climate change?"

The short answer: not usually.

Invasive trees may capture less carbon than the treeless ecosystem they overrun due to soil disturbance, increased risk of fires, and changes in light absorption.

These results have implications for policies and initiatives. In New Zealand, for example, carbon credits have been used to discourage the removal of invasive, non-native trees. These credits essentially allow businesses to emit greenhouse gases in exchange for the carbon taken up by the invasive trees.

Likewise, the Paris Agreement, Bonn Challenge, and Trillion Trees Initiative all promote tree planting under the logic that trees remove carbon from the atmosphere and lock it in their biomass as they grow.

While this is true, scientists now know that when it comes to carbon accounting, calculating the balance is not so simple.

Globally, more carbon is stored in soil than in all of the Earth's plants and the atmosphere combined. In some cases, when trees invade, they disrupt the soil, releasing more carbon from below the ground than they can capture and store above it.

A 2020 study found that in the Scottish moorlands, experimental areas planted with trees stored less carbon after several decades than untouched plots covered in native heather.

"It was counterintuitive that in some cases, planting trees can have the opposite effect to what we've been taught in school and actually lead to a loss of carbon from the ecosystem rather than sequestering it," Nina Friggens, lead author of the 2020 study and current postdoctoral fellow at the University of Exeter, told Mongabay in a 2020 interview.

“We’re not trying to say that tree planting doesn’t work,” Friggens said. “[B]ut in terms of trees for carbon, we need to be careful where and what we plant.”

Non-native trees can also make a landscape more susceptible to fire by bringing biomass (and carbon) aboveground, where it can burn more easily.

In Florida, the invasion of broad leaved paperbark trees (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) into wetlands has made fires [more intense](#). Likewise, in the Patagonian steppe of South America, [invasions](#) of pine trees have added more fuel and connectivity to fires, ramping up their severity.

It’s important to consider impacts beyond just carbon storage, including the negative impacts of tree invasions on biodiversity and on human communities, through reduction of streamflow and increased fire risk.

Kimberley Davis, research scientist, University of Montana

“This type of [invasive] forest has greater biomass than native forests, i.e., more combustible material and can be highly flammable, thus increasing the frequency and intensity of fires. This problem entails important costs for human welfare, and generates problems for carbon storage,” Anibal Pauchard, a co-author of the 2021 review paper, said in a press release.

And as climate change worsens, forest permanence, the idea that forests will persist for decades or centuries, is [threatened](#) by increasing fires.

“Current risks are not carefully considered and accounted for, much less these increased risks that forests are going to face in a warming climate,” William Anderegg, a biologist at the University of Utah, [told Mongabay](#).

Increased forest cover in cold and temperate regions can also cause net warming by altering albedo, the amount of sunlight and radiation reflected from the Earth’s surface. Across the high latitudes in Canada or Russia, for instance, the reflective nature of the snow cools the planet. So having trees in these areas covers the snow, making the land darker and thus warmer.

There are a few ways that trees end up in formerly treeless areas. Trees can be planted there (afforestation); native trees may spread there naturally (woody encroachment); or non-native trees invade, and are often fast-growing (tree invasion). There is evidence that in all three of these cases, trees can do more harm than good for the local carbon budget, and also for the ecosystem as a whole.

“Professionals and decision makers may think that maintaining or even promoting the invasion of these non-native trees and replacing other natural ecosystems may be a way to combat climate change,” said Martín Núñez, lead author of the 2021 review paper and professor at the National University of Comahue, Argentina and the University of Houston. “But unfortunately, that vision is partial and must incorporate all these negative effects.”

The effects of tree invasions on fire, albedo, soil carbon, as well as native species will differ from place to place. In some cases, it makes sense to leave these trees in place, such as when removing them would be prohibitively expensive, do long-term damage to the soil, or when the trees can be managed and kept from spreading.

“When making decisions regarding management of tree invasions, it’s important to consider impacts beyond just carbon storage, including the negative impacts of tree invasions on biodiversity and on human communities, through reduction of streamflow and increased fire risk,” Kimberley Davis, a co-author of the 2021 review from the University of Montana, said in a press release.

Or more simply, Núñez says, “Trees are not always the answer.”

This story was published with permission from [Mongabay.com](#).

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/tree-invasions-can-do-more-harm-than-good-when-it-comes-to-carbon-capture/>



Alibaba reports reduced carbon footprint

BY JP FRANCISCO

Alibaba has disclosed cutting by 18 percent year-on-year its carbon emission per order during its recent 6.18 Mid-Year Shopping Festival, highlighting its efforts to adopt green technologies.

The increased use of clean energy – such as wind and photovoltaic power in data centers, as well as green logistics featuring smart packaging and rooftop photovoltaic power stations – contributed to the reduction in energy consumption, Alibaba said.

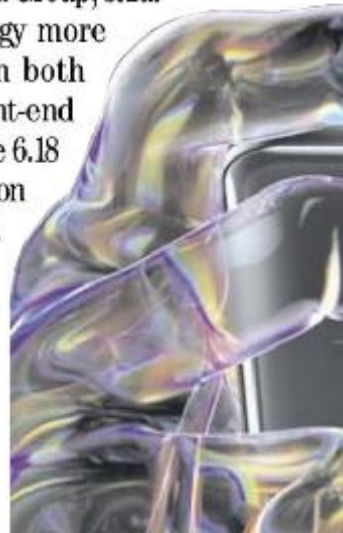
The achievement was driven by Alibaba's enhanced algorithm, which has been deployed to support Alibaba's popular retail platform with its AI features including image search and personalization recommendation.

The algorithm upgrade, underscored by Alibaba's innovative machine learning technology has resulted in a reduction of computing resources while delivering optimal shopping experience.

"In addition to using more renewable energy in our cloud facilities, we are also investing in our proprietary AI technology to cut down carbon emissions from our e-commerce platforms," Li Cheng, chief technology officer of Alibaba Group, said.

"To make our sustainability strategy more effective, we have been working on both the back-end infrastructure and front-end application, with a mission of making the 6.18 sales a low-carbon event and achieving carbon neutrality for our business soon," he added.

Alibaba Cloud's data center in Zhangbei County in Northwestern China, which plays a major role in supporting Alibaba's e-commerce business, recorded a reduction of over 8,000 tons of carbon dioxide during the 6.18 sales thanks to its increased use of wind power.



23 JUNE 2021, WEDNESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

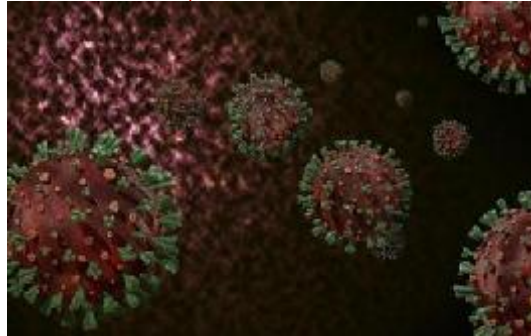
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH Covid-19 recovered cases reach 1.2M

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor June 22, 2021, 6:58 pm



MANILA – An additional 6,810 patients have beaten the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the country's overall recovery count to 1,291,389 on Tuesday.

The Department of Health (DOH), in its latest Covid-19 bulletin, said recoveries account for 94.4 percent of a total of 1,367,894 infections since the start of the pandemic last year.

Another 3,666 new cases and 60 new deaths were also reported. These figures bring the overall tally of active cases to 52,696 and the death toll to 23,809.

The latest figures showed 91 percent of the active cases are mild, 4.2 percent are asymptomatic, 2 percent are severe, 1.4 percent are moderate, and 1.4 percent are in critical condition.

"About 11 duplicates were removed from the total case count as eight of these are recoveries. Moreover, 56 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it said.

The DOH data on June 20 also showed that 11.8 percent of 31,222 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on June 20 while 12 laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System (CDRS).

"Based on data in the last 14 days, the 12 non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 3.0 percent of samples tested and 3.1 percent of positive individuals," the DOH said.

To date, 57 percent of 3,500 intensive care unit beds, 47 percent of 19,300 isolation beds, 44 percent of 12,400 ward beds, and 36 percent of 2,800 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

Meanwhile, 46 percent of 1,200 intensive care unit beds, 38 percent of 4,800 isolation beds, 33 percent of 3,600 ward beds, and 30 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are being used in the National Capital Region.

