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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR chief Cimatú warns vs ‘illegal’ online selling, purchase of chainsaws

By: [Daniza Fernandez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:58 PM August 24, 2021



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MANILA, Philippines — Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatú on Tuesday warned against the online selling and buying of chainsaws, saying it is “deemed illegal and subject to confiscation even without a warrant.”

According to the environment agency chief, Republic Act (RA) 9175 or the Chainsaw Act of 2002 outlaws the selling and purchase of chainsaws through online platforms as it requires the registration of chainsaws with the DENR.

“The public is advised to buy chainsaws only from DENR-authorized dealers and have them registered with the nearest DENR office. Those purchased from unauthorized sources like online platforms are deemed illegal and subject to confiscation even without a warrant,” Cimatú said in a statement.

The DENR said it has consulted the Department of Trade and Industry over the matter. It also stressed that the Chainsaw Act of 2002 punishes violators with a jail term of up to six years or a fine of P30,000 per chainsaw.

Cimatú said that under Republic Act (RA) 9175 or the Chainsaw Act of 2002, buying and selling of chainsaws through online platforms are restricted, and registration of chainsaws is required.

Environment Assistant Secretary Marcial Amaro Jr. said the DENR-Forest Management Bureau is creating “workable options to prohibit online selling of chainsaws through a Joint Administrative Order in view of the requirements of RA 9175 and DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2003-24 on sale, ownership, and use of chainsaws.”

Under DAO 2003-24, which is the implementing rules and regulations of the Chainsaw Act, only chainsaws purchased from DENR-accredited distributors, importers, and sellers are permitted for registration. It also provides outright seizure – without a need for a warrant – of “illegitimate” chainsaws and unregistered sawmills.

The law further allows the DENR to “issue permits to possess and/or use a chainsaw for the felling and/or cutting of trees, timber, and other forest or agro-forest products to any applicant who has a subsisting timber license agreement, production sharing agreement, or similar agreements, or a private land timber permit; is an orchard and fruit tree farmer; is an industrial tree farmer; is a licensed wood processor and the chainsaw shall be used for the cutting of timber that has been legally sold to the said applicant; or shall use the chainsaw for a legal purpose.”



Cimatu called on the public “to report suspected illegal possession, use, or sale of unregistered chainsaws” the DENR.

As of last year, the DENR said it has seized 2,790 illegal chainsaws and other tools.



DENR mulls regulation of online chainsaw sale

Published August 24, 2021, 3:22 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is eyeing a regulation of the online sale of chainsaws amid concerns on illegal logging activities.

DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, who already consulted with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), on Tuesday, Aug. 24, said buying and selling of chainsaws online is prohibited by the agency under Republic Act No. 9175 or the Chainsaw Act of 2002.

He added that restrictions on the possession and use of chainsaws are similar to those imposed on the selling and ownership of guns. Violations of such laws are both punishable under the criminal law, Cimatu also said.

“The public is advised to buy chainsaws only from DENR-authorized dealers and have them registered with the nearest DENR office. Those purchased from unauthorized sources like online platforms are deemed illegal and subject to confiscation even without a warrant,” he said, noting the violation of the law carries a penalty of six years imprisonment or a P30,000 fine.

“Concerned citizens are urged to report suspected illegal possession, use or sale of unregistered chainsaws,” he added.

Currently, the agency is drafting “workable options to prohibit online selling of chainsaws through a Joint Administrative Order in view of the requirements of RA 9175 and DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2003-24 on sale, ownership, and use of chainsaws,” DENR Assistant Secretary and Forest Management Bureau (FMB) Acting Director Marcial Amaro Jr. bared. It contains the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Chainsaw Act, which prescribes who can sell, manufacture, and own chainsaws.

As of last year, DENR-FMB already confiscated 2,970 chainsaws and other implements, including 1,646 units of conveyances used to transport undocumented forest products. Meanwhile, in Metro Manila, the DENR regional office also confiscated 22 chainsaws.



DENR eyes tighter regulation of online chainsaw trading

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA AUGUST 25, 2021



File photo: This thickly forested portion of the Zambales Mountain Range in Mangatarem town in Pangasinan, is now named the Mangatarem Critical Habitat.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is eyeing to regulate online selling and buying of chainsaws, which has boomed in recent years on the back of the rising trend in online shopping.

In a news statement, the DENR said it recently held consultations with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to put in place regulatory measures for the tree-cutting power tool.

Aside from a chainsaw that runs on gasoline, there are now accessories that can convert a simple angle grinder into an electrical chainsaw, which even ordinary individuals can use to cut or trim tree branches in their backyards.

High-power chainsaws are used by illegal loggers in cutting down huge trees in forest lands, including those found within Protected Areas or areas set aside for conservation.

Secretary Roy A. Cimatu emphasized that buying and selling of chainsaws online is not permitted by the DENR under Republic Act (RA) 9175 or the Chainsaw Act of 2002.

“The public is advised to buy chainsaws only from DENR-authorized dealers and have them registered with the nearest DENR office. Those purchased from unauthorized sources like online platforms are deemed illegal and subject to confiscation even without a warrant,” Cimatu warned.

The restrictions enforced by the government on the possession and use of chainsaws are similar to those imposed on the selling and ownership of guns as possession of an unregistered chainsaw is a criminal offense and carries a penalty of imprisonment and fines, Cimatu explained.

The Chainsaw Act of 2002 requires the registration of chainsaws with the DENR, with a penalty of six years in prison or a fine of P30,000 for violators.

“Concerned citizens are urged to report suspected illegal possession, use or sale of unregistered chainsaws,” Cimatu said.

DENR Assistant Secretary and Forest Management Bureau (FMB) Acting Director Marcial Amaro Jr. said the DENR-FMB is crafting “workable options to prohibit online selling of chainsaws through a Joint administrative order in view of the requirements of RA 9175 and DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2003-24 on sale, ownership, and use of chainsaws.”

DAO 2003-24 stipulates the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Chainsaw Act, which prescribes who can sell, manufacture, and own chainsaws.



Under DAO 2003-24, only chainsaws bought from DENR-accredited distributors, importers, and sellers are allowed to be registered, and outright confiscation of illicit chainsaws and unregistered sawmills can be done “even without a warrant.”

The DENR can issue permits to possess and/or use a chainsaw for the felling and/or cutting of trees, timber, and other forest or agro-forest products to any applicant who has a subsisting timber license agreement, production sharing agreement, or similar agreements, or a private land timber permit; is an orchard and fruit tree farmer; is an industrial tree farmer; is a licensed wood processor and the chainsaw shall be used for the cutting of timber that has been legally sold to the said applicant; or shall use the chainsaw for a legal purpose.

The DAO also prescribes the measures chainsaw owners and sellers should observe when renewing their two-year registration, including their reselling and even leasing or lending of their equipment.

As of 2020, DENR-FMB has confiscated 2,970 chainsaws and other implements, including 1,646 units of conveyances used to transport undocumented forest products.

In Metro Manila, the DENR-National Capital Region has so far confiscated 22 chainsaws—12 in Quezon City; seven in Caloocan; two in Malabon, and one in Parañaque.

The BusinessMirror learned that under the law, any person who voluntarily gives information leading to the recovery or confiscation of an unregistered chain saw and the conviction of persons charged for the crime is entitled to a reward equivalent to 20 percent of the value of the units confiscated by the government.



DENR: Online selling ng chainsaw bawal!



August 24, 2021 @ 7:06 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang maprotektahan ang mga puno at kagubatan nagsagawa ng konsultasyon ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) para sa regulasyon ng pagbili at pagbebenta ng chainsaws sa pamamagitan ng online platforms.

Sa press release binigyang-diin ni Secretary Roy Cimatu na ang online na pagbili at pagbebenta ng chainsaws ay hindi pinapayagan ng DENR sa ilalim ng Republic Act (RA) 9175 o ang Chainsaw Act of 2002.

“The public is advised to buy chainsaws only from DENR-authorized dealers and have them registered with the nearest DENR office. Those purchased from unauthorized sources like online platforms are deemed illegal and subject to confiscation even without a warrant,” babala ni Cimatu.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang pagbabawal na ipinatutupad ng gobyerno sa pagmamay-ari at paggamit ng chainsaws ay katulad ng ipinatutupad na batas sa pagbebenta at pagmamay-ari ng baril dahil ang pagkakaroon ng unregistered chainsaws ay isang criminal offense na may parusang pagkakakulong at multa.

Sinabi pa ng secretary ng DENR base sa Chainsaw Act of 2002, kinakailangang rehistrado ang chainsaws sa DENR at ang sinumang lalabag dito ay maaaring makulong ng anim na taon at ipag-multa ng P30,000.

“Concerned citizens are urged to report suspected illegal possession, use or sale of unregistered chainsaws,” apela ni Cimatu.

Kaugnay nito ayon kay DENR Assistant Secretary at Forest Management Bureau (FMB) Acting Director Marcial Amaro, Jr., ang DENR-FMB ay gumagawa na ng “workable options to prohibit online selling of chainsaws through a Joint Administrative Order in view of the requirements of RA 9175 and DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2003-24 on sale, ownership, and use of chainsaws.”

Idinagdag pa ng DENR na nakapaloob sa DAO 2003-24 ang implementing rules and regulations (IRR) ng Chainsaw Act, at nakasaad dito kung sino lamang ang maaaring magbenta, gumawa at magmay-ari ng chainsaws.

Sa ilalim ng DAO 2003-24, tanging ang mga chainsaw na nabili sa DENR-accredited distributors, importers at sellers ang pinapayagang marehistro, at maaari ring kumpiskahin ang ipinagbabawal na chainsaw at unregistered sawmills kahit na walang warrant.



Hanggang nitong 2020, ang DENR-FMB ay nakakumpiska na ng 2,970 chainsaws at iba pang gamit kabilang na ang 1,646 units ng conveyances na ginagamit sa pagbiyahe ng undocumented forest products.

Sa Metro Manila, ang DENR-National Capital Region ay nakakumpiska na ng 22, chainsaws – 12 sa Quezon City; pito sa Caloocan; dalawa sa Malabon at isa sa Paranaque. **Santi Celario**



DENR implements health-care waste management

August 24, 2021



Covid-19 waste management. PHOTO BY SPREP

THE [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) will be implementing a health-care [waste management](#) project in light of the huge waste problem brought about by the [Covid-19](#) pandemic that can cause detrimental effects to human health.

It may not have been earlier predicted, but medical waste brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic is now estimated to be accumulating by 280 metric tons per day. This has prompted DENR to cooperate with international agencies, including governments from developing countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal.

The project, with an allocation of \$1.076 million for the [Philippines](#), will be financed by China's [South Cooperation Fund](#) said Floradema Eleazar, United Nations Development Program team leader, in a launch of the project on August 13. [China International Development Cooperation Agency](#) is co-funding the project, which totals to \$5 million for five countries.

Eleazar said two waste treatment facilities will be put up in the Philippines. One treatment facility will be put up in cooperation with the Pasig local government unit where several hospitals ([Pasig City General Hospital](#), [Rizal Medical Center](#)) are run by the government.

Pasig City Mayor [Vico Sotto](#) said during the project's launch that the waste management project will bring about expertise in medical waste management in Pasig.

"The problem has reached critical level. The city government does not have a capacity to deal with this infectious waste (that has been piling up) in the past few months. It is an urgent concern that seeks to be addressed," Sotto said.

[Samuel Sumilang](#), chief nurse of [Dr. Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital](#) and Sanitarium in Tala, Caloocan City, also expressed gratitude for having been chosen as pilot site for the project.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/24/public-square/denr-implements-health-care-waste-management/1812047?fbclid=IwAR2IfDD_Ci1mD2UVOzsKWhheH7Rz--ivmY04ve0tCYrZ8



DENR cleanup drive nets 23K tons of waste

By [Jerry Hernandez](#) August 25, 2021



Personnel of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority look at the tons of trash that washed up in Manila Bay during cleanup operations on Monday. PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

More than 23,000 tons of waste matter have been collected by the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) in its massive cleanup efforts at major river systems and tributaries of Manila Bay in Central Luzon since January.

This was disclosed by DENR [Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno](#).

Moreno said that figures have progressed since the "Battle for Manila Bay" campaign was launched in 2019.

In 2019, he said, the DENR collected more than 1,400 tons of trash.

"We have doubled our efforts through grubbing of rivers and creeks in [Bataan](#), Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Nueva Ecija. Grubbing is the mechanized removal of wastes already deposited at the bottom of rivers," he explained.

Moreno added there is a lot more to be done to totally clean the Manila Bay and the river system, but the progress has been enormous since the campaign started two years ago.

The DENR deployed 420 estero (foul ditch) rangers in different areas along the Manila Bay. The estero rangers, he said, have been tasked to conduct cleanup and monitoring of rivers, beaches, and other water bodies in the area.

A total of 125 trash traps were also installed in Bulacan, Bataan, and Pampanga to prevent solid wastes from reaching the coastlines of the bay.

Moreno, meanwhile, appealed to the public to properly manage their solid wastes, and support government efforts to save Manila Bay.

"We encourage everyone to religiously segregate their solid wastes at home and avoid using lots of single-used plastics because this will help in the reduction of our daily garbage generation," he said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/25/news/regions/denr-cleanup-drive-nets-23k-tons-of-waste/1812207>



Tons of waste collected in Central Luzon rivers

Moreno said that the progress in making Manila Bay clean has had great strides since starting two years ago, but said that there is a lot to be done.



TRASH TRAPS. / Photo courtesy of DENR-3

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA — A total of 23,000 tons of waste was collected by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) after conducting cleanups at major tributaries in Central Luzon that connects to the Manila Bay.

DENR Region 3 executive director Paquito Moreno revealed that the 23,000-ton waste was only collected since January of this year, citing the massive wastes being dumped to Manila Bay.

He added that the number of waste has increased after the Battle for Manila Bay was launched, noting that there were only 1,400 tons of mixed waste were collected in 2019.

“We have doubled our efforts to clean our rivers through grubbing of rivers and creeks in Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija. Grubbing is the mechanized removal of wastes already deposited at the bottom of rivers,” Moreno said.

The DENR regional official said that the progress in making Manila Bay clean has had great strides since starting two years ago, but said that there is a lot to be done.

At least 420 Estero rangers were deployed by the DENR in the region to monitor the rivers and tributaries while also conducting cleanups if necessary.

A total of 125 trash traps were also installed in Bulacan, Bataan and Pampanga to prevent solid wastes from reaching the coastlines of Manila Bay.

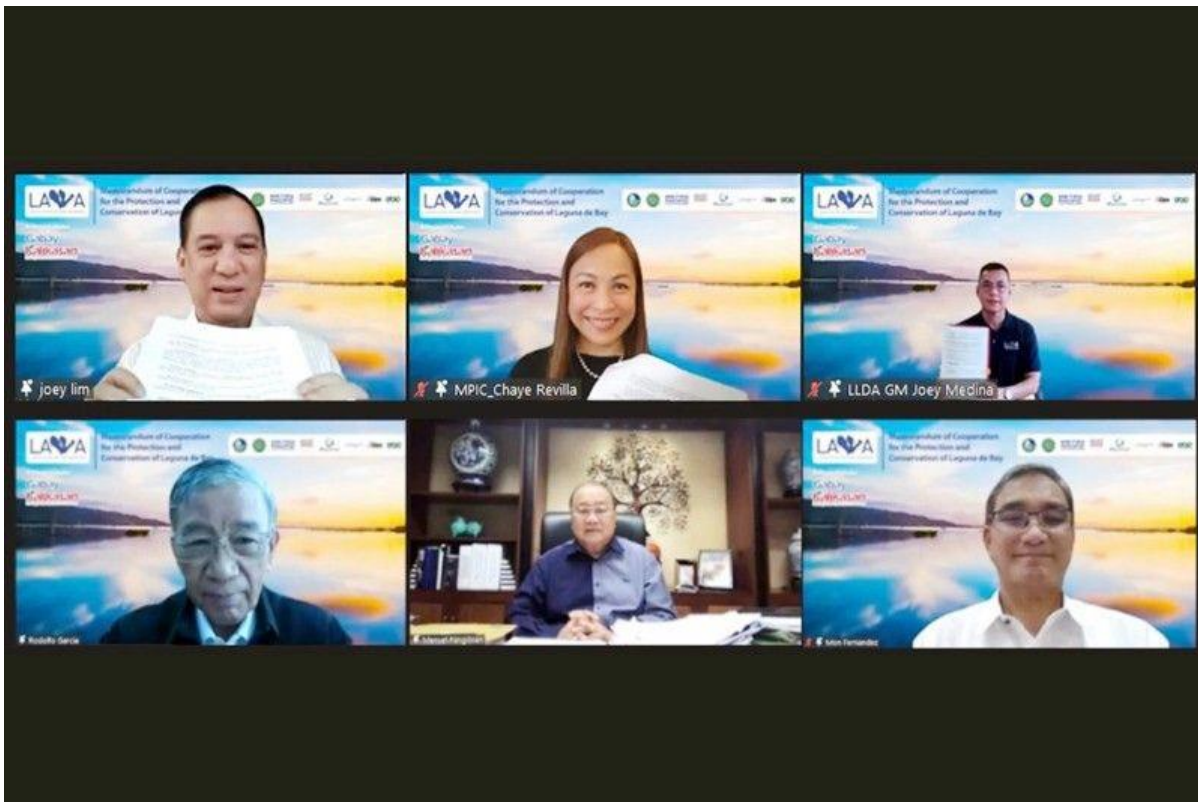
Moreno appealed to the public to properly manage their solid wastes and support government efforts to save Manila Bay.

“We encourage everyone to religiously segregate their solid wastes at home and avoid using lots of single-used plastics because this will help in the reduction of our daily garbage generation,” Moreno said.



MPIC, Maynilad partner with LLDA

The Philippine Star August 25, 2021 | 12:00am



The cooperation is solidified through the Laguna de Bay Welfare Awareness or LAWA program spearheaded by MPIC under its Gabay Kalikasan advocacy and stresses the critical role that the Laguna Lake plays with respect to the social and economic development of the region.

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and Maynilad Water Services, Inc., together with other companies in the MVP group, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Laguna Lake Development Authority to jointly protect the Laguna Lake and its surrounding provinces, cities, and towns.

The cooperation is solidified through the Laguna de Bay Welfare Awareness or LAWA program spearheaded by MPIC under its Gabay Kalikasan advocacy and stresses the critical role that the Laguna Lake plays with respect to the social and economic development of the region.

LAWA aims to consolidate the group's efforts in promoting awareness and establishing various programs in line with LLDA's mandate to "transform Laguna Lake into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of watershed destruction, land conversion and pollution."

Given the importance of the lake to Metro Manila's ecosystem, MPIC and LLDA both recognize the need for collaborative efforts and partnerships between the public and private sectors for the sustainable development of the Laguna Lake for the benefit of present and future generations.

To formalize the partnership, a virtual signing event was held on Aug. 23 and was attended by key representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, LLDA and the MVP Group.

MPIC and Maynilad, through LAWA will further align with LLDA to identify key areas of collaboration. Initial priority areas include the promotion of waste water management systems to help address the lake's algal bloom problem, organization of clean-up drives for the tributaries, and the establishment of programs to hamper the proliferation of water hyacinths, the most damaging aquatic plant worldwide, currently covering approximately 20 percent of Laguna de Bay.



Other MPIC Group Companies supporting this initiative include MetroPac Water Investments Corporation, Meralco Powergen Corporation and Global Business Power Corporation.

The commitment to protect and rehabilitate Laguna de Bay through its LAWA initiative is aligned with MPIC's efforts to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, 13 Climate Action, 14 Life Below Water, and 15 Life on Land. It is also in support of the United Nations' Decade of Ecosystem Restoration which aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean.



DENR-9 rescues Phl Purple Swamphen

Published 5 hours ago on August 25, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Nonoy Lacson](#)



Photo : DENR Zamboanga Peninsula (Facebook)

ZAMBOANGA CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Zamboanga peninsula (DENR-9) rescued and released a Philippine Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio pulverulentus*) in the wetland area of Barangay Sinaman in Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte.

DENR-9 Executive Director Crisanta Marlene P. Rodriguez said that the water bird was turned over by a concerned citizen after it was seen roaming alone near the Dipolog Public Cemetery at Barangay Estaka.

She added that the citizen caught the bird and turned it over to Zamboanga del Norte- Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (ZdN-PENRO) for proper care.

Rodriguez said an assessment made by ZdN-PENRO personnel showed that the Philippine Purple Swamphen was in good condition and suitable for immediate release into its natural habitat.

The DENR-9 executive director also cautioned the public not to touch stranded or sick migratory wetland birds with their bare hands as this wildlife might be carriers of contagious diseases such as bird flu.

A Philippine Purple Swamphen inhabits marshy, vegetated freshwater bodies such as swamps, rivers, and lakes and commonly roams in pairs or small groups.



DENR releases rescued Purple Swamphen bird



RETURN TO NATURAL HABITAT. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), releases last week a Philippine Purple Swamphen in the wetland area of Sinaman village, Dipolog City, the province's capital. A photo handout shows the Purple Swamphen placed in a cage before its release back to its natural habitat. (SunStar Zamboanga)

August 23, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), has released last week a Philippine Purple Swamphen in the wetland area of Sinaman village, Dipolog City, the province's capital.

The waterbird was sighted walking alone in the front yard of Victor Laput near the Dipolog Public Cemetery in Estaka village.

Laput thought it was one of his neighbors' chickens as they often visit his yard early in the morning.

However, as he looked closely, he saw that its features are uncommon to domesticated poultries.

He then decided to turn it over to Penro personnel for proper care.

Renerio Acama, Penro Monitoring and Enforcement Section chief, said the Purple Swamphen was in good condition and suitable for immediate release back into its natural habitat after he and Nesse Cyringe Pagaran of the Environment Management System conducted an assessment on the condition of the bird.

A Philippine Purple Swamphen inhabits marshy, vegetated freshwater bodies, such as swamps, rivers, and lakes and commonly walks in pairs or small groups.

It is listed by the International Union of Conservation of Nature as least of concern but should be fully protected and public awareness of the species and its status should be raised.

The DENR cautions the public not to handle or touch migratory wetland birds with their bare hands as the wildlife might be carriers of contagious diseases such as bird flu. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1905009/Zamboanga/Local-News/DENR-releases-rescued-Purple-Swamphen-bird>



Bird of color rescued in Zamboanga

Published 17 hours ago on August 24, 2021 01:02 PM

By [Nonoy Lacson](#)



ZAMBOANGA CITY–Department of Environment and Natural (DENR-9) rescued and released a Philippine Purple Swamphen in the wetlands of Barangay Sinaman in Dipolog City in Zamboanga del Norte.

DENR-9 Director Crisanta Marlene P. Rodriguez said yesterday the water bird was seen walking alone near the Dipolog Public Cemetery at Barangay Estaka by Victor J. Laput on Thursday.

Laput thought it was one of his neighbors' chickens, and soon realized it was not a regular bird.

He immediately caught the bird and turned it over to Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) for proper care.

An assessment made by a personnel showed that the Philippine Purple Swamphen was in good condition and suitable for immediate release back into its natural habitat.

The DENR-9 executive director cautioned the public not to touch stranded or sick migratory wetland birds with their bare hands, as this wildlife might be carriers of contagious diseases, such as bird flu.

A Philippine Purple Swamphen inhabits marshy, vegetated freshwater bodies, such as swamps, rivers and lakes and commonly walks in pairs or small groups.



Juvenile serpent eagle found injured in Vizcaya

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) August 24, 2021



A rescued juvenile serpent eagle in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya: An injured juvenile serpent eagle was turned over to the [Municipal Environment](#) and [Natural Resources Office](#) (Menro) here for proper care and protection, according to Mayor [Pepito Balgos](#).

According to [Charles Kim Jimenez](#), engineer and designated Menro head, the eagle was rescued in Barangay Barat in this town and was immediately brought to his office for immediate veterinary attention.

On August 19, Jimenez said children were playing on a farm in Barangay Barat when the eagle fell in their midst due to a foot injury.

One of the children who rescued the eagle decided to bring the injured bird to authorities to examine its condition.

"We already transferred the custody of the eagle to the community environment and natural resources office on Friday for proper care of the bird's injury," Jimenez said.

He said when the eagle recovers from its injury, it will be released at the bird's habitat in the [Salinas](#) Natural Monument in this town.

The Salinas Natural Monument is located in the southern part of [Cagayan Valley](#) in Northern [Luzon](#). It is one of four protected areas in the province, spanning an area of 6,675.56 hectares in the municipalities of Bambang, Kayapa and Aritao.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/24/news/regions/juvenile-serpent-eagle-found-injured-in-vizcaya/1812085>



'Overwhelming' number of birds spotted in Mount Apo during off-season

ABS-CBN News Posted at Aug 25 2021 02:57 AM

Forty-six avian species were spotted on Saturday along Mount Apo's Sibulan Trail in Davao del Sur during a 3-month off-season implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Protected Area Management Board (DENR-PAMB).

During the Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) activity, Santa Cruz municipal tourism officer Julius Paner captured some photos of different species of birds, 26 of which are endemic to the Philippines.

Four species, meanwhile, are on the list of near threatened species namely the Mindanao Lorikeet, the Mindanao Jungle Flycatcher, the Apo Sunbird and the Grey-hooded Sunbird.

What amazed Paner the most, he said, was the substantial quantity of birds per species, such as the Mindanao Lorikeet, which is almost half of the total number of birds spotted, a count he found overwhelming as it's unusually greater than he has previously witnessed.

He said that the imposition of Mount Apo's off-season, which prohibits trekking, helped flourish the number of animal species in the country's highest mountain.

Mount Apo's off-season for 2021 covers the months of July, August and September, while the off-season for 2022 and in the years to come will cover the months of June, July and August, according to the resolution by the PAMB.

Other important fauna recorded were the Philippine warty pig and the Philippine tree squirrel.





“These species’ decreasing population can be saved though, only if the conservation of their habitat will be intensified,” DENR Davao said in a statement. — **With a report from Hernel Tocmo**



Balanga tops green tilt

Published 22 hours ago on August 24, 2021 07:37 AM

By [Mar T. Supnad](#)



BALANGA CITY, BATAAN—This coastal but highly developed capital city of Bataan under the leadership of Mayor Francis Garcia bagged recently the prestigious ‘2020 National Manila BAYani Award’ for its efforts in massive cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Also included in the emoluments received by Balanga for being second place was P750,000 prize.

The criterion on the Manila BAYani Award is based on the Environmental Compliance Audit, a scheme created by the Dept. of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to evaluate the implementation and compliance of cities and barangays along the coastal area of Manila Bay in support to the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Biñan, Laguna, meanwhile, bagged the 1st place.

Since Garcia assumed office, the city has been a consistent regional awardee for five consecutive years, a record-breaker in terms of the bay’s restoration.

Garcia, however, also cited the role of ABKD Program (Ayusin, Buhayin, Kalingain... Daluyan ng Tubig Natin) and the active participation of the barangay officials and various groups in cleaning up the coastal areas of Balanga.

Pride of being a Balangeño, Gov. Abet Garcia congratulated the city for its environmental efforts.

In National awards, Balanga bagged the 2018 National BAYani award; in 2019, 3rd place; 2020, 2nd place for regional award.

The prestigious awards were given by the DILG.

Balanga City is strategically located along the Western portion of Manila Bay.



Villar set out a mission to save planet Earth; pushes for more protected areas under E-NIPAS

August 24, 2021 18 min read

By Ernie Reyes

MANILA – Senator Cynthia Villar has embarked on legislation to protect and conserve biodiversity and the environment to hold climate change at bay that could endanger all forms of life on earth.

“We are very happy to come up with this legislation ensuring protection for more areas in our megadiverse country. We have to take action about its protection because any damage or loss will cost too much for a country such as ours,” Villar said in a statement.

A staunch environmentalist, Villar has been leading the campaign in the conservation of our environment to even hold at bay climate change that could endanger all forms of life on earth.

Villar, Chairperson of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, noted that under the 1987 Philippine Constitution, it is a declared state policy that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature, in line with safeguarding a healthful ecology.

She said the Constitution likewise mandates that Congress shall determine the national parks, which shall be conserved and may not be increased nor diminished except by law.

NIPAS Act builds a system of Protected Areas

Villar explained that the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) was established by virtue of RA No. 7586 on June 1, 1992, as amended by RA No. 11038, known as the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018.

She added that the NIPAS Act of 2018 provides the state policy “to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated Protected Areas (PAs).”

Under Sec.3 of the NIPAS Act, there are at least seven categories of PAs.: they are the Strict Nature Reserve, Natural Park, Natural Monument, Wildlife Sanctuary, Protected Landscapes, and Seascapes, Resource Reserve and Natural Biotic Areas. Other categories established by law, conventions, or international agreements which the Philippine government is a signatory.



Because of this, Villar cited the need for stricter implementation of environmental laws especially in protected areas that serve as natural habitats for wildlife, including endangered animals that contribute significantly to biodiversity.

Villar asserted they should not be damaged or destroyed, but protected instead, not only for the animals' sake but for our sake as well.

13 Protected Areas under Original NIPAS Act

Region Protected Areas Province

2 1. Bangan Hill National Park N.Vizcaya

Batanes Landscape and Seascape Batanes

Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Isabela

4A 4. Mt. Banahaw – San Cristobal Protected Landscape Laguna & Quezon

4B 5. Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park Palawan

6 6. Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park Negros Occidental

Sagay Marine Reserve Negros Occidenta & Oriental

7 8. Central Cebu Protected Landscape Cebu City

10 9. Mt. Malindang Natural Park Misamis Occidental

Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park Bukidnon

Mimbilisan Protected Landscape (protected landscape), Misamis

Oriental Misamis Oriental

11 12. Mt. Apo Natural Park Davao del sur

Mt. Hamimguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary Davao Oriental

Warnings vs. environmental destruction

Despite the Philippines being biodiversity-rich, the country is also among the world's biodiversity hotspots or those areas experiencing high rates of habitat loss.

Due to this, Villar led legislative efforts to amend Republic Act 7586 or the National NIPAS) Act of 1992. She was a principal sponsor of Republic Act 11038 or the law expanding the National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) that President Duterte signed into law last June 22, 2018. Republic Act 11038

The law provides the legal framework for the establishment and management of protected areas in the country. NIPAS refers to the classification and administration of all designated protected areas to preserve genetic diversity and to maintain their natural conditions to the greatest extent possible. The Expanded NIPAS Act was passed in 2017 to include more areas.

The Expanded NIPAS Law facilitated the legislation of 94 more protected areas through the effort of Senator Villar:

To date, Villar said there are 107 protected areas in the country that have been so declared through legislation.

Vilar said at least six of these are internationally recognized: RAMSAR Sites: Las Piñas Parañaque Wetland Park, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary and Tubbataha Reefs. Heritage Sites: Mount Timpoong-Hibok-Hibok and Mount Iglit-Baco. Malaysia-Philippines Heritage Parks: Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area



However, based on the records and suitability, assessments by the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR, she emphasized there are still numerous sites in the country that have to be given 'protected area' status.

94 Protected Areas under Republic Act 11038 or E-NIPAS

Region	Name	of	Protected	Area	Province
NCR 1	Las Piñas-Parañaque	Critical Habitat	and Ecotourism	Area	Las Piñas
	(LPPCHEA), also known as Las Piñas-Parañaque City and Parañaque City		Wetland Park		

Quezon City

- 2 Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center
- 1 3 Kalbario-Patapat Natural Park Ilocos Norte
- 4 Libunao Protected Landscape Ilocos Norte
- 5 Bessang Pass Natural Monument/Landmark Ilocos Sur
- 6 Bigbiga Protected Landscape Ilocos Sur
- 7 Lidlidda Banayoyo Protected Landscape Ilocos Sur
- 8 Salcedo Protected Landscape (formerly Sta. Lucia Protected Landscape) Ilocos Sur
- 9 Agoog Damortis Protected Landscape and Seascape La Union
- 10 Manleluag Spring Protected Landscape Pangasinan
- 2 11 Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape Cagayan
- 12 Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape Cagayan
- 13 Tumauni Watershed Natural Park Isabela
- 14 Salinas Natural Monument Nueva Vizcaya
- 15 Casecnan Protected Landscape Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, and Aurora
- 3 16 Amro River Protected Landscape Aurora
- 17 Dinadiawan River Protected Landscape Aurora
- 18 Simbahan Talagas Protected Landscape Aurora
- 19 Talaytay Protected Landscape Aurora
- 20 Bataan Natural Park Bataan
- 21 Roosevelt Protected Landscape Bataan
- 22 Masinloc and Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape Zambales
- 4A 23 Mts. Palay-Palay-Mataas-na-Gulod Protected Landscape Batangas and Cavite
- 24 Taal Volcano Protected Landscape Batangas and Cavite
- 25 Buenavista Protected Landscape Quezon
- 26 Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape Quezon
- 27 Quezon Protected Landscape Quezon
- 28 Hinulugang Taktak Protected Landscape Rizal
- 29 Pamitinan Protected Landscape Rizal
- 30 Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape Rizal
- 4B 31 Marinduque Wildlife Sanctuary Marinduque
- 32 Apo Reef Natural Park Occidental Mindoro
- 33 Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary Occidental Mindoro
- 34 Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park Occidental and Oriental Mindoro
- 35 Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park Romblon
- 5 36 Mt. Mayon National Park Albay
- 37 Ticao Burias Pass Protected Seascape Albay, Masbate and Sorsogon
- 38 Abasig-Matogdon-Mananap Natural Biotic Area Camarines Norte
- 39 Bicol Natural Park Camarines Sur
- 40 Buhi Wildlife Sanctuary Camarines Sur
- 41 Lagonoy Natural Biotic Area Camarines Sur
- 42 Malabungot Protected Landscape Camarines Sur



- 43 Mt. Isarog Natural Park Camarines Sur
- 44 Catanduanes Natural Park Catanduanes
- 45 Bongsanglay Natural Park Masbate
- 46 Bulusan Volcano Natural Park Sorsogon
- 47 Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park Aklan and Antique
- 48 Sibalom Natural Park Antique
- 49 Northern Negros Natural Park Negros Occidental
- 7 50 Albuquerque-Loay-Loboc Protected Landscape and Seascape Bohol
- 51 Chocolate Hills Natural Monument Bohol
- 52 Panglao Island Protected Seascape Bohol
- 53 Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape Bohol
- 54 Talibon Group of Island Protected Landscape and Seascape Bohol
- 55 Camotes Island Protected Landscape and Seascape Cebu
- 56 Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary Cebu
- 57 Tañon Strait Protected Seascape Cebu, Negros Occidental and Oriental
- 58 Apo Island Protected Landscape and Seascape Negros Oriental
- 59 Balisayao Twin Lakes Natural Park Negros Oriental
- 8 60 Cuatro Islas Protected Landscape and Seascape Leyte
- 61 Lake Danao Natural Park Leyte
- 62 Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park Leyte
- 63 Guiuan Marine Resource Protected Landscape and Seascape Eastern Samar
- 64 Biri Larosa Protected Landscape and Seascape Northern Samar
- 65 Calbayog Pan-as Hayiban Protected Landscape Samar
- 66 Samar Island Natural Park Samar, Eastern Samar, and Northern Samar
- 9 67 Basilan Natural Biotic Area Basilan
- 68 Aliguay Island Protected Landscape and Seascape Iloilo City
- 69 Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary Tawi-Tawi
- 70 Great and Little Sta. Cruz Island Protected Landscape and Seascape Zamboanga City
- 71 Pasonanca Natural Park Zamboanga City
- 72 Jose Rizal Memorial Protected Landscape Zamboanga del Norte
- 73 Murcielagos Protected Landscape and Seascape Zamboanga del Norte
- 74 Selinog Island Protected Landscape and Seascape Zamboanga del Norte
- 75 Siocon Resource Reserve Zamboanga del Norte
- 76 Dumanquillas Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape Zamboanga del Sur
- 77 Mt. Timolan Protected Landscape Zamboanga del Sur
- 78 Buug Natural Biotic Area Zamboanga Sibugay
- 10 79 Mt. Kalatungan Range Natural Park Bukidnon
- 80 Mt. Timpoong Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument Camiguin
- 81 Mt. Inayawan Range Natural Park Lanao del Norte
- 82 Baliangao Protected Landscape and Seascape Misamis Occidental
- 83 Initao-Libertad Protected Landscape and Seascape Misamis Oriental
- 84 Mt. Balatukan Range Natural Park Misamis Oriental
- 85 Mabini Protected Landscape and Seascape Compostela Valley
- 86 Mainit Hot Spring Protected Landscape Compostela Valley
- 87 Aliwagwag Protected Landscape Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley
- 88 Mati Protected Landscape Davao Oriental
- 89 Pujada Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape Davao Oriental
- 90 Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape General Santos City and Sarangani
- 91 Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape South Cotabato and Sarangani
- 92 Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary Agusan del Sur
- 93 Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape Surigao del Norte
- 94 Tinuy-An Falls Protected Landscape Surigao del Sur



Villar said additional six protected areas are to be legislated by the Senate Committee on Environment which she chaired during the 18th Congress.

These are :

Region Protected Areas Province
CAR/R2 1. Mount Pulag Benguet, Ifugao and N. Vizcaya

Banao Protected Landscape Kalinga
1 3. Tirad Pass Protected Landscape Ilocos Sur
3 4. Mount Arayat Protected Landscape Pampanga
6 5. Sicogon Island Wildlife Sanctuary Iloilo
9 6. Naga-Kabansalan Protected Landscape Zamboanga Sibugay

Mount Pulag, Banao, Tirad Pass, Mount Arayat, and Naga-Kabansalan are all protected landscapes while Sicogon is a wildlife sanctuary. (ai/mtvn)



Indigenous ancestral lands protection seen

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples has urged local governments to have an ordinance that would also protect ancestral domains in their localities.

Published 5 hours ago on August 25, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Jonas Reyes](#)



Photo : National Commission on Indigenous Peoples Region 3 (Facebook)

CABANATUAN CITY — In line with the advocacy to protect all ancestral lands of the indigenous people in Nueva Ecija, an ordinance was issued by the Provincial Board ordering the protection of the ancestral lands to be implemented in the whole province.

Provincial Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative Board Member Emmanuel Domingo said that the Provincial Board issued Executive Order (EO) 24 series of 2021 or “The Protection of Ancestral Domains in the Province of Nueva Ecija.”

The EO prohibits the selling or transfer of ancestral lands, or any actions that would violate the rights of the indigenous people from their ancestral domain.

Domingo said that the Provincial Board made sure that the executive order was thoroughly researched to ensure that the protection of these ancestral domains will be incontestable, adding that Nueva Ecija is the first province to have such an ordinance that is aimed at protecting the ancestral domains of the indigenous people.

This comes even as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples has urged local governments to have an ordinance that would also protect ancestral domains in their localities.

Domingo added that indigenous people usually fall victim to unscrupulous land ownership issues due to the lack of knowledge regarding the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act and their rights.

He stressed that ordinances like EO 24 would help provide information to indigenous people of their rights.

The EO has also included fines and penalties to whoever violates it, including imprisonment.

Domingo cited that the Domaget tribe has the biggest ancestral domain in Nueva Ecija, spanning the towns of Gabaldon, General Tinio, and Palayan City. Second is the Kalanguya tribe that resides in the town of Carranglan.

He said that as a representative of the indigenous people in the province, he wished to be the mediator between the indigenous people and the provincial government, becoming a bridge that would relay the needs of the indigenous people.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/08/25/indigenous-ancestral-lands-protection-seen/>



Practical solution to unclog waterways

BY DR. JESUS LIM ARRANZA AUGUST 24, 2021



Part two

IN my August 18, 2021 Make Sense column, “Practical solution to unclog waterways,” I discussed our proposed solution to clean the rivers, creeks and other water tributaries in the metropolis of all types of waste, in light of Congress’ approval of House Bill (HB) 9147, or the Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act, which is premised on the fact that clogged waterways are major causes of the country’s perennial floods.

I explained how enacting a local ordinance and getting people involved in a community-based solid waste disposal program can be a win-win solution that can help all affected sectors to stop indiscriminate disposal of solid waste on water tributaries. This would practically do away with the need to legislate a law to regulate the use of single-use plastic. After all, it’s not only plastic waste that clog our waterways—we also see used tires and old refrigerators, among other wastes clogging our rivers and creeks.

A practical solution to the problem, where anybody who can provide a photo of a person throwing, in flagrante, solid waste into rivers, creeks and other water tributaries will be rewarded, and the person in the photo will be cited and fined for the misdeed. The fear instilled in the public mind of being cited and fined, if somebody takes a photo of people throwing garbage into rivers and creeks, will be a good deterrent to violations against the environment. We saw how the CCTV cameras strategically installed along main streets instilled fear among the drivers that they significantly helped reduce the number of reported traffic violations. Moreover, the reward for the person who took the photo, which would come from the fine paid by the transgressor and equally shared by the photo shooter and the local government, will be a source of alternative income for those involved in the program.

As promised in my earlier column, let me explain how our proposal can really be a win-win solution for consumers, the environment and the industry sector, even without the proposed Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act. The ultimate goal of the Act is to shift from single-use plastic to biodegradables.

However, this would significantly increase the cost of goods, since biodegradable materials cost more to produce and requires more time to develop than plastic. With a price-driven Philippine consumer market, the shift would affect poor consumers the most, particularly the “tingi” market, or consumers who can only afford to buy sachet-packed products.

This is the reason why a wide array of products are already available in sachets. From cooking ingredients, to coffee and sugar, to health-care products, among others. This allows poor consumers to buy these products based on their limited budget.

Plastic has also become the most convenient and cheapest packaging material ever discovered; the reason why some, if not many, advanced nations still allow the use of plastic today. And with the demand for online delivery on the upswing because of the pandemic, imagine how foods ordered online would be packed and delivered by riders to consumers still hot or cold without plastic.



And how would vendors at wet markets pack fish or meat products without plastic? Life without plastic is difficult in a third world country like ours.

The shift from single-use plastic to biodegradable from the manufacturers' viewpoint would be costly and time consuming. With the industry sector still struggling to survive amid the pandemic-triggered recession, factories that have no available resources to retool might have to fold up. Moreover, factories that use plastics for product packaging would also be adversely affected by the shift to biodegradables. Thus, the impact of the Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act to industry, labor, economy and poor consumers would be ultimately damaging. This would only make life harder for all affected sectors of society.

It is in this context that all sectors must try to help find solutions to the clogging problem of rivers, creeks and other waterways in the metropolis. Concerned government officials must likewise weigh all the factors causing the problem, instead of just using their mandated authority to choose the easiest and fastest solution by just legislating the Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act. They should try to explore other solutions in consideration of the adversely affected sectors.

Most importantly, it's not plastic's fault that rivers and creeks are clogged. The blame lies in all irresponsible and insensitive people who indiscriminately throw their waste into rivers and creeks. These people may not know it, but they are the ones causing the floods. These people should be fined because the government is spending billions of pesos every year to unclog the waterways.

As Chairman of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), our group would like to appeal to President Duterte and the gentlemen and ladies of both Houses of Congress, to at least try our proposed solution to save our waterways, before legislating a law to regulate single-use plastic. With the government's favorable consideration to our proposal, the Federation assures its full support and participation in this endeavor, even as we seek government help to enact a common ordinance for all LGUs to facilitate the execution of our proposed reward-driven solution to unclog our rivers, creeks and other waterways.

After giving our best to the program and we find our proposed measures not enough to address the problem, the Federation will not oppose, but will instead actively support all government programs to address our problem of clogged waterways.

Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza is the chairman of the Federation of Philippine Industries and Fight Illicit Trade; a broad-based, multisectoral movement intended to protect consumers, safeguard government revenues and shield legitimate industries from the ill effects of smuggling.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANALY LABOR FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephl_ana

Measure twice... But these are not carpenters out to cut wood, but rather environmental personnel checking the depth of the Marikina River following a rainy Monday. They can measure as many times as needed.



#FrontlineSaUmaga

Pangongolekta ng medical waste sa Pilipinas, pahirapan

319 views • Aug 24, 2021

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Matinik na starfish, nagdudulot ng pinsala sa karagatan sa Camarines Norte

Agosto 24, 2021 7:11pm GMT+08:00 SINULAT NI: JAMIL SANTOS

Ikinabahala ng mga residente ng isang bayan sa Camarines Norte ang biglang pagdami ng literal na matinik na starfish, na kung tawagin ay "Crown of Thorns" o Dap-ag. Kinakain kasi nito ang mga bahura o coral reefs na pinapangitlugan ng mga isda. Pero bakit nga ba mabilis ang kanilang pagdami?

Sa dokumentaryo ni Atom Araullo na "Koronang Tinik" sa I-Witness, sinabing nagkaroon kamakailan ng outbreak ng Crown of Thorns sa bayan ng Jose Panganiban.

Ayon kay Artemio Andaya Jr., community volunteer na sumusugpo sa Crown of Thorns, may namataang mataas na pagkumpol-kulpol ng mga ito sa Tabusao Island.

Para maalis ang Crown of Thorns sa mga bahura, ginagamitan sila ng "tongs" at dapat malayo ang kamay ng maninisid dahil hindi biro kapag nagkasugat mula sa mga starfish.

Gayunman, hindi alam ng mga mangingisda sa Camarines Norte kung ano nga ba ang Crown of Thorns at ano ang epekto nito sa karagatan.

"Ang sinasabi rito ng Bureau of Fisheries, sa bawat ektarya ng bahura na makakuha ka ng 30 crown of thorns. Mayroon nang active outbreak. Ibig sabihin sobra-sobra na ito sa dapat na bilang ng crown of thorns sa lugar na 'yon," sabi ni Andaya.

Ayon pa kay Andaya, nakakakuha sila ng lagpas pa sa 300 hanggang 500 at umabot pa sa 900 na Crown of Thorns sa isang lugar lamang.

"Yung nakuha namin sa loob ng isang buwan, in 21 days to be exact, 8,489. Ang matured crown of thorn kumain ng one square foot per day. Just imagine 'yung 8,489 square feet kung hindi natin nakuha 'yung Crown of Thorns na 'yun sa dagat natin," paliwanag niya.

At kapag stressed ang starfish, nakapaglalabas ng milyon-milyong itlog ang Crown of Thorns mula sa karagatan na dahilan ng lalo nitong pagdami.

Isa pang solusyon sa pagpuksa sa Crown of Thorns ang pag-inject ng vinegar solution na may 30% suka at 70% freshwater.

"Malaki ang impact ng population ng crown of thorns sa ecosystem natin and sa fisheries itself. Ang pagdami ng Crown of Thorns would also cause decline ng fish productivity kasi marami sa mga isda natin ang nagre-rely para dumami 'yung population sa reef areas natin," sabi ni Nonie Enolva, Division Chief ng Fisheries Resource Management ng BFAR 5.

Bukod dito, sinasabing dulot din ng aktibidad ng tao ang pagdami ng crown of Thorns. Halos wala na raw kasing mga natural na kalaban ng mga nito sa karagatan tulad ng Emperor, Triggerfish at Puffer fish, at Trumpet Shell.

Dahil sa mga hakbang ng mga volunteer na paalalahanan ang mga residente tungkol sa Crown of Thorns, mas dumami pa ang mga tao na sumasama sa operasyon para kunin ang mga ito.

Tunghayan sa video ng I-Witness ang ginawang pagtulong ni Atom sa pangunguha ng Crown of Thorns na nakapipinsala sa mga bahura. --**FRJ, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/talakayan/800463/repleksiyon-dikanais-nais-ang-taong-plastik/story/?fbclid=IwAR2TOBvkbSi1jVUy-VEhTo2K05smuQbIkGpcPUjC6pJhy72El4zg07bqrXQ>

Climate science struggles with 'blind spots' in developing nations

Authors of the recent IPCC report have highlighted gaps in climate research on the Global South, with those countries still under-represented in international scientific efforts.



Khadar Sheikh Mohamed, director of the new national disaster early warning centre designed to help Somalia predict disasters, monitors the weather patterns in Wadajir district of Mogadishu, Somalia. Image: Reuters/ Feisal Omar

[Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) Aug. 24, 2021

This month's hard-hitting report from the UN climate science panel sounded the alarm on the surging impacts of global warming - but its authors and independent researchers said it did not provide enough insight on threats in poorer parts of the world.

Despite progress in recent years, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) still relies primarily on lead authors and research from Europe, North America and Oceania, making its findings less relevant to developing nations.

"It is by far the biggest and the best collaborative global scientific enterprise that mankind has done – but it still has certain blind spots," said Saleemul Huq, head of the Bangladesh-based International Centre for Climate Change and Development.

One of those blind spots is reflected in the composition of the [latest report's 234 authors](#), who come from 66 countries but are mostly based in rich nations including the United States, Britain, Germany and Australia.

[Only 35 per cent of the authors](#) working on the sixth assessment report - the current series that will culminate in a synthesis due to be finalised in September next year - hail from developing countries, according to a study published in the MDPI journal *Climate*, up from 31 per cent for the fifth assessment report.

Huq said that during his time working on the third and fourth IPCC assessment reports, published in 2001 and 2007, the number of scientists' nationalities increased – but countries in the Global South were represented by just one or two authors.

"We are neglected. We are the most vulnerable countries to climate change and we should be prioritised, which we aren't," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Research 'heavily skewed'

A second blind spot is in the research considered: the IPCC does not conduct its own studies, but assesses thousands of climate-related papers on which the IPCC authors base their findings, projections and conclusions.

The most recent report was a review of more than 14,000 research papers produced over the eight years since the last one in 2013 – but the authors themselves noted the data available to them “is unevenly distributed across the world”.

Studies from developing countries “are often not peer-reviewed, not available in English, and mainly limited to the country level, thus making it difficult to compare the details of the climate information across them”, the IPCC report said.

Research tends to focus on regions that “attract the attention of the Global North so that climate aspects relevant to other regions may not receive sufficient attention”, it added.

One key reason for this is funding, said Huq, with emerging economies allocating far less to climate science.

And even when wealthy governments do back studies in or about developing countries, the lead investigators are often from the Global North, he added.

“That is one of the failings of the scientific enterprise – it is based on research that is heavily skewed,” he said.

A study published in March in the journal *Conservation Letters* examined the backgrounds of the top-publishing authors in 13 leading ecology, evolution and conservation journals between 1945 and 2019.

It found that the United States, Britain, Australia, Germany and Canada made up more than 75 per cent of those authors, while Global South countries were [“strikingly under-represented”](#).

“This translates to international reports such as the IPCC,” said study co-author Bea Maas, a biologist at the University of Vienna. “With no relevant research, relevant recommendations are left out.”

Africa outreach

The IPCC has made some progress on shifting the status quo.

The panel used the award money from its 2007 Nobel Peace Prize to finance scholarships for doctoral students from developing countries to work on climate change, including opportunities to advance emissions reductions and adaptation.

For its most recent report, it began considering “grey literature” - work that has not been published in academic journals - in languages other than English.

The IPCC also developed an Africa-specific communications strategy for the first time - something it hopes to roll out for other regions in the future.

“This allowed us to speak to Africans about Africa, and we could clearly say this is what the global assessment says about the place you live,” said Debra Roberts, who co-chairs the IPCC working group on adaptation for the sixth assessment report.

Durban-based Roberts said the IPCC also offered diversity training to its authors this year and was mindful of the challenges of convening digitally for those in developing nations, such as patchy internet connections and language barriers.

In the future, she said it would be crucial to draw in more practitioners working on climate change in the Global South.



Maas recommended changes to how research is organised across the board.

“We can directly influence how we set up our teams, how we distribute opportunities, how much we urge politicians and decision-makers to increase their investments in climate change mitigation,” she said.

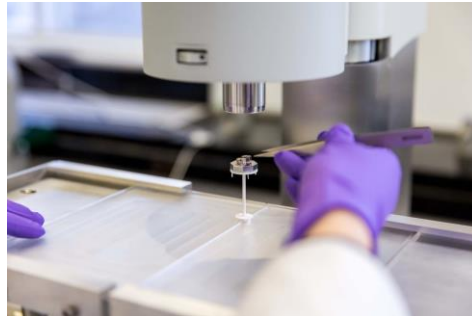
She urged efforts aimed at boosting research infrastructure and capacity to adopt a regional or global approach instead of focusing on individual countries.

“Climate is not stopping at any border,” she added.

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Can small modular reactors mitigate climate change?

While small modular reactors can replace fossil fuels, public confidence in nuclear power is low.



Research and development on small modular reactors and advanced reactors. Nuclear power is proposed as a greener alternative to fossil fuels. Image: [Canadian Nuclear Laboratories](#), [CC BY-NC-ND 3.0](#)

[SciDev Net](#) Aug. 24, 2021

As the world grapples with a climate emergency brought on by carbon emissions from the large-scale burning of fossil fuels, there is renewed interest in nuclear energy, specifically in the new generation of small modular reactors.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) forecast in its [Sixth Assessment Report](#), released 9 August, that global average air temperatures may rise by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels by 2040. The latest report brings new urgency to cut emissions drastically.

Under the [2015 Paris Agreement](#) all countries are required to set targets to help stay within the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit and work towards a carbon-neutral goal by finding alternatives to coal, oil, natural gas and other fossil fuels.

Of the many alternatives, small modular reactors – defined by the [International Atomic Energy Association](#) as nuclear reactors that are 300 megawatts or less in capacity (conventional reactors produce 1,000 megawatts or more) – win out for having minimal [environmental](#) footprint. They also take up far less space than conventional power plants or wind and solar farms that produce renewable [energy](#).

Nanda Kumar Janardhanan, who teaches energy studies at the [Jawaharlal Nehru University](#), New Delhi, and operations coordinator in South Asia for the [Institute for Global Environmental Strategies](#), Japan, says that “unlike conventional large nuclear power facilities, which can take a decade or more to build and become operational, small reactors can be ready in a fraction of that time” as they are small enough to be manufactured in a factory and transported to the operating site.

“Countries that need clean energy supply can possibly use small modular reactors as an alternative to depending on environmentally damaging thermal power. This is one of the direct benefits that it offers towards climate mitigation,” Janardhanan says. As the demand for hydrogen as a fuel for transportation and industry grows, small modular reactors could also provide the energy needed to generate hydrogen, he adds.

“Despite these advantages, the wider usage of small modular reactors will demand a transformative change in safety measures so as to build public confidence and gain acceptance,” says Janardhanan, referring to [disasters](#) like Chernobyl and Fukushima “which have led to anti-nuclear perceptions among certain societies or people”.

Nuclear industry role

Nuclear power offers an opportunity to advance towards the Paris Agreement goals, says the [World Nuclear Association \(WNA\)](#). A [white paper](#) released on 27 May by the WNA suggests that the fear of risks associated with nuclear power have led to acceptance of fossil fuels despite causing millions of premature deaths from air [pollution](#) and contributed to [climate change](#).

Reacting to the IPCC's sixth assessment report, WNA director-general [Sama Bilbao y León](#), reiterated demands in the white paper that [governments](#), regulators and industry work together to accelerate deployment of new nuclear projects, including small modular reactors, to help rapid decarbonisation.

[Karthik Ganesan](#), fellow and director of research at the [Council on Energy, Environment and Water](#) in New Delhi, says Asia is one region where nuclear power capacity is increasing. "Developing Asia (China, India) and developed Asia (Korea and Japan), which already manage large civilian nuclear programmes, must remain invested in small modular reactor technology," says Ganesan.

"But for the small modular reactors concept to succeed in Asia, it must satisfy the primary requirements of increased safety, simplicity in construction and operation and be comparable in economic terms with conventional nuclear power plants," says Ganesan.

"Humanity does not have the time to invest in small modular reactors — the climate problem is urgent," says M. V. Ramana, a physicist at the Nuclear Futures Laboratory, [Princeton University](#), who works on nuclear power in the context of climate change and nuclear disarmament.

"Entire supply chains would need to be established after the first small modular reactors have been built, tested, and proven," Ramana tells *SciDev.Net*. "There is no realistic prospect that it can make a significant dent in the need to transition rapidly to a carbon-free electricity system."

In a paper published in July in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Ramana argues that nuclear power reactors that generate enough electricity to contribute to climate mitigation will need complex technologies to control the reactions and deal with products of radioactive fission.

Proliferation risks

that since small and medium reactor projects typically involve clusters of several small reactor modules, there is a heightened risk of nuclear proliferation.

"Every reactor is a potential source of plutonium or enriched uranium or both — the more the number of nuclear reactors, the more the potential to make nuclear weapons. Anyone with access to these materials is that much closer to a nuclear weapon," he says.

Like their larger counterparts, small modular reactors will also produce radioactive nuclear waste, the safe disposal of which is yet to be resolved satisfactorily. Ramana's paper says that the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act in the US envisaged deep geological burial by 1998 but the US government continues to pay billions of dollars in fines for failing to take charge of spent fuel.

Such concerns have not stopped the development of small modular reactors. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), over 70 SMR designs are either [under construction or being developed](#) in 18 countries.



The world's first small modular reactor plant, located in Russia's remote Chukotka region, has been operational since 2019 December, while Argentina is developing a 25-megawatt plant, intended for small grids, according to IAEA. A small modular reactor plant in China's Shidao Bay is slated to begin operation in 2021.*

India, which has an advanced nuclear power programme with an installed capacity of 7,480 megawatts, has plans to develop small modular reactors partly based on its vast reserves of thorium, according to Sunil Ganju, a member of the nuclear controls and planning wing of India's [Department of Atomic Energy](#).

Speaking at a February webinar on small modular reactors, organised by the [India Energy Forum](#), Ganju said a 500-megawatt "prototype fast breeder reactor" being developed at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu state, could be classified as a small reactor.

According to Janardhanan, the advantage of nuclear power is that it is a mature technology with a proven history of investment of millions of research hours. "The fact that there is hardly any other mature [technology](#) available makes it important for clean energy supply."

This article was originally published on [SciDev.Net](#). Read the [original article](#).



Climate makes Europe flood-prone 9 times – study

By Associated Press and Agence France-Presse August 25, 2021



VILLAGE UNDER WATER A photo, taken with a drone, shows the devastation caused by the flooding of the Ahr River in the Eifel village of Schuld, western Germany on July 15, 2021. At least eight people have died and dozens of people are missing in Germany after heavy flooding turned streams and streets into raging torrents, sweeping away cars and causing some buildings to collapse. AP PHOTO

BERLIN: Scientists say that global warming makes the kind of extreme rainfall that caused deadly flash flooding in Western [Europe](#) last month more likely, though it remains unclear exactly how much.

The flooding can worsen up to nine times more likely, according to an international study published on Tuesday.

At least 220 people died in [Germany](#) and [Belgium](#) on July 14 to 15 when swollen streams turned into raging rivers, sweeping away houses, roads and bridges, and causing billions of euros (dollars) in damage.

A study released on Tuesday by the World Weather Attribution group used historical records and computer simulations to examine how temperatures affected rainfall from the late 19th century to the present.

While the study hasn't been assessed by independent scientists yet, its authors use widely accepted methods to conduct rapid assessments of specific weather events such as floods, droughts and heat waves.

It found that across a large strip of Western Europe - stretching from [the Netherlands](#) to Switzerland - the amount of rainfall in a single day increased by 3 percent to 19 percent over the period, during which global temperatures increased by 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit).

Experts say that for every 1 degree Celsius (1.8 F) the planet warms, the air can absorb 7-percent more water. When that water is released, it causes more extreme rainfall.

The study, conducted by almost 40 researchers from six European countries and the [United States](#), calculated that downpours of the kind that caused last month's floods are now 1.2 to 9 times more likely - and this will increase further if the planet continues to heat up.

[Frank Kreienkamp](#) of Germany's nation weather service DWD, who co-wrote the study, said the findings supported forecasts in a recent [UN](#) climate report. "Humans are clearly changing and warming up the Earth's climate," he said. "And with this warming we are also seeing a change in weather extremes."



The authors said the damage and loss of life seen in this disaster highlight how nations need to do more to curb greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for such disasters.

"These floods have shown us that even developed countries are not safe from severe impacts of extreme weather that we have seen," said [Friederike Otto](#), associate director of the [Environmental Change Institute](#) at [Oxford University](#). "This is an urgent global challenge and we need to step up to it. The science is clear and has been for years."



No doubt about it! Climate change caused Europe's more intense floods

AUG 24, 2021, 4:02 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

This is an urgent global challenge, and we need to step up to it. The science is clear and it has been for years.

CLIMATE change caused the deadly floods that devastated parts of Germany and Belgium last month up to nine times more likely, the Associated Press quoted an international study published Tuesday (August 24).

At least 190 people lost their lives in severe floods that pummeled western Germany in mid-July, and at least 38 people perished after extreme rainfall in Belgium's southern Wallonia region.

Using the growing specialty of attribution science, climate experts are increasingly able to link manmade climate change to specific extreme weather events.

To calculate the role of climate change on the rainfall that led to the floods, scientists analyzed weather records and computer simulations to compare the climate today -- which is around 1.2 degrees Celsius warmer due to manmade emissions -- with the climate of the past.

They focused on one- and two-day rainfall levels and found that two particularly hard-hit areas saw unprecedented precipitation last month.

In the Ahr and Erft regions of Germany, 93 millimeters (3.6 inches) of rain fell in a single day at the height of the crisis. The Belgium region of Meuse saw a record-breaking 106 mm of rain over a two-day period.

They calculated that the floods were between 1.2 and nine times more likely to happen in today's warmed climate, compared to a scenario where no heating had occurred since the pre-industrial era.

Such downpours over Germany and the Benelux region are now between 3-19 percent heavier because of human-induced warming, according to the study, organized by World Weather Attribution.

"Climate change increased the likelihood (of the floods), but climate change also increased the intensity," said Frank Kreienkamp, from the German weather service.

Friederike Otto, associate director of the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute, said that the floods showed that "even developed countries are not safe from severe impacts of extreme weather that we have seen and known to get worse with climate change."



"This is an urgent global challenge, and we need to step up to it. The science is clear and has been for years."

'Wake-up call'

By analyzing local rainfall patterns across Western Europe, the authors of Tuesday's study were able to estimate the likelihood of an event like last month's floods occurring again.

They found that similar events could be expected to hit any given area about once in 400 years at current warming levels.

This means several events on the scale of the German and Belgian floods are likely across Western Europe within that timeframe, they said.

"It was a very rare event," said Maarten van Aalst, director of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

"On the other hand, it has already become more likely than before and it will become more likely in the future."

The scientists said that they focused on rainfall in this study as river level data was missing after several measurement stations were washed away in the floods.

Van Aalst said the study should be a "wake-up call for people."

"The increase in risk that we found in this study is something we need to manage about flood risk management, about preparedness, about early warning systems," he told journalists.

"Sadly, people tend to be prepared for the last disaster."



Denying the climate change deniers

August 25, 2021

"CRIMINAL" is a word that is being used with increasing frequency to describe those who spread disinformation about vaccines and other rational health measures against the [coronavirus](#) because the activities of "anti-vaxxers" and "anti-maskers" directly contribute to other people falling ill and sometimes dying from Covid-19.

Perhaps "criminal" should be applied to those who, in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, continue to deny that human-caused climate change is real and that the terrible effects of it are already occurring. By sowing confusion and trying to stop communities and individuals from taking action to minimize harmful impact on the environment and adapt to a changing climate, the climate change deniers are already contributing to incalculable destruction of lives and property.

Of course, most "climate skeptics," as they prefer to call themselves, would be horrified and offended to hear themselves branded as criminals, as they likely do not intend to cause widespread death and destruction. Or so we assume anyway; in truth, their motives remain a mystery. So long as the "climate skeptics" are unwilling or unable to provide a rational explanation for their point of view in spite of decades of evidence to the contrary, they cannot be surprised if others regard them in uncomplimentary terms.

We understand climate change as the result of the steady warming of the atmosphere attributable to man-made emissions of "greenhouse gases" - carbon dioxide, methane and others - evident in the accelerating increase in average global temperatures since the start of the Industrial Age. Although specific predictions of climate change impacts might be debatable, we are satisfied that the general predictions of the impact of global warming are well-supported by scientific evidence.

These include sea level rise, changing seasonal patterns and more frequent weather events that diverge from familiar norms to a continually increasing extent. While there may be gaps in our ability to predict when, where and by how much a particular climate effect will occur, it is certain that virtually any climate effect will negatively impact human populations.

Some of those climate effects can be quite astonishing. We have already witnessed unprecedented heat waves, floods and wildfires in different parts of the world this summer, but another piece of news over the weekend was even more shocking: for the first time, rain fell at the summit of the [Greenland](#) ice sheet.

The highest point on the massive sheet of ice that covers Greenland is in the central part of the island and has an elevation above sea level of 10,551 feet or 3,216 meters. Lying well north of the [Arctic Circle](#), the average daily temperature at the station there ranges from -13 degrees Celsius (C) in summer to -43 C in winter; since being established in 1989, the station at the summit has only recorded temperatures above freezing (0 C) on four brief occasions. Evidence from ice cores drilled out of the ice sheet all the way to the bedrock thousands of meters below suggests that until last Saturday, this frozen location has perhaps not seen rain since the ice sheet first began to form tens of thousands of years ago. During the nine-hour period in which the rain fell, scientists reported, the amount of water that flowed into the ocean from Greenland (a combination of the rain and meltwater from the glaciers) was seven times greater than the average total for the entire month of August.



If there is one lesson to be learned by the climate-related events of this summer, it is that anyone, anywhere in the world, can be subjected to sudden, spectacular changes in the conditions to which they are accustomed. A particularly climate-vulnerable country such as the [Philippines](#) needs to be prepared with contingency plans for any eventuality, even those that are usually dismissed as unlikely.

Mitigating our impact on the climate, stopping and reversing the damage we are doing to the planet is critically important, but as this summer has shown, adapting to the effects of a rapidly changing climate is a more immediate need. We must not allow complacency, a vain hope that others will solve the problem for us, or denial of visible reality to be obstacles to that effort.



This picture taken on February 13, 2021 shows an aerial view of the Arher sand beach in the Yemeni Island of Socotra, a site of global importance for biodiversity conservation, located in the northwestern Indian Ocean some 200 kilometres south of the Yemeni mainland.

AFP

Delegates hash out UN biodiversity goals online

(Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism) - August 24, 2021 - 10:01am

PARIS, France — Country delegates met online on Monday to start tackling a draft agreement for the pandemic-delayed COP15 global summit on biodiversity, days after the new summit date of April 2022 was set.

The virtual discussions between delegations from 195 countries are the first to be held since the UN unveiled the text in July and are slated to run until September 3.

The fruit of months of online talks, the draft calls for the preservation of at least 30% of land and oceans, along with other biodiversity targets.

It maps out the route for humanity to be "living in harmony with nature" by 2050, outlining dozens of targets and milestones to be hit by 2030 to preserve biodiversity.

But environmental and conservation groups are lobbying for stronger language in the draft agreement around several key issues, including the measures needed to stave off further outbreaks of deadly viruses such as SARS-CoV-2.

"It's not ambitious enough at all," Wildlife Conservation society vice president Susan Lieberman told AFP, adding "There is no mention of the pandemic."

Eleven civil society organisations warned in a statement that the current language on wildlife trade was dangerously weak, despite it's probable link to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"The (text) calls only for such trade to be 'safe for human health'," a representative for the groups said in an email, proposing new language that would outlaw any activity that carries a risk of "pathogen spillover".

Highlighting further concerns, the Avaaz online activist network called for the agreement to include the full recognition of indigenous peoples and the elimination of at least \$800 billion in subsidies for environmentally harmful activities.

It also said the text should "conserve and protect at least half of the planet by 2030 as a means of staying below 1.5C and addressing the acceleration of biodiversity loss".

The text will need to withstand the crucial online negotiations phase in October as China assumes the presidency of the summit.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/science-and-environment/2021/08/24/2122286/delegates-hash-out-un-biodiversity-goals-online>

25 AUGUST 2021, WEDNESDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH COVID-19 death toll surpasses 32,000 as new cases settle at 12,067

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#) Published Aug 24, 2021 4:34:27 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 24) — The nationwide COVID-19 death toll surged past 32,000 on Tuesday, with the single-day fatality count hitting over 300 for the third time this week.

The Department of Health said another 303 patients lost the fight against the illness, including 161 who were earlier mistakenly reported as survivors.

The number of deaths since the outbreak began is now at 32,264, with the country's case fatality rate at 1.73%. The past week alone contributed 1,803 or 5.5% of the total.

The DOH also announced that 12,067 more caught the deadly virus, pushing the cumulative case tally to 1,869,691, of which 127,703 or 6.8% are active cases.

It attributed the relatively low number of new infections to lower laboratory output on Aug. 22. On Monday, the country logged a record-high 18,332 more patients.

At least 95.5% of the active cases are classified as mild, 1.7% as asymptomatic, 0.93% as moderate, 1.2% as severe and 0.6% as critical.

The department said data from 10 non-reporting testing laboratories were not included in the update. It added that these facilities account for around 3.9% of all samples tested and 4.4% of positive cases, based on data over the past two weeks.

Its report also showed that of the 45,593 tests reported on August 22, 24.9% or around 1 in 4 turned out positive. This means the country needs to test more people since the benchmark for adequate testing is a positivity rate of below 3%. A percentage higher than 20%, on the other hand, suggests there are likely more infected individuals that have gone undetected, according to the US nonprofit Covid Act Now.

Meanwhile, the DOH confirmed 14,565 more patients have gotten well, bringing the total recoveries to 1,709,724, or 91.4% of the case count.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/8/24/PH-covid-death-toll-32000.html>



COVID-19 cases magpapatuloy sa pagtaas – DOH

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - August 25, 2021 - 12:00am



Ito ay makaraan na makapagtala ang bansa ng pinakamataas ng isang araw na kaso na 18,332 nitong Lunes. Kahapon, bumaba na ito sa 12,067 bagong kaso.

MANILA, Philippines — Inaasahan na magpapatuloy pa ang pagtaas ng mga bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa sa mga susunod na araw o linggo dahil hindi pa agad mararamdaman ang epekto ng dalawang linggong enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), ayon sa Department of Health kahapon.

Ito ay makaraan na makapagtala ang bansa ng pinakamataas ng isang araw na kaso na 18,332 nitong Lunes. Kahapon, bumaba na ito sa 12,067 bagong kaso.

Sinabi ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na maaaring maramdaman ang epekto ng 2-linggong lockdown sa susunod pang dalawa hanggang tatlong linggo.

May epekto rin umano sa patuloy na pagkakatuklas ng mga bagong kaso ang aktibo ngayong 'case findings' ng mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Pangunahing kailangang tutukan ng mga lokal na pamahalaan ang paigsiin ang oras sa paghahanap ng mga bagong kaso at paghiwalay sa kanila upang maputol ang 'community transmission, at maisailalim ang lahat ng may mga sintomas at kanilang close contacts sa COVID-19 test.

Upang hindi naman masagad ang 'healthcare system' ng bansa, may panukala ang DOH na paigsiin ang 'quarantine period' ng mga healthcare workers na dinapuan ng COVID-19 ngunit 'fully-vaccinated' na sa pitong araw sa halip na 14 na araw. Maaari rin silang isailalim sa panibagong test sa ikalimang araw ng kanilang isolation.



Palace admits Metro Manila healthcare capacity on 'critical warning'

Philstar.com August 24, 2021 | 1:01pm



COVID-19 patients pictured inside the chapel of Quezon City General Hospital on Aug. 19, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday admitted that the hospital bed usage in the National Capital Region was already on "critical warning" status.

This comes just a week after Dr. Edsel Salvaña, an adviser of the national government's coronavirus task force, claimed that "right now we are still able to get people in [hospitals]" as he pushed aside the criticisms over the administration's response.

Metro Manila's intensive care units bed utilization rates stand at 72% of the total estimated 1,400 total beds in the region as it currently stands.

"It's true that we're on critical warning because we went past 70% [usage] of critical beds, but we still have space," presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said at a briefing Monday morning.

Per data from the Department of Health, 60% of some 4,600 isolation beds are also utilized—or in moderate risk—while ward beds are also listed as high risk with 71% of the estimated 4,100 also in use.

This, while 58% of the 1,100 ventilators in Metro Manila are also listed as being utilized.

Roque on Monday was careful to point out that the number is considered "high risk" but not yet critical.

Metro Manila is under modified enhanced community quarantine until the end of August, along with the provinces of Laguna and Bataan, in an effort to curb the spread of the Delta variant of the coronavirus.

To date, health authorities have recorded 1.86 million coronavirus infections in the country after tallying another record-high in single-day increases so far with 18,332 new cases on Monday.

Earlier Sunday, the OCTA Research Group said that a downward trend in daily cases may take shape within the coming weeks but would "require sustained efforts in pandemic management" over the next month.



More quarantine violators during MECQ

Published 4 hours ago on August 25, 2021 03:01 AM

By [Gabrielle Santillan](#)



The Philippine National Police has logged an average of 13,000 quarantine violators daily three days into the implementation of modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) as against the 10,000 average daily violators under the stricter enhanced community quarantine (ecq) imposed in NCR Plus for the last two weeks.

This only means, according to police spokesperson General Ronaldo Olay on an interview over “Gising Na!” that, though the MECQ is more relaxed than ECQ, policy enforcement is tougher.

Unlike the previous MECQ imposed last April, more industries and establishments have been permitted to operate under this iteration of the present quarantine classification, which means, more worker-authorized persons outside residence (APOR).

While retail stores are allowed to open their doors to APOR, al fresco dining is still not allowed, unlike in the previous MECQ.

Religious gatherings can also only be done now virtually, compared to the previous MECQ where churches were allowed to accommodate 10 percent of their capacity.

Although public utility vehicles are allowed to ply the streets, those who operate with more than 50 percent of their vehicle capacity, as well as commuters who refuse to observe minimum health protocols, will also be penalized.

Consumer-APOR are only allowed to go outside their houses during non-curfew hours (4 a.m. to 8 p.m.) with Parañaque City requiring its residents to still show their quarantine passes in going out.

Metro Manila is under MECQ until the end of August 2021, along with the provinces of Laguna and Bataan.



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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 528

AGOSTO 24, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

6.8%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
127,703

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

91.4%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
1,709,724

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.73%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
32,264

MGA BAGONG KASO **12,067**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **14,565**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **303**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **1,869,691**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 22

DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 24
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 22

24.9%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

45,593

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
97.3%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)
73% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.2K TOTAL BEDS)
62% Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.5K TOTAL BEDS)
67% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
53% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)
74% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
62% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)
72% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
60% Utilized

Mild 95.5%

1.7% Asymptomatic

0.6% Critical

1.2% Severe

0.93% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ang **kaligtasan** ng ating bayan ay responsibilidad ng lahat. Ang ating masusing pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** ang siyang susi upang malampasan ang pandemyang COVID-19. Maging sa loob ng ating mga tahanan, ituloy ang masusing pag-iingat, at sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas ng COVID-19, agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS o One COVID Referral Center**. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, nariyan din ang mga hotline ng ating mga pasilidad. Puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



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O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://staysafe.ph)

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**EATING TOGETHER IN
WORKPLACES SEEN TO CAUSE
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