

26 MAY 2021, WEDNESDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Bike riding is good for health, environment — DENR

May 22, 2021 [Joel dela Torre](#)

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu said that the DENR family supports the call to promote bicycle riding and to keep cyclists safe while on the road.

According to Cimatu, this pandemic has taught Filipinos in using bicycle as part of their health routine and cleaner environment.

“This proposal for the use of bicycles should be supported as it has become an alternative mode of transportation that is efficient and emission-free not only here in our country but also elsewhere around the world,” he added.

Data from the DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) showed a significant decrease of 39% monthly average concentration of Total Suspended Particulates (TSP).

This was based on a report from the Air Quality Monitoring Stations of EMB National Capital Region for the period March 2020 to April 2021.

TSP refers to particles ranging in size from 0.1 micrometer to about 30 micrometers in diameter.

However, from March 2020 to April 2021, the monthly average concentration of PM (particulate matter) 10 increased by 43%.

On the other hand, the monthly average concentration of PM 2.5 also increased by 5%.

EMB has attributed this to the motor vehicle emissions in Metro Manila, since there are still private and public transport vehicles on the roads.

PM 10 is 10 micrometers and smaller in diameter such as dust, pollen and mold. PM 2.5 is 2.5 micrometers or smaller in diameter from soot, smoke, metals, chemicals, dust and other elements that can easily be breathed and are usually associated with respiratory illnesses.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda pointed out that while Congress has yet to pass a law on the safety of cycling in the country, he hopes that LGUs would pass ordinances designating bicycle lanes in the localities to ensure cyclists safety.

“It’s high time that we enact a bicycle law to protect our commuters. With the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our people have now been travelling using their bicycles on their way to work, and it is only right to assure them of their safety while travelling,” he said.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Proclamation No. 1052 in November 2020 designating a “National Bicycle Day” to be observed every 4th Sunday of November to promote the environmental benefits of bicycles.

Under the proclamation, the DENR is tasked to enjoin other national and local government agencies, including LGUs and the private sector, to participate and support the implementation of the national bicycle proclamation.

Source: [https://journalnews.com.ph/bike-riding-is-good-for-health-environment-denr/?fbclid=IwAR1Blx6ptOLRfDYAJ066Su-UKa2Hdz5r6RFRkro13rjaSElfWxEU\\_cNgkH8](https://journalnews.com.ph/bike-riding-is-good-for-health-environment-denr/?fbclid=IwAR1Blx6ptOLRfDYAJ066Su-UKa2Hdz5r6RFRkro13rjaSElfWxEU_cNgkH8)



## Huge victory for the environment; DENR says 100% of illegal dumpsites in PH shuttered

MAY 23, 2021, 7:56 PM

Santiago Celario

Writer

With the closure of 335 illegal open dumpsites in the Philippines, the government's drive against hazardous solid waste disposal is now "complete," according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

IN what may be a huge victory for solid waste management efforts in the Philippines, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has shut down 335 open dumpsites, or 100 percent of the total of illegal dumpsites operating all over the country.

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

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

With the total closure of the dumpsites, the government's drive against hazardous solid waste disposal is now "complete," DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns Benny Antiporda said.

*"We have shown the public that violators cannot escape the long arm of the law. We will eventually catch up with them," he added.*

Under Section 37 of Republic Act No. 9003 (Solid Waste Management Act), "no open dumps shall be established and operated, nor any practice or disposal of solid waste by any person, including LGUs, which constitutes the use of open dumps for solid waste, be allowed after the effectivity of this Act."

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

A residual containment area is a temporary storage of their wastes while negotiating a Memorandum of Agreement with another LGU operating an SLF, finalizing a contract with a privately operated SLF, or awaiting operationalization of their own SLF.

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



There are 237 operational SLFs in the country and 11 are under construction.

Antiporda has also proposed to the DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) that SLFs be privately operated or through public-private partnership (PPP) to ensure compliance with all the requirements of its operation.

*‘When operated as a business, return of investment is one of the critical factors that account for better management and eventual success,’* Antiporda said.

According to him, alldumpsites that have been closed down will have to undergo the Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan of Dumpsites, courtesy of the Environmental Management Bureau. (SC)



# DENR: Creation of Minahang Bayan sites to generate jobs in countryside

By: [Karl R. Ocampo](#) - Reporter / [@kocampoINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:16 PM May 25, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is fast-tracking the establishment of Minahang Bayan areas all over the country amid the growing number of unemployed Filipinos.

Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones, in an interview with Inquirer, said that creating Minahang Bayan sites will generate more jobs in the countryside and fuel economic growth. As of last week, there are 39 Minahang Bayan areas operating in the country from 20 in 2018.

This is still far from the agency's target of declaring 150 Minahang Bayan areas by next year. The Minahang Bayan program, primarily aimed at regulating the small-scale mining industry, allows pocket miners to legally operate under DENR's guidelines.

"Our crackdown on illegal miners continues as we also put up more Minahang Bayan areas," said Leones. "This is to ensure that mining will be concentrated in one area where the DENR can regulate and monitor small-scale operations."

Illegal small-scale miners are usually exposed to health hazards due to rudimentary practices and contribute greatly to environmental degradation.

Despite the risks, it remains to be an attractive livelihood since extracting mineral ores is more profitable compared to other rural jobs like farming or working in construction.

Data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) showed that there are currently nine Minahang Bayan areas in Luzon, three in Visayas, and 27 in Mindanao.

The largest Minahang Bayan site, sprawling over 1,175 hectares, can be found in Dinagat Island where pocket miners extract chromite. Most of the Minahang Areas, however, are for mining gold.

MGB director Wilfredo Moncano said they are also working with the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Environment Program to stop the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

The use of mercury, which is common in the northern part of the country, exposes miners to toxics that could affect the nervous, immune, and digestive systems. Leones said they are looking at cyanide as an alternative to mercury, also known as "quick silver."

The economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic prompted the Duterte administration to rejuvenate the mining industry. The ban on the use of open-pit is expected to be lifted this week.

Source: <https://business.inquirer.net/323612/denr-creation-of-minahang-bayan-sites-to-generate-jobs-in-countryside>

# Navotas, DENR, PCG ink MOA on environment cooperation

By Jerome Carlo R. PaunanPublished on May 25, 2021



*Screengrab of virtual meeting*

CALOOCAN CITY, May 25 (PIA) -- The City Government of Navotas has sealed an agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine Coast Guard for a partnership to improve the water quality in Manila Bay.

Mayor Toby Tiangco; DENR-National Capital Region Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan; and DENR–Environmental Management Bureau-NCR Bureau Director and concurrent Regional Director Engr. William Cuñado signed the agreement.

Also among the signatories were PCG-Coast Guard District, NCR-Central Luzon Commander Commodore Charlie Rances and PCG-Maritime Safety Services Commander, Vice Admiral Eduardo Fabricante.

“We welcome this partnership with the DENR and the Coast Guard. Working together is always better than working alone. We are grateful that even with the pandemic, the program to clean and rehabilitate Manila Bay remains a priority,” Tiangco said.

“We hope that through this initiative, we will soon realize our common goal of restoring the waters surrounding the city to a classification fit for fishing, swimming and other recreational water activities,” he said.

Under the MOA, the DENR-EMB-NCR will install a Water Quality Monitoring Equipment (WQME) with buoy near the coastline of Brgy. Tanza 1 to monitor the water quality of the bay.