The public is reminded to stay at home and to observe minimum health standards when going out.

The DOH urged those experiencing Covid-19 symptoms to immediately isolate and contact the Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1144610>



3,666 tinamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas nagpataas sa local cases sa 1,367,894

(Philstar.com) - June 22, 2021 - 6:01pm



A health worker administers a Chinese Sinovac vaccine against Covid-19 coronavirus disease to a resident inside a movie theatre turned into a vaccination centre in Taguig City suburban Manila on June 14, 2021.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 3,666 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Martes, kung kaya nasa 1,367,894 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **Lahat ng kaso:** 1,367,894
- **Nagpapagaling pa:** 52,696 o 3.9% ng total infections
- **Kagagaling lang:** 6,810, dahilan para maging 1,291,389 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **Kamamatay lang:** 60, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 23,809

Anong bago ngayong araw?

- [Sinegundahan](#) ni presidential spokesperson Harry Roque ang mga batayan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa kagustuhang [ipakulong](#) ang mga ayaw magpabakuna laban sa COVID-19. Sa kabila nito, dapat daw ay magpasa ng mga batas o ordinansa para maipatupad ito.
- Kaugnay nito, sinabi ni Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra na [wala pang batayan](#) para mag-criminalize sa ayaw magpabakuna laban sa COVID-19.
- [Tiniyak](#) naman ng Food and Drug Administration na magbibigay ng prtoktesyon laban sa "Delta" variant ng COVID-19 ang mga bakuna, ito'y kahit na merong ibang mas mababa ang efficacy rates.
- Kasunod ng kautusan ni Duterte pagdating sa mandatory face shields indoors o outdoors, sinabi ni Philippine National Police spokesperson Gen. Guillermo Eleazar na [dapat magpatupad ng maximum tolerance at iwasan ang pagpapataw ng mga parusa](#) sa mga hindi nakasusunod.
- Samantala, [ni-reject](#) naman ni Digong ang proposal ng Department of Education na magpatupad na ng pilot face-to-face classes lalo na't pinangangambahan ngayon ang lubhang nakahahawang Delta COVID-19 variant. Aniya, dapat munang mabakunahan ang kalakhan ng populasyon.



-
- [Nahuli](#) naman na ng PNP ang isang COVID-19 positive inmate na nakatakas sa South Cotabato provincial jail nitong Linggo. Kinilala ang nabanggit bilang si Reggie Grecia.
-
- Umabot na sa 178.2 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang mahigit 3.9 milyong katao.



PH to buy 50M Moderna shots

posted June 23, 2021 at 12:40 am

by [Willie Casas](#)

The government has reserved 50 million doses of Moderna booster shots for 2022, Philippine Ambassador to Washington D.C. Jose Manuel Romualdez said Tuesday.

"Moderna already informed us about the booster shots that are being developed now. We've reserved 50 million doses for next year," he said in a Malacañang briefing.

Romualdez said the vaccines developed by Moderna and Pfizer are "still very effective" against the emerging variants of concerns, including the highly contagious Delta variant first detected in India.

"Pfizer specifically is very effective against the Delta variant, they are 88 percent effective and we expect the same thing from Moderna because the technology they used is the same," he said.

The Philippines recently signed a supply deal for 40 million doses of

Pfizer vaccine, which has been approved for use on individuals aged 12 and above.

About 7.5 million doses will arrive in the third quarter of the year while the remaining 32.5 million doses will be delivered in the last quarter.

Moderna's shot uses mRNA technology to teach the cells how to make a protein that would trigger an immune response inside the body.

The US-based company was among the leading vaccine manufacturers to start developing booster shots as an added protection against virus mutations and to bolster immunity from the first two jabs.

Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel previously told Axios that booster shots may be necessary as early as September 2021 especially for those at high risk (senior citizens and health care workers) who received their first round of jabs in December 2020 and January 2021.

Romualdez confirmed that the initial shipment of 249,600 from the 20 million Moderna vaccine doses the country earlier ordered will arrive on June 27.

