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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



NLEX, DENR, Valenzuela LGU work on Harbor Link Interchange greening

Ruben Manahan IV

Thu, 24 June 2021, 8:00 am·2-min read

The NLEX Corporation has teamed up with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Valenzuela City government to conduct a greening initiative at the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) Harbor Link interchange.

Spearheading the said initiative are House Deputy Speaker and Valenzuela City 2nd District Representative Eric Martinez, NLEX Corporation President and General Manager J. Luigi Bautista, and DENR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan.

A total of 3,181 saplings were planted at the Harbor Link Interchange, which is expected to contribute to cleaner air and healthier ecology along the expressway. Saplings of bougainvillea, igem dagat, and Palawan cherry were among those planted within the cloverleaf interchange to help neutralize carbon emissions from vehicles using the thoroughfare.



Greening the NLEX initiative

“I envision NLEX to be the greenest highway, not only in the country but in the whole world — the greenest highway with zero carbon footprint,” Martinez shared, noting that global warming is the biggest threat to mankind. “We are preoccupied with so many things but we have to look back and see for ourselves that nature needs care, nature needs us. We don’t need to go against it but we have to live together,” the Deputy Speaker claimed.

Caancan regarded the event as timely as it coincides with the celebration of the Philippine Environment Month and the Philippine Arbor Day.

“More than the aesthetic value of the project, what we are excited about is the greater value of these trees that would be planted. Let us join hands in keeping, protecting and nourishing our environment,” Caancan said.

For his part, Bautista stated that the “project will not only beautify the NLEX Harbor Link Interchange, but most importantly, it will help strengthen our efforts in building the road to a greener future.”



Greening the NLEX initiative

Further, he expressed appreciation over the proposal of Martinez to conduct the activity and DENR for planning the project. “We believe that our duty is not only to make travel easier and more convenient for economic growth but also to do it in an environmentally sustainable manner,” Bautista said.

Since 2006, the NLEX Corporation has been doing the “#GreenNLEX: Greening the NLEX,” to help reduce the effects of global warming and environmental imbalance as part of the toll operator’s corporate social responsibility program.

Photos from NLEX Corporation



DENR-3 steps up bamboo propagation to stabilize river banks

By Zorayda Tecson June 24, 2021, 5:36 pm



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon has stepped up the propagation of bamboo species to stabilize river banks in the region and at the same time, help boost the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

DENR Region 3 Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr., in a social media post on Thursday, said they partnered with the local government unit of Hermosa in Bataan to propagate bamboo species and establish a 1.7-hectare bambusetum and nursery to increase forest cover under the National Greening Program (NGP).

Moreno said the propagation of bamboo is in support of the marching order of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to plant and use bamboo as priority species to rehabilitate river banks and the Manila Bay.

He said the DENR and the local government unit of Hermosa have also initially planted some 30 propagules of Yellow bamboo in the closed sanitary landfill in Barangay Mambog in Hermosa town.

He added that the DENR and LGU are set to plant and grow another 950 propagules of Giant Bamboo, Yellow Bamboo, Buddha Belly Bamboo, Kawayan Tinik, Kawayan Kiling and Bayog species that can be a potential source of engineered bamboo and as planting material to control soil erosion, stabilize river banks and rehabilitate degraded areas.

Since 2011, the DENR has already established more than 14,000 hectares of bamboo plantation in the region under the National Greening Program (NGP).

Not known to many, bamboo has been termed as "poor man's lumber", and is now hailed as "green gold" because of its many economical and ecological benefits.

Bamboos are used as raw materials for housing, farm and fishing implements, handicrafts, and food. It is also used in architecture designs, landscaping, carvings, gardening, and in soil erosion control and stabilization of river banks.

According to study, there are 62 bamboo species in the Philippines and 21 of these are considered endemic to the country. (PNA)



DENR Region 8 renews call to plant trees on Arbor Day

By Sarwell Meniano June 24, 2021, 1:06 pm



TREE-PLANTING. Some Yakal tree seedlings ready for distribution on Thursday (June 24, 2021) in Palo, Leyte. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Eastern Visayas has renewed its call to the public to plant trees as the country celebrates Philippine Arbor Day on June 25. *(PNA photo by Sarwell Meniano)*

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Eastern Visayas has renewed its call to the public to plant trees as the country celebrates the Philippine Arbor Day on June 25.

DENR regional public affairs office chief Maita Reina Sucgang said on Thursday the public should take part in promoting a healthier ecosystem through the rehabilitation and re-greening of the environment.

“We have been encouraging people to plant native trees since it helps recover and expand forest habitats for threatened native species of plants and animals,” she said.

On the same day, the DENR regional public affairs office led the distribution of 600 Yakal tree seedlings for free to walk-in clients of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Palo, Leyte.

Clients were asked to watch a nature conservation video, get free seedling, and some freebies.

“We asked them to write down the area where they will plant the tree for us to be able to monitor its growth,” Sucgang added.

Yakal is a medium to a large tree about 25 to 30 meters tall. Its wood is hard and dark brownish-yellow, its branchlets slender, blackish, and slightly hairy.

Proclamation No. 643 signed in 2004 declared every June 25 as Philippine Arbor Day to be observed throughout the nation by planting trees and ornamental plants.

In 2012, Republic Act No. 10176 or the Arbor Day Act was enacted into law, mandating local government units to designate a day of the year to observe Arbor Day and to allocate a budget for an annual tree planting activity.

The law also requires local officials to create an Arbor Day celebrations committee which will specify the area within the local government unit where the tree planting or reforestation activity will be performed. (PNA)



DENR lauds Chinese General Hospital's efforts

posted June 24, 2021 at 11:00 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

In a comprehensive assessment covering three years, the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center is cited for its constant adherence and dedication to the country's environmental laws and regulations.

Last May 31, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources hailed the hospital's consistent endeavor in complying with the bureau's various directives to private institutions for cleaner surroundings in pursuance of the "EMB Memorandum Circular No. 2020-28".

"This is a testament to our renewed commitment to help the environment in every way we can," said Jameson G. Dy, Senior VP for Operations and Administration/ DENR EMB registered Managing Head. "We have been supporting the DENR and its many top-notch projects over the years."

Dy together with Emerson Vergara, CGHMC Pollution Control Officer, were presented with certificates of recognition for their efforts.

CGHMC has fully complied with the DENR requirements under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PD 1586), Toxic Substances and Hazardous Wastes Act (RA 6969), Clean Air Act (RA 8749), the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (RA 9003), and Clean Water Act (RA 9275).

The hospital has consistently submitted self-monitoring and compliance monitoring reports to ensure that the institution is strictly following the bureau's guidelines.

These efforts are manifested through various programs such as No Idling, Solid and Hazardous / Infectious / COVID Waste Management, Agreement with ABS-CBN's "Bantay Kalikasan" which recycled used oil and batteries, Waste Minimization such as the use of Paper Meal Boxes and Wooden Cutlery, which are aggregate parts of the hospital's Corporate Social Responsibility.

"We are continuously adapting to change for a more sustainable and systemized approach to our environmental applications towards the future," Dy added. "This has become way beyond compliance but more importantly it's about protecting our environment while exercising our function as a health care institution."

CGHMC, owned and operated by the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association, Inc. (PCCA), has been at the forefront of quality health care for over 130 years.



12 pawikan pinakawalan ng DENR

By [Tony Sandoval](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 25, 2021 - 12:00am

REAL, Quezon, Philippines — Aabot sa labingdalawang pawikan hatchlings, na mas kilala bilang Hawksbill turtle ang pinakawalan ng mga kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa baybaying dagat ng Barangay Malapad ng bayang ito, kamakailan.

Ayon kay Conservation and Development Section (CDS) Chief Julie Gonzales Abuejela ng DENR-CENRO – Real, napagkasunduan nila na pakawalan agad ang mga nasabing pawikan sa pagtaas ng tubig sa baybaying dagat ng Barangay Malapad sa Real, alas-4:52 ng hapon.

Ang hawksbill turtle at kabilang sa mga “critically endangered” na uri ng pawikan at mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagpatay o paghuli sa mga ito ayon sa DENR.



This 2019 file photo shows Barangay Taliptip in Bulakan, Bulacan.

Philstar.com/EC Toledo IV

DENR issues Environmental Compliance Certificate for Bulacan airport project

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - June 24, 2021 - 4:12pm

MANILA, Philippines — San Miguel Aerocity Inc. has obtained an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the proposed international airport in Bulacan, which, according to environmental groups and experts, will pose harm to Manila Bay's ecosystem and communities.

The environment department's Environmental Management Bureau Central Luzon issued the ECC for the proposed New Manila International Airport on June 1. A copy of the document was made available to **Philstar.com** only on June 24.

The certificate is one of the requirements for the proponent of the P740-billion airport project to proceed.

"With the issuance of this ECC, you are expected to implement the measures presented in the Environmental Impact Statement Study (EIS), intended to protect and mitigate the project's adverse impacts on community health, welfare and the environment," EMB Central Luzon Director Wilson Trajeco said.