The agency will also shoulder the cost of the monitoring equipment and installation, as well as the operating expenses of the station.

They will conduct regular inspection of the monitoring station, and share the gathered data with the other parties, if requested. A smart television monitor will be provided for this purpose.

They will also hold orientation regarding the use and operation of the WQME and provide the trained personnel access to the station for real-time monitoring.



Navotas, on the other hand, will allow the installation of the water quality monitoring station and its accessories along the coastline of the barangay, as well as the continuous operation and maintenance of the site by the DENR-EMB-NCR personnel.

The city government will also provide assistance to ensure the security of the monitoring station.

Meanwhile, the PCG-MSSC will allow the entry of authorized representatives that will check and inspect the WQME.

They will also provide personnel to assist in the maintenance of the station, monitor the WQME buoy and immediately report if there is a change in location, prevent the unnecessary loss of the equipment in case of calamities, and provide other support and assistance when necessary.

They are also tasked to provide the work and financial plan for the logistical requirement stated in the agreement.

The PCG-CGDNCR-CL will provide manpower to assist in the real-time operation of the WQME, safeguard the buoy from unnecessary loss or damage caused by man or natural events, provide watercraft to rescue the buoy in case of any disaster, and assist in any way necessary to keep the monitoring station in good working condition.

The agreement is effective for 10 years and renewable upon the discretion and mutual accord of all concerned parties. However, it is subject to periodic reviews to update the parameters that affect the objectiveness and effectiveness of the project.

Last March, Navotas received recognition as the 2020 Most Compliant Local Government Unit in the implementation of the Supreme Court continuing mandamus for the clean-up and preservation of Manila Bay. (PIA NCR)

# MOA on Navotas, DENR, PCG Ink Environmental Cooperation

[amberlamitie21](#) hours ago



Caloocan City, May 25 (PIA)-The Government of Navotas has signed an agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine Coast Guard on a partnership to improve water quality in Manila Bay.

Mayor Toby Tiangco; DENR-Jacqueline Khankan, Executive Director of Metro Manila. And DENR-Environmental Management Bureau-NCR Director and Simultaneous Regional Director Engr. William Kunad signed the agreement.

Among the signatories were the PCG-Coast Guard District, NCR-Admiral Charlie Lance, Commander of Central Luzon, and Vice Admiral Eduardo Fabricante, Commander of PCG-Marine Safety Services.

“We welcome this partnership between DENR and the Coast Guard. It is always better to work together than to work alone. In the event of a pandemic, Manila Bay cleaning and restoration programs will continue to be a priority. I am grateful for that,” said Tiangco.

“We hope that through this initiative, the common goal of returning the waters around the city to a classification suitable for fishing, swimming and other recreational water activities will soon be achieved,” he said.

Under MOA, DENR-EMB-NCR will install a water quality monitoring device (WQME) with buoys near the coastline of Brgy. Tanza 1 to monitor the water quality of the bay. The agency also bears the costs of monitoring equipment and installation, as well as the cost of operating the station.

Perform regular inspections of the monitoring station and share the collected data with other stakeholders as needed. A smart TV monitor is provided for this purpose.





It also provides orientation on the use and operation of WQME and gives trained personnel access to the station for real-time monitoring.

Navotas, on the other hand, will install a water quality monitoring station and its accessories along the barangay coastline, allowing DENR-EMB-NCR personnel to continue to operate and maintain the site.

The city government will also provide assistance in ensuring the security of surveillance stations.

PCG-MSSC, on the other hand, allows access to representatives authorized to check and inspect WQME.

It also provides personnel to assist with station maintenance, monitors WQME buoys, reports any changes in location immediately, prevents unnecessary loss of equipment in the event of a disaster, and more if necessary. We provide support and support for.

They are also tasked with providing work and financial planning for the logistical requirements set out in the agreement.

PCG-CGDNCR-CL provides human resources to support the real-time operation of WQME, protects the buoy from unnecessary loss or damage caused by human or natural events, and protects the buoy in the event of a disaster. We provide vessels for rescue. In the way necessary to keep the monitoring station in good working order.

The contract is valid for 10 years and can be renewed at the discretion and mutual agreement of all parties. However, regular reviews are required to update the parameters that affect the objectivity and effectiveness of the project.

Last March, Navotas was recognized as the most compliant municipality of 2020 in the implementation of the Supreme Court's Continuing Mandamas for the Purification and Conservation of Manila Bay. (PIA NCR)

MOA on Navotas, DENR, PCG Ink Environmental Cooperation

Source link MOA on Navotas, DENR, PCG Ink Environmental Cooperation



## Multa, demanda iniumang ng DENR: DPWH, CCP, PH Navy binaboy Manila Bay

By Abante News Online — Last updated May 25, 2021

FEATURED NEWS



Pinatitigil ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) at Philippine Navy sa pagtatapon ng waste water sa Manila Bay na nakakadagdag sa dumi sa nasabing baybayin.

Nabatid na ang nag-isyu ang DENR ng Cease and Desist Order (CDO) sa pamamagitan ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) matapos na magsagawa ng inspection sa paligid ng CCP sa Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, kung saan natagpuan ang dalawang outfalls na pinangangasiwaan ng CCP ay kinunan ng wastewater samples.

Gayundin, ang CCP Outfall 4 ay kinunan rin ng wastewater samples.

Nabatid na ang CCP compound ay pag-aari at pinapangasiwaan ng DPWH.

Nalaman na nagsagawa rin ng inspection ang LLDA sa paligid ng Philippine Navy na nasa Roxas Boulevard sa Malate, Maynila.

Lumabas sa monitoring ng ahensiya na may nakitang wastewater samples sa apat sa limang outfalls sa lugar.



Ang outfalls na pinangangasiwaan ng tatlong ahensiya ay kinakitaan ng mataas na fecal coliform level.

Unang inatasan ang DPWH, CCP at Philippine Navy na isara ang outfall na naglalabas ng waste water.

Papatawan ng multa at legal action ang tatlong ahensiya alinsunod sa Clean Water Act at LLDA

Memorandum Circular sa sandaling hindi nila aksiyunan ang mga lumalabas na waste waters sa kanilang mga outfall. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



**News5** 6h · 🌐

Inisyuhan ng cease and desist order ang Philippine Navy, CCP, at DPWH dahil sa pagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay. | via Shyla Francisco

YOUTUBE.COM

3 gov't agencies, binigyan ng cease and desist order dahil sa maruming tubig sa Manila Bay

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# Manila Bay dolomite beach makeover continues

Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 25 2021 07:03 PM



Heavy machinery dump sand along the coastline of Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard, Manila on Tuesday even after reports that the crushed dolomite in the area washed out to sea. Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque on Monday said the makeover should be finished and the Bayanihan Law, which allows President Rodrigo Duterte to realign funds to the COVID-19 response, is not applicable to the dolomite beach budget because it has been committed.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/05/25/21/manila-bay-dolomite-beach-sand?fbclid=IwAR0G-JxKfaCcMfJGpD8qd6tvKVVWZJsFI\\_gEK0hyCEsBY4RrTmc7hI8Wjpk](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/05/25/21/manila-bay-dolomite-beach-sand?fbclid=IwAR0G-JxKfaCcMfJGpD8qd6tvKVVWZJsFI_gEK0hyCEsBY4RrTmc7hI8Wjpk)



# DENR, PPA to improve fight against illegal wildlife trade

By **Jed Macapagal** -May 26, 2021

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Biodiversity Management Bureau entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to improve efforts against illegal wildlife trade beginning with the country's five major seaports.

