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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR UMAPELA SA PUBLIKO SA WASTONG PAGTATAPON NG PPE, FACE MASKS

May 22, 2021 Rannie Lao



MULING pinaalalahanan ni Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ang publiko hinggil sa tamang pagtatapon ng personal protective equipment (PPE) at ang ginamit na facemask.

Sa ginanap na virtual media forum na “Report to the Nation” ng National Press Club of the Philippines (NPC) ay umapela ito sa mga lokal na pamahalaan lalo na sa publiko na tulungan ang gobyerno sa tamang pagtatapon ng mga nagamit na face mask.

Aniya, puspusan ang kanilang trabaho sa pagpapalakas ng mga programang pangkalikasan sa kabila ng ilang delay dulot ng nararanasang pandemya.

“Hindi po kami tumitigil. Work from home man ang iba, at limited man ang direct action dahil sa nangyayaring pandemic pero tuloy po ang trabaho,” saad ni Antiporda.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda, na isa ring head ng Anti-Pollution Task Force na kasalukuyan nilang isinasapinal ang kanilang mga proyekto para sa mga fisherfolks para makapag-ani ng water lilies sa Taytay, Rizal para solusyunan ang problema sa water lilies at upang makapagbuo ng alternative livelihood.

Pinapurihan din nito ang ilang government agencies at local government units sa pagtulong na maisara ang mahigit sa 300 open dumpsites sa bansa. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



Mission accomplished: Antiporda says '100 percent' of all open dumpsites have been shut down

Published May 21, 2021, 12:48 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

All of the open dumpsites in the country that were targeted for closure by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have ceased their operations.



Antiporda

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda makes the big announcement during the virtual news forum of the National Press Club on May 21, 2021 (Screengrab from Zoom meeting)

This was announced “flash report” style by DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) alternate chairman, during a virtual news forum of the National Press Club (NPC) on Friday, May 21.

“As of today, may report pong natanggap ngayon lang, fresh from the region, na they stopped na operating their open dumpsite and they started yung disposal nila sa kanilang sa kanilang sanitary landfill doon sa Ozamiz City (we just received a report fresh from the regional office that the open dumpsite in Ozamiz City has stopped its operations and that they have now started disposal at their sanitary landfill),” Antiporda said during the event.

“So if that is the situation, this is good news for everybody: 100 percent na pong sarado ang lahat ng open dumpsite na ipinasasara ni [DENR] Secretary Roy Cimatu (100 percent of all the open dumpsites that Secretary Roy Cimatu wanted to close have all been shut down),” he bared.

The open dumpsite in Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental had earlier been identified by Antiporda as the last open dumpsite “standing” in the Philippines.

Cimatu at the start of the year ordered the closure of all open dumpsites. Under Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, no open dumpsites shall be established and operated by any person or local government.

Since then, around 250 such facilities have either been shut down by the DENR or voluntarily closed by their operators.

“Ang susunod po na gagawin natin is for the safe closure and rehab. Eto po yung kailangang gawan po siya ng precautionary measures para hindi siya sumabog dahil nagcre-create po ito ng methane (What needs to be done next is ensure safe closure and rehab. This has to do with performing precautionary measures to avoid explosions at the dumpsites due to the methane build up),” Antiporda noted.



After that, sanitary landfills would have to be established for the purpose of proper waste management.

“Nakahanda na po tayo dahil nandyan na po yung mga sanitary landfill operators sa coalition natin (We are ready in that regard since the sanitary landfill operators in our coalition are on standby),” the DENR official and former newsman said.

Lahat ng open dumpsites sa bansa, naipasara na – DENR

By RadyoMaN Manila -May. 22, 2021 at 6:05am



Matagumpay na naipasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang lahat ng open dumpsites sa bansa.

Mula nang magsimula ang taon, ipinag-utos ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na ipahinto ang operasyon ng lahat ng open dumpsites sa bansa.

Ayon kay Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, ang open dumpsite sa Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental ang natitirang open dumpsite sa bansa na nagsara.

Nasa 250 open dumpsites na ang ipinasara ng DENR o boluntaryo nagsara.

Ang susunod aniyang gagawin ay pagtatayo ng sanitary landfills para sa proper waste management.

Sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, ipinagbabawal ang pagtatayo ng open dumpsites at hindi ito pwedeng patakbuhin ng kahit sino o ng lokal na pamahalaan.



1 taon suspensiyon nakaumang ! 2 Mayor pabaya sa dumpsite, sasampolan

By Abante News Online — Last updated May 22, 2021

NEWS



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Sasampahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng kaso ang dalawang alkalde sa Luzon kaugnay sa pagpapatakbo ng ilegal open dumpsite.

Kinilala ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda ang dalawang alkalde na sina Mayor Norberto Gamboa ng Sta. Ana, Pampanga at Mayor Julio Parayno III ng Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

“Expect nga po na within May, pinipilit po namin na mai-file na ‘yong kaso ng Sta. Ana rito sa Pampanga at sa Urdaneta, Pangasinan,” sabi ni Antiporda sa isang virtual news forum sa National Press Club (NPC).

Alinsunod sa Republic Act (RA) 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 ipinagbabawal ang pagkakaroon at pagpapatakbo ng open dumpsites sa Pilipinas.

Binanggit din ni Antiporda na kasama sa kakasuhan ang mga tauhan ng dalawang alkalde.

“Panahon na po para magising tayo na ang basura ay hindi tine-take for granted,” aniya.



Noong Enero ay inatasan ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu si Antiporda na isara ang lahat ng iligal open dumpsite sa bansa.

Sinabi ni Antiporda na noong Biyernes ang huling kilalang operating open dumpsite sa Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental ay isinara.

Ang mga opisyal aniya na natuklasang lumalabag sa RA 9003 ay agad na masuspinde sa loob ng isang taon.

“Tatlong taon lang po ang termino ng alkalde. Malaki ang mawawala sa inyong suweldo.”

Ayon kay Antiporda ang COVID-19 pandemic noong nakaraang taon ang nagpabagal sa pagsasampa ng mga kaso laban sa mga nagkakamaling lokal na opisyal. (Mina Navarro)



Pseudo- scientists! DENR wages war vs illegal clam traders in Palawan

MAY 22, 2021, 11:50 AM

Santiago Celario Writer

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is asking the public to be wary of unscrupulous clam dealers posing as “scientific researchers.”

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has urged the public to exercise extra precautions when dealing with individuals who pose as scientific researchers, only to harvest giant clams for illicit trade.

The secretary issued the statement after the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), together with other concerned government agencies, seized more than 300 pieces of giant clam shells in Johnson Island and 150 tons of giant clams in Green Island both in Roxas, Palawan in past months.

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

PCSD Executive Director Teodoro Jose Matta met with Dr. Rosalee Tequillo, who identifies herself as the national facilitator of the National Redemption Program for Fossilized Giant Clams and "buyer" of the giant clams for scientific purposes.

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

He said that Tequillo failed to provide valid documentary evidence to prove that their activities are legal.

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

"But upon examination of said document, the PCSDS (Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff) found that it did not and does not, in any way give, Dr. Tequillo and her group or any private individual any authority to collect, extract or possess fossilized giant clam species," he added.



The PCSDS warned the group that *"the conduct of such undertaking under the guise of possessing legal authority from the OP and the BFAR and misinforming the public, carry the imposition of corresponding sanctions under the law."*

The DENR, through PCSD, said it is currently building a case against the culprits behind the illegal trade of giant clams in Johnson Island and Green Island in Roxas, Palawan for violation of Republic Act (RA) 9147 or Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Matta said the PCSD will "remain firm in its commitment to clamp down on illegal wildlife trade in Palawan and ensure a sustainable environment for Palaweños."

(SC)



DA, DENR team up to stop spread of ASF on wild boars

By Liza Agoot [May 22, 2021, 3:46 pm](#)



BAGUIO CITY – The departments of agriculture and the environment continue to collaborate to prevent the further spread of African swine fever (ASF) among wild boars in the provinces of Abra and Apayao.

“We are closely coordinating with DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) who has already issued an advisory to hunters who hunt wild boars not to bring home meat,” Cameron Odsey, director of the Department of Agriculture (DA) - Cordillera region, said Friday.

Odsey said people first saw signs of ASF among wild boars in February but only called the attention of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in March.

The DA, he said, immediately conducted a laboratory test on a boar from a forest in Abra, which shares a border with Ilocos and Apayao, and found it to be positive for ASF.

Odsey noted that both Abra and Apayao have been ASF-free until it was discovered in March that their wild boars were infected.

Since then, the DA and the DENR have been working together to prevent the further spread of the virus to domesticated pigs, he said, adding that they sought the help of the DENR because wild animals are within its jurisdiction.

He called on the public not to hunt and bring home boars and other wild animals so they would not bring home ASF-infected animals.

“We don’t know if they are bringing home meat from an ASF-infected boar, so it is better not to bring home (the meat) so that it will not further spread among the pigs being raised in the community,” Odsey said.

The DA, DENR, and mayors of various towns in Abra and Apayao have met and activated a task force composed of forest rangers and enforcers who will ensure that there is no hunting of wild boars.

He said the DA-Cordillera immediately depopulated infected pigs and those within the 1-km. radius of infected animals.

Depopulation, however, is impossible for animals in the wild.



Leisley Deligen, livestock coordinator of the DA-Cordillera, said 26,415 heads of pig have died of ASF in the region, affecting 2,626 hog raisers.

A total of 7,770 pigs found within the 1-km. radius from where an infection has been confirmed, have also been culled, Deligen said.

The DA-Cordillera, he said, has allotted PHP40.27 million for swine repopulation, a slow but sure way of ensuring a sufficient supply of pork for local consumption. (*PNA*)



NWRB: Metro Manila `di kakapusin sa tubig

By Abante Tonite — Last updated May 22, 2021

NEWS



Iginiit ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na hindi kapos ang supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila ngayong panahon ng tag-init.

Ayon kay NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr., mas mataas pa ang normal na alokasyon ng tubig sa Metro Manila sa kasalukuyan.

Aniya, nasa 48 cubic meters pa ang naisu-supply sa Metro Manila na mas mataas sa normal na lebel na nasa 46 cubic meters per second lamang.

Samantala, ang alokasyon naman sa irigasyon ay nasa 10 cubic meters per second.

Tungkol naman sa pagkaantala ng supply ng tubig na nararanasan ng mga residente sa Metro Manila, sinabi ni David na dulot lamang ito ng mas mataas na demand ng tubig ngayong tag-init.

Pinayuhan naman ni David ang publiko na magtipid ng tubig.

Samantala, tiwala rin ang Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) na pagsapit ng Hunyo ay magkakaroon na ng mas madalas na pag-ulan na siyang muling magpapataas ng supply ng tubig.
(Mark Joven Delantar)



Water supply sa NCR sapat kahit mainit ang panahon, ayon sa water resources board

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 22 2021 05:29 PM | Updated as of May 22 2021 09:01 PM



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MAYNILA—Sa kabila ng mainit na panahon at nararanasang water service interruption sa ilang lugar, sinabi ng National Water Resources Board na sapat ang suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr., nasa 48 cubic meters per second ang alokasyon ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Mas mataas ito sa normal na alokasyon na 46 cubic meters per second, habang nasa 10 cubic meters per second naman ang alokasyon sa mga irigasyon, na makakatulong anila sa mga magsasaka ngayong tag-init.

Batay naman sa monitoring ng state weather bureau PAG-ASA, nasa 191.82 metro ang water level ng Angat Dam bandang alas-6 ng umaga, mas mababa kumpara sa 195.04 metrong naitala noong Biyernes.

Ang nasabing dam na pinagkukuhanan ng suplay ng tubig para sa Metro Manila ay my normal high water level na 210 metro.

Mas mataas lang ang demand sa tubig ngayong tag-init kaya may oras na mahina ang suplay, ayon kay David.

"May oras kasi na sobrang taas nung demand, kasi yung mga tinatawag kasing mga reservoir ng mga concessionaire, kung minsan nahihirapan makacharge o makabawi, at isa ring dahilan ay yung pag ganitong summer din kasi ay panahon din ng posibleng pagkumpuni kasi tinitiyempo rin yan pag summer kasi mas mabilis yung pag abante ng pagkukumpuni ng mga sistema," ani David.

Ayon naman sa PAGASA, patuloy pa ring makakaranas ng mainit na panahon sa mga susunod na araw.

Pero pagdating ng Hunyo, inaasahang masmadalas na ang pag-ulan.

"Pagpasok ng June ay inaasahan natin na mas magiging madalas na yung mga pag-ulan kaya huhupa na ng kaunti 'yung nararanasan nating init," ani PAGASA Weather Specialist Raymond Ordinaryo.



At dahil mainit pa rin ang panahon, ipinapayo ni David na magtipid ng tubig.

"Ang gawin natin bilisan lang, huwag masyadong magtagal at sinasabi nga natin huwag masyadong magbabad doon sa mga pagligo natin. 'Pag naghuhugas ng kamay, siguro po pag nagsasabon hindi naman kailangan na patuloy ang pagtulo ng tubig sa mga faucet. Itong panahon ng tag-init nagdidilig tayo ng halaman mas maganda po kung recycled water ang pwede nating idilig sa mga halaman natin," ani David.

— Ulat ni Raya Capulong, ABS-CBN News



P100-K hot lumber seized in Agusan Norte

By Alexander Lopez May 22, 2021, 9:52 pm



BUSTED. Police in Agusan del Norte arrested Rogelio Sinones Constante, 19, in a predawn anti-illegal logging operation on Saturday (May 22, 2021) in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte. Seized from the suspect are bundles of assorted cuts of sawn lawaan lumber products worth PHP100,000. *(Photo courtesy of ADNPPPO)*

BUTUAN CITY – Authorities arrested a suspect was while transporting bundles of illegally gathered forest products in a predawn operation in Barangay Bangayan, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte on Saturday.

Colonel Martin Gamba, director of Agusan del Norte Police Provincial Office (ADNPPPO), identified the suspect as Rogelio Sinones Constante, 19, a resident of Barangay A. Beltran, Jabonga, Agusan del Norte.

Gamba said the police confiscated from Gamba bundles of assorted cuts of sawn lawaan lumber products with a total volume of 1,692 board feet estimated to be worth PHP100,000.

Authorities also seized from Constante a mini dump truck with plate number RKLX 465 used in transporting the wood products.

He said the suspect is currently detained at the Kitcharao Municipal Police Station awaiting the the filing of criminal charges for violating the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 705 or the "Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines."

He said the confiscated forest products were turned over to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Tubay, Agusan del Norte for proper disposition.

"Our continuing campaign against illegal logging and the apprehension of violators are made possible with the support of our people and the communities," Camba said. *(PNA)*



WMC bars trekking activities in watershed areas

Published May 22, 2021, 11:50 AM

by [Zea Capistrano](#)

DAVAO CITY – The Watershed Management Council (WMC) has passed resolutions to regulate the conduct of recreational activities in watershed areas in Davao City.

In a statement, the city government of Davao said the WMC passed a resolution declaring that trekking activities are prohibited in watershed areas. Likewise, the WMC passed a resolution adopting the proposed guidelines on the conduct of recreational activities within the watershed areas of Davao City.

“This was in response to the increasing activities in the watershed areas where it was observed that solid wastes are left by the trekkers and other locals,” the city government said. Last May 19, a committee hearing at the City Council was conducted for the setting of guidelines for the conduct of recreational activities in watershed areas.

Another committee hearing is set in June to improve the guidelines in order to include the issue of waste disposal. Based on the Status Report on the Davao City Watershed by the WMC dated May 21, 2021, among the issues reported to them were the construction of cottages for rent in Sitio Masamba, Barangay Wines and Sitio Bala, Barangay Tamugan, the conduct of trekking activities, and the operation of a public swimming pool in Purok Tuburan, Barangay Tambobong.

The WMC also received reports of release of wastewater to the Tamugan River of a farm in Upper Tamugan and the construction of various structures inside a company in Lower Tamugan without a building permit.

The WMC said the farm management already “committed to abandon the lagoon located in the watershed conservation area.” It said the farm also committed to “expedite the construction of a biogas digester as recommended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) to ensure that no wastewater is released in Tamugan River.”

“The IEC team has also included in its plan the need to intensify the cleanup campaign drive in all barangays where the watersheds are located,” it said.



[Good for the health, better for the environment; QC launches voluntary bike registration program](#)

MAY 21, 2021, 3:24 PM

Santiago Celario Writer

The Quezon City government claims its “voluntary” bicycle registration program will help bikers locate their bikes in case of loss or theft, and assist them in case of an accident.

AMID an ongoing debate on whether bicycles should be registered with government regulatory agencies, the Quezon City government recently launched a “voluntary” bicycle-registration program.

Voluntary bike registration is provided for in City Ordinance SP 2988-2020 known as the QC Safe Cycling Ordinance.

Under Section 7 of the Ordinance, the Green Transport Office – Bicycle and Active Transport Section shall initiate the program, which will maintain all pertinent information on cyclists and active transport users for the purpose of ensuring the continuous improvement of safe cycling and active transport program.

Quezon City Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) head PGen. Elmo San Diego (Ret) said that this program will help bikers locate their bikes in case of loss or theft, and assist them in the event of an accident.

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

Mayor Joy Belmonte also encouraged bicycle riding groups and other active transport users to register their bikes through the program.

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

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

For bikers or active transport users who wish to register, they just need to bring a government-issued identification card, 2x2 photo, proof of purchase of their bike, electric bike or scooters, and a picture of the owner with the bike, e-bike, or e-scooter.



There will also be a registration fee of P150.00.

A sticker will be issued by the DPOS-GTO for identification purposes.

For inquiries about the voluntary bike registration program, the public may contact the DPOS-GTO through (8)710-0743. (SC)

Tags: #OpinYonMetro, #QuezonCity, #bicycles, #BicycleRegistrationProgram



MMDA lauds QC for setting bicycle lanes

posted May 23, 2021 at 12:50 am

by [Joel E. Zurban](#)

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority praised the Quezon City government for establishing bike lanes and promoting the use of bicycles as alternative mode of transportation amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



JOY AT WORK. Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte (in red) then joins MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos in the inauguration of the city's new and improved bike lanes on Saturday. Manny Palmero

On Saturday, MMDA chairman Benjamin Abalos Jr. joined Mayor Joy Belmonte in the inauguration of the city's new and improved bike lanes.

A strong advocate of biking, Abalos lauded the leadership of Belmonte for having the most extensive bike lanes in Metro Manila that promotes the active transportation amid the COVID-19 pandemic wherein mobility is important.

Aside from Abalos and Quezon City officials, other cyclists also biked from Quezon City Hall to Elliptical Road, Quezon Avenue, Agham Road, and BIR Road, using the city's designated bicycle lanes.

The MMDA chief said his agency is assisting the Department of Transportation and Department of Public Works and Highways in interconnecting the bike lanes in the National Capital Region and making bicycle lanes safer and accessible for cyclists.

Under the government's long-term plan, more bicycle lanes will soon be installed along Epifanio de los Santos Avenue and other major thoroughfares in Metro Manila.

Designated bicycle lanes would ensure the safety of bikers and encourage the use of the alternative mode of transportation.

The MMDA advocates the use of bicycles as a reliable means of transportation during the pandemic. Aside from having an active and healthy lifestyle, there is physical distancing when riding the two-wheel non-motorized vehicle.

The MMDA, in previous years, has installed bike lanes along EDSA, from Magallanes to Ayala Avenue; University Avenue up to Tandang Sora in Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City; Remedios Circle up to Paraiso ng Batang Maynila on M. Adriatico Street in Manila; and from Santolan LRT-2 station to Imelda Avenue along Marcos Highway in Marikina City.



PH mining research gets boost from UK grants

[By Ben Kritz](#) May 23, 2021

ON April 14, President Duterte lifted the ban on new mining permits or mining production sharing agreements imposed by his predecessor in 2012, paving the way for an increase in mining investment in the country but understandably causing a great deal of consternation among environmental advocates.

Duterte's move comes at a sensitive time for the Philippines because except for a rapidly shrinking minority of misanthropic critics still futilely trying to poison the public discourse with long-discredited claims of "climate hysteria," environmental sustainability has already been established as a strong priority here, both socially and economically. The policy change is a reversal of the position on mining the administration has maintained since taking office, and even though Duterte justified the decision on rational economic grounds, it does stand in rather stark contrast to his government's otherwise environmentally conscious record.

Mining is unavoidably environmentally harmful. Despite what some of the more ardent mining advocates might say, it simply cannot be done without causing a considerable amount of damage to the environment; the damage cannot be prevented, it can only be mitigated and repaired. For a mining industry and corresponding national policy to be termed "successful," then, sufficient methodologies and safeguards to reduce the damage to the minimum possible level while mining operations are ongoing, as well as postmining cleanup and remediation standards have to be in place; and these have to provide the acceptable level of sustainability at a cost that does not exceed the revenue potential of the mineral resources.

To encourage the development of "sustainability in the minerals industry and charting a greener community," the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DoST-Pcieerd) and the UK Research and Innovation-Natural Environment Research Council recently assessed a number of research projects on sustainable mineral exploration proposed by joint teams of Philippine and UK scientists. Out of 18 proposals received, five were selected to receive grants of up to £1.5 million (about P102 million, of which about 80 percent are provided by the UK government) to carry out their work. The selected research projects include:

– "Developing a sustainable pathway for the Philippine nickel sector," a project led by Prof. Romell Seronay from Caraga State University and Dr. Paul Lusty of the British Geological Survey, which will focus on environmental and social impacts of mineral exploration and mining techniques in the Caraga Region;

- "Philippines Remediation of Mine Tailings (Promt)," led by Prof. Carlo Arcilla of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute and Prof. Gawen Jenkin from the University of Leicester; the project seeks to develop ways to reduce mine tailings through more efficient management, including reducing water consumption, applying effective methods to recover metal ores from existing mine tailings, and decontamination.

– "Philippine Mining at the National to Catchment Scale," led by Dr. Decibel Faustino-Eslava from the University of the Philippines Los Baños and Dr. Richard Williams from the University of Glasgow. This particular project is interesting because it is one of the few research efforts that have been proposed that addresses mining impacts on the very large scale of entire catchment basins, which would ideally lead to "a combined geomorphological-and biogeochemical-based management approach to remediate waste and protect the environment" on a national scale - in other words, the functional part of a revamped national mining policy originally promised but never delivered by the hapless Aquino administration.



– "Systems Approach for Greener, Eco-efficient and Sustainable Mineral Resource Management (Sages)," a project intended to develop a research program on creating a sustainable "circular economy" for the mining sector and involved communities, led by Dr. Arnel Beltran of De La Salle University and Dr. Pablo Rafael Brito Parada of Imperial College, London.

– "A framework for the sustainable development of marine mineral resources in the Philippines," directed by engineer Teodorico Sandoval of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Dr. Ian Selby from the University of Plymouth. Of the five research projects selected for the grant program, this one deals with what is probably the most controversial aspect of mining - undersea mining - and the one that has gotten the least amount of research attention despite investor enthusiasm for it.

None of these research projects individually or even taken all together are going to answer all of the myriad social, environmental and economic questions that mining in the Philippines raises. What is encouraging, however, is the willingness of the government to apply its resources through the DoST to tackle at least some of the bigger questions head-on. As in other countries in the former colonial world, the biggest handicap for the Philippines with respect to mining throughout its history has been a shortfall in knowledge; the grant program at least helps to address that problem.

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Community protecting flying foxes, hornbills, waterbirds in Tawi-Tawi

BY ASEAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY MAY 23, 2021



During the conduct of migratory water bird surveys at the Tawi-Tawi Group of Islands.

SEARCHING for Sulu hornbills, a group of community rangers called “Tawsi (Tawi-Tawi Advocates for Wildlife Support Initiative of Panglima)” traversed the muddy and treacherous road of Panglima Sugala in the province of Tawi-Tawi.

At some point, they had to tow their truck and began tirelessly trekking 19 kilometers up to its deep, thick forest. Soon after, their efforts paid off, as they found an active nest that serves about five Sulu hornbills, or tawsi, as Tawi-Tawi residents call them in their vernacular.



At the first bird monitoring activity on October 22 and 23, 2020.

Sulu hornbills, which are endemic in the Sulu archipelago, are considered one of the world’s most critically endangered species, with less than 50 individuals out in the wild.

Using their cameras and global positioning system-equipped phones, the community rangers immediately sent a report to Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (PhilBio).

The rich biodiversity and ecosystems of Tawi-Tawi have gained attention from concerned organizations and groups aiming for biodiversity conservation on the island. Aside from being the home of the Sulu hornbills, other threatened species, such as flying foxes, Christmas frigatebirds, Far Eastern curlews, and Great knots are also found on the island.

The Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is supporting the Community-based Biodiversity Conservation in the Tawi-Tawi Group of Islands project of PhilBio, which aims to strengthen the capacity of community members on biodiversity research and monitoring of the Sulu hornbill and other threatened forest birds, while establishing baseline information on migratory birds, flying foxes, and their habitats on the island. The collaboration commenced last year, but was only formally launched online in April due to restrictions borne from the pandemic.



Community-led

IN her presentation at the online launch, Executive Director Lisa Paguntalan of PhilBio said preliminary monitoring activities of the community were conducted between October to November 2020.

“The results came out good and acceptable,” Paguntalan said, as she described the monitoring activities under the new normal. She shared some of the challenges faced by the team, such as knowledge gaps in identifying certain species.

The Tawi-Tawi biodiversity conservation project, according to her, is community-led. At its core is multistakeholder collaboration, which creates a platform that gives value to both local and scientific knowledge.

“We believe...the community’s active involvement, matched with their local knowledge and lived experiences, could best serve the project, whose benefit will also redound to the community,” ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said.

Other partners of PhilBio in the project are the local government unit of Panglima Sugala that supports the 26 Tawsi rangers, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, Philippine Marine Corps, North Carolina Zoo, Asian Species Action Partnership, and the Oriental Bird Club.

Three active nests of Sulu hornbills were discovered in Panglima Sugala. Other threatened species that were recorded include the critically endangered Blue-winged racquet-tail, Sulu pygmy woodpecker, black-billed hanging parrot, Philippine slow loris, the undescribed Sulu warty pig, and pit viper.

Fifty-seven waterbird species, including the critically endangered Christmas frigatebird, endangered Far Eastern curlew and Great knot, the vulnerable Chinese egret, and the near-threatened Malay plover, were identified in the initial report.

Three roosting sites of flying foxes, on the other hand, were confirmed in the municipalities of Bongao and Panglima Sugala.

The common island flying fox and large flying fox were the two species commonly found in the three roosting sites, while the critically endangered Golden-crowned flying fox in the Bongao roost was the only one found thriving within a human settlement.

Asean connection

THE Tawi-Tawi Group of Islands is part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Lim said the area borders two biogeographical zones that host unique, genetically connected sets of wildlife.

“It is important to narrow the knowledge gaps and increase understanding on species distribution, movement, and likely local migration between the Philippines, Malaysia and [Indonesian Borneo],” she added.

The ACB chief cited a study conducted by Juan Carlos Gonzalez, a University of the Philippines professor, in 2013 that showed strong evidence of the genetic interconnection of hornbills in the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Studies suggest that the genetic ancestry of the Philippine hornbill assemblage (*Buceros*, *Anthracoceros*, *Aceros*, *Penelopides*) can be traced back to Sundaland. These birds were believed to have crossed multiple biogeographic barriers, such as Huxley’s line—a zoogeographic boundary placing Palawan and Borneo together; Wallace’s line between the Asian and



and Lydekker's line, which runs along the border of Australia's continental shelf to Melanesia, which is a subregion of Oceania.

"As we deepen our understanding of the ecology of these species, we will also get to appreciate their importance and strengthen efforts to conserve the remaining population of these critically endangered species [including] the Sulu hornbill," Lim explained.

Next steps

LIM expressed her hope that, with this project, the platform, methodologies—particularly those that apply community participation and citizen science in the Asean—can be highlighted, and learning experiences can be shared across the region on its implementation.

Assessment results may encourage research partnerships and collaborations, as well as help share conservation strategies—including mainstreaming of biodiversity—into local policies and development plans.

Paguntalan said PhilBio will continue assisting the monitoring and community-based education as well as awareness activities in Tawi-Tawi.

She also recommended continued support for Tawsi rangers and the rehabilitation of logged areas.

Images courtesy of Godfrey Jakosalem and Tawsi Rangers



Conservation group highlights role of IPs in protecting biodiversity

By [Janine Peralta, CNN Philippines](#)

Published May 22, 2021 10:20:30 PM



Courtesy of CCI PH

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 22) — On International Biodiversity Day, a conservation group stressed the importance of allowing indigenous people to participate in efforts to preserve the country's natural resources.

Adryon Javier, from the Center for Conservation Innovation PH, Inc., said she spent almost four years in Mindoro province, working with the Mangyans on conservation efforts, as well as equipping them with the technical skills to defend their ancestral lands.

The indigenous tribes have a spiritual connection with the environment that involves understanding ecological processes, Javier said, from noticing the presence and absence of certain wildlife, to changes in soil fertility.

"They offer an alternative view of the world, one that sees natural processes as cyclical, one that reflects respect for the Earth, and most of all, one that considers actions in the context of future generations," said Javier during a webinar with the University of the Philippines Association of Biology Majors on Saturday.

She described the tribes as "subsistence farmers, herders, fishermen, hunters with a vast collection of knowledge of how the ecology of their surroundings work."

Javier said her organizations' research also found that forests are degrading at a much slower pace in ancestral domains. The communities' forest homes are rich in biodiversity.

Red-tagging

These IPs, however, often meet obstacles, such as the stigma of being associated with rebels due to some members taking part in the communist movement.

IPs are also victims of red-tagging, Javier shared, which has been a pressing issue in the country that targets various members of the public, even politicians and celebrities.

"One of the many misconceptions of our IP groups... is for them being red-tagged or automatically being labeled as members of the rebel group," Javier pointed out.

"But you must all remember these are people with their own minds. If you ever recognize some of them joining these groups, it is most probably because it is their own choice," she added.



The challenge comes as communities are already battling extractive industries - mining, oil exploration, and illegal logging - that intrude into their territory.

Despite these hurdles, indigenous people still seek to participate in the conservation fight, Javier said.

Advocates [continue to push](#) for the passage of the "indigenous communities conserved areas" or [ICCA bill](#), which aims to give priority to indigenous people in the management of their conservation areas.

In November 2020, the United Nations also "[revitalized](#)" its system-wide action plan that provides a framework for indigenous people's survival, dignity and well-being.

"indigenous peoples are indispensable partners in achieving the [sustainable development goals] and the long-term COVID-19 recovery process, including through their contributions to the protection of biodiversity and the fight against climate change," the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination said.



Natural wonders of Nayong Pilipino at risk from planned vaccination site—critics

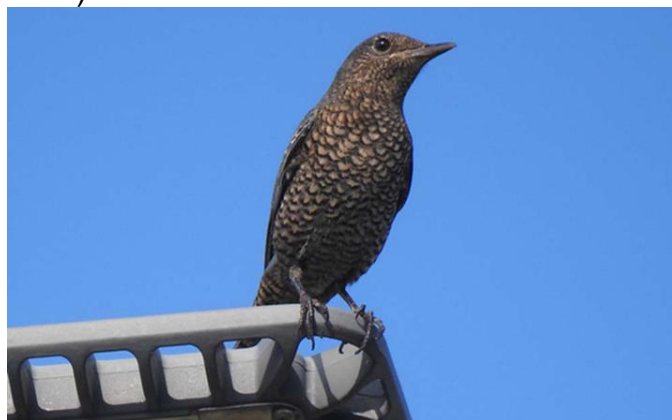
BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 23, 2021



The zitting cisticola is a tiny, resident bird which can be seen in grasslands.

IN October 2019 the national government approved the development of the Nayong Pilipino Cultural Park and Creative Hub inside the Entertainment City of the New Seaside Road in Parañaque City.

The property, an 8.5-hectare reclaimed land in Manila Bay, belongs to the Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF). The area was identified as one with high cultural, historical, heritage and ecotourism values because of its proximity to the Las Piñas–Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA).



A female blue rock thrush is a visiting bird spotted by members of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines at the Nayong Pilipino Forest Park.

The planned Nayong Pilipino Cultural Park and Creative Hub was intended as a place to learn the country's natural and cultural heritage, while providing a venue for promoting sustainable tourism. Because of the pandemic, the project was unfortunately shelved.

Fast-forward to May 2021, the property remained undeveloped and is being eyed as the site of a mega-vaccination center by the government, with the hope of accommodating 10,000 to 12,000 persons a day. It was being deemed crucial to the government's target of achieving herd immunity by the end of the year.

