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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Rehabilitasyon sa Bicol River sisimulan na sa Marso 23 – Cimatú



March 22, 2021 @ 7:52 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang maisagawa ang rehabilitasyon, inanunsyo ni Environment Secretary at Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) Chairman Roy A. Cimatu na sisimulan na ang dredging sa sandbars sa masikip na bahagi ng 94-kilometer Bicol River sa Marso 23.

“TF BBB’s rehabilitation efforts on the Bicol River completes the triumvirate targets to which we have committed ourselves to complete within the term of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for Cagayan River, Marikina River, and Bicol River,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Kaugnay nito binigyang diin ni Cimatu na bago ito ay sinimulan na ng TF BBB ang ilang aktibidad sa Bicol River sa pamamagitan ng easement recovery at pagpapatibay sa river bank sa pamamagitan ng pagtanim at pag-aalaga ng kawayan bago simulan ang Marso 23 na pagpapasinaya.

“In fact, 49,509 bamboo seedlings have already been planted by some 850 beneficiaries of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which provided some 1,000 food packs for these planter-volunteers,” ayon pa kay Cimatu.

Base sa DENR, ang mga lugar na pinagtaniman ng kawayan ay umabot na sa 173 ektarya na matatagpuan sa 33 barangays, isa rito ay sa Catanduanes, 24 sa Camarines Sur, apat sa Camarines Norte at apat sa Albay.

Inaasahan din na maglalaan ang DSWD ng karagdagang 1,000 food packs para sa mga benipisyaryo na kukunin para sa planting activity sa pamamagitan ng kanilang food-for-work initiative na Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.



Rehabilitasyon sa Bicol River sisimulan na sa Marso 23 – Cimatu

Matatanggap ng mga benipisyaryo ang kanilang family food packs sa huling araw ng planting activities.

Idinagdag pa ni Cimatu na 171 lote ang natukoy na ng National Housing Authority (NHA) para sa resettlement ng informal settlers na naapektuhan ng pagbaha sa Bicol River sa pananalasa ng mga bagyong Ulysses at Rolly noong 2020.

Sinabi pa sa ulat na si DENR Undersecretary Rodolfo Garcia ang kakatawan kay Cimatu sa gaganaping ceremonial launch ng dredging at sa malawakang pagtanim ng kawayan sa Camaligan, Camarines Sur.

Makakasama ni Garcia sina Camarines Sur Governor Miguel Luis Villafuerte at NHA General Manager Marcelino Escalada, Jr. na siya ring namumuno ng TF BBB sa Bicol region.

Sa tantiya naman ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), aabot sa 58,235 cubic meters ng nakaimbak na sand materials ang mahuhukay sa gitnang bahagi ng Bicol River.

Batay na rin sa tinukoy na numero ng DPWH, sinabi ni DENR Regional Executive Director Region 5 Antonio Abawag na ang makipot na bahagi ng Bicol River sa Camaligan ay may kasalukuyang lapad na 31 meters mula sa “ideal width” nito na 80 meters.

Aniya, ang huhukaying sandbars ay aabot sa 49 meters wide at 500 meters long.

Ayon naman kay DPWH-Bicol Region Assistant Director Gerald Pacanan, ang gagawing paghuhukay ay kinakailangang may lalim na five meters upang maibalik ang natural na daloy nito.

Sinabi pa ni Pacanan na ang dredging activity ay nangangailangan ng 281 days na gagamitan ng dalawang amphibious excavators na may kapasidad na makahukay ng 17.28 cubic meters kada oras bawat isa. Sa kabuuan, ito ay aabot sa 1,686 working hours sa anim na oras kada araw na trabaho.

Ang Bicol River ang pangwalo sa pinakamalaking ilog sa bansa kung ang pagbabasehan ay ang sukat ng drainage basin nito.

Sumasaklaw ito sa 90 percent ng Camarines Sur at Albay habang ang nalalabi ay sa Camarines Norte. **(Santi Celario)**



CIMATU: PAGHUHUKAY, PAGTATANIM AT RESETTLEMENT PLAN SA BICOL RIVER



March 23, 2021 @ 1:43 AM 5 hours ago

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Sa kabuuan, ito ay aabot sa 1,686 working hours sa anim na oras kada araw na trabaho.

Aniya, mas magiging mabilis ang paghuhukay na aabutin lamang ng 52 araw kung mas malaking multi-purpose amphibious excavator na may kapasidad na 153 cubic meters per hour ang idaragdag sa dalawang excavators.

Kung gayon, magkakaroon lamang ng 311 working hours sa anim na oras kada araw na trabaho.

Ang Bicol River ang pangwalo sa pinakamalaking ilog sa bansa kung ang pagbabasehan ay ang sukat ng drainage basin nito.

Sumasaklaw ito sa 90 percent ng Camarines Sur at Albay habang ang nalalabi ay sa Camarines Norte.



Bicol River dredging works start Tuesday

By [Elizabeth Marcelo](#)(Philstar.com)

- March 22, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Dredging works along the narrow section of the 94-kilometer Bicol River will start tomorrow and will be followed by bamboo planting activities in the area and relocation of typhoon-victims, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said yesterday.

The project will complete the government's goal of widening the country's major waterways and improving their carrying capacity, especially during typhoon season, DENR Secretary and Task Force Build Back Better chairman Roy Cimatu said.

The task force earlier started dredging the Cagayan and Marikina rivers to improve their width and depth.

Earlier estimates by the Department of Public and Highways (DPWH) showed around 58,235 cubic meters of silt and other materials will be collected from the middle section of the Bicol River.

DENR regional executive director Antonio Abawag said the dredging would focus on the constricted portion of the river in Camaligan town, which is currently 31 meters wide from its original and ideal width of 80 meters.

Dredging works will take 281 days using two amphibious excavators, each with a capacity to collect 17.28 cubic meters per hour of silt, according to DPWH regional assistant director Gerald Pacanan.

The Bicol River ranks eighth among the country's largest rivers in terms of drainage basin size.

It straddles 90 percent of Camarines Sur and Albay, while the rest covers Camarines Norte.

Aside from dredging works, the task force has started stabilizing the riverbank by planting bamboos, Cimatu said.

He said at least 171 property have been identified by the National Housing Authority for the relocation of informal settlers affected by the floods spawned by Typhoons Ulysses and Rolly last year.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/03/22/2086075/bicol-river-dredging-works-start-tuesday/amp/>



Boracay rehab delayed by resettlement snags

March 22, 2021 | 9:23 pm



THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the timeline for rehabilitating Boracay Island, originally due to be completed in May, has been delayed by resettlement problems.

“We haven’t started the resettlement activities of the informal settlers living in the forest timberland. There are lots of civilians who live there, and because of the pandemic, we weren’t able to resettle them,” Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said at a briefing Thursday.

He said they were allowed to remain for “humanitarian” reasons in light of the pandemic.

“After the pandemic, we’ll look for a place for them, then we will assist them in moving to the new location,” he said.

Mr. Cimatu also noted that the rehabilitation team was not able to transfer the Boracay workers to the mainland to decongest the island.

“We haven’t transferred any workers yet. We had the intention of transferring them from the island to the mainland to add to the island’s carrying capacity,” he said.

Mr. Cimatu said the department completed various infrastructure-related activities, including acquiring easements for roads and removing structures violating the easement rules.

At the end of December, the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) said that the number of structures violating easement rules fell to 342, representing 21% of all the illegal structures on the island.

The BIATF’s authority expires in May, around the time the rehabilitation was originally scheduled to end.

The DENR has asked President Rodrigo R. Duterte to grant a one-year extension to the BIATF’s term in office. Mr. Cimatu, who chairs the task force, said the term extension will “allow the task force to complete all its projects which were stalled due to the global health emergency.”

The BIATF was created on May 8, 2018, by Executive Order (EO) No. 53. The term of the task force was due to end in 2020, but Mr. Duterte issued another EO granting a one-year extension.

— **Angelica Y. Yang**



Closure awaits sanitary landfills operating as open dumps: DENR

By Catherine Teves March 22, 2021, 8:17 pm



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – Some erring sanitary landfills in the country risk getting entangled in the crackdown the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is conducting against open dumpsites nationwide.

"We'll shut down sanitary landfills operating as open dumps," said DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on Monday.

He assured such action, expecting the crackdown to increase demand for facilities where open dumps' solid waste -- which are mixed or unsegregated -- can be brought for final disposal.

Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act) requires segregation of solid waste into compostable, reusable and recyclable trash so what's left for final disposal are residual waste materials only, he noted.

"I'd like to get the attention of sanitary landfill operators to refrain from accepting mixed waste," he said.

National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) said sanitary napkins, disposable diapers, worn-out rugs, ceramics and plastic-lined cartons are among examples of residual waste since these items are non-compostable and non-recyclable.

RA 9003 states that sanitary landfill is a "waste disposal site designed, constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that exerts engineering control over significant potential environment impacts arising from the development and operation of the facility."

Open dump is a "disposal area wherein the solid wastes are indiscriminately thrown or disposed of without due planning and consideration for environmental and health standards," RA 9003 continued.



Closure awaits sanitary landfills operating as open dumps: DENR

DENR is cracking down on open dumps in the country, and targets to close down the last of these this March, as RA 9003 prohibits such areas' use as final waste disposal sites.

"As an alternative, sanitary landfill sites shall be developed and operated as a final disposal site for solid and, eventually, residual wastes of a municipality or city or a cluster of municipality and/or cities," RA 9003 said.

Antiporda noted some sanitary landfills that accept mixed waste already established respective facilities for composting biodegradable trash brought there.

He's urging other sanitary landfills concerned to have composting facilities as well.

Come up with technologies for addressing biodegradables, he told operators of such landfills.

Composting is among activities that RA 9003 promotes to help reduce volume of waste for disposal.

NSWMC said among biodegradable waste are fruit and vegetable peelings, left-over food, soft shells, leaves, flowers, branches as well as entrails of fish, fowl, meat and animals.

"They undergo biological degradation under controlled conditions and can be turned into compost (soil conditioner or organic fertilizer) by mixing them with soil, water, air and biological additives/activators(optional)," NSWMC also said. (*PNA*)



Vast Cagayan Valley forestland must be protected–DENR

Published March 22, 2021, 10:18 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Cagayan Valley has called for the “intensified protection” of the more than 1.7 million-hectare local forestland on the occasion of the International Day of Forests (IDF).



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (MANILA BULLETIN)

“As we celebrate the International Day of Forests, let us be reminded of our roles in the restoration of these natural resources,” said DENR Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan in her recent meetings in Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya.

IDF is celebrated on March 21. The theme of this year’s celebration is “Forest Restoration: A Path to Recovery and Well-Being”.

The global event aims “to raise awareness on the importance of forests to people and their vital role in poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, and food security.”

According to the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), the IDF highlights the valuable benefits of forest restoration in terms of human health, food security, environmental and climatic conditions, provision of green jobs, stakeholder engagement, and healing.

As part of the celebration, Bambalan and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Edgar Martin led the maintenance activities at the three-hectare arboretum established within the Ecological Park ang Training Center in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya.

During the Protected Area Management Board meetings in Tumauni and City of Ilagan in Isabela, Bambalan asked the village chiefs to be vigilant against illegal activities in the forests of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, Tumauni Watershed Natural Park and Fuyot Spring Natural Park.



Vast Cagayan Valley forestland must be protected–DENR

“Kapag magtutulungan tayo, hindi malayong masugpo natin ang mga ilegal na gawain sa ating kagubatan (If we help each other, then its possible for us to stop the illegal activities in our forests). Let us be role models in the conservation of our forests,” she said.

Meanwhile, in the assessment meeting for the Forestland Management Project (FMP), the regional chief asked the implementers in the provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya to improve the accomplishment of the remaining performance target as she stressed, “FMP intends to support forest restoration and well-being of the community.”

Through the FMP, a total of 20,493 hectares of plantations were established within the watersheds of Upper Magat and Cagayan River Basins since 2012. This is on top of the 106,119-hectare plantations established in the region under the National Greening Program.



68 awarded agricultural land titles in San Jose



Mar 22, 2021 @ 19:34

The Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) has awarded a total of 68 agricultural free patents to qualified beneficiaries of Barangay Burgos in San Jose town in Tarlac, according to a Philippine Information Agency report.

In the report, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Celia Esteban said this was to perfect the ownership of the beneficiaries who have been in actual possession, occupation and cultivation of the land for 30 years or of their predecessors-in-interests.

“Having a document or title that will legalize the ownership on a piece of land is very important,” Esteban was quoted as saying.

Esteban said the beneficiaries should have their titles declared to the Office of Municipal Assessor for taxation purposes to contribute in their town’s funds for improvement and development.

The patent processing and issuance program is under the Commonwealth Act 141, otherwise known as the Public Land Act of 1936.

San Jose Mayor Romeo Capitulo thanked the department for the land titling program and other services.

“We thank DENR for their never-ending support to the people of San Jose, not only on land titling but also on the benefits and support we enjoy from other DENR activities and programs,” he said.

Source: <https://centralluzon.politics.com.ph/68-awarded-agricultural-land-titles-in-san-jose/>



P2-M hot lumber seized in Samar

Published March 22, 2021, 11:59 AM

by [Marie Tonette Marticio](#)

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-CENRO)-Sta. Rita, Samar seized P2-million worth of assorted undocumented lumber and conveyance in Barangay Guirang, Basey, Samar Sunday.



(DENR-CENRO Sta. Rita, Samar photo / MANILA BULLETIN)

Forester Glenn Garciano said they received an intelligence report regarding the transport of a large quantity of undocumented lumber in the area.

CENRO-Sta. Rita mounted an operation and seized 648 pieces or 9,213 board feet of assorted Lauan species with a total estimated value of P2,052,780 and a 10-wheel truck.

Garciano disclosed that the lumber was not sawn in Basey but may have come from Maydolong and Llorente in Eastern Samar.

He said they have filed a case for violation of Section 68 and 68-A of Presidential Decree 705 or the Revised Forestry Code as amended by Executive Order 277 and amended further by Section 77 of Republic Act 7161 against Genevieve Laugo and Archiepie Laugo, the declared owners and possessors of the seized items.

Garciano has also issued a seizure order on the lumber and conveyance pending formal administrative seizure proceedings and disposition.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/22/p2-m-hot-lumber-seized-in-samar/>



86 Hawksbill turtle hatchlings freed in Sibugay

March 22, 2021

PERSONNEL of the Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR) have released some 86 Hawksbill turtle hatchlings in the province of Zamboanga Sibugay, a DENR official said Monday, March 22.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said the hatchlings were released last week in Pandilusan Island, Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay, by the Biodiversity and Conservation Unit personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro)-Imelda of the same province.

Tan said the Cenro-Imelda personnel recovered the hatchlings following receipt of report from the Payao Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (Menro).

He said the responding Cenro-Imelda team released the Hawksbill turtle hatchlings after proper documentation.

The hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) is a critically endangered sea turtle belonging to the family Cheloniidae, according to the Wikipedia.

The hawksbill's appearance is similar to that of other marine turtles. (**SunStar Zamboanga**)



Ganito Kasi 'Yan

ni **ANDY VERDE** DZRH anchorman

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PAGPAPALAKAS SA ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS NA ISINUSULONG SA SENADO

SINUPORTAHAN nitong si Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang inihang dalawang batas sa Senado na nagpapalakas sa kasalukuyang environmental laws sa anti-illegal wildlife trade.

"We at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) give our full support to the initiatives of the legislators who are seeking to reinforce and recalibrate the existing Wildlife Act, particularly against wildlife traffickers who wreak ha-

voc to our biodiversity that causes the imbalance in our ecosystems, impacting not only our livelihood but our economy in general," saad ni Cimatu.

Ang pahayag na ito ni Cimatu ay matapos ang anunsiyo nina Senadora Cynthia Villar at Senador Juan Miguel Zubiri sa paghahain ng Senate Bill (SB) 2078 at SB 2079.

Ayon dito, "the Senate bills came at the most opportune time amid the COVID-19 pandemic, when many notorious and orga-

nized traffickers are taking advantage of the situation by resorting to online markets, and changing traffic routes which prove to be more challenging to our law enforcers."

Ang SB 2078 na inihain ni Villar ay layuning palakasin ang wildlife conservation at protection mechanism sa Pilipinas na nag-aamiyenda sa Republic Act (RA) 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation ang Protection Act of 2001.

Samantala, ang SB 2079 na inihain naman ni Zubiri ay sumusuporta sa RA 9147 ngunit ito ay may mga revised act at naglalaan ng pondo para sa layunin nito.

Sinabi naman ni Villar na

ang SB 2078 ay napapanahon para sa "relevant amendments" sa RA 9147.

Isa sa mga "proposed amendments" na nakasaad sa SB 2078 ay ang pagkilala sa Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao government na pangasiwaan ang kanilang wildlife species sa kanilang teritoryo.

Iminumungkahi din dito na: "wildlife trafficking" and "wildlife laundering" as crimes, which are not included in and not made punishable under the present law. This also includes "organized syndicated crime" as a means of committing wildlife offenses.

Hinihiling din sa naturang batas ang pagdagdag ng mul-

ta at taon ng pagkakakulong upang mapigilan ang paggawa ng wildlife crimes.

Sa kabilang dako, ang SB 2079 naman ay paglalaan ng pondo sa pagpapatupad ng SB 2078 kapag ito ay isa nang ganap na batas.

Kinikilala rin nito na matapos ang dalawang-pung taon ng pagpapatupad ng RA 9147 ay masyado na itong luma at kinakailangan nang palakasin at pagbutihin.

Inaasahan na ang dalawang senate bills na ito ay "establish a more stringent legal framework, improve enforcement mechanisms, and strengthen inter-agency cooperation against illegal wildlife trade, among others."



NAVOTAS IS TOP PERFORMER IN MANILA BAY REHAB



March 23, 2021 @ 1:28 AM 5 hours ago

NAVOTAS City has received another recognition this time for being the top performer in the implementation of the Manila Bay Clean up, Rehabilitation and Preservation Program (MBCRPP).

Doubly-elated Mayor Toby Tiangco said the latest achievement obtained by the city government was a big boost to its employees and officials as well as barangay authorities, among others, who have worked hand-in-hand to meet the goal.

“In the past years, Navotas scored low in the MBCRPP. We strived to rework our priorities, strengthen our partnership with environmental organizations and agencies and establish institutional changes to ensure that we will not just be compliant but committed in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.”

With a score of 96.7%, the city was named the 2020 Most Compliant Local Government Unit in the implementation of the Supreme Court continuing mandamus for the clean-up and preservation of Manila Bay.

Navotas scored 100% in both informal settler families cluster and information, education and campaign.

It also got 97% in solid waste management cluster and 92% in liquid waste management cluster, Public Information Officer Irish Cubillan said.

Among the development priorities of the city government is the provision of decent housing for its constituents, especially the informal settler families living in danger zones.

Aside from the off-city resettlements of the National Housing Authority, Navotas has six in-city housing projects with 2,595 units, she said.



NAVOTAS IS TOP PERFORMER IN MANILA BAY REHAB

More than half of Navotas' 859 health workers get vaccinated

More than half of the 859 health workers in the city have already been vaccinated against the deadly Covid-19.

Mayor Toby said the remaining 400 frontliners in the city will be inoculated this week.

“While we wait for our turn to be vaccinated and even after vaccination, let’s continue wearing our face masks properly, following the 1-2 meter social distancing, washing our hands for 20 seconds, and other health protocols. These simple deeds can save our life and the life of our loved ones.”

“We have read reports of hospitals reaching their full capacity. Our own Navotas City Hospital is now 86% full. The same goes for our two community isolation facilities. Whatever we can do to help slow down transmission, let’s do it. Let’s follow the safety protocols and be responsible for our health,” he added.

The mayor has reiterated his call to ‘Navoteños’ to register for the NavoBakuna Covid-19 vaccination program at <http://covax.navotas.gov.ph/>

Liquor ban reimposed

The liquor ban in the coastal city has been reimposed ‘until further notice,’ according to Mayor Tiangco.

An ordinance against selling, delivering, serving or buying alcoholic drinks all over the city was issued.

It would also be unlawful under said ordinance to possess or consume such beverage in public places, or traverse or loiter in public places while drunk.

“Safety protocols such as wearing of mask, non-sharing of food, glass or utensils, and social distancing are usually overlooked during drinking sessions.”

“People also have this false sense of security that their drinking buddies–family members, friends or neighbors who seem healthy–do not carry the virus. But most of our patients are asymptomatic or do not show symptoms that is why it is easy for them to transmit the virus to others without their knowing,” he explained.

Earlier, Navotas passed an ordinance imposing a mandatory swab tests as penalty for violation of safety protocols including curfew, wearing of face mask, and social distancing.

10 areas in seven villages placed under lockdown

At least 10 areas in seven villages in the city have been placed under two-week lockdown due to surge in Covid-19 cases.

Mayor Tiangco approved the recommendation of the City Health Office for a granular lockdown after the latter noticed an increase of confirmed COVID-19 cases in these areas over the past few weeks.



NAVOTAS IS TOP PERFORMER IN MANILA BAY REHAB

“I ordered the deployment of enough number of personnel that will make sure the affected residents will stay in their homes during the 14-day period while their streets are under granular lockdown.”

Placed under lockdown were the entire City Hall complex; Gov. Pascual Street, Barangay Sipac Almacen; Sioson Street, Barangay Bangkulasi; Interior H. Monroy Street, Barangay Navotas West; Little Samar Street, Barangay San Jose; Daisy Street, Barangay North Bay Boulevard South Proper; Pat Cabrera Street, Barangay San Roque; Block 37, Barangay NBBS Dagat-Dagatan; Estrella Street, Barangay Navotas West; and another area in Gov. Pascual St., also in Barangay Sipac Almacen.

Tiangco said all residents in these areas were made to undergo swab tests as they were strictly ordered to stay in their homes except essential workers who were allowed under the guideline of the Inter-Agency Task Force.



Villar: Plant more trees on International Day of Forests

posted March 22, 2021 at 07:50 pm

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Saying forest trees serve as a natural protection to the adverse impacts of natural disasters, such as typhoons and extreme flooding, Senator Cynthia Villar underscored the need to stop deforestation on Monday.

In joining the celebration of the International Day of Forests on March 21, Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, renewed her call to keep our forests healthy and protected.

“Abundant forest trees could help forest soil absorb and retain rainwater, thereby naturally regulating the release of rainwater from hills and mountains,” said Villar.

She noted that deforestation caused by illegal logging, quarrying, unregulated mining and slash-and-burn agriculture, among others, “continues to threaten the forest cover of the country.”

“This resulted in a reduced protection from the effects of natural disasters,” said Villar, a known environmentalist.

She mentioned, for instance, the deforestation of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, which was supposed to protect Luzon from typhoons.

“The muddy quality of the water that flooded Cagayan and Marikina alike is an indication that the surrounding forests and watersheds are already so denuded that they do not anymore retain soil water and prevent erosion,” Villar said.

She also cited the statement of the United Nations that over 800 million people live in tropical forests and woodlands in developing countries.

Indigenous and local communities, who are also considered as “historic custodians of the planet’s most important reservoirs of biodiversity”, rely on them for their essential needs from food and shelter to medicines, among others.

Because of this, she said, the destruction of those habitats translate to loss of livelihood and economic opportunities for people.

In November last year, the senator filed Senate Resolution 581 seeking a legislative inquiry on the state of the country’s forests, watersheds and rivers following the severe and widespread flooding in Luzon due to the recent onslaught of typhoons.

According to the senator, the denuded forests and the reported heavy siltation on rivers and tributaries have “largely contributed to the immense flooding” in the region, specifically after Typhoon “Ulysses.”

In her proposed measure, Villar noted several statutes mandating the protection of the country’s forests, watersheds and river systems and the preservation of biodiversity to prevent environment-related risks

The International Day of Forests was established on the 21st day of March by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/350099>



Bamboo sector gets P22B gov't support

By ...
-March 23, 2021



The government has set aside P10 billion per year in 2021 and 2022 in financing support for the bamboo industry to fulfill the goals of its roadmap.

This is on top of the P2-billion projects being planned by the eight government agencies, including the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which are implementing the roadmap

In his speech at the North Luzon and Central Luzon Virtual Bamboo Summit yesterday, DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez said the Development Bank of the Philippines has allotted P10 billion per year this year and in 2022 for lending to would-be bamboo farmers.

For 2021, Lopez said the government agencies are readying P594 million worth of projects in the sector. Another P1.4 billion projects are proposed for 2022.

Lopez said last year, government agencies had implemented a total of P441 million projects related to the various aspects of meeting the roadmap's objectives of bamboo development.

So far, 16,867 hectares (has) had been planted with bamboo nationwide in 2020, a little more than the target of 16,687 has.

Lopez said the target is to plant 23,671 has. this year and 40,000 ha. in 2022.

Lopez said DTI provided support for bamboo agri-business and bamboo processing to cooperatives, micro, small and medium enterprises, associations, and local government units through our shared services facilities program and other technical assistance. DTI has also provided training to help them develop value-add for their bamboo products.

Last year, Lopez said, DTI implemented projects worth around P15 million in 11 regions, of which P9 million was allocated to North and Central Luzon.

“ For 2021, we'll be implementing projects amounting to around P41 million in 12 regions, of which P20 million will be allocated to North and Central Luzon. For 2022, we are proposing projects worth around P545 million in 13 regions, of which about P14 million shall be allocated in North Luzon and Central Luzon,” Lopez added.



Bamboo sector gets P22B gov't support

Lopez said by planting more bamboo trees, “we aim to create a source of livelihood for our people, especially in communities in the countryside.”

He also commended the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for including bamboo in their National Greening Program and the Department of Agriculture for classifying bamboo as a high-value crop to ensure continuous planting of bamboo.

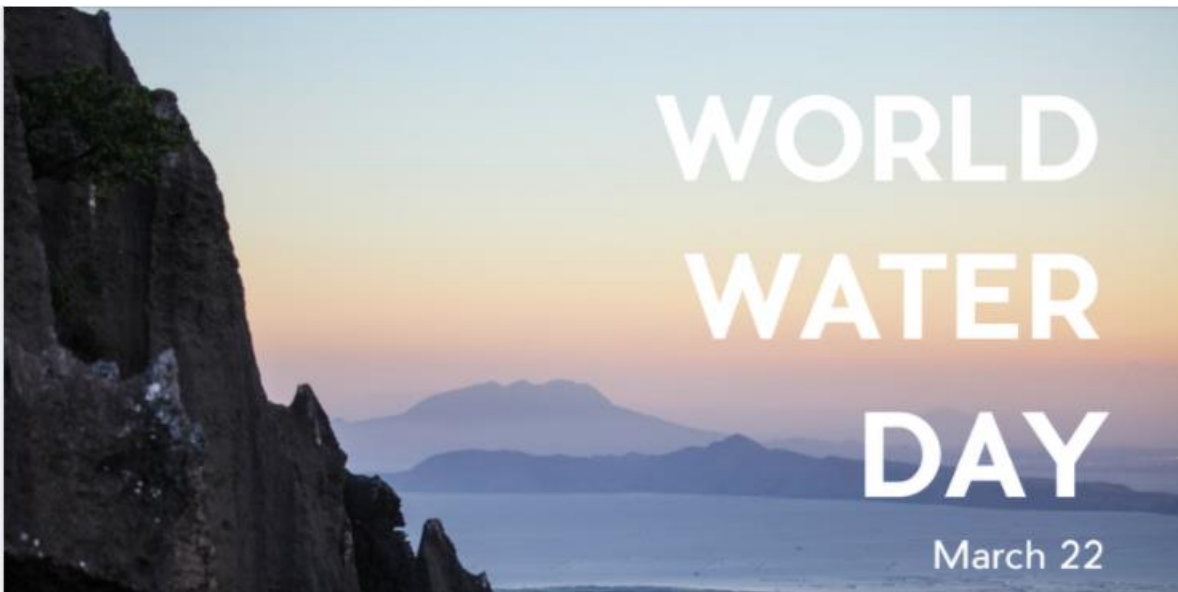
“Bamboo can support the requirements of micro, small and medium enterprises, particularly the producers of bamboo-based finished goods. DTI believes the bamboo industry has strong potential for business. There is a wide application of bamboo wood, like reengineered bamboo. These are flat but are stronger than plywood. Furniture makers can take advantage of these bamboo-based materials and reengineered bamboo for their products, which will give them a higher value and earn them more profit,” Lopez said. – *Irma Isip*






Masungi Georeserve

17h · 🌐

WATER DAY 💧 Water is a huge part of our work with Masungi's karst formations serving as a natural water filter, and our reforestation initiatives helping revive the watershed. 🌱 Since winning the @gwp_water Water Changemakers Awards, we've been privileged to find more platforms to share our story. 🙏 Later, we'll be receiving an award from the Philippine Water Partnership, and talking about our experiences in watershed rehabilitation with the @denrofficial @denr_envibureau 🌿
[#SaveMasungiTogether](#) [#RestoreTogether](#)



 <p>WORLD WATER DAY AWARDS 2021</p> <p>Master of Ceremony: James Velasquez</p>	<p>1:30 PM Server - Go Live Pre-Program Entertainment</p> <p>2:00 PM Invocation and National Anthem</p> <p>Welcome Remarks Mr. Ramonito S. Fernandez President & CEO, Maynilad</p> <p>Keynote Message Hon. Roy Agullena Cimatu Secretary, DENR</p> <p>1st Batch of Awardees</p> <p>Intermission / Entertainment</p> <p>2nd Batch of Awardees</p> <p>Closing Remarks Dr. Sevilla David Jr. Executive Director, NWWF</p> <p>Group Picture Taking and Closing Entertainment</p>	<p>PROGRAM</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU 1001 Alibon Road, Marikina</p> <p>invites you to join</p> <p>VALUNG WATER</p> <p>A webinar in celebration of Philippine Water Week and World Water Day</p> <p>Resource Speakers</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Dr. Crystal Dumlalund Executive Director and Managing Director, Philippine Water Partnership</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Enzo W. Woods III Water for People CEO, Philippines</p> </div> </div> <p>March 22, 2021 * 1 PM * Microsoft Teams</p> <p>#Water2me</p>
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Protecting what we value in ASEAN

By ACBPublished on March 22, 2021



Valuing water means protecting the sources that supply it. Photo by Wai Yan

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna, Mar. 22 -- The theme of this year's celebration of World Water Day is "Valuing Water," which highlights the vital role of water sources – from our health and well-being to the sustainability of our society's economic growth and development.

What does it actually mean to value water? Is it just valuing the water that comes from our tap or the very sources that supply it, such as rivers, lakes, wetlands, and other inland water ecosystems?

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity is posing these questions as it expresses solidarity with the international community in celebrating World Water Day. We hope to raise awareness on the essence of giving value to this important resource from which life flows. I couldn't agree more with the oft-repeated statement "we protect what we value." This holds true for water, which all living things on the planet need to survive.

It is a refreshing development that ongoing efforts to ensure that access to safe and sufficient drinking water, as envisioned in the Sustainable Development Goal No. 6, are bearing fruit: more than 83 per cent of the ASEAN's population have access to improved drinking water, while around 80 per cent have access to improved sanitation facilities in 2018, according to the ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Baseline Report 2020.

Water courses abundantly in the region as we are blessed with diverse ecosystems that provide the water that we need. The inland wetlands, which provide freshwater, occupy almost 2 million square kilometres. Forests, which contribute to water quality and supply, make up 46 per cent of the ASEAN's total land area. Thriving biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are critical in sustaining the water cycle and ensuring water quality and quantity.

However, as a widely used resource—from the household level to the economic sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure, clean water is finite and is largely dependent on the integrity of ecosystems that serve to replenish it. With the mounting pressure on these ecosystems, it becomes necessary to take into account this crucial biological interconnection and



Protecting what we value in ASEAN

integrate sustainable mechanisms in supplying and utilising water. Although technologies and facilities that will increase the efficiency of water use are important, investments in water should cover its entire cycle, including the processes that support natural groundwater recharge. Our current water situation requires scaling up of financing support for the protection and sustainable management of forest and wetland ecosystems as part of an integrated and cross-sectoral approach to managing water systems.

The Dasgupta review on the Economics of Biodiversity released last month provides a rousing assessment of how nature is a 'blind spot' in the accounting systems that dictate national finances and the decision-makers.

In the ASEAN, the ACB has been working closely with the ASEAN Member States (AMS) in efforts to introduce natural capital, such as water and its related ecosystems into the national and regional accounting systems. At the national level, Viet Nam has adopted a national policy on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), while natural capital accounting efforts are being explored in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand.

Under programmes, such as the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) Programme and the ASEAN Flyway Network, the ACB with the AMS has undertaken various initiatives to support the effective management of critical watersheds and wetlands in the region important to water provision. These programmes likewise foster cooperation across the ASEAN, a region that is both a rich source and a prolific user of water resources.

As the world strives to build back better, now is the right time to develop and implement policies and mechanisms that take into consideration the crucial role of nature in supplying our basic needs such as water, to survive. Properly recognising this will help develop and put in place integrated water management systems that account for the true value of nature in water security.

Appreciating and protecting the ecosystems helps sustain this life-giving resource. The World Water Day celebration should remind us of this significant interconnection, including the need for a whole-of-community approach to ensure a sustainable supply of safe and clean water for all. (TMSLim/ACB)



Toxics Watchdog Group seeks removal of leaded spray paints from the market

By Ecowaste Coalition Published on March 22, 2021

QUEZON CITY, Mar. 22 -- A toxics watchdog group today announced that it has found more spray paints in the market that are contaminated with dangerously high concentrations of lead, a forbidden chemical in the manufacture of paints.

In a statement, the EcoWaste Coalition revealed that 13 spray paints with lead content ranging from 4,500 to 56,100 parts per million (ppm) are being sold to uninformed consumers by offline and online retailers in brazen violation of the country's lead paint regulation limiting lead to a maximum of 90 ppm.

"Our latest market investigation conducted amid the COVID-19 pandemic netted 13 more spray paints with exceedingly high levels of lead that can present a serious health hazard over time," said Thony Dizon, Chemical Safety Campaigner, EcoWaste Coalition. "The authorities need to act with dispatch to ensure that these dangerous products are removed from the market and returned to their suppliers for environmentally sound disposal."

This brings the total number of lead-containing aerosol paints uncovered by the group to 50, noting its discovery of 37 violative products last year that were subsequently banned by the authorities. None of these 50 leaded spray paints was produced by companies affiliated to the Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers (PAPM).

"Lead paint chips and dust are formed when a surface covered with lead paint ages, peels and breaks. Children are exposed to lead when they eat such paint chips or swallow or breathe in lead dust, which can affect their developing brains and cause reduced intelligence, learning ability and attention span, as well as increased risk of behavioral problems such as aggressiveness, bullying and violence," said environmental health scientist Dr. Geminn Louis C. Apostol, Assistant Professor at the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health. "Health experts have not determined any level of lead exposure that is deemed safe and without detrimental effects."

Of the 13 spray paints bought from offline and online dealers by the EcoWaste Coalition and submitted to the SGS, a leading testing company, for lead content analysis, 10 were found to contain dangerously high levels of lead exceeding 10,000 ppm. Also, eight of the 13 paints lacked information about their manufacturers.

Among these non-compliant spray paints with violative levels of lead are the following:

1. F1 Aerosol Spray Paint (leaf green), 56,100 ppm
2. Colorz Chisai Acrylic Spray Paint (lemon yellow), 55,200 ppm
3. F1 Aerosol Spray Paint (medium yellow), 50,800 ppm
4. Veslee Aerosol Paint (lemon yellow), 45,900 ppm
5. Super 7 Acrylic Spray Paint (yellow), 31,200 ppm
6. Veslee Aerosol Paint (green grass), 22,400 ppm
7. Colorz Chisai Acrylic Spray Paint (fresh green), 18,600 ppm
8. Super 7 Acrylic Spray Paint (leaf green), 13,100 ppm
9. F1 Aerosol Spray Paint (fluorescent orange yellow), 11,500 ppm
10. MR. D.I.Y. Spray Paint (orange), 10,400 ppm
11. MR. D.I.Y. Spray Paint (sugar cane), 8,910 ppm



Toxics Watchdog Group seeks removal of leaded spray paints from the market

12. MR. D.I.Y. Spray Paint (apple green), 6,820 ppm
13. Sanvo Aerosol Paint (green grass), 4,500 ppm

The EcoWaste Coalition had notified the authorities about its latest findings. It had also reached out and requested retail stores to take the violative products off the shelves.

Lead compounds are used before in paint formulations to add color, quicken the drying process, inhibit rust, and increase durability, the EcoWaste Coalition said, noting that most paint manufacturers in the country have already switched to alternative ingredients to conform to the regulation.

Recognizing that lead paint is a major source of childhood lead exposure, and that such exposure causes serious harm to children and other vulnerable groups like women of child-bearing age and workers, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued in 2013 a groundbreaking policy eliminating lead-containing paints.

With active support from the EcoWaste Coalition and the PAPM, the DENR promulgated Administrative Order 2013-24, or the Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, which, among other provisions, phased out lead-containing decorative paints in 2016 and lead-containing industrial paints in 2019.

The DENR, PAPM and the EcoWaste Coalition are partners of the UN-backed Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint whose broad objective is to promote a phase-out of the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks that such paints pose.

The EcoWaste Coalition is currently completing a baseline study on the lead content of solvent-based paints sold and used for industrial applications in the Philippines, which will be released soon. (Ecowaste Coalition)



Marcos seeks probe on plastic waste disposal



By [Bernadette E. Tamayo](#)

March 23, 2021

SEN. Maria Imelda Josefa “Imee” Marcos has pressed for an inquiry on the disposal of plastic waste including used personal protective equipment (PPE).

The senator filed on March 15 Senate Resolution 678 seeking a probe, saying the Covid-19 pandemic “has greatly increased the demand for the production and use of PPE.”

“Waterlogged Covid-19-related plastic has been observed on beaches and seabed potentially aggravating the challenge of curtailing microplastics,” Marcos said.

“There must be proactive action to address the emerging environmental effect of wastes accumulates in the country especially with the Philippines extreme vulnerability to climate change, the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, and the continued use and demand of PPEs,” she said.

Marcos said single use face mask production in China soared to 116 million per day, about 12 times the usual quantity.

The World Health Organization has requested a 40 percent escalation of disposable PPE production.

“If the global population adheres to a standard of one disposable face mask per day after lockdowns, the pandemic could result in a monthly global consumption and waste of 129 billion face masks and 65 billion gloves,” she said. “The pandemic puts extra pressure on regular waste management practices, leading to inappropriate management strategies, including mobile incineration, direct landfills, and local burnings.”

Improper disposal of just one percent of face masks translates to more than 10 million items, weighing 30,000 to 40,000 kilograms, she said.

The senator cited a report of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), a nongovernmental organization, which showed that the Philippines uses a “shocking” amount of single-use plastic, including nearly 60 billion sachets a year.

GAIA also reported that almost 48 million shopping bags were used daily in the country, adding up to more than 17 billion a year to which figure does not include the smaller, thinner and often transparent plastic bags of which around 16.5 billion were used per year across the country.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/23/news/national/marcos-seeks-probe-on-plastic-waste-disposal/854381/>



#RecyclingHeroes: Globe supports Global Recycling Day

By ...

-March 23, 2021



Members of the informal waste community in Caloocan City hauling out unusable electronic devices for responsible disposal and recycling through Globe's E-waste ZERO initiative.

As part of its commitment to environmental protection and conservation, Globe joined the world in calling for consistent global recycling efforts, proper e-waste disposal, ban of single-use plastics and other sustainable initiatives during the worldwide celebration of Global Recycling Day last March 18.

Launched in 2018, Global Recycling Day was created to help recognize and celebrate the crucial role recycling plays in preserving the world's precious primary resources to help secure its future. It also encourages everyone to think about resources, not waste, when it comes to dealing with different kinds of goods.

Globe continues to encourage positive consumer behavior through its numerous environmental sustainability programs like E-waste Zero and 'Wag Sa Single Use plastic or WasSUP that call for the extended lifespan of electronic gadgets, plastics and endorse responsible recycling.

"We introduced our E-waste Zero program back in 2014 as a way to raise funds to put up new classrooms in Aklan which were devastated by typhoon Haiyan. Since then we were able to scale the program by partnering with the rest of the AC Group, corporate clients, schools, and NGOs," said Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.

Globe, through its E-waste Zero, focuses on the responsible disposal and recycling of electronic wastes or e-wastes. The program is a platform for individuals and organizations to donate their old, non-working electronic devices and accessories via participating Globe Stores, select malls and offices of partner groups. Free door-to-door pickups are also available through the website – <https://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability/environment.html>



#RecyclingHeroes: Globe supports Global Recycling Day

To date, more than 1.4 million kilograms of e-waste were donated, collected and responsibly recycled through Globe's partner Treatment, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) facilities. These are Total Environment Solutions – Asset Material Management Philippines (TES-AMM) in Pasig City and Maritrans Recycler, Inc. in Cebu. E-wastes are segregated to recover plastic materials, electronic components, and precious metals and the final recycling process is done in TES-AMM's facility in Singapore.

TSDs are DENR Environmental Management Bureau accredited facilities that have the capacity and technology to process hazardous wastes. All generated hazardous wastes must be handled and disposed of in accordance with the Republic Act 6969 otherwise known as the Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990. Globe has aligned its internal disposal process with this through the ISO 14001-certified Environmental Management System being implemented across the organization.

WasSUP, on the other hand, is a corporate sustainability program advocating a zero waste lifestyle and educating Globe employees on how avoidance of single-use plastics can help in environmental conservation. Just this year, Globe collaborated with Green Antz Builders Inc. for the responsible disposal and processing of single-use plastic wastes.

Globe has already installed a plastic shredder in its main office at The Globe Tower in Bonifacio Global City to make sure all identified single-use plastics or SUPs from within the premises are processed and transported to the Green Antz facility in Taguig. The shredded plastics would then be used as a component of eco-bricks and pavers that will be later on sold by Green Antz as construction materials for schools and garden pathways.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/recyclingheroes-globe-supports-global-recycling-day/



8,019 bagong kaso ng COVID-19, naitala

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



Ang mga pribadong health workers na siyang nagsasagawa ng swab/ RT-PCR testing sa NAIA Terminal 3 para sa mga dumarating na pasahero. Magugunitang maging ang bilang nang papasok na mga pasahero sa NAIA ay binawasan na rin ng national task force dahil sa tumataas na namang bilang ng may COVID-19.

MANILA, Philippines — Muling nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng pinakamataas na arawang kaso ng COVID-19 nang umabot sa 8,019 panibagong kaso ang nadagdag sa talaan nitong Lunes ng hapon.

Sa Case Bulletin ng DOH, umabot na sa 671,792 ang kabuuang kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa mula pa noong Marso 2020.

May 103 pasyente naman ang gumaling dahilan para tumaas ang bilang ng recoveries sa 577,850 (86% ng total cases).

Apat na pasyente ang nasawi para umakyat ang death toll sa 12,972 (1.93% ng total cases).

Dahil dito, naitala ang kasalukuyang mga aktibong kaso sa 80,970 (12.1% ng total cases).

Sa aktibong mga kaso, 97.5 porsyento ang mild at asymptomatic habang 0.9% ang kritikal at 1.0% ang severe ang kundisyon.

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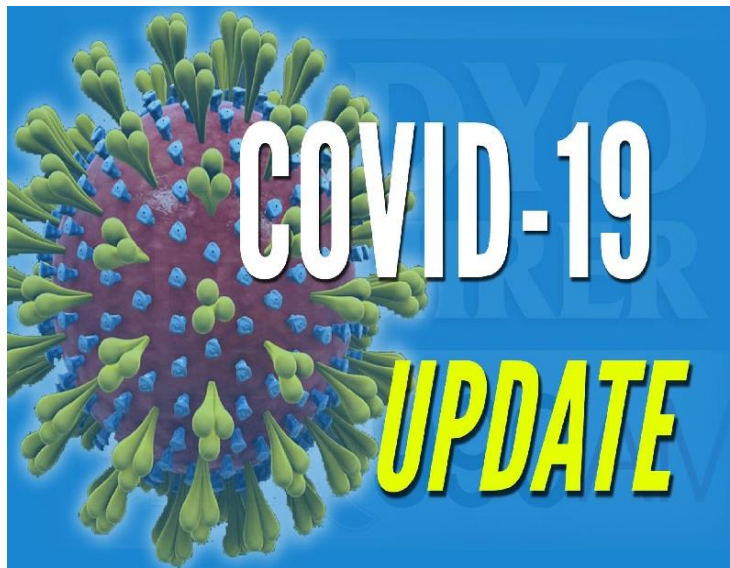
Nasa 53% ng 1.9K total ICU beds, 41% ng 13.5K total isolation beds, 38% ng 6K ward beds at 32% ng 2K ventilators ang kasalukuyang nagagamit ng mga pasyente sa mga pagamutan sa bansa.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/03/23/2086369/8019-bagong-kaso-ng-covid-19-naitala/amp/>



Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, umabot na sa 123.86 milyon

By Angellic Jordan March 22, 2021 - 01:23 PM



Pumalo na sa 123.86 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 123,868,982 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 30,521,765 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang Brazil na may 11,998,233 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 11,646,081 naman ang kaso sa India habang 4,456,869 ang napaulat na kaso sa Russia.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 cases sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- United Kingdom - 4,296,583
- France - 4,282,603
- Italy - 3,376,376
- Spain - 3,212,332
- Turkey - 3,013,122
- Germany - 2,670,000
- Colombia - 2,337,150
- Argentina - 2,245,771
- Mexico - 2,195,772
- Poland - 2,058,550

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 2,727,738 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 99,795,152 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/287675/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-umabot-na-sa-123-86-milyon#ixzz6psaAM12i>

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MGA UGAT NG PANDEMYA ALAMIN PARA MAPAGTAGUMPAYAN NATIN



March 22, 2021 @ 3:45 PM 15 hours ago

MAGANDANG tukuyin natin ang mga dahilan kung bakit lumolobo nang mabilis ang coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Mula rito, matutukoy rin natin ang mga panangga o kaya'y paraan para malabanan natin ang pandemya.

ORIG AT MGA BAGONG ANYO NG VIRUS

Dalawang araw nang magkasunod na naglalaro sa pagitan ng 7,000-8,000 ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19.

Sa ngayon, kakaunti pa lang ang naiulat na namamatay ngunit masasabing higit na bunga ito ng lumang COVID-19.

Subalit paano kung magsimulang umatake ang kamatayan sa 7,000-8,000 biktima araw-araw?

Lumalabas na mabilis ang pagdami ng mga biktima dahil sa pagpasok sa bansa ng mga bagong anyo ng COVID-19 na nagmula sa Brazil, United Kingdom at South Africa.

Ngayon naman, dahil naghalo-halo na ang mga orig at tatlong anyo o variant kung tawagin, nanganak ito ngayon ng tinatawag na Philippine variant at isa nga rito ang natagpuan mula sa Pinoy na nagpunta ng Japan kamakailan.

Ang mga bagong anyo ay higit na nakahahawa ng nasa 50 porsyento kumpara sa lumang virus at mayroon isa o dalawa sa mga variant ang may dalang 10 virus kumpara sa isa lang na dala-dala ng lumang virus.

Ito ang napakalaking dahilan ng paglundag nang mabilis ng COVID-19.



MGA UGAT NG PANDEMYA ALAMIN PARA MAPAGTAGUMPAYAN NATIN

PAGBUBUKAS NG EKONOMIYA

Talaga namang problema ang patuloy na kahirapan ng milyon-milyong mamamayan dahil sa pandemya.

Ang pagbubukas ng ekonomiya ang isang malaking hakbang upang masagip sa sobrang kahirapan ang buhay ng milyon-milyong mamamayan.

‘Yun bang === nagbubukas ang mga negosyo at sa pagbukas ng mga ito, nagkakaroon naman ng empleyo.

Sa pagbubukas ng negosyo, kikita ang mga negosyante at kikita naman sa sahod at benepisyo ang mga obrero.

Makababawi ang mga negosyante sa pagkalugi habang magkakaroon naman ng pantustos ang mga obrero para sa araw-araw nilang gastusin sa patuloy na pag-aaral ng mga bata, pambili ng pagkain, panggastos sa paninirahan, tubig, kuryente at iba pa.

Subalit dahil nagkakatipon-tipon ang maraming mamamayan hindi lang sa loob ng mga pagawaan, mall, palengke, pasyalan, simbahan, restoran, sinehan at opisina kundi sa mga transportasyon, hindi maiiwasan ang mga hawaan.

Ang isang nakatatakot na sitwasyon ay marami ang asymptomatic o walang palatandaan na tinamaan ng COVID-19.

Kulang na kulang tayo ng maramihang testing at tanging ang mga pumapasok bilang obrero o biyahero kaya ang karaniwang dumaraan dito at naihihiwalay sila sa oras na makitaan sila ng sintomas ng sakit.

Ang mga asymptomatic ang pinaniniwalaang pinagmumulan ng mabilis na pagkalat ng sakit nang hindi natin namamalayan.

SADYANG HINDI PAGSUNOD SA HEALTH PROTOCOL

Kinakikitaan ang mga pinapayagang lumabas ng mga tahahan ng pagsunod at paglabag sa mga umiiral na patakarang pangkalusugan o health protocol.

Halimbawa, sinusunod ng mga tao ang pagsusuot ng face mask, face shield, paghuhugas ng kamay o disinfectant sa pagpasok nila sa mga opisina at pinapasukang mga pagawaan.

Subalit pagdating sa loob, nasisira ang mga social distancing o kaya, walang sumusunod na opisina at pagawaan sa habiling dapat may bukas na bahagi ng mga ito at hindi puro naka-aircon.

Pagdating naman sa transportasyon, lalo na sa mga jeepney at bus, anak ng tokwa, dikitan ang mga pasahero at alanganin pa ang pwesto ng mga divider na plastik para sa mga pasahero.



MGA UGAT NG PANDEMYA ALAMIN PARA MAPAGTAGUMPAYAN NATIN

May paghuhugas ng kamay sa mga pila sa mga sakayan subalit ang pagdampot ng mga pasahero sa mga lansangan ay wala na nito at marami ang pampublikong sasakyan ang sarado at naka-aircon na dahilan ng hawaan.

WALANG HEALTH-HEALTH PROTOCOL

Sa mga komunidad, lumalabas na nagsusuot lang ng face mask, face shield ang lumalabas sa mga highway.

Subalit pagdating sa mga barangay road, eskinita at iba pa, wala nang health-health protocol.

Nagagalit pa nga ang iba kung sila'y sinisita, lalo na ang mga nakainom ng alak sa mga umpukan.

Walang kaibhan ang nagaganap sa paglalaro ng daga kung wala ang pusa.

Meron ding mga opisyal ng gobyerno na matitigas ang ulo at kahit tinamaan na ng COVID-19, kanilang inililihim o dine-deny at magulat ka na lang na isinasara na ang mga opisina ng gobyerno na roon sila pumapasok.

CHOOSY SA BAKUNA

Noong nagkakabalitaan na paparating pa lang ang mga bakuna at hindi malaman kung alin ang maunang darating at maiturok, marami ang nagpalista sa hanay ng mga health worker.

Pero nang may dumating nang dalawang bakunang Sinovac at AstraZeneca, marami ang nagsiatrasan at naging choosy.

‘Yun pala, ang Pfizer na gawang Kano ang gusto ng iba na unang inanunsyong darating ngunit nabokya, kahit pa ikinamatay ng ilan.

Nag-alangan din ang higit na marami sa pagdating ng Sinovac at AstraZeneca.

Nahaluan ng pulitika ang Sinovac samantalang nahaluan naman ang AstraZeneca ng kontrobersya sa blood clot at kawalan ng epekto sa South African variant.

Gaya ng Pfizer, pareho ring naiulat na may mga namatay makaraang mainiksyunan ng Sinovac at AstraZeneca.

Ang pagiging choosy ng mga health worker ang nagpahamak din sa kanilang hanay, lalo na ang mga hindi pa nagpapabakuna hanggang ngayon habang may suplay pa ng bakuna.

Ang mga hindi pa nagpapabakuna at naghihintay ng “ligtas at epektibo” ay maaaring maunang matamaan ng virus kaysa mga nagpapabakuna na umaasa at napatutunayan nang may panlaban sa COVID-19 bagama’t wala pa ang ikalawang dose kung tawagin.

GULO NA LIKHA NG PAMUMULITIKA

Malapit na ang halalang 2022 at sa katunayan, mabilis na dumarating ang panahon ng pag-file ng kandidatura ng mga politiko mula sa posisyong Presidente hanggang sa konsehal ng bayan.



MGA UGAT NG PANDEMYA ALAMIN PARA MAPAGTAGUMPAYAN NATIN

Dahil dito, habang ginagawa ng lahat ng mga nakaupo na makontra ang COVID-19, ang mga hindi nakaupo sa gusto nilang posisyon ang siyang maiingay na pilit na sumisira ang konsentrasyon at lumilikha ng gulo sa giyera sa pandemya.

Naririyang ang pagsilip sa mga butas ng mga nakaupo at kahit maliit na butas, pilit na pinalalaki para makapanira lamang at umaasang makakabig sila ng boto sa pamamagitan ng walang patumanggang paninira.

Naririyang ang bintang ng pagiging inutil at mali sa giyera sa pandemya ang mga nakaupo ngunit kung tatanungin naman sila kung ano-ano na ang kanilang nagagawa, wala silang maisagot na matino kundi ibalibag ang sisi sa mga kalaban nila sa pulitika.

Kaya naman, pati ang programang pagbabakuna ay naapektuhan sa anyo ng pagkalito ng mga mamamayan kung magpapabakuna sila o hindi o maghintay o hindi ng bakuna na “best vaccine” ayon sa mga namumulitika.

ANO-ANO NA ANG MGA GAGAWIN?

Kahit papaano, nailista natin ang ilang malalaking problema na pinag-uugatan ng paglaganap ng COVID-19.

Ano-ano ba, halimbawa, ang mga gagawin nating pag-iingat upang mapigilan ang paglaganap ng dumarami nang anyo ng virus na umaatake sa buong bansa at nagpapalobo ng mga bilang ng mga biktima?

Nagugulo rin ang isipan ng maraming health worker at mamamayan kung magpapabakuna sila o hindi o kaya’y dinadapuan sila ng pagiging hindi makatwirang choosy sa bakuna dahil sa mga namumulitika.

Ano-ano ang mga pupwede nating gawin sa gitna na ng ganitong sitwasyon?

Ang mga pasaway sa mga health protocol, paano natin sila didisiplinahin o sumunod dito sa pamamagitan ng pagtatanim sa kanilang isipan na para sa kanila mismo ang mga umiiral na batas at makatutulong na rin sila sa iba na maligtas sa pandemya?

Kung iisipin, ang pagsasama-sama at pagtutulungan ng lahat ang higit na kailangan ngayon para maging mabisa ang giyera natin sa lumalalang pandemya.

At ito ang napakahalagang sangkap na kung magagawa nating lahat ay maramdaman natin sa mga susunod na araw ang ibubunga naman ng mga pagbabakuna na sadyang isinasagawa laban sa virus para mapuksa ito.

Hangga’t umiiral at namamayani ang mga inilista nating mga pinag-uugatan ng pandemya, mananatili tayo sa masamang kalagayan at tayo rin mismo ang aani ng masasamang bunga ng sarili nating hindi magagandang mga pananim.



Taal volcano eruption possible – Phivolcs



By [CURRIE CATOR](#)

March 23, 2021

Taal Volcano continues to show signs of increased activity, prompting the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) to remind the public not to let their guard down.



TAAL VOLCANO PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA

“We are recording many volcanic earthquakes,” Renato Solidum, Phivolcs director, said in a House hearing led by the Southern Tagalog Development Committee on Monday. “If this would persist, it can lead to an eruption.”

Solidum explained the recent events may be caused by magmatic activity, which poses greater risk to Taal residents.

“That’s why we need to watch out and be very careful,” he stressed.

The Phivolcs director appealed to local government and disaster officials to prepare their response, noting that a “sudden explosion” is still possible.

Residents should also refrain from entering the danger zone and strictly follow safety measures, he added.

Phivolcs has recorded 36 volcanic earthquakes and 27 volcanic tremors in Taal in the past 24 hours.

The volcano remains on Alert Level 2.

Authorities earlier bared the tremors are linked to the January 2020 eruption, which displaced thousands of residents.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/23/news/national/taal-volcano-eruption-possible-phivolcs/854378/>



Enough water in Angat Dam to supply Metro Manila during dry season – PAGASA

Published March 22, 2021, 10:15 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Metro Manila and its neighboring areas will have sufficient water supply to last through the hot and dry months this year, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said on Monday, March 22.



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

PAGASA hydrologist Richard Orendain said the current water level of Angat Dam, as well as La Mesa Dam, will be enough to supply the domestic water needs of Metro Manila, including some parts of Bulacan, Rizal, and Laguna.

“Napakataas pa ng elevation [ng Angat Dam]. Hindi magkukulang sa tubig ngayon hanggang sa June-July na recovery period dahil sa shift papuntang southwest monsoon [season]. Magkakaroon na ng konting pag-ulan sa Angat Dam. (The elevation of Angat Dam is still very high. There will be no shortage of water until the June-July recovery period due to the shift to southwest monsoon season. There will already be some rains over Angat Dam by that time),” Orendain said during the PAGASA’s climate outlook forum.

As of Monday, the water level at Angat was 207.57 meters.

Although it is below its 212-meter normal high water level, Orendain said the current level of Angat Dam is still within the acceptable rule curve elevation of 192.49 meters.

Rule curve elevation is the minimum reservoir elevation needed to be maintained by dam operators to ensure the availability of water for irrigation, power generation, and domestic supply.

Meanwhile, La Mesa Dam’s level was at 79.03 meters, as of Monday.

Orendain noted that in 2019, the level of La Mesa Dam in Quezon City was almost depleted, but was able to normalize in 2020.



Enough water in Angat Dam to supply Metro Manila during dry season – PAGASA

It was able to fully recover this year, which means there will be enough drinking water for Metro Manila residents in the coming months, he added.

PAGASA has yet to officially declare the end of northeast monsoon or “amihan” season and onset of warm and dry season this year.

Last year, the start of dry season was declared on March 20.



Anti-coal group hits PH's continued dependence on 'dirty fuel'

Published March 22, 2021, 8:18 PM
by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The church and civil society-backed Withdraw from Coal (WFC) slammed on Monday, March 22 the country's continued dependence on coal as an energy source, despite authorities' pronouncements to move away from it.



Withdraw from Coal (Photo from withdrawfromcoal.org)

“With the issuance by the Department of Energy (DOE) of a moratorium on new coal projects last year, the Philippine coal pipeline has started to shrink,” WFC noted in a statement.

“But this is not happening fast enough, as the intensifying climate crisis and the continued suffering of our people and environment from coal demand an immediate end to the country's dependence on it,” the group reckoned.

“We reiterate that the coal industry would not be able to continue in its destructive ways if not for the financial institutions that invest in it,” it said.

In this regard, WFC prodded Philippine banks, “among which 15 were found to have channeled at least US\$13.42 billion to coal developers and projects from 2009-2019, to withdraw from coal now.”

The WFC made the call on the occasion of World Water Day.

“These acts would prove that these banks indeed value water and other vital life systems in the country, and the welfare of the Filipino public they claim to serve,” it said.

It described power generation through coal as a “water-intensive process,” a big reason why it hurts the environment.

“From its extraction to combustion, coal pollutes the air, soil, and water on which communities across the Philippines depend on. Power generation from coal is a water-intensive process, which is why coal plants are always situated next to bodies of water. The use and eventual discharge of water in many power plants expose host communities and marine ecosystems to unnaturally warm water temperatures and coal processing by-products, such as coal ash,” it said.

WFC was launched in February 2020.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/22/anti-coal-group-hits-phs-continued-dependence-on-dirty-fuel/>



NPAs get chemicals for IEDs from illegal miners in CamNorte, PNP seeks total closure

Published March 22, 2021, 6:14 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

Some of the chemicals used in the improvised explosive device that was detonated by the communist rebels during the ambush of policemen in Camarines Norte on March 19 are being illegally mined in Labo town, the Philippine National Police (PNP) disclosed on Monday, March 22.



Maj. Gen. Albert Ignatius Ferro

Maj. Gen. Albert Ignatius Ferro, director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said they have already recommended for the total closure of the illegal mining operations in Camarines Norte to deny communist rebels their source of explosives components for landmines.

Five policemen were killed while two others were injured when communist rebels ambushed a group of local cops who were securing a road project in Labo Camarines Norte last week.

The policemen were among those sent to the area after the construction company reportedly told the local police of receiving demand from the local rebels to pay three percent to five percent of the entire Tagkawayan (Quezon)-Labo road project. Otherwise, the project will be sabotaged.

“The examination of IEDs recovered from the scene of the three-hour encounter led investigators to conclude that the explosives component came from illegal mining operations in Labo town, known for its thriving small-scale backyard gold mining activities,” said Ferro.

He said, clearing operations also resulted in the recovery of 75 pieces of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) consisting of one big, 16 small, and 53 medium-sized IED; and five molotov petrol bombs.

Also recovered were a roll of firing wire, 43 non-electric blasting caps, two batteries and an electric blasting cap.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/22/npas-get-chemicals-for-ieds-from-illegal-miners-in-camnorte-pnp-seeks-total-closure/>

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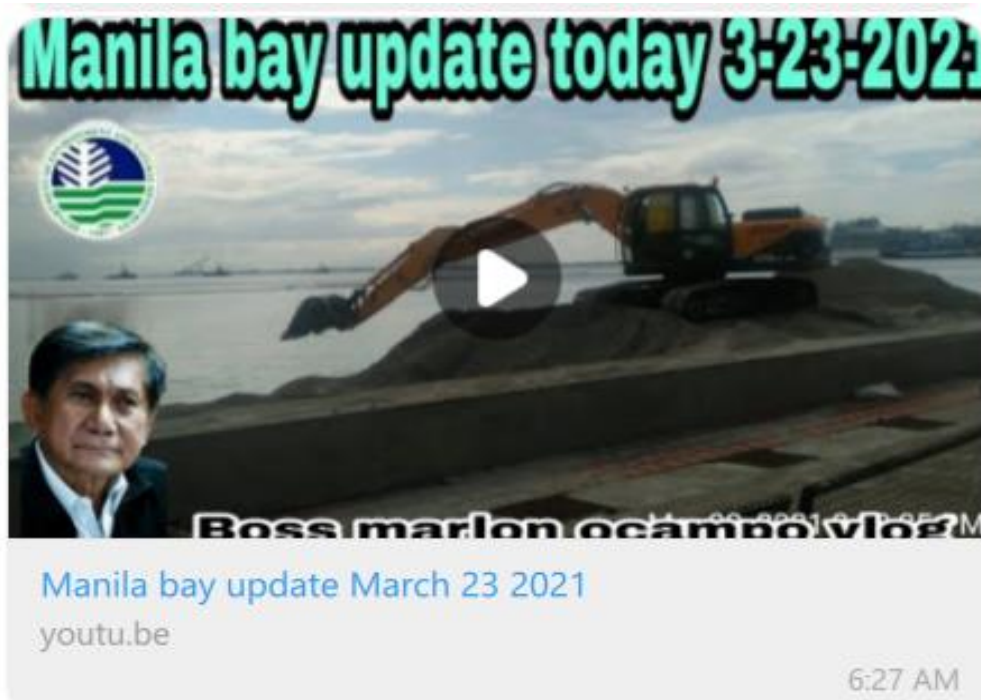
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