"Environmental considerations shall be incorporated in all phases and aspects of the project. You may proceed with the implementation after securing all the necessary permits from other pertinent government agencies," he added.

Spanning 2,565 hectares, the airport project will be built over Barangays Bambang and Taliptip in Bulakan town, former home to patches of mangroves since cut down and coastal villagers since displaced.

"Adjacent areas for land and marine access" to the project and portion of the airport city are also covered by the ECC. Among the other components of the project covered by the certificate include leasable areas for industrial, logistics and commercial purposes and settlement areas for the proposed airport city.

NewsX: Fed by the waters



Conditions

According to the certificate, the San Miguel Aerocity Inc. should implement measures to address flooding within the coverage area. Scientists have said the site where the airport is planned to be built and neighboring low-lying areas in Bulacan are prone to flooding.

The site is also susceptible to strong ground shaking and liquefaction during earthquakes and is at risk from storm surge.

In March, San Miguel Corporation said it has "laid out an extensive flood mitigation plan that includes planting close to 200,000 mangroves along the Bulacan coastlines, and cleaning, dredging, and widening of key Bulacan tributaries belonging to the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System."

"The proponent shall allocate sufficient area for open space requirements pursuant to existing rules and regulations governing land development, which requires the said area to be non-buildable and allocated for evacuation/staging area and greenbelt as part of climate change contingency measures," the conditions of the ECC read.

The proponent must also plant and maintain at least 5,000 mangrove propagules in areas identified by the local government.

The clearing of mangroves in the area began in 2018, according to villagers and groups opposing the project. Reports of the cutting of mangroves in Sitio Kinse, one of the villages of Talipit, surfaced on social media early in May.

The ECC stated that no cutting of trees should be undertaken without first securing permit from the DENR.

"Any cutting of trees implemented without the required permit will render this certificate canceled or suspended," the certificate read.

The proponent also needs to construct wastewater treatment facilities to treat wastewater generated by the airport, address noise emission from airplanes, monitor the quality and integrity of the soil, maintain a Materials Recovery Facility, and submit a "Biodiversity Off-Set Management Plan."

Photo essay: Home is where the coast is

Environmental compliance?

Environmental group Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment questioned how the project was granted clearance without a "definitive" consultation with affected stakeholders.

"There's already more than enough evidence to shut down the project, and instead, the government is so eager to bypass crucial consultations to pursue these projects. This haste is highly suspicious as if it were a part of a grand scheme to bow to the whims of business interests," Leon Dulce, Kalikasan PNE national coordinator, said in a June 4 statement.

Aside from flooding risks and other geohazards, experts and environmental groups stressed the area where the airport will be built serves as a roosting site for migratory birds, and a productive nursery and feeding ground for marine species.

Kalikasan also raised alarm over reports of fisherfolk being denied access to communal fishing grounds.



A former resident interviewed by Philstar.com who spoke on the condition of anonymity said in late May that fishers were no longer allowed to fish in the area bought by the project proponent. Previously, they were permitted to fish in Taliptip until the construction of the massive airport city begins.

Early this year, the Supreme Court junked the plea of Bulacan fisherment and civil society groups to stop the reclamation of Manila Bay, and protect marine species and ecosystems threatened by the construction of a sprawling airport complex. — with report from BusinessWorld/Arjay L. Balinbin



Ganito Kasi 'Yan

ni **ANDY VERDE** @Z3H andyortm

E-mail Address: andres5421@yahoo.com

SA pamamagitan daw po ng pakikipagtulungan sa local fishing communities ay muling ipinangako ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pag-alis sa water hyacinth sa Laguna Lake.

Ipagpapatuloy ng DENR ang proyekto na sinimulan noong Oktubre 2020 na kunin ang serbisyo ng mga mangingisda upang mapigilan ang

pagkalat ng water hyacinth na mas kilala sa tawag na water lily ayon kay Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns at Head ng Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force Benny D. Antiporda.

“The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has a project where we commission the labor or assistance of our

PAGTATANGGAL NG WATER LILY PAGKAKAKITAAN NG MANGINGISDA

local fishermen to harvest the water hyacinths in polluted waterbodies.” ayon kay Antiporda.

Dagdag pa nito na ang proyekto ay makapagbibigay ng pagkakakitaan sa mga mangingisda at kasabay nito ay muling mahihigyan ng buhay ang lawa.

Si Antiporda na nangakong pangungunahan ang proyekto ay tiwala na matutugunan ang problema sa water hyacinth sa Laguna Lake dahil isa lamang itong maliit na tungkulin kumpara sa naging matagumpay na Boracay rehabilitation.

“I personally commit

that in the coming weeks or so, we will be here in this lake to clean up all the water hyacinth and make sure that we will prevent incidents in the previous years where this lake is all covered with water lilies,” paliwanag ni Antiporda.

“We have rehabilitated Boracay. We are cleaning up the Manila Bay. Laguna Lake is relatively not that big. Why not, we clean this up, too?” dagdag pa nito.

Malaki ang nagiging pinsala ng water lilies dahil sa pamamagitan nito ay maaring makakuha ng sakit

dahil madaling nakapangi ngitlog ang mga lamok sa “static waters”. Nagiging masangang ang amoy nit kapag nabubelok, nakababawas sa linaw ng tubig a nababawasan din nito ang oxygen dahil an upang hindi na ito angkop sa paggamit ng tao.

Ang pilot testing ng nasabing proyekto ay ipinakilala sa local government ng Taytay sa probinsiya ng Rizal kung saan ay nakadaupang palad ng DENR ang mga miyembro ng Samahan ng Mangingisda sa Lawa ng Taytay o SMALT.



Ganito Kasi 'Yan

ni **ANBY VERDE**, DENR Undersecretary

E-mail Address: andres5421@yahoo.com

MAGKAKARON ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng katuwang sa reforestation program ng pamahalaan matapos mangako ang Lions Clubs International (LCI) Multiple District 301 Philippines ng pagtanim ng 10,000 puno sa buong bansa sa ginanap na 34th anniversary ng DENR kamakalawa.

"The DENR welcomes the initiative of Lions Clubs International Multiple District 301 Philippines to help in the National Greening Program, a priority program of the government, which addresses deforestation and

helps in climate change mitigation and adaptation," said Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Ayon kay LCI Multiple District (MD) 301 Council Chairperson Dra. Elisa B. Valdez, sa ngalan ng pagtutulungan, ang kanilang organisasyon ay nangangako magtanim ng 10,000 puno sa buong bansa bilang supports sa National Greening Program ng DENR. Kinumpirma din ni Valdez ang pakikibahagi ng LCI MD 301 "coastal cleanup, outreach programs, and information, education and communication initiatives."

Ang commitment at partnership na pinagtibay ng memorandum of agreement

SAMA-SAMA NA TAYO SA KALIKASAN CAMPAIGN

(MOA) na pinirmahan nina Cimatu at Valdez noong 34th anibersaryo ng DENR, ay naglalayong palakasin ang "spirit of volunteerism and promote behavioral change towards environment protection."

Layon din nito na magtulungan sa "environmental activities aligned with DENR programs and encourage citizen participation such as the cleanup of esteros and rivers, the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the rescue of wildlife, and the education of the citizenry in care for the environment and natural resources, among others."

Ang partnership ay inisyatibo ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda, na governor ng LCI District 301-A2.

Bago pa ang MOA signing, ang DENR, sa pamamagitan ni Antiporda, ay nakikipagtulungan na sa mga LCI districts na iba't ibang gawain para sa kapaligiran tulad ng tree planting, Manila Bay at river clean-ups, at sa mga programa para sa persons with disabilities (PWDs) at sa iba pang stakeholders.

"The DENR is grateful to LCI Multiple District 301 for the spirit of volunteerism, imbibed among its members, that it will bring into the DENR and its stakeholders. This is much needed now more than any other time. We want to eliminate the culture of indifference among many Filipinos which relinquishes all environmental responsibility to the government alone," said Antiporda.

Dagdag pa nito, "volunteerism is in itself the prime

example of behavior change."

"When you have changed your behavior towards the care and protection of the environment, it becomes second nature for you to volunteer for environmental activities," saad ni Antiporda.

Ang LCI ay isang service, civic, non-political organization na may libo-libong kasapi sa buong bansa. Ito ay nakatuon sa "community service to help improve the lives of people, and promotes the principles of good government and good citizenship."

Ang Tayo ang Kalikasan ang advocacy campaign ng DENR na naglalayon na itaas ang "level of awareness of Filipinos and promote behavioral change towards the effects of their activities to the environment."

Villar bats for 2 more protected areas under NIPAS, tackles bills on arboretums

BYBMPLUS JUNE 24, 2021



Sen. Cynthia Villar

Senator Cynthia A. Villar has vouched for 2 more protected areas (PAs) to be under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) so that ecologically rich, unique areas and biologically important public lands can be effectively managed by the government.

At present, Villar, chair of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, said the country has a total of 107 total legislated protected areas. She noted that the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018 facilitated the legislation of 94 more PAs in addition to the 13 PAs legislated under the old NIPAS law.

Villar filed separate bills to support ecological processes of the additional 2 more protected areas. They are Senate Bill No. 1713 or an Act Declaring Mount Arayat Protected Landscape, and Senate Bill 1712 or An Act Declaring Hinakpam Mystical Hills Natural Monument.

Located in the municipalities of Magalang and Arayat in Pampanga, Mount Arayat is a key biodiversity area, considered a center of plant endemism with endemic tree species like the Arayat Pitogo and other rare flora like tibig, molave and tumbang.

On the otherhand, the Hinakpam Mystical Hills Natural Monument in Negros Oriental has a unique biological features like geologic formation of karstic conical hills, caves, sinkholes and valleys. It has ecotourism potential.

Earlier, Villar filed 5 other bills to include additional protected areas under NIPAS. They are the following:

-SB No. 2276 declaring a parcel of land in Naga and Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay a protected landscape to be called Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape. The initial assessment by DENR Region IX and Zamboanga Sibugay LGU in 2006 showed that its biological, physical and cultural resources are at risk and may face severe damage if current economic destructive activities will be unabated.

-SB No. 2277 declaring 2 parcels of land within Sicogon Island, Carles, Iloilo, a wildlife sanctuary to be called Sicogon Island Wildlife Sanctuary. Its interesting biodiversity calls a need to declare the 282.867 hectares remaining forest land of the island a protected area.

-SB No. 2278 declaring a parcel of lot in Balbalan, Kalinga, a protected landscape to be called Banao Protected Landscape. Dubbed as the "green heart" of the Cordillera, the park, known as the Balbasang-Babalan National Park, it is a rich biodiversity and landscape of the Cordillera



mountain region with some of the most intact pine forest and rich endemic flora and fauna.

-Senate Bill No. 2279 declaring a parcel of land in the municipalities of Gregorio del Pilar, Quirino, Sigay, Cervantes, and Suyu, Ilocos Sur a protected landscape. The Tirad Pass National Park in Ilocos Sur is the only remaining moist forest in the region, showcasing a rich terrestrial ecosystem.

-Senate Bill No. 2280 declaring a parcel of land in Kabayan, Bokod and Buguias, all in Benguet; Tinoci, Ifugao and Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya, a protected landscape. Mt. Pulag National Park is the highest peak in Luzon and second highest mountain in the Philippines. Its wildlife includes threatened mammals such as the Philippine Brown Deed, Northern Luzon Giant Cloud Rat, the Luzon Pygmy Fruit bat.

NIPAS was established by virtue of RA No. 7586, as amended by RA No. 11038, known as the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018.

Villar said the NIPAS Act declared it is the policy of the State “to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the establishment of comprehensive system of integrated protected areas.”

The system, Villar noted, shall encompass ecologically rich, unique and biologically important areas that are habitats of threatened species of plants and animals, biogeographic zones and related ecosystem, whether terrestrial, wetland or marine.

Meanwhile, Villar is also pushing 3 bills establishing Arboreta or areas devoted to specimen planting and cultivation of woody plants which are either trees or shrubs for ecological, research, educational and recreation purpose.

They are the following: SB No.1243- Act establishing the Mindanao State University- Lanao del Norte Agricultural College Arboretum, SB 1244- Act Establishing The Mighty Cave Park Arboretum in Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte and SB 1245- Act Establishing The Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte Arboretum.



Pena: Pampanga River a major source of plastics in the ocean

[ROX PENA](#)

June 24, 2021

I'VE read many articles about plastic waste in oceans and none of them specifically cited the Philippines as a major source. Now an article published online at ourworldindata.org/ocean-plastics entitled "Where does the plastics in our ocean come from?" written by Hannah Ritchie says that we are not just a major source, we are in fact at the very top.

According to the article, an estimated 81 percent of ocean plastics come from Asian rivers with the Philippines contributing more than one-third (36 percent) of the global total. In spite of their big land area and huge population, India contributes only 13 percent and China 7 percent. This is very alarming. We are the top ocean polluter? The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has not released a statement on this.

The painful truth, if the data is correct, is that seven of the top ten polluting rivers are from the Philippines. Pasig River is number 1 contributing 6.43 percent of the global ocean plastic pollution. Our very own Pampanga River is 6th on the list! Their source of data is a research by Lourens Meijer et al. (2021), which was just published in the magazine Science Advances. It can be read online at <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/7/18/eaaz5803>.

The rest of the top ten polluters are Klang in Malaysia (2nd), Ulhas in India (3rd), Tullahan, Meycauyan, and Libmanan from the Philippines (4th, 5th and 7th respectively), Ganges in India (8th) and Rio Grande de Mindanao and Agno in the Philippines (9th and 10th).

In 2019, the Philippines emitted 356,371 tons of plastic waste into the ocean. This is roughly the equivalent of 17,800 dump trucks at 20 tons of garbage per truck. India is second at 126,513 tons and China at third emitting 70,707 tons.

Why did Philippine rivers become top ocean polluters? In terms of plastic waste generated per person, rich countries have higher figures ranging from 0.2 to 0.5 kilograms per person per day. The Philippines is only generating 0.07 kilograms per capita. This means that while we generate a smaller volume, our plastic wastes are mismanaged. They are not collected and disposed of properly so they end up in the ocean. It seems RA 9003, our Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, failed to prevent this.

There is a need to update RA 9003 or to pass another law that will deal specifically with plastic waste. There is one. I wrote about it in my column last week. It's House Bill 9147 which was approved last June 02, 2021. The bill will regulate the production, importation, sale, and use of single-use plastics and shifts the responsibility on producers to recover plastic waste.

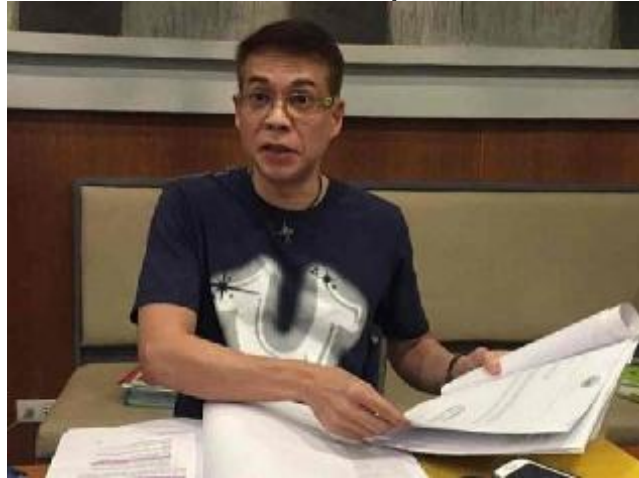
In the bill, some plastic materials will be phased out after 4 years and some after 1 year of the effectivity of the act. HB 9147 will also hold manufacturers and exporters of single-use plastics accountable for the proper disposal of their products.

Commercial establishments will be required to promote recyclable and reusable products and establish an in-store recovery program. They shall charge their customers a minimum fee of P5 for every single-use plastic bag. LGU's may also impose fees on the use of plastic bags.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1898724>



Closure of landfill cell no. 1 pushed



BACOLOD. Councilor Carlos Jose Lopez. (File photo)

[MERLINDA A. PEDROSA](#)

June 25, 2021

THE Bacolod City Council approved a resolution urging the Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB), through its chairperson Mayor Evelio Leonardia, to form a technical working group (TWG) to prepare and implement a closure and rehabilitation plan for the sanitary landfill cell no. 1.

The resolution, authored by Councilor Carlos Jose Lopez, was approved during the regular session of the City Council Wednesday afternoon, June 23, 2021.

Lopez, chairperson of the City Council committee on environment and ecology, said the Bacolod City sanitary landfill cell no. 1 has received unsegregated wastes and already reached its maximum capacity. It has become an open dumpsite because of lack of maintenance, prompting the construction and operation of cell no. 2.

He said the matter was already discussed by the Environmental Management Bureau with the city SWMB and was advised that an updated Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan be submitted for further evaluation and assessment.

Lopez noted that Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act provides that local government units shall be primarily responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this law within their respective jurisdictions. It seeks to ensure the proper segregation, collection, transport, storage, treatment and disposal of solid waste through the formulation and adoption of the best environmental practice in ecological waste management.

Lopez said RA 9003, specifically Section 37, prohibits the continued use of open and controlled disposal facilities and requires that such must be closed and rehabilitated.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1898797/Bacolod/Local-News/Closure-of-landfill-cell-no-1-pushed>



Hauler barred from dumping garbage in Binaliw landfill due to P18.6M IOU

June 24, 2021

THE private hauler of the Cebu City Government can no longer dump garbage at the landfill in Barangay Binaliw.

Aljory Waste Management Solutions/DOCAST owes ARN Central Waste Management Inc. (ARN-CWMI), the landfill's owner, P18.6 million.

Because of this, garbage from the city's 80 barangays is temporarily dumped at the transfer station in Barangay Inayawan.

Elias Espinoza, the legal counsel of ARN-CWMI, sent a demand letter to DOCAST through its general contractor John David Javier.

Aside from a balance of P1 million from 2020, DOCAST also owes P17.6 million for March 2021 up to May.

"Your office may have overlooked these unpaid billing statements of our client that we are giving your good self time, 10 days from receipt of this demand, to pay your long overdue and legal obligation," Espinoza said in his letter, which DOCAST received on Tuesday, June 22.

SunStar Cebu tried to get the side of Javier, but he could not be contacted.

Jigo Dacua, head of the Department of Public Services, said he will ask a representative of DOCAST to explain what it plans to do with the garbage it has dumped at the transfer station in Barangay Inayawan.

Dacua said he saw no reason to recommend stopping the City's contract with DOCAST as long as the firm fulfills its obligation in helping the City haul its waste for proper disposal.

Dacua clarified that barangays can still dump their garbage in the Binaliw landfill.

He said they did not receive any communication from ARN-CWMI that it was also barring barangays from throwing their garbage in the facility.

"If the barangay chooses to dispose at Binaliw landfill, they can," said Dacua.

However, it is the private hauler's job to deliver the garbage to Binaliw and ARN-CWMI is currently barred from dumping garbage there, he said.

Dacua said the City has to settle the matter with its contractor, adding that the City has been paying its obligations to ARN-CWMI.

He said he is not privy to the contract between ARN-CWMI and DOCAST. (JJL, PAC / PJB)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1898773/Cebu/Local-News/Hauler-barred-from-dumping-garbage-in-Binaliw-landfill-due-to-P186M-IOU>



Cebu City DPS to call contractor to discuss Inayawan transfer station condition

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital Multi-Media Reporter | June 24, 2021 - 08:23 PM



The hundreds of tons of garbage piling up daily at the Inayawan transfer station are an eyesore to many but for the city's scavengers, they bring in their next meal as they sift through the trash looking for recyclables that they can still sell to earn a living.

CDN PHOTO/TONEE DESPOJO

CEBU CITY, Philippines — The Cebu City Department of Public Services (DPS) will be calling the contractor of the transfer station in Barangay Inayawan to discuss the sordid state of the area.

This after a document surfaced that the contractor of the transfer station, DOCAST, has failed to fulfill its obligations to ARN Waste Management Inc., which manages the Binaliw Landfill, causing the trash from the transfer station in Inayawan to pile up undisposed.

Allegedly, DOCAST owes ARN Waste Management Inc. P18 million for the year 2020 and March 16-31 to May 16-31, 2021, combined.

The Binaliw landfill operators have sent a letter to DOCAST regarding the unsettled bill. CDN Digital tried to reach DOCAST representatives but they are yet to answer queries.

The city has an existing contract with DOCAST which stipulates that the service provider will be disposing of the trash of the city through the transfer station and the city has not failed in its payment to the company for such contract.

It is not clear yet if DOCAST is negotiating with ARN on the settlement of the bill.

The Liga ng mga Barangays (LNB) recently raised concerns that the garbage of the city could not be thrown in the Binaliw Landfill causing barangays to throw all their garbage to the Inayawan transfer station.

Barangay Inayawan in particular has seen mountains of trash thrown in its jurisdiction. Problems on drainage and road damage at the White Road where the transfer station is located has also been brought to light because of the issue.



DPS said that despite the alleged unfulfillment of payment, DOCAST has been disposing of Cebu City's trash to a landfill in Consolacion town, a much farther landfill where it takes more time for garbage trucks to travel to.

The piling of the garbage has been caused by this delay in the disposal and Barangay Inayawan residents have already complained about it

DPS head, Lawyer John Jigo Dacua said that the city government has no hand in the contract between DOCAST and ARN, but it is concerned with the state of the transfer station in Barangay Inayawan.

"Our contract is with DOCAST and they have other options as to where they finally dispose the garbage hauled from the city. We are not privy to DOCAST and Binaliw landfill's contract with each other that's why we are not in the position to comment on their contractual relations," he said.

Although DOCAST seemingly has a problem delivering its promised service to Cebu City, the DPS said it is not a ground for termination yet.

"As long as the city's garbage hauled by DOCAST will be disposed properly to its final disposal and fulfill its obligation, then I don't see any ground for termination of the contract," added Dacua.

Still, DPS would like to hold a meeting with DOCAST to find a solution to the growing pile of trash in the Inayawan transfer station.

Dacua said that they will discuss alternative solutions to the problem especially on the hauling of the garbage to its final disposal.

"With respect to Inayawan transfer station, we will meet with DOCAST once again to check on other alternatives. For now, we will continue to collect garbage to see to it that our streets are clean," he said.

Acting Mayor Michael Rama has already ordered the fixing of the White Road as a way to resolve the issue of garbage delivery in the transfer station.

He has decided to leave the issue on the city's contract with third-party service providers to Mayor Edgardo Labella upon his return on July 2021 following a three-week leave. /rcg



The once mighty Pasig River

[FILIPINO WORLDVIEW](#) - [Roberto R. Romulo](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 25, 2021 - 12:00am

My daughter Liana Romulo is my guest columnist for the week. An avid scuba diver, she highlights how our polluted rivers spell disaster on a global scale.

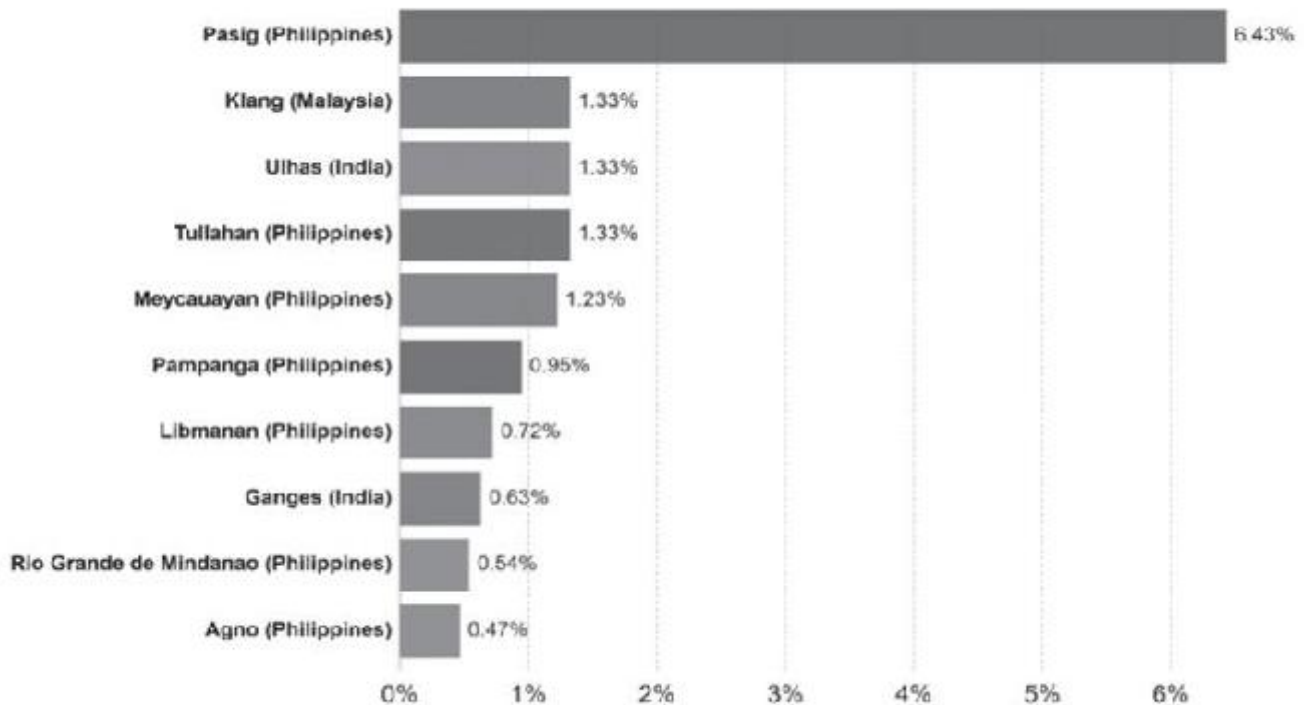
We Filipinos take great pride in the beauty of our prize-winning islands. Just before the pandemic, Travel+Leisure readers again gave Palawan the No. 1 spot on their “Top 25 Islands in the World” list, beating out tourist favorites like Bora-Bora, Bali, and Maui. Less publicized is that seven out of the top 10 rivers that eject garbage to the oceans also belong to us. According to data published in National Geographic, as well as on the “Our World in Data” website, together the 10 rivers produce a staggering 81 percent of the world’s plastic waste found in oceans.

If you think one list has nothing to do with the other, think back to high school science class—and you may recall the Earth’s water cycle and how everything is connected. Rivers empty into oceans, transporting water, organisms, nutrients ... and trash.

“The Philippines alone contributes around one-third of the global total,” reads the horrifying report. At the very top of the list is the Pasig River, with the Tullahan River tied for No. 2. Given that China’s Yangtze river, which used to be considered the world’s top emitter of waste, is more than 250 times the length of the Pasig, one has to wonder how things got so bad.

Share of ocean plastics that come from the largest emitting rivers

Shown is the share of global ocean plastic pollution that comes from the world's largest emitting rivers.



Source: Meijer et al. (2021). More than 1000 rivers account for 80% of global riverine plastic emissions into the ocean. Science Advances. CC BY

Enter San Miguel Corporation

A formidable new partnership that comprises San Miguel Corporation (SMC), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and various mayors and government agencies launched its Pasig River five-year cleanup project this month with a budget of P2 billion. A separate P1 billion cleanup of the 27-kilometer Tullahan River began last year.



“There have been many cleanup efforts in the past ...” said SMC’s president Ramon Ang, as reported by Unbox.ph. “But decades of pollution and compounding problems ... are too significant and complex to overcome even for the best-intentioned advocates and organizations.”

Indeed, government leaders and environmental groups have for decades thrown enormous sums of money at rehabilitating the once mighty, now dead Pasig River. There was the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) created in 1999 under former president Estrada. Over a 20-year period they recovered easements, transforming them into parks and walkways. They also diverted more than 27,000 metric tons of waste through a series of cleanup and resettlement operations. They even won an international award in 2018, but clearly—since the Pasig is today responsible for 6.43 percent of global ocean plastic pollution—those efforts were not enough.

There was also the Pasig River Rehabilitation Program, a joint undertaking of Denmark and our government under former president Corazon Aquino; Gina Lopez’s Kapit Bisig Para sa Ilog Pasig project; and the Piso Para sa Pasig campaign of former first lady Amelita Ramos.

Manila Bay restoration

Any chance of reviving Manila Bay depends on the rehabilitation of the Pasig River, the Tullahan River, all the tributaries, and even the Laguna de Bay. If not, the results will be temporary at best, as the 25-kilometer Pasig connects to the Laguna de Bay and Manila Bay. Merely “beautifying” Manila Bay with, for example, dolomite sand ... well, let’s just say we should improve water quality and marine life before we think about cosmetics.

SMC’s plan to remove hundreds of thousands of tons of waste, using specialized equipment, is a step in the right direction, assuming that the river really is dead and that existing animal and plant habitats aren’t also dredged in the process. The goal is to extract 50 thousand metric tons of waste from the Pasig River per month for five years. This means what SMC removes in a month will be nearly double what the PRRC diverted over several years.

International problem

In my imagination, seabirds in California are building nests with bits of Creamsilk sachets, while turtles off the coast of South Africa are choking on SkyFlakes wrappers. There’s no doubt that we’re doing serious damage to the global marine environment. Locally, dirty rivers contribute to disease, flooding, the cities’ stench, and our collective loss of face. Clean rivers would help mitigate future pandemics, address food security issues by providing fish, and decongest roads by transporting commuters on charming riverboats. Clean rivers would make the Manila Bay cleanup possible; and as global temperatures rise and our summers get hotter and hotter, clean rivers would help cool overheated city-dwellers.

Our collective loss of face

We simply cannot accept seven out of 10! The Philippines is part of the Coral Triangle, where there are more species of fish and corals than any other place on earth. We are an archipelago of divers, fisherfolk, pearl-hunters, and seamen so skilled that we played key seafaring roles in Magellan’s 16th century circumnavigation of the globe and Melville’s 19th century Moby Dick. Today, we are some of the hardest working, respected, and sought-after members of international ships’ crews.

If we respect the sea, as I know we do, then we can’t leave it all to San Miguel and the DENR, who are giving us an important jumpstart on two of the seven rivers on the list of shame. It’s up to us to maintain what they start—by keeping our plastic waste on land, by using much less plastic in general, and by teaching others to do the same.



Polluting our rivers is the same as destroying the coral reefs of Dumaguete and poisoning the whale sharks in Palawan. We must connect the dots if we are to remain on the “World’s Best” list while leaving the “World’s Worst.” We must connect the dots fast because if a documentary filmmaker—like the one who recently released the exposé *Seaspiracy*— catches wind of our seven-out-of-10 infamy and decides to explore our rivers undercover, we’re going to be praying that the editors of *Travel+Leisure* don’t have Netflix.



DSWD continues to implement programs to mitigate impacts of climate change

Thursday, June 24, 2021 Journal Online



The wharf (right photo) and pathway (left photo) which were constructed under the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) KALAHÍ-CIDSS and Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) now serve as barriers to minimize coastal erosion in Barangay San Roque, Pilar, Surigao del Norte.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) continues to implement programs to strengthen community resilience to reduce the damages brought by natural disturbances and calamities due to climate change.

In Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, one of the coastal communities that was vulnerable to the rising sea level caused by global warming is Barangay San Roque in the municipality of Pilar.

During high tide, sea water reaches the community through an inlet – an indentation of a shoreline, usually long and narrow, such as a small bay or arm, that often leads to an enclosed body of salt water. Since waves, no matter how big or small, continuously creep towards the village's banks, it erodes the land, leaving residents worried that the sea would one day claim their houses and properties.

However, the community members did not allow their fear to consume them. Through the help of the DSWD's Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHÍ-CIDSS), the San Roque residents were able to construct a community project that will alleviate coastal erosion due to the rising sea water.

Kalahi-CIDSS uses the community-driven development (CDD) strategy which allows communities to gain control over decisions and resources. Through the program, community members actively participate to identify and prioritize their community's concerns and allow them to design, implement, and manage solutions to their priority problems.

During the second cycle of the implementation of KALAHÍ-CIDSS in 2016, the residents of San Roque identified that their needed community project is a wharf that will serve as a barrier to the rising sea water. At the same time, it will also be used as miniport and fish landing area.

The construction of the 80-linear meter wharf with a budgetary requirement of Php1,273,000, commenced on June 9, 2016. Through the collaboration of DSWD KALAHÍ-CIDSS, the Municipal Government of Pilar, the barangay local government of San Roque, and community volunteers, the wharf was immediately finished on August 17 of the same year.

Aside from serving as a fortification against sea water, the wharf has also helped ease the transportation woes of residents since small boats and bancas now have a sturdy structure where they can dock and get passengers. Normally, these boats ferry the villagers to the open sea and to the shores of the town center of Pilar and other neighboring coastal villages. Most residents prefer to ride boats because the fare is much cheaper compared to land transportation.



“Ini man mosakay ang mga tao kay barato man dinhi ang pletehan sa pumpboat kaysa sa motor. Lisud man sa una dinhi. Sa una ang mga bata magkalapok man” (This is where residents access transportation because fare is much cheaper when riding a pumpboat than a motorcycle. It’s so hard here in the past. Students often get muddy [boarding a boat to school]), shared San Roque barangay captain Nilda Gonzales in an interview on April 14, 2021.

“Kami na ang nagplastar ani. Dako jud og tabang ang wharf kay depensa sa tubig” (We were the ones who put these all-in places. The wharf is such a huge defense against the seawater), Nilda added.

Aside from KALAHI-CIDSS, the residents also benefited under the DSWD’s Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) implementation in 2020. The RRP, through the Cash-for-Work (RRP CFW) on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable families and communities by providing cash assistance and involving them in temporary employment activities that address climate and disaster risks.

Under the said scheme, residents were paid to build a stone wharf and clear a pathway that connects with that of KALAHI-CIDSS’ project. The stone wharf also served as a barrier that protects an area that is also vulnerable to soil erosion.

As the lead agency in disaster response, DSWD will continue to ensure the implementation of programs and services that will encourage disaster preparedness and mitigate the impacts of climate changes, especially to vulnerable communities around the country.



The Philippines Is One of Only 17 Megadiverse Countries in the World

The Philippines holds 70 percent of the world's plant and animal species.

By [MARIO ALVARO LIMOS](#) | A day ago



IMAGE MICHAL LUKASZEWICZ

For a country to be considered “megadiverse,” it has to have a super-rich biodiversity on land and in the sea. “Megadiverse Countries” is a term used to refer to the world’s top biodiversity-rich countries. Only 17 countries in the world can claim that distinction. Despite the environmental degradation in the country, the Philippines remains one of the most megadiverse countries in the world.

According to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), a country needs to have at least 5,000 of the world’s plants as endemic species, and have a rich marine ecosystem within its borders. The Philippines greatly surpassed both criteria.

An Ultra-Rare South Philippine Kingfisher



PHOTO BY MIGUEL DE LEON.

In a 20-year study published in 2016, it was reported that Luzon has the world’s highest concentration of unique mammal species. In the study, it was discovered that a single mountain in the island had five unknown mammal species. There were dozens more. According to Eric Rickart, who is one of the authors of the study, some species are so unique, they are found in just one mountain and nowhere else. “That’s more unique species on one mountain than in any country in continental Europe. The concentration of unique biodiversity in the Philippines is really staggering,” Rickart told Phys.org.



The Real-Life Ibong Adarna



PHOTO BY JONET CARPIO.

An Elusive Orchid Named After the UP College of Medicine



PHOTO BY MIGUEL DAVID DE LEON.

The Tubbataha Reefs in the Sulu Sea also holds the world's highest concentration of marine species. UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Site in 1993 because of the unparalleled richness of its marine biodiversity—it has 75 percent of the world's described coral species and 40 percent of the world's reef fish species. Nowhere else in the world has this marine megadiversity been observed.

USAID reports that the Philippines holds two-thirds of the Earth's biodiversity, and 70 percent of the world's plant and animal species. That makes the Philippines a super-rare gem in the biosphere. "This is due to its geographical isolation, diverse habitats, and high rates of endemism," writes USAID.

The Pokpok: A Noisy and Colorful Bird in the Philippines



PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK.



The Only Photographic Record of *Velifer hypselopterus* in Southeast Asia, Shot in Anilao



PHOTO BY DANNY OCAMPO

Aside from the Philippines, the 16 other megadiverse countries are the United States, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Madagascar, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, China, and Australia.

According to the UNEP, some countries, especially in the tropics, harbor far greater concentrations of biodiversity than others. Unfortunately, these countries also face the most serious threats to their ecosystems.

Source: https://www.esquiremag.ph/long-reads/features/17-megadiverse-countries-in-the-world-philippines-a00293-20210623?utm_source=Facebook-EsquireMoney&utm_medium=SiteShare&utm_campaign=20210623-fbnp-megadiverse-countries-fbfirst&fbclid=IwAR0g-RWnLCLTFwevueG8owHEdRPeUJbXGCur0-aMlvhcHQCUGvSvpQHxpak



Nestlé PH ramps up solid waste management education for World Oceans Day

INQUIRER.net/BrandRoom / 03:04 PM June 24, 2021

There is no denying that one of the greatest environmental challenges the world faces today is the plastic waste crisis. Globally, the Philippines is the third largest source of ocean plastic waste. Fortunately, more and more Filipinos are becoming more conscious of their lifestyles and are starting to adopt sustainable choices and decisions to reduce their carbon footprint and plastic consumption.

Companies like Nestlé Philippines are intensifying their initiatives to address the plastic waste crisis in the country.

“As a food and beverage manufacturing company, Nestlé Philippines is committed to tackle plastic waste as an urgent priority in all stages of its value chain. We are also working to drive new understanding and behavior on waste and waste management and are supporting both our consumers and our employees in their efforts to live a more sustainable lifestyle,” said Arlene Tan-Bantoto, Nestlé PH SVP and head of public affairs, communications and sustainability.

In time for World Oceans Day, Nestlé PH launched the Isabuhay sa Bahay Challenge to empower its employees to take a more active role in helping care for the planet by accomplishing different tasks. Through this initiative, the company and its employees will strengthen their promise to the planet that they made during their Net Zero Fair last April.

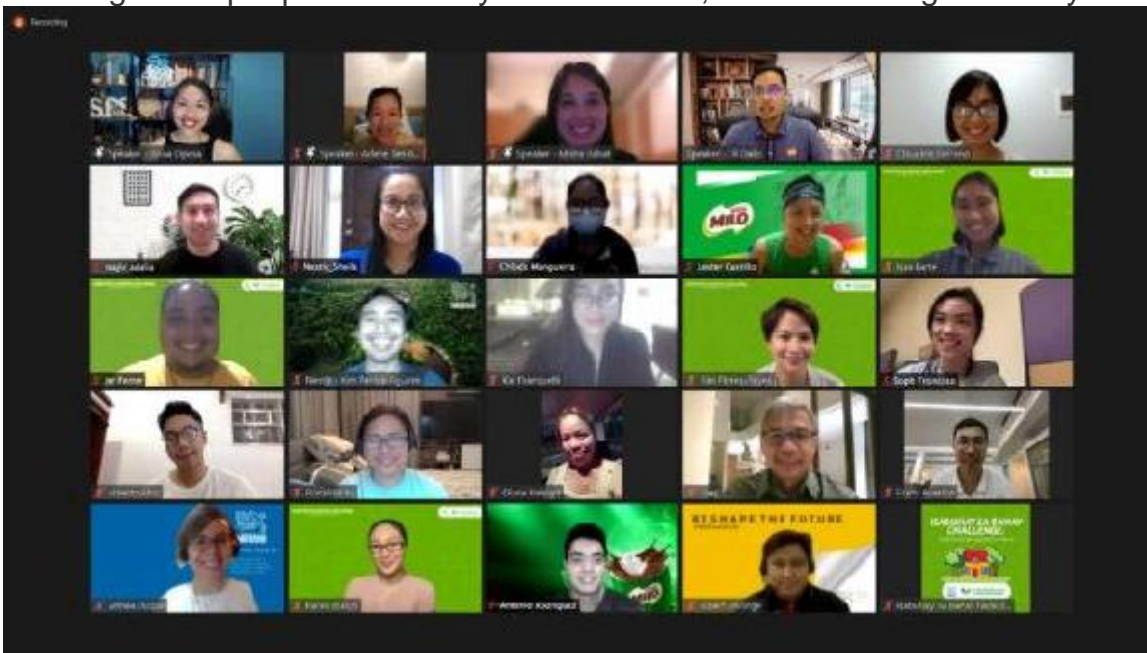


In order to prepare them for the challenge, employees attended a training workshop facilitated by the Executive Director and Chief Mermaid of Save Philippine Seas, Ms. Anna Oposa, that focused on zero-waste lifestyle tips, an introduction to segregation, and composting – three important areas that can help them practice responsible solid waste management at home.



“Every lifestyle change you make depends on your context, resources, and capacity. Whatever you are able to commit to is already a step in the right direction,” Ms. Oposa said.

Participants’ takeaways from the session included practical ways to cut down waste at home; the importance of segregation, and the types of waste that fall under the recyclable, residual, and biodegradable categories; and lastly, the methods and benefits of composting. More than just practicing these activities at home, Ms. Oposa encouraged the attendees to extend their efforts to the community by supporting sustainability efforts of corporations and organizations like Nestlé, reaching out to people in authority when needed, and influencing others by example.



For Nestlé PH, addressing the complex challenge of plastic waste requires support from key sectors and partners, including consumers.

Towards making a waste-free future a reality, the company is engaged in various efforts that encourage a change in behavior. Among these are the development of solid waste management education modules endorsed by the National Solid Waste Management Commission. These modules have been rolled out to thousands of public schools for grades 1-10 students through Nestlé’s partnership with the Department of Education under the Nestlé Wellness Campus program. Condensed versions of the modules are also available to parents and teens for use at home.



Nestlé has also established collection points in collaboration with its partners where people can take their plastic waste for further processing, so they do not end up in landfills. In partnership with Plastic Credit Exchange, collection points have been set up in SM Malls in MOA, SM North Edsa, and SM Fairview.



Know more about Nestlé Philippines' initiatives as well as how to be a Kasambahay for the Environment by visiting nestle.com.ph where you can download a copy of the solid waste management modules and view a list of other locations where you can drop off your used soft plastics.

ADVT.

Source: <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/197269/nestle-ph-ramps-up-solid-waste-management-education-for-world-oceans-day>



- Headline
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#EagleNews

Abaca malaking tulong vs. plastics pollution, deforestation

31 views • Jun 24, 2021

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Brazil environment minister resigns amid investigation

posted June 24, 2021 at 08:30 am

by [AFP](#)

Brazil's controversial environment minister, Ricardo Salles, announced his resignation Wednesday, just over a month after the Supreme Court ordered an investigation into allegations he was involved in a timber trafficking scheme.

"I have presented my resignation to the president, which he accepted," Salles, 46, told a news conference at the presidential palace in Brasilia.

Salles, one of the most divisive figures in far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's government, has presided over a surge in deforestation in the Amazon rainforest and major cuts to environmental protection programs since taking office in January 2019.

The minister had faced even greater scrutiny since May 19, when a Supreme Court justice ordered an investigation into allegations that he and top officials in his ministry helped companies traffic illegally logged rainforest wood to Europe and the United States.

Police raided his home and environment ministry offices the same day.

The ruling also granted investigators access to Salles's bank accounts and suspended 10 officials from their posts, including the head of the environmental protection agency, IBAMA.

The former minister defended his record on protecting the environment, saying he had sought to strike a balance between economic interests such as mining and agribusiness and the need to safeguard natural treasures like the Amazon.

He will be replaced by his secretary for the Amazon, Joaquim Alvaro Pereira Leite, he said.

- 'Bring the whole herd' -

Salles will probably be best remembered by his critics for an April 2020 cabinet meeting at which he was recorded saying the administration should use the coronavirus pandemic to relax environmental rules.

"Now that the media's only talking about Covid, we need to use this moment of calm to 'bring the whole herd of cattle through' and change all the regulations," he said.

He later denied he wanted to gut environmental protections, saying he meant only that the government should try to reduce red tape.

But activists and experts say he facilitated environmental destruction rather than fighting it. The destruction of the Amazon, a vital resource for curbing climate change, has accelerated in Brazil since Bolsonaro and Salles took office in 2019.

Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon surged by 85 percent in the administration's first year, destroying an area bigger than Puerto Rico, according to government data.

It has continued at a high rate since, last month setting a new record for May at 1,180 square kilometers (456 square miles) -- up 41 percent from the year before.



The Climate Observatory, a coalition of Brazilian environmental groups, reacted jubilantly to news of Salles's exit.

"Print this, put it on display and scream loud and clear in the streets: he fell!" it tweeted, along with a picture of Bolsonaro's official acceptance of Salles's resignation.

"Brazil simply could not continue to have someone in charge of the environment ministry who deliberately acted against the institution and was severely harming the country," environmental group Greenpeace said in a statement.

It cautioned, however, that it expected little change with Bolsonaro in power.

"Changing ministers is no guarantee that the Bolsonaro administration will change its destructive anti-environmental agenda," it said.

25 JUNE 2021, FRIDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Patay sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas humigit na sa 24,000 — DOH

(Philstar.com) - June 24, 2021 - 4:09pm



Residents of Quezon City line up for Pfizer vaccine during the inoculation for A1, A2, A3 and A5 categories at Kia Theatre in Cubao on June 23, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 6,043 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Huwebes, kung kaya nasa 1,378,260 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **Lahat ng kaso:** 1,378,260
- **Nagpapagaling pa:** 51,410, o 3.7% ng *total infections*
- **Kagagaling lang:** 4,486, dahilan para maging 1,302,814 na *lahat ng gumagaling*
- **Kamamatay lang:** 108, na siyang nag-aakyat sa *total local death toll sa 24,036*

Anong bago ngayong araw?

- Nadagdagan ng 2 milyon ang doses ng COVID-19 vaccines sa Pilipinas ngayong araw [matapos lumapag sa bansa ang karagdagang mga bakuna mula sa Chinese drug manufacturer na Sinovac](#).
- Itinanggi naman kanina ni Health Secretary Francisco Duque III na Pilipinas ang isa sa "huling makaaabot ng herd immunity" sa Asya laban sa COVID-19. Ito'y matapos kasing lumabas ang findings ng United Kingdom-based think tank na Pantheon Macroeconomics.
- Ayon sa DOH, umabot na sa 9.2 milyong doses ng COVID-19 vaccines ang naituturok sa A1 hanggang A5 priority.
- Matapos [magbanta ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na nais niyang ipakulong ang mga ayaw pa ring magpabakuna laban sa COVID-19](#), inilinaw ni Dr. Beverly Ho, Director IV ng DOH Health Promotion Bureau, na nirerespeto ng gobyerno ang otonomiya ng indibidwal kung siya'y magpapaturok o hindi ng gamot.
- Umabot na sa 178.83 milyong tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang halos 3.9 milyong katao.

— James Relativo at may mga ulat mula kay Xave Gregorio

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/06/24/2107825/patay-sa-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-humigit-na-sa-24000-doh/amp/>



OCTA warns Delta variant may 'crush' healthcare system if it spreads in PH

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 24, 2021 4:28:59 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 24) — An OCTA Research fellow on Thursday warned of a devastating impact on the country's medical system if the more transmissible Delta variant spreads locally.

"Sakaling pumasok siya, dudurugin niya ho talaga yung ating healthcare system po...Biglang tataas yung number of new cases ho kasi napaka-infectious niya," OCTA Research fellow Ranjit Rye said in a media briefing, referring to the Delta variant first detected in India.

[Translation: In case this enters our border, it will crush our healthcare system. Our new cases will suddenly soar because it is extremely infectious.]

This is why there is no room for complacency, Rye stressed.

He said there is a need to accelerate the pace of COVID-19 vaccination and continue enforcing strict border controls as well as strengthen testing, contact tracing, and isolation strategies to prevent the transmission of this variant. In anticipation of possible spikes in case counts due to Delta, COVID-19 treatment facilities should be "upgraded," he said.

He also urged people, even vaccinated individuals, to follow the minimum health standards.

He added company owners must ensure safe workplaces.

The Delta variant is around [60% more contagious](#) than the Alpha variant first detected in the United Kingdom, according to a British study.

Alpha carries the N501Y mutation, which appears to make the coronavirus easier to spread than the original SARS-CoV-2 first found in Wuhan, China.

The Delta variant may also escape from weak neutralizing antibodies, Dr. Eva Maria Cutiongco-de la Paz, executive director of the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health [earlier said](#).

More people are likely to be hospitalized due to this variant, based on preliminary studies, she added.

The country has so far recorded 17 Delta variant cases.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/6/24/OCTA-Delta-variant-PH.html>



Face shield requirement guided by science – DOH

By [Mayen Jaymalin](#)(Philstar.com) - June 25, 2021 - 12:00am



Dr. Beverly Ho, DOH-Disease Prevention and Control Bureau director, stressed that using face shields to increase protection against the chance of transmitting COVID-19 is based on the recommendation of scientists and medical experts.

MANILA, Philippines — Defending anew the wearing of face shields as required protection against COVID-19, the Department of Health (DOH) said yesterday that the government policy is guided by science and expert medical opinion.

Dr. Beverly Ho, DOH-Disease Prevention and Control Bureau director, stressed that using face shields to increase protection against the chance of transmitting COVID-19 is based on the recommendation of scientists and medical experts.

“We have been working with several independent experts, groups from scientific and medical fields to ensure that our initiatives and policies are all based on evidence and global practices,” Ho said in a virtual briefing.

“Our response is guided by science, from the PDITR (Prevention, Detection, Isolation, Treatment and Reintegration) strategy to the vaccination program,” she added.

Ho’s statement was in response to the criticisms from Senate President Vicente Sotto III and other groups against the use of face shields, particularly in outdoor settings.

Sotto even called for a legislative investigation to seek proof that the face shield policy is effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Ho said the DOH and their partner experts used systematic reviews in their process of recommending the use of face shields.

“With this, we assess the whole totality of evidence and not a piecemeal type, wherein we will look for one article and that would represent the so-called evidence. There is a process. Our experts are using that process so that we are fair,” she said.

But Ho said the DOH is open to policy changes if these are based on new scientific evidence. “If new studies will come out that will significantly alter the meta-analysis results, then we are open (to it),” she said.



OCTA backs face shield

Yesterday, the OCTA Research Group expressed support for the government's decision to retain the policy requiring face shields in outdoor and indoor public places.

"We support the decision of the President to require the wearing of face shields for now," OCTA fellow Guido David said in Filipino during a Laging Handa briefing.

"We were not able to examine the studies conducted by experts, but we took it at face value that what they did has basis," he added.

Noting issues on efficacy and practicality, OCTA fellow Ranjit Rye earlier cited the need for more work and data to assess the policy.

Medicine professor Michael Tee, another member of the group, said face shields can serve as an additional protection to the public even as he recognized concerns such as its impact on the environment.

In rejecting proposals to scrap the policy, President Duterte cited on Monday the emergence of more aggressive COVID-19 variants for his decision.

Accelerate vaccine rollout

Meanwhile, OCTA fellows lauded the current pace of the vaccination rollout in the country but urged the government to accelerate it further.

David said the Philippines may achieve sufficient level of protection before the end of the year if the current pace of around 195,000 vaccinations per day is sustained.

"We hope that we can accelerate this further, increase the number of jabs per day, so we can have a higher level of protection before the end of the year," he added.

The OCTA fellow also recommended including Bacolod, Iloilo City, Cagayan de Oro, Baguio and other areas experiencing surges in the priority list in vaccine deployment.

The government earlier identified Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Davao, Bulacan, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga and Rizal – or the NCR Plus 8 – as priority areas for vaccine deployment.

Rye expressed support for the government's strategic choice to prioritize some areas, reiterating their position that vaccinating those in high risk areas first will benefit the whole country as it would prevent the spread of the virus.

Given the threat of more infectious variants, Rye said the government, private sector and the general public should be ready to respond in case of surges.

He recommended providing additional budget for biosurveillance, testing, tracing and isolation. – Janvic Mateo



400+ PARI, MADRE PATAY SA DELTA VARIANT; 270+ SA ORIG VIRUS



June 24, 2021 @ 7:21 PM 12 hours ago

INIULAT ng Vatican News na mahigit 400 pari at madreng Katoliko ang namatay sa India pangunahin dahil sa India o Delta variant ng coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19.

Naganap ang maramihang kamatayan ng mga biktima sa nakaraang mga buwan ng Abril at Mayo na kasagsagan ng panalasa ng nasabing mabangis na COVID variant.

Maaaring nagpapatuloy ang kamatayan ng mga alagad ng Diyos dahil hanggang ngayon, nananalasa pa rin ang nasabing variant na may halong ibang virus, gaya ng Bengal o AP variant at orig na COVID-19.

3 OBISPO MAGKAKASUNOD NA PATAY

Ipinakita ng Delta variant ang bangis nito nang kitlin maging ang buhay ng tatlong obispo. Sa rekord ni Capuchin priest Father Suresh Mathew, namatay si retired Bishop Joseph Pastor Neelankavil, ng Sagar ng Syro-Malabar, noong February 17, 2021.

Magkasunod namang namatay sina retired Archbishop Antony Anandarayar, ng Pondicherry-Cuddalore, at Bishop Basil Bhuriya, ng Jhabua nitong lamang Mayo 3 and 5, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

202 PARI, 210 MADRE

Bukod sa tatlong nabanggit na obispo, omaygad, may 202 pang pari at 210 madre ang namatay.

Nakakala mula sa 147 diocese at 106 religious congregation.

Maaari umanong may dagdag pang bilang ang mga namatay dahil patuloy ang pagdaluyong ng mabangis na pandemya sa India sa mga araw na ito.

IBA PANG KADAHILANAN

Bukod sa bagsik ng mga nagsama-samang virus ng COVID-19, lalo na ang Delta variant na tinatawag ding double mutant sa pinaghalong United Kingdom at South African variants, nagkandahawa-hawa umano ang mga pari at madre dahil sa pagiging asymptomatic.

Asymptomatic ang mga maysakit na hindi kinakikitaan ng anomang sintomas.

At dahil asymptomatic, mga Bro, kumilos nang normal ang mga pari at madre sa pagsasagawa ng mga retreat, miting at pagtitipon.

Pero malaki rin umanong dahilan ang pagbubukas ng mga pari at madre ng kanilang mga simbahan at kombento bilang sentro ng gamutan sa COVID-19.



Gayundin na ginawa nila ang mga simbahan at kombento na lugar ng kainan ng mga mahihirap na nawalan ng kabuhayan at nagugutom sa gitna ng pandemya.

MAHIHIRAP, MALALAYONG LUGAR

Kabilang din sa mga dahilan ng kamatayan ng mga pari at madre ang pagiging malayo sa mga kalunsuran ang kanilang mga destino.

Dinarayo nila ang mga malalayong lugar upang paglingkuran ang mga mahihirap na magsasaka at maliliit na manggawa at walang tahanan.

Napabayaang ang mga lugar na ito dahil sa mga malalaking lungsod nakakonsentra ang mga pwersa ng gobyerno at mayayamang mamamayan laban sa pandemya.

Nasa mga sentrong lungsod naman kasi nagaganap ang grabeng kalagayan at nitong huli, kumalat na ang pandemya sa malalayong lugar.

Habang marami ang mga ospital, bakuna, oxygen, doktor at nars sa mga kalunsuran, kakaunti ang mga ito sa mga kanayunan.

At nasama nang mga biktima ang mga pari at madre sa mga namamatay.

HINDI NAGSISISI AT NANGHIHINAYANG

Kung iisipin, mga Bro, napakabigat sa dibdib ang mawalan ng ganitong mga nagsisilbi sa bayan na pwersa ng lipunan.

Subalit para sa mga nabubuhay na taong simbahan, tinatanggap umano nila ang kamatayan. At kasama umano ang pag-aalay ng buhay sa gitna ng pandemya ang buhay ng mga pari at madre.

DAAN-DAANG PATAY RIN SA IBA

Kung sisipatin nang husto, mga Bro, ang mga namatay sa COVID, hindi lang sa India nagkakaroon ng maraming namamatay.

Nitong nakaraang taon, mahigit ding 200 pari ang namatay sa Italy hanggang sa buong taon ng 2020, ayon sa Avvenire na pahayagang ng Italian Episcopal Conference.

Pero sinasabi naman ng Ansaen Vatican na may 269 pari ang namatay.

Walang tiyak na ulat ukol sa mga madre subalit marami rin ang namatay sa mga ito.

Sa Pilipinas, may mga namatay rin na kinabibilangan nina Agustinian priest Arnold Sta. Maria Cañoza na natalaga sa St. Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila; Jesuit Father Timoteo Ofrasio sa Laguna; Fr. Salty dela Rama ng Ateneo de Manila; at iba pa.

MAGPABAKUNA NA

Namatay ang mga pari at madreng Italiano sa mga panahong wala pang gaanong bakuna, maging ang mga paring Pinoy.

Namatay naman ang mga nasa India sa kakulangan ng bakuna.

Ngayon naman, mga Bro, kung matutuloy lahat ang pagpasok ng mga bakuna sa Pilipinas, magkakaroon tayo ng sapat na proteksyon laban sa COVID-19 at mga variant nito.

Magpabakuna po tayo upang hindi natin sapitin ang nangyari sa mga pari at madre.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/400-pari-madre-patay-sa-delta-variant-270-sa-orig-virus/>



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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

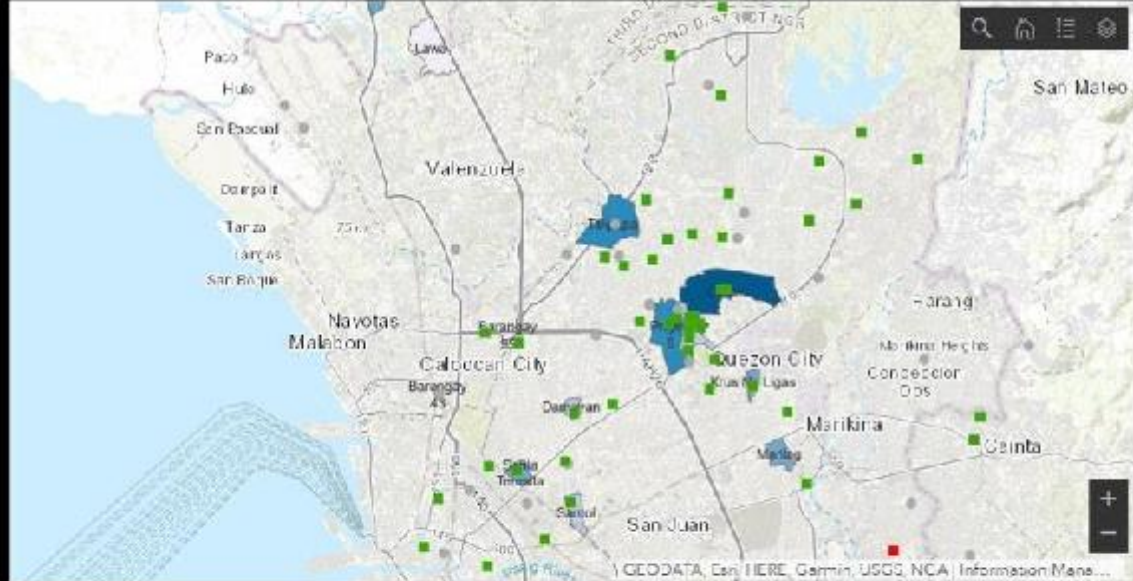
DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring



Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.

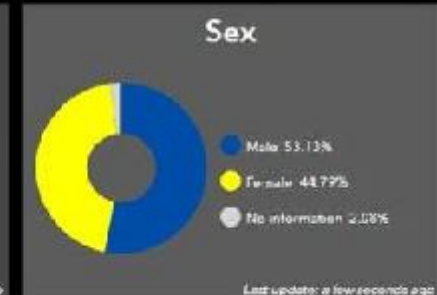
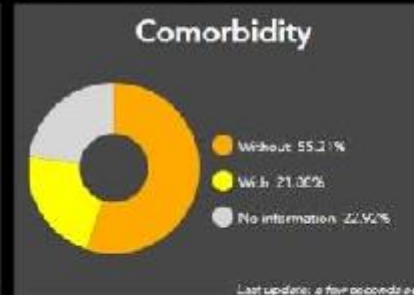
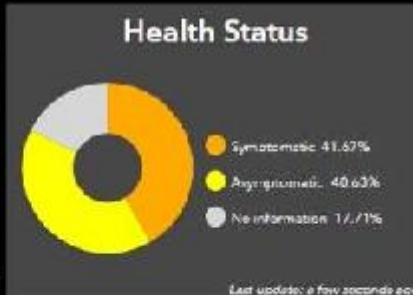
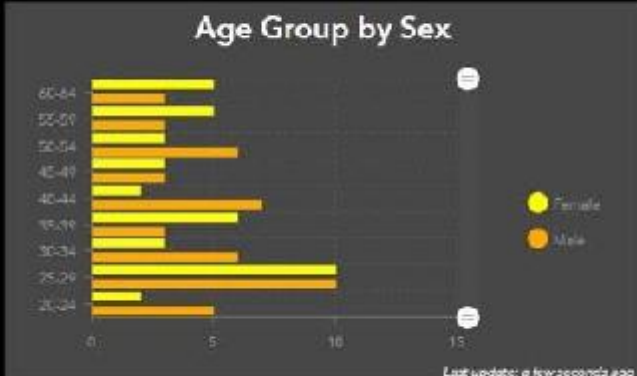
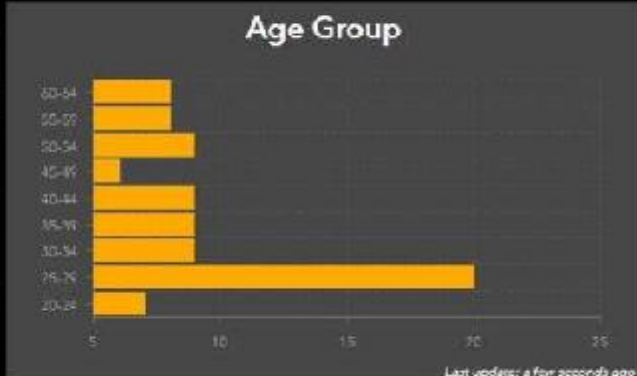


Residence of affected personnel



Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact location/ addresses of the cases.

[Map](#) [Map Legend](#)



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