Multifaceted issues

THE proposed vaccination center to be run by ICTSI Foundation Inc. of billionaire Enrique Razon, however, continue to draw flak, initially from the resigned Nayong Pilipino Foundation Executive Director Lucille Karen Malilong-Isberto, who criticized the Department of Tourism (DOT) led by Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat and the Interagency Task Force on Covid-19 for pursuing the project.



Malilong-Isberto had earlier raised environmental, legal and moral issues over the proposed mega-vaccination project, saying it will not only threaten 450 trees in the property which have become home to hundreds of native birds, but expose the Board of Directors to potential legal repercussions with the use of government land by a private foundation, which is not within the mandate of the NPF.



The Brown shrike is a noisy and conspicuous migrant. It is adapted to different kinds of habitats, and preys on a variety of animals—including smaller birds, frogs and lizards.

Malilong-Isberto also took exception to the fact that the primary backer of the mega-vaccination project is not the Department of Health, but the DOT, whose mandate is primarily to promote tourism.

A vacant lot, nothing more?

PROPONENTS of the proposed mega-vaccination site project belittled the “ipil-ipil forest” and “grassland” on the NPF property as nothing more than a vacant lot and a neglected property. Reports quoted the project’s proponents stating that the NPF’s board of directors had not even planted a single tree in the property over the years, and that the foliage there is nothing more than a trove of “ipil-ipil” trees that grow like shrubs.

Ultimately, they are saying the mega-vaccination facility is more important than saving the ipil-ipil forest and grassland.

Urban biodiversity

VARIOUS groups have since taken the cudgels for the NPF, assailing the proposed use of the property for the centralized vaccination as it not only threatens to scrap the Nayong Pilipino Cultural Park and Creative Hub project, but disturb the existing grassland and forest ecosystems that provide safe havens for urban biodiversity.



Urban green spaces—no matter how small—provide a life-support system in an urban setting.

While the grassland and “ipil-ipil” forest at the NPF property is being dismissed as a neglected property, it nonetheless provides home to a good number of birds, reptiles, and insects in that part of the urban jungle.

The NPF is mandated by Presidential Decree 37 to “promote, encourage, and initiate research and development projects, [as well as] activities in social sciences and the humanities.”



But among others, its purpose is also to establish parks and recreation centers for the promotion of sustainable tourism in the Philippines, while generating opportunities for creating vibrant and empowered communities.

Bird haven

THE Wild Bird Club of the Philippines is a witness to the potential of developing the NPF property into a bird-watching site.

As it already is, the place is now home to a multitude of native birds, and is frequented by migrant ones from other areas.

On September 20, 2020, members of the group went on a bird-watching expedition in the area but was only allowed as close to perimeters of the property, said Mike Lu, who is the president of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines.

“We were only allowed to stand outside... and take pictures from afar [while being observed by a security guard,]” Lu said. Apparently, he lamented the fact that there are some areas where bikers and joggers are allowed, but bird-watchers and photographers are prohibited. “Perhaps, they don’t want us to document and record the birds in the area.”

In just two hours of bird-watching—including attempting to photograph the shy and very elusive winged creatures, a total of 177 birds from 25 species were recorded.

Eurasian tree sparrows, rock doves or feral pigeons, as well as black-crowned night herons, were among the dominant species recorded in the area.

Grassland species

AS the property is dominated by grassland, as there are less than 500 trees in the area—mostly ipil-ipil trees—special species of birds that inhabit grassland can also be found in the area, says Lu.

“In terms of birds, we found grassland species. Although [they are not threatened or considered endangered, there are very limited] green spaces left in the metropolis,” Lu lamented. “We should be creating more green spaces to benefit city residents rather than destroying what little is left.”

He also expressed dismay that the area is being targeted by the government for its mega-vaccine facility.

“There are many other undeveloped properties in the reclamation area. Why use this property, which is beside a [Covid facility? It] makes no sense,” Lu told the BusinessMirror via Facebook Messenger on May 11.

He said there is a huge property right across Solaire Resort & Casino Manila, which is in fact wider than the proposed drive-in vaccination at the Quirino Grandstand.

Green spaces needed

WEIGHING in on the issue, environmental group Kalikasan-People’s Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE) said the insistence of the government to sacrifice the last remaining green spaces in Metro Manila is proof that the Duterte administration refuses to heed science that says “we need more open green spaces in Metro Manila; more so, during this protracted pandemic.”

“Increasing biodiversity within the built-up urban environment reduces the spread of disease in many ways,” Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan-People’s Network for the



Environment, told the BusinessMirror via Facebook Messenger on May 13.

Green spaces, Dulce said, promote microorganisms that compete and control the population of harmful pathogens or disease carriers.

“Urban biodiversity increases the exposure of people to beneficial microbiota, and boosts...immunity. It provides us with various needs such as food security, physical and psychosocial wellbeing, and climate resilience. We need to increase green spaces like the Nayong Pilipino Forest Park,” he explained. “Integrating communities with green spaces also help bring the benefits of urban biodiversity closer to people, such as the Pook Arboretum within the University of the Philippines.”

Peace, healing, heritage spaces

The Nayong Pilipino Foundation Cultural Park and Creative Hub is envisioned to provide a place of peace and healing, where people can be one with nature at the heart of the so-called “concrete jungle.”

“In the midst of a metropolitan region, parks provide the benefits of nature to our physical, emotional, and mental health. The Nayong Pilipino Foundation Cultural Park and Creative Hub—while initially planned and designed for a different purpose—will therefore still remain true to its mandate by providing a place of healing for the people and the preservation of our heritage. A nation’s heritage includes its people,” the NPF said in one of its campaign materials sent to the BusinessMirror via e-mail.

“As the world continues to battle this pandemic, and transmission in the Philippines is still rising, our priority is to ensure the health of our citizens. We have to work together to make sure...everyone has access to testing and treatment, so that we can finally control the contagion that has ravaged our economy for months,” it says.

The NPF believes that one day, the future Nayong Pilipino Cultural Park and Creative Hub shall be a heritage space for the benefit of the public.

It visualized: “We shall stroll along paths in our urban forest and pocket gardens, learn about Philippine flora, and watch children run free in open spaces. A library shall be built as a repository of knowledge products free and open to the public. We shall share meaningful conversations about our future museum with a permanent collection of ethnographic objects. The NPF Cultural Park shall also be a venue for training future cultural leaders. It shall be a place that enshrines inclusivity, creativity, collaboration, and innovation.”

Today, the tug-of-war between project proponents and environmental groups over the Nayong Pilipino property continues to spark spirited debate.

But as a bird enthusiast, and passionate bird watcher, Lu argued that if the greenery of the NPF will be cleared soon, there will be no more trees and grasslands in that side of the city left.

Where will the birds go then?

Image courtesy of Wild Bird Club of the Philippines/Nayong Pilipino Foundation

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/23/natural-wonders-of-nayong-pilipino-at-risk-from-planned-vaccination-site-critics/>



Philippine serpent eagle, inaalagaan ng isang pamilya | 24 Oras Weekend

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Ginawang pet ng isang pamilya sa Magpet, Cotabato ang isang serpeant eagle.

24 Oras is GMA Network's flagship newscast, anchored by Mike Enriquez, Mel Tiangco and

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MGA ITINAPONG FACEMASK, NAUWI SA ISANG WATERSHED NG DAVAO CITY NA PINAGKUKUNAN NG INUMING TUBIG.

Nababahala ang environmental group na Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability o IDIS sa mga nakitang sako-sakong basura at gamit na facemask sa Panigan Tamugan watershed sa Davao City.

Mula sa lima hanggang anim na sakong basura kada araw, kamakailan ay umakyat na ito sa 25 sako dahil sa pagdagdag ng mga gamit na facemask.

Kaya naman ang panagawan ng grupong IDIS, ikampanya ang paggamit ng reusable cloth face mask.

Samantala, nagpasa na rin ng resolusyon ang Watershed Management Council para mabantayan ang area.

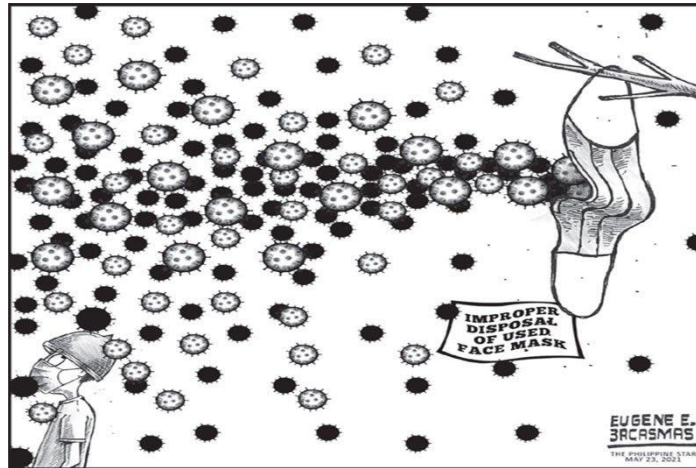
👤 Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability Inc. (IDIS)

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



👍👎👤 8.7K

820 Comments 1.3K Shares



EDITORIAL - Face mask pollution

(The Philippine Star) - May 23, 2021 - 12:00am

In Davao City, discarded face masks were found at the Panigan-Tamugan watershed, which supplies water to the city. Around the country, similar problems have cropped up, and not just in bodies of water.

Improper waste disposal has always been a problem in this country. Even in the issue of plastic waste, companies that recycle plastic for low-cost construction materials and other items stress that the problem is not so much the use of plastic but filthy habits, compounded by weak enforcement of laws governing waste disposal.

The tons of solid garbage that wash up along the Manila Bay coastline especially during typhoons include not only plastic waste but also a wide range of other materials – tin and other metals, Styrofoam, aluminum foil, cardboard, glass, wood, rocks and concrete pieces, food waste, all types of paper products.

With the COVID pandemic, the garbage piles now include discarded infectious waste particularly face masks. Hospitals and other medical facilities are required to follow safety protocols in the disposal of infectious waste. There are also laws and local ordinances governing littering and proper disposal of industrial, commercial, office and household waste.

Yet the regular reports of discarded face masks polluting bodies of water or littering streets are clear manifestations of long-entrenched bad habits when it comes to solid waste management, even in the worst public health crisis the country has suffered. Health experts have warned that in the raging COVID pandemic, improper disposal of used face masks can spread the virus.

Even bad habits can be broken, with sufficient interventions and information. Health authorities can disseminate warnings about the risk of infection from face masks discarded indiscriminately. Police and barangay personnel can improve enforcement of laws and rules on garbage disposal and against littering. Local governments can provide more public receptacles for garbage. There are enough killer germs circulating; people don't need to increase the health risks through the careless disposal of infectious waste.



P1.4M reforestation project sa Isabela nasunog



May 22, 2021 @ 3:21 PM 15 hours ago

ISABELA – Tinatayang aabot sa P1.4 milyong pisong halaga ng reforestation project ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Isabela sa Brgy. Sindun Bayabo, Ilagan City dito sa nabanggit na lalawigan.

Halos mahigit limampung ektarya ang natupok ng apoy ng nasabing halaga.

Inatasan na ni PCol. James Melad Cipriano, Provincial Director ng Isabela Police Provincial Office o IPPO ang kanyang kapulisan para sa masusing pagsisiyasat tungkol sa naging dahilan ng sunog na sumira sa proyektong 'Plant a Million Trees a Day' ng pamahalaang panlalawigan noong Disyembre 2019.

Hindi lamang ito ang unang pagkakataon kundi pangalawang beses na nasunog kung saan isinagawa ang reforestation project na tinatayang limampung limang libong seedlings ang naitanim sa nasabing lugar.

Sa inisyal na imbestigasyon ng otoridad ay posibleng sinadyang sunugin dahil naagapan ang unang pagsiklab ng sunog ngunit kinabukasan ay muling nagkaroon ng sunog kung saan hindi na naagapan pa ng mga otoridad.

Hinala ng pamahalaan panlalawigan na maaaring ganti rin ito ng mga nahuling nagsasagawa ng illegal logging sa lugar dahil sa pinaigting na kampanya laban sa pamumutol ng kajoy. (REY VELASCO)



ALI turns plastic waste into building bricks

posted May 22, 2021 at 06:20 pm by [Manila Standard](#)

Some 28 metric tons of plastic waste, the equivalent of 2.8 million plastic water bottles filling up 73 basketball courts, was recently recycled into useful eco-products by Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) as part of its “circular waste management” initiative.



The plastic waste, which would have otherwise filled up Metro Manila’s dumpsites or find its way into Manila Bay, had been recycled into eco-products like bricks for pathways, sidewalks, and fences, according to the country’s leading property developer.

ALI said it expanded its commitment to environmental protection amid the COVID-19 pandemic by using a circular economy approach to waste management, turning plastic waste to products that can be used in projects.

Eco-products from ALI, Green Antz

ALI has been recycling tons of dry plastic waste from its properties and communities as early as last year and is continuing to turn these into eco-materials used in its estates and residential communities (shown in photo).

It said that with online shopping and delivery becoming a necessity during the pandemic, plastics use for packaging and food containers have been increasing in volume. These plastics would normally end up in garbage landfills or, worse, find its way to waterways and eventually end up in already polluted oceans.

The company linked up with an environmental solutions company, Green Antz Builders, which converts dry plastic waste into eco-products using a technology that mixes plastic with cement and other materials. The finished product is formed into construction materials like bricks, pavers, and casts. These materials are now being used in Ayala Land estates and sites as pathways, fences, and sidewalks (Inset).

“The cycle involves collecting clean and dry plastics at designated drop-offs and transporting them to eco-hubs, which are recycling facilities where the plastics are shredded and incorporated into concrete products developed by Green Antz,” explained Anna Maria Gonzales, sustainability manager of ALI.



Eco-hubs

The first eco-hub, built in partnership with Green Antz, opened in March, 2019 in Arca South, a 74-hectare mixed-used development in Taguig City.

In October, 2019, the Lio Tourism Estate in El Nido, Palawan opened its own eco-hub to collect plastic within the estate and nearby communities, and turn these into eco-products to be used by the estate.

Among the users of eco-products were Globe Telecom, which turned over 24,500 eco-bricks to seven communities. The Makati Central Business District installed 60,000 eco-pavers for sidewalks.

AC Energy's SolarAce and GigaSol used more than 24,000 eco-casts to build the control rooms of their solar power plants in Alaminos Laguna and Zambales.

Evo City in Kawit, Cavite are using 60,000 eco-bricks and 50,000 eco-casts for fencing. Lio Tourism Estate produced 158,000 eco-pavers for its sidewalks and pavement.



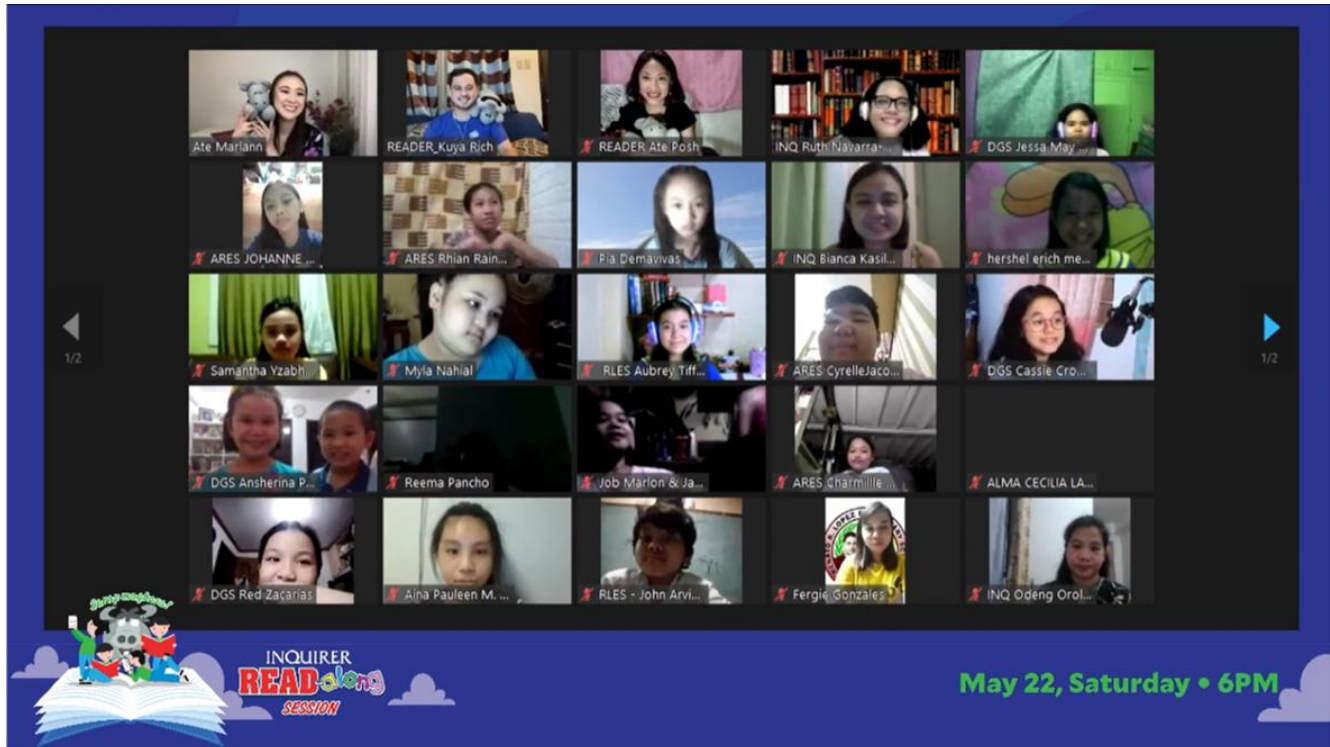
The total plastics recycled by ALI in 2020 is comparable to the amount of clean and dry plastic waste gathered from two of its largest malls in a regular year.

“Processing and using these eco-products effectively prevented clean and dry plastics from Greenbelt and Glorietta from ending up in dumpsites,” claimed Gonzales.



Inquirer Read-Along: Kids learn about sustainability, climate change

By: [Arianne Suarez](#) [Inquirer Research](#) / 09:37 PM May 22, 2021



MANILA, Philippines — Around 50 children who attended via Zoom meeting platform learned about the practice of sustainability to help curb climate change in the virtual Inquirer Read-Along session on Saturday.

Held in partnership with Globe At Home, the storytelling session featured actress and host Marlann Flores and professional storytellers Rich Rodriguez and Posh Develos. It was aired live on Inquirer's Facebook pages.

Flores, a member of #TeamGlobeofGood which promotes sustainable living, read "Bakawan" written by Catherine Yu Untalan, Reena Rae de Leon Sarmiento, and Mae Astrid Tobias and illustrated by Van Zeus Bascon. It is about animals living in a mangrove who become distressed by all the human garbage in their home.

Flores shared ways people can minimize their waste through simple practices.

"We don't just need less, we need to recycle. With clothes, you don't have to buy fast fashion all the time, you can use your old clothes or sell them as pre-loved items. There's so much waste already, so it's important to reuse things," she said.

Rodriguez and Develos read together "Si Emang Engkantada at ang Tatlong Haragan" written by Rene Villanueva and illustrated by Wilfredo Pollarco and Alfonso Oñate. It tells the story of an enchantress who teaches three naughty children to care for the environment.

Recounting the message of the story, Rodriguez stressed the importance of practicing sustainability to help save the environment.

"Sustainability is very much equivalent with contentment. I think contentment is the most important virtue today that a lot of people need to learn because if you have that in yourself, you would know how to be sustainable," Rodriguez said.



Flores also highlighted the value of reading among children in the digital age.

“Nowadays, there is too much information that children can get online so it’s good for them to go back to reading to develop their imagination. Let’s encourage kids to be children again and stay innocent as well as develop their vocabulary and learn to be eloquent,” she said.

Develos added that the joy of reading should be instilled in children by their families.

Student participants and viewers from Facebook also won prepaid WiFi from Globe At Home.

Saturday’s session was opened by Barbie Dapul, Globe At Home’s vice president for Marketing, and was hosted by Inquirer Lifestyle writing editor Ruth Navarra-Mayo.

Launched in 2007, the Inquirer Read-along is a corporate social responsibility project of the company which aims to promote love of reading among children.

/MUF



Bulkang Taal, bantay-sarado pa rin sa PHIVOLCS

ni [Mary Gutierrez Almirañez](#) | May 22, 2021



PHOTO: Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS)

Lumikha ng kakaibang singaw at pagkulo ng tubig ang Bulkang Taal kaninang umaga, May 22, ayon sa tala ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

Anila, “Ang patuloy na upwelling o pag-usbong ng mainit na volcanic fluids sa Main Crater Lake ay napapansing lumilikha ng pagsingaw, paglukso ng tubig at maging ng ipu-ipo kapag may malamig na hangin o ulan sa ibabaw ng lawa. Hindi namamatyagan ang ganitong pangyayari kapag ang upwelling ay nagaganap sa mainit na tag-araw.”

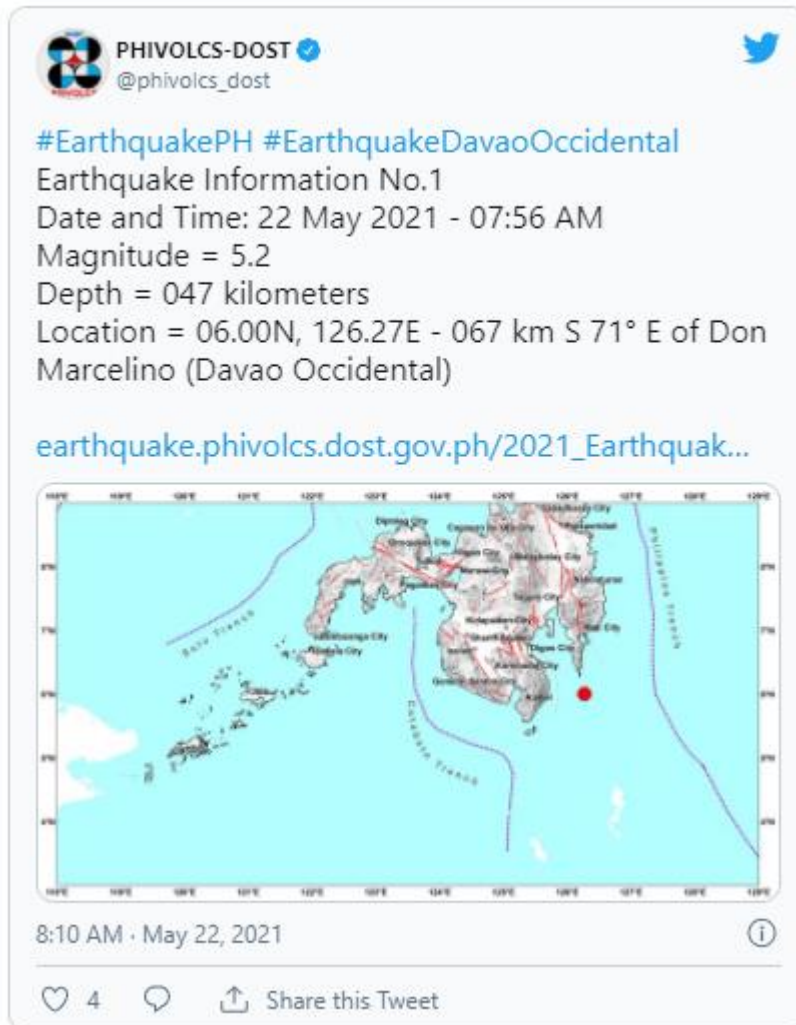
Patuloy namang nagbabantay ang PHIVOLCS sa kalagayan ng bulkan at kung may pagbabago sa kondisyon nito ay tiniyak nila na kaagad iyong ipararating sa kinaukulan at publiko.

Sa ngayon ay nananatili pa rin sa Alert Level 2 ang Bulkang Taal.



Magnitude 5.2 earthquake hits Davao Occidental

Published May 22, 2021 8:37am



A magnitude 5.2 earthquake hit Davao Occidental on Saturday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) said.

The quake occurred at 7:56 a.m.

Its epicenter was located at 06.00°N, 126.27°E - 067 km S 71° E of Don Marcelino (Davao Occidental).

The quake had a depth of focus of 47 km and was tectonic in origin.

PHIVOLCS said no damage is expected but aftershocks may occur. —**KG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/788445/magnitude-5-2-earthquake-hits-davao-occidental/story/>

23 MAY 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



BREAKING: COVID-19 recoveries sa Pilipinas, lagpas 1.1-M na

By Angellic Jordan May 22, 2021 - 04:27 PM

DOH COVID-19
CASE BULLETIN # 434

MAYO 22, 2021
Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon,
bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site:
<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>



MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING MAYO 20
DATOS NGAYONG MAYO 22
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG MAYO 20

13.0%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

48,824

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS

95.4%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

KABUANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?	NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?	KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO
ICU BEDS (1.9K TOTAL BEDS) 60% Utilized	ICU BEDS (0.7K TOTAL BEDS) 61% Utilized	<p>Mild 93.6%</p> <hr/> <p>1.9% Asymptomatic</p> <hr/> <p>1.4% Critical</p> <hr/> <p>1.9% Severe</p> <hr/> <p>1.26% Moderate</p>
ISOLATION BEDS (13.6K TOTAL BEDS) 45% Utilized	ISOLATION BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS) 40% Utilized	
WARD BEDS (6.0K TOTAL BEDS) 46% Utilized	WARD BEDS (2.2K TOTAL BEDS) 40% Utilized	
VENTILATORS (2.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS) 38% Utilized	VENTILATORS (0.5K TOTAL VENTILATORS) 39% Utilized	

UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ipinapaalala sa lahat na mayroon tayong **tiyak na proseso** sa ating pambansang pagbabakuna. Sundin natin ito at **maggalista** tayo upang maging **maayos at ligtas** ang ating paghahatid ng lubos na **proteksyon** laban sa malubhang sakit dulot ng COVID-19.

Kasabay nito, iwasan nating maging kampante sa oras na makaranas ng sintomas. Agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o **One COVID Referral Center** upang mabawasan ang pagkakataong magkahawaan sa ating tahanan. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**. Para sa iba pang karamdaman, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/FreeTelemed> upang malaman kung paano makapagkonsulta sa ating Telemedicine Service Providers.



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Mahigit 6,000 muli ang panibagong napaulat na kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Sabado (May 22), pumalo na sa 1,178,217 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabi kasing bilang, 54,326 o 4.6 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 6,831 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

93.6 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 1.9 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 1.26 porsyento ang moderate; 1.9 porsyento ang severe habang 1.4 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 183 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 19,946 o 1.69 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 7,981 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 1,103,945 o 93.7 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



6,831 new COVID-19 infections bring Philippine tally to 1,178,217

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

Published May 22, 2021 4:33pm



The number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases in the Philippines rose to 1,178,217 on Saturday with 6,831 new infections as three laboratories failed to submit data on time.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), this brought the number of active cases to 54,326.

Of these cases, 93.6% were mild, 1.9% were asymptomatic, 1.9% were severe, and 1.4% were in critical condition.

The DOH also announced that 7,981 more patients have recovered from the illness, bringing the total to 1,103,945, while 183 new fatalities brought the death toll to 19,946.

Seventeen duplicate cases were also removed from the total case count.

“Moreover, 131 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation,” the DOH said.

Data also showed that 60% of the country’s intensive care unit beds are in use while 38% of the mechanical ventilators are occupied.

In the National Capital Region, 61% of ICU beds are being utilized by patients while 39% of the mechanical ventilators are in use.

The DOH earlier expressed confidence that the country’s [supply of 2 million AstraZeneca vaccines will be used before they expire](#) in June and July. — **DVM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/788480/6-831-new-covid-19-infections-bring-philippine-tally-to-1-178-217/story/>

PH hits record 229K jabs in 1 day

May 22, 2021



(FILES) This file photo taken on April 20, 2021 shows a health worker pointing on a vial of the Comirnaty vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech against Covid-19 that can be caused by the novel coronavirus at the vaccination center in Rosenheim, southern Germany, amid the novel coronavirus / COVID-19 pandemic. - German firm BioNTech said on May 10, 2021 that the Covid-19 vaccine it developed with Pfizer does not require any modifications at the moment to protect against variants of the virus. (Photo by Christof STACHE / AFP)

MANILA – The Philippines recorded its highest daily vaccination rate since the National Vaccination Program was rolled out in March as 229,769 doses were administered on Thursday, breaking the previous high of 120,529 jabs on May 15.

As of May 20, a total of 3,718,308 doses have been administered nationwide to priority groups A1 (healthcare workers), A2 (senior citizens), and A3 (persons with comorbidities).

“We are very happy with this milestone, as we were able to double the number of jabs in less than a week. I am very confident that with the current pace that we have, we can breach the four million mark by early next week,” National Task Force (NTF) Against COVID-19 Chief Implementer Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said.

Early this month, Galvez said the government is eyeing to administer at least two million shots in May following the steady arrival of supplies – twice the total number of shots administered in March and April.

“We are now moving past the crawl stage as we begin to walk. However, this is not yet enough as our main goal is to run, where we will be able to administer at least half a million doses or more daily. And I am certain that if we keep this momentum, along with the continuous delivery of vaccines throughout the country, we can make this happen,” Galvez said.

“The pace of the ongoing vaccination we are witnessing right now is unprecedented. We are happy to see that all sectors of society are working together to achieve our common goal of herd immunity by the end of November. The national government, local governments, and the private sector are one in ensuring that we are able to build back a better Philippines,” he added.

By June, he hopes to start the inoculation of economic and government front-liners (A4) and indigent communities (A5).

Increasing supply

Also on Thursday, another 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccines arrived, bringing the country’s total vaccine supply inventory to 8,279,050 since the first vaccine delivery was made in February.

Galvez said the bulk shipments from the COVAX facility and Sputnik V are also expected by the end of the month and in June, comprising 2.2 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech and 300,000 doses of Sputnik V.

A total of 10,050,000 doses from different manufacturers are due to arrive, including the supply committed by COVAX, before the second quarter ends.

Moderna is making its first delivery to the country with 200,000 doses procured by the government and 50,000 doses purchased by the private sector while AstraZeneca will deliver the initial supply of 1.3 million doses procured by the private sector by June.

Sinovac is shipping 4.5 million doses, where half a million shots were procured by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.

Sputnik V is also scaling up its delivery in June with at least two million doses, while COVAX will be sending another two million doses of AstraZeneca, Galvez said.

Galvez said by the start of the third quarter, vaccine shipments to the country are expected to increase to at least 15 to 20 million doses monthly.

“We are on track with our vaccine rollout, and we can assure the public that as we scale up our vaccine procurement, we are also ramping up our vaccination rate. Through this, we can all have a better Christmas this year,” Galvez said.

No to vaccine bias

The vaccine czar reiterated that all vaccines used in the national immunization program are safe and effective, as these have undergone the rigorous review process by the country’s vaccine experts.

He said there should be no “vaccine brand preference” as all jabs that were approved by the Food and Drug Administration are safe, effective, and will protect everyone against severe symptoms of COVID-19 as well as prevent hospitalization, and death.

President Rodrigo Duterte recently reminded the public to take the jab as soon as possible and look beyond the vaccine brands.

“If you are there in that community, go there and have yourselves vaccinated by any of the vaccines available. They are all potent. They are all effective. So there’s no reason for you really to be choosy about it,” the President said.

Vaccine experts are also speaking up, as they have urged the people to stop vaccine preference saying, “the best vaccine is the one in your arm.”

No one will be left behind

As COVID-19 cases in the National Capital Region and its nearby provinces start to go down, some cities and provinces in the country are experiencing surges.

The NTF visited Puerto Princesa, Palawan and Zamboanga City on Thursday and Friday, respectively, to help local government units (LGUs) ramp up their COVID-19 response efforts and address the ongoing spike in cases.

Task Force officials led by Deputy Chief Implementer and testing czar Secretary Vince Dizon turned over 10,000 antigen test kits to the LGUs.

He said both cities can expect additional vaccine doses to ensure that more residents will be inoculated and protected against the virus.



Dizon committed to working on fast-tracking the approval of Palawan's molecular laboratory to scale up the detection capabilities of Puerto Princesa and the province.

He said the application for the establishment of the molecular labs capable of reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction testing could be approved by next week.

In Zamboanga, the NTF turned over 1,000 personal protective equipment (PPE), 100 vials of remdesivir, and 13 high-flow cannulas and five ventilators to local executives.

Two of the ventilators have been allocated to the Zamboanga City Medical Center, while three units will be for the use of Basilan's health facilities.

Dizon said an additional 14,000 PPE sets will also be sent to the city next week.

The Department of Health also committed to providing an additional 11 ventilators to the city next week.

Galvez said these interventions from the national government are testaments to the President's promise to the Filipino people that during these trying times, "walang ma-iiwan, walang iwanan (no one will be left behind)." (PR)-*rir*

23 MAY 2021, SUNDAY



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