He said the rest of the doses would be spread across several delivery dates to the Philippines until the latter part of 2021.

"Next month that will probably be close to a million, then down the road up to around November, we will be getting the entire 20 million from Moderna," he said.

He also said the Philippines is getting "close to 800,000 to 1 million" from the 80 million-dose global vaccine commitment of the United States.

"We're going to get something like close to 800,000 to 1 million doses of either Moderna or AstraZeneca from their stockpile, which is expected to be given to us by next month," he said.

The Philippines is among the countries that will receive a portion of the 500 million vaccine doses Washington will procure for donations, he added.

Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje, meanwhile, said the Philippines will receive an additional 2.2 million doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine from the COVAX facility Wednesday, June 23.



The vaccines will be allocated to health workers, senior citizens, persons with comorbidities, and the indigent population, she said.

Cabotaje said thousands of Moderna doses will also arrive this month.

Vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. earlier said some 6.4 million doses will be delivered to the country within June.

On the other hand, Cabotaje said the inoculation of minors against COVID-19 will still depend on the country's vaccine supply.

The Philippines recently signed a supply deal for 40 million doses of Pfizer vaccine, which has been approved for use on people aged 12 and above.

Cabotaje said 7.5 million doses will arrive in the third quarter of the year while the remaining 32.5 million jabs will be delivered in the last quarter.

Galvez previously said the vaccination of minors could possibly begin by the fourth quarter of 2021.

"While we have a plan to eventually include our children as part of B and C classification... it depends on the vaccine supply over the next few months whether we will include the child population," Cabotaje said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Cabotaje also said 97 percent of health workers in priority areas have already been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Cabotaje said 2 million senior citizens, 2.1 million people with comorbidities, over 573,000 essential workers, and 76,412 indigents have also been vaccinated against COVID-19.

A total of 8.5 million doses have been administered nationwide, 6.4 million of which were first doses while 2.1 million were second doses.

Galvez Jr. had said earlier that the government is expecting Metro Manila and neighboring provinces to achieve herd immunity by November this year.

PRRD warns public vs. Delta variant

June 22, 2021



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte talks to the people after holding a meeting with the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) core members at the Arcadia Active Lifestyle Center in Matina, Davao City on June 21, 2021. SIMEON CELII/ PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte warned the public against the Delta variant that is said to be more infectious than other COVID-19 variants.

In his public address on Monday (June 21), he strongly urged the public to get vaccinated in order to prevent the spread of the Delta variant in the country. He highlighted that the D variant is “very aggressive” and the country might experience a second wave “much more serious than the first” if no stringent measures are imposed.

President Duterte warned to arrest those who choose not to receive the vaccine against COVID-19.

“There is a national emergency. Kung ayaw mong magpabakuna, ipaaresto kita. I have to sequester you in jail. Mamili kayo: magpabakuna kayo o ipakulong ko kayo sa selda?”

According to the President, the vaccine is the only solution to stop the spread of the virus.

“I am just exasperated by, you know, Filipinos not heeding the government. Eh tatal tayo dito wala naman tayong hangarin kung ‘di kabutihan ng ating bayan.”

Moreover, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque emphasized that the government has the power to require vaccination, but a law must be created for the matter.

“Kasama po iyan sa tinatawag na police power of the state. At alam naman natin na mayroon nang mga desisyon na kinilala talaga na pagdating po sa isang emergency dahil po sa isang pandemic, talaga namang kikilalanin ng hukuman iyong primacy po.”

Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Menardo Guevarra believed that the statement of President Duterte was used to “drive home the need for us to get vaccinated and reach herd immunity as soon as possible.”

“As a lawyer he knows that not getting vaccinated is a legal choice; there is no law as yet that compels vaccination against covid-19, much less criminalizes it, as presently available vaccines are still in their trial phases,” he said.



Furthermore, Department of Health (DOH) Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje said that the statement of the President was “born out of the passion and need of the President to emphasize the point na kailangan magpabakuna.”

Meanwhile, Duterte also claimed that the first wave has “depleted” the resources of the government.

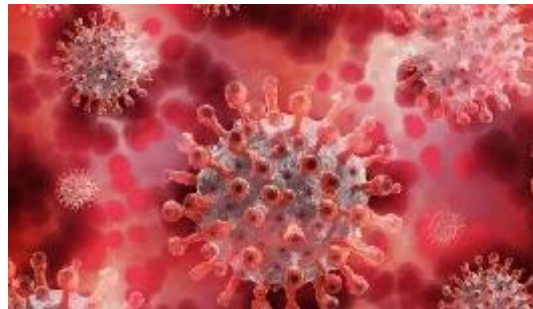
“Iyong nangyari sa atin, ‘yong first wave, it has really depleted the resources of government. Now, another one would be disastrous for this country. That is why the stricter you are, the better.”

Report from Mela Lesmoras/NGS-rir



COVID-19 Delta variant mas mapanganib at madaling kumalat

By [Danilo Garcia](#)(Pang-Masa) - June 23, 2021 - 12:00am



Ito ang inihayag ni Dr. Edsel Salvaña, isang 'infectious disease expert' at isa sa adviser ng National Task Force on COVID-19 nang maiulat na mas nakakahawa ng apat na beses ang Delta variant na unang naiulat sa India kaysa sa orihinal na virus mula sa Wuhan, China at mas dobleng nakakahawa kumpara naman sa United Kingdom variant.

geralt via Pixabay

Pagsusuot ng face shield kailangan pa...

MANILA, Philippines — Dahil umano sa mas mapanganib na COVID-19 Delta variant na maaaring maihawa kahit na sa mga pagkakataong saglit lamang ang kontak sa isang carrier ay hindi pa talaga dapat tanggalin ang pagsusuot ng face shield.

Ito ang inihayag ni Dr. Edsel Salvaña, isang 'infectious disease expert' at isa sa adviser ng National Task Force on COVID-19 nang maiulat na mas nakakahawa ng apat na beses ang Delta variant na unang naiulat sa India kaysa sa orihinal na virus mula sa Wuhan, China at mas dobleng nakakahawa kumpara naman sa United Kingdom variant.

Anya, mas mabilis umano itong maipasa kahit saglit lamang ang interaksyon sa isang positibong tao kumpara sa ibang mga variants na kailangan ng 15 minuto bago maipasa.

Kapag nahawa, tila mas matindi umano ang tumatamang sakit sa isang pasyente kumpara sa ibang variants ng virus.

Sinabi niya na hindi ito panahon para isugal ng mga Pilipino ang kalusugan at ang mga narating sa laban sa COVID-19 sa hindi pagsusuot ng face shield.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2021/06/23/2107496/covid-19-delta-variant-mas-mapanganib-madaling-kumalat/amp/>



PWERSA VS MGA KALAMIDAD SA TAG-ULAN



June 22, 2021 @ 4:48 PM 14 hours ago

Ramdam na ramdam na ang pasimula ng tag-ulan kahit matindi pa rin ang init ng araw na hindi natatakpan ng mga ulap at ulan.

Subalit higit dito ang nasa isip natin, lalo na ang mga kalamidad na dala ng tag-ulan.

MGA BIYAYA

Kung iisipin, maraming biyaya ang hatid ng tag-ulan.

Hanapbuhay para sa milyon-milyong magsasaka ang mag-araro, magsaboy ng punla, magbunot, magtanim, mag-abono, magdamo sa mga sakahan at iba pa.

Marami ring mangingisda ang nabubuhay sa mga nabubuhay na ilog na dati'y mga tuyo sa tag-araw, tubig sa mga sakahan at paglabas ng mga isdang pangtag-ulan sa mga karagatan.

Kaya naman, nagkakaroon din ng laman ang mga hapag-kainan mula sa mga produktong lupa at katubigan.

PAKINABANG NG IBA

Pagsapit ng anihan o gapasan makaraan ang ikaapat na buwan, mapupunuan ang mga pagkukulang ng bansa sa bigas.

At may swerte rin dahil nagmumula sa kanayunan ang pumupuno ng laman ng mga palengke bilang pagkakitaan.

Mas maswerte nga sa panahong ito ang mga nasa kanayunan kaysa nasa kalunsuran na kailangan munang kumayod ng salapi bago magkaroon ng pang-almusal, tanghalian, hapunan at meryenda.

MGA KALAMIDAD

Hindi naman din kaila sa lahat ang parating na mga kalamidad ang tag-ulan.

Nariryan ang laging posibilidad ng mala-Yolanda na mga bagyo, mala-Ulysses na mga baha at mala-Ormoc City na landslide.

Lahat pare-parehong pumapatay ng maraming Pinoy at nagpapahirap sa milyon-milyong mamamayan sa loob ng ilang araw, ilang linggo o ilang buwan.

Hindi madali ang bumalik sa mga wasak na tahanan na nababagyo, tuloy-tuloy na paglubog sa baha ng mga komunidad, matagal na sapalaran sa relokasyon sa landslide, sirang mga tanim at wasak na taniman na ipinuhunan sa utang at iba pa.

At taong pagluluksa lalo na kung haligi ng tahanan ang mga nadidisgrasya o nababalda.

PAGBABAKUNA VS COVID-19

Naiisip din natin ang pagbabakuna.



Paano ang mga bakuna na mawalan ng kuryente, malubog sa baha habang ibinibiyaha, pagkawala ng silbi ng mga QR code sa matagalang blackout, siksikan sa mga evacuation center na maaaring siya rin ang mga vaccination center?

Paano mismo ang pagbabakuna sa mga stranded sa mga pantalan, sa mga nasa evacuation center?

Paano ang pagkasira ng mga programa sa pagbibiyaha ng mga bakuna sa pagkasira ng mga airport, tulay, kalsada, pier, katakot-takot na trapik at iba pa?

At paano ang mga hawaan ng mga may COVID-19 at walang sakit sa mga siksikan sa mga evacuation center, sa mga stranded at iba pang pagsasama-sama na sira ang mga social distancing, walang maisuot na face mask at siksikan sa mga kubeta na napatunayan nang super spreader ng pandemya?

KALAMIDAD SA PULITIKA

Kapag nagaganap ang mga kalamidad, nakapanlulumong makita na higit na pinaiiral ng mga politiko ang siraan at sisihan.

Kitang-kita ngayon ito lalo't nalalapit na ang halalang 2022 na ang pinakamakapangyarihang pwesto sa pulitika ang nakataya at pinag-aagawan.

Pero saanmang sulok mo tingnan ang kanilang mga siraan at sisihan, hindi ang kapakanan ng taumbayan ang higit na pinagtutunan ng pansin ng mga politiko kundi ang pakinabang sa pwesto na pansarili.

...At ikasisira at ikalulumpo habang panahon ang kanilang mga katunggali para sa mga pansariling interes.

Ang mga pansariling interes?

Pagpapayaman sa pwesto at pananatili sa maabusong kapangyarihan na pinagsusumikapang igupo ng administrasyong Duterte.

PAGKAKAISA AT PAGTUTULUNGAN

Nagpapasalamat tayo sa pagdating ng mga biyaya na likha ng tag-ulan.

Sa kabilang banda, paano natin tugunan o harapin ang pagdating ng mga kalamidad?

Napakalaking pwersa ang pamahalaan na tumugon dito sa pagkilos ng daan-daang libong sundalo, pulis, bumbero at iba pa.

Nariryan din ang pwersa ng milyong guro na kabi-kabila ang mga gawain, bukod sa pagtuturo.

Nariryan din ang milyong pwersang sibilyan ng pambansa at mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Pero lahat ng ito ay kulang na kulang kung iisiping nasasalanta ang napakalawak na bahagi ng bansa ng mga kalamidad.

Kailangan ang milyon-milyong bisig ng mga mamamayan na magiging katuwang ng pamahalaan.

Ang pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan ng lahat ng pwersa sa lipunan ay sadyang kailangan para mapagtagumpayan ang mga dagok sa buhay mula sa mga kalamidad.

Sana naman, kung matamo ang pagkakaisa at tulungan, hindi na para sa kapakanan ng mga korap at politiko ang makakamit kundi ang tunay na pakinabang ng higit na nakararaming labis nang nabibigatan sa buhay.

23 JUNE 2021, WEDNESDAY



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