The seaports included in the agreement are the Lipata Port in Surigao del Norte, Nasipit Port in Agusan del Norte, Manila North Harbor, Manila South Harbor and Manila International Container Terminal.

The partnership will eventually be extended to all 337 PPA-registered seaports nationwide.

The parties noted that from 2010 to 2020, only 17 cases of wildlife confiscations in ports were overseen by the PPA. The United Nations Environment Program said such activities have an estimated value of \$23 billion per year.

Earlier assessment of the five seaports indicated several factors must be addressed to fight wildlife trafficking, especially with the absence of a single window environment for electronic clearance system in the ports and the lack of intelligence and intelligence access on a regional scale.

Other problems aimed to be resolved are the lack of risk profiling system with wildlife crime risk indicators; absence of a K9 unit capable of detecting wildlife, by-products and derivatives; absence of established standard operating procedures for inspection and seizure of wildlife and other illicit goods; and lack of a protocol on post seizure investigation of cases.

The partnership also targets to resolve issues on the under-utilized communication exchange with international institutions of local ports' information exchange systems; establishment of a system to maintain employees' integrity and professional standards to deter corrupt practices; and the absence of the participation of industry operators and other supply chains.

The DENR-PPA capability building against illegal wildlife trade will be implemented in three years, to be assisted by the Global Environment Facility and the Asian Development Bank.



## Trash traps help clean rivers in Central Luzon



**TRASH TRAPS.** About 124 tons of solid wastes were collected from 125 floating trash traps installed in critical water bodies in Bataan, Bulacan and Pampanga by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. (DENR)

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

May 25, 2021

THE innovative trash traps of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are effectively helping in trapping and collecting garbage in critical water bodies in Bataan, Bulacan and Pampanga, as over 124 tons of solid wastes were collected from 125 floating trash traps installed in Central Luzon.

DENR-Central Luzon Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said these trash traps were strategically installed in rivers and streams to reduce the volume of solid wastes directly flowing to the greater portion of the Manila Bay.

"In addition to our cleanup efforts, we heighten our efforts to curb wastes and floating debris in our local waterways by putting up these recyclable trash traps," he said.

As a mitigation strategy, Moreno noted that this trash trapping initiative has reduced the volume of plastic wastes in water bodies and has curbed single-used plastics, candy wrappers, containers, and other pollutants from entering waterways and flowing downstream, since solid wastes were captured directly from their source.

The DENR has assured the public that this sustainable waste management efforts of putting up trash traps in local waterways does not hamper the movement of fishes and other aquatic species, it instead protects physical habitats and coastal and marine ecosystems from being polluted.

Since the Manila Bay rehabilitation program started on January 2019, more than 4,300 tons of biodegradable, residual, recyclable, and hazardous wastes have been collected in Central Luzon.

The DENR continues to appeal to the public to properly segregate and dispose their wastes to lessen the burden of plastic pollution and to protect the natural habitat of marine wildlife.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1895681>



# Higit 124 toneladang basura nakuha sa mga trash traps sa Bataan, Bulacan at Pampanga

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 26 2021 01:02 AM



*Kuha ng DENR Region 3*

Mahigit sa 124 toneladang basura ang nakolekta mula sa 125 trash traps na ikinabit ng DENR sa mga critical water bodies ng Bataan, Bulacan at Pampanga.

Ayon kay Paquito Moreno, Jr., executive director ng DENR Region 3, strategically installed ang mga trash traps sa mga ilog at sapa ng mga nasabing probinsya para mabawasan ang dami ng basura na direktang dumadaloy sa mas malaking bahagi ng Manila Bay.

Tiniyak ng DENR sa publiko na ang napapanatiling pagsisikap sa pamamahala ng basura ng paglalagay ng mga basurahan sa mga lokal na daanan ng tubig ay hindi makakahadlang sa paggalaw ng mga isda at iba pang mga species na nabubuhay sa tubig.

Mula nang magsimula Manila Bay rehabilitation program noong Enero 2019, higit 4,300 tonelada ng biodegradable, residual, recyclable, at mapanganib na basura ang nakolekta sa Region 3.

Ang DENR ay patuloy na umaapela sa publiko na maayos na ihiwalay at itapon ang kanilang mga basura upang mabawasan ang pasanin ng polusyon sa plastik at mapangalagaan ang natural na tirahan ng wildlife ng dagat.

**--Ulat ni Gracie Rutao**





## Cenro-Manukan joins Month of the Ocean observance



ZAMBOANGA. A total of 250 kilograms of trash were collected by participants in a coastal clean-up activity as part of the Month of the Ocean 2021 initiated by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte. A photo handout shows the participants pick up trash at the shoreline of Jose Dalman, Zamboanga del Norte during the activity last weekend. (SunStar Zamboanga)

May 25, 2021

A TOTAL of 250 kilograms of trash were collected by participants in a coastal clean-up activity as part of the Month of the Ocean 2021 initiated by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte.

Rosevirico Tan, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) information officer, said Tuesday, May 25, that the coastal clean-up was held last weekend at the shore of Jose Dalman, Zamboanga del Norte.

The activity saw the participation of 120 personnel of Jose Dalman Municipal Government, policemen, firemen, village officials and residents of coastal areas.

Tan said the collected trash consisted mostly of plastics, ice wrappers, and other household wastes, which were brought to the Municipal Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for proper segregation and disposal.

Former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada issued Presidential Proclamation 37 in 1999, declaring May as the Month of the Ocean.

This year's observance of the Month of the Ocean is anchored on the theme "The Science we Need, for the Ocean we Want."

Tan said the coastal clean-up activity culminated with a short program and Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (Cepa) campaign on the significance of the Ocean and Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act," to increase the level of awareness and behavioral change among the stakeholders on why there is the need to protect, conserve and preserve the ocean and the proper disposal of non-biodegradable wastes, particularly plastics, which end up to the ocean.

He said it also aims to solicit support and cooperation from the community to ensure effective environmental protection, which is everyone's concern. (SunStar Zamboanga)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1895687>



## Used face masks may be recycled—in cement making

BY TYRONE JASPER C. PIAD  
MAY 26, 2021



People wearing face masks and face shields to protect themselves against the coronavirus wait outside a grocery store in Cainta, Rizal, as retailers, in compliance with health protocols, implement social distancing by limiting the number of customers in their stores at any one time. The surge in new, active Covid-19 cases has prompted tighter protocols amid fears the much-needed economic recovery may falter.

THE discarded disposable face masks may potentially be reused as alternative fuels and raw materials in cement production through co-processing, which can help the waste management of the mandatory wearable in pandemic.

The Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (Cemap) said the local industry is awaiting the revision on the Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2010-06, or the Guidelines on the Use of Alternative Fuels and Raw Materials in Cement Kilns, to include the used face masks as viable alternative input for cement production.

Cemap Executive Director Cirilo Pestaño II said the pronouncement will be coming from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The agency, he said, noted the increased usage of the face masks amid pandemic—and proper disposal is necessary.

“We are just waiting for the revision of the DAO which will allow the cement manufacturing companies or facilities to handle certain types of medical waste,” he said at a Senate hearing on Tuesday.

Pestaño said the EMB tagged the cement industry as a “suitable partner” in disposing of such a type of waste.

Currently, the DAO prohibits the reuse or recovery of health-care wastes in co-processing. These include pathological wastes, such as tissues, fetuses, blood and body fluids; infectious wastes; and sharps including syringes and scalpels.

