

26 APRIL 2021, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Big businesses do share for environment protection

By ... -April 26, 2021

The state of the environment in the Philippines has improved the past 10 years but more has to be done, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

This as big businesses vowed to do their part in pushing the “green” economy through environment-friendly operations and sustainable practices amid the health crisis.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the improvements were noted in the country’s air and water quality and solid waste management as well as reforested areas.

The particulate matter (PM) 10 went down by 64 percent, from 76 in 2011 to 27 in 2020, while PM 2.5 decreased from 20 in 2016 to 15 in 2020. Standards for both are 60 and 25, respectively.

Cimatu said monitoring of 36 priority recreational water bodies across the country in 2020 showed 21 or 58 percent were within the quality guidelines in terms of fecal coliform counts.

Of the 43 rivers monitored, 32 or 74 percent passed the standard for biological oxygen demand.

The DENR said 824 materials recovery facilities were established last year, raising the total to 11,546, while the number of sanitary landfills increased from 187 to 241. Reforested areas totalling 47,299 hectares are planted with over 37.2 million various seedlings.

Cimatu said since the Philippines is one of the 17 most mega-biodiverse countries in the world hosting more than 52,000 known species, the country’s biodiversity is also the most threatened.

“The increasing number of heritage parks and wetlands of international importance in the Philippines is an indication that we are on the right track in terms of protection, management, and conservation efforts.,” he said in a statement.

In a forum of Stratbase Albert del Rosario Institute and Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship recently, big businesses shared their initiatives towards building a sustainable and resilient economy.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp. chief finance officer and chief sustainability officer June Cheryl Cabal-Revilla said the group maintained its carbon footprint flat at 460 metric tons because of Gabay Kalikasan programs on reforestation, waste management, recycling, marine protection and community engagements.

Meralco vice president and chief sustainability officer Raymond Ravelo said the company looks to “greenify” its supply portfolio over the next five years by securing 1,500 megawatts (MW) of clean energy contracts. Renewable energy unit MGreen will build 1,500 MW also in renewable energy projects through 2027.

Coca-Cola Philippines president Antonio del Rosario reported the company met the 2020 commitment to replenish 100 percent of water used in production while its P2.3-billion PETValue project which targets to collect and recycle 100 percent of the company’s bottles by 2030 will be operational soon.

Mondel z International country manager for Corporate and Government Affairs Joseph Fabul said the company’s Paranaque plant has been using 100 percent sustainable energy since 2019. (Jed Macapagal)

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_business/big-businesses-do-share-for-environment-protection/



Pagpapasara sa mga “open dumpsite” iginiit ng DENR



April 25, 2021 @ 9:19 AM 20 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Iginiiit ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para maprotektahan ang kalikasan dapat maiparasa ang mga open dumpsite sa bansa.

Ito ang sinabi kanina Abril 24, 2021 (Sabado) ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda batay na rin sa kautusan ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu.

Sa interview ng RPN DXKO The Filipinos World sinabi ni Antiporda upang maipatupad ang good governance kinakailangan ng mahigpit na ipatupad ang batas sa kalikasan.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda bunsod umano na pagwawalang bahala ng mga local government unit (LGU) sa mga lunsod at munisipalidad maraming LGU ang nakasuhan dahil sa patuloy na pagpapahintulot sa “open dumpsite”.

Idinagdag pa ni Antiporda na walang pinipiling pulitikal ang pagpapatupad ng batas para sa kalikasan kahit kaalyado man ng administrasyon o hindi dapat ipatupad ang batas para sa kalikasan.

“Marami ng LGU ang nakasuhan dahil sa pagpapatuloy ng open dumpsite” we don’t care of their political leaning” ayon pa kay Antiporda.

Kaugnay nito inirerekomenda rin ni Antiporda na para malaking tulong sa pagbawas na paggamit ng mga plastic product na nakakasira sa ating kapaligiran iminumungkahi nito na dapat ibalik ang mga plastic bottle sa mga producer nito.

Sinabi pa ng nasabing opisyal na ang naturang istrategiya ay upang mabawasan ang paggamit ng mga plastic product na nakakasama sa ating Inang Kalikasan.

“Isa itong hakbang para sa moral support para mabawasan ang paggamit ng plastic” ani pa ni Antiporda. **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/pagpapasara-sa-mga-open-dumpsite-iginiit-ng-denr/?fbclid=IwAR16SwkgdHBmuZE5X0VRB4MwkvMgK8k-ZMfZ0FZbdZVOzklpuOUGRXh8epo>



DENR: Central Luzon generates 5,000 tons of garbage daily

April 25, 2021

CENTRAL Luzon produces more than 5,000 tons of garbage, including agricultural, industrial, medical, and domestic wastes, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

This figure is collected daily in seven provinces and two cities but only 12 sanitary landfills exist to accommodate these wastes.

The garbage also included recyclables and non-biodegradable materials.

Residual waste is common in open dumpsites, which is the subject of complaints due to health hazards and foul smell, said Andresito Cabalar of the Solid Waste Management Office of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Central Luzon.

"It's the reason why our office has to shut down open dumpsite due to pollution and violation of the Ecological and Solid Waste Management Act," Cabalar added.

He added LGUs must have an approved 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan to address the mounting garbage problem.

"We also encouraged LGUs to recycle and segregates those biodegradable and non-biodegradable in their respective Material Recovery Facilities (MRF). A total of 117 composter and shredding machines have been distributed to different cities and municipalities in the region to complement with their respective solid waste management plan," Cabalar said.

He added the Metro Clark Waste Management Corporation (MCWMC), the only engineered sanitary landfill in Central Luzon, is a big help in Central Luzon's waste management.

The MCWMC has 70 hectares of land that can accommodate various kinds of garbage including medical wastes.

Its capacity is more than 20 tons of garbage per day and only 17 hectares of the land have been utilized.

Cabalar said the campaign against open dumpsite is part of the DENR-EMB program.

According to him, five LGUs in Central Luzon were being monitored due to open dumpsites.

Several prohibited garbage depository areas were recently shut down by the DENR-EMB.

Cabalar said violation of the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act against two of the LGUs in Sta. Ana in Pampanga and Malolos City in Bulacan were endorsed to the Department of Interior and Local Government for action.

"Administrative cases against the two LGUs have been endorsed to DILG," said Cabalar.

He said other areas with open dumpsites are the towns of Talavera in Nueva Ecija, Angeles City and Dipaculao, Aurora.

The three LGUs were issued Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan.

"We made sure that these dumpsites will cease and desist from operation by regularly monitoring the concerned areas," Cabalar said.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1892745>



The Task Force Bangon Marawi and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in collaboration with the LGU-Marawi are set to welcome the official operation of the Solid Waste Management Project in the coming month of May 2021.

(PIA-ICIC)

TFBM, DENR soon to inaugurate Solid Waste Management Project in Marawi

By Claire R. GigjePublished on April 25, 2021

MARAWI CITY, Apr. 23 (PIA)--To address the issue concerning the solid waste management in the city, the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in close coordination with the local government of Marawi look forward to the total realization of the Solid Waste Management Project as it will be inaugurated in next month.

"We are glad to note that by next month, there will be a ribbon-cutting already so that this becomes operational starting May 23 of the year," announced Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary and TFBM Chairperson Eduardo Del Rosario as he disclosed the formal opening of the project for the service of Marawi citizens.

"This is a milestone for Marawi City to have a Solid Waste Management Facility that would really help in ensuring the environment of the city is taken cared of," he added.

The Solid Waste Management Project being implemented by the DENR lies in a two-hectare land area compounding the administration building, overhauling area, motorpool, powerhouse, and central material recovery facility.

It also has materialized customized garbage bins to be distributed to 72 barangays outside the city's most affected area which would then pave way for the establishment of segregation at source and recovery of reusable and recyclable garbage.

With the project, procurement of heavy equipment necessary for garbage collection and operation of the Central Material Recovery Facility was also made possible such as nine units each of 4-cubic capacity mini dump trucks and skid loader, four units of 8.5-cubic dump trucks, two units of wheel-type excavator, and a unit each of roller-type excavator, road ruler and backhoe loader.

At the Central Material Recovery Facility, more machineries were stationed which would be serviceable for recycling and reusing non-residual solid wastes. These were two units of conveyor for shredding of biodegradable and non-biodegradable garbage wherein fed garbage would turn to soil conditioner for biodegradable and eco brick for non-biodegradable, eleven units of rapid composters which would decompose food wastes to become soil conditioner, and four units each of glass pulverizer which would shred non-buyback valued bottles to be turned to eco brick and plastic densifier which would melt plastic wastes and its product be molded into a figure.



Del Rosario bared that apart from regulating the solid waste in the city, the project also calls for more manpower entailing employment for the citizens in the city.

Meanwhile, City Mayor Majul Gandamra committed his support to the realization of the said project on behalf of his constituents.

"I am fully supportive of the Solid Waste Management Project being undertaken by the DENR kasi alam namin na kami ang makikinabang once na lahat ng mga project na ito ay matapos [because we know that we will be the ones benefitting once the projects are completed]," he expressed.

Per agreement, the Solid Waste Management Project along with its facilities will be turned over to the care of the local government of Marawi for its continuous operation and implementation.
(CRG/PIA-ICIC)



DENR to investigate possible oil spill in Manila Bay

Published April 25, 2021 8:54pm



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is investigating a possible oil spill in Manila Bay.

According to a report on "24 Oras Weekend" on Sunday, yellow stains can be seen in the water surrounding a yacht moored beside the sea wall of the Manila Yacht Club.

The DENR said the possible oil spill spread about 500 meters.

The DENR took samples of the water which were sent to the Environmental Management Bureau to determine if it was oil.

The water has yet to be cleaned by authorities. — Ma. Angelica Garcia/DVM, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/785092/denr-to-investigate-possible-oil-spill-in-manila-bay/story/?just_in&fbclid=IwAR2gozmxTXIaCW-eIbk4uB2vxkzrJHCJAkw1wnybFFTdvAeMV_eNXCJR2oc

Barko iniimbestigahan sa pagpapakawala ng wastewater sa Manila Bay

April Raffles, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 25 2021 01:53 PM | Updated as of Apr 25 2021 06:27 PM



Iniimbestigahan ng mga awtoridad ang isang barkong nagpakawala ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay. *Kirk Salazar, ABS-CBN News*

MAYNILA (UPDATE) — Iniimbestigahan ng mga awtoridad ang isang barko matapos itong magpakawala ng wastewater o maduming tubig sa Manila Bay.

Nakuhanan ng mga vlogger noong Sabado ang pagpapakawala ng barko, na itinuturing rason kung bakit naging kulay kalawang ang malaking bahagi ng Manila Bay sa may Baywalk.

"Yong kulay niya ay 'di nagbabago, yellowish pa rin at kumakalat sa Manila Bay so posibleng mayroon itong epekto sa marine life at mismong sa ating paglilinis ng Manila Bay," ani Manila Bay Coordinating Office Deputy Executive Director Jacob Meimban.

Nitong umaga ng Linggo, kumuha ng water sample ang mga tauhan ng Manila Bay Coordinating Office kasama ang Philippine Coast Guard at Metropolitan Manila Development Authority para malaman kung may halong langis ang pinakawalang wastewater.

Ayon sa oiler ng barko na si Escolastico Bunyi, ilang buwan nang nakatengga ang barko sa lugar dahil nasiraan at kailangang maiayos.

Pero itinanggi niyang may kasamang langis at pinakawalang wastewater.

"Galing din po 'yan sa ilalim, sa dagat din. Kapag pinaandar 'yong makina dahil cooling po yan, seawater na may posibilidad na puwedeng sumipsip siya at papalabas ulit," ani Bunyi.





Ayon naman sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources, may langis man o wala, puwede pa ring managot ang may-ari ng barko sa paglabag sa Clean Water Act, na nagbabawal sa paglabas ng kahit ano'ng puwedeng sanhi ng pagkdumi ng tubig o makapipigil sa natural na daloy ng tubig.

"Dapat mayroon silang authority para permit to discharge. And at the same time, dapat mayroon din silang treatment facility within the vessel," ani Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

"Kung hindi man, dapat kino-contain muna nila 'yong wastewater nila. And kung naka-dock na sila, they should have it treated before they discharge it," dagdag niya.

Naka-hold muna ang barko at oiler habang iniimbestigahan ng Coast Guard at DENR.



Barkong nagpakawala ng wastewater sa Manila Bay, iniimbestigahan na

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Apr. 25, 2021 at 3:10pm



Iniimbestigahan na ng mga awtoridad ang pagpapakawala ng wastewater ng isang barko sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Manila Bay Coordinating Office Deputy Executive Director Jacob Meimban, nagkulay dilaw ang tubig sa ilang bahagi ng Manila Bay dulot ng tubig na inilabas ng barko.

Nagsagawa naman ng water sampling ngayong Linggo ang grupo upang matukoy kung saan gawa ang tubig na itinapon sa Manila Bay.

Ang nasabing pagpapakawala ng tubig ay labag sa Clean Water Act.

Pinayuhan naman ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Jonas Leones ang mga barko na i-contain ang wastewater sa halip na pakawalan ito.

Habang mayroon din dapat silang authority na magpalabas ng tubig at mayroon ding treatment facility sa loob ng barko.



LOOK: A ship is under investigation for allegedly releasing a substance into Manila Bay. Water samples have been collected this Sunday morning to determine whether it contained oil.
DENR Usec. Jonas Leones says the owner or staff of the said ship may be penalized if proven to have deliberately released untreated wastewater into Manila Bay, regardless if said wastewater has oil or not. | via April Raffles, ABS-CBN News



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DENR: Minor with 16 bearded dragon iguanas intercepted at Manila checkpoint

Published April 25, 2021, 12:02 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

An estimated P160,000 worth of undocumented bearded dragon iguanas were confiscated at a checkpoint along Quirino Avenue, Manila last week, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) bared on Sunday, April 25.

A minor reportedly attempted to deliver 16 juvenile bearded dragons aboard a motorcycle to Cartimar Market in Pasay City, but was apprehended by members of the Pandacan Police Station at the checkpoint.

DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) seized the live exotic animals after the minor failed to show any permit.

EPETF Executive Director Nilo Tamoria said the apprehension, which took place last April 22, was the result of the DENR's efforts to link up with law enforcement agencies in going after illegal wildlife traders.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatú has ordered the EPETF to intensify its operations against illegal wildlife traders, especially during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

"We are aware that there are those in the illegal wildlife trafficking [who are] taking advantage of the pandemic, which is why we are doubly vigilant," Tamoria said.

He explained that the trade of captive-bred bearded dragon iguanas was regulated and that they can only be sold as pets provided that they were covered by permits issued by the DENR.

The transportation and trade of wildlife without the necessary permit and proper documentation are prohibited under Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

The seized reptiles were turned over to the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau, which then took them to the Wildlife Rescue Center facility in Quezon City for safekeeping.

"Let us obey the regulatory processes required in trading wildlife species, especially those involving exotic species like the bearded dragon iguanas to protect the country's local wildlife species and ecosystems," Tamoria said.



Minor with 16 bearded dragons intercepted at Manila checkpoint -- DENR

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 25, 2021 7:43:02 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 25) -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said it has seized 16 juvenile bearded dragons worth an estimated 160,000 last Thursday.

In a statement on Sunday, the DENR said operatives seized the reptiles from a minor at a checkpoint along Quirino Avenue in Manila. The minor was trying to ferry the animals aboard his motorcycle to Cartimar Market in Pasay City without any permit.

The seized reptiles were turned over to the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau at the Wildlife Rescue Center facility in Quezon City.

DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force Executive Director Nilo Tamoria said the trade of captive-bred bearded dragons is regulated, adding that they can be sold as pets provided they are covered by necessary permits from the agency.

He explained that transporting and trading of wildlife without the necessary permits and proper documentation is prohibited under Republic Act No. 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

"Let us obey the regulatory processes required in trading wildlife species, especially those involving exotic species, to protect the country's local wildlife species and ecosystems," Tamoria said.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/4/25/Minor-with-16-bearded-dragons-intercepted-at-Manila-checkpoint---DENR---.html>



P160,000 bearded dragon iguanas nakumpiska ng DENR sa Manila checkpoint



April 25, 2021 @ 4:35 PM 15 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Dahil sa illegal trade ng wildlife species nagbabala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa lahat laban sa pangangalakal ng mga nanganganib ng mga uri matapos makumpiska ng mga awtoridad ang tinatayang P160,000 halaga ng undocumented bearded dragon iguanas sa isinagawang checkpoint sa kahabaan ng Quirino Avenue, Manila noong Huwebes (Abril 22).

Sa pagtutulungan ng DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) at Pandacan Police Station, nakumpiska ang 16 na juvenile bearded dragons mula sa isang menor de edad na nagtangkang dalhin ang mga ito sa Cartimar Market sa Pasay City lulan ng motorsiklo.

Subalit nabigo ang menor de edad na magpakita ng permit mula sa DENR.

Ayon kay EPETF Executive Director Nilo Tamera, ang pagkakaaresto sa menor de edad ay bunga na rin ng pakikipagtulungan ng DENR sa law enforcement agencies upang maaresto ang lahat ng illegal wildlife traders.

Kaugnay nito ipinag-utos din ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa EPETF na paigtingin ang kanilang kampanya laban sa mga illegal wildlife traders lalo na ngayong panahon ng pandemya.

“We are aware that there are those in the illegal wildlife trafficking taking advantage of the pandemic, which is why we are doubly vigilant,” sabi pa ni Tamera.

Ang mga nakumpiskang reptiles ay dinala sa Biodiversity Management Bureau ng DENR para sa safekeeping sa kanilang Wildlife Rescue Center facility sa Quezon City.

Ipinaliwanag pa ni Tamera na ang pagbebenta ng captive-bred bearded dragon iguanas ay binabantayan. Maaari itong ibenta upang alagaan o bilang “pets” ngunit kinakailangan ang permit mula sa DENR.

Aniya, ang pagbiyahe at pagbebenta ng wildlife nang walang kaukulang permiso at tamang dokumento ay ipinagbabawal sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

“Let us obey the regulatory processes required in trading wildlife species, especially those involving exotic species like the dragon bearded iguanas to protect the country’s local wildlife species and ecosystems,” saad pa ni Tamera. **Santi Celario**

Source: https://www.remate.ph/p160000-bearded-dragon-iguanas-nakumpiska-ng-denr-sa-manila-checkpoint/?fbclid=IwAR09TlpaZN2zwJLmQHgfBogtiaquR0_8l8QZH2EY6S8PqFia_N5byqQJKA

Para sa environmental protection sa SOCCSKSARGEN

SUB-PORT OF DADIANGAS PUMIRMA NG MOA

PUMIRMA sa isang Memorandum of Agreement ang Bureau of Customs (BOC) - Port of Davao's Sub-port sa Dadiangas para sa karagdang pagpapalawak, pagprotekta at pagkonserba ng likas na yaman sa lalawigan ng SOCCSKSARGEN Region.

Kasama sa lumagda sa MOA ang iba pang ahensya ng pamahalaan na pangunahing kinabibilangan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources at mga local go-

vernment units o LGU's.

Nanguna sa aktibidad si Support of Dadiangas Collector Orlando Orfino na linyak na ipapatupad ng BOC ang lahat ng mga batas na may kaugnayan sa environmental laws sa paraang palakasin ang kanilang pagbabantay na makapasok at makalabas ng bansa ang lahat ng uri ng mga itinuturing na likas na yaman ng bansa.

Nagkaisa ang lahat ng mga government agencies na magsasama-sama sila na mag-

karoon ng isang committed at multi-sectoral enforcement group na titingin sa environment and natural resources management upang mabantayan ang anumang pang-aabuso at pagkasira sa kalikasan at kapaligiran.

Umaasa sila na magiging matagumpay ang kanilang layunin na maprotektahan ang lahat ng likas na yaman sa SOCCSKSARGEN laban sa mga sumasalaula nito.

(JOEL O. AMONGO)



ANG paglagda sa Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno para proteksyunan ang likas na yaman sa SOCCSKSARGEN Region sa pangunguna ng Bureau of Customs Sub-port of Dadiangas noong nakaraang Abril 20, 2021.



Furniture Shop Owner Falls For Selling Lumber From Illegally-Sourced Trees



BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

APRIL 26, 2021

A furniture shop owner was arrested by authorities for selling lumbers of endangered Narra and Molave trees during an entrapment operation in Lubao, Pampanga.

Narra is a critically endangered species while Molave is listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the owner of King and Prince Sash and furniture Shop, one Josemary Limpin, was arrested during a sting operation conducted by operatives of the DENR-Region 3 Office and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) based in San Fernando City, Pampanga.

The authorities seized cut lumber from Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*) and Molave (*Vitex parviflora*) trees worth more than P480,000. The seized pieces of lumber were believed to be illegally-sourced by the shop owner, according to the DENR.

“The suspect, who also owned a sash and furniture shop, was arrested while the illegally-cut lumber were seized,” the DENR quoted Police Staff Sergeant Reynaldo Camacho, member of CIDG in Pampanga, as saying.

Laudemir S. Salac, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Penro) in Pampanga, said in a statement that over 4,000 board feet of illegally sourced lumber of Narra and Molave were also confiscated.

“We are not lowering our guard even during this pandemic; instead, we further intensified our anti-illegal logging campaign to check the [trade in] illegal forest contrabands,” Salac was quoted as saying.

Narra and Molave are premium hardwood species because of their excellent wood quality. These are primarily used for furniture-making, making these species a favorite target of illegal loggers, the DENR said.

“We are still verifying the origin of this lumber species but definitely it’s not from the province,” Salac said.

The DENR-Penro Pampanga had already filed criminal charges against the suspect for violating the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.



DENR, CIDG seize P480,000 premium lumber in Lubao town

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

April 25, 2021

COMBINED operatives of the provincial office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Crime Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) based in Pampanga have recently apprehended premium and alleged illegally sourced lumbers of Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*) and Molave (*Vitex parviflora*) worth more than P480,000.

In a report sent to this reporter by the DENR, Police Staff Sergeant Reynaldo Camacho, member of CIDG in Pampanga, said their agents who posed as buyers were able to buy illegally sawn lumbers to a certain Josemary Limpin in the King and Prince Sash and Furniture Shop in Barangay Remedios, Lubao town.

"The suspect, who also owned the sash and furniture shop was arrested while the illegal cut lumbers, were seized and apprehended in the operation," he said.

According to Laudemir Salac, provincial environment and natural resources officer (Penro) in Pampanga, over 4,000 board feet of alleged illegally sourced lumbers of Narra and Molave were apprehended by combined operatives of Penro and CIDG.

"We are not lowering our guards even during this pandemic but instead we further intensified our anti-illegal logging campaign together with our law enforcement partners to check movement of illegal forest contrabands", he said.

He said the species of Narra and Molave are premium hardwood species because of their excellent wood quality primarily for furniture-making, making these species a favorite target by illegal loggers.

"We are still verifying the origin of this lumber species but definitely it's not from the province," he said.

The DENR-Penro has filed criminal charges against the suspect for violating the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines (Presidential Decree 705).



P480K worth of illegal lumber seized in Pampanga

By: [Tonette Orejas](#) - [@ttorejasINQ](#)

[Inquirer Central Luzon](#) / 02:56 PM April 25, 2021

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— Authorities seized some P480,000 worth of Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*) and Molave (*Vitex parvoflora*) lumber without permits from a furniture shop in Lubao town in Pampanga province, an official said on Sunday.

In the April 22 operation, the owner of King and Prince Sash and Furniture Shop in Barangay Remedios could not present cutting and transport permits, according Staff Sgt. Reynaldo Camacho, an investigator at the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

The owner, who was arrested, has yet to identify the source of the lumber, according to Laudemir Salac, head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office in Pampanga.

The DENR sued the owner for violating the Revised Forestry Code or Presidential Decree No. 705.

When the scaling was completed in Sunday, the wood totaled 4,000 board feet, Salac said.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1423565/p480k-worth-of-illegal-lumber-seized-in-pampanga>



Tuguegarao aims to plant 3M trees in next 3 years

April 25, 2021, 11:57 am



TREE SUMMIT. Participants sign the Pledge of Commitment during the first-ever Tree Summit of the Tuguegarao One Million Trees Movement during the World Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2021. The goal of the movement is to encourage Tuguegarao residents to plant 3 million trees in the next three years to counter the effects of climate change. *(Photo courtesy of NNRC)*

TUGUEGARAO CITY – In celebration of World Earth Day, Tuguegarao City launched its One Million Trees Movement through its first-ever Tree Summit last April 22.

The Tuguegarao One Million Trees Movement is a joint project of the Tuguegarao City government, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Cagayan State University, the Schools Division of Tuguegarao City, and the proponent of the movement, the Northern Natural Resource Conservation, Inc. (NNRC).

The objective of the movement is to encourage Tuguegarao residents and environmental advocates to restore the city's natural state through the planting and growing of 1 million trees in the next three years to counter the effects of climate change.

"[In] Tuguegarao City, the effects of climate change are highly evident. It is time to act. The Tuguegarao City government [aims to] address this reality through the One Million Trees Movement," Mayor Jefferson P. Soriano said in his welcome remarks.

To ensure the sustainability of the movement, the 8th City Council of Tuguegarao City has institutionalized the Tuguegarao One Million Trees Movement through the enactment of City Ordinance No. 26-08-2021.

The ordinance localized Proclamation No. 643 signed in 2004, declaring June 25 of every year as Philippine Arbor Day that enjoins all able-bodied citizens to plant one tree every year.

The four-hour summit was participated in by regional line agencies, civil society organizations, barangay captains, Sangguniang Kabataan officials, business establishments, and other private individuals.

Discussed in the summit were Climate Change and its Effects by Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (NOAH) Center Executive Director Alfredo Lagmay, Climate Change Resiliency by World Bank consulting lawyer Karen Jimeno, Bamboo Industry and Climate Change Mitigation by Philippine Bamboo Foundation president Edgardo Manda, and Tuguegarao One Million Trees Movement by NNRC founders Angelo Giovanni Guzman and Maria Rosario Soriano.

Guzman said he presented the project to Soriano in September last year.



"Until one fateful September day last year, when I gathered just enough courage and kapal ng mukha (guts) to try and make a case of my dream again. Telling him [Mayor Soriano] about the Koronadal City experience. I was taken aback when he said, 'Okay let's go!'. And that was it. Those three words are the sweetest three words I have ever heard. I was asking for 100K trees and yet he gave me a number that makes me smile to this very day. One million trees for my beloved Tuguegarao. I said to myself, this is not only a project. This is a Life Mission already. Wow Tuguegarao na Talaga," Guzman said.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu gave his keynote speech at the event and all the participants signed the Pledge of Commitment to end the summit. **(PR)**



A Glimmer Of Hope

PHL lifts ban on mining agreements in a bid to fund pandemic-battered economy. But both miners and environmentalists remain anxious.



BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

APRIL 25, 2021



THE lifting of the moratorium on new mining agreements following the signing of Executive Order (EO) 130 by President Duterte offers a glimmer of hope for the mining industry with the promise of boosting the government's recovery effort amid the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

EO 130, which amended Section 4 of former President Benigno Simeon Aquino's EO 79 signed on July 6, 2012—pertaining to the “Grant of Mineral Agreements Pending New Legislation”—ended the nine-year mining moratorium, which also held in abeyance new mining projects.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), is now working to draft the new EO's implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to proceed with the processing of 100 priority mining agreements or projects.

Taken By Surprise

ANTI-MINING groups immediately slammed the lifting of the moratorium on new mining agreements.

Bantay Kita said the issuance of EO 130 lifting the mining moratorium has taken many stakeholders by surprise, and alleged that it was issued without any prior consultation with relevant stakeholders.

“EO 130 cites the increase of the excise tax from 2 percent to 4 percent (as contained in RA 10963 or TRAIN law) as the justification for the lifting of the moratorium. This minor increase in excise tax is not the type of ‘[rationalization of] existing revenue sharing schemes’ that was contemplated by EO 79,” the group pointed out.

Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), for its part, branded Duterte's order as “another incompetent Covid-19 response.” The group said it will only serve the business interests of a few in power and not the Filipino people.

“A just recovery from Covid-19 can only be achieved by sustainable solutions. Mining is the very opposite of sustainable. It has long proven to be destructive—many lives were lost to mining-related disasters and the environment permanently destroyed. This is a disastrous Earth Day for mining-affected communities,” Jaybee Garganera, Green Thumb Coalition convener and ATM national coordinator, said.

Mining's 'Big 3'

THIS early, mining industry's big players under the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) are hopeful that new investments will start to flow that would give the sector a much-needed boost.

At least three big copper-gold projects of COMP member-companies alone—Silangan, as well as Tampakan and King-King—are expected to bring in a total of nearly \$5 billion total capital investments spread over several years.



Such projects in rural areas are expected to generate hundreds of jobs, plus the indirect jobs in the form of livelihood and other employment opportunities.

This is assuming that the Tampakan and King-King will hurdle former DENR Secretary Gina Lopez's open-pit mining ban, considered as the biggest stumbling block facing mining companies, according to Rocky Dimaculangan, COMP's vice president for corporate communications.

Annual Exports, Revenues

THE annual exports from these three projects are estimated at nearly \$2 billion, while the annual national government revenues have been pegged at P12 billion.

Local government units (LGUs) also stand to receive P1.5 billion from these mining projects.

On the other hand, the social expenses of these three big-ticket projects are estimated at P770 million, while royalties that will go to indigenous peoples are pegged at P632 million.

Stumbling Block

THESE companies, however, need to hurdle stumbling blocks to start operation.

The open-pit mining ban put in place by Lopez in handing down DAO 2017-10 on April 27, 2017, remains the biggest challenge faced by miners.

The ban covers select ores, including gold, copper, silver and complex ores.

Both King-King and Tampakan prefer the open-pit mining method.

Proponents of the Silangan project had decided to use the tunneling method and secured the clearance from the DENR-MGB.

'Not To Worry'

MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano, in a telephone interview with the BusinessMirror, told industry players "not to worry."

"*Sabihin mo lang* [Tell them] don't worry," Moncano said. The official, however, stopped short of saying the ban on open-pit mining method will also be lifted soon.

"What I can say is that a working group is working on it in the DENR," he said.

Moncano, however, said any decision on the issue of open-pit mining will depend on the appreciation and recommendation of DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu to Malacañang.

"Of course, it will all depend on Secretary Cimatu's decision," he said.

Moncano has been vocal in supporting the mining industry in its calls to reverse alleged anti-mining policies put in place by Lopez, which include the mining audit that saw 26 mining projects having been canceled or suspended, cancellation of 75 inactive Mineral Production and Sharing Agreements (MPSA) and one Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) and the open-pit mining ban.

Positive Sentiment, Investment Climate

WITH Duterte's change of heart in lifting the ban on new mining agreements, there's also renewed hope among industry players on the issue of the open-pit mining method.



Philex Mining public and regulatory affairs head Francis Joseph G. Ballesteros Jr. said with Silangan, the company is still pursuing and working with its financial advisor to identify and sign up a strategic business partner.

“Hopefully, EO 130 would somehow encourage investor interest in the project,” Ballesteros said.

He said while EO 130 did not directly benefit Silangan as the company has no new agreements in sight yet, the benefit to the project is in terms of investment climate.

Kaycee Crisostomo, director for communications of King-King, said the company is pleased with the positive developments and hoped that the potential investors in its project will also be encouraged. “The project will benefit from the overall positive sentiment for new mining projects and the restoration of confidence among foreign direct investors,” Crisostomo said.

Necessary Form Of Mining

COMP has been conveying member-companies’ sentiment against Lopez’s open-pit mining ban. For COMP, the method of mining is dictated by the nature of the ores.

“The open-pit method is a necessary form of mining in most areas where underground mining cannot be applied,” Dimaculangan said.

“The shape, nature and location of the ore body determine the mining method. In the case of open-pit mining, the ore is either on the surface or close to it, therefore necessitating an extractive approach from above ground and not from under it,” he explained.

Legal Basis

DIMACULANGAN also noted the Mining Act of 1995 allows the implementation of open-pit mining. “There are economic, safety and environmental considerations for employing this method. Thousands of mines worldwide have adopted this primary method, including Australia, Canada, China, Brazil and the USA. We are the only country in the world that bans this method,” he said.

Lastly, Dimaculangan said open-pit mines can be operated safely by following globally accepted standards and mined-out areas that “can be rehabilitated properly in a manner that provides alternative and productive land use after the life of the mine.”

Image courtesy of Neillockhart | Dreamstime.com



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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SMC

PASIG River is set for a huge rehabilitation with the help of SMC, DENR and DPWH.

Pasig River cleanup shifts into high gear

In a bid to intensify efforts in cleaning up the historic Pasig River, San Miguel Corporation (SMC), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) are now conducting the first intensive studies on the riverbed.

The multinational conglomerate said that it is looking to remove 600,000 metric tons of waste per year from the Pasig River, with actual cleanup to start in May.

SMC president Ramon Ang stressed that the company has already completed the initial bathymetric survey of the Pasig River, from the Pandacan, Manila area going upstream, while studies of the Manila Bay to Pandacan area are also now underway, using new equipment the company acquired.

Bathymetry is the study of the ocean, lake, or river floors to determine their topography and characteristics underwater. The studies are the first to be done for these sections of the Pasig River.

"This is a very important environmental effort, and we want to do it right. Cleaning up the Pasig River has been a dream for many Filipinos, even our older generations, so we want to make sure our plan is strategic and effective. While we will use science and utilize modern technology, this project can only succeed with the cooperation of all stakeholders," Ang said.

"We are grateful for the support of Secretary Roy Cimatu and Secretary Mark Villar. They will be key to making this project a success. Their expertise and ability to mobilize support from many stakeholders are vital to this initiative," he added.

The SMC chief said that the company recently took delivery of a marine echo sounder – an hydrographic survey equipment that uses sonar to determine the depths of water by sending acoustic waves into the water.

Apart from bathymetric survey, SMC said it is also looking to conduct a soil test from Manila Bay to Pandacan, every 400 meters. The company has also coordinated with the DPWH to request its consultants to conduct their own hydrographic study and dredging plan.

We are grateful for the support of Secretary Roy Cimatu and Secretary Mark Villar. They will be key to making this project a success.

"According to the DPWH, there have been no previous studies or dredging plans for the Pasig River near the Manila Bay. There were previous studies with JICA but that was for the area near Marikina River. So this is a historic effort. With government and private sector working together, combining our efforts, resources, and technical know-how, I'm sure we will succeed in cleaning up Pasig River," Ang said.

He also noted that the draft memorandum of agreement between SMC and the DENR is now undergoing review, with DPWH also a signatory, in order to formalize the formation of a joint venture between SMC and the government agencies.

SMC has also acquired equipment specifically for the Pasig River cleanup which includes a cutter suction dredger and 800 metric ton hopper barge capable of removing 50,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste per month, or a total of 600,000 metric tons per year.

The company is also acquiring an amphibious excavator for dredging shallow waters and for river widening.

Currently, SMC is already undertaking another massive and historic river cleanup project – its P1 billion initiative to dredge the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River system.

Earlier this month, or less than a year since SMC started work on that project, SMC reported dredging a total of 168,000 metric tons of waste from the Tullahan. It is set to double its daily dredging capacity to 1,500 metric tons per day. The project is aimed at helping mitigate flooding in Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, Quezon City, and Bulacan.

SMC's Pasig River cleanup project is part of its P95 billion project to build the Pasig River Expressway, an elevated toll road along the banks of the Pasig, which will connect the east and west sides of Metro Manila, from R-10 Road in Manila to EDSA and C-5.

The project is seen to decongest traffic in Rizal, Cainta and Marikina. It will also provide easier access to the central business districts of Makati, Ortigas, and Bonifacio Global City, and also connect to the Skyway system.



VIRGIN coconut oil is seen



Some rays of light

April 25, 2021 | 6:45 pm

Introspective

By Calixto V. Chikiamco



PHILIPPINE STAR/ MICHAEL VARCAS

It's quite natural and understandable to be very pessimistic and depressed at this time. There seems to be no end to this pandemic and no coherent government plan to end it. Instead, we are seeing another surge, deadlier than the initial one. While I have friends who died in the first wave last year, I know of many more acquaintances and relatives who have recently gotten infected, a number of whom have died.

The government seems to be at a loss. Having imposed the strictest lockdown in the world last year with not much to show for it, the Duterte administration is caught between a rock and a hard place:

Continue the ECQ and other severe forms of mobility restrictions and risk multibillion losses to the economy, or relax the restrictions and risk overwhelming the hospitals and letting the virus go unchecked.

Between the "hammer" and the "dance," the government has only resorted to the "hammer" of lockdowns. The government has wasted one year because measures to contain the virus more smartly — mass testing, tracing, isolation and treatment — have still not been done. There are as many tracing apps as there are LGUs. Surge hospital and isolation capacity hadn't been built even as the government started loosening the restrictions to perk up the economy.

Moreover, the IATF keeps making decisions not based on evidence and data. It restricted outdoor exercise to 6 to 9 a.m., when evidence has shown that when there's outside natural ventilation, the risks are much lower. Extended curfews were imposed, giving commuters a small window to get home, risking crowding in public transportation. The result has been messaging that people were unlikely to follow because they lacked common sense.

All the while, the government's vaccination program has been a mess. The government has been late to procure vaccines. It first tried to monopolize procurement and deny the private sector the right to procure on its own. It tried to erect one bureaucratic hurdle after another at the private sector, including mandating that the private sector must follow the Department of Health (DoH) protocols for prioritizing who may get the vaccine. The result is that the country is way behind other countries in vaccination per capita. Consequently, the government is left with no option but to impose another lockdown to contain the virus surge.

Contributing to the air of public pessimism is a president who seems tired and out of ideas.

What is worse is that he keeps the same team which had clearly failed in managing the pandemic.



Instead of giving people hope, all President Duterte does is double down on criticizing Leni Robredo and Leila de Lima and perpetuating a reign of human rights abuses.

That said, some rays of light are showing through the dark clouds. If one wallows only in pessimism, one will miss several important things happening. I refer to structural changes which will foster sustainable economic growth in the long run. To wit:

EO 127 which classified satellite broadband as a value-added service. This means that accessing satellites would no longer be confined to those which have telco franchises. Under the new EO, ISPs (Internet Service Providers) and VAS (Value-Added Service) providers registered with the National Telecommunications Commission can now access more than 15 high throughput satellites, including Elon Musk's Starlink, which have the Philippines under their respective footprints. Broadband speeds of as fast as 150 mbps can be made available anywhere in the Philippines where one can put up a satellite dish. This will make internet service accessible even in remote areas, and promote distance learning and financial inclusion.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) DAO 2020-18. This DAO liberalized tree plantation. The previous DAO, issued under former President Aquino's DENR Secretary Ramon Paje, mixed natural forests and planted forests and essentially killed the tree plantation and wood processing industry with regulatory overreach. The new DAO will revive the tree plantation industry once again. Being a mountainous tropical country, the Philippines has a competitive advantage in forest production but it had wasted its opportunity to develop the forestry sector because of over-regulation and uncertain property rights.

The Public Service Act (PSA) is finally moving in the Senate after President Duterte certified it as urgent together with amendments to the Retail Trade Liberalization and the Foreign Investment Act. As I keep saying, the PSA is the most consequential economic legislation since the founding of the Republic. Nay, perhaps since the Commonwealth era because nationalist protection of "public utilities" started in the 1935 Constitution and is the reason why the Philippines has retrogressed economically compared to its once backward but now more progressive neighbors.

The PSA will redefine public utilities so that only natural monopolies are deserving of the nationalist protection of a 40% foreign ownership limit in the Constitution. If the PSA is passed, the transport and telecommunications sectors will be open to 100% foreign investment. This will increase competition and break the back of the monopolies strangling these strategic industries. We will see more investments, increased competition, more innovation, technology transfer, lower prices, and better service in transportation and telecommunications that will have positive ripples throughout the economy.

More than ever, there is a great chance that the PSA will, after eight years, be finally passed.

Sometimes, a crisis forces the mind.

There is, however, another recent EO that will also be a huge boon to economic development.

Two weeks ago, President Duterte issued EO 130, which lifted the ban on new mining development imposed by former President Ninoy Aquino. The previous EO halted the issuance of new mining licenses until the institution of a new fiscal regime.

EO 130 justified the lifting of the ban because the excise tax on mineral products had already doubled in 2017 from 2% of Gross Sales to 4% under RA 10963 or TRAIN. It also said that with new regulations, environmental safeguards are in place.

Government estimates that the proposed contribution of new Mineral Agreements will amount to P5 billion in royalty fees, P20 billion in annual government revenues, P57 billion in exports, and generate 41,000 jobs in the countryside.



More than the activation of shovel-ready projects, the new EO provides a regulatory environment where the mining industry in the Philippines can reach its full potential.

The Philippines is one of the five most mineralized countries in the world. Valuable minerals, such as gold, copper, nickel, manganese, chromite as well as non-metallic minerals like marble and limestone, lie abundantly in its domain. Mining development has never reached its full potential because of legal, regulatory, and public relations issues. Environmental disasters of a long time ago, such as the Marcopper tailings disaster, turned the public against mining and spurred anti-mining activist fervor. Unregulated small-scale mining, which doesn't adhere to any environmental standards, also contributed to mining's negative public image.

However, if mining is properly regulated and the industry self-regulates in accordance with international environmental standards, there's no reason why the Philippines can't use mining to increase the people's living standards, in much the same way that Australia and Canada do.

Why do I say that mining is an industry of the future?

There are two main trends that are driving increased demand for metals worldwide. First is the increased demand for computer and tech equipment which started during the pandemic and is expected to last for years. In fact, the demand has been so high that this has led to a global chip shortage, affecting industries such as car manufacturing. Minerals such as copper, lithium, cobalt, and nickel are needed to produce cell phones, computers, smartwatches, and the Internet of Things (IoT).

The other huge demand driver is the coming shift to electric cars. By 2035, GM expects its line-up to be all electric. The other carmakers won't be far behind. Presently, electric cars constitute only about 2% of all car production but that will grow to 80% in 20 years.

However, the core of electric cars is the EV or electric car battery, which is mostly made of lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese and other minerals. Elon Musk is already foreseeing a shortage of nickel, and Tesla is being wooed by the Indonesian government to put up a plant in Indonesia, a major source of nickel. The Philippines is rich in nickel and cobalt too.

In other words, what Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Venezuela were to the oil industry (which is expected to decline with the shift toward renewables), minerals-rich countries, such as Bolivia, Congo, Australia, Canada, and perhaps the Philippines could be on top of the new global energy order. And because the United States doesn't want to be dependent on China, it would seek to develop a supply chain from among friendly countries. Therefore, mining is the industry of the future and the Philippines could be a superpower in mining.

That is the dream. In the meantime, there's this pandemic to defeat.

Calixto V. Chikiamco is a board director of the Institute for Development and Econometric Analysis.

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www.idea.org.ph

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/some-rays-of-light/>



Lobaton: The disconnect



[JONATHAN LOBATON](#) April 25, 2021

THERE is controversy recently on the cutting of trees along the national highway going south of Bacolod or beside the old airport. The environmental groups and netizens aired their concerns for lack of appreciation on the role of trees in the lives of people.

There are also questions on why government agencies allowed the cutting of trees and permits were issued without proper consultation.

I remember this is not the first time when trees were also cut along Abuanan Road in Bago City because of a government project. The trees were planted many years ago to symbolize the friendship between the Philippines and the government of Japan. The government of Japan extended help to Filipino communities through OISCA, whose office is located at Barangay Tabunan, Bago City. The stakeholders in that place later knew that cutting had already been started before they could ask from the local government that trees are standing more than what the people can see. There is something symbolic between the two countries, hence that should have been preserved.

It turned out that cutting of trees is given the go signal by government agencies.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at some point said that trees beside the old airport pose some dangers to the motorists and thus needed to be taken from where it is standing.

This situation opened a discussion from many quarters of society, particularly those who want to protect the environment. Professor Rhoderick Samonte of Carlos Hilado Memorial State College was actually one of those who said that trees should be protected and government agencies may have missed acknowledging that it is not just easy to cut these trees.

I agree with Sir Dick in his views about the preservation of trees and at the same time extracting accountability from our government agencies particularly on the fault that was created.

In the hindsight, there is probably a disconnect in the reading of our government officials about the supposed requirements of the agencies before the go signal. The essence of why these papers are to be secured is for the purpose of thinking about whether the matter requested is for the interest of the people. Like the DENR, which is supposed to protect the environment and secure a balance between humans and the environment, they are expected to have suggested an option other than simply signing the documents and give the responsibility to other agencies. These other government agencies may also have the same mindset and this time, they did not foresee that people would rise up against their decisions.

In the midst of the complexities of society brought about by modernization and the pandemic that has disturbed our usual processes, our government may have failed to magnify that [such] things are important in the existence of our people.



Also, because we are a society that lives up to the written rules brought about by the legal-rational authority, we tend to fail in appreciating the social conditions that should have been the real consideration in understanding the written rules.

In concrete words, while permits have been accomplished and everything is presumed in order, it is not acceptable by many. And government has an obligation to listen to the voices of those who actually gave them the mandate.

Dominguez rallies the int'l community to address climate crisis

By Melinda T. Quinones Published on April 25, 2021



Agus-Pulangi hydroelectric power plant in Mindanao (Photo from file)

QUEZON CITY, Apr. 25 (PIA) -- Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III rallies the international community in strengthening their climate ambition ahead of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in November, said a Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) press release.

In a two-day Climate Summit hosted by the United States, Dominguez laid down the measures the Philippines is taking to address the climate crisis, which include pushing for the passage of a piece of legislation that will ban single-use plastics.

"We cannot simply sound the alarm. We need a call to arms. Each person, each community, and each country must do what needs to be done to reverse the destructive course we ourselves inflicted on our own planet," Dominguez said in a pre-recorded message during the breakout session on climate security that was chaired by Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III and participated in by Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines and the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield.

He added that the Philippines wants to become a world leader in drastically reducing greenhouse gases, although it only accounts for three-tenths of one percent of global carbon emissions. On 15 April, he disclosed that the Philippines submitted its first nationally determined contribution.

"We have set a target of 75% greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance by 2030. This ambitious target was set to challenge both ourselves as well as the rest of the world. It underscores the urgency with which we view this greatest challenge facing the earth today," he said.

Secretary Dominguez also shared that the Philippines is exploring a financial mechanism to enable the government to improve the generating capacity of the Agus-Pulangi hydroelectric power plant and acquire all coal-fired power plants in Mindanao to repurpose them, which will shift most of the energy requirements in that region to hydro power. (MTQ/PIA-IDPD)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1073330>



Dominguez Outlines PHL's Climate Goals At UN Summit

APRIL 26, 2021

FINANCE Secretary Carlos Dominguez III participated in the two-day Climate Summit hosted by the United States that started on Friday to rally the international community in strengthening their climate ambition ahead of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in November.

“We cannot simply sound the alarm. We need a call to arms. Each person, each community, and each country must do what needs to be done to reverse the destructive course, we ourselves inflicted on our own planet,” Dominguez said in a pre-recorded message during the breakout session on climate security that was chaired by Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III and participated in by Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines and the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield.

Dominguez laid down the measures the Philippines is taking to address the climate crisis, including pushing for passage of legislation that will ban single-use plastics.

He added that the Philippines wants to become a world leader in drastically reducing greenhouse gases although it only accounts for three-tenths of one percent of global carbon emissions. On April 15, the Philippines submitted its first nationally determined contribution (NDCs) on greenhouse gases.

“We have set a target of 75-percent greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance by 2030. This ambitious target was set to challenge both ourselves as well as the rest of the world. It underscores the urgency with which we view this greatest challenge facing the Earth today,” he said.

Dominguez also shared that the Philippines is exploring a financial mechanism to enable the government to improve the generating capacity of the Agus-Pulangi hydroelectric power plant and acquire all coal-fired power plants in Mindanao to repurpose them. This will shift most of the energy requirements in that region to hydro power.



A Call To Restore Our Earth

BY **ATTY. JOSE FERDINAND M. ROJAS II**

APRIL 26, 2021



Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

RISING SUN

Last Thursday, more than 190 countries around the world celebrated Earth Day. In the Philippines, April 22 was declared as the Philippines's Earth Day in 2008, by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 1481. The theme for 2021 is "Restore Our Earth." It is also a strong call for everyone to do his or her share in addressing the climate crisis.

There was an online event organized by the Climate Change Commission on April 22 to inform people about the country's goals and campaigns to protect the environment. It was also a declaration of the government and various communities' united efforts to care for the planet and encourage each and every Filipino to do the same. The government is working with Congress and the LGUs to achieve the Philippines's commitments to the Paris Agreement.

Finance Secretary and CCC Chairman-designate Carlos G. Dominguez said that "one of the most important actions we have to take is to push for effective policies and realistic solutions to address the growing challenges from single-use plastics pollution, and to set us on the path of sustainable consumption and production."

Studies show that the continued increase in single-use plastic garbage in the ocean will eventually lead to the presence of more plastic than actual fish, which would definitely affect the livelihood of many. No doubt about it: all Filipinos must work together to reduce single-use plastic pollution.

There is a bill on single-use plastics that is currently pending in the House of Representatives. The CCC has been advocating for the passage of this bill, which is currently under consideration for the second reading. Part of the bill's aims is to "protect life, both land and water, from hazards posed by plastic pollution and to ensure that non-compostable single-use synthetic plastic products deemed necessary to society do not leak into nature, and to discourage consumption of SUP products and promote circularity through reduction, reuse, and recycling of plastic trash."

The United Nations declared 2011 to 2030 as the "UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration," which means that the Sustainable Development Goals must be achieved by 2030 as this is the year defined by the scientific community as the deadline to limit global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius—the threshold for survival for climate-vulnerable countries like the Philippines.

By far, 489 cities, municipalities, and provinces in the country have already resolved to stop or regulate the use of plastic bags. We need to do more, for sure, and more Filipinos need to engage because our window of opportunity is becoming smaller as time passes. We must reduce our carbon footprint and embrace sustainable practices if we haven't done so already. Congress must pass the legislation as soon as possible.

The efforts must begin with the individual, with every household's commitment to the goals. Our time is running out.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/04/26/a-call-to-restore-our-earth/>



Pampanga yields P82-M quarry collections



File photo

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

April 25, 2021

THE local income of the Pampanga provincial government from Mount Pinatubo's sand and gravel increased to P82 million in March 2021, exceeding the previous highest monthly collection of P72.8 million in February, an official said on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

The March 2021 collection raised to P1.118 billion the total revenues earned so far in the 20 months of the administration of Pampanga Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda, according to lawyer Charlie Chua, provincial administrator.

Capitol collects a P150 sand tax, P250 administrative fee, P30 weighing scale fee, fees for sand and gravel permit, motor vehicle and heavy equipment accreditation, including fines and penalties.

Chua said the provincial government's share of 30 percent from the P150 sand tax was put in the provincial coffers to support programs in managing the Covid-19 pandemic and in implementing regular programs in health, education, agriculture, livelihood, environment and infrastructure.

Barangays and towns or cities where the sand was derived from getting 40 and 30 percent of the sand tax, respectively, based on the distribution authorized by the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160).

Government and private projects, as well as the timing of construction works in dry months, have prompted higher demand for sand, according to Romeo "Buddy" Dungca, chief of the quarry unit Kalam.

Haulers or quarry operators towed more than P6 million worth of sand daily in three days last March.

Pineda said aside from the high demand for sand, the compliance of quarry operators and haulers with regulations was a "big key" to the increase in local income.

"I could not thank them enough for their partnership and cooperation in really turning Mt. Pinatubo's sand a top-earner for the province," the governor said. "Their taxes and fees go to good use."

Associations of quarry operators had also donated ambulances, food packs, medicines and medical items during the health crisis.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1892743/Pampanga/Local-News/Pampanga-yields-P82-M-quarry-collections>

Over 300 kg slaughtered manta rays confiscated in Zamboanga

UNTV News • April 25, 2021



Over 300 kilograms of slaughtered manta rays were confiscated in Labason, Zamboanga del Norte on April 18, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Fisheries Office No. IX (BFAR 9) posted a report on Friday, April 23, on its social media page.

The DA-BFAR 9 together with the PNP Maritime Group and Labason Municipal Agriculturist Office, confiscated the ray meat during their conduct of OPLAN KURANTAY.

Two commercial fishing vessels, namely, F/B RON RON and F/B LIONEL JAMES, were spotted operating in the vicinity of Labason municipal waters. Upon approaching the fishing boats, the fishery enforcers caught the crew red-handed slaughtering manta rays and witnessed some fish workers throwing the manta ray meat overboard in an attempt to hide their crime.

An approximate total of 315 kilograms (approx. 15kg for F/B RON RON and approx. 300 kg for F/B LIONEL JAMES) of manta ray meat were recovered in the possession of the two boats. The said vessels were supposed to dock and land their catch in Barangay Malintubuan, Labason.

Notice of Violation of Sec. 102 Fishing or Taking of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species of RA 8550 as amended by RA 10654. The offender may suffer an administrative penalty of 300,000 to 3,000,000 and/or upon conviction by a court of law, punished by imprisonment of FIVE to EIGHT YEARS plus twice the administrative fine.

Manta rays (*Mobula* sp.) are listed in the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), Appendix II. These marine creatures are identified as belonging to a group of species associated with significant unregulated, unsustainable fishing pressures and severe population depletion.

Meanwhile, the said slaughtered endangered aquatic species were turned over to BJMP-Liloy District Jail for proper disposition as assisted by the Municipal Police Station of Labason.

DA-BFAR IX strongly reiterates and warns the general public that it is unlawful to fish or take, catch, gather, sell, purchase, possess, transport, export, forward or ship out aquatic species listed in Appendix II of the CITES. The public is encouraged to report any illegal fishing activities through FPLEG Hotline No. 0939-936-6832. **(Maribelle Cabling)**



#EagleNews

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'Zero-waste' community pantry opens in Antipolo

Published April 25, 2021, 1:09 PM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

Taking inspiration from the Maginhawa community pantry, members of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in Antipolo City in Rizal have created their own version of community pantry with a greater cause of going zero-waste.

The community pantry, dubbed as "Zero-Waste community pantry," was packed with dispenser for vinegar, soy sauce, and oil; as well as huge jars filled with salt, sugar, chili, and monggo beans aside from vegetables and other food items.



Members of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in Antipolo, Rizal have created their own version of community pantry, dubbed as "Zero-Waste community pantry." (Photo courtesy of JR Papel)



Members of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in Antipolo, Rizal have created their own version of community pantry, dubbed as "Zero-Waste community pantry." (Photo courtesy of JR Papel)

The Zero-Waste community pantry encouraged the residents to bring their own bags or bottles to carry their foods from the community pantry.

"BYOB or Bring Your Own Bag or Bottle o ang pagdadala ng sarili nating lagayan para sa mga pagkaing nakalagay sa ating community pantry (or bring own pouch in carrying own food placed in our community pantry). We're encouraging everyone to help and sustain our Zero-Waste Community Pantry," JR Papel, one of the SK members, shared in a Facebook post.

ZERO-WASTE COMMUNITY PANTRY *Inspired by Maginhawa Community Pantry* Located at Brgy. Cupang, Antipolo City- St...

Posted by [Jr Papel](#) on Tuesday, April 20, 2021



The Zero-Waste community pantry was located in Barangay Cupang, Antipolo, Rizal.



Members of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in Antipolo, Rizal have created their own version of community pantry, dubbed as "Zero-Waste community pantry." (Photo courtesy of JR Papel)



Members of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in Antipolo, Rizal have created their own version of community pantry, dubbed as "Zero-Waste community pantry." (Photo courtesy of JR Papel)

For those interested to give donations for Zero-Waste community pantry, they can contact Rachel Anne Fuentes at 09095977373 and send cash donations via G-Cash at 09352129979.

Several community pantries have sprouted in Metro Manila and in the provinces with the aim of giving food and supplies to everyone in need amid the economic difficulties brought by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.



'Green EDSA movement' inilunsad para pagandahin ang EDSA

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 24 2021 08:51 PM



Inilunsad na ang proyektong layong pagandahin ang kahabaan ng EDSA. Layon ng "Green EDSA Movement" na matulad ang pangunahing highway na ito sa Metro Manila sa mga sikat na kalye tulad sa Singapore at France. Nagpa-Patrol, Warren De Guzman. TV Patrol, Sabado, 24 Abril 2021.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/business/04/24/21/green-edsa-movement-inilunsad-para-pagandahin-ang-edsa>



EDITORIAL - Ingatan, daigdig na ginagalawan

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - April 25, 2021 - 12:00am



IPIINAGDIWANG ang Earth Day noong Huwebes na ang tema ay “Restore Our Earth”. Mahigit 1 bilyong katao sa 192 bansa ang nakiisa sa pagdiriwang ng Earth Day. Unang pinagdiwang ang Earth Day noong Abril 1970.

Marami nang nasira at nasalaula sa daigdig kaya marahil ang tema ng pagdiriwang ngayon ay “Ibalik ang ating Daigdig”. Marami nang nawala sa tinitirahang daigdig sapagkat hindi naprotektahan. Inabuso ang kapaligiran at kalikasan na naging dahilan ng climate change.

Lumala ang mga pagbaha dahil sa walang patumanggang pagpuputol ng mga punong kahoy sa kabundukan. Naguho ang mga bundok dahil sa iresponsableng pagmimina. Maraming lamandagat particular ang mga balyena ang namamatay dahil nakakakain nang itinapong basura sa estero at mga ilog na humahantong sa karagatan.

Maraming paraan para makatulong na ma-ibalik ang dating daigdig. Ang pinakamadaling paraan at magagawa ng sinuman ay maging responsable sa pagtatapon ng mga single-use plastic. Sa kasalukuyan, isa ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa Southeast Asia na pinakamaraming plastic na basura at humahantong ang mga ito sa dagat.

Kabilang sa mga basurang plastic na makikita sa Manila Bay ay mga sachet ng kape, shampoo, catsup at toothpaste, cup ng noodles, plastic shopping bags, sando plastic bags at ngayong may pandemya, kasama na ring lulutang-lutang ang face masks at face shields.

Kung magiging responsible ang mamamayan sa pagtatapon ng basurang plastic, malaki ang maitutulong para maprotektahan ang daigdig na ginagalawan.

Kailangang magtulung-tulong para maibalik ang dating masiglang daigdig. Kailangang maging malasog para masuportahan ang pinagkukunan ng ikabubuhay. Ingatan at protektahan ang daigdig.



Residents wanting to pick up some vegetables and other goods at the Maginhawa community pantry queue along the sidewalk of Maginhawa Sreet in Quezon City before dawn on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

Philippines inches closer to 1 million COVID-19 infections with 8,162 new cases

(Philstar.com) - April 25, 2021 - 4:01pm

MANILA, Philippines — The country's total count of COVID-19 infections moved closer to a million on Sunday as officials reported 8,162 additional cases.

Today's new numbers continued to be of significant increase under a surge that began last month. It pushed the total count to 997,523.

- **Active cases:** 77,075 or 7.7% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 20,509, bringing the number to 903,665
- **Deaths:** 109, or now 16,783 in total

What's new today?

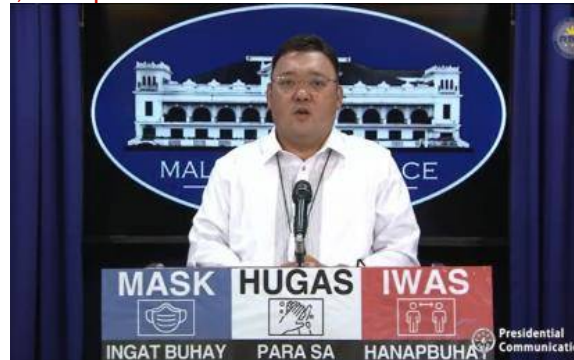
- Last week, or from April 18 to 24, the country saw an increase of 63,479 in COVID-19 cases. Deaths also rose by 714.
- The OCTA Research said daily COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila [decreased](#) from last week, but warned that it is still too early to ease restrictions.
- The policy-setting Metro Manila Council urged organizers of community pantries to work with their local governments first to ensure that COVID-19 protocols are [followed](#) when queuing for goods.
- Still on community pantries: Dr. Ted Herbosa, an IATF medical advisor, [resigned](#) as executive vice president of the UP System after backlash from his 'death by community pantry' tweet.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/04/25/2093686/philippines-inches-closer-1-million-covid-19-infections-8162-new-cases>



Health-economy balance to determine next quarantine status

By Azer Parrocha **April 25, 2021, 8:21 pm**



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque (*File photo*)

MANILA – Malacañang on Sunday said the next quarantine status for Metro Manila and four nearby provinces after April 30 will hinge on a delicate balance between the health and economy.

“The members of the IATF, in their next meeting, would look into the analytics of the healthcare system of the National Capital Region Plus and the country,” Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in a press statement.

Roque said the IATF-EID will specifically review the attack rate and the hospital care utilization rate while checking the economic health of the nation.

“Our approach is whole-of-government and our overarching goal is to promote the total health of Filipinos, including people who have been marginalized due to loss of jobs and have experienced poverty as a result because of the imposition of strict lockdowns,” he added.

Whether the quarantine status will be relaxed or retained, Roque assured that the IATF-EID will decide on the basis of science and hard data.

In a radio interview on Sunday, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said the IATF is set to tackle the next quarantine classifications for NCR Plus on Tuesday.

OCTA Research earlier urged the government to retain the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) status in Metro Manila until the reproduction rate is less than 0.9 in a sustained manner.

Metro Manila’s reproduction rate is currently at 0.93.

NCR Plus, which refers to Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal, is currently under modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) until the end of the month.

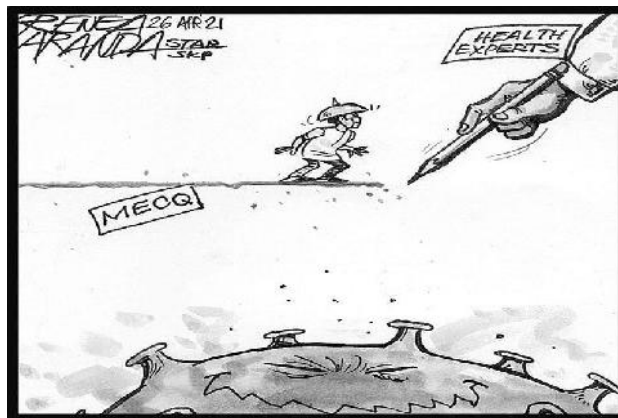
Besides NCR Plus, the City of Santiago in Isabela, Quirino (Region 2), and Abra in the Cordillera Administrative Region are also under MECQ.

Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya (Region 2), Batangas (Region 4-A), Tacloban City (Region 8), Iligan City (Region 10), Davao City (Region 11), and Lanao del Sur (BARMM), and Quezon are under general community quarantine (GCQ).

The rest of the Philippines is under the least restrictive modified general community quarantine (MGCQ). As of Sunday, health authorities recorded 8,162 new Covid-19 cases bringing the total number of cases in the country to 997,523.

The Department of Health also recorded 109 more deaths, bringing the death toll to 16,783 and 20,509 new recoveries raising the recovery tally to 903,665. (**PNA**)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1137961>



EDITORIAL - Easing restrictions

(The Philippine Star) - April 26, 2021 - 12:00am

With COVID infections still hitting a high daily average of 9,253 in the past week, and total deaths nationwide galloping toward 20,000, authorities should think twice before easing pandemic restrictions particularly in the epicenter of the contagion, the National Capital Region and the provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal.

The so-called NCR Plus has been under modified enhanced community quarantine for a week, after two weeks of returning to ECQ amid an intractable surge in infections and deaths. It seems as if all the deadlier and more contagious COVID variants from around the world have entered the country and are now spreading unhindered, infecting entire households and offices and claiming the life of anyone with the slightest comorbidity.

People are publicly expressing surprise about testing positive in random checks, insisting that they have followed all the health protocols and are clueless about how or where they might have been infected. Families of certain celebrities are grieving over the sudden deaths of loved ones who were relatively healthy and who would have had many more years ahead until they contracted COVID. Even Baguio City, lauded for its pandemic response, is now grappling with a spike in infections.

In recent days there has been a dip in COVID cases. OCTA Research fellows who have been tracking infection trends, however, point out that the decline remains unstable and must be sustained before restrictions are further relaxed. The group issued the warning as the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases ponders whether the MECQ should be eased to general community quarantine by May.

With deadlier COVID strains spreading largely unchecked, restrictions can be eased only if capacities for contact tracing, isolation and quarantine as well as hospital capacity for critical care and treatment have been sufficiently ramped up. This is indispensable if the government is willing to risk an even worse surge and more deaths in case the economy is further reopened. Without this capacity boost, restrictions will have to be maintained and, in certain areas, possibly even tightened.

Health experts, although mindful of the need for people to earn a living, point out that the infection rate and deaths are still too high. The scenes at hospitals are horrific and health care workers are becoming overwhelmed. Unless a miracle happens and that 9,253 daily infection average plummets and the drop is sustained, the health experts' voice must carry weight.



'Bising' leaves PAR, now extratropical cyclone

By Jelly Musico April 25, 2021, 1:18 pm



(Courtesy of DOST/PAGASA)

MANILA – Tropical Storm Bising transitioned into a gale-force extratropical cyclone -- low pressure system which develops in latitudes outside the tropics -- and is now outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said on Sunday.

In an 11 a.m. severe weather bulletin, it said “Bising” (with international name Surigae) left PAR at 5:40 a.m. and its center was now estimated at 1,500 kilometers east of extreme Northern Luzon.

Though it did not make landfall, Typhoon Bising left at least four dead while damage to agriculture was placed at over PHP211 million in Bicol and Eastern Visayas.

“Bising” also affected 60,601 families or 235,752 persons in 965 barangays in Cagayan Valley, Bicol, Eastern Visayas, and Caraga. Houses damaged were placed at 1,030, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

In the next 24 hours, PAGASA said northern and eastern seaboard of Northern Luzon as well as Central and Southern Luzon will experience moderate to rough seas “under the influence of an extratropical cyclone outside PAR.”

“Mariners of small seacrafts are advised not to venture out over these waters. Inexperienced mariners of these vessels should avoid navigating in these conditions,” PAGASA said.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to localized thunderstorms that may cause flash floods or landslides, it added. **(PNA)**



Philippines conducts maritime drills in West PH Sea

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 25 2021 01:38 PM



Philippine Coast Guard personnel participate in maritime drills in the West Philippine Sea on April 24, 2021. *Photo courtesy of the Philippine Coast Guard*

MANILA - The Philippines on Saturday conducted maritime exercises in the West Philippine Sea as the country filed fresh diplomatic protests against China for its incursions.

The Philippine Coast Guard said it used 8 capital ships with government along with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to intensify their training on navigation, small boat operations, maintenance, and logistical operations.

BRP Gabriela Silang and BRP Sindangan began their training Saturday near Bajo De Masinloc while the BRP Cabra, BRP Malapascua and BFAR Vessels started exercises since last week near Pag-asa Island, said PCG spokesperson Commodore Armando Balilo.

Aside from its exercises in Bajo De Masinloc and Pag-asa Island, the ships will also train in the Batanes Group of Islands, Benham Rise, and in the southern and eastern portions of the country, Balilo said.

The Coast Guard is planning to conduct medical and dental missions among local residents and coastal families in the Pag-asa Island next week, he added.

"We are supporting the whole-of-nation approach in securing our maritime jurisdiction, especially the efforts of the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) to undertake maritime security, maritime safety, maritime law enforcement, maritime search and rescue, and marine environmental protection roles in our country's waters," he said.

The Philippines on Friday filed two new diplomatic protests against China over its illegal and lingering presence in Philippine waters, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

It had vowed to continuously file diplomatic actions until Beijing's ships leave the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the South China Sea, which is believed to hold valuable gas and oil deposits.

China's sweeping claims over almost the entire South China Sea has been adjudged to have no legal basis by a UN-backed arbitration court in The Hague last 2016.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/25/21/philippines-conducts-maritime-drills-in-west-ph-sea?fbclid=IwAR2W76gTwWGIU4DQGtYzqGY9mgpje0rbg2SO3aD1Dn8rC8POj0_SVGC
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Beautiful Trees Around the World to Bring You a Moment of Peace

by [Village Connect](#) about 8 hours ago

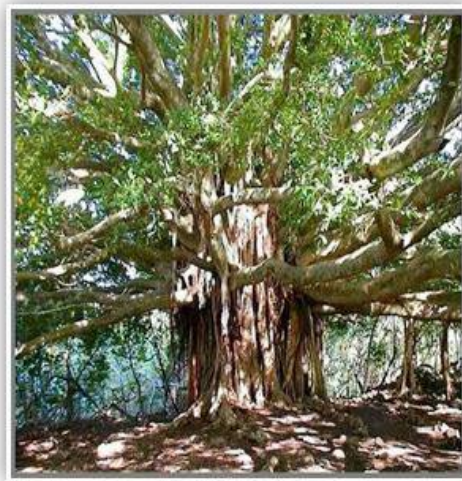
Beautiful Trees Around the World to Bring You a Moment of Peace



Humans now spend so much time indoors (sometimes we're even required to), we have a term to describe the impact this has on our mental and physical health: nature deficit disorder. If you're feeling burnt out, or just longing for some greenery, it's probably time to seek it out. Studies show time spent with trees can improve your mood and mental health and may even boost your immune system. But even if you can't experience them in-person, they're definitely worth admiring via screen.

Here are the most fascinating trees on Earth to inspire you to branch out and experience some of nature's magic for yourself. And hey, at the very least, you'll have some quirky, forestry facts to impress people at dinner parties.

BALETE TREE



BALETE TREE

Also known as Balite or Baliti are several species of the trees in the Philippines from the genus *Ficus* that are broadly referred to as balete in the local language. A number of these are known as strangler figs wherein they start upon other trees, later entrapping them entirely and finally killing the host tree. Also called hemiepiphytes, initially, they start as epiphytes or air plants and grow several hanging roots that eventually touch the ground and from then on, encircling and suffocating the host tree. Some of the baletes produce an inferior quality of rubber. The India rubber plant, *F. elastica* were earlier cultivated to some extent for rubber. Some of the species like tangisang-bayawak or *Ficus variegata* are large and could probably be utilized for match woods. The woods of species of *Ficus* are soft, light, and of inferior quality, and the trees usually have ill-formed short boles.



RAINBOW EUCALYPTUS – Photo: Sean D Thomas/Shutterstock

RAINBOW EUCALYPTUS TREE

Side effects of seeing the rainbow eucalyptus include oohs, ahhs, and squealing at first sight accompanied by whispers of, "Is this real life?" Yes, it is; the rainbow eucalyptus sheds its bark in stages, so various shades of red, orange, green, blue, and purple are revealed as it ages. You won't need a psychedelic trip to see the naturally-occurring cartoonish colors; this tree is native to tropical places such as Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

DRAGON BLOOD TREE

There are no actual dragons in this tree (I know, I know, I am disappointed, too) but you may see the blood-red medicinal sap it's named for. Both the sap and wrinkly



DRAGON BLOOD TREE – Photo: Vladimir Melnik/Shutterstock

bark are intriguing up close, but the real treat is when you take a step back: The dragon blood tree's skyward-pointing branches create a spaceship-shaped top—perfectly suited to the out-of-this-world landscapes of Socotra Island in Yemen.

CAZNEAUX TREE

This red river gum tree near Wilpena Pound, Australia, has been the muse of many. In 1937, photographer Harold Cazneaux captured it in a photo called *Spirit of Endurance* for its striking display of strength in a harsh environment. Cazneaux described the tree as conveying the "spirit of Australia" and that same phrase was later used as the Qantas Airlines slogan for a period of time. The Cazneaux Tree has become so beloved it's now registered as a "Significant Tree." You'll find this beauty in Ikara Flinders Ranges National Park in South Australia, accessible by car via the Flinders Range Way.



CAZNEAUX TREE – *Photo: James.Tucker/Shutterstock*

CEIBA TREE

With its massive trunk and dense canopy, the ceiba tree is revered as the tree of life—and for some, death. A ceiba tree is typically alive with activity: frogs raise their young in the bromeliads, mammals traverse the limbs, and birds feast and nest in the canopy. Some cultures believe the souls of the dead also make their home here. Mayans saw the ceiba as a symbolic “tree of the universe” with its deep roots into the underworld,



CEIBA TREE

steady trunk in the human world, and umbrella-shaped canopy reaching into the heavens. Ceibas can be found in Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and West Africa. Visit Xcaret, Mexico and learn more about their Mayan meaning. Or head to Costa Rica for some meditation or forest bathing at the base of the 500-year old, nearly 200-foot tall ceiba tree, located on Malte Baron von Schlippenbach’s farm in Nuevo Arenal.

LARCH TREE

No fall colors FOMO for this deciduous conifer. While it could easily be mistaken for an evergreen during the summer months, the larch’s needle-



LARCH TREE – *Photo: Vasilyev Alexandr/Shutterstock*

like leaves go for the gold in autumn, adding a gorgeous splash of yellow to numerous forests in the northern hemisphere. You'll find European larch in the Alps, American larch in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, eastern larch in Manitoba, and western larches in the Inland and Pacific Northwest of the U.S. and the Canadian Rockies of British Columbia and Alberta.

KOKERBOOM TREE

They say you shouldn't cut off your nose to spite your face—but what about trimming a limb to save your water? When in drought, the kokerboom does exactly that: *It self-amputates its branches.* This tree is technically a giant aloe that can grow up to 30-feet tall and is found in parts



KOKERBOOM TREE

of South Africa and Namibia. Don't be deceived by the shimmering "bark," bright-colored blooms (seen in the summertime), and charming appearance; you should be cautious if you get close. The bark is so sharp it can be used to make arrows, earning it the nickname "quiver tree."

BANYAN TREE

Like a badly behaving house guest, this "strangler fig" drops by without notice, takes over, and literally puts down roots. Banyan trees are formed when seeds of the strangler fig land on branches of other trees and spread their roots toward the ground, eventually forming what appears as multiple trunks but is actually the fig tree's root system.

Perhaps not surprisingly for a tree with



BANYAN TREE

such a grim nickname, they are associated with the Hindu god of death and believed by some to house spirits. On the bright side, banyan trees are also symbolic of longevity, and Ayurvedic practice makes use of the medicinal properties of the leaf, bark, seeds, and stems. The Great Banyan Tree is located at Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Botanical Garden near Kolkata, India. It's the largest one in the world, is around 250 years old and covers 3.5 acres. You can find this species of fig strangling trees—and even temples and Buddha statues—in places like Thailand, Cambodia, and Hawaii.□



KAURI TREE



KAURI TREE

Although you'll never be able to fully wrap your arms around the towering kauri trees (the "lord of the forest," Tane Mahuta, the largest living kauri tree, has a girth of around 50 feet!), you can feel their ethereal energy on a Footprints Waipoua walkthrough Waipoua Forest, where 75% of New Zealand's kauri trees are found. Maori guides teach visitors about the kauri's significance through storytelling and song.

The trees are sacred to the Maori and it's believed that the health of the kauri is symbolic of the health of the forest and people. Kauri are currently threatened by kauri dieback, a fungus-like organism. Maori knowledge may hold the key to protecting these ancient trees.

ORETETI TREE



ORETETI TREE – *Photo: Nomad Tanzania*

It's not often you spot a bedazzled tree while on safari. The Oreteti, as it's called by the Maasai, stands watch in front of Nomad Tanzania's Entamanu Ngorongoro camp, overlooking the Ngorongoro Crater. This fig tree has spiritual significance to the Ilkisongo clan of the Maasai and is a place where they may come to pray for the end of a drought, sickness, or other misfortune, sometimes leaving behind a bangle or beaded bracelet to attach their wish to the tree. Over the years, these bangles have become part of the Oreteti. The Maasai still come to this tree to pray and you might also see passersby drop a handful of grass at the base of the tree to show their respect.[]

ANCIENT CEDARS TREE

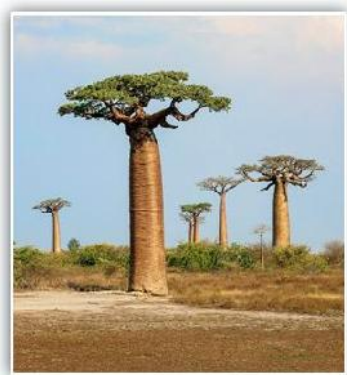
Walking amongst these gnarled and



ANCIENT CEDARS TREE – Photo: Roy Luck

knotted giants will transport you to a dreamy moss-covered paradise painted with calming shades of brown and green. Immerse yourself in the ancient forest at Vancouver Island's Avatar Grove, located in the traditional territory of the Pacheedaht First Nation near Port Renfrew, the "Tall Trees Capital of Canada." Here, you'll find Douglas firs, cedars, and Sitka spruce trees as well as "Canada's gnarliest tree."

While you're on Vancouver Island, don't forget to pay a visit to 1,000-year-old Big Lonely Doug, the second-largest Douglas fir in all of Canada. When the trees around him were clear-cut for logging, he was spared, thanks to a ribbon and note left by



BAOBAB TREE

logger Dennis Cronin. Big Lonely Doug stands tall (230 feet to be exact), solo, and now protected by law as a symbol of the need to preserve—rather than harvest—old-growth forests.

BAOBAB TREE

This iconic alienesque tree is everything: tall (it can grow to 65 feet), old (it can live for 3,000 years), wise (it stores water in the trunk so it can produce nutrient-rich fruit in the dry season), and some say, upside-down with branches that look like roots raised to the sky.

Baobabs provide food, water, and shelter to animals and insects, and a long list of benefits to humans. You can strip baobab bark to make baskets, rope, and waterproof hats and it will regenerate new bark. You can boil baobab leaves to treat a variety of maladies or make vitamin-rich juices and jams from the fruits. You can press the seeds for cosmetics or cooking oil. These are just a few of the more than 300 uses for the baobab.

This generous tree seems to spend its existence giving life to everything around it. And when a baobab does finally die, it rots from the inside and collapses abruptly into a simple pile of fibers, appearing to vanish into thin air. You can find baobab in Australia, Madagascar, mainland Africa, and the Arabian peninsula.

Source; <https://www.fodors.com/>

Source: <https://www.villageconnect.com.ph/beautiful-trees-around-the-world-to-bring-you-a-moment-of-peace/6880>

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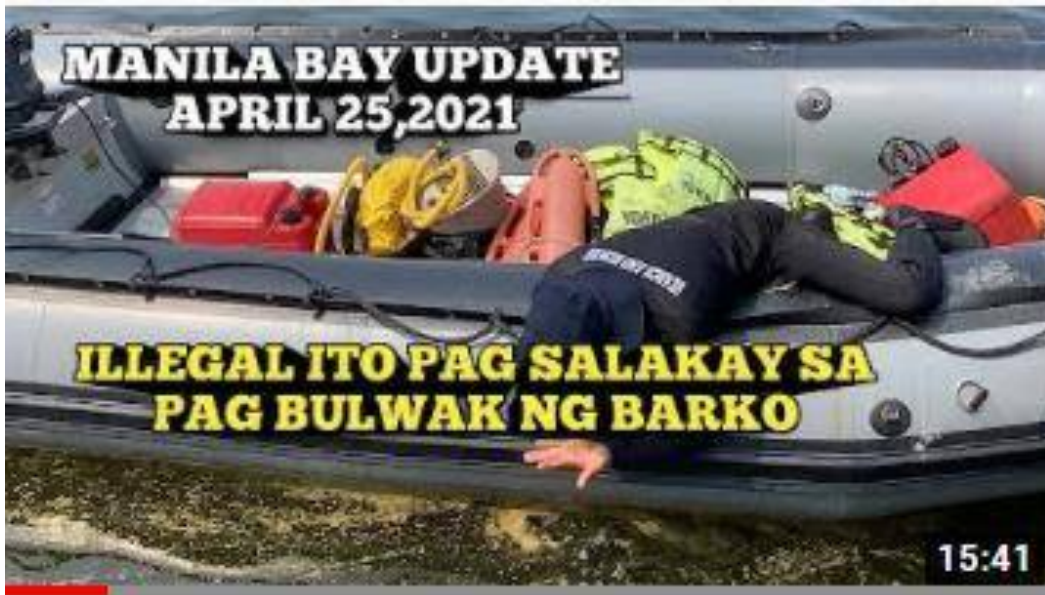


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