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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Behaviour change, live with less plastic -- DENR Chief

By Melva C. Gayta Published on May 23, 2021

QUEZON CITY, May 23 -- Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu urged everyone to start getting into the Bring Your Own (BYO) habit by replacing single-use disposables with reusables, from stainless steel straws to fabric shopping bags, among many other eco-friendly alternatives to everyday plastics.

"The ocean contributes to the air we breathe and the food we eat. It regulates the climate and weather, stores carbon, houses marine biodiversity, reduces the risk of emerging infectious diseases, provides recreation and source livelihood. As our oceans are under threat now more than ever, it is crucial that we engage on the science of the ocean for us to rethink our ways and save our vibrant seas," said Secretary Cimatu in a recent release.

He called on the public to live with less plastic to save our oceans from plastic pollution, conscientiously learn about wildlife laws, and support the government's campaign against illegal wildlife collection and trade.

"The task of reversing this issue is as big and wide as the ocean, but small actions can make a huge difference," Secretary Cimatu said.

Relatedly, DENR Assistant Secretary and concurrent Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Ricardo Calderon said that marine plastic pollution is one of the latest and most alarming issues the world is facing.

The Philippines is a significant contributor to the global problem, primarily due to its so-called "sachet economy," where companies sell products in single-use plastic sachets, Calderon added.

Hence, a stronger public-private partnership would help translate political and corporate commitment to address plastic pollution into tangible strategies and investible action plans. (MCG/PIA-IDPD)



Cimatu savors victory vs. open dumpsites

Published May 23, 2021, 3:57 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

A victory for the environment.

That's how Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu described the 100 percent closure of all illegally operating dumpsites in the country—a goal that he had set to achieve this year in a statement last January.



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu (Photo from the DENR)

Four months later, 335 open dumpsites in the Philippines have been closed down in line with the enforcement of the two-decade old Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

"This is a victory for the environment and the DENR. Despite the limitations brought about by the pandemic, our people never wavered in their sworn duty as public servants to get the job done," Cimatu said.

Since 2017, the closure of dumpsites has been part of Cimatu's commitment under the country's solid waste management program.

He also said the closure of the illegal dumpsites shows President Duterte's political will, since it is only during the latter's administration that the provision of RA 9003 was duly complied with.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns Benny D. Antiporda first announced the feat on Friday, May 21, after [getting word](#) that the last open dumpsite in Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental had ceased its operations.



Cimatu savors victory vs. open dumpsites

"This shows that the DENR walks the talk and strictly adheres to what Secretary Cimatu taught us to do," said Antiporda, who is also the alternate chair of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

"We have shown the public that they cannot escape the long arm of the law. It will eventually catch up with them for violating any and all laws," he pointed out.

Section 37 of RA 9003 prohibits the use of open dumpsites for solid waste. It states that "no open dumps shall be established and operated, [or] any practice or disposal of solid waste by any person, including LGUs (local government units), which constitutes the use of open dumps for solid waste, be allowed after the effectivity of this Act."



DENR naipasara na ang 100% ng ilegal na nag-o-operate na dumpsites sa bansa



May 23, 2021 @ 4:24 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang 335 na open dumpsites sa buong bansa matapos ipag-utos ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng Republic Act (RA) 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Ayon sa press release ng DENR ang open dumpsites ay kung saan dinadala ang mga solid waste nang walang kaukulang pagpapalano at konsiderasyon sa kapaligiran at kalusugan at ilegal na itinayo at nag-o-operate batay na rin sa nakasaad sa RA 9003.

“This is a victory for the environment and the DENR,” sabi ni Cimatu ukol sa matagal nang dapat naipasara na mga open dumpsite.

“Despite the limitations brought about by the pandemic, our people never wavered in their sworn duty as public servants to get the job done,” dagdag pa ni Cimatu.

Sinabi ng DENR na simula noong 2017, ang pagpapasara sa dumpsites ang isa sa adhikain ni Cimatu at kasama sa pangako nito sa ilalim ng solid waste management program ng bansa.

Ito rin ay isang patunay sa political will ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte at nang kanyang administrasyon sa kadahilanang ngayon lang, matapos ang 20 taon mula nang maipatupad ang RA 9003 noong 2001, na ang pagpapasara ay nakumpleto na.

Sa Section 37 ng batas, ipinagbabawal ang “use of open dumpsites for solid waste.” Nakasaad din: “No open dumps shall be established and operated, nor any practice or disposal of solid waste by any person, including LGUs, which constitutes the use of open dumps for solid waste, be allowed after the effectivity of this Act.”



DENR naipasara na ang 100% ng ilegal na nag-o-operate na dumpsites sa bansa

Kaugnay nito ayon naman kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste ang Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, ang pagpapasara sa 335 open dumpsites "completes the closure of all open dumpsites in the country."

"This shows that the DENR walks the talk and strictly adheres to what Secretary Cimatú taught us to do," saad ni Antiporda na siya ring alternate chair ng National Solid Waste Management Commission.

"We have shown the public that they cannot escape the long arm of the law. It will eventually catch up with them for violating any and all laws," pagdirin pa ni Antiporda.

Dahil na rin sa pagpapasara sa lahat ng open dumpsites, ang LGUs ay maaaring magtapon ng kanilang mga solid waste sa mga nag-o-operate na sanitary landfills (SLF) o sa residual containment area.

Ang residual containment area ay isang "temporary storage" ng kanilang residual wastes habang nakikipagnegosasyon sa pamamagitan ng Memorandum of Agreement sa ibang LGU na mayroong SLF, pagsasara ng kontrata sa privately operated SLF o habang hinihintay ang kanilang sariling SLF.

"It is important that all LGUs follow the law on solid waste management such as waste avoidance, waste segregation, recycling and composting of biodegradable wastes," paliwanag ni Antiporda.

Mayroong 237 operational SLFs sa bansa at may 11 na under construction.

Inanunsyo ni Antiporda noong Biyernes (May 21) ang pagsasampa ng kaso laban sa mayor ng Urdaneta, Pangasinan para sa paglabag ng mga nasasaad sa Environmental Clearance Certificate ng SLF nito at sa mayor ng Sta. Ana, Pampanga dahil sa open dumpsite sa kanyang nasasakupang bayan.

Iminungkahi pa ni Antiporda sa DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) na ang mga SLF ay gawing privately operated o sa pamamagitan ng public-private partnership (PPP) upang matiyak ang pagsunod sa lahat ng mga kinakailangan para sa operasyon nito.

"When operated as a business, return of investment is one of the critical factors that account for better management and eventual success," sabi ni Antiporda.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda, ang lahat ng naipasarang dumpsites ay daraan sa Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan of Dumpsites na pangangasiwaan ng EMB.

"Local government units may ask the technical assistance of EMB on how to conduct the Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan for the respective dumpsites in their areas of jurisdiction," pagtatapos ni Antiporda. *Santi Celario*



DENR closes 335 illegal dumps

posted May 23, 2021 at 11:00 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Sunday said it has already shut down all illegal dumps nationwide.

Secretary Roy Cimatu said they were able to complete the closure of the 335 open dumps after the strict enforcement of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"This is a victory for the environment and the DENR," he said.

"Despite the limitations brought about by the pandemic, our people never wavered in their sworn duty as public servants to get the job done," he added.

Section 37 of the Act prohibits the use of open dumps for solid waste.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said the closure of the 335 open dumps completes the closure of all open dumps in the country.

"This shows that the DENR walks the talk and strictly adheres to what Secretary Cimatu taught us to do," he said.

Antiporda is also the alternate chair of the National Solid Waste Management Commission.

"We have shown the public that they cannot escape the long arm of the law. It will eventually catch up with them for violating any and all laws," he said.

With the closure of all open dumpsites, local government units have the option to bring their solid waste to existing sanitary landfills or to a residual containment area.

"It is important that all LGUs follow the law on solid waste management such as waste avoidance, waste segregation, recycling and composting of biodegradable wastes," Antiporda said.

Meanwhile, Antiporda has announced the filing of cases against the mayor of Urdaneta, Pangasinan for violation in the environmental clearance certificate of the town's sanitary landfill, and the mayor of Sta Ana, Pampanga for the operation of an open dump.



DENR shuts down all open dumpsites nationwide

May 23, 2021 | 7:36 pm



DENR

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said over the weekend that it has achieved its full target of closing down 335 open dumpsites across the country.

Open dumps are places where solid waste is deposited without further planning or consideration for environment or health standards. Under the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, these are considered illegal and should have been phased out by Feb. 2006.

"This is a victory for the environment and the DENR. Despite the limitations brought about by the pandemic, our people never wavered in their sworn duty as public servants to get the job done," DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a statement on Sunday.

Benny D. Antiporda, DENR undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units, said the closure of all open dumps sends the message that "the public that they cannot escape the long arm of the law."

Mr. Antiporda, who also served as the alternate chair of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, said local governments can ask the DENR's Environment Management Bureau for technical assistance on following the "safe closure and rehabilitation plan" for their respective dumpsites.

With the closure of the dumpsites, local governments must now dispose of their wastes in sanitary landfills or residual containment areas.

There are some 237 sanitary landfills operating nationwide, and 11 more are under construction, based on DENR data.

Earlier this year, Mr. Cimatu ordered the department's regional offices to shut down all open dumps by the end of March. — Angelica Y. Yang

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-shuts-down-all-open-dumpsites-nationwide/>



DENR shuts down all open dumpsites nationwide

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 23, 2021 6:34:00 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 23) — All open dumpsites in the country have been closed down, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Sunday.

In an issued statement, the DENR said it completed the closure of the 335 open dumpsites across the Philippines following the strict enforcement of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The RA 9003 prohibits open dumping of waste. Under the law, waste should be disposed of in a materials recovery facility or sanitary landfill.

"With the closure of all open dumpsites, LGUs have the option to bring their solid waste to existing sanitary landfills (SLF) or to a residual containment area," the DENR said.

The agency noted LGUs can tap a residual containment area as temporary storage of their wastes while negotiating an agreement with another LGU operating a sanitary landfill.

The country has 237 operational sanitary landfills. Eleven are under construction, the DENR noted.

"Local government units may ask the technical assistance of EMB (Environmental Management Bureau) on how to conduct the Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan for the respective dumpsites in their areas of jurisdiction," DENR undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda was quoted as saying in the statement.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/5/23/DENR-shuts-down-all-open-dumpsites-nationwide-.html>



The Manila Times

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Promenaders enjoy Manila Bay on a lazy Sunday afternoon. PHOTOS BY J. GERARD SEGUIA





Central Luzon mangroves vital for Manila Bay protection



Published 2 hours ago on May 24, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Jonas Reyes](#)



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) stressed the importance of mangrove forests in the region for the protection of the Manila Bay.

In a statement, DENR Regional Office 3 executive director Paquito Moreno Jr. said that the mangrove forests will help save Manila Bay from further pollution and will sustain Region 3's coastal resources.

He added that a healthy mangrove ecosystem has been essential in preserving the natural habitat of marine and migratory bird species.

"Planting mangroves keeps our coastal zones and shorelines healthy. It prevents erosion and protects coastal communities from storm surges and strong waves," Moreno said.

Mangrove forests are essential in reviving the quality of water bodies in Manila Bay areas in the region, since the complex root system of mangroves filter nitrates and phosphates that rivers and other tributaries carry to the greater portion of the Bay.

The DENR official added that Manila Bay cleanups and rehab programs that were launched in 2019 have been instrumental in the planting of 174,400 mangrove propagules in 80 hectares of mangrove forests in the provinces of Bataan, Bulacan and Pampanga.



Central Luzon mangroves vital for Manila Bay protection

According to studies, mangrove forests provide a natural refuge and habitat to several wildlife and serves as a natural flood defense against typhoons, sea level rise and tides. Since 2011, the DENR has established some 1,120 hectares of mangrove plantation in the region under various coastal and marine rehabilitation programs.



DENR, tameme sa unti-unting pagkawala ng dolomite sand sa Manila Bay

ni [Mary Gutierrez Almirañez](#) | May 23, 2021



'Di maipaliwanag ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang nangyari sa dolomite sand na itinambak nila sa Manila Bay bilang bahagi ng rehabilitation program, batay sa pahayag ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

Aniya, "Siguro, too early to say na nag-wash out na siya." Kaugnay ito sa sinabi ng Oceana Philippines nu'ng Abril na nag-e-erode na ang dolomite sand. "From December 2020 to February 2021, this dolomite beach has eroded by at least 300 square meters. They are refilling it again and even extending the area," sabi pa ni Oceana Vice-President Gloria Ramos.

Sagot naman ni Leones, normal lamang ang pag-erode ng buhangin sa mga dagat. Paliwanag pa niya, "We have put in place 'yung mga geotubes to ensure na 'di mawa-wash out 'yung mga dolomite." Sa ngayon ay inaabangan na nila ang pagsapit ng tag-ulan upang malaman kung epektibo ang geotubes para maiwasan ang soil erosion.

"Gusto natin mag-rainy season na dahil para once and for all, we can see and evaluate kung talagang effective 'yung ating beach nourishment. Pinag-aralan namin 'yan and we are confident na kahit bagyuhin 'yan, kahit ano'ng ulan man, nandiyan pa rin 'yung beach nourishment," dagdag ni Leones.

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/denr-tameme-sa-unti-unting-pagkawala-ng-dolomite-sand-sa-manila-bay>



DENR di pa masabi kung inaanod ang dolomite sand sa Manila Bay

April Rafales, ABS-CBN News
Posted at May 23 2021 03:43 PM



Ang dolomite sand beach sa Manila Bay noong Abril 13, 2021. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News/File*

MAYNILA — Masyado pang maaga para masabi kung nawa-wash out o inaanod na ang dolomite sand na itinambak sa Manila Bay, sabi ni Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

Ayon kay Leones, hindi pa tapos ang "dolomite beach" project at may mga inilagay ding "geotubes" para matiyak na hindi aanurin ang artificial sand.

"We have put in place 'yong mga geotubes to ensure na 'di mawa-wash out 'yong mga dolomite. Siguro too early to say na nag-wash out na siya," sabi ni Leones.

Ito ay matapos sabihin ng civil society organization na Oceana Philippines sa kanilang pahayag noong April na nage-erode na ang dolomite sand.

"From December 2020 to February 2021, this dolomite beach has eroded by at least 300 square meters. They are refilling it again and even extending the area," ani Oceana Vice President Gloria Ramos.

- [Patuloy na pagtambak ng dolomite sa Manila Bay pinuna](#)

Pero ayon kay Leones, normal naman ang pag-erode ng buhangin sa mga dagat.

"Even in ordinary beaches talaga namang nage-erode nang kaunti so 'yon nga 'yong mine-maintain sa beaches, 'yong coastal resorts natin, 'yan 'yong ginagawa natin," aniya.



DENR di pa masabi kung inaanod ang dolomite sand sa Manila Bay

Inaabangan na rin umano ang tag-ulan para makita kung epektibo ang mga "geotube" para maiwasan ang erosion.

"Gusto natin mag-rainy season na dahil para once and for all we can see and evaluate kung talagang effective 'yong ating beach nourishment. Pinag-aralan namin yan and we are confident na kahit bagyuhin 'yan, kahit anong ulan man, nandiyan pa rin 'yong beach nourishment," sabi ni Leones.

Inaasahang matatapos ang beach nourishment project sa Hunyo o Hulyo.



Dolomite trash

posted May 23, 2021 at 09:53 pm
by [Norman Cruz](#)



Street sweepers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) hold up bags of trash they collected from the shores of the so-called Dolomite Beach at Manila Bay on Sunday.



Salute to advocates of the environment

By [Malaya Business Insight](#)

-May 24, 2021

FILIPINOS cringe in fright and concern whenever they see forest fires engulfing huge residential areas and farm lots in California, always the staple of TV news worldwide. Many would say a bit of prayer, thanking God that these outbreaks do not happen in the Philippines.

It is little known, however, that grass fires especially in the heat of summer have started to become a problem here — in an area just 47 kilometers from Manila, called the Masungi Georeserve. It is an ecotourism limestone site in Baras, Rizal which is part of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

Authorities have established that small fires occurred in Masungi, probably caused by kaingeneros doing slash-and-burn farming. But there are also indications that small family-run resorts there are expanding, even as local tourists dodging the pandemic's health protocols keep looking for secluded places to swim and picnic, such as the Gubat sa Ciudad in Novaliches.

'The DENR has a lot of explaining to do here, because scores of people are violating the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act and yet the government agency tasked to protect the forests moves at a snail's pace.'

Nilo Tamera, executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 4, said under the Protected Areas Management System, there should be no structure in the areas covered by the proclamation, but since the Marikina watershed was declared a protected landscape only in 2011, there had been structures there prior to the declaration. These structures, of course, means people living and doing some economic activities in the area, way outside the objectives of the law.

The environmentalist Masungi Georeserve Foundation was the first to raise the flag on validated illegal activities going on in Masungi. This was last year and the early part of this year, thus prompting the DENR to act, or at least show a semblance of action.

The environment department's first move was to run after persons illegally occupying land in the Masungi reservation. They said this year alone, the department has so far issued 68 show-cause orders against suspected violators, and several had been charged and detained.

Good to hear, except that some of these show-cause orders were issued in April 2019. Two years have passed and it is still the same problem. The DENR has a lot of explaining to do here, because scores of people are violating the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act and yet the government agency tasked to protect the forests moves at a snail's pace.

We would like to think that the DENR is not good only at embellishment projects such as the Manila Bay artificial dolomite beach, but can prove its worth in the nitty-gritty of forest conservation.

Meanwhile, the Masungi Georeserve Foundation and other activists for the environment should be praised and encouraged for their work.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_opinion/salute-to-advocates-of-the-environment/



Masungi Georeserve

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SASONBI DONATES DRONE TO RANGERS 🇵🇭 🇸🇪

As more and more illegal activities surface inside the watershed, we aim to further enhance our surveillance and documentation to protect reforestation areas.

This week, friends from Sasonbi Solar, who also joined us in our tree nurturing activities, donated a drone for this purpose. With this, we will be able to monitor more areas that are vulnerable to threats from vested interests. We are truly humbled to receive support from like-minded individuals and groups, and it inspires us to carry on the fight to [#SaveMasungi](#).





Alarm raised over illegal 'resort,' activities in Rizal watershed

By: [Jhesset O. Enano](#) - Reporter / [@JhessetEnanoINO](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:32 AM May 23, 2021



PROTECTED LANDSCAPE An aerial photo from the Masungi Georeserve Foundation on May 13 shows smoke rising from a patch of land within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape in Rizal province. This was one of several fires within the watershed since April reported by the foundation. —PHOTO COURTESY OF MASUNGI GEORESERVE FOUNDATION

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is investigating alleged illegal activities of a small private resort within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) following reports that it was expanding.

Nilo Tamera, executive director of the DENR Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), last week said they had met with the operator of the resort in Sitio San Roque in Baras town in Rizal province, and directed him to stop his construction works within the watershed area as he did not have the proper clearance and permits.

A copy of a show-cause order obtained by the Inquirer indicated that as early as April 2019, the resort operator was directed to explain why he should not be held liable for violating the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act.

Under the law, construction and business enterprises within a protected area are prohibited without prior clearance from the Protected Areas Management Board and a permit from the DENR.

Tamera said the DENR was looking into whether the resort operator could be held liable and removed from the site.

Protected since 2011

He told the Inquirer in a phone interview on Thursday that his office was plotting the location of the resort and checking it against the protected areas management and zoning plan.



Alarm raised over illegal 'resort,' activities in Rizal watershed

"We will also verify if he has a proper tenurial instrument. These will be the basis for our next steps," he said.

Tamoria noted that prior to the declaration of the Upper Marikina watershed as a protected landscape in 2011, there were already existing structures in the area.

"But definitely under the Protected Areas Management System, there should be no structures. If there are, they should have proper clearance," he added.

He said the DENR had so far issued 68 show-cause orders this year and that several violators had been charged and arrested.

"We are slowly going through this, running after those who are illegally occupying the land first," he said.

The conservation group Masungi Georeserve Foundation had raised the alarm about the construction and expansion of resorts and a number of fires within the protected landscape late last month.

The DENR, local government officials and the Bureau of Fire Protection had determined that these were grass fires that scorched an area of at least 500 square meters, said Tamoria.

"We are not removing the possibility that this could be slash-and-burn, or 'kaingin,' based on its history. But there was no one around when our personnel went there," he said.

Located around 47 kilometers east of Metro Manila, Masungi Georeserve is an ecotourism limestone site in Baras town and is part of the UMRBPL. Forest restoration efforts at the georeserve are backed by the DENR and are funded by the foundation and Blue Star, a construction and development company.

The UMRBPL, which forms the upper area of the drainage basin of the Marikina River, covers 26,126 hectares in Rizal province. Despite being declared as a protected landscape 10 years ago, threats to its ecosystems such as illegal logging, quarrying and land grabbing persist.

Billie Dumaliang, a trustee of the foundation, said they were alarmed when ash fell over the georeserve site in late April. Aerial photos later showed smoke rising from certain patches of land.

Swimming pools

Photos taken in 2016 and 2021 provided by the foundation to the Inquirer showed expansion of the resorts with swimming pools and other structures in Baras.

Dumaliang told the Inquirer on Saturday that the resorts were outside of their reforestation area, but still within the protected landscape.

"Business could be allowed inside protected areas, and sometimes for good, but they need proper permits from both the local government and the DENR," she said.



Alarm raised over illegal 'resort,' activities in Rizal watershed

Even if these resorts are small or family-run businesses, Dumaliang said proper titles or permits should still be secured before they could expand, construct or operate.

She called on the DENR to closely monitor the situation, saying that there had been "lots of opportunism and encroachment" within the watershed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We need the assistance and help in terms of enforcement on the ground," she said in an earlier interview. "We welcome the announcement for stronger forest and watershed protection, but we need to see these plans in action."

The Department of the Interior and Local Government also instructed the local government and the police in Calabarzon to immediately investigate the matter.

In a memorandum issued on Wednesday, Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said prompt action must be taken on alleged illegal entry and incursion within the protected area.



On laws regulating the modern-day wood butcher

By: [Sara Mae Mawis-Klasen](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:57 PM May 23, 2021
(First of two parts)

OPA Hazendonk, my husband's maternal grandfather, is quite the go-getter.

Instead of paying exorbitant gas expenses to keep the heater on in his house during The Netherlands' cold months, Opa prefers to set ablaze pieces of wood in the small hearth in his living room. He regularly replenishes his stock of wood by cutting trees at the nearby forest.

On one of his trips to the forest, a municipal officer informed Opa that he could not cut any of the trees marked for disposal by the municipality since only a duly authorized person can do so. Opa did not have the corresponding permit so he went home...and came back to the forest 30 minutes later with his chainsaw. The municipal government will save more of the taxpayers' money since he can cut these trees for free, instead of another person specifically hired for that purpose, Opa reasoned out.

While Opa's garden shed overflows with chopped wood, pertinent laws continue to regulate tree-cutting activities in the Philippines.

Under the Forestry Reform Code, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Forest Management Bureau (FMB), then known as the Bureau of Forest Development, shall be responsible for, among others: (a) the implementation of multiple use and sustained yield management in forest lands; and (b) the regulation and supervision of the operation of licensees, lessees and permittees for the taking or use of forest products therefrom or the occupancy or use thereof. To this end, the FMB shall assess and consider the numerous beneficial uses of timber, land, soil, water, wildlife, grass and recreation or aesthetic value forest and grazing lands before they may be allowed to be utilized, exploited, occupied or taken into possession. Only such use of these lands, involving one or more of its resources, which will produce the optimum benefits to the development and progress of the country and the public welfare, without impairment or with the least injury to its resources, shall be allowed.

All forest reservations may be open to development or uses consistent with the principal objectives for their establishment. But, critical watersheds, national parks and established experimental forests shall not be subject to commercial logging or grazing operations.

A person may utilize, exploit, occupy, possess or conduct any activity within the forest or grazing land, or establish, install, add and operate any wood or forest products processing plant only after having been authorized to do so under a license agreement, license, lease or permit. In this regard, the DENR shall consider an application for a tree cutting permit upon submission of the following requirements: (a) duly accomplished application form; (b) authenticated copy of ownership to the land; (c) prescribed inventory fee under DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2004-16; (d) Harvesting Development Plan; (e) endorsement from the appropriate barangay captain, municipal or city mayor, or provincial governor; and (f) Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), on which the Environmental Compliance Certificate shall be based.



On laws regulating the modern-day wood butcher

This authority, however, does not preclude the President from amending, modifying, replacing or rescinding the corresponding contract, concession, permit, license or other form of privilege, when the national interest so requires.

Moreover, the appropriate measures shall be taken to achieve an approximate balance between growth and harvest or use of forest products in forest lands. Thus, a silvicultural and harvesting system that will promote optimum sustainable yield in any logging operation in production forests within forest lands shall be practiced. For instance, selective logging with enrichment or supplemental planting may necessarily be conducted in a dipterocarp forest or one composed of tall trees from which resin and timber products are obtained. Meanwhile, a seed tree system with planting may be implemented in a pine mangrove forest.

A person's authority to cut, harvest or gather any timber, pulpwood or other logging products subsists for as long as he plants three times of the same variety for every tree cut or destroyed such logging or removal of logs. Failure to do so may lead to the immediate cancellation of the license, agreement, lease or permit.

Read more: <https://business.inquirer.net/323433/on-laws-regulating-the-modern-day-wood-butcher#ixzz6vj6h0UxN>

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Trekking banned, recreations regulated in Davao watershed areas



Photo courtesy of Save Davao Watershed Facebook page

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

May 23, 2021

TREKKING activities in watershed areas in Davao City are now strictly prohibited, while recreational activities in these areas will be regulated, the Watershed Management Council (WMC) ordered in a resolution.

The Davao City government, in an issued statement on Friday afternoon, May 21, 2021, said WMC passed two separate resolutions following the collected waste materials in the city's watershed, especially in the Panigan-Tamugan River.

These are Resolution No. 3 - A Resolution Declaring that Trekking Activities are Prohibited in the Watershed Areas of Davao City; and Resolution No. 4 - A Resolution Adopting the Proposed Guidelines on the Conduct of Recreational Activities Within the Watershed Areas of Davao City and Forwarding the same to the Sangguniang Panlungsod.

Prior to the two resolutions, WMC released a resolution in 2020 mandating barangays within watershed areas to strictly regulate recreational activities within their territorial jurisdiction.

"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.

The City said this was tackled in a committee hearing spearheaded by Councilor Diosdado Mahipus Jr., committee head of environment, on May 19.



Trekking banned, recreations regulated in Davao watershed areas

The local government said the recommendation was to further improve the guidelines to include the issue of waste disposal.

The City also said the information, education and communication (IEC) team has also included in its plan to intensify the clean-up campaign drive in all barangays where the watersheds are located.

"If environmental protection mechanisms were not working on the ground, destructive human activities in our watershed and critical upland areas would have not been discovered," the City said.

It added, "To insinuate that we are remiss in our task is a little bit of a stretch, unfair, and downright wrong."

The City said the recent discovery of used face masks, face shields, and other "discarded" plastic wastes at Panigan-Tamugan "proves the effective collaboration" between the local government and civil society organizations to ensure the protection of the city's natural resources.

The City added the importance of the Bantay Bukid volunteers as the local government's partner in the upland communities.

"The LGU does not only share expressions of concern over the condition of our environment, including our watershed areas - it is also very much alarmed by the irresponsible, reckless, and destructive human activities that threaten our forests and other natural resources," the local government said.



(Binabantayan ng DA, DENR) ASF SA WILD BOARS

[May 23, 2021 admin](#)



PATULOY ang pagtutulongan ng Department of Agriculture (DA) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng African swine fever (ASF) sa wild boars sa mga lalawigan ng Abra at 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,” wika ni Cameron Odsey, director ng Department of Agriculture (DA) – Cordillera region.

Sinabi ni Odsey na unang nakitaan ng palatandaan ng ASF ang mga baboy damo noong Pebrero ngunit tinawag lamang ang atensiyon ng DA noong Marso.

Aniya, agad na nagsagawa ang DA ng laboratory test sa isang baboy damo sa Abra, na nakikihati ng border sa Ilocos at Apayao, at natuklasang positibo sa ASF.

Ayon kay Odsey, ang Abra at Apayao ay kapwa ASF-free hanggang matuklasan noong Marso na infected ang kanilang mga baboy damo.

Magmula noon, ang DA at DENR ay nagtulongan na, aniya, para mapigilan ang pagkalat pa ng virus sa domesticated pigs, at idinagdag na humingi sila ng tulong sa DENR dahil ang wild animals ay nasa hurisdiksiyon nito.

Nanawagan siya sa publiko na huwag manghuli ng at magdala ng boars at iba pang wild animals upang hindi nila maiuwi ang 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,” ani Odsey.

Source: <http://pilipinomirror.com/binabantayan-ng-da-denr-asf-sa-wild-boars/>



Pagdami ng mga starfish sa Batangas na pumapatay sa mga coral gardens ikinabahala

By Erwin Aguilon May 23, 2021 - 02:22 PM



Ikinaalarma ng Community Environment and Resources Office (CENRO) ng San Luis, Batangas, lokal na pamahalaan at Philippine Coast Guard ang nadiskubrenang pagdami ng isang uri ng star fish na sumisira sa kanilang coral gardens.

Ayon sa CENRO, kung patuloy na dadami ang mga crown of thorns na itinuturing na mga coral predators hindi malayong maapektuhan ang food security.

Apektado kasi nito ang ang pagdami ng mga isda sa kanilang lugar.

Matapos na madiskubre ang pagdami ng mga crown of thorns ngayong panahon ng pandemya hindi nagsayang ng panahon ang DENR-CENRO, LGU at mga volunteer scuba divers sa pakikipagtulungan ng Starboard Dive Resort upang solusyunan ang dumaraming mga crown of thorns.

Sinabi ni Morpheus Gorobat ng Starboard Dive Resort at siya ring tumatayong care taker ng San Luis Fish Sanctuary, mga syringe na may lamang suka (vinegar) ang kanilang itinurok sa daan-daang mga crown of thorns upang mapatay ang mga ito na sumisira sa mga corals na nagsisilbing itluga at bahay ng mga isda.

Naobserbahan ang pagdami ng mga crown of thorns sa lugar na di kalayuan sa kanilang fish sanctuary.

Kasabay ng pagtuturok sa mga crown of thorns nagsagawa ring coastal clean-up sa lugar.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/292689/pagdami-ng-mga-starfish-sa-batangas-na-pumapatay-sa-mga-coral-gardens-ikinabahala#ixzz6vjIHgfa6>

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Pawikan of the gulf



CLEANERGY PARK. Fermin Edillon, Davao Light and Power Company (Davao Light) Reputation Enhancement Department manager, said the Clenaergy Park has not only served as a nesting ground for sea turtles. It is also a thriving beach urban forest with around 100 species of birds. (Photo by Davao Light)



TO BE RELEASED. Since 2014, the Cleanergy Park has released 5,145 hatchlings into the wild. Sadly, only around one percent of sea turtle hatchlings reach adulthood. Some are eaten by predators immediately after they are released. (Photo by Davao Light)



Pawikan of the gulf



RESCUE. Several injured and captive sea turtles have been turned over at the Pawikan Rescue Center at Clenaergy Park for rehabilitation and treatment. (Photo by Davao Light)



BACK HOME. Once the rehabilitated sea turtles have recovered and given a clean bill of health, they are released back to the sea. (Photo by Davao Light)



Pawikan of the gulf



HATCHLING. A sea turtle hatchling released at the Cleanergy Park. The park serves as a nesting ground for the critically endangered Hawksbill sea turtle. (Photo by Davao Light)



DUMALAG. The female Hawksbill sea turtle was found by fishermen at Dumalag with spears on its neck. The sea turtle is being rehabilitated at the Pawikan Rescue Center inside the Cleanergy Park. (Photo by Davao Light)

[REUEL JOHN F. LUMAWAG](#)

May 23, 2021

MAY 23 marks World Turtle Day, which was started by the American Tortoise Rescue, a nonprofit organization established in 1990.



Pawikan of the gulf

According to the group, "The day was created as a yearly observance to help people celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world."

In the Philippines, you can find five of the seven species of marine turtles -- Green Sea Turtle, Hawksbill Sea Turtle, Leatherback Sea Turtle, Loggerhead Sea Turtle, and the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle.

Marigelaine V. Arguillas, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Davao Region (DENR-Davao) chief for Protected Areas Management and Biodiversity Conservation, said of the five sea turtles found in the Philippines, four have been documented in Davao Gulf -- Green Sea Turtle, Hawksbill Sea Turtle, Leatherback Sea Turtle, and the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle.

These sea turtles are known to make the different shorelines of Davao Gulf as their nesting grounds.

The Hawksbill have been recorded to lay their eggs in white sand beaches like at AboitizPower's Cleanergy Park in Punta Dumalag, Davao City and Dahican beach in Davao Oriental.

Fermin Edillon, Davao Light and Power Company (Davao Light) Reputation Enhancement Department manager, said Olive Ridley sea turtles, which are known to lay their eggs in black sand beaches, are reported to have nesting grounds in Talomo, Toril, and even Times Beach in Davao City.

"Davao Gulf is a very rich marine ecosystem. That is why hindi lang naman pawikan ang makita natin, kundi, (You can not only find sea turtles here, but) you can also find some dugongs, dolphins," Arguillas said.

Turtles and the environment

Arguillas said sea turtles play an important role in the marine ecosystem.

"Ang mga marine turtles naa jud siya role sa atong system kay ginatawag nato siya nga iconic species kay nagatabang siyang sa lain pud na mga species. (They play an important role in our ecosystem as iconic species)," Arguillas said.

In a report published by Oceana titled, "Why healthy oceans need sea turtles," it said that sea turtles "play an important role in ocean ecosystems by maintaining healthy seagrass beds and coral reefs, providing key habitat for other marine life, helping to balance marine food webs and facilitating nutrient cycling from water to land."

Arguillas said sea turtles help maintain healthy seagrass beds in the Davao Gulf or any habitat they are present at.



Pawikan of the gulf

The Oceana report states when sea turtles graze, they help "increase the productivity and nutrient content of seagrass blades."

"Sea turtles forage on seagrass just a few centimeters from the bottom of the blades, allowing older, upper portions of the blades to float away. As the turtles crop and re-crop the same plot, seagrass blades are removed from the area rather than accumulating on the bottom. This results in a 15-fold decrease in the supply of nitrogen to seagrass roots, which impacts plant species, nutrient cycling, animal densities and predator-prey relations," the Oceana report reads.

Arguillas said sea turtles also keep the jellyfish population in check. The same Oceana report states how Leatherback sea turtles are able to consume 440 pounds of jellyfish in a day.

Hawksbill sea turtles, on the other hand, help landscape the coral reef as they eat on marine sponges.

"By doing this, they change the species composition and distribution of sponges in coral reef ecosystems. Sponges compete aggressively for space with reef-building corals. By removing sponges from reefs, hawksbills allow other species, such as coral, to colonize and grow," the Oceana report reads.

"Kung mawala siya, dako impact sa ecosystem (If the sea turtles are gone, it will have a big impact on the ecosystem)," Arguillas said.

For example, the Oceana report states that "older portions of seagrass beds tend to be overgrown with microorganisms, algae, invertebrates and fungi." While areas with more jellyfish are proving "detrimental to the recovery of fish stocks since jellyfish prey on fish eggs and larvae." Meanwhile, if sponges are not controlled, they could dominate the reef, "further limiting the growth of corals and modifying the very structure of coral reef ecosystems."

Threats

At present, the Hawksbill is classified under the IUCN Red List as critically endangered. The Green Sea Turtle is endangered while the Olive Ridley and Leatherback are vulnerable.

Arguillas said there are a lot of threats to sea turtles.

One of which is the loss of habitat due to developments.

Ruth U. Gamboa, professor at the Department of Biological Science and Environmental Studies, College of Science and Mathematics at the University of the Philippines-Mindanao, said the recent developments near Punta Dumalag may have affected the nesting grounds of the Hawksbill sea turtles.



Pawikan of the gulf

She said the developments may have affected the current of the water resulting in the reduced beach line. This puts the nests in danger during the habagat when the tide is high and waves are strong.

Edillon shared how caretakers of the Cleanergy Park had to move a nest during one habagat season as the high tide has begun to reach the nest. This area used to be safe from the high tide and waves.

Arguillas and Edillon shared how trash also poses a threat to the sea turtles.

Edillon recalled a time when they had to attend to a sea turtle at the Pawikan Rescue Center in the Cleanergy Park that was throwing up and pooping plastic wastes.

"Makita nato sa mga videos na makaon nila, ma-ingest nila, mugawas sa ilahang nostrils (We saw in videos that they have eaten plastics, ingested it, and some of the plastics are coming out of their noses)," Arguillas said.

Some sea turtles have mistaken plastics as jellyfish, which is common in their diet.

Edillon said at the Cleanergy Park, the caretakers could collect around three to four sacks of garbage in two hours every day. Being in between the mouth of Davao River and Talomo River, Punta Dumalag has become convergence point of trash being expelled by the river.

"Katre, sofa, TV, ref, computer, name it we have it here. All the brands, we have it here," he said.

Edillon said to protect the sea turtles, there needs to be a collaboration among the people in the community.

Conservation

One of the current efforts to conserve the sea turtles at the Davao Gulf is the Cleanergy Park. What used to be a grassland is now a thriving urban beach forest and a nesting ground of the Hawksbill Sea Turtle.

Founded in 2013 and launched in 2015, the Cleanergy Park is a collaborative project between Davao City local government, Barangay Matina Aplaya, DENR, BMB (formerly PAWB), researchers from UP and University of Southeastern Philippines, and Aboitiz Group.

It is a five-year development project with a total budget of P5 million funded by Aboitiz Foundation as part of Aboitiz Group's sustainability program.

Gamboa said sea turtles would return to where they hatched to lay their eggs. Punta Dumlag could have been a nesting ground for generations of Hawksbill sea turtles.



Pawikan of the gulf

From 2014 to May 2021, there have been a total of 47 Hawksbill Sea Turtle nests found at the Cleanergy Park. It was in 2019 when they have the most number of nests at 12.

No nests were found in 2016. However, Edillon said it is possible that there were nests but they were not able to discover it because the clues to the nest may have been erased by either the waves or the wind.

Edillon said the caretakers at the Cleanergy Park would regularly roam in the evening to check for sea turtle nests. Each female sea turtle could lay a clutch of egg three to five times in a span of two to three weeks.

Once they find nests, they will dig it to check if it is where the turtle laid its eggs or if it is a false nest.

"Pag naa gani, saka nato i-cage. So para paggawas nila, macheck kung naay deformity or wala and ma-count nato ang number of hatchlings (If it is confirmed that there are eggs in the nest, we cage it. So when the hatchlings are out, we will be able to check if there are deformities and count the number of hatchlings)," he said.

On average, a clutch of eggs at the Cleanergy Park would average at 140 eggs. Though there was a time that it reached around 200 eggs.

Once the hatchlings are out, they are released within 24 hours. Sadly, though a lot will be released, only a few will reach adulthood and reproduce. Studies have shown that only one in 1,000 to one in 10,000 will survive.

"When you release, naay paspas, naay hinay. Those na mauna are those mga hatchling nga makaon. Pag-abot sa mga hinay, ok na sila (When you release them, some are fast while others are slow. Those who are fast may be eaten by predators first. While for the slow ones, it could be safer for them because some of the predators may be full already)," Edillon said.

Edillon recalls how some sea birds snatch hatchlings on their way to sea. They have also captured on video how a small octopus caught one of the hatchlings that were released. Some species of fishes are also known to eat hatchlings.

Three days after the release, Edillon said they would dig up the nests to check for sea turtles that may have been stuck and get DNA samples from some of the eggs.

To date, they have released a total of 5,145 hatchlings.

Aside from serving as a nesting ground, the Cleanergy Park also houses the Pawikan Rescue Center. Many sea turtles have been brought here to recover.

At present, two turtles are being treated here -- Coaco and Dumalag.



Pawikan of the gulf

Coaco was rescued on April 25, 2016. Edillon said the Hawksbill sea turtle was in captivity for 15 years. It was rescued by DENR-Davao after it received reports of a turtle being kept at a beach resort. It was turned over to Cleanergy Park on April 26, 2016.

Dumalag is a female Hawksbill sea turtle that was rescued on May 20, 2020, and turned over by the Davao City Police Office to the Cleanergy Park on the same day. The sea turtle was discovered by fishermen in their net with two spears, three feet long each. Dumalag is currently recovering but the spears may have affected her buoyancy.

Meanwhile, Arguillas said the Cleanergy Park plays a vital role in the conservation efforts for the sea turtles. Likewise, she said the community plays a crucial role too.

"Kami sa government (We at the government), we are doing our best to intensify public awareness," she said.

Arguillas reminds the public that if they see a sea turtle at shore, they should avoid approaching or touching it. Instead, they must report it to the barangay or DENR.

"Usually man gud is pag-adult ang muadto sa babay mag nest jud na. Di jud na ibalik sa dagat kay ilahang ilabay itlog, sayang. Once mag beach ang adult na pawikan, dili na siya nagluya kundi nangita na siya og iyahang kabutangan sa itlog (Adult sea turtles would go to the beach to lay eggs. Don't put it back in the sea because it will abort its eggs. Once it is at the beach, it is looking for a place to nest)," she said.

Arguillas said if the turtles start laying, they urge the community to protect them from dogs and humans who may dig up the eggs and eat them.

"Report immediately sa DENR kay para mahibaw-an namo pila na ka days before mag hatch (Report it to us at DENR for us to know the estimated time it will hatch)," she said.

If it is trapped in the fishermen's net and is uninjured, people are urged to release it immediately to sea.

Lastly, the public is urged to stop throwing garbage into the sea.

In his own opinion, Edillon said while it is good there are laws on waste management, it is still the humans who are the culprit to the threats on sea turtles and the environment.

"Dili gyud ang plastic ang culprit, tao man gyud ang culprit. Kasi tao man ang mag decide kung asa niya ilabay ang basuro or dili or asang lugara (It is not really the plastic that is the culprit, it is the person. The person decides whether he or she will throw the garbage and where it will be thrown)," Edillon said.

People are urged to throw their garbage responsibly and not throw it into the sea.



Pawikan of the gulf

The rich biodiversity of the Davao Gulf is something to behold. The humble sea turtles play an important role in keeping the gulf's biodiversity balanced and alive. Just like the role the turtle plays in keeping marine biodiversity alive, we also play a role in keeping the sea turtles alive for generations to come.

"Kung gusto ka effective ang conservation effort nimo (If you want an effective conservation effort), we really need to help each other," Edillon said.

ASEAN stars, environment advocates join ACB's newest campaign for biodiversity

By Ma. Elaine P. AllaniguePublished on May 23, 2021



Joining the ACB's campaign are celebrities in the ASEAN— Antoinette Taus, Alex Rendell, Christian Bautista, Katrina Kendall, Mike Lewis, Kelly Tandiono, Paul Foster; Angie Mead-King; Phuong Khanh; and H'Hen Nie. (Contributed photo)

QUEZON CITY, May 23 (PIA) -- On the International Day for Biological Diversity, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity launched its newest campaign dubbed as #WeAreASEANBiodiversity: Our homes, our lives, our stories as part of its efforts to amplify the call for wider participation in protecting biodiversity and humankind.

The campaign in collaboration with Communities Organized for Resource Allocation or CORA led by its founder and UN Environment Programme National Goodwill Ambassador for the Philippines Antoinette Taus, highlights stories of hope in individual and collective actions that contribute to efforts to restore ecosystems and mainstream biodiversity into plans and programmes across sectors.

Apart from Taus, joining the campaign are actor and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador Alex Rendell, singer Christian Bautista; Miss Earth UK 2015 and protected area ambassador Katrina Kendall, actor and model Mike Lewis, celebrity athlete Kelly Tandiono, actor and host Paul Foster; entrepreneur and farmer Angie Mead-King; Miss Earth 2018 Phuong Khanh; and Miss Universe Vietnam 2017 H'Hen Nie.

A three-minute video, which premiered on ACB's Facebook page, celebrates ASEAN's rich natural heritage, from its mountains, farmlands, rivers, and wetlands, and issues the urgent call to "mend our broken relationship with nature".

Among the many actions that individuals can do are planting native trees, regrowing forests, ending destructive fishing practices, and keeping the waters free from litter, the video said.



ASEAN stars, environment advocates join ACB's newest campaign for biodiversity

In her message, ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said that the ongoing crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impacts of climate change have further exposed how economic growth, public health, and our society's resilience rely on healthy biodiversity and well-functioning ecosystems.

"The projections are grim most especially if we do not change our ways. But now, we are given the opportunity to reclaim this narrative", Lim said.

The ACB chief was referring to the report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in 2019 that around one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history.

She stressed that continuing biodiversity decline can increase the risks of new and emerging infectious diseases that have the potential to become pandemics and reduce buffers against the impacts of climate change.

"The theme of this year's celebrations 'We're part of the solution #ForNature' calls for a much-needed shift from the prevailing mindset that humanity and biodiversity are separate. We are part of biodiversity and hence, we are part of the solutions", Lim said.

Earl Paulo Diaz, head of the Communication and Public Affairs unit of the ACB, said online and offline activities have been lined up until 2023 as part of the campaign.

Among these initiatives are the fifth staging of the ASEAN-wide photo contest Zooming in on Biodiversity, the launch of Biodiversitalks, an online talk show that features people from all walks of life discussing relevant topics and issues around biodiversity and nature.

The ACB will also hold the second ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes Awards to recognise outstanding individuals from the ASEAN Member States who have made exemplary contributions to the safekeeping of the region's natural resources.

Watch out for updates at <https://weare.aseanbiodiversity.org/>. (PIA NCR)



Assorted junks found inside fish belly in Palawan

[May 23, 2021](#) 12 min read

By Glen S. Ramos

PUERTO Princesa City, Palawan — A fish vendor and one of his customers in a wet market in Barangay Bancao Bancao in Jacana, Puerto Princesa City yesterday was surprised to find out assorted trash inside the belly of a “dorado,” a commonly consumed fish hereabouts. Aside from a couple of squids, both were appalled to discover pieces of plastic and other discarded materials, including candy wrappers, bottle caps, a plastic spoon, and a pain relief patch which the fish apparently devoured.

The freshly caught dorado also known as mahi-mahi was a huge one measuring about a meter in length and weighing seven (7) to 13 kilograms.

Locals said the incident only shows that our ocean has been heavily polluted with various kinds of refuse thrown into them. The Western Philippines University, after conducting research and study on the beaches of Puerto Princesa City disclosed their findings on marine plastic pollution in the city described as “heavily contaminated” by plastic trash, and ranked their classification based on accepted international standards as “dirty to extremely dirty.”

This should serve as a wake-up call as there is still time to save our marine life before it's too late. (AI/MTVN)



Andanar plants tree in honor of late dad in AU tree-planting caravan

Published May 23, 2021, 10:08 AM

by [Argyll Cyrus Geducos](#)

Communications Secretary Martin Andanar honored his late father, former Interior Undersecretary Wencilito Andanar, by planting a tree in his name at the Arroceros Forest Park in Manila on Saturday.



Communications Secretary Martin Andanar plants a tree in honor of his late father, former Interior Secretary Wencilito Andanar, during the Friendship Tree caravan at the Arroceros Forest Park in Manila on May 22, 2021. Also in photo is Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Steven J. Robinson AO. The caravan is an initiative of the Australia Global Alumni network to plant 750 trees across the country in celebration of 75 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and the Philippines. (Andanar Facebook)

Andanar made the gesture during the Friendship Tree caravan that aimed to mark the 75 years of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Australia on May 22.

In a Facebook post, Andanar, an Australia Global alum, shared photos of him planting the sapling with Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Steven J. Robinson AO watching.

"Papa, a month after your passing we plant a tree in your honor at the Arroceros Forest Park in the City of Manila," the former journo wrote in his post.

The late Andanar succumbed to liver cancer on April 22 at the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center at the age of 73.

Meanwhile, Robinson shared a photo of the tree-planting activity in his Twitter account, expressing hope that the trees planted will stand the test of time like the ties between the Philippines and Australia.

"Planting saplings that will grow and flourish, like our enduring friendship," he said.



Andanar plants tree in honor of late dad in AU tree-planting caravan

The Friendship Tree caravan is an initiative of the Australia Global Alumni network to plant 750 trees across the Philippines in celebration of 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In a statement, Robinson said he was very pleased to be back at Arroceros Forest Park with Andanar and Manila City Administrator Felix Espiritu after visiting it in 2019 with Manila Mayor Isko Moreno in 2019 to hear about the City's plans for its maintenance and the development of the adjacent area.

"Australia offers our support to the Mayor and his plans for the sustainable use and conservation of the forest park," he said.

The 2.2-hectare Arroceros Forest Park was declared a permanent forest park in March 2020 by the City of Manila. It is home to about 3,000 species of trees, plants, and birds.

Robinson likewise pointed out that it was only fitting to hold the Friendship Day activity in Manila because of the Australian Embassy's ties to the city.

The first Australian Consulate-General was opened at the Manila Hotel on May 22, 1946. The Embassy's chancery was located in Binondo for 20 years, first at the Plaza Cervantes then later at the iconic El Hogar Filipino Building and Ayala Building in Juan Luna Street.



PH joins the climate change fight

By: [Rodel D. Lasco](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:02 AM May 23, 2021

On April 15, 2021, the Philippines formally joined the global effort to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. As part of its commitment to the Paris Agreement, the country submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which contains its quantitative target on mitigating GHGs. In essence, the government commits to reducing its GHG emissions by a whopping 75 percent (relative to the baseline scenario) in the next 10 years.

Such grand ambitions may seem unbelievable to the casual observer. But as is typical, the details reveal a more down-to-earth goal. Of the 75-percent reduction, only 2.71 percent is unconditional, which are those to be funded by local resources. In other words, this portion is almost certain to happen, barring any significant shift in policy or economic performance. The rest (72.29 percent) is conditioned on new financial support coming from other countries as part of the Paris Agreement. Without this external support, this component is dead in the water.

How significant is the 75 percent reduction of our future emissions? In the overall scheme of things, not much, considering that our annual emissions are less than half a percent of global emissions. On the other hand, our NDC sends a powerful message that we are ready to do our share, no matter its scale. Such a commitment signals our unity with the rest of the global community to fight the scourge of global warming.

Can we expect an influx of external funding and support to help us meet the 72 percent of conditional commitment? I will not hold my breath. Climate finance is one of the most contentious issues in climate change negotiations, and estimating its value is full of ambiguity (see, for example, the paper of Weikmans and Roberts, 2019). One thing is certain, the actual flow of funds from developed countries to poor, vulnerable countries is still a trickle relative to what is needed.

At the same time, the NDC is more than just GHG mitigation. The document also commits the country to “undertake adaptation measures across but not limited to, the sectors of agriculture, forestry, coastal and marine ecosystems and biodiversity, health, and human security, to preempt, reduce and address residual loss and damage.” Given our country’s vulnerability to climate-related hazards, we can do no less.

Our modest commitments must be viewed in juxtaposition with renewed international efforts to address climate change. On April 22-23, the US president convened a climate summit with 40 heads of state in attendance to trumpet his country’s intention to take its place among the world’s nations in arresting rising air temperatures. Toward the end of this year, the UK government will host UNFCCC COP-26, the centerpiece of which is the discussion and hopefully finalization of the so-called Paris Rulebook, which will govern the implementation of the Paris Agreement.



PH joins the climate change fight

The Philippines' NDC is a small but significant step toward confronting the challenge of climate change. That piece of (virtual) paper is a testament to our resolve to join the global community in keeping our planet livable.

* * *

Dr. Rodel Lasco is a member of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) of the Philippines. He is the executive director of The OML Center, a foundation devoted to discovering climate change adaptation solutions (<http://www.omlopezcenter.org/>).

Read more: <https://opinion.inquirer.net/140493/ph-joins-the-climate-change-fight#ixzz6vjCNomDM>

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Experts vouch for renewable energy capability to supply PH future power needs

By Ma. Elaine P. AllaniguePublished on May 23, 2021

QUEZON CITY, May 23 (PIA) -- The Philippines' foremost energy experts and energy finance analysts vouched for the capacity of renewable energy sources to fully supply the country's energy needs in the future, noting that there are enough technologies, software, and strategies to address the issues of intermittency and variability.

The experts served as resource speakers and frame the discussion during the Strategic Planning of the Energy Subcluster of The Climate Reality Project Philippines last 15 May 2021, which was participated in by Filipino Climate Reality Leaders who are interested to help shape the country's energy transition agenda.

"My answer is definitely yes," energy transition advisor Albert Dalusung III said when asked whether the Philippines can be powered by renewables alone. He noted that the transition to renewable energy would mean harnessing different renewable energy sources, as well as utilizing several technologies that will ensure the provision of 24-hour power.

"We just need a grid that has the ability to have all of these technologies dispatched properly. Intermittency is not a problem at all assuming you've got a properly designed grid with flexibility," he explained.

Dalusung is currently a member of the National Renewable Energy Board (NREB), where he represents renewable energy developers. He noted that the 2020-2040 National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) specifically aims to increase the total share of renewable energy in the country's supply mix by 35 percent by 2030—a target that the Department of Energy (DOE) has already accepted. The current renewable energy share in the supply mix is at 21 percent.

The DOE, however, has not decided yet on how the 35 percent target will be reached, specifically on whether it will follow the recommendation of NREB to keep renewable portfolio standards (RPS) at 1 percent level for 2020 to 2022 and then increased to 2.52 percent moving forward, Dalusung shared.

Climate Reality Leader and energy finance expert Sara Jane Ahmed, Finance Advisor of the Vulnerable Group of Twenty Ministers of Finance of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, agreed with Dalusung that the transition to fully renewables is doable.

"There is enough technology and software out there to actually give you a forecast of when the asset would be generating. This isn't difficult to integrate, which is why we're seeing markets like Costa Rica, for example, where they have 100 percent renewable energy. So certainly feasible. Technology and software make it feasible," Ahmed said.

Atty. Pete Maniego, Climate Reality Leader and former NREB Chairperson, highlighted the need to shift to flexible, distributed, and decentralized renewable energy generation to address stability and supply concerns. He also noted the declining cost of batteries, which will address variability issues.

"In some countries now, their problem is how to utilize excess renewables. For example, in Germany, there are times they have too much renewables so they have to pay consumers to get the power. At the same time, they are exploring "Power-to-X" that is converting excess



Experts vouch for renewable energy capability to supply PH future power needs

renewable—for example, using it for electrolysis to get hydrogen per water and storing hydrogen. So these are the long-term future energy trends, where all renewables can be tapped and no need for fossil fuel,” Maniego said.

Aside from the viability of transitioning to fully renewable, experts also discussed the need to harness liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a transition energy source in the country.

Maniego emphasized that the use of LNG is just a bridge to going fully renewable. “There should be an end to the bridge. We will need it probably until the cost of battery really drops to very low levels and we have enough pumped hydro developed to store [excess renewable energy]. Until we have so many distributed renewable energy, like wind and solar, we will need a transition fuel,” he said.

“Natural gas makes a lot of sense in some parts of the country. I, for one, have always championed the use of natural gas, for example, in the Mindanao grid, because of the need to support hydro in Mindanao which declines in the summer season,” Dalusung said.

“But we are not talking of natural gas replacing coal,” he warned, explaining that combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) will just be stranded assets in the future together with coal-fired power plants. “If it is CCGT, it is not the kind of power plant that we need,” he added.

Ahmed said that if private companies will continue to invest in CCGTs, they should be willing to take the stranded asset risk equitably rather than passing them on to consumers. “No longer should that volatility shift to consumers. They should be open to curtailment if they are deemed uncompetitive. This is something we should champion—the equitable risk-sharing part of new energy capacity, especially on CCGT plans on the pipeline,” she said.

In relation to this, Nazrin Castro, Manager of the Philippine Branch of the Climate Reality Project, said that they will mobilize Batangas-based Climate Reality Leaders to conduct a survey that will help gauge the sentiments of residents on the development of CCGTs and interim offshore LNG terminals in the province.

The said survey will complement the upcoming energy transition research of the branch that is intended to generate clear information on opportunities and options to access cheaper, reliable, and domestically sourced energy. (PIA NCR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1075940>



BULACAN SOLAR

[6 hours ago](#) [jp admin](#)

Sa Ganang Akin

ni JOE ZALDARRIAGA



KASABAY ng pagiging moderno ng panahon ay ang paglala ng mga suliraning pangkapaligiran ng mundo. Isa na dyan ang suliranin ng climate change. Ayon sa National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration, ang nakaraang apat na taon ay maituturing na pinakamainit sa loob ng 139 na taon. Ito ay resulta ng inilalabas na greenhouse gas ng mga tao sa kapaligiran. Ang mga greenhouse gas na ito ay kadalasang carbon dioxide mula sa pagsusunog ng petrolyo.

Magandang balita naman dahil kasabay ng pagiging moderno ng panahon ay ang pagkakaroon ng modernong teknolohiya na may kakayahang tumugon sa nasabing suliranin.

Isa sa mga industriyang nagsusumikap aksyunan ang usapin ukol sa climate change ay ang industriya ng koryente. Sinisiguro ng industriya ang pagkakaroon ng sapat na supply ng koryente para sa bansa. Ito ay lubhang mahalaga ngayong panahon ng pandemya, at sa muling pagbangon ng ekonomiya mula sa epekto nito.

Noong unang bahagi ng buwan, sa pamamagitan ng MGen Renewable Energy, Inc. (MGreen), ang sangay ng MERALCO PowerGen (MGen) na naka-pokus sa renewable energy, ay sinimulan nito ang operasyon ng Php4.25 billion na solar plant sa San Miguel, Bulacan. Ang nasabing solar plant ay may 72 ektarya ang laki at tinawag na BulacanSol.

Ang opisyal na paglulunsad ng BulacanSol ay resulta ng kagustuhan at ng pagsusumikap ng MGen na makapaghatid ng malinis at renewable na koryente sa mga customer nito. Ayon kay MERALCO President & CEO Atty. Ray C. Espinosa, "In June 2019, we first announced that we will be joining the shift to renewable energy by adopting sustainable practices for the One MERALCO Group. Today, we realize the first renewable power plant – the first of several that One Meralco has lined up for investment and sourcing."

Sa muling paglala sa pinagdaanang mga pagsubok ng nasabing proyekto, kasama ang mga pabagubagong panahon at ang pagpapatupad ng mga lockdown, ibinahagi ni MGen President & CEO Rogelio L. Singson, "our team worked long hours to commission this solar project. This achievement is really all about teamwork, strive for excellence and hard work."



BULACAN SOLAR

Binigyang pagkilala rin ni Singson ang matinding suporta na kanilang natanggap mula sa lokal na pamahalaan ng San Miguel na pinangunahan ni Mayor Roderick Tiongson, mga ahensya ng pamahalaan kabilang ang Department of Energy (DOE) at Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), at maging ang Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) na siyang nagbigay ng suporta sa pagkuha ng right-of-way para sa 74 na poste at drainage system sa planta.

Ang BulacanSol ay isang pagpapatotoo sa dedikasyon ng MGen na makapagtayo at makapaglunsad ng mga proyektong may pagpapahalaga sa kapaligiran. Umpisa pa lamang ito. Pahayag ni Singson, “we will develop more renewable projects and at the same time be conscious of our need to generate lowest cost electricity to reach the farthest communities in the country.”

Batid ng MGen na mahaba pa ang landas na kanilang tatahakin sa industriya ng renewable energy, ngunit nangangako ito na magpapatuloy sa pagsusumikap at sa dedikasyon nito para sa pagtatagumpay ng mga susunod pa nitong proyekto.

Tiyak na marami pang susunod na proyekto ang MGen, sa pamamagitan ng MGreen, na karapat-dapat abangan. Hindi magtatagal ay lalaki ang kontribusyon nito sa paghahatid ng liwanag sa bansa, at sa pagpapatotoo sa tagline ng Meralco na “Ang Liwanag ng Bukas.”

24 MAY 2021, Monday



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NEWS

ALERTS

COVID-19

NEWS

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How Usec. Benny Antiporda won his fight with Covid-19

[By The Manila Times](#)

May 23, 2021



The DENR official hopes his story can help save lives

The coronavirus disease (Covid-19) continues to surge across the Philippines, infecting people and claiming lives. As the country grapples with the uncertainties brought about by the pandemic, one patient is fighting to return to public service. He is the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

As Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and concurrent head of the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force, his routine includes attending meetings on pollution in Manila Bay, and inspecting and closing erring dumpsites in different cities. But on March 22, despite observing health protocols as usual, Antiporda felt different. His throat was itchy, and his voice got hoarse. Sensing that something was not right, he underwent an antigen test. The result: he was positive for Covid-19.

"Immediately, I isolated myself and took precautionary measures to avoid infecting other people in our house, none of whom tested positive except for my wife," Antiporda recalled.

He then consulted Dr. Rogel del Rosario on the next steps to be done. He was prescribed the antibiotic Zithromax, Vitamin C and Zinc, and Lianhua Qingwen, a traditional Chinese medicine. He was also asked to try "suob" or steam inhalation.

Three days later, Antiporda's oxygen level dropped to 90.

With jampacked hospitals no longer able to accommodate more Covid-19 patients, Antiporda sought the advice of Dr. Jonas del Rosario, spokesperson of the Philippine General Hospital, who recommended BDJ Homecare Services through Dr. Basilio Diego Jr.



How Usec. Benny Antiporda won his fight with Covid-19

Dr. Diego was supposed to head over with his team to help Antiporda. Unfortunately, Dr. Diego also caught the disease. Nonetheless, he assured Antiporda not to worry. "Magtiwala ka lang, Usec! Ililigtas ko kayo kahit may sakit ako," Dr. Diego said.

The team from BDJ Homecare Services went to Antiporda's house and gave him the antiviral medication Remdesivir, the antibiotic Piptaz, the corticosteroid dexamethasone, blood thinner, and the acid reflux reliever omeprazole, among others. However, although he had a team helping him to feel better, his health continued to spiral downward.

"Ang hirap palang huminga habang ang pakiramdam mo ay may dalawang adobe sa likod mo at meron ding hollow block naman sa dibdib mo," Antiporda said. His oxygen level dropped to as low as 88, and was hooked to a bilevel positive airway pressure or BiPAP machine.

Fifteen days in, he took an RT PCR test. The result, however, remains positive.

Hopeful amid the virus

On April 4, he had breathing and stomach discomfort, nose bleed, and loose bowel movement, some of the symptoms of Covid-19. Still, Antiporda remained hopeful and encouraged his family, friends and supporters to follow the minimum health safety requirements in a Facebook post.

"It's not the end of the world kapag nagka-Covid ka. Kapag may maramdamang symptoms, seek medical advice kaagad," he said, noting the need to practice social distancing and to wear face mask and face shield at all times, especially in public areas.

Antiporda also advised fellow Filipinos to inquire from their local government units regarding antigen test kits. He said that having his own probably saved his and his family's lives. If not for the tester, he and his wife would not have immediately known that they had Covid-19.

"The tester saved me and my family," he said. "Hindi po maaaring gawing secret ang sakit na ito. Huwag pong matakot na malaman ang tunay na resulta. The earlier malaman, the better. Hindi ka na makakahawa, maaagapan pa ang sakit mo."

LGUs have been authorized to utilize antibody test kits approved by the Food and Drug Administration since April 16, 2020. The test uses blood samples to measure a patient's antibodies, with the results known in around three hours.

Antiporda also recommended having a pulse oximeter handy. An oximeter is a device for measuring the oxygen concentration or saturation level in the blood. "I call it my life meter, because this is my doctor's monitoring gadget for what will be his next move in saving my life," he quipped.

By then, vaccination drives to fight Covid-19 had started in several cities, but many Filipinos feared that receiving a dose might worsen their health. To allay doubts, Antiporda stressed the need to listen to the experts. He pointed out that the World Health Organization has assured that approved vaccines are effective in fighting Covid-19.

"Hindi ka magiging Iron Man kapag nabakunahan ka na," said Antiporda. "Gaya nang sinasabi ng mga expert, ito raw ay makatutulong para [kung] tamaan man ng Covid-19 ay hindi raw ito magiging malala." He added that the public should still follow health protocols after vaccination.



How Usec. Benny Antiporda won his fight with Covid-19

Anxious in isolation

Antiporda had anxiety attacks since testing positive for the coronavirus. Quarantining alone, he was beset by information overload, panic and negative thoughts.

Anxiety also brought about paranoia. Antiporda admitted feeling paranoid over everything. Once, he felt a sudden pain in his chest and back, where the lung area is, and he felt sick again. "I feel like Covid will always come back to claim our lives," he said.

To manage Antiporda's anxiety, Dr. Del Rosario prescribed melatonin, which improved his sleep quality and eased negative feelings.

Antiporda also opened up about being prone to irritation, including the nagging of contact tracers from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). However, he urged the public, especially fellow Covid-19 positive patients, to entertain the calls of DILG contact tracers and cooperate with them.

"Sa halip na mabuwisit tayo sa mga tawag na nanggagaling sa DILG contact tracers, mas mabuti na isipin natin na mas marami pa silang maililigtas na buhay kapag nakipag-cooperate tayo," he said, adding that he gave contact tracers all the details they needed to find out whether he could have infected other people.

Contact tracing could break the chain of transmission, which means it could stop the spread of the disease to a larger number of people. Coordinating with contact tracers and giving them all the information they need will help contain the infectious disease.

Transcending the Covid-induced anxiety, Antiporda continues to be positive. "It is not the end of the world if you get infected with Covid-19. The secret is still the immune system of your body," he emphasized.

Positive outlook

After more than a month, Antiporda has officially been declared Covid-free on April 29.

"God is good!!! I am now officially declared Covid free," he announced on Facebook, and shared with his friends, families, and supporters.

He came back to work immediately, and his first order of business? Look after the elderly members of DENR.

Antiporda, who is also the Supervising Usec for DENR-Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS) spearheaded the webinar, "Arbor Day Thriving Gracefully," on April 30. He shared his Covid-19 ordeal with the DENR senior citizen employees, and talked about how they can prevent and mitigate in-house pollution so they could avoid contracting the virus.

He appealed to DENR's senior citizens to stay at home, since they are considered as the most vulnerable sector of the population. Antiporda advised them to spend their time planting ornamentals, vegetables, and other plant species that will help absorb air pollutants.



How Usec. Benny Antiporda won his fight with Covid-19

Antiporda also checked in with DENR employees who survived Covid-19 to offer them mental and emotional support. He knows it all too well that being in isolation can be overwhelming, and it can lead to anxiety, stress, and even depression. He believes that with his simple way of listening to them, it can alleviate any hardships they're experiencing.

He decided to share his personal experience against this virus because he believes that the information he shares can save lives. "Sa ganitong paraan, umaasa ako na makakapagligtas ako ng buhay," he concluded.

For now, Antiporda might not be back to his 100 percent, but he is doing what he can to continue his mission - prioritize the country's local government implementation and monitoring of their solid waste management plan, and educate Filipinos on their role to protect our one and only home.



MAHIGIT 1,000 DOKTOR PATAY SA INDIA SA COVID-19



May 24, 2021 @ 12:30 AM 5 hours ago

LABIS na nababahala ang mga doktor sa India sa pagkamatay na ng mahigit 1,000 sa kanilang hanay dahil sa coronavirus disease 2019 o COVID-19 sa buong panahon ng pandemya.

Iniulat ito ng India Today na kinumpirma naman nina Dr. Arvind Kumar at Dr. AJ Jayalal, pangulo ng India Medical Association (IMA).

Kung iisipin, mga Bro, nakapaninindig-balahibo ang ganitong mga tunay na pangyayari.

Isiping iba pa ang mga namatay na nars, paramedics at iba pang health workers.

ANG MGA ULAT

Setyembre 2020 pa lang, iniulat na ng IMA na meron nang patay na 382 doktor simula noong Enero 2020 na pinasok ng COVID-19 ang India.

Pagdating nitong Abril 16, 2021, umakyat na ang bilang sa 747, ayon naman kay Dr Jayesh Lele, secretary general of IMA.

At kamakalawa lamang, mahigit na ngang 1,000 umano ang patay.

Sa kabilang banda, sinabi naman ni Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Choubey na hanggang Pebrero 2021, nasa 174 doktor lang ang namatay habang 116 ang nars at 199 iba pang health worker.

Kung ano ang pagkakaiba sa datos ng IMA at pamahalaan mismo, hindi naman maliwanag.

Subalit kapansin-pansin ang sobrang kamatayan ng mga Indian sa second wave na sinasabing nagsimula sa mga huling araw ng Pebrero 2021 hanggang sa tinitipa natin ito.



MAHIGIT 1,000 DOKTOR PATAY SA INDIA SA COVID-19

Lumalabas na sumipa ang kamatayan ng mga doktor, nars at iba pang health worker sa nakaraang tatlong buwan na nagtala ng katamtamang 400,000 araw-araw na naiimpeksyon at nasa 4,000 namamatay araw-araw.

MGA PALIWANAG

Ayon kay Dr. Kumar, may ilang teorya kung bakit namamatay ang mga doktor sa pandemya.

Kabilang dito ang hindi pagkakaroon ng mga tao ng anti-bodies o panlaban sa sakit kahit nabakunahan na; mahina talaga ang anti-bodies ng mga ito; at hindi kaya talaga ng mga bakuna na labanan, lalo na ang mga variant.

Ayon naman kay Dr. Jayalal, kabilang sa mga ikinamamatay ng mga doktor ang sobrang pagod sa trabaho na nagpapahina sa kanilang katawan na naging madaling atakehin ng COVID-19.

Kitang-kita umano ito sa nagaganap na second wave na hindi magkandaugaga ang mga doktor at iba pang health worker sa daan-daang libo araw-araw na naoospital at libo-libong namamatay.

Nagkaroon din umano ng masamang epekto, kasama ang kamatayan, ang pagkamatay ng napakaraming doktor dahil nagdoble o nagtriple ang trabaho ng mga nabubuhay na doktor at dito nanggagaling ang panghihina ng kanilang mga katawan.

Naging sobra-sobra na rin umano ang virus na natatanggap ng mga katawan ng mga doktor sa rami ng kanilang inaasikaso araw-araw sa ospital, kasama na ang kani-kanilang mga pamilya.

Sinisi rin nito ang hindi malakas na kolektibong pagkilos ng mga mamamayan at pamahalaan laban sa pandemya na nang dumating ang second wave, damang-dama ito.

Matatandaang sinisisi mismo ang pamahalaang India sa hindi pagiging maagap sa posibilidad na pagdating na panibagong atake ng pandemya gaya ng hindi nito pagpupursige ng pagpapagawa ng bakuna sa mga kompanya ng gamot sa India na pinakamalaking vaccine maker sa buong mundo, gaya ng Serum Institute of India.

Nagkanya-kanya rin ang milyon-milyong tao sa mga religious gathering at milyon-milyong lumimot sa mga health protocol sa kalilipas lamang nilang halalan.

LEKSYON SA MGA PINOY

Sinusulat at iniuulat natin ang mga balitang ito mula sa India upang magsilbing leksyon sa ating mga Pinoy, mga Bro.

Mahalagang-mahalaga ang mga ipinahayag ng dalawang doktor makaraang mamatay maging ang mga haligi nilang doktor gaya ni Dr. KK Agarwal at mga batang doktor na nagkakaedad ng 30-40.



MAHIGIT 1,000 DOKTOR PATAY SA INDIA SA COVID-19

Sentro ng mga pahayag nina Dr. Karma at Dr. Jayalal ang mga dahilan ng kamatayan ng mga doktor.

Ukol sa bakuna na malinaw na tinalakay ni Dr. Karma, pinakamainam na magpabakuna tayong lahat na kwalipikado, lalo na sa harap ng variant na roon mahina ang mga bakuna, maging ang malakas na Pfizer na sinasabing may 95 porsyentong bisa ngunit 75% lang laban sa South African variant at nasa 88-90% lang laban sa UK variant na meron na sa Pinas.

Alalahaning nagsimula na ring dumating ang iba pang variant ng COVID-19 na galing India gaya ng double mutant, triple mutant at AP mutant na higit na mabagsik kaysa sa orig na virus, UK variant, African variant, Brazil variant at Pinoy variant kaya dapat ipursige natin ang pagpapabakuna bago tayo kapitan ng virus at mga variant nito.

Meron din tayong mga pagkakanya-kanya, religious gathering at pulitika na nagsimula nang uminit at umusok patungo halalang 2022 bilang dahilan ng kamatayan kaugnay ng COVID-19 na dapat bantayan at ingatan, ayon kay Dr. Jayalal.

At paano ang matitigas ang ulo, pilosopo at namemeke ng mga dokumento sa COVID testing at pagbabakuna na nagbabalewala sa pandemya at mga health protocol at pinagmumulan ng mga hawaan, gaya ng nagaganap sa mga turismo, swimming, pagbiyahe at iba pa?



3,083 new COVID-19 cases seen but low number due to system updates

(Philstar.com)

- May 23, 2021 - 4:01pm



This May 2021 photo shows patients at the entrance of the emergency room of Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center in Marikina while waiting for further medical attention.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Sunday said 3,083 more Filipinos contracted the COVID-19, but attributed the relatively low number due to updates in its system.

Authorities said some case data were not included in its COVIDKaya platform and in today's bulletin. They added that a team is now looking into it to address the issue. The country's overall count is now at 1,179,812.

The development saw active cases down by 3,691 from May 22's 54,326. DOH said too that three laboratories did not turn in screening results.

- Active cases: 50,635 or 4.3% of the total
 - Recoveries: 6,756, bringing the number to 1,109,226
 - Deaths: 38, or now 19,951 in total
- What's new today?
- The Philippines has administered over 4 million shots of COVID-19 vaccine, according to officials. Nearly 950,000 are now fully vaccinated, with 3.14 million with their first dose.



3,083 new COVID-19 cases seen but low number due to system updates

Cops were told to assist efforts in convincing more Filipinos to get vaccinated for COVID-19. The PNP said this can be done through their community awareness and information dissemination program "[Oplan Bandillo](#)."

Iloilo City was returned to modified enhanced community quarantine until [May 31](#). The same lockdown status was extended also until end-May in Apayao, Benguet, and Cagayan.

- Youth groups objected to a policy by the Commission on Higher Education that would make flexible learning as the "[new norm](#)" even after the COVID-19 pandemic.



WHO records drop in Covid-19 cases worldwide

May 23, 2021, 11:46 am



GENEVA – More than 607,000 new cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) have been confirmed globally in the past 24 hours, which is down by 13,000 cases in comparison with the previous day, bringing the total number of infections to 165.77 million, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in its daily bulletin on Saturday.

According to the WHO updates, the coronavirus-related deaths increased by over 12,400 to surpass 3.43 million.

As of 3:49 p.m. Moscow time on May 22, as many as 165,772,430 coronavirus cases and 3,437,545 coronavirus-related deaths were registered across the globe.

The number of confirmed cases grew by 607,681 in the past 24 hours and the number of fatalities increased by 12,457. A day before, 620,434 new single-day cases and 12,786 deaths had been recorded.

The WHO statistics are based on the officially confirmed data provided by countries.

South-East Asia region, where India is included by the WHO, accounts for more than 46 percent of new Covid-19 cases submitted to the WHO in the past 24 hours (281,388 cases).

South and North America (207,102) comes second, followed by Europe (61,960 cases).

Most Covid-19 cases are recorded in the United States (32,734,993), followed by India (26,289,290), Brazil (15,894,094), France (5,820,918), Turkey (5,169,951), Russia (4,992,554), the UK (4,457,927),



WHO records drop in Covid-19 cases worldwide

Italy (4,183,476), Germany (3,642,244), Spain (3,631,661), Argentina (3,447,044), and Colombia (3,177,212).

The United States is the country with the highest rate of Covid-19 deaths (582,953), followed by Brazil (444,094), India (295,525), Mexico (221,080), the UK (127,710), Italy (125,028), Russia (118,125), France (107,403), Germany (87,298), Colombia (83,233), Spain (79,601), and Iran (78,194). (TASS)



Over 4M Filipinos vaccinated vs. Covid-19 as of May 23

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor May 23, 2021, 2:02 pm



PNA photo by Avito Dalan

MANILA –The total number of Filipinos who have been vaccinated against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) has reached 4,097,425 on Sunday.

In its latest monitoring report, the National Vaccination Operations Center said 3,147,486 of the overall figure include those who have received the first dose, while 949,939 are done with their second dose.

The center also noted there was an increase of 379,117 vaccinees from Saturday's count.

Meanwhile, the seven-day doses administered reached 1,137,596 with a daily average of 162,513 jobs per day.

On Thursday, additional 500,000 doses of Sinovac arrived which brought the country's total supply of vaccine doses to 8,279,050.

National Task Force Against Covid-19 chief implementer Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said 2.2 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech and 300,000 doses of Sputnik V are expected to arrive by the end of the month and in June.



Over 4M Filipinos vaccinated vs. Covid-19 as of May 23

Galvez added Moderna will deliver the 200,000 doses procured by the government and 50,000 doses purchased by the private sector in June.

Meanwhile, AstraZeneca will deliver the initial supply of 1.3 million doses procured by the private sector also in June.

Sinovac is set to ship 4.5 million doses -- 500,000 doses of which were procured by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.

Moreover, 2 million doses of Sputnik V and another 2 million doses of AstraZeneca through the COVAX facility will also arrive in June. (PNA)

24 MAY 2021, Monday



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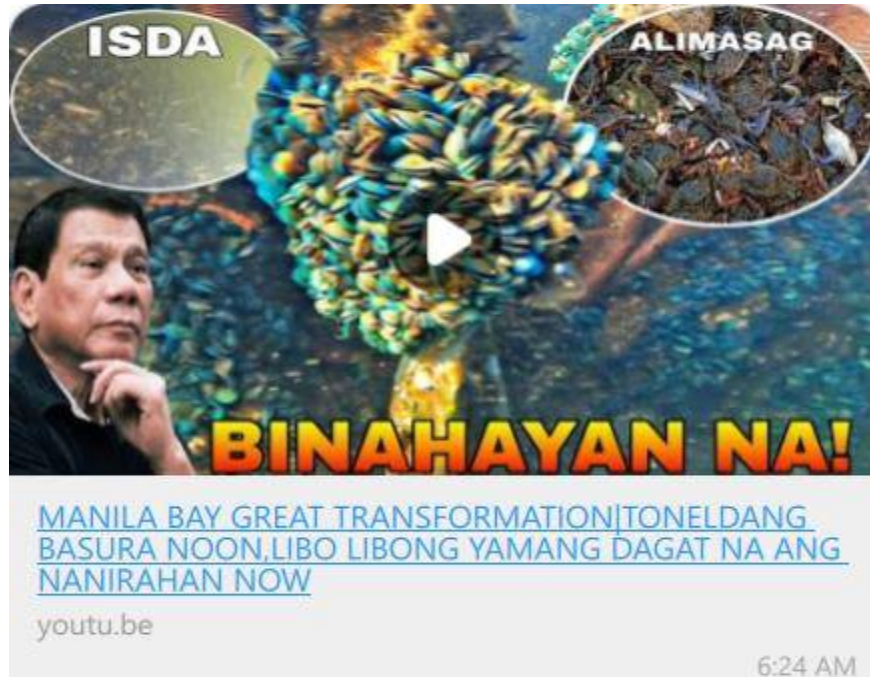
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