Co-processing, which is covered in the DAO 2010-06, refers to the reuse or recovery of mineral or energy content of waste materials while simultaneously producing cement in a single combined operation.

The Cemap official stressed that using alternative fuels and raw materials—which are derived from waste—is beneficial as this lessens the use of non-renewable energy sources including coal, fuel oil and natural gas in cement making. As a result, it reduces the environmental footprint of the local sector, he explained.



“Since the early 2000, the Philippine domestic cement manufacturing industry has provided an alternative waste management solution through the use of various qualified waste as alternative fuel for its cement production. This is done through a method called cement kiln co-processing,” the Cemap official shared.

While co-processing reduces emission of carbon dioxide, he said it “provides efficient alternative solutions in the disposal of municipal solid waste and industrial waste.” Pestaño explained that it is not harmful because the process is contained within the cement field, unlike incineration which emits gases and produces by-products that end up in landfills.

In addition, co-processing also avoids less favorable waste treatment solutions such as landfilling, which produces methane and causes water pollution, Pestaño said.

“To realize the needed efficient management of waste through co-processing essentially, waste must be processed first to be acceptable for kiln processing. Also, materials recovery facilities must sort any waste that can be accepted for co-processing,” he explained, noting that partnership with the local government units (LGUs) is a must to address the concerns over solid waste management.

“The cement plants must fix comprehensive supply contracts with waste generators such as the [LGUs] and some manufacturing firms, indicating a clear specification for the waste-derived alternative fuel or raw material they can use,” he added.

Pestaño said the cement manufacturing industry’s co-processing capabilities have been improving and more developments are expected.

In Metro Manila, the cement group noted that 9,000 tons of waste are produced daily but only 85 percent of the solid waste is collected and brought to landfills and dumpsites. The remaining 15 percent, it shared, usually ends up in waterways and bodies of water.



First launched in March at the city hall, the program enables residents to trade recyclable materials for environmental points that may be exchanged for basic commodities such as rice, eggs, vegetables and other grocery items.

KJ Rosales, file

## Quezon City rolls out ‘trash to cash’ program

[Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 26, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City government will roll out its “trash to cashback” program to promote solid waste management and encourage the public to recycle and adopt a more sustainable lifestyle.

First launched in March at the city hall, the program enables residents to trade recyclable materials for environmental points that may be exchanged for basic commodities such as rice, eggs, vegetables and other grocery items.

“Together with our partner, Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies (BEST), we are bringing this project down to the barangays to make it more accessible and convenient to residents who are willing to trade their trash into groceries. Hopefully, we can launch it by June in celebration of the Environment Month,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said yesterday.

The city government requested barangays to identify drop-off points in their areas where residents can bring their waste.

In addition to recyclable items such as metal, paper products and PET bottles, single-use plastics such as shampoo sachets and coffee packs will also be accepted at the drop-off points.

“Single-use plastics that we usually disregard are also included on the list of recyclables that can be traded for environmental points. This is part of our campaign to reduce plastic waste,” Belmonte said.

Residents are also allowed to donate their points to beneficiaries identified by the barangays.

Andrea Villaroman, head of the city’s Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department, said the chosen beneficiaries would receive groceries or “incentive bags” from BEST in exchange for the accumulated points donated by the residents.

“The incentive bag will include rice, vegetables and other essentials. We will ensure that these food packages and groceries will be given to those in need, especially the most vulnerable sectors,” Villaroman said.



Aside from barangays, city hall is also planning to introduce the program to commercial establishments such as malls, hotels and restaurants.

“We are also encouraging malls, hotels and restaurants to collect recyclables and donate their earned environmental points to the communities in their areas. They don’t have to bring their recyclables to the Quezon City hall. The city government and BEST will pick these at drop-off points,” Villaroman said.

To participate in the program, residents must register at [bXTRA.com.ph](https://www.bXTRA.com.ph). Accumulated points are converted and may be used to redeem grocery items from the mobile redemption store or bXTRA outlet and food deliveries.

# QC's plastic waste trading program extends to barangays

May 25, 2021



*Photo courtesy of Quezon City Hall Facebook Page*

The Quezon City government's plastic waste trading program, Trash to Cashback, is set to be rolled out in the communities to intensify segregation and introduce the concept of recycling and a circular economy for a more sustainable lifestyle.

Trash to Cashback was first launched in Quezon City Hall in March, where the residents traded their recyclables into 'environmental points' (EPs) which in turn can be exchanged for basic commodities such as rice, eggs, vegetables, and other essential grocery items.

"Together with our partner, Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies (BEST), we are bringing this project down to our barangays to make it more accessible and convenient for our residents who are willing to trade their recyclables into groceries. Hopefully, we can launch it by June in celebration of environment month," Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

Barangays will have to identify a drop-off point in their community where residents can bring their recyclables in exchange for EPs. Aside from metal, papers, and PET bottles, single-use plastics (SUP) such as shampoo sachets, coffee packs, and even online shopping plastic packages will also be accepted at the drop-off points.

"The single-use plastics that we usually disregard like sachets and online shopping packaging are also included on the list of the recyclables that can be exchanged for EPs. This is part of our campaign to reduce plastic waste," Mayor Belmonte added.

Once at the drop-off point, residents can choose whether they will keep the EPs for themselves or donate them to beneficiaries identified by the barangay from various sectors.

According to the city's Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD) head Andrea Villaroman, the barangay's chosen beneficiaries will receive groceries or an "incentive bag" from BEST in exchange for the accumulated EPs donated by residents from their recyclables.

"The incentive bag will include rice, vegetables from our urban farms, and other necessities. We will ensure that these food packages and groceries will be given and distributed to those in need, especially the most vulnerable sectors of the city," Villaroman explained.

Aside from barangays, the city is also planning to introduce the program to different establishments such as malls, hotels, and restaurants.



“Like in our barangays, we are also encouraging malls, hotels, and restaurants to collect recyclables and donate their earned EPs to the communities in their areas. They don’t have to bring their recyclables to QC Hall. The city government and BEST will pick it up at their establishment’s drop-off point,” Villaroman said.

Accumulated EPs are converted into bXTRA cashback, which can be used to redeem grocery items from the mobile redemption store or bXTRA outlet and bXTRA food deliveries. Quezon City residents can register on the bXTRA Website through [bXTRA.com.ph](http://bXTRA.com.ph) to start earning EPs. A complete list of partner stores and establishments can also be accessed at [bXTRA.com.ph](http://bXTRA.com.ph) and order products / services online via [bXTRAoutlet.delivery](http://bXTRAoutlet.delivery).

The program is also part of the city’s campaign to reduce plastic waste, following the implementation of the plastic bag ban in March. Single-use plastics/disposable materials for dine-in transactions will also be prohibited starting on July 1, 2021.

A few days ago, the Trash to Cashback Program established a drop-off point at Barangay Socorro. Quezon City EPWMD and BEST personnel collected recyclables and single-use plastics from residents there.

For more information on the program, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/TrashToCashbackProcess> or <http://qrco.de/TrashToCashback>. **(QC) -jlo**

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/qcs-plastic-waste-trading-program-extends-to-barangays/>



# Birds disrupt flights at Antique airport

By Annabel Consuelo Petinglay May 25, 2021, 5:53 pm



BIRD WATCHING. Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) conduct bird counting on May 21, 2021 at the Antique Airport in San Jose de Buenavista. The bird counting, held during the International Biodiversity Day, was in response to the request of the Antique Airport Management to address their problem on the presence of birds disrupting the commercial flights. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-PENRO Antique)*

**SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique** – Birds flying around the Antique Airport in this capital town are disrupting the flight of the Philippine Airlines (PAL), lone air carrier servicing the province.

Kenny Marie Gicaraya, who is the Belison Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said in an interview on Tuesday that they had received a letter from Antique Airport Manager Juanito Tanchito, Jr. requesting for their assistance on what to do with the birds that are hovering around the airport.

“As a response, we conducted bird counting at the airport last May 21 which was also the International Biodiversity Day,” she said.

Throughout the day, they were able to count 247 birds of various species flying at the airport premises, which can distract pilots and pose danger on the flights.

“There were Barred Rail, Oriental Pratincole, Blue Tailed Bee Eater, Red Turtle Dove, Zebra Dove, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Barred Button Quail, Chestnut munia, and Little Ring Plover,” she said.

These birds had been nesting among the trees at the airport premises, which is why they could be seen flying in the area.

“One of the probable solutions that we are recommending is that there will be a ‘sound wave’ that will be used just before the aircraft landing so to alert the birds to leave the vicinity,” she said.

She said that the sound wave had been found effective in other airports that had similar problems before.

“We are still inquiring at the DENR Regional Office 6 (Western Visayas) if they have other recommendations since we cannot also remove the birds' nests as part of conservation,” she said.

She said that the bird species are common and could have been inhabiting the airport premises, which had not been used by commercial flights for almost 10 years, before it was upgraded and reopened on December 16, 2018.

PAL flies two days a week here, every Wednesday and Saturday. **(PNA)**





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May 25, 2021 2 min read

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Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/05/25/birds-disrupt-flights-at-antique-airport/?fbclid=IwAR1tb3tQsKJtECS0JjZlStYHxz0koaPwQFBwBy8ziqnH727PIY4VaVhKjfQ>



# JICA, DENR hand infra projects for NV upland farmers

By Benjamin Moses M. EbreoPublished on May 25, 2021

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya, May 25 (PIA) - The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently turned-over various infrastructure projects for upland farmers in the province.

These completed projects are the more than P21 million 1.735 - kilometer access road in barangay Canabay in Dupax del Sur town, the more than P17.9 million tirepath in barangay Nantawakan in Kasibu town, the 9.855 - Kilometer Irrigation Pipeline System in barangay Buyasyas in Kayapa town and the Steel Hanging Bridge in barangay Banila in Dupax del Sur town.

Edgar Martin, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources officer said the completed projects which were funded by the JICA and implemented by the DENR will help upland farmers in bringing their products closer to the market.

"These projects will surely improve the economic activities of our upland farmers," he said.

The turn-over programs for the completed projects were witnessed by PENRO Martin, CENR Officer Constante Espiritu. representative of Vice Gov Jose Tomas, Sr., Dupax Sur Mayor Ruben Basconcillo, Kasibu, Mayor Romeo Tayaban and Councilor Karen Cablinan, among others.(MDCT/BME/PIA 2-Nueva Vizcaya)



# Duterte wants swift resolve of land rows in Negros

Published 14 hours ago on May 25, 2021 04:15 PM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephl\_MJB



President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered government agencies to fast-track the resolution of land disputes in Negros Oriental in a bid to end killings and communist insurgency in the province, Malacañang said Tuesday.

Duterte issued the directive to state officials during his meeting on Monday with members of the regional peace and order council as he expressed his appalment over reports of violence in the Negros province, said presidential spokesperson Secretary Harry Roque.

“Although some parts of their meeting were confidential, I think it’s not bad if I share that the President is appalled over the killings in Negros Oriental,” Roque said in a televised briefing.

“The President said he will be completely neutral, but he said the state will fulfill its obligation to investigate, prosecute, and punish those behind the killings,” he added.

The Palace official said the chief executive ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to resolve conflicting claims to the supposed untitled lands in Negros Oriental in “favor of the poor.”

“The President asked the DENR to resolve conflicting claims to the untitled lands in the Negros province which have been causing the killings. He said, ‘Everything else being equal, resolved these disputes in favor of the poor,’” Roque told reporters.

“President Duterte also ordered the DAR to hasten the land distribution to farmer beneficiaries as he noted that this issue is among the reasons why rebels thrive there,” he added.

Roque did not elaborate on other topics discussed by the President during his dialogue with the peace and order council along with local officials.

Over the last few years, peasant leaders in Negros Oriental have reportedly been abducted and killed by state forces for their alleged links to the New People’s Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

More than 90 human rights defenders, activists, lawyers, farmers, teachers, and church workers had been killed in the province since 2017, according to human rights groups.

On Monday, eight suspected rebels were killed in a three-hour firefight in with soldiers in Guihulngan City in Negros Oriental.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/05/25/duterte-wants-swift-resolve-of-land-rows-in-negros/>

## Cenro to file raps against resort owner in Barangay Sum-ag



(File photo)

[MERLINDA A. PEDROSA](#) May 25, 2021

THE Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) is now preparing all the documents necessary for filing of a complaint before the City Prosecutor's Office against the owner of the resort in Barangay Sum-Ag, Bacolod City for alleged illegal cutting of mangroves in Sum-ag River.

Joan Nathaniel Gerangaya, head of Cenro-Bago, said Monday, May 24, that they will file the case against the owner of the resort this week for violation of Republic Act 7161 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

He said he already held a meeting with the officials of Barangay Sum-ag led by its village chief Rodney Carmona, along with members of the fisherfolk association in said village.

He added that there were three issues in said complaint, but they only have one jurisdiction regarding the illegal cutting of the mangroves.

Gerangaya noted that the construction of dike and the reclamation will be addressed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Office of the Building Official (OBO).

"Our office did not issue any permit for the cutting of mangroves in Sum-Ag River," Gerangaya said.

Carmona earlier sought the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu to investigate the alleged ongoing beach resort project at the entrance of Sum-ag River.

Carmona said there is an ongoing beach resort project at the entrance of Sum-ag River and it utilized about two or three hectares of mangrove areas on the adjacent location of Purok Mabinuligon II of Barangay Sum-ag and part of Purok Balas, Barangay Pahanocoy.

On May 19, Barangay Sum-ag officials inspected the project construction site.

Carmona said they found out that the developer was able to construct a mini wharf at the entrance of Sum-ag River using concrete boulder materials, which made the entrance narrow.

"It is clearly dangerous and it became a navigational hazard for the incoming and outgoing fishing vessel utilizing Sum-ag River as docking area," he said.



He added the project using heavy equipment and manpower was able to illegally cut full-grown mangroves without an application or authority from the barangay, which greatly affect the living condition of the residence of Mabinuligon II and nearby areas, at the same time, depriving the growth of fishes in its breeding ground.



# Talisay mayor asks contractor to halt road clearing in Northern Negros Natural Park

By: [Carla Gomez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 03:02 PM May 25, 2021

BACOLOD CITY — Talisay Mayor Neil Lizares has asked a contractor to suspend the road clearing work within the Northern Negros Natural Park in Sitio Campuestohan, Talisay City (NNNP).

Lizares, in a letter, requested contractor Jerry Sy to suspend his activities in the area until they could come to an environmentally favorable agreement.

“The City of Talisay has always been passionate in its pursuit to conserve, manage and protect its environment and natural resources for the benefit of its constituents and the future generations,” the mayor said.

Lizares said it had come to their attention that clearing operations were underway for a road. “These activities can result in the destruction of trees in the area which the city government avoids. It came to our attention that said activities were under your management and directives,” Lizares told Sy.

Talisay Administrator Jonathan Ealdama said the City government was not informed of the project of Sy in the area.

Sy, for his part, said they only cleared an existing road and that no trees were destroyed.

He is helping residents start a livelihood project in the area that has been approved by the Protected Area Management Board, and has a permit from the barangay.

Sy said he would finance the livelihood project of the residents. This would include planting flowers and vegetables.

He denied that he is building a resort in the area.

Roderick Samonte, director for external affairs at the Carlos Hilado Memorial State College in Talisay City, said on Saturday, International Biodiversity Day, he had gone to the NNNP through Sitio Campuestohan and saw the road construction.

“This is outrageous because part of the government regulation and reminders for mountaineers in the Protected Area as indicated in the huge billboard installed by DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) is the strict prohibition to create a new trail, among several other provisions to protect and respect NNNP,” he said.

“But why is there road construction? This is way more than a hiker’s trail. And the current construction is to my estimate not even one-fourth yet of the target,” Samonte said.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1436516/talisay-mayor-asks-contractor-to-halt-road-clearing-in-northern-negros-natural-park>



## Tarlac task force quarry head nabbed for extortion

Published May 24, 2021, 7:23 PM

by [Argyll Cyrus Geducos](#)

The task force quarry head of Tarlac City was nabbed in an entrapment operation on Monday for extortion, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) reported.



The task force quarry head of Tarlac City (man in white) falls in an entrapment operation at the Tarlac City Hall on Monday, May 24, 2021. According to the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), the operation was launched three days after a private citizen reported Pedro Soliman II's alleged extortion activities to the agency. (Photo from ARTA)

In its statement, ARTA said Pedro Soliman II was arrested in the joint entrapment operation conducted with the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG)-Tarlac and Tarlac City Police Station at the Tarlac City Hall on Monday afternoon.

The operation was launched three days after a private citizen reported the alleged extortion activities to the ARTA.

According to ARTA, a private citizen sought their help on May 21, claiming that she went to the Tarlac City Hall to pay a fee of P42,000 for booklets of delivery receipts, a requirement for operating a quarrying firm.

She was then asked by Soliman to pay P10,000 per finished booklet or a total of P240,000 in exchange for her Tarlac City quarry clearance.



The complainant asked if she can pay in three installments of P80,000 each to which Soliman agreed. He instructed the complainant to make the initial payment on Monday, May 24, 2021.

After the victim handed the entrapment money, the suspect was immediately arrested by the combined elements of ARTA, CIDG-Tarlac, and Tarlac City Police.

ARTA Director-General Jeremiah Belgica congratulated CIDG-Tarlac for their quick response to the case.

“We thank ARTA-CIDG-TARLAC CPS TEAM for the prompt action following a complaint of extortion in Tarlac City Hall,” he said.

“Your immediate response to a complaint by a citizen in distress demonstrates your commitment to service and the Filipino people,” he added.

Soliman is now under the custody of CIDG-Tarlac. He may face charges for violation of Section 21 of the Ease of Doing Business Act and for other offenses.

He is set to undergo inquest proceedings on Tuesday morning, May 25.





## Magsasaka timbog sa pagpuslit ng illegal logs



May 25, 2021 @ 7:34 AM 22 hours ago

ISABELA – Hindi nakatakas sa mga alagad ng batas ang isang magsasaka nang masamsaman ng mga ipupuslit na nilagare o iligal na pinutol na kahoy sa Burgos, Naguillian, ng lalawigang ito.

Sa ipinarating na ulat ni PMaj. Merwin Villanueva, hepe ng Naguillian Police Station kay PCol. James Melad Cipriano, Provincial Director ng Isabela Police Provincial Office o IPPO, ang suspek ay nakilalang si Orlando Solito, 44-anyos, may asawa, magsasaka at residente sa naturang lugar.

Ayon kay PMaj. Villanueva, sa sumbong konsernadong mamayan ay agad na ikinasa ang anti-illegal logging operation ng kanilang operatiba kasama ang Intelligence Operatives ng Provincial Intelligence Unit ng IPPO ay naaktuhan ang pinaghihinalaan na nagbibiyahang ng melina lumber gamit ang kuliglig.

Nakumpiska ang labing anim na piraso ng sawn lumbers na nasa higit 100 board feet na walang kaukulang dokumento ang mga naturang kahoy.

Paliwanag naman ng suspek ay gagamitin lamang sa kanyang bahay ang mga naturang melina lumber.

Nagbabala ang kapulisan sa mga mamamayan na nagbabalak na mamutol ng puno na wala silang sasantuhin sa mapagsamantala sa inang kalikasan.

Payo ng pulisya kung mamutol ng punongkahoy ay kailangan kumuha ng kaukulang dokumento sa tanggapan ng DENR. *Rey Velasco*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/magsasaka-timbog-sa-pagpuslit-ng-illegal-logs/?fbclid=IwAR0qJUzcUu1BUGNxKzuJ7FN-DQbBDZ-TgLuxxZj7aV4ERPKf2qI68eN7QQ>



## Bauang mayor eyes reef protection

These artificial reefs were deployed in seven coastal barangays of Bauang and have shown various encrusting corals

Published 3 hours ago on May 26, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Jonas Reyes](#)



**BAUANG, LA UNION** — The local government of Bauang is keen on declaring areas where artificial reefs are deployed as protected sanctuaries to prevent illegal fishing and the destruction of the said reefs.

In a statement, Mayor Menchie de Guzman acknowledged the importance of artificial reefs off Bauang and stressed that the area is a breeding ground for fishes and instrumental in the increase of fish production and other marine resources.

The local chief executive has already ordered the municipal staff to prepare a report to the Sangguniang Bayan for legislation of policies for the protection of these artificial reefs.

The artificial reefs —established by the Fisheries Management, Regulatory and Enforcement Division of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Provincial Fishery Office of La Union — were last assessed on 4 May.

The reefs were deployed in seven coastal barangays of Bauang and have shown various encrusting corals according to BFAR personnel Sally Gacayan and Margirie Asunto. They also reported that oysters, seaweeds and algae are becoming abundant in the area.

The report added that they are clear indications that the deployed artificial reefs are suitable as marine habitat that can increase fish production in the area.

Fisherfolk from the coastal barangays of Pagdalagan, Paringao, Taberna, Pugo, Pilar, Bagbag and Urayong are benefitting from the said project.

De Guzman also cited issues and concerns during the presentation, pressing the need to install marker buoys around the deployed artificial reefs. Other issues include providing honorarium to Bantay Dagat for the security of the area, and reports of continuous illegal fishing activity in the area using improvised dynamites.

# Pope launches green initiative, decrying 'predatory attitude' toward planet

By PHILIP PULLELLA, Reuters

Published May 25, 2021 9:33pm



Since *Laudato Si* (Praised Be) was published in 2015, the Vatican and Catholic groups in the 1.3-billion-member Church around the world have taken many initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint. The Vatican, the world's smallest state, has nearly eliminated single-use plastic, recycles most of its trash and makes its own compost for its gardens.

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis launched an initiative on Tuesday to make Catholic institutions ranging from families to universities to businesses environmentally sustainable in seven years, saying a "predatory attitude" toward the planet must end.

The *Laudato Si* Action Platform takes its name from the Pope's [landmark 2015 encyclical](#) on the need to protect the environment, reduce wasteful lifestyles, stem global warming and protect the poor from the effects of climate change.

At a news conference announcing the initiative, Cardinal Peter Turkson, head of the Vatican's development office, said the Pope has been invited to attend the United Nations' Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November in Glasgow, Scotland. Turkson indicated that the Pope likely will attend.

In a video message for the launch, the Pope said the initiative would be "a seven-year journey that will see our communities committed in different ways to becoming totally sustainable, in the spirit of integral ecology."

He decried "our predatory attitude, which makes us feel that we are masters of the planet and its resources, and authorizes us to make irresponsible use of the goods God has given us."

The initiative will have focus groups including families, parishes and diocese, schools and universities, hospitals and other health care facilities, businesses, lay Catholic organizations, and orders of priests and nuns.

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The Vatican development office will coordinate actions and provide guidance to groups and individuals.



Francis strongly supports the goals of the 2015 UN Paris accord to reduce global warming.

"These wounds [to the planet] manifest themselves dramatically in an ecological crisis without precedent, which affects the ground, the air, water and, in general, the ecosystem in which human beings live," Francis said.

"We have a great responsibility, especially with regard to the future generations. What world do we want to leave to our children and our young? Our selfishness, our indifference and our irresponsible ways are threatening the future of our children." — Reuters

# When Nature Runs Out of Paint for the Animals

by [Village Connect](#) about 12 hours ago



PEACOCK (Photo credit, Stefan Willoughby, boredpanda)

Albinism occurs in all mammals, including humans, and even non-mammals. Though rare in animals, albino animals have been located everywhere from the birds in the sky, fish in the sea, and reptiles in the bush.



ALBINO DEER AND HER FAWN (Photo credit, jeanniepaul, boredpanda)

Albino animals may either partially or fully lack of pigmentation, giving them a unique skin tone from their peers. Because of their rarity, they suffer from the challenges of surviving on their own and becoming targets of predators.



WHITE TIGER (Photo credit curiosities, boredpanda)

The lack of pigmentation happens when the animal inherits one or more mutated genes from its parents, which end up interfering with the production of melanin by their bodies. Melanin is responsible for determining the color of eyes, skin and fur.



ALLIGATOR, (Photo Credit: imgur.com)

Its absence results in characteristic pink or red eyes. Melanin production occurs within specialized cells called melanocytes, which although present in albino animals are not fully functional.



MOOSE, (Photo Credit: imgur.com)

But not all white animals are albino as some animals have naturally light skin. Other animals could be suffering from other conditions like Isabellinism and Leucism. To differentiate light skinned-animals from albino animals is pink or red eyes. A lack of pigmentation in the iris allows the blood vessels in the retina to be seen.



BABY TURTLE, (Photo Credit: imgur.com)

Color enables the animals to hunt or be hunted (and albinos can be easily seen and poached or attacked by a pack). An online photo gallery of albino animals said seeing a purely white animal is a surreal experience as some creatures born without color can be the most stunning of all.



ALBINO CROW (Photo Credit aberlin2009 boredpanda)

These rare albino animals, with white fur and pink eyes, are often hard to spot in nature, so if you're lucky enough to see one, be sure to savor the opportunity. Rare all-white species and Leucistic creatures are the same as any other animals but with a coloration that makes them (sometimes literally) one in a million.



ALBINO LION (Photo credit, Chad Cocking, boredpanda)

Approximately 300 species across North America have albino members. There have been sightings of albino snakes, raccoons, frogs and deer. It is believed that for every 10,000 mammals born, just one will be albino, showing how rare the condition really is.



ALBINO SKUNK (Photo credit, zoochat.com, boredpanda)

This September, Iceberg, the albino killer whale was spotted in the Pacific Ocean around eastern Russia. Scientists were excited because Iceberg had not been seen since 2012, and there was some worry that something had happened to him. But Iceberg seems to be doing well, swimming with his pod of regular-looking black and white killer whales. Iceberg has even more company—whale watchers have spotted a few more albino whales in the area, probably relatives of Iceberg.



HUMPBACK WHALE, (Photo Credit: imgur.com)

An even bigger white whale lives off the coast of Australia. Migaloo is a humpback whale and maybe one of only 2-3 albino humpbacks in the world. He is the most famous. Migaloo is spotted regularly when he makes his yearly trek from Antarctica to Australia and even has a website about him.

Louisiana's famous bottlenose dolphin may not seem like an albino because she's completely pink. The well-named Pinky is thought to have a bubblegum color because her albino skin lets the reddish pink of her blubber show through. Pinky seems healthy though and has been spotted swimming in Calcasieu Lake for 10 years since she was a baby pink dolphin.



ALBINO SPARROW (Photo credit, dave and sue, boredpanda)

Snowflake, the only known albino gorilla, lived in the Barcelona Zoo in Spain for nearly 40 years. He had books written about him and a movie made about his life. When Snowflake became ill in 2003, thousands of people lined up at the zoo to visit him one last time before he died. Snowflake had several children and grandchildren; none of them are albinos, but they may carry the gene that causes it.



ALBINO SNAIL

The giant snails of New Zealand have shells the size of a person's fist and even longer bodies. They live on land and, unlike most snails, they eat meat, mostly worms. Giant carnivorous snails are scary enough but seeing one that is eerily white is something else. That is what two hikers discovered in 2011 when they were walking through the forests of New Zealand's South Island.

The albino snail was thought to be 10 years old. Snail researchers went out to try and locate the rare creature but have not had any luck. Fortunately, the hikers took pictures, proving that it was not a ghost snail.

**By Rose de la Cruz**



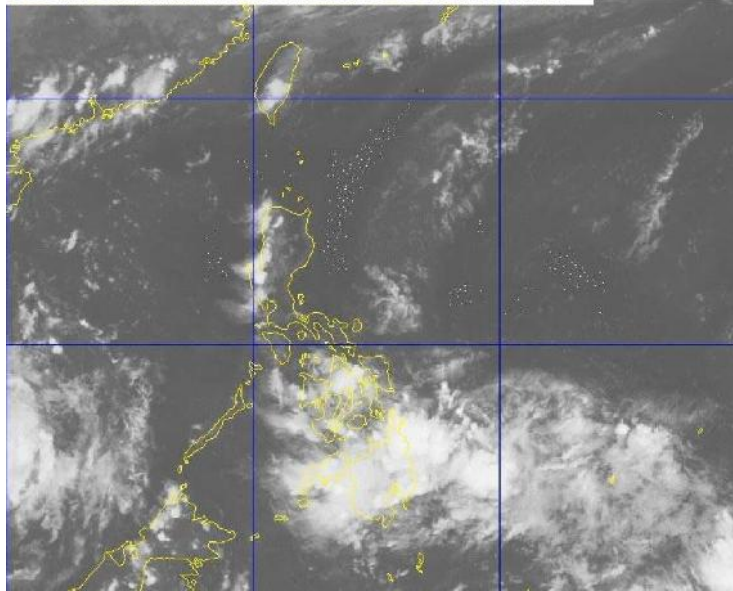


## LPA spotted off Mindanao -- Pagasa

By Arlie Calalo

May 25, 2021

DOST PAGASA HIMAWARI-8 IR1 2021-05-25 6:30:00 PM PHT



A low-pressure area was spotted off Mindanao, the state-run weather agency said on Tuesday.

At 3 p.m., the LPA was estimated at 885 kilometers east of Mindanao, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

Weather specialist Ana Clauren told The Manila Times that the LPA was embedded along the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) affecting Mindanao. The region is expected to experience cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

She said the LPA may eventually dissipate without affecting the general weather condition in the country.

Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to the easterlies and localized thunderstorms may prevail over Metro Manila and the rest of the country, Clauren said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/25/latest-stories/lpa-spotted-off-mindanao-pagasa/1800584>

26 MAY 2021, WEDNESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

# COVID-19 deaths top 20,000

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 25, 2021 2:03:54 PM

Updated May 25, 2021 9:52:00 PM



The country's COVID-19 death toll exceeded 20,000 on Tuesday, after 36 more people lost their lives to the disease, the Department of Health announced. (FILE PHOTO)

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 25)** — The country's COVID-19 death toll exceeded 20,000 on Tuesday, after 36 more people lost their lives to the disease, the Department of Health announced.

The DOH daily case bulletin counted 20,019 deaths, which is 1.68% of the total number of cases. The case tally is now at 1,188,672 with 3,972 new infections.

Of this total, 48,201 or 4.1% are active or currently sick cases, with 92.7% experiencing mild symptoms, 2.1% without symptoms, 2.1% with severe symptoms, 1.6% in critical condition and 1.42% in moderate condition.

Meanwhile, the recovery count is 1,120,452 or 94.3% of total cases, after 4,659 more people got better.

However, the total excludes data from ten laboratories that failed to submit their reports on time, the DOH noted. These facilities have contributed an average of 3.2% of samples tested and 5.5% of positive individuals in the past 14 days, it added.

The DOH also said ten survivors were reclassified as fatalities after validation and six duplicates were deleted, including three recoveries.

The daily positivity rate or rate of individuals that tested positive is 13.1%, based on 32,112 tests done as of May 23. The rate stayed at the 11 to 13% range which has remained since May 9. The recommended rate is below 5% according to the World Health Organization as high rates indicate more undetected cases.

The OCTA research team noted that Metro Manila is showing "[good indicators](#)" of its COVID-19 situation improving, after finding a lower positivity rate at 10%, a lower seven-day average of 1,100 daily cases and a lower reproduction number or number of people infected by a case at 0.57. Experts said these developments mean that the government can begin considering easing restrictions in the National Capital Region.

However, they also recommended further monitoring of increases in Davao City, Puerto Princesa City, Bacolod City, Iloilo City, and Cagayan de Oro City.



IATF-Visayas chief implementer Melquiades Feliciano, on the other hand, said they are closely monitoring Guimaras, Aklan, Iloilo Province, and Iloilo City. He noted that Guimaras and Iloilo City are under high-risk classification while Aklan and Iloilo Province are in moderate risk.

Feliciano explained that the community transmission of the virus and health protocol violations can be reasons for the surge in cases in the said provinces.

“But basically sa ganitong mga cases, pagka bigla yung laki, it’s more on the community transmission already,” he told CNN Philippines’ Newsroom Ngayon. “Nandiyan na yung cases, so especially kung yung mga tao, hindi sila observant sa mga minimum health protocols, kagaya nung mga gathering, minsan nagpa-party, nag-iinuman.”

[Translation: In these cases, when there is a surge, it’s more a community transmission already. There will be cases when people are not observing minimum health protocols, such as mass gatherings, parties, and drinking parties.]

Among Filipinos abroad, authorities recorded a surge of new cases reaching 143 and an increase of recoveries at 130. The Department of Foreign Affairs explained that the jump in infections and recoveries was due to an "updated report" from a country in Europe.



# Global COVID-19 death toll almost 3.5M

Published May 26, 2021 2:05am



At least 167,197,690 cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) have been registered.

PARIS, France - The novel coronavirus has killed at least 3,475,079 people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1000 GMT on Tuesday.

At least 167,197,690 cases of coronavirus have been registered.

The vast majority have recovered, though some have continued to experience symptoms weeks or even months later.

The figures are based on daily reports provided by health authorities in each country.

They exclude revisions made by other statistical organizations, which show that the number of deaths is much higher.

The World Health Organization estimates that the pandemic's overall toll could be two to three times higher than official records, due to the excess mortality that is directly and indirectly linked to COVID-19.

A large number of the less severe or asymptomatic cases also remain undetected, despite intensified testing in many countries.

On Monday, 9,968 new deaths and 481,857 new cases were recorded worldwide.

Based on the latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were India with 3,511, followed by Brazil with 790 and Colombia with 483.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 590,574 deaths from 33,144,099 cases.

After the US, the hardest-hit countries are Brazil with 449,858 deaths from 16,120,756 cases, India with 307,231 deaths from 26,948,874 cases, Mexico with 221,695 deaths from 2,397,307 cases, and the United Kingdom with 127,724 deaths from 4,464,900 cases.

The country with the highest number of deaths compared to its population is Hungary with 306 fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by the Czech Republic with 281, Bosnia-Herzegovina with 279, the Republic of North Macedonia 256 and Bulgaria 252.

Europe overall has 1,124,553 deaths from 52,495,810 cases, Latin America and the Caribbean 1,011,553 deaths from 31,998,054 infections, and the United States and Canada 615,820 deaths from 34,504,132 cases.



Asia has reported 452,693 deaths from 34,936,087 cases, the Middle East 140,739 deaths from 8,445,494 cases, Africa 128,625 deaths from 4,770,328 cases, and Oceania 1,096 deaths from 47,790 cases.

As a result of corrections by national authorities or late publication of data, the figures updated over



# OCTA: There are 'good indicators' Metro Manila can gradually ease restrictions

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 25, 2021 1:18:40 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 25)** — The national government can now consider gradually easing quarantine restrictions in Metro Manila due to "good indicators" of an improving COVID-19 situation over the past days, the OCTA Research Group said Tuesday.

"All the indicators are good. We believe that the national government can seriously consider easing some restrictions in NCR while still keeping an eye on possible risk elements," OCTA Research Fellow Guido David told CNN Philippines' The Source.

David cited the downgraded risk classification in the region from high risk to moderate risk, with a seven-day average of new COVID-19 cases now at around 1,100 per day. The Department of Health said Monday that the previous average was 1,500 a day.

He said the positivity rate in Metro Manila — or the percentage of all COVID-19 tests that turned out positive — further went down to 10%.

The reproduction number, which refers to the number of people who can get the virus from a COVID-19 positive person, has also dropped to 0.57.

"We don't recommend easing all restrictions all at once. We always recommend easing restrictions gradually because we want to avoid situations, like what we say in a pool party in the NCR where a lot got infected," David said, referring to the so-called superspreader events in Quezon City where over 50 residents tested positive for COVID-19.

"Those situations can seriously reverse and threaten our pandemic management in the NCR, so situations like that should be avoided," David noted.

Meanwhile, David recommended further monitoring of the increase in COVID-19 cases in areas outside NCR Plus such as Davao City, Puerto Princesa City, Bacolod City, Iloilo City, and Cagayan de Oro City.

He also stressed the importance of inoculating 50% of the population in Metro Manila, as well as Tuguegarao, Baguio, Cainta, Cebu, and Imus to achieve herd immunity.

"We hope 50% of the population who are vaccinated will help us tremendously in restoring the economy and accelerating recovery. This will trickle down to other provinces and LGUs that are not high risk," David said.



As of Monