

26 December 2020, Saturday



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR Chief Leads Planting of Nilad, Bakauan, Nipa in Baseco

BY [VILLAGE CONNECT](#) ON DECEMBER 25, 2020 [NEWS](#)



(Photo credit) PIA

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu led the planting of nilad, various species of mangrove and nipa in the lagoon of Baseco in Manila during his visit on Tuesday, December 22.

Cimatu was joined in the tree planting activity by Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Danilo Lim, Baseco/Barangay 649 Captain Diana Espinosa, representing Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso, and officials and employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources National Capital Region (DENR NCR) led by Regional Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caanacan.

The DENR NCR is the lead agency in the rehabilitation of Baseco, which is part of the bigger program on Manila Bay Rehabilitation, in partnership with the MMDA. "The MMDA is our strong partner not only in the cleanup of Baseco lagoon and its vicinities but also in tree planting," said DENR NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caanacan.

Caanacan said her office has adopted bio/phytoremediation or nature-based approach in enhancing the habitat and ecosystems of Baseco. Since 2019, when the project began, the regional office has planted a total of 8,597 seedlings comprising of various species of mangrove and beach-type trees, with a survival rate of 87 percent.

Aside from habitat restoration through tree planting, the DENR NCR has also initiated the construction of a boardwalk in Baseco's lagoon area. The boardwalk, designed like a leaf of a mangrove, has a total length of 270 meters, with two view decks. Of the total length, some 110 meters, which comprised the first phase of the boardwalk, were completed in 2019, while the remaining phase of 160 meters long will be completed by end of this year.



DENR Chief Leads Planting of Nilad, Bakauan, Nipa in Baseco

Caancan said that as part of Baseco rehabilitation, regular clean-up activities are being conducted in the area by personnel of DENR NCR and its West Field Office. "In compliance with the health guidelines, we have refrained from enjoining our regular partners in our cleanup activities in Baseco, instead we relied on our personnel to do scheduled cleanup to ensure the observance of social distancing," Caancan said.

She also said some 25 Estero Rangers under the employ of DENR NCR are deployed in the area to conduct daily cleanup activities along the Aplaya-side of the Baseco beach and at the lagoon.

Caancan, however, stressed that while the Baseco beach has been cleared of floating garbage, the waters remain polluted, and urged Baseco residents, particularly the children, to refrain from swimming in the beach.



Pinoys reminded to practice proper waste disposal

By [Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (Philstar.com)

- December 25, 2020 - 12:00am



Masks and gloves were found scattered along EDSA on September 28, 2020.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reminded the public to practice proper waste management amid the merriment during the holiday season.

“Because of the pandemic, this holiday season is like no other. As we hold a more intimate holiday celebration with our immediate families, let’s be extra careful on the safety of our health and the environment by practicing responsibility and sustainability,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a press statement yesterday.

Cimatu stressed the importance of segregating household waste into compostable, recyclable, non-recyclable and special waste comprised of hazardous and healthcare items.

He reminded the public that food waste should be under the biodegradable or compostable trash bin, whereas containers that come with it, such as glasses, cans and plastic bottles, should be under the recyclable trash bin.

Used masks, gloves, face shields, and other healthcare wastes should be separated as household healthcare waste, while batteries, charging cables and other electrical and electronic equipment should be under hazardous waste.

Environment Undersecretary for solid waste management and local government units concerns Benny Antiporda added that as online shopping and food delivery continue to rise due to the pandemic, product packaging such as plastic bags, used plastic or paper cups and tetra packs should be segregated as non-recyclable materials.

Antiporda said that while proper garbage disposal is critical during this season, each household should consider the basics of solid waste management, and that is to reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible.



Pinoys reminded to practice proper waste disposal

“Let’s be more mindful on what we buy, eat and use and how it will affect the environment,” Antiporda said.

To minimize holiday trash, he advised the public to bring reusable bags or eco-bags when shopping, buy in bulk, list the items to buy prior to shopping, patronize long-lasting goods and gifts instead of disposable ones, and save gift wrappers and decorations that can be used for next year.

Meanwhile, as part of its efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay, the DENR on Tuesday led a mangrove planting activity at the Baseco lagoon in Tondo.

Cimatu said the planting activity was “only the start of habitat restoration in this part of Manila Bay.”

“Our responsibility under the rehabilitation is not only confined in the physical rehabilitation, cleaning and dredging. Habitat restoration is also so much a part of the rehabilitation efforts,” Cimatu said.



DENR Reminds Public on Proper Disposal of Waste in Celebrating Holidays During Pandemic

BY [VILLAGE CONNECT](#) ON DECEMBER 25, 2020 [NEWS](#)



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reminded the public on the proper management of all kinds of waste as the country celebrates the holiday season amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Because of the pandemic, this holiday season is like no other,” said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

“As we hold a more intimate holiday celebration with our immediate families, let’s be extra careful on the safety of our health and the environment by practicing responsibility and sustainability,” he added.

Cimatu emphasized the importance of observing proper waste segregation in households during this time of merriment, gift-giving, and feasting.

He said wastes that need to be segregated include those that are compostable, recyclable, non-recyclable, and special waste comprising of household hazardous and healthcare wastes.

According to Cimatu, food waste should be under the biodegradable or compostable trash bin, whereas containers that come with it such as glasses, cans, plastic bottles should be under the recyclable trash bin.

On the other hand, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said that as online shopping and food delivery continue to rise due to the pandemic, product packaging such as plastic bags, as well as used plastic or paper cups, and tetra packs should be segregated as non-recyclable materials.

Used masks, gloves, face shields, and other healthcare wastes should be separated as household healthcare waste, while batteries, charging cables, and other electrical and electronic equipment should be under household hazardous waste, he added.



DENR Reminds Public on Proper Disposal of Waste in Celebrating Holidays During Pandemic

While proper garbage disposal is deemed critical during this season, Antiporda said Filipinos should primarily consider the basics of solid waste management, and that is, to reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible.

“Let’s be more mindful on what we buy, eat, and use and how it will affect the environment,” Antiporda said.

To minimize holiday trash, Antiporda advised the public to bring reusable bags or eco-bags whenever one shops, buy local and in bulk, list things to buy prior, patronize long-lasting goods and gifts instead of disposable ones as well as save gift wrappers and decorations to again be used for next year.

He said that whenever possible, send online greeting instead of cards, buy own groceries and prepare food at home for Christmas and New Year instead of availing food delivery services or eating outside, avoid using disposable plates and cutlery and refrain from buying excess goods, and choose products with minimal packaging.

“Time and time again, Secretary Cimatú has always urged the public to practice the ‘3Rs.’ So, whenever we buy, use, or consume something, it is always beneficial to consider if it saves landfill space, raw materials and natural resources such as energy, water, and money,” Antiporda said.

WASTONG PAMAMAHALA NG BASURA HABANG NAGDIRIWANG SA PANAHOON NG PANDEMYA



December 26, 2020 @ 1:35 AM 5 hours ago

Ipinaalala ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko ang wastong pamamahala ng lahat ng uri ng basura habang ipinagdiriwang ng bansa ang Kapaskuhan sa gitna ng pandemyang COVID-19.

“Because of the pandemic, this holiday season is like no other,” sabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

“As we hold a more intimate holiday celebration with our immediate families, let’s be extra careful on the safety of our health and the environment by practicing responsibility and sustainability,” dagdag pa ni Cimatu

Binigyang-diin ni Cimatu ang kahalagahan ng pagmamasid ng wastong paghihiwalay ng basura sa mga sambahayan sa panahong ito ng kasiyahan, pagbibigay ng regalo at pagdiriwang.

Sinabi niya na ang mga basura na kailangang paghiwalayin ay kinabibilangan ng mga nakakukuha ng compostable, recyclable, non-recyclable, at mga espesyal na basura na binubuo ng mga household hazardous at basurang mula sa pangangalaga ng kalusugan.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang basura mula sa pagkain ay dapat pagsamahin sa biodegradable o compostable trash bin, samantalang ang mga lalagyan na kasama nito tulad ng baso, lata, plastik na bote ay dapat ilalagay sa recyclable trash bin.

Sa kabilang banda, sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda na habang patuloy na tumataas ang online shopping at paghahatid ng pagkain dulot ng pandemya, ang packaging ng produkto tulad ng mga



WASTONG PAMAMAHALA NG BASURA HABANG NAGDIRIWANG SA PANAHON NG PANDEMYA

plastic bag, pati na rin ang ginamit na plastik o paper cups, at tetra packs ay dapat ihiwalay bilang non-recyclable materials.

Ang mga ginamit na facemasks, gloves, face shields, at iba pang mga healthcare wastes ay dapat ihiwalay bilang household healthcare waste, habang ang mga baterya, charging cables, at iba pang electrical at electronic equipment dapat nasa ilalim ng household hazardous waste, idinagdag niya.

Habang ang wastong pagtatapon ng basura ay itinuring na kritikal sa panahong ito, sinabi ni Antiporda na dapat isaalang-alang ng mga Filipino ang mga pangunahing kaalaman sa pamamahala ng solidong basura, at iyon ay, upang mabawasan, magamit muli at mag-recycle hangga't maaari.

“Let’s be more mindful on what we buy, eat, and use and how it will affect the environment,” paalala ni Antiporda.

Upang mabawasan ang basurahan sa panahon ng bakasyon, pinapayuhan ni Antiporda ang publiko na magdala ng mga magagamit na bag o eco-bag tuwing pupunta sa mg tindahan, bumili ng lokal at maramihan, maglista ng mga bagay na kinakailangang bilhin, tumangkilik sa mga pangmatagalang produkto at pangregalo sa halip na mga hindi magagamit muli at maitago rin ang mga pambalot ng regalo at mga dekorasyon upang magamit muli para sa susunod na taon.

Sinabi niya na hangga't maaari, magpadala ng online greeting sa halip na mga card, bumili ng pansariling groceries at maghanda ng pagkain sa bahay para sa Pasko at Bagong Taon sa halip na kumuha ng food delivery services o kumain sa labas, iwasang gumamit ng mga disposable plate at kubyertos at bawasan ang pagbili ng labis na kalakal, at pumili ng mga produktong may kaunting balot.

“Time and time again, Secretary Cimatú has always urged the public to practice the ‘3Rs.’ So, whenever we buy, use, or consume something, it is always beneficial to consider if it saves landfill space, raw materials and natural resources such as energy, water, and money,” sabi ni Antiporda.



DENR continues enforcement of environmental laws



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)
December 26, 2020



Despite restrictions due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) still managed to carry out its mandate to monitor compliance with laws on clean water, clean air and solid waste management.

“The pandemic is no excuse for dropping guard against violators of environmental laws, rules and regulations,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a statement on Friday.

“In fact, this is the time for us to be more vigilant and aggressive against these lawbreakers due to what they perceived as relaxation of enforcement of environmental laws, which is really not the case,” he added.

To ensure compliance with Republic Act (RA) 8749, or the “Philippine Clean Air Act,” the EMB strengthened its monitoring of 8,572 industries and maintained 101 real-time air quality monitoring stations (AQMS) nationwide in 2020.

All AQMS recorded that the country’s air quality, particularly in terms of particulate matters 10 and 2.5, are within the standards of 60 micrograms and 25 micrograms per normal cubic meter, respectively.



DENR continues enforcement of environmental laws



Also this year, the EMB formulated, updated and monitored 22 airshed action plans. It also issued 211 certificates of conformity to new vehicles compliant to Euro IV standards in the first semester of the year.

Although only one additional water quality management area (WQMA) was declared this year, EMB updated and monitored existing 36 WQMAs in compliance with RA 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act.

To ensure the water quality of existing waterbodies, it conducted continuous ambient monitoring of 42 priority rivers, 315 other waterbodies and 39 priority bathing beaches. It also classified 52 waterbodies and monitored compliance of 4,960 firms/industries in the first semester of the year.

On the implementation of RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the bureau assisted 598 barangays in establishing their respective materials recovery facility (MRF) and supported the operation of 24 functional MRFs.

Meanwhile, the DENR-led National Solid Waste Management Commission has approved a total of 106 solid waste management plans this year, bringing the total to 1,063 since RA 9003 was enacted in 2001.

It also monitored the implementation of 670 closure and rehabilitation plans, as well as the actual closure and rehabilitation of 204 dumpsites.



DENR remains relentless in mandate amid pandemic

Published December 25, 2020, 1:05 PM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) assured Friday that they remain relentless in their mandate to conserve the country's natural resources amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Despite restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) still managed to carry out its mandate to monitor compliance with laws on clean water, clean air, and solid waste management," said the DENR in a statement.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu stressed that the pandemic should not be an excuse "for dropping guard against violators of environmental laws, rules, and regulations."

In the midst of the pandemic, Cimatu emphasized that the DENR should be more vigilant and aggressive against "against these lawbreakers due to what they perceived as relaxation of enforcement of environmental laws, which is really not the case."

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It also monitored the implementation of 670 closure and rehabilitation plans, as well as the actual closure and rehabilitation of 204 dumpsites.



DENR tuloy sa serbisyo kahit may pandemya



December 25, 2020 @ 3:53 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na magpapatuloy sila sa serbisyo sa kabila ng COVID-19 pandemic.

“Despite restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) still managed to carry out its mandate to monitor compliance with laws on clean water, clean air, and solid waste management,” lahad ng DENR.

Iginiit ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na hindi dahilan ang pandemya “for dropping guard against violators of environmental laws, rules, and regulations.”

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P63M na halaga ng Agarwood muling nakompiska sa Davao Airport

By [Bombo Radyo Davao](#)

-December 25, 2020 | 5:29 PM

DAVAO CITY – Inihahandan na ng airport police ang kasong isasampa laban sa utak ng muling tangkang pagpupuslit ng agarwood sa Davao International airport kahapon ng umaga.

Inihayag ni Ronel Tesorero, assistant chief ng Aviation security unit (AVSEU) Region 11 nakompiska ang 6 na kahong Agarwood sa cargo area ng Francisco bangot International Iaport alas 11:30 kahapon ng umaga.

Ang mga nakompiskang mamahaling klase ng kahoy ay tinatayang nagkakahalaga ng halos 63 million pesos at tumitimbang ng 73 kilos.

Dagdag pa ni Tesorero naharang ng mga duty personnel sa cargo area ang naturang mga kontrabando nila Cargo Aviation Police Supervisor Staff Sergeant Jomeleo Alimbutod at Patrolman Ridzkhan Halail, ng Davao International Airport.

Ito umano ay ipapadala na sana sa pamamagitan ng Top Logistics forwarding company.

Sa ngayon isina-ilalim na sa verification ng Department of Environmental and Natural Resources ang kahon-kahong mga agarwood.

Matatandaan na dalawang linggo na ang nakakaraan nang unang makompiska rin ng mga airport police ang aabot ng dalawang milyong piso na halaga ng Agarwood sa cargo area rin ng naturang airport.

Dahil dito, muling nagbabala ang DENR na mahigpit na ipingbabawal sa batas ang pagbebenta ng Agarwood o Lapnisan dahil ito ay nabibilang sa mga endangered specie.

Nalaman na ang isang kilo ng Agarwood ay nagkakahalaga ng halos P750,000.



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Cebu disaster a test of ‘sustainable’ mining vows



By [The Manila Times](#)
December 26, 2020

ON Tuesday, the Carmen Copper Corp. reported that a large landslide had occurred within its open-pit mine located in Toledo, Cebu, resulting in the death of four workers with six others listed as missing. Although the company and government authorities were careful not to speculate, these other unfortunate individuals were presumably buried in the landslide and also lost their lives, an unimaginable tragedy for their families just ahead of the Christmas holiday.

Carmen Copper, which is an operating mine of Atlas Consolidated Mining Development Corp., announced it was suspending operations, pending the outcome of an investigation by the company and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB). Besides the Carmen copper mine, one of the country’s largest, Pasay-based Atlas also has a stake in the Berong nickel mine in Palawan.

An initial report from the MGB attributed the landslide to the heavy rainfall experienced by the mine over the past several weeks, including from tropical depression “Vicky” that passed the area last week, which weakened the rock layers and caused them to collapse. MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano also said an earthquake fault in the area of the slide may have also contributed to the accident.

Before Tuesday’s incident, however, the Carmen mine had a relatively good safety record since being acquired and reopened by Atlas in 2007. MGB’s Moncano noted that the mine had passed the Mining Industry Coordinating Council’s (MICC) independent environmental and safety audit earlier this year.

In a separate statement describing the accident as “unfortunate,” the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) also stressed the company’s good safety record. “Atlas is known for its strict adherence to the highest safety and health standards. Nevertheless, accidents happen in any industry. This is why the chamber and its members are constantly looking for ways to further improve our safety and health protocols,” COMP said.

The Carmen mine accident is the first major incident since the initiation of a major review of the country’s mining operations was begun by the then Environment secretary, the late Gina Lopez, in 2016, a process of which the MICC audit is a key part, and which is still ongoing. It makes handling of the inquiry into the Carmen accident an extremely delicate matter, and creates an unfortunate situation for the government and the mining industry: The outcome of the investigation and the implementation of any recommendations it produces are not likely to sway any critics of mining to its favor even if the matter is handled professionally and transparently. If the matter is not handled well, of course, if there are perceptions of a whitewash or bending rules to favor mining interests over environmental and community concerns, then it will simply add more fuel to an already burning controversy over mining in the Philippines.



Cebu disaster a test of ‘sustainable’ mining vows

All mining enterprises in the Philippines, the members of COMP, ostensibly adhere to what is called the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) initiative, a set of guidelines and best practices developed in Canada and launched in 2004. Its three basic principles of leadership, measured by 23 separate key performance indicators, are community engagement, practicing world-class environmental management, and ensuring the health and safety of mine workers and surrounding communities. The fundamental idea behind the TSM, which we think is sensible, is that recognition of the direct and multiplied economic value of mining must be balanced with recognition that it is an inherently risky activity, both to people and the environment, and that mining resources are finite. Therefore, great care must be taken to maximize their value without imposing negative consequences and costs that may last far into the future.

Building public confidence that mining enterprises are constantly working toward that objective is a herculean task even under the best of circumstances, and incidents such as that which befell the Carmen mine only make that job much more difficult. However, the mining industry and the government have no choice but to do that perfectly. The Philippines is not in a position to simply ignore the economic benefits of mining, but cannot sacrifice its well-being to take advantage of them. The outcome of the investigation into the Carmen mine disaster will tell us much about how well those different needs will be met.



Rescuers shift to search and retrieval for missing miners in collapsed Toledo pit

By: Morexette Marie B. Erram - CDN Digital Multi-Media Reporter | December 25, 2020 - 05:38 PM



DAILY PRODUCTION. Carmen Copper Corp. produces at least 45,000 dry metric tons of copper ore daily from its operation in Toledo City, Cebu province. —PHOTO FROM ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING AND DEVELOPMENT CORP. WEBSITE | INQUIRER.NET FILE PHOTO

CEBU CITY, Philippines – Disaster and rescue personnel in Toledo City on December 25, 2020, has shifted to search and retrieval operations for the six miners who remained missing after a landslide occurred in an open-mining site there.

“As of 8:55 a.m. today (December 25), we have officially shifted to doing search and retrieval operations for the remaining missing miners,” John Roseller Layan, information officer of the Toledo City Government, told CDN Digital in a phone interview.

Last December 22, search and rescue operations began for the miners in Carmen Copper Corporation (CCC) after portions of its open-mining site in Barangay Biga collapsed.

At least four died and were identified as Junil S. Lagola, Ernesto G. Caspe, Juan M. Tapang, and Dionisio Labang.

The other six missing miners were Jose B. Carpentero, Jonwel S. Herediano, Simeon B. Laconas, John Paul L. Resuelo, Renante F. Sepada, and Alfred C. Tautho.

But nine hours since they started their search and retrieval operations on December 25, Layan said they have not found any signs that could lead them to the missing miners.

He also said the government and CCC have employed technological means such as deploying drones and establishing closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in the mining site to aid their search.

“In the event that the mining site would be risky for our personnel to conduct further search and retrieval operations, there are drones and CCTV placed,” said Layan.



Rescuers shift to search and retrieval for missing miners in collapsed Toledo pit

Even before the search and retrieval operations began, experts from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Central Visayas (MGB-7) said chances for the six missing miners to be rescued alive have been slim.

In an earlier report from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, officials said the four bodies that had been retrieved may have either died of drowning or hit by debris or rocks when the landslide struck.

Operations in CCC's mining site have been suspended to give way for the search.

Toledo City is a third-class city located approximately 46 kilometers southwest of Cebu City./rcg



Tanim-puno bago ikasal sa Borongan City, ikinasa



December 25, 2020 @ 10:12 AM 21 hours ago

EASTERN Samar – Kinakailangan munang magtanim ng puno ang mag-partner na nais magpakasal sa Borongan City dahil isa ito sa requirement sa pagkuha ng marriage license sa lugar.

Kinilala sina Jay-Ar Tavera at Creightania Coles bilang unang couple na nakagawa ng bagong ipinatutupad na requirement.

Nagtanim sila na limang piraso ng “barok” o Indiang mangrove sa kahabaan ng Baybay Beach, isang lugar na puntahan ng mga turista at surfers.

Imbes na ma-hassle, ay ikinatuwa pa ng soon to be husband and wife ang ordinansa.

“We were happy when we learned about this project,” ani Tayera. “We may not see it now because the plants are still small, but I’m pretty sure 5 to 10 years from now we would see the effect of what the project has done.”

Ikinasal ni Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan Agda nito lamang Miyerkoles ang dalawa. **RNT**



Displaced and locked down in same year, Taal Lake folk face bleak Christmas

Displaced and locked down in same year, Taal Lake folk face bleak Christmas

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - December 24, 2020 - 9:48am

MANILA, Philippines — Christmas season in “Pulo”—what lakeside communities call Taal Volcano Island—just like in other Filipino communities, is marked by noisy revelry: traditional caroling, karaoke sessions, Christmas parties and Noche Buena feasts.

“We’d have an exchange gift and, of course, we’d drink,” Maria Elenita La Luz, 32, said in Filipino, chuckling, as she walked around the village where she grew up and started her own family.

But this Christmas, there will be no huge party for La Luz or any of her neighbors. Not only because the government has banned caroling and discouraged gatherings because of the coronavirus. But more so because villages on the island are now empty.

Celebrating the country’s biggest holiday will be a lot different and more difficult for former residents of Pulo nearly a year since Taal Volcano erupted and belched out ash that covered everything in a thick blanket of gray, rendering homes uninhabitable and wiping out their livelihood.

“We didn’t expect that we’d lose our way of life in the blink of an eye,” La Luz said.

Displaced and locked down in same year, Taal Lake folk face bleak Christmas

The Sunday that changed their lives



A man watches from his boat Taal Volcano spewing plumes on this January 13, 2020 photo.
Philstar.com/EC Toledo

On the afternoon of January 12, the picturesque volcano in the middle of a lake in Batangas province suddenly woke up from its deep slumber, spewing a kilometer-high plume of ash and triggering a series of earthquakes.

It was supposed to be an ordinary Sunday for La Luz, a tour guide at a resort in Talisay town, which is billed the “gateway to Taal Volcano.”

She was accompanying tourists when earthquakes became more frequent before noon. Her guests were told to stay on the boat as people rushed to leave the island, grabbing only a few of their possessions.

While explaining the perilous situation to her angry guests, La Luz was messaging her family, telling them to cross the lake as soon as possible.

When they reached the mainland, Taal—the second most active volcano in the Philippines—began ejecting ash into the sky.

Thousands of residents from Pulo as well as those in areas within the 14-kilometer danger zone were ordered to evacuate.

At the time, Taal reached the fourth of a five-tiered alert system, which meant that a hazardous eruption was possible within hours or days. Affected residents were brought to evacuation centers and schools in other parts of Batangas and in the neighboring province of Cavite.

“We weren’t able to bring anything, not even clothes or important documents. We were caught by surprise. At the time, we thought we’d be able to return right away,” Sarah Jane Aala, 30, said.

Displaced and locked down in same year, Taal Lake folk face bleak Christmas

'No man's land'



A boy walks on the barren Taal Volcano Island on December 5, 2020.
Philstar.com/EC Toledo

Hardest hit by the eruption were the residents of Pulo, which was home to families dependent on fishing and on tourism. Ash transformed the volcano island into a wasteland.

San Isidro, a village on the island and administratively part of Talisay, was once bustling with foreign and local tourists. In late November, it still looked like a ghost town. Dead trees were everywhere. Collapsed houses lay empty.

Only a handful of people were there—fishermen who tend fish cages in the lake. They have to leave before sundown.

Residents have been barred from living on the island following the January eruption. But even before that, Pulo had long been declared off-limits to settlements due to volcanic activities.

In the neighboring village of Santa Milagrosa, the situation was better. Things looked normal, save for deserted homes and a feeling of stillness. La Luz believes the village's patroness, protected the community.

Since March 19, the status of Taal Volcano has been at Alert Level 1 after volcanic earthquakes and surface activity at the main crater decreased.

Although it is the lowest alert level, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology advised the public that sudden steam-driven or explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall and lethal accumulations or expulsions of gas could happen within the volcano island. People are still prohibited from entering the danger zone within four kilometers of the volcano.

Displaced and locked down in same year, Taal Lake folk face bleak Christmas

From the ashes



Photo taken on December 5, 2020 shows the desolate Taal Volcano Island.
[Philstar.com/EC Toledo](http://Philstar.com/EC>Toledo)

The island and the lake form part of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL), a protected area by the virtue of Proclamation 923 signed by then President Fidel Ramos in 1996. TVPL is managed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), which is composed of heads of government agencies and local chief executives.

Noel Recillo, Batangas province environment and natural resources officer and the concurrent protected area superintendent, said the PAMB will still have to discuss possible rehabilitation plans for the volcano island when they revise the TVPL masterplan next year.

The Biodiversity Management Bureau, an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, plans to do regular assessment to determine the economic value of ecosystem services—the value or benefit that the environment has for people— within the protected area that were lost after the eruption.

“Our end goal is input to management: what are the primary resources to focus on? [Is it] conservation, protection? What are the areas that [have] to be used for economic benefits as far as people are concerned?” Ricardo Calderon, BMB director, said.

He added the government is also focused on maintaining the ecological integrity of Taal Lake—home of the endemic tawilis (*Sardinella tawilis*), which has been listed as an endangered species. Even prior to the eruption, the lake had already been facing various threats: the proliferation of fish cages and pollution from aquaculture facilities and lakeside communities.

Calderon sees no problem with the resumption of ecotourism activities such as trekking on the island post-eruption as long as state volcanologists deem it safe.

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Scientists from the University of the Philippines and the University of Santo Tomas also conducted preliminary research expeditions to the desolate volcano island and the lake in a bid to aid landowners, communities and local governments manage and sustain resources from the protected area.

Flora and fauna experts would look into the revegetation of the island, while geologists would study the volcano's history. Freshwater biologists would evaluate the post-eruption ecology of tawilis and other organisms in the lake.

“We are really dealing with a group of concerned citizens, stakeholders from the surrounding lakeshore towns in Taal Lake on what they should do to the lake and the volcano. Even before the eruption happened, the lake had already been beset by many issues,” Rey Donne Papa, one of the participating scientists, said.

The program was an initiative of the FAITH Colleges (First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities), which is crafting a management plan that will develop a property within the volcano island into a nature conservancy area.

“We are still in the scoping stage but the indicative direction leans toward two strategic concerns: how can the foundation contribute to the sustainable management of the land and water resources of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape? How can we contribute to the disaster preparedness mandate of LGUs and the need of local communities to understand the risks posed in and by their natural environment,” said Ed Coronel, executive director of FAITH Botanic Gardens Foundation, Inc.

Inundated communities



People cross a portion of a submerged road in Brgy. Subic Ilaya in Agoncillo, Batangas using rafts on November 21, 2020.

Displaced and locked down in same year, Taal Lake folk face bleak Christmas

Lakeside communities are also facing a different problem months after the eruption: inundation

In Agoncillo town, several houses have been submerged as waters from Taal Lake creep inland.

Taal Lake also swallowed a portion of a road in the village of Subic Ilaya, cutting off road access. People pay P20 to cross to the other side on rafts pulled by residents wading through the chest-deep water. The rafts can ferry motorcycles and tricycles but heavier vehicles need to take a detour.

“My house survived the eruption but the flood reduced it to rubble,” Arnold Alilio, a resident of nearby Banyaga village, said.

He said the January eruption and the earthquakes altered the topography in the area, and recent typhoons made the situation worse.

The Philippines was hit by consecutive strong storms between late October and early November: Typhoon Quinta (Molave), Super Typhoon Rolly (Goni) and Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco).

Agoncillo is within the designated 14-kilometer danger zone and is among towns severely affected by the eruption. Around 1,500 houses were destroyed by the earthquakes and the ashfall, while at least another 3,000 were left partially damaged.

The eruption also created ground fissures in the town, Agoncillo Mayor Daniel Reyes said

“[The flooding] is due to the deposited ash in the upland areas and fissures so when the rain pours, the soil cannot absorb the water anymore. Unlike before when the soil absorbed the water, now it flows to the creek, causing flashfloods,” Reyes said, citing the study conducted by the municipality.

“Once it rains, or when there’s a cyclone, [flooding] will happen,” he said. The municipality plans to build a road that will bypass the flooding.

Waiting for help



Children walk inside the evacuation center in Tumaway Senior High School on November 21, 2020.



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Some residents of Pulo were able to build new homes in Talisay. Others are staying with their relatives on the mainland. But many Taal eruption survivors are still in evacuation centers across the water from the island.

La Luz's family, along with some 40 other households, is seeking refuge at Aya Evacuation Center inside an elementary school in Talisay. Around 23 families stay in a large room partitioned only by blankets.

Near the town's center is Tumaway Senior High School, where some 126 displaced families are staying.

Shela Marie Gaduyon's family and around 50 other households live in an unfinished two-story school building.

There is barely enough living space in Gaduyon's makeshift home—which she preferred to call a “boarding house”—for her, her husband and her seven children along with their belongings, which are mostly donated.

“We can't sleep properly here. It's really difficult when you're not living in your own home. We pity the children because it gets really cold early in the morning,” Gaduyon said.

Before the eruption, residents of Pulo thrived as tour guides, horse tenders, fishers and farmers. La Luz could earn P500 (\$10) a day. But this amount does not include the tips she received from tourists, which could go as high as P2,000 (\$41) if they were “very generous.”

But the eruption killed the tourism industry on the island, leaving many jobless. Men are now working in construction sites, making only P370 (\$7.75) a day. Others are still fishing or feeding tilapia in fish cages.

Women, meanwhile, are left in evacuation centers to take care of their children.

“It's easier to earn money in Pulo unlike here. If you don't work, it'll be hard for you to survive because you have to pay for everything. Being hardworking is the only thing you need in Pulo to get by,” Aala said.

Life, for the displaced residents, is tough. But they have no choice but to endure their current circumstances as they wait for the local government's housing project for them.

They had been told there is a plan for their relocation, but that was before the pandemic happened. They have no idea how much longer they will have to wait.

The Talisay local government has yet to respond to Philstar.com's request for comment on its plans for the evacuees.

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Uprooted from the seaside



A boy takes a rest inside the village for the indigenous Aeta community on November 22, 2020.
[In a mountainous area in San Luis town in Batangas, an hour and a half away from Talisay, members of an indigenous Aeta community are rebuilding their lives. They used to reside by the sea but the eruption of Taal prompted them to relocate upland.](https://philstar.com/EC>Toledo</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Zosimo Magtibay, the tribe's chieftain, said they had already planned to transfer to the land where they are currently living, which is a 15-minute trek from the foot of the mountain in the town's Barangay Banoyo, even before the eruption.

But the volcanic unrest earlier this year hastened their planned move, leaving them without shelter, water and electricity.

Fortunately, help from the local government and from private donors poured in, providing them construction materials, food packs, solar panels and other basic necessities.

A lot has changed since January, Magtibay said, as they were able to construct new homes, a learning center for school children and a community center, which also serves as their chapel.

Their community is still far from being complete: there is still no electricity in the area, making it a struggle for everyone, especially students in the tribe. The path to their village is still unpaved and unlit, posing dangers to villagers, especially at night.

Moving from seaside to upland also meant changing their source of livelihood. Men of the clan used to fish in Balayan Bay but their boats had been damaged. The women, meanwhile, made doormats.

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“The difference [between living in the mountain and by the sea] is huge. When we’re in the lowland, we have many opportunities to earn money: we pick up plastic waste on the beach and sell them. Men venture out to fish. We also sell herbal products,” Susan Magtibay, the wife of the clan’s leader, said.

Members of their community now make a living by selling “anything that can be sold” such as vegetables and herbs. Some men work in construction, while others are paid to cut grass.

Despite the hardships that come with relocation, residents believe they are in a better place now.

Another crisis



Women collect water inside an evacuation center in Tumaway Senior High School on November 21, 2020.
[### Displaced and locked down in same year, Taal Lake folk face bleak Christmas](http://Philstar.com/EC>Toledo</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Another disaster in the form of an unprecedented health crisis disrupted the lives of Taal survivors as they were adjusting to the shock of the eruption.

Two weeks after the volcanic eruption, health authorities in the Philippines announced the country’s first case of coronavirus disease.



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In March, when they were starting to pick themselves up, the COVID-19 pandemic began to take a firm hold in the Philippines, prompting the government to impose stringent movement restrictions that have remained in place to varying degrees since.

Displaced residents were able to stock food, thanks to donations by various people and organizations before a strict lockdown brought the nation to a halt.

But fewer donations from the private sector reached them due to movement restrictions and the rise in COVID-19 cases.

“When the pandemic struck, donations stopped coming. Our husbands were not allowed to go out to work at the time. We were waiting for relief goods. Until now, nothing has arrived,” Gaduyon said.

There were times that the local and national government gave them financial assistance but they could not live off the occasional aid as the pandemic casts uncertainty on them.

Batangas has had 12,638 coronavirus cases, of which 574 are still active, as of December 23. It is one of the few provinces under general community quarantine although restrictions have been relaxed.

COVID-19 poses a threat to evacuees living in cramped temporary shelters. Fortunately, the two evacuation centers are still COVID-19 free. But maintaining a one-meter distance with others inside temporary shelters is almost impossible.

Communal bathrooms are also very risky, and with the sheer number of people staying at the centers, some have stopped working.

According to a UNICEF study in 2016, the lack of adequate access to water and sanitation “is likely to increase the vulnerability to violence”—specifically violence against women and girls.

It noted that “poor access to WASH services can lead to vulnerability, rape and assaults, and that fear of such assaults can prevent women and children from using sanitary facilities outside of the home at night.”

“Children can be vulnerable to sexual violence in school or when left at home while the mother is out to undertake WASH-related tasks,” it also said.

In interviews at one of the centers in Talisay, a mother said that she was worried about peeping toms when her daughter bathes.

Teenage girls at the center were also observed going to the communal bathroom structure in groups, with some standing guard while one of them used the facilities.

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Added responsibility for parents



A child reads her module inside the evacuation center in Tumaway Senior High School on November 21, 2020.
[Philstar.com/EC Toledo](http://Philstar.com/EC>Toledo)

The health crisis also reshaped the idea of teaching and learning. President Rodrigo Duterte prohibited traditional face-to-face classes until a coronavirus vaccine is available in the country.

Students shifted to distance learning—a mix of printed or online learning materials or “modules,” online classes, and radio and television educational broadcasts—when classes began in October. Because poor families cannot afford to hire tutors, mothers, fathers and guardians now carry the responsibility of being co-teachers.

La Luz worked briefly in a factory after the volcanic eruption. But she had to resign to help her 15-year-old son with schoolwork, a job she is not trained to do.

“I want to focus on my son,” she said.

As in past calamities and crises, women bear the brunt of the disruption of not just the family’s livelihood but of their home life as well.

In an interview in 2016, Aimee Santos—now head of the gender program at the UN Population Fund in the Philippines—said that women in general are economically and politically marginalized.

“They carry multiple burdens in our families and our communities,” she said then, adding that women “[experience] more of the burden, more of the anxieties, more of the problems.”

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They are expected to take care of the home but also to supplement the household's finances when the men are idled by droughts or in the case of the Taal evacuees nearly five years later, by the pandemic.

They may also have to give up their own jobs to take care of their children.

Difficulties in distance learning



A member of the indigenous Aeta tribe answers his modules on November 22, 2020.
Philstar.com/EC Toledo

Ana Banaag, a teacher in San Luis, said modules are delivered to the Aeta community every Monday and are picked up by Friday.

Students who have questions about their lessons reach out to her through Facebook Messenger or text message but not everyone has access to gadgets. But if they are still having difficulties, Banaag would come over and help them.

"It's difficult because the majority of the students here are under a basic literacy program so face-to-face approach is really needed. Giving them modules is not enough if they could not read these," she said.

Some parents in the tribe also supervise their children's classes while studying at the same time. Dela Luna, a 35-year-old working mother, is currently enrolled in the Alternative Learning System program, which allows school dropouts to complete elementary and secondary education outside the formal school system.

"I work as a house help by day. At night, I would help my children in their classes, while also working on my module. It's tough," she said



Displaced and locked down in same year, Taal Lake folk face bleak Christmas

Bleak Christmas



Mara Elenita La Luz stands inside her former house in Taal Volcano Island on December 5, 2020.

Philstar.com/EC Toledo

For many Filipinos, the eruption of Taal in January felt like it happened a long time ago. After all, a lot has happened in the country since: the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, lockdowns and back-to-back strong typhoons.

But Taal survivors continue to deal with their trauma and the disaster's aftermath, now aggravated by the pandemic.

Gaduyon said they could not do much except wait for the government to help and provide them the much-needed housing.

"We are asking for help because we've been here for many months, we're nearing a year here but nothing has happened yet," she said.

La Luz has since returned to her job as a tour guide after the local tourism office allowed the resumption of boat rides around Taal Lake. It's a welcome development but the road to recovery is still far from over.

She and other displaced residents would celebrate Christmas inside evacuation centers. It would not be as joyous as it used to be when they were living on the island but they would still try to enjoy it, she said.

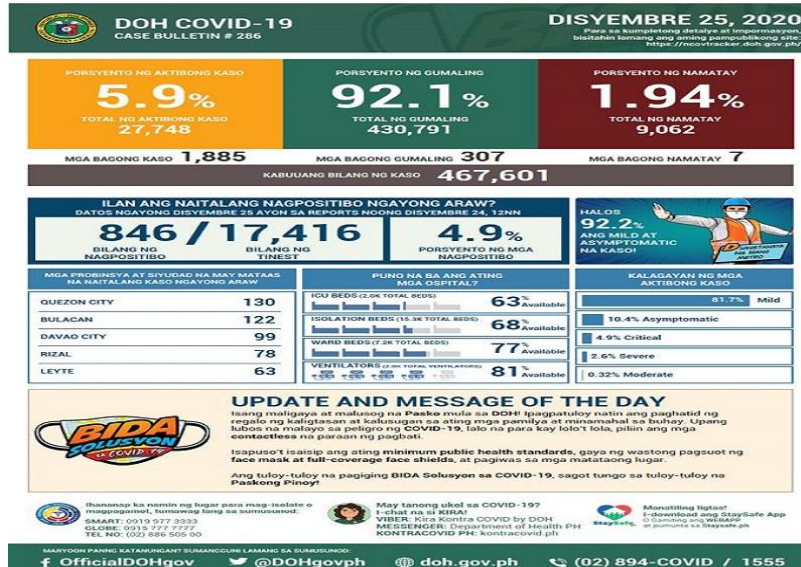
She has many wishes for Christmas but at the top of the list, no matter how impossible it is at this point, is settling again on Pulo.

"It's always a part of my prayer: for us to return to our old lives on the island, for our hometown to regain its beauty," La Luz said. — **with Efigenio Toledo IV and Jonathan de Santos**



BREAKING: Bilang ng mga tinamaan ng COVID-19 sa bansa umabot na sa 467,601 – DOH

By Mary Rose Cabrales December 25, 2020 - 04:55 PM



Tumaas pa ang bilang ng mga tinamaan ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19 sa bansa.

Ayon sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH), 1,885 ang bagong naitalang kaso ngayong araw ng Biyernes (December 25) kaya umabot na sa 467,601 ang kabuuang bilang ng tinamaan ng virus sa bansa.

307 naman ang bagong naitalang gumaling o naka-recover na sa COVID-19 sa bansa kaya umabot na ito sa 430,791.

Ang bilang naman ng nasawi ay nadagdagan ng 7 kaya umabot na ito sa 9,062.

Paalala naman ng DOH ngayong ipinagdiriwang natin ang Pasko ay dapat limitahan lamang sa immediate family members ang mga pagtitipon, masusustansyang pagkain din ang ihain at laging tandaan ang pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield sa paglabas at iwasan din ang pakikihalubilo sa maraming tao.

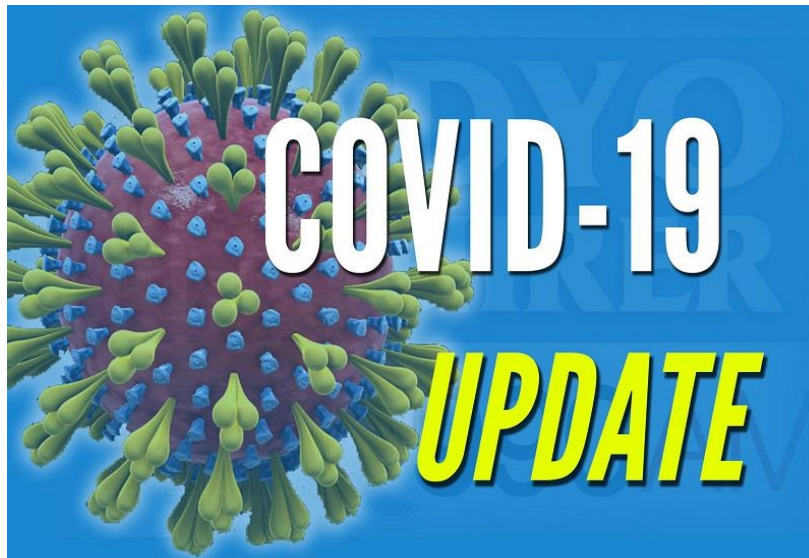
Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/281322/breaking-bilang-ng-mga-tinamaan-ng-covid-19-sa-bansa-umabot-na-sa-467601-doh#ixzz6hfmOX58>

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Global cases ng COVID-19 mahigit 79 million na

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo December 24, 2020 - 09:53 AM



Umabot sa mahigit 670,000 pa ang naitalang bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo sa nakalipas na magdamag.

Batay sa pinakahuling datos araw ng Huwebes, (Dec. 24) ay 79,023,281 na ang global cases ng COVID-19.

Sa magdamag, mahigit 233,000 ang bagong kaso na naitala sa US.

Sa Brazil nakapagtala ng mahigit 46,000 na bagong kaso sa magdamag.

Mahigit 39,000 naman ang mga bagong kaso na naitala sa UK.

Narito ang datos ng COVID-19 sa mga bansang may pinakamaraming kaso:

USA – 18,908,013

India – 10,123,544

Brazil – 7,366,677

Russia – 2,933,753

France – 2,505,875

UK – 2,149,551

Turkey – 2,082,610

Italy – 1,991,278

Spain – 1,847,874

Germany – 1,587,908

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/281189/global-cases-ng-covid-19-mahigit-79-million-na#ixzz6hfnLnxtP>

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Duterte calls for emergency meeting to discuss new COVID-19 strain

Aileen Cerrudo • December 25, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte has called for an emergency meeting with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) to discuss the new strain of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque Jr. said the emergency meeting is scheduled for Saturday (December 26).

The new strain of COVID-19 has been confirmed to be spreading in the United Kingdom and other European nations.

“Ilan po sa inaasahang pag-uusapan ay kung anong mangyayari doon sa travel ban na na-impose na, at sa lahat ng biyahe na galing po sa Inglatera na hanggang 31 ng Disyembre (Among the items to be discussed is the next step following the imposition of the UK travel ban until December 31),” he said.

“Inaasahan ding pag-usapan kung kinakailangan bang magkaroon ng travel ban doon sa mga lugar kung saan nakapasok na ang bagong strain ng COVID-19 (Also expected to be discussed is whether there is a need to impose a travel ban on areas where cases of the new COVID-19 strain had been recorded),” he added.

The national government has already imposed a travel ban on the UK until December 31. –
AAC (with reports from Rosalie Coz)



Duterte to tackle new Covid-19 strain with IATF, experts

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos December 25, 2020, 2:50 pm



Presidential Photo

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte is set to meet with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) and infectious disease workers on Saturday to discuss the new strain of coronavirus detected in the United Kingdom (UK).

In a text message sent to reporters on Friday, Senator Christopher Lawrence Go said Duterte’s meeting with the IATF-EID and infectious disease experts would be held in Malacañan Palace in Manila.

“Biglaan patawag ng meeting with IATF and infectious disease experts tom si PRRD (President Rodrigo R. Duterte suddenly called for a meeting with the IATF and infectious disease experts tomorrow) to discuss new strain (of the coronavirus disease 2019 or Covid-19),” said Go, Duterte’s former long-time aide.

In an interview, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the meeting would take place at the Malago Clubhouse at about 6 p.m. Saturday.

The President scheduled the meeting following his approval of the IATF-EID’s resolution that bans Philippine flights from the UK from December 24 to 31 due to concerns over the spread of a new variant of Covid-19.

Go said Duterte had decided to cut short his Christmas break as he is “very much” concerned with the reported new strain of Covid-19 that could spread more quickly than previous strains.

Roque said Duterte would discuss with the IATF-EID and infectious disease experts the possibility of extending the travel restrictions on transport from the UK.

He said there was also a chance that the travel ban would be imposed on other countries where the new strain had already entered.

“Inaasahan ding pag-usapan kung kinakailangang magkaroon ng travel ban doon sa mga lugar kung saan nakapasok na ang bagong strain ng Covid-19 (They might also discuss the possible travel ban on places where the new strain of Covid-19 has been detected),” Roque said.



Duterte to tackle new Covid-19 strain with IATF, experts

The IATF-EID's Resolution 90 authorizes the Philippines to temporarily ban flights from the UK from December 24 to 31 to prevent the entry of the new strain of Covid-19 into the country.

Under the resolution, all passengers who have been to the UK within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, including those merely in transit, are likewise prohibited from entering the country in the same period.

Passengers already in transit from the UK and those who have been to the UK within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, who arrived before 12:01 a.m. of December 24, will not be subject to entry restriction but will be required to undergo stricter quarantine and testing protocols.

The protocols that need to be observed include an absolute 14-day quarantine period at the Athlete's Village in the New Clark City, notwithstanding a negative reverse transcription - polymerase chain reaction test result.

According to the resolution, outbound travel to the UK will also be subject to the exit protocols of the Philippines and the UK. **(PNA)**



PASKO DUMATING NA, HINDI NAPIGILAN NG PANDEMYA



December 25, 2020 @ 12:40 PM 18 hours ago

PASKO na at binabati ng ULTIMATUM ang lahat ng Maligaya at Mapayapang Pasko.

Dumaan man tayo sa mga pagsubok at paghihirap sa nakaraang 11 buwan simula nang pumutok ang coronavirus disease 2019, narating pa rin natin ang araw ng kaligayahan at kapayapaan.

Ito'y sa kabila ng kakaibang Pasko na dumating sa atin kaya naman, kakaiba rin ang ligaya at kapayapaang ating nadarama.

UNANG KAKAIBA

Kauna-unahang kakaiba ang nawalang isang nasa hustong gulang na babae o ina na karay-karay ang maraming bata para mamasko hanggang abutin ng dilim.

Walang karapatang-tumanggap ang mga bata ng bigay ng mga nagpa-Pamasko at kung makatanggap man ang mga ito, isinusurender sa mga kumakaray sa kanila.

Nawala rin ang pagkakaroling ng mga bata simula sa Simbang Gabi hanggang gabi ng Disyembre 25.

Kung meron man, bibihira lang.

LUGING JEEPNEY DRIVER/OPERATOR

Nawala sa kalsada sa matagal na panahon ang mga jeepney at ngayo'y unti-unting nagbabalik.

Dahil sa pagkawala ng mga nagkakaroling, nawalan ng sakit sa ulo sa pagkalugi ang mga tsuper sa rami ng mga bata na sumasakay na puro libre at tanging ang mga kumakaray sa kanila ang namamasahe.



PASKO DUMATING NA, HINDI NAPIGILAN NG PANDEMYA

Dati-rati, by hook or by crook naman ang ugaling ipinakikita ng mga pulis at trapik enforcer sa mga jeepney driver.

P20, P50, P100 ang hinihingi ng mga ito sa mga tsuper sa Kamaynilaan, depende sa bilang nilang nagpapakita.

Kamot na lang sa ulo ang magagawa ng tsuper at humihinto na lang sa pamamasada.

Kasi naman, bawat kanto na lang ay may mga namamaskong pulis at traffic enforcer.

Kung hindi siya magbigay, hinahanapan siya ng violation at kinukumpiska ang kanyang lisensya at sa presinto o city hall o bahay ng pulis at traffic enforcer na lang magpaliwanag at magbigay.

Ngayon, ano kaya ang nangyayari sa mga pinayagan ng gobyerno na bumiyaha?

Meron na bang pagkakaiba noon ang ngayon?

ISANG GOOD NEWS

Pero may isang good news na kakaiba rin.

Noong nakaraang mga panahon, mga Bro, wala nang ginawa ang mediamen kundi mag-ulat ukol sa krimen sa Kapaskuhan.

Kasama rito ang pang-aagaw ng cellphone at sinasaksak o pinapatay ang mga ayaw bumigay sa mga street criminal at iskalawag na pulis at traffic enforcer.

Puno rin ang mga presinto ng mga nagreklamong mamimili ng pam-Pasko na sila'y hinoldap o dinukutan o sinalisihan o inakwatan ng bahay.

Maging ang mga biyahero ng isda, gulay, prutas at iba pa, hinoholdap at kinikikilan ng mga iskalawag na awtoridad.

Ngayon, napakalaki na umano ang ibinawas ng mga krimeng ganito.

ISA PANG GOOD NEWS

Kwento naman ng delivery boys at girls na nauuso ngayon ang paglalabas at pagkakabit nila ng mga cellphone sa kanilang mga motorsiklo, wala na silang nararanasang mga isnatching o panghoholdap.

Ngayon, parang nagpipiyesta rin ang mga mamamayan sa paglalabas ng kanilang mga cellphone kahit saan, kahit sa loob ng mga jeepney at walang kaba sa dibdib na sila'y mahablutan nito.

Sa mga nagsiksikan sa mga shopping center kabilang na ang Divisoria sa Manila, higit na kinatakutan ang COVID-19 kaysa mga street criminals.

Sabi nila, kung hindi pa dumating si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na nagdeklara ng giyera sa drog, krimen at korapsyon, hindi pa nila mararanasan ang ginhawa mula sa krimeng nabanggit.



PASKO DUMATING NA, HINDI NAPIGILAN NG PANDEMYA

BINUBUNO ANG PASKO

Dahil sa pandemya at grabeng mga kalamidad dulot ng bagyo, baha at tag-ulan, marami, libo ang nawalan ng buhay, ari-arian at mapagkakitaan para sa normal at new normal na pamumuhay

Sa ating pakikipagkita sa lahat ng mga kamag-anak, kaibigan, kapitbahay, kasama sa trabaho at mamamayan ngayong Kapaskuhan, mas malaki ang pasasalamat nila na hanggang sa dumating ang Pasko, sila'y nabubuhay pa rin.

Ang pagiging buhay, ang pagkasurbayb sa mga pandemya at kalamidad, ay sapat na upang magpasalamat sila sa Panginoon Jesus na may dala ng magandang balita sa kabila ng lahat ng malulungkot na pangyayari.

At ang nakatataba pa ng puso, naririyon pa rin ang lakas ng loob na ipagpatuloy ang buhay.

Naramdaman natin ang malakas na pag-asa sa buhay ng higit na nakararami kahit pinipilit ng iilang namumulitika na buhusan ng kumukulong tubig ang pag-asa hanggang sa ito'y masira.

Pero magtatagumpay kaya silang mapanira at bawat nagaganap na negatibo, pilit na ikinakadyot kay Mayor Digong

COVID-19 LUMALAKAS, LAHAT DAPAT MAG-INGAT

Ngayon ay may bagong uri ng COVID-19 na galing sa bansang United Kingdom.

Bilang aksyon, pinatigil ng ating pamahalaan ang pagpapasok sa mahal kong Pinas ng lahat ng galing sa nasabing bansa.

Ganito rin ang ginagawa ng halos lahat ng bansa.

Ang problema ay kung may nakapasok na sa Pinas dahil napasok na nito ang Singapore na kapitbansa natin at may mga biktima na.

Mas matindi umano kung makahawa ang bagong COVID-19 na ito.

Kung pagmumulan ito ng maraming kamatayan, wala pang nakaaalam.

Subalit sinasabi namang maaaring magamit ang mga bakuna ngayon na paspasan nang ginagamit sa UK, Europa, Amerika, Canada at iba pa.

Dahil wala pa tayong bakuna sa bansa, dapat tayong magbantay at mag-ingat sa luma at bagong COVID-19.

Merry Christmas po sa lahat.



Mga pagguho ng lupa naitala sa Surigao City

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Dec 25 2020 08:25 PM



Nakaranas ng mga pag-ulan ang Surigao City at mga karatig-lugar dulot ng trough ng low pressure area, na nagdulot ng landslide at pagbaha. *Kuha ni Romar Curada.*

SURIGAO CITY - Magdamag simula Huwebes na nakaranas ng mga pag-ulan ang lungsod na ito at mga karatig-lugar dulot ng trough ng low pressure area.

Alas dose ng tanghali ngayong Biyernes, gumuho ang bahagi ng lupa sa may Barangay Ipil sa lungsod na ito.

Nagkaroon rin ng landslide sa Purok 9, sa Barangay Cagniog, at Brgy. Washington.

Agad namang nagsagawa ng clearing operation at evacuation sa mga residente malapit sa mga lugar.

Nagsagawa rin ng clearing operations sa may San Francisco-Malimono Provincial Road sa Barangay Oslao na natabunan ng putik dahil sa pagguho ng lupa.



Nakaranas ng mga pag-ulan ang Surigao City at mga karatig-lugar dulot ng trough ng low pressure area, na nagdulot ng landslide at pagbaha. *Kuha ng Surigao City Public Information Office.*



Mga pagguho ng lupa naitala sa Surigao City

Binaha rin ang ilang kalsada at barangay sa lungsod dahil sa walang tigil na ulan.

Nakamonitor ngayon ang Surigao City Disaster Risk and Management Office sa mga posibleng pagbaha pa sa ibang mga barangay, lalo na sa mga low-lying areas.

Inabisuhan naman ang publiko na maging maingat at alerto sa lahat ng oras.

- **Ulat ni Lorilly Charmane Awitan**



LPA sa silangan ng Mindanao, papasok sa Ph territory bukas – Pagasa

By [Bombo Dennis Jamito](#)

-December 25, 2020 | 6:52 PM

Lalo pang lumawak ang mga pag-ulang dala ng binabantayang low pressure area (LPA) na nananatili sa labas ng Philippine area of responsibility (PAR).

Ayon sa Pagasa, huli itong namataan sa layong 700 km sa silangan ng General Santos City.

Inaasahang makakaranas ng ulan ang Zamboanga Peninsula, Central Visayas at Eastern Visayas.

Habang thunderstorm naman ang maghahatid ng ulan sa Caraga, Northern Mindanao at natitirang parte ng Visayas.

Sa ngayon, maliit pa ang tyansa nitong maging ganap na bagyo, ngunit hindi inalis ng Pagasa ang naturang posibilidad.



M6.3 quake jolts Luzon on Christmas Day



Image from Phivolcs
December 25, 2020

A MAGNITUDE 6.3 tectonic earthquake shook Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon at 7:43 a.m. on Christmas Day, December 25, 2020.

No damage was expected, but aftershocks were occurring as of 10 a.m. Friday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said in its advisory.

The quake struck near Calatagan, Batangas. Phivolcs initially said it occurred at a depth of 74 kilometers, but revised this to 102 kilometers and further to 109 kilometers.

It was felt in the following areas at up to Intensity V.

Intensity V- Calatagan, Balayan, Nasugbu, Batangas City, Balayan, Calaca and San Luis, Batangas; Tagaytay City, Amadeo, Indang, Kawit and Alfonso, Cavite; Lubang and Looc, Occidental Mindoro; Biñan, Laguna

Intensity IV -Abra de Ilog and Paluan, Occidental Mindoro; Taal, San Jose, San Pascual, Lemery, Malvar and Ibaan, Batangas; Maragundon and Carmona, Cavite; San Pedro, Laguna; City of Manila; Marikina City; Quezon City; Cainta, San Mateo and Antipolo City, Rizal; Pasig City; Las Piñas City; Obando, Malolos and Meycauyan, Bulacan; Subic and San Felipe, Zambales; Alaminos, Pangasinan; Santo Tomas, La Union; City of Mabalacat, Pampanga

Intensity III - Talisay and Santo Tomas, Batangas; Puerto Galera, Pinamalayan, Naujan, San Teodoro and Calapan, Oriental Mindoro; Caloocan City; Tanay, Rizal; San Jose Del Monte City and Plaridel, Bulacan; San Jose City and Gapan City, Nueva Ecija; Cabangan and Iba, Zambales; Samal, Bataan; Floridablanca and Santa Ana, Pampanga; Valenzuela City; Malabon City



M6.3 quake jolts Luzon on Christmas Day

Intensity II - San Isidro, Nueva Ecija; Alaminos City, Pangasinan; Lucban and Guinayangan, Quezon; Doña Remedios, Trinidad

Intensity I- Villasis, Pangasinan; Lucena City, Quezon

Instrumental Intensities:

Intensity IV - Bacoor City; Tagaytay City; Carmona, Cavite; Plaridel, Calumpit, San Ildefonso, San Rafael, and Malolos, Bulacan; Guagua, Pampanga; Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro; Las Piñas City; Navotas City; Paranaque City; Malabon City

Intensity III - Tagaytay City; Talisay, Batangas; San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Dagupan City; Quezon City; Pasig City; Muntinlupa City; Marikina City; San Juan City; Cabanatuan City; Calapan, Oriental Mindoro

Intensity II - Roxas, Oriental Mindoro; Lucban, Quezon; Baler, Aurora; Palayan City; San Isidro, Nueva Ecija

Intensity I - San Jose, Nueva Ecija; Gumaca, Lopez and Lucena City, Quezon

(MVI / **SunStar Philippines**)



Magnitude 5.2 earthquake strikes San Francisco, Quezon

Published December 25, 2020 8:12pm

A 5.2-magnitude earthquake jolted San Francisco town in Quezon province on Christmas day, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The earthquake was recorded 24 kilometers southwest of San Francisco at 6:04 p.m. Friday. It is of tectonic origin and had a depth of five kilometers.

In the morning, a 6.3-magnitude [temblor](#) shook Calatagan in Batangas.

Phivolcs said the following areas had reported intensities:

Intensity V - San Francisco and Mulanay, Quezon;

Intensity IV - San Andres, Catanauan and San Narciso Quezon;

Intensity III - Boac, Marinduque; Malabon City;

Intensity II - Guinayangan, Quezon; Ocampo; Camarines Sur;

Intensity I - Lucban, Quezon

Phivolcs said aftershocks are expected.—LDF, GMA News



Luzon, Mindanao ginimbal ng lindol

By Abante News Online — Last updated Dec 25, 2020

NEWS



Dalawang malakas na lindol na may magnitude 6.3 at 5.2 ang tumama kahapon sa pagdiriwang ng Kapaskuhan.

Sa report ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), sentro ng unang lindol na may lakas na magnitude 6.3 ang Calatagan, Batangas na tumama ng alas-7:43 ng umaga.

Naramdaman ito sa malaking bahagi ng Metro Manila at kalapit na lugar gaya ng Cavite, Laguna at Zambales.

Ani Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum, walang naging banta ng tsunami dahil sa malalim ang lindol.



Luzon, Mindanao ginimbal ng lindol

By Abante News Online — Last updated Dec 25, 2020

NEWS

Dagdag niya, wala rin silang inaasahang pinsala mula sa pagyanig.

Samantala, ang ikalawang lindol ay may lakas na magnitude 5.2 sa Davao Occidental alas-10:00 ng umaga na ang sentro ay sa bayan ng Sarangani at may lalim na 111 kilometro.

Wala ring inaasahang pinsala at tsunami na maidudulot ang pangalawang lindol dahil sa lalim din nito.

Inamin ng mga opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Lemery sa Batangas na labis silang nabahala sa

nangyaring pagyanig sa mismong araw ng Pasko.

“Medyo nag-panic ‘yung mga tao kasi kakatapos lang ng [pagsabog ng] Bulkang Taal,” pahayag ni Lemery Mayor Eulalio Alilio.

Patuloy naman ang isinasagawang inspeksyon ng mga opisyal upang makita kung mayroong mga nasirang imprastraktura dahil sa pagyanig. (Tina Mendoza/Kiko Cueto)

PALIGID NG TAAL VOLCANO YUMANIG — PHIVOLCS

written by [Gilbert Perdez](#) December 25, 2020



Nakapagtala ng isang pagyanig ang Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) sa paligid ng Taal Volcano.

Ayon sa PHIVOLCS, nananatili ang alert Level 1 (abnormal) sa Taal na nangangahulugan na maaaring magkaroon ng biglaang phreatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall, lethal accumulations o pagsabog ng volcanic gas sa paligid ng bulkan.

Dahil dito, mahigpit na inirekomenda ng PHIVOLCS ang pagbabawal sa pagpasok sa permanent danger zone ng Taal, lalo na malapit sa bunganga ng bulkan, at sa Daang Kastila.

VETO POWER NG PANGULONG DUTERTE PAIRALIN SA 2021 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

written by [Gilbert Perdez](#) December 25, 2020



Gagamitin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang kanyang veto power upang matanggal ang ilang probisyon na nakapaloob sa panukalang 2021 General Appropriations Act.

Ginawa ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque ang pahayag ilang araw bago ang inaabangang ceremonial signing ng proposed P4.5-T national budget para sa susunod na taon.

Bagama't hindi tinukoy ni Roque ang ilang items na babaklasin, binanggit ng kalihim na ito'y ibabase lamang sa rekomendasyon ng Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Sinasabing lalagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte ang budget bill sa Davao City sa Lunes, ika-28 ng Disyembre.



Save planet Earth but destroy the ocean?

By: [Sabine Christiansen](#), [Sebastian Unger](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:01 AM December 26, 2020

Potsdam — Today's growing world population and a privileged minority's rapidly rising living standards are driving resource consumption and waste production at a rate requiring the capacities of 1.7 Earths and fuels alarming levels of global warming. And the ocean is increasingly suffering the consequences—not only the well-known large-scale bleaching of tropical corals caused by rising temperatures, but also the less visible risks of ocean-water acidification and temporal and spatial discrepancies in productivity patterns due to species-specific adaptability.

Earth, and especially the ocean, is thus approaching the tipping point of irreversible degradation. That would be a tragedy, marked by the ocean's increasing inability to provide us and future generations with necessities such as healthy food, the carbon cycle, nutrient regeneration, and mitigation of global warming.

As recent studies and assessments indicate, the world is still able to change course in the face of this threat, if major pressures—including climate change—are mitigated and marine ecosystems restored. But a new risk is looming on the horizon: commercial deep-seabed mining for in-demand minerals.

The industry's prevailing narrative today is that the world needs deep-sea minerals—including rare-earth elements, cobalt, manganese, and tellurium—to enable the renewable-energy transition and decarbonize the global economy. But recent economic analyses suggest that existing land-based mining and a transition toward a circular economy can fill possible gaps in mineral supply, and even indicate that surplus mineral production, such as from the deep sea, may cause prices to collapse. So, who will gain from mining the seafloor?

The mining of mineral-rich substrates will potentially affect the largely untouched deep sea at depths of 2,000-4,000 meters in some national waters, as well as the international seabed, known legally as "the Area." The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) declared the Area and its mineral resources to be the "common heritage of mankind," and established the International Seabed Authority (ISA)—a Jamaica-based body that currently has 168 member states—to manage them.

Since it came into existence in 1994, the ISA has signed 30 mineral-exploration contracts with 21 entities—sponsored by 16 states and one consortium. And industry pressure to start commercial exploitation has increased in recent years.

Although this impatience is perhaps understandable, seabed mineral deposits are typically found in highly specific and sensitive ecosystems. Older and more ecologically stable locations have more concentrated deposits and thus attract greater mining interest, but the associated ecosystems are more specialized and diverse.

Recent research has revolutionized our view of the deep sea and revealed an extraordinary diversity of small-scale habitats, life forms, and strategies. But we have yet to uncover most of these ecosystems' secrets, and our understanding of their complexity and functional relationships is still in its infancy.



Save planet Earth but destroy the ocean?

Moreover, scientific experiments indicate that habitats affected by commercial deep-seabed mining will not have recovered even after 30 years and will remain functionally disrupted, with an inevitable loss of biodiversity on an unknown scale. For example, every manganese nodule mining operation will plow through the upper 10-20 centimeters of mineable seabed measuring 200-800 square kilometers (77-309 square miles) every year for 30 years, causing major disturbance to at least three times as much seafloor. This dredging not only removes the livelihood of the local fauna but also causes pollution and clouding of an unknown amount of the clearest water on the planet.

The Unclos common-heritage principle was intended to help preserve social equity for current and future generations through fairness, redistribution, and knowledge transfer. But for deep-seabed mining to be commercially viable, operators need the ISA to grant favorable long-term contract conditions, including very limited benefit-sharing and restricted environmental regulation. The risk is that, once the legal framework is in place, a newly emerging industry will operate with (at least) 30-year contracts based on mere assumptions regarding the environmental effects of its untested technologies.

Other benefits accruing to humanity from our common seabed heritage remain uncertain. But an effort to resolve the problems that humans have created on land by further expanding our footprint and disregarding planetary boundaries does not appear to be a viable strategy.

Fortunately, alternative development pathways are available. Five years ago, governments adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (with the slogan “Transforming our World”) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with the aim of guiding humanity toward a future based on intact natural environments, prosperous and peaceful societies, and successful action to limit climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic is a dramatic reminder that the way we are interacting with the biosphere renders our societies less resilient. But the world is still struggling to reverse accelerating biodiversity loss and ocean decline.

Preserving our common deep-sea heritage means taking responsibility for the future, responding cautiously to uncertain ongoing changes such as the effects of global warming on the ocean, and avoiding repetition of past mistakes. Such a forward-looking vision, building on the philosophy of the commons, should be at the heart of the current negotiations on the legal framework for exploiting minerals in the Area. Instead of rushing to mine the seabed, we need to pause until we can protect the biodiversity of the high seas and show that exploiting what lies beneath them can yield long-term net benefits for sustainable development. **Project Syndicate**

Sabine Christiansen, a marine biologist, is senior research associate at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam, where she heads an interdisciplinary working group on the legal, financial, and environmental governance of deep-seabed mining. Sebastian Unger heads the Ocean Governance Working Group at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam.