

23 OCTOBER 2020, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





# Cimatu awaits report on Alcoy dolomite mining

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital | October 22, 2020 - 04:14 PM



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu speaks with members of the media during his visit in Alcoy town in Cebu on Friday, September 25, 2020, to lead the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) inspection of dolomite-quarrying and processing companies. CDN Digital photo | Morexette Marie B. Erram (file photo)

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said he had yet to receive the report on the investigation on the alleged violations of the dolomite mining firms in Alcoy town, Cebu.

It has been almost a month since the environment secretary inspected the mining site in the town after the corals in the seas in Alcoy have been damaged due to dolomite debris.

Cimatu said that the suspension of the operations should be enough to contain the damage brought by the mining sites, for now, as the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR-7) and Environment Management Bureau in Central Visayas (EMB-7) continues the investigation.

He begged off from revealing their next move for the mining sites until he had seen the recommendations of the two agencies.

“Pag-usapan muna namin. Icheck muna namin ang recommendations nila. (We will talk about it. I will check their recommendations). The EMB-7 will be presenting the results of their investigation today,” said Cimatu.

It can be remembered that the crushed dolomite rocks sourced from the mountains of Alcoy, a fifth-class municipality located approximately 101 kilometers southeast of Cebu City, were used for the artificial white-sand component of Manila Bay’s rehabilitation project.

Cimatu has directed the Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas (EMB-7) to collect water samples and conduct air monitoring around the port of the mining site on September 2020.

The mining site has ceased operations since. /dbs

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/346985/cimatu-awaits-report-on-alcoy-dolomite-mining>

## Cimatu to Cebu City: Aim for zero in COVID-19 cases

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital|October 22,2020 - 03:41 PM



Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu (right most) arrives in Cebu City to assess the COVID-19 situation in the city. | Photo courtesy of OPAV

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu challenged Cebu City to reach zero in the cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Cimatu said that with the improvement of the COVID-19 situation, the city government must aim for a complete recovery.

For October 2020, Cebu City recorded no additional death of the COVID-19, reduced the active cases to 197, and the positivity rate averages between 1 to 0.5 percent daily.

Furthermore, the critical utilization rate for both public and private hospitals is now around 30 to 20 percent only, easing the burden from the health sector.

“From being an epicenter of COVID-19, Cebu City is now the epicenter of recovery,” said Cimatu.

Cimatu said as long as the trend of more recoveries than new cases would be kept up in the next months, there would be a chance that Cebu City would eventually have zero in the cases of the virus.

The increased surveillance and monitoring through proactive measures like the pooled testing in the Carbon Market would also contribute to reducing the incident of new cases.

“When we did the Carbon testing, that’s how we saw that the transmission here was lower than the national average,” said Cimatu.

The testing and contract tracing should also continue so that there would never be complacency on the part of the government for the monitoring of the cases.

Still, for Cimatu the achievement of Cebu City has become a model for other cities to recover from the COVID-19.

“Cities in Luzon, Visayas Bacolod, Iloilo, and Mindanao, they are already following Cebu City’s methods,” said Cimatu.

Cimatu hopes that when he comes back to Cebu City in the next months, the cases have dropped to zero or almost zero. /dbs

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/346954/cimatu-to-cebu-city-aim-for-zero-in-covid-19-cases>



LOOK: Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on October 22, 2020 lauded Cebu City's efforts in flattening the COVID-19 curve. | via Delta Dyrecka Letigio #CDNDigital



**From being an  
epicenter of  
COVID-19,  
Cebu City is  
now the  
epicenter of  
recovery.**

**SEC. ROY CIMATU**  
DENR SECRETARY  
OVERSEER IN CEBU, IATF

on the continuous recovery of  
Cebu City from the COVID-19  
pandemic.

OCTOBER 22, 2020



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# BOC probes deeper into suspected waste imports in the Port of Subic

By [Henry Empeño](#)

October 22, 2020



*Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda explains why the shipment was flagged during an inspection of five container vans with Subic Customs Collector Marites Martin.*

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Bureau of Customs in the Port of Subic (BOC-Subic) will conduct further investigation of container vans suspected to contain waste materials from the United States following confirmation of the illegal cargoes here early this week.

Subic Customs Collector Marites Martin said on Thursday that all 30 container vans comprising two shipments of waste materials will be inspected to determine the volume and actual contents.

Martin and Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda inspected five container vans at the New Container Terminal here on Thursday afternoon and presented plastic and hazardous waste materials that were found in the shipment declared as old corrugated cartons for re-pulping.

The opened containers revealed what could be bales of waste materials held together by cardboard and bound with plastic twine. Bits of plastic wrap, aluminum container, and paper, however, could be seen sticking out of the baled materials.

The materials also emitted some foul odor.

Antiporda said the unsegregated waste matters found in the container vans, including some face masks, were enough proof that the shipments were in violation of the law.

The Subic Customs office raised an alert over the two shipments on Saturday, October 17, based on information from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that said shipments were suspected to be in violation of Customs law in relation to DENR Administrative Order 2013-22, or the Revised Procedures and Standards for the Management of Hazardous Wastes.

The shipments consisting of 30 container vans said to be filled with old corrugated cartons for re-pulping, were transported from the United States via the container ship Ever Lyric and consigned to Bataan 2020 Inc., a paper manufacturer with a mill in Samal, Bataan.





Initial examination of five container vans led BOC-Subic to declare that the shipment contained “prohibited waste materials which were illegally imported.”

BOC-Subic then said it will undertake further inventory “to ascertain the volume and actual contents of the shipment.”

The recent discovery of waste materials in import shipments here elicited a flashback to a similar situation years ago, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman and Administrator Wilma T. Eisma said in a news statement on Thursday.

“It was just last year — on May 31, 2019—that we successfully banished from our shores 69 garbage-laden containers from Canada, of which 67 had stayed here in Subic in their putrid condition for several years,” Eisma recalled.

“We don’t want that sordid chapter in our history to happen again,” she added.

Eisma said that as manager of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, the SBMA “vehemently denounces this apparent attempt to smuggle waste materials into the country and likewise deplores the use of the Subic Bay Freeport as a transit point for this illegal trade.”

“We cannot, and should not, condone the dumping of wastes from any country into our shores,” Eisma added.



## 2 container ng basura mula America naharang sa Subic

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 22 2020 01:56 PM | Updated as of Oct 22 2020 09:20 PM



Isa sa mga container ng basura na naharang sa Subic Bay International Terminal Corp., sinabi ng Bureau of Customs nitong Miyerkoles. *Larawan mula sa Bureau of Customs*

MAYNILA (UPDATE) — Naharang ng mga awtoridad ang 2 container ng basura sa Subic Bay International Terminal Corp., ayon sa Bureau of Customs (BOC) nitong Miyerkoles.

Ayon sa mga opisyal, bahagi ito ng 30 container na dumating sa bansa mula sa United States na naka-consign umano sa isang kompanya at natuklasang mga basura ang laman nang imbestigahan.

“The shipment arrived from the United States and was consigned to a certain Bataan Twenty Twenty Inc. and were declared as American Old Corrugated Cartons for Repulping,” sinabi ng ahensya sa isang pahayag.

Maari namang gagamitin ang mga naturang karton para i-recycle, ayon sa abugadong si Wilma Eisma, chairperson at administrator ng Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

“[Mayroong] alert order na ipinadala ang BOC na galing nga din sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)... ang naka-declare naman talaga karton na for repulping so parang for recycling, basura talaga siya pero supposedly may purpose for recycling,” sabi ni Eisma.

Pero sa pagsusuri ng BOC, lumilitaw na ang kargamento ay naglalaman ng mga ipinagbabawal na materyales sa basura na iligal umano na iniangkat.

“Further examination of the shipment revealed prohibited waste materials which were illegally imported,” sabi ng ahensya.

Sa inisyal na imbestigasyon ng DENR, lumilitaw na may paglabag sa administrative order 2013-22 o ang revised procedures and standards for the management of hazardous wastes ang kargamento.

Nakahalo kasi ang plastic wastes sa karton, na ipinagbabawal sa batas, ayon kay DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda.

“May mangilangilan na facemask pero hindi naman karamihan but we will still check on the shipment yung hundred percent nya. Iche-check pa muna namin siya, of course with the supervision of the BOC,” sabi ni Antiporda.

Dagdag niya, corrugated carton ang nakalagay sa kargamento pero may nakita pa ring halong basura dito.

Nagsasagawa pa ng imbestigasyon ang mga awtoridad hinggil sa dami ng mga basurang naharang.



Ayon sa mga awtoridad, maaaring maharap sa kasong paglabag sa Customs Modernization and Tarriff Act at paglabag sa environmental laws ang mga taong nasa likod ng insidente.

Samantala, kinondena ng [Greenpeace Philippines](#) ang pag-abuso ng mga mas mayayamang bansa sa maluwa na waste importation regulations sa Pilipinas.

“The fact that we continue to be a dumping ground of countries like the US shows that the government has not been doing enough to stop waste imports: the sad reality is that we don’t have strong policies in place to prevent it,” ani Greenpeace Philippines Campaigner Marian Ledesma.

Nanawagan rin ang grupo sa pamahalaan na ratipikahan na ang Basel Ban Amendment at tuluyan nang ipagbawal ang pag-import ng waste products.

"To put an end to foreign waste dumping, the government must see to it that these twin legal measures are acted upon without further delay. The ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and a total ban on waste importation will send a strong message that the Philippines is not a dumping ground, and that rich countries must take full responsibility for managing their waste instead of exporting them to other countries," ani Aileen Lucero, national coordinator ng EcoWaste Coalition.

— **May ulat ni Gracie Rutao**





## Basura galing Amerika naharang ng BOC



October 22, 2020 @ 10:43 AM 20 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Naharang ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) Port of Subic ang dalawang container na naglalaman ng mga basura bago pa man ito tuluyang mailabas sa Subic Bay International Terminal Corp. kahapon.

Ang mga nasabing kargamento ay naharang dahil sa mahigpit na pagbabantay ng Port of Subic katuwang ang Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) at Assessment Division gayundin ang ginawang koordinasyon nila sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon sa BOC, ang naturang mga container ay galing sa United States at naka-consigned sa Bataan 2020 Inc. kung saan idineklara ito na “American Old Corrugated Cartons for Repulping”. Sa isinagawang physical examination sa mga nasabing container ay nabuking na naglalaman ito ng mga basura.

Dagdag pa ng ahensya, bahagi umano ang dalawang container na naglalaman ng mga basura, sa 30 container na nakaalerto rin at pawang mga naka-consigned sa Bataan 2020 Inc.

Nagsasagawa naman ng imbentaryo sa nasabing kontrabando upang matiyak ang dami at aktwal na nilalaman ng kargamento. Nagpapatuloy ang pagsisiyasat sa posibleng paglabag sa Section 1400 ng RA 10863 o ang “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) pati na rin ang iba pang mga nauugnay na batas sa kapaligiran. **JAY Reyes**



## Tambak na basura mula US pinuslit sa Subic

By Abante News Online — Last updated Oct 22, 2020

METRO



Photo courtesy of facebook.com/portofsubic



Buking ng pinagsanib na grupo ng Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service at Enforcement and Security Service and Assessment Division ang dalawang container van na naglalaman ng mga basura na nagmula umano sa Amerika at dumating sa Subic Bay International Terminal Corporation (SBITC) noong Miyerkoles.

Base sa report, ang dalawang container ay nakaalerto at kabilang sa 30 pang container van na dumating sa SBITC at deklaradong 'American Old Corrugated Cartons for Repulping' at naksaad ang Bataan 2000 Inc. bilang consignee ng padala.

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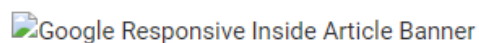


Unang lady chief of police sa tinalaga ng NCRPO  
Oct 21, 2020 0

Sa inspeksyon na pinangunahan ni Bureau of Customs Port of Subic, District Collector Maritess Martin, tumambad sa mga awtoridad ang mga sari-saring basura, gaya ng mga lumang karton at iba pang ipinagbabawal na hazardous waste materials sa dalawang container.

Samantala, nagsagawa din karagdagang imbentaryo ang BOC at nakipag-ugnayan na rin sa ang Department of Environment and

Natural Resources (DENR) upang matiyak ang dami at aktwal na nilalaman ng kargamento. (Randy Datu)





# Customs stops exit of waste materials from Subic port

By [William B. Depasupil](#)

October 22, 2020

TONS of imported domestic waste materials have been intercepted by the Bureau of Customs (BoC) authorities at the Port of Clark.

In a report to Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero, BoC-Subic reported that the waste materials were seen exiting the Subic Bay International Terminal Corp. on October 21.

A total of 30 container vans were put on alert. Of the number, five containers have been opened, which all yielded waste materials.

“So far we have opened five container vans. They contain domestic wastes and emit a very foul odor,” a Customs-Subic official said on Thursday.

He added that further inventory was being conducted to ascertain the volume and actual contents of the shipment.

The importer is also under investigation for violation of Section 1400 of Republic Act 10863 otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) and related environmental laws.

Records show that the flagged shipments came from the United States. They were all consigned to Bataan Twenty-Twenty Inc.

They were declared as American old corrugated cartons for repulping. But examination revealed prohibited waste materials.

It may be recalled that in 1999, tons of Japanese waste materials inside 120 container vans and declared as recyclable materials found its way in the Philippines. Japan took the garbage back following protests from the Philippine government.

In 2013, Customs authorities also discovered 103 containers of hazardous waste from Canada. They were never returned from their port of origin.

In 2019, 51 40-footer containers of waste materials from South Korea were also dumped at the Mindanao Container Port (MCT) in Togoloan, Misamis Oriental. They were misdeclared as recyclable plastic synthetic flakes.

All 51 containers were shipped back to South Korea.

Source: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/10/22/news/latest-stories/customs-stops-exit-of-waste-materials-from-subic-port/784046/?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2quRgEPmw6qtrtS U2N6Q4I0nsJrjAjuv1czCQWw2TJMwhc1G\\_GTTp4oc#Echobox=1603352100](https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/10/22/news/latest-stories/customs-stops-exit-of-waste-materials-from-subic-port/784046/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2quRgEPmw6qtrtS U2N6Q4I0nsJrjAjuv1czCQWw2TJMwhc1G_GTTp4oc#Echobox=1603352100)





## BOC intercepts illegal waste shipment in Subic



(BOC Photo)

October 22, 2020

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) in the Port of Subic intercepted two containers of potential waste materials that were being transported from the Subic Bay International Terminal Corporation on Wednesday, October 21, 2020.

The two containers were among the 30 containers consigned to Bataan 2020 Inc., which were declared as American old corrugated cartons for repulping. The shipment came from the United States.

In a statement on Thursday, October 22, the BOC said “further examination of the shipment revealed prohibited waste materials that were illegally imported.”

The bureau said an inventory was being conducted to determine the volume and actual contents of the containers.

It is also conducting an investigation on the possible violation of Section 1400 of Republic Act 10863, or Customs Modernization and Tarriff Act (CMTA), and other environmental laws. **(SunStar Philippines from PR)**



# Container vans galing Amerika, basura ang laman

On Oct 22, 2020



NAHARANG sa Subic Bay International Terminal ang ilang container vans na naglalaman ng basura mula sa Amerika.

Ipinabatid ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) na nakapangalan ang mga container van sa Bataan 2020 Incorporated at idineklarang American 'old corrugated cartons for repulping'.

Subali't natuklasang mga basura ang laman ng mga nasabing container van nang isailalim sa full examination ang mga kargamento.

Tinutukoy pa ng BOC ang dami ng mga nasabing basura.

Mahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 10863 o Customs Modernization and Tariff Act at Environmental Laws ang nasa likod ng naturang kargamento.(Jocelyn Domenden)

Source: <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/10/22/container-vans-galing-amerika-basura-ang-laman/?fbclid=IwAR17HsoHaw6EtElvmJQMp8Zm6ySixNigcHslHFsj82xrn7dAuYogS5TRzU>



 News5 16h · 🌐 ⋮

Nasabat ng Bureau of Customs ang tone-toneladang basura mula sa Amerika na tinangkang ipasok sa bansa.



YOUTUBE.COM

**Imported na basura galing Amerika, nasabat**  
#TedFailonandDJChaCha | Nasabat ng Bureau of Customs ang tone-toneladang basura mula s...

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# 7 illegal loggers nabbed in Bulacan-Rizal watershed

By Manny Balbin October 22, 2020, 6:20 pm



GUIGUINTO, Bulacan – The heavy winds and rains spawned by Tropical Storm Pepito did not deter authorities from conducting anti-illegal logging foot patrol operations in the Bulacan-Rizal border of the Ipo Watershed that led to the arrest of seven illegal loggers.

Rolly Mulato, chief of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)–Guiguinto, Bulacan told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Thursday that the suspects were caught while transporting illegally cut lumber flitches at Mount Balabag in Sitio Pulang Lupa, Barangay San Isidro in the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan and in Sitio Ilas, Barangay Makaingalan, Rodriguez, Rizal on Wednesday.

The operations were launched by operatives of CENRO, 48th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army and the Angat watershed area team of the National Power Corporation.

Mulato identified the suspects as Diego Agudes, Marlon Inggo, Armando Agudes, Ian Hermosa, Ronel Asiong, Melvin Caballero, and Apolinario Avenir Jr.

Isagani Navalta, chief of the law enforcement unit of CENRO-Guiguinto, said a total of 1,750 board feet of lumber flitches worth PHP61,250 were confiscated and destroyed on site while four horses, two multicabs and a motorized “kolong-kolong” were also seized from the suspects.

The confiscation of the lumber flitches was pursuant to Executive Order 23 (Declaring a Moratorium on the Cutting and Harvesting of Timber in the Natural and Residual Forests) and Section 68 of Presidential Decree 705, as amended by Republic Act 7161, the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Navalta said the suspects are now facing appropriate charges. (PNA)



# Group warns plantitos, plantitas against uprooting endemic plants

Published October 23, 2020 12:58am

The Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society Inc. (PNPCSI) has warned the public against uprooting endemic plants out of their natural habitat as this may lead to their extinction and could impact on the ecosystem.

“Ang mangyayari kapag ito ay kumbaga nakuha nang nakuha irresponsibly, puwede mo siyang ma-push sa extinction or pagkawala niya sa isang natural area,” Anthony Arbias of the PNPCSI said in a report on Stand for Truth.

“Marami siyang ano, kumbaga, ecological uses. One is part siya ng isang ecosystem or ng isang habitat type. So parang isang, kumbaga isang system, kapag nawalan ng isang pyesa, ito ay posibleng meron siyang parang domino effect,” he added

Endemic plants are those that can only be found in the country.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Zamboanga Peninsula, they have caught plant poachers who illegally take endangered plants from the mountains.

“[A]nd napansin namin there were also reports, local reports, na parang may pag-aamin na nakukuha nila from sellers who get their, the plants that are being sold from the forest itself. So medyo naalarma kami doon,” DENR executive director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez said.

Data from the DENR showed that there are 984 threatened plant species in the country. Of this, more than 700 are endemic plants.

In Rizal province, Ground Orchids were being sold.

“So meron nang isang member doon sa lugar who’s apparently been selling plants that they sold 20 pots of the Ground Orchids. Ang dami na. So we told them that shouldn’t be happening. Illegal ‘yan gawin. Hindi ‘yan dapat ginawa,” Ann Dumaliang, Masungi Georeserve managing trustee, said.—**Joahna Lei Casilao/LDF, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/761072/group-warns-plantitos-plantitas-against-uprooting-endemic-plants/story/>



# VIRAL: Bakeshop creates cake inspired by Manila Bay dolomite

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 22 2020 04:49 PM | Updated as of Oct 22 2020 04:53 PM

MANILA -- Just when people thought they've seen it all, a local bakeshop has come up with a cake inspired by the controversial dolomite sand project at Manila Bay.

Cavite-based The Weekend Patisserie has gone viral for its Dolomite Cake, a cookies and cream-flavored creation frosted with buttercream icing.

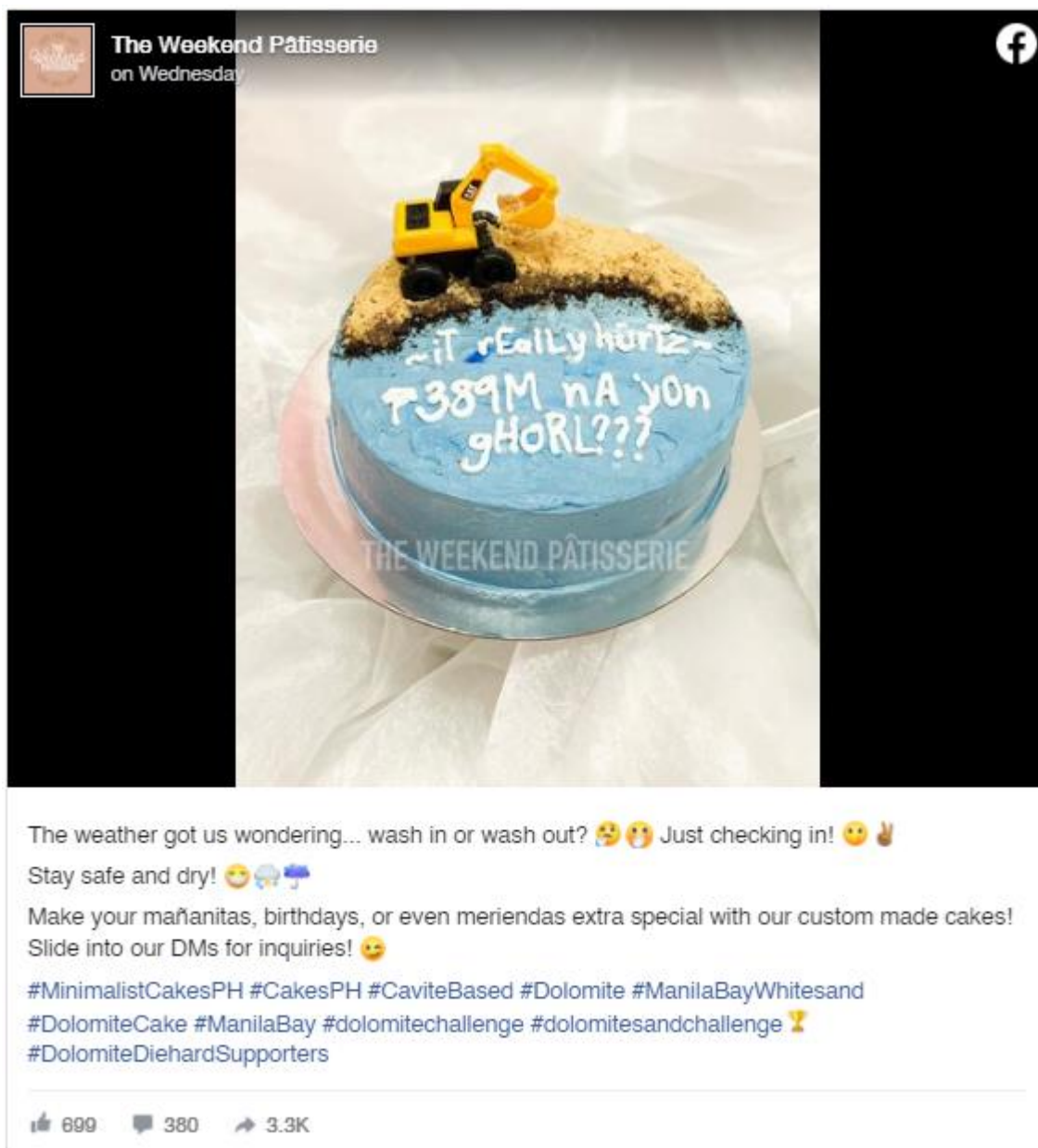
The crushed vanilla cookies and Oreos on top of the cake were made to imitate the so-called "Manila Bay Sands."

It even came with a mini toy backhoe.

Written in icing are the words, unedited: "It really hurtz. P389M na 'yon ghorl???"

The amount refers to the P389-million budget set for the government's "beach nourishment project."

Check it out below:







In an online interview with ABS-CBN News on Wednesday, The Weekend Patisserie said the Dolomite Cake was "just for fun," adding that it was their way "to express our frustrations with what's happening right now in a witty way."

The bakeshop added that this is the first time that they created a cake inspired by current events, and that they did not expect it to go viral: "This is the first time we made something like this! We weren't expecting that it would get so much attention (positively and negatively)."

When asked if there are plans to make more cakes of this kind in the future, The Weekend Patisserie replied: "Yes, stay tuned for our next cake!"

# Philippine court backs open-pit mining ban in Mindanao

A court has upheld a ban on open-pit mining in the Philippine province of South Cotabato, home to the largest known untapped deposits of copper and gold in Southeast Asia.



An open-pit mine in South Cotabato, Mindanao in the Philippines. Image: No to Open Pit Mining in South Cotabato, Yes to Eco Tourism Facebook page

By Bong Sarmiento, Mongabay.com  
Oct. 22, 2020

A court in the Philippines has dealt another setback to the company looking to mine Southeast Asia's largest untapped deposits of copper and gold, ruling to uphold a ban on the type of destructive mining being proposed.

In its Oct. 12 ruling, the court in South Cotabato province dismissed a petition for an injunction against the ban on open-pit mining that has been in effect in the province for the past 10 years. Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI), the developer of the planned mine in the South Cotabato town of Tampakan, was not a petitioner in the case.

The ruling comes two months after councilors in Tampakan, where the deposits are located, [terminated](#) the town's municipal principal agreement (MPA) with SMI. The agreement, governing the development of the proposed mine, laid out the rental rates for the land under the Indigenous Blaan communities, among the company's other financial and social obligations.

In its Aug. 10 resolution, the municipal council announced it was no longer interested in reviewing or updating the 2009 MPA with the company, but was still open to creating or formulating a new agreement, which meant SMI could still pursue the \$5.9 billion Tampakan project under a new municipal agreement.

But the recent court ruling makes that prospect less likely. It comes in response to a petition lodged in January 2019 by pro-mining groups seeking to rescind the ban on open-pit mining that's been enshrined in South Cotabato's environmental code since 2010.

SMI had acknowledged before the ban was imposed that the most viable way to get at the copper and gold reserves in Tampakan would be through open-pit mining. Despite being awarded its permit in 1995, the company but has never begun operations.

The dismissed petition was filed by the original Tampakan concession holders from the 1980s, SouthCot Mining Corp. and Tampakan Mining Corp., along with the government-recognised "Indigenous cultural communities" of Bongmal, Danlag and Fulo Bato.

The latter are not necessarily the formal leadership structures as recognised by the Indigenous communities. Another petitioner is Kiblawan CADT-26, the titled holder of a certificate of ancestral domain for part of the land that the project would occupy.

The Tampakan project has the potential to yield an average of 375,000 tons of copper and 360,000 ounces of gold in concentrate per annum over the proposed 17-year life of the mine. The site straddles the provinces of South Cotabato, where the bulk of deposits lie, and Sultan Kudarat and Davao del Sur, all on the southern island of Mindanao.

In the South Cotabato court's 31-page ruling, a copy of which Mongabay obtained on Oct. 16, Judge Vicente Peña ruled that the provincial ban on open-pit mining "is not invalid," as the petitioners had argued, and is in fact consistent with higher laws and regulations, including the Philippine Constitution.

He added it's also in line with a 2017 order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, "Banning the Open-pit Method of Mining for Copper, Gold, Silver and Complex Ores in the Country."

Peña noted the ban is also part of "a global trend, with governments across the globe asserting domestic environmental regimes to stall or stop open-pit mining."

In Central America, Costa Rica and El Salvador have imposed restrictions on future mining in their territories, with the former imposing a nationwide ban on open-pit gold mining while the latter was the first country to impose a blanket ban on all forms of metal mining, Peña wrote.

The history of mining in the Philippines "shows that most, if not all, open pits have ended up as perpetual liabilities, causing adverse impacts to the environment," the judge added, "particularly due to the generation of acidic and/or heavy metal-laden water, erosion of mine waste dumps and/or vulnerability of tailings dams to geological hazards."

He also chided the petitioners for failing to submit certified copies of documents and other exhibits during the hearing. In his final ruling, he denied the petitioners' bid for an injunction against the ban.

The decision comes days after the revival of the Tampakan Forum, a coalition of various organizations, including the local diocese of the Catholic Church, that are staunchly opposed to the mining project. Bishop Cirilo Casicas, who heads the Diocese of Marbel, said the coalition has been revived to "ignite a systematic and sustained opposition" to the project.

SMI has not issued a response to the court ruling or the revival of the Tampakan Forum. It also didn't respond to the termination of its MPA by the Tampakan municipal council. Bae Dalena Samling, chieftain of the Danlag tribal council, which supports SMI's venture, said they were perplexed to learn that the court had rejected their petition.

"We are talking with our lawyers to appeal the case," she told Mongabay by phone.

Jerome Millan, director of the diocese's Social Action Center, welcomed the court's decision as "an answered prayer."

"The decision comes at a propitious time when our natural resources need the most protection, when the natural environment is threatened by human actions," he said, adding that the ruling coincides with the Catholic Church's "Season of Creation," in which Pope Francis has called on the faithful the world over to pray and care for nature.



“The Church remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard nature and to oppose projects which desecrate what God created,” Millan said.

Maya Quirino, advocacy coordinator of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center–Friends of the Earth Philippines, said the ruling “is heartening and gives courage to other local governments to follow suit.”

“The court decision affirms the autonomy of local governments over the stewardship and protection of the environment as enshrined in the law,” she said.

According to Quirino, the Tampakan project “threatens a critical biodiversity area and could displace communities.”

Also welcoming the decision is the Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI), a network of some 250 civil society organizations advocating for the protection of people’s rights, especially in small communities, and the rights of nature. PMPI said in a statement that South Cotabato’s ban on open-pit mining “has for many years protected the community from being fully plundered by SMI.”

It added, “this victory will help efforts to save Mindanao biodiversity of both land and water resources, the very source of life and culture for the Blaan ethnic tribe, Muslims and Christians, and the source of livelihood for South Cotabato farmers and fishers.”

A risk-mapping assessment by the Jesuit Institute of Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) and World Resources Institute (WRI) found that the Tampakan project site “belongs to an area of high ecological values, high groundwater vulnerability, medium-high vulnerability to watershed stress, medium social vulnerability, and high seismic risk.”

It said the mining project, which would cover around 10,000 hectares (24,700 acres), “will remove topsoil and destroy wildlife in an area with high unique biodiversity, with over 1,000 floral species and 280 recorded fauna species, of which 30 per cent are endemic to the Philippines, and over 50 species are already under threat of extinction. The excavation itself will break into, disrupt, de-water and degrade the aquifer in the area.”

*This story was published with permission from [Mongabay.com](https://www.mongabay.com).*



## SMC to buy plastic waste for cement facility

By [VG Cabuag](#)

October 22, 2020

Conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) on Thursday said it is buying tons of used plastic wastes to fuel its cement manufacturing facilities.

Northern Cement Corp., an affiliate of the conglomerate, is capable of consuming up to 1.5 million tons of plastic waste per year. It is targeting to reduce use of traditional fuel by up to 50 percent and substitute with plastic wastes.

“Technology to safely convert plastic waste to energy has existed for a long time, in fact, Northern Cement has been using this on a smaller scale. Other major manufacturers, both locally and globally, have also been using this. It’s a more environment-friendly and sustainable alternative to using traditional fuels,” SMC President and COO Ramon S. Ang said.

The company’s plan to expand and ramp up its use of plastic wastes for energy for Northern Cement can now be implemented with the completion of its materials handling facility in Pangasinan.

With this, the company can collect and store plastic waste at scale and safely convert waste into energy to reduce landfill waste, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

“With our materials handling facility ready, we can now expand this program. We are calling on assemblers, local governments, and companies, to collect and sell your plastic wastes to us. Together, we can help our environment in a substantial way, and at the same time, create more livelihood opportunities for so many Filipinos during this time of pandemic,” Ang said.

Apart from providing jobs, the cement produced will also go to the construction industry, which generates a significant amount of jobs, and also drive infrastructure development and economic growth.

“Instead of just hoping for a better tomorrow, we continue to look for actual solutions where we can get the best outcome for the greatest number of people,” Ang said.

While Northern Cement’s technology can allow for all types of plastics to be processed and converted into energy, Ang said they are targeting plastic bottles, which make up a significant amount of total plastic waste in the world. In 2017, San Miguel discontinued its Purewater plastic bottled water business.

Apart from discontinuing its plastic bottled water business, the company built the country’s first asphalt road made with recycled plastic wastes, at a company-owned logistics facility used by vehicles with heavy loads, as part of a pilot test to determine its long-term durability.

In November last year, it announced a partnership with a small, local firm, Philippine Bioresins Corp., that has been developing and testing technology to create biodegradable plastics that meet government requirements for biodegradable materials.

The firm was given an Environmental Verification Certificate by the Department of Science and Technology’s Industrial Technology Development Institute, which confirmed that the biodegradable polypropylene it developed would be 64.6 percent degraded within two years—compared to only 4.5 percent within the same period for non-biodegradable plastics.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/10/22/smc-to-buy-plastic-waste-for-cement-facility/>



## San Miguel gagawing kuryente mga plastic waste


By Abante Tonite — Last updated Oct 22, 2020

NEWS



14 0

Bibilhin ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) ang mga basurang plastik upang gamiting panggatong para sa kuryente ng mga planta nila ng semento.

 Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Ayon sa SMC, kayang kumonsumo ng 1.5 milyong tonelada ng plastic na basura sa isang taon ang kompanya nitong Northern Cement Corp. kung kalahati ng ginagamit na panggatong ay papalitan ng plastik.

Paliwanag ni SMC president at chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang, matagal nang nandiyan ang teknolohiya para gawing panggatong ang plastik para magkakuryente at ginagawa na ito ng Northern Cement at iba pang mga cement manufacturer.

Nakatutulong aniya ito sa kalikasan at mas sustainable kaysa sa tradisyonal na fuel.

Sabi ng SMC kahapon, katatapos lang ng materials handling facility nito sa Pangasinan kaya't handa na silang gumamit ng mas maraming basurang plastik sa paggawa ng kuryente.

Gagamitin umano ng planta ang mga plastic bottle dahil ito ang pinakamaraming basurang plastik sa mundo. Ito ang dahilan kaya tinigil na ng SMC ang negosyo nito sa bottled water noon pang 2017. (Eileen Mencias)





# SMC to buy more plastic wastes to power up its cement facilities

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Oct 22, 2020 7:07:30 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 22) — San Miguel Corp. is set to purchase more plastic wastes that will be used to power up its cement production facilities as part of its efforts to help reduce the country's solid wastes.

In a statement Thursday, the company said its affiliate, Northern Cement Corp., targets to reduce its dependence on fuel by up to 50% and substitute this with plastic wastes. The facility can process up to 1.5 million tons of plastic annually, it noted.

The company said it has completed a materials handling facility in the production site in Pangasinan that can help in safely collecting and storing plastic wastes before processing them, it added.

“Technology to safely convert plastic waste to energy has existed for a long time, in fact, Northern Cement has been using this on a smaller scale,” SMC President and COO Ramon Ang said.

He noted that they want to focus on reducing plastic bottles since these make up a significant portion of plastic wastes worldwide.

This is also an opportunity for Filipinos to have an alternative source of income amid the global health crisis just like how glass bottle collectors have become part of SMC's supply chain, Ang said.

Furthermore, he said the cement produced will also be used in the construction industry, which is also a job generating industry with the government's efforts to boost the economy through infrastructure development.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/business/2020/10/22/smc-buys-more-plastic-wastes-for-energy-generation-in-cement-plant.html>



Coca-Cola works with local communities to help strengthen their solid waste management practices through workshops, skills training, technology and facilities support needed for collection and recycling systems. At present, the Company has piloted 30 solid waste management projects in 16 provinces across the country and one of these is Blastik Project in Southern Negros Occidental.

Photo Release

## Coca-Cola continues sustainable solutions for plastic recovery, recycling

(Philstar.com) - October 22, 2020 - 1:22pm

MANILA, Philippines — Plastic—lightweight, strong, and easily molded into various forms—has no doubt revolutionized everyday lives and has provided convenience in the way we consume products. But, largely due to improper waste management and disposal, plastic has unfortunately given rise to a global waste problem.

In the Philippines alone, around 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste is generated each year, and a huge portion of this finds its way into the environment, choking waterways, polluting the ecosystem, and jeopardizing biodiversity.

“Any time our packaging ends up anywhere it doesn’t belong is simply unacceptable to us,” said Jonah De Lumen-Pernia, director for Public Affairs and Sustainability Director at Coca-Cola Philippines. “Coca-Cola has globally committed to building a World Without Waste, and we are striving to make that a reality in the Philippines through various initiatives and partnerships.”

Taking part in immediate, bold actions and sustainable solutions, Coca-Cola has been steadily contributing to collective action as it leverages its expansive scale. In January 2018, the Company announced its World Without Waste global vision: an ambitious goal to collect and recycle every single bottle and can it sells by 2030.

### **Making strides in packaging innovation**

Ever since Coca-Cola was first served 134 years ago, the company has always strived to ensure that sustainable packaging innovation is ingrained in the way they do business. All of Coca-Cola’s primary packaging in the Philippines, for example—from returnable glass to PET plastic bottles, and aluminum cans—are all 100% recyclable. In fact, the iconic Coca-Cola glass bottle still represents approximately 50% of the Company’s total business in the country, with many found in sari-sari stores in far-flung areas. These glass bottles are continuously collected, washed, and reused in a virtuous supply chain cycle.

The Company has also implemented light-weighting of its PET plastic packaging, which has resulted in a huge reduction in its plastic consumption while ensuring the same top quality of its beverages. As a result, packaging for single-serve (500ml and 330ml) Wilkins and Viva are now approximately 20% lighter.



Through the years, Coca-Cola has explored breakthrough packaging innovations to make it more sustainable. Taking a closer step to their vision of a World Without Waste, the Company introduced in 2019 the first beverage brands in the Philippines to use 100% recycled plastic in their Viva! Eco-Bottle and Sprite Clear Bottle designs.

Photo Release

With the goal of using 50% recycled material in its packaging, the Company introduced the country's first beverage bottle made from 100% recycled plastic, the Viva! eco-bottle. Launched in June 2019, Viva! mineralized water is the first brand within Coca-Cola's portfolio to transition toward this packaging redesign. Further to this, in September 2019, the Company transitioned its green Sprite packaging to clear PET and also offered the lemon-lime carbonated drink in bottles made from 100% recycled plastic. This is aligned with the roadmap to increase the recyclability of its packaging—as clear bottles have the highest recyclability rate compared to others.

#### Investing in state-of-the-art recycling

Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. (CCBPI)—the bottling arm of Coca-Cola in the country—has partnered with Thailand-based Indorama Ventures, a global leader in recycling and green technologies, to establish PETValue, the biggest state-of-the-art, bottle-to-bottle PET recycling facility in the country.

“PETValue Philippines represents Coca-Cola's first investment in a recycling facility in Southeast Asia. It demonstrates the Company's genuine commitment to our World Without Waste vision—it is not just talk, we really want to establish a circular economy for our recyclable PET plastic packaging,” said Gareth McGeown, chief executive officer and president of CCBPI.

Located in General Trias, Cavite and set to be operational by Q1 of 2021, PETValue will employ the safest and most advanced technologies to process used PET plastic bottles—thereby allowing an endless loop of recycling. Its projected capacity, or the amount of used plastic bottles it can process, is 30,000 metric tons of PET bottles per year, or equivalent to approximately 3 billion bottles.

“Through this investment, more jobs will be created for Filipinos—and this will also help uplift the livelihood of those within the waste value chain,” McGeown added.

#### Partnerships toward impact, scale

Coca-Cola has been working hand-in-hand with like-minded organizations to make its vision a reality. Through the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, the Company has partnered with the Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation (AIDFI) for the Balik Plastic Project or Blastik Project. Rolled out in a farming community in Negros Occidental, the project seeks to educate communities on the importance of recycling and up-cycling, as well as the economic viability of PET bottles and the setting up of a plastic waste management system.





Through the project, residents of the community called PeacePond are able to sell their plastic PET bottles to volunteer Blastik Project “eco-rangers” aboard low carbon e-bikes. Afterward, the bottles are taken to a materials recovery facility where they are weighed, washed, dried, and stored and where caps and labels are segregated. Recycling technologies from AIDFI, including shredders and compression ovens, transform the packaging into new products—plastic flakes become pavers or tiles, bottle caps are melted to make plastic chairs, while labels are handcrafted into wallets and many more.

Coca-Cola Philippines also recently entered into a partnership with Plastic Bank®, a social enterprise that is helping the world stop ocean plastic while improving the lives of collector communities. Through this partnership, Plastic Bank collectors will gather 100,000 kilograms of ocean-bound plastic over the next year. Coca-Cola aims for this plastic to be delivered to PETValue Philippines in the future.

Plastic Bank® collectors receive a premium for the materials they collect, a source of income that helps them cover basic family necessities such as groceries and cooking fuel. Health insurance, digital payment solutions, and school tuition will also be made available in the near future.

Meanwhile, CCBPI also partnered with Junior Chamber International (JCI) Manila and the City Government of Manila to support the city’s waste management efforts and raise awareness on plastic recycling. Through this partnership, collection bins will be deployed to various barangays in the city.

At present, Coca-Cola has piloted over 30 solid waste management projects in 16 provinces across the country to help stop plastic waste from ending up in oceans and landfills.



# Scheme to cut plastic waste pushed

By Claudeth Mocon-Ciriaco

October 22, 2020

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is encouraging businesses to adopt the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme, a critical policy tool with a track record in holding manufacturers accountable for the end-of-life impacts of their plastic products and packaging.

This scheme, according to WWF will also encourage holistic eco-design in the business sector.

However, Czarina Constantino, WWF-Philippines's National Lead for the No Plastics In Nature Initiative and Project Manager for Plastic Smart Cities, noted that some businesses already advocate EPR.

“And some [we] would need to work together. We still need to [push] the EPR scheme in the next few months [to make them understand],” Constantino said in a media forum on October 21.

In a recent study, it has been estimated that about 11 million tons of plastic enter the ocean every year. If no action is made, this can triple by 2040 which is equivalent to 50 kilograms of plastics for every coastline meter worldwide.

The Philippines, based on a 2015 modeling study, has been considered as one of the 10 top countries contributing to plastic pollution, has been continuously challenged with increasing waste generation and the lack of a sound waste management system.

The WWF report, which was undertaken together with cyclos GmbH and AMH Philippines Inc., highlights EPR as a critical and effective policy tool in holding manufacturers accountable for the end-of-life impacts of their plastic products and packaging.

The proposed EPR scheme was based on the findings of the first Material Flow Analysis of plastic packaging waste in the Philippines.

The report shows that Filipinos consume a yearly average of 20 kg of plastics, from which 15.43kg/cap/year becomes waste. Insufficient recycling capacities for high value recyclables and the high volume of low value plastics including sachets are factors that affect the country's low plastic recycling rate at 9 percent.

The report further estimates that the Philippines leaks about 35 percent of plastic wastes into the environment.

The study is part of the No Plastic in Nature Initiative—WWF's global initiative to stop the flow of plastics entering nature by 2030 through elimination of unnecessary plastics, doubling reuse, recycling and recovery, and ensuring remaining plastic is sourced responsibly.

Through this initiative, WWF-Philippines has been working with cities on plastic leakage, policymakers to advocate for a global treaty on plastic pollution, businesses to transition to circular business models, and the general public to campaign and act.



Meanwhile, Nestlé Philippines, called on other stakeholders to support the localized EPR scheme.

“We cannot achieve this alone, we must work together, to achieve a waste-free future,” said Arlene Tan-Bantoto Nestlé Philippines SVP and head of corporate affairs and communications.

These waste reduction and management conditions shaped the proposed customized EPR scheme in the Philippines.

It proposes a mandatory EPR scheme for all product packaging with a three-year transition phase for obliged businesses to redesign their product packaging and eliminate unnecessary plastics.

For this customized EPR scheme to work, the report emphasizes that the responsibility of implementing the scheme for building high-quality recycling capacity should be assumed by a non-profit Producer Responsibility Organization, acting as the system operator, with strict monitoring and control systems carried out by the government.

“We in WWF believe that a mandatory EPR system is a way for businesses to be more engaged in eliminating unnecessary plastics through eco-design and strengthening waste management by being responsible for the end of life impacts of their plastic packaging,” Constantino said.

“It is a driving mechanism for businesses to transform their models and push for circular solutions to reduce plastic generation including refilling and ultimately to eliminating leakage of plastic in nature. Adopting the EPR scheme in the Philippines is a great driver for us to stop plastic pollution.”





# Groups tout climate-resilient environment following pandemic

Published October 22, 2020, 6:31 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Leaders from the public, private, and civic sectors urged companies to integrate sustainability in business and industry operations and help pursue low carbon and climate-resilient development while recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.

In the The Nexus of Climate Change and Sustainable Development webinar held on October 21, sector leaders discussed and started to build the case for a climate-resilient development beyond the public health emergency.

Featured leaders include Kenneth Berlin, president and CEO of The Climate Reality Project (TCRP); Nazrin Castro, branch manager of TCRP Philippines; Rachel Herrera, Commissioner of the Climate Change Commission (CCC); Lorenzo Guinto, chief planetary doctor of PH Lab; and Toby Melissa Monsod, a professor at the University of the Philippines (UP) School of Economics.

Pedro Maniego Jr., a fellow and trustee of the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), moderated the webinar.

Berlin expressed how climate change presents significant risks to businesses, such as frequent extreme weather events, leading to mounting economic losses, direct damage to facilities, difficulties to transporting goods, and closing of markets.

“Despite these risks, national and global efforts will create massive opportunity that will translate to economic growth and job transitions. Recent studies suggest that transition to low carbon and sustainable economy could deliver direct economic gains of 26 trillion US dollars to 2030, compared to business-as-usual,” he said.

Castro cited TCRP’s mission of catalyzing a global and urgent solution to the climate crisis and accelerating the shift to renewables through their robust network of leaders across the world.

“Climate action is not just about making sacrifices, but much more so on taking the opportunities to reach new heights. It is recognizing that, as leaders in our respective fields, we have the ability and even the obligation to reimagine and actually pursue what is right and better for our future,” Castro said.

Herrera meanwhile provided global and national context on the progress of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as prescribed in the Paris Agreement, as well as stressed that the government cannot push for low carbon and climate-resilient development alone.

“Private sector brings in the capital and know-how on technology. And it is in developing countries where there is most opportunity for investments. Let our investments be competitive not just from a business perspective, but also from a carbon perspective. Let’s look beyond the pandemic and invest on climate resilience,” she said.

On the linkage of health and climate change, Guinto noted the impacts such as the rise of cases in cardiovascular, infectious, and respiratory diseases, stressing that the causes of air pollution are the same culprits of climate change—such as vehicles, power plants, and factories from the burning of fossil fuels and emission of noxious gases.

“Climate change does not stop, while COVID-19 is in action. We need to address together. We need a health system that is universal, high-value, pandemic-resistant, and climate-smart. Our patients now are not just the people, but the planet as well,” Guinto said.



For Monsod, the pandemic laid bare glaring gaps in our ability to withstand physical shocks, and that like the pandemic, climate risk is a physical shock that translates into an array of grave socio-economic impacts.

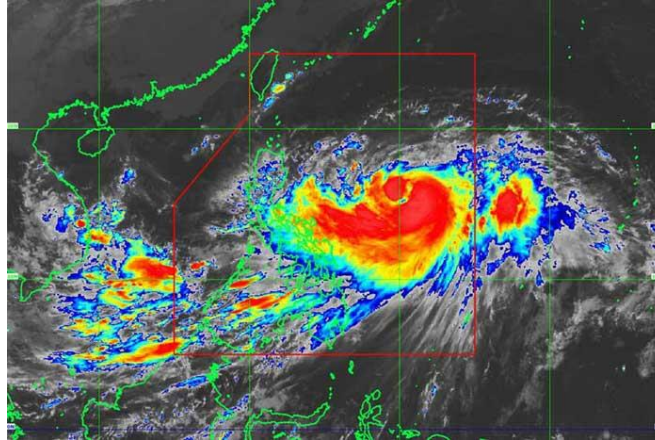
“Ignoring these gaps and assuming the economy can simply start where it left off would be as foolish as rebuilding a fallen structure in the same hazardous location, using the same plans and materials, and thinking the structure will not collapse the next time around,” she said.

“Resilience spending can be a stimulus, but stimulus spending may not contribute to resilience. Greater resilience means attention to vulnerabilities in the real economy and in relevant institutions. For firms, it means a pivot away from the traditional shareholder-centric model of governance to a richer model that puts health and resilience of the company at its center,” she added.



## Philippines third most exposed to climate change in region — study

October 22, 2020 | 9:18 pm



THE PHILIPPINES was ranked as the third most vulnerable country in the region to climate change in 2019, according to a study conducted by ValueChampion, a Singapore-based financial technology (fintech) company.

According to the ValueChampion study, the Philippines had the highest 10-year climate risk index score among 12 countries evaluated; an average annual temperature increase of 1.45 degrees Celsius over a hundred years; and a 10% likelihood of experiencing a heatwave in the next 20 years.

In the past year, the Philippines bore the brunt of six weather disturbances which resulted in millions of pesos in economic losses per person last year, according to ValueChampion senior research analyst Anastassia Evlanova.

“In 2019, the Philippines six severe weather events resulted in at least \$3.53 million (or P171.5 million) in economic losses per capita, one of the highest losses recorded out of the 12 countries analyzed,” Ms. Evlanova said.

She added that climate change has had a “considerable impact” on multiple sectors of the economy, including energy consumption, infrastructure, agriculture and healthcare.

ING Bank NV Manila Branch’s senior economist Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa said the reported economic loss in the study was “quite startling, but likely not surprising.”

“The Philippines is no stranger to the adverse impact of climate change on our economy and our lives as whole...Despite not having adequate funding, we’ve seen the extreme adverse impact these tragedies can inflict on the lives of Filipinos both in terms of general safety and health, as well as on the economy,” Mr. Mapa told *BusinessWorld*.

He said flash floods, super typhoons and droughts could waylay food security, leading to shortages and high inflation.

“Lack of equipment and foresight may also mean that rebuilding and recovery from these crises may take longer than needed, with the recovery effort likely running up a bill to deplete our government coffers even more,” he added, saying authorities have always had to contend with these factors.



In ValueChampion’s study, the Philippines ranked third, behind Vietnam and Thailand, which were reckoned to be “most impacted by climate change.”

The study based its findings on average climate risk indexes between 1999 and 2018, historical metrics, and climate change projections.

The Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development’s Research, Policy, and Law Program Head Avril De Torres said that the Philippines has consistently found itself at the top of global climate vulnerability rankings by various research organizations.

“While (ValueChampion’s) findings are no longer surprising, it serves as another reminder as to why radical changes are needed in the way we respond to the climate emergency, especially in the energy sector,” she said in an e-mailed statement.

In a separate report published in June, the World Bank said that Philippine public investment in the new normal should focus on “supporting the country’s resilience to natural disasters and climate change to ensure its sustainable long-term growth.”

— **Angelica Y. Yang**





# Dim water prospects continue to haunt 3 Luzon dams

By Catherine Teves **October 22, 2020, 5:16 pm**



Pantabangan Dam

**MANILA** – The Angat, San Roque, and Pantabangan dams in Luzon may still be struggling for water this November.

The prospect for the three dams' full recovery from weeks of rainfall shortage remains dim as water level by the end of November would likely be still below the rule curves and spilling or normal high levels, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

"Water level there has been low so those dams need a lot of water to recover," PAGASA hydrologist Sheila Schneider said.

For next month, PAGASA expects rainfall in the basins where Angat, San Roque, and Pantabangan dams are to reach 454 mm, 153 mm, and 283 mm, respectively.

The bureau also expects the dams to have water allocations of 69 cubic meters per second (cms), 30 cms, and 26 cms, respectively.

Considering these parameters, PAGASA forecast end-November water levels to be at 197.52 m in Angat Dam, 243.76 m in San Roque Dam, and 203.52 m in Pantabangan Dam, well below the dams' end-November rule curves of 205.70 m, 277.20 m, and 221 m, respectively.

The rule curve indicates a dam's water level for it to ably serve its purpose.

Multi-purpose Angat, San Roque, and Pantabangan dams provide water for irrigation and power generation in Luzon.

Angat also supplies water for Metro Manila's needs.

The forecast for the water levels of Angat, San Roque, and Pantabangan dams by the end of November are also lower than their normal high levels of 210 m, 280 m, and 218.5 m, respectively, PAGASA said.

Angat Dam's basin needs about 563 mm of rainfall for its water to reach its normal high, while the basins of San Roque and Pantabangan dams need about 1,094 mm and 1,731 mm of rainfall, respectively.

These requirements are more than the rainfall PAGASA forecast for the basins this November. (**PNA**)



# COVID-19 cases sa bansa 363,888 na; gumaling nadagdagan ng 843 today

(Philstar.com) - October 22, 2020 - 4:20pm



Nagtrabaho ang siyentistang ito sa mAbxience biosimilar monoclonal antibody laboratory plant sa Garin, Buenos Aires, kung saan nagdedevelop ng experimental COVID-19 vaccine ang University of Oxford at AstraZeneca laboratory, ika-14 ng Agosto, 2020  
AFP/Juan Mabromata

MANILA, Philippines — Siyam na araw bago magtapos ang kasalukuyang quarantine classifications, patuloy pa rin sa pagdami ang tinatamaan ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) sa Pilipinas.

Nadagdagan pa kasi ng nasa 1,664 ang panibagong tinamaan ng virus sa huling ulat ng Department of Health (DOH), Huwebes, bagay na nagtutulak sa mga lokal na datos patungong 363,888.

"19 duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 5 recovered cases and 2 deaths have been removed," wika ng DOH ngayong araw.

"Moreover, 11 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths."

Sa kabila niyan, nasa siyam na laboratoryo pa ang hindi nakapagsumite ng kani-kanilang COVID-19 test results ngayong araw, dahilan para mangahulugang baka mas malaki pa ang mga tunay na new infections.

Mayorya ng mga bagong talang nahawaan ay nanggaling sa mga sumusunod na lugar:

- Cavite (81)
- Lungsod ng Malabon (76)
- Lungsod ng Davao (76)
- Lungsod ng Iloilo (75)
- Lungsod ng Quezon (69)

Nasa 44,772 naman ang sinasabing "active" cases sa ngayon, na tumutukoy oras na tanggalin mo sa equation ang mga namatay at gumaling na mula sa karamdaman.



Hindi naman pinalad ang nasa 38 pasyente matapos mai-report na namatay na sila habang nakikipaglaban sa pathogen. Dahil diyan, nasa 6,783 na ang namamatay sa sakit.

Sumampa naman na sa 312,333 ang gumagaling sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, patuloy ng DOH. 'Yan ay mas malaki ng 843 kumpara sa mga datos na inilabas ng kagawaran nitong Miyerkules.

Napag-alaman ang mga sumusunod na datos matapos maisailalim sa masusing COVID-19 testing ang nasa 4.21 milyong katao sa Pilipinas.

Samantala, kinumpirma naman ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na nade-delay ngayon ang paglabas ng ilang COVID-19 results dahil sa pagtigil ng Philippine Red Cross sa kanilang serbisyo sa kanila. 'Yan ay bunsod pa rin ng P930 milyong utang ng PhilHealth sa PRC. #COVID19PH

Una na kasing naisiwalat na nabawasan ng 20% ang testing capacity ng bansa dahil sa pagkakaantala ng nasabing tests.

"We recognize that fact. Hindi po tayo magkakaila na talagang malaki po ang contribution ng [PRC] sa ating daily outputs," ani Vergeire sa mga reporter kanina.

"Makikita po natin na malalaki po talaga ang mga laboratoryo nila, 'yung kanilang kapasidad, and it's distributed across the different areas of the countries. So yes, we were affected by the stopping of the operations of the Philippine Red Cross."

Sa ngayon, meron nang 11 government facilities na tinukoy ang DOH para tanggapin ang mga specimen na na manggagaling sa iba't ibang lugar na kailangang ma-test, maliban pa sa ibang pribadong laboratories na nagpahiwatig nang tutulong sa pamahalaan.

Una nang sinabi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na [tiyak namang mababayaran ang pagkakautang sa nasabing pribadong grupo](#), ngunit kakailanganin pa nila ng karagdagang oras.

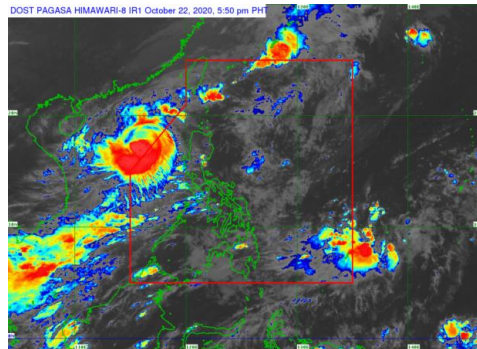
Sa ngayon, umabot na sa lampas 40.7 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa daigdig. Sa taya ng [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), 1.12milyon na ang namamatay sa kanila sa naturang sakit.



# 'Pepito' moves away; LPA near Mindanao likely to become tropical depression

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabriellLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:43 PM October 22, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Pepito may have gone out of the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) but the low-pressure area (LPA) approaching Mindanao might turn into another weather disturbance.

Weather forecasts on Thursday afternoon by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) showed that the LPA spotted 1,180 kilometers east of Mindanao – still outside PAR – may gather strength while it hovers above the Pacific Ocean. The LPA is predicted to enter the country's jurisdiction in the next two to three days.

Pepito, on the other hand, was earlier elevated to a typhoon category and was last seen 470 kilometers west of Sinait, Ilocos Sur.

Due to these weather systems, some areas in Luzon may still experience cloudy skies and occasional rains, especially on the western side like Zambales, Bataan, Mindoro, and Palawan, according to Pagasa. Areas in the extreme northern Luzon will have similar conditions but it will be due to the northeasterly surface wind flow, it added.

For the rest of Luzon, Pagasa said, weather will be generally better on Friday as the climate in Metro Manila and Laoag will range from 25°C to 33°C while it may peak to 32°C in Tuguegarao and Legazpi.

In Visayas and Mindanao, Cebu and Tacloban will feel temperatures at 26°C to 32°C while Zamboanga and Davao will experience it by as high as 33°C and 34°C, respectively, the state weather bureau noted.

A gale warning is still up over the whole northern and western seaboard of Luzon, from Batanes to the Ilocos Region, western parts of Central and Southern Luzon, Palawan, as well as seaboard of Isabela and Aurora.

This means that fisherfolk and boat transfer operators using small seacraft are not allowed to set sail in the meantime.

KGA

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1351378/pepito-moves-away-lpa-near-mindanao-likely-to-become-tropical-depression>





# Ocean Plastic Pollution Could Triple By 2040

October 21, 2020 by Reuters



Photo of plastic waste: MOHAMED ABDULRAHEEM / Shutterstock

by Joe Brock (Reuters) – The amount of plastic waste flowing into the ocean and killing marine life could triple in the next 20 years, unless companies and governments can drastically reduce plastic production, a new study published on Thursday said.

Single-use plastic consumption has increased during the coronavirus pandemic, according to the International Solid Waste Association, an NGO. Face masks and latex gloves are washing up daily on Asia's remote beaches. Landfills worldwide are piled high with record amounts of takeaway food containers and online delivery packaging.

The new research [released this summer](#), produced by scientists and industry experts for The Pew Charitable Trusts and SYSTEMIQ, offers solutions that could cut the projected volume of plastic entering the ocean by more than 80%.

The roadmap for stemming the runaway ocean plastic waste crisis is among the most detailed ever offered in a study.

If no action is taken, however, the amount of plastic going into the sea every year will rise from 11 million tonnes to 29 million tonnes, leaving a cumulative 600 million tonnes swilling in the ocean by 2040, the equivalent weight of 3 million blue whales, according to the study published in the journal *Science*.

“Plastic pollution is something that affects everyone. It isn't a ‘your problem and not my problem’. It's not one country's problem. It's everyone's problem,” said Winnie Lau, senior manager at Pew and co-author of the study.

“It's going to get worse if we don't do anything.”

The strategy laid out in the report includes redirecting hundreds of billions of dollars in plastic production investment into alternative materials, recycling facilities and waste collection expansion in developing countries.

This would require a U-turn by the energy industry, which is rapidly building new chemical plants around the world to boost plastic output as its traditional fuel business is eroded by a rise in cleaner energy sources.



## OIL AND SODA WASTE

The amount of plastic produced annually has been climbing fast since 1950, when global production totalled 2 million tonnes. In 2017, that number was 348 million tonnes, and is expected to double again by 2040, the study estimates.

Big plastic makers, including ExxonMobil, Dow and Chevron Phillips Chemical, have said they are committed to tackling plastic pollution, despite increasing production. The projects they fund focus on cleaning up waste.

The paper recommends, however, governments implement laws to discourage new plastic production and provide subsidies for reusable alternatives.

The plastic industry has lobbied against government bans on single-use plastic.

Some of the biggest buyers of plastic are consumer goods companies like Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Nestle and Unilever. They have all made commitments to use a greater amount of recycled content in products in the future.

But current government and corporate commitments will only reduce the amount of plastic flowing into the ocean by 7 percent by 2040, the Pew and SYSTEMIQ study finds.

To cut the flow of ocean plastic by 80%, paper or compostable alternatives to single-use plastic would be needed and packaging should be redesigned to more than double the share of recyclable material, the study says.

Some criticized the study's inclusion of incineration, chemical recycling and plastic-to-fuel plants as ways to dispose of waste, saying these methods involve the release of climate-warming carbon emissions while also helping to sustain plastic production.

Instead, "we would be putting more emphasis on the need for reduction and stemming production of plastics," said Von Hernandez, global coordinator at Break Free From Plastic, an NGO.

"If the industry were allowed to continue with their projections of growth up to 2050, which quadruples production during this time, most of the recommendations from this report will be meaningless."

*Reporting by Joe Brock; Editing by Katy Daigle*



# Doctors in Delhi see jump in breathing issues amid COVID-19, pollution

Reuters / 09:52 PM October 22, 2020



FILE PHOTO: People walk near India Gate on a smoggy morning in New Delhi, India, October 22, 2020. REUTERS/Anushree Fadnavis

NEW DELHI — Top doctors in New Delhi are reporting a jump in respiratory problems among its residents, coinciding with the onset of peak pollution season in India’s capital and raising concerns about complications for COVID-19 patients.

Doctors from five different Delhi hospitals told Reuters they have received twice the number of patients with respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis in the past two weeks.

Dust and smoke fill Delhi’s air every winter, making breathing difficult for adults and children alike. Government data reviewed by Reuters shows that air quality this October has been worse than in the same month in 2019 and 2018.

“Pollutants have an inflammatory effect on the lungs and so does COVID-19,” said Dhiren Gupta, a pulmonologist at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in the city, which has reported more than 340,000 coronavirus cases.

There has not been any study in India to ascertain whether pollution leads to more severe complications among patients infected by the novel coronavirus. But a study by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in the United States found that long-term exposure to fine particulate matter known as PM2.5 increased the risk of death from COVID-19.

“We are getting more number of cases with respiratory issues but we have to run COVID-19 tests on them too,” said Hema Gupta Mittal, a senior pediatrician at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

Delhi had a record spell of clean air earlier this year after the government imposed a strict nationwide lockdown to curb the coronavirus outbreak but air quality has deteriorated in the last two months.

In October, the air quality index (AQI) has averaged a “poor” 227 on a scale of 500, well above the “safe” limit of 60.

The index measures the concentration of pollutants finer than 2.5 microns in diameter that can reach deep into the lungs and cause deadly diseases including cancer and cardiac problems. Delhi’s Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the government was working to clear the toxic air by restricting construction and other dust-raising activities.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1351453/doctors-in-delhi-see-jump-in-breathing-issues-amid-covid-19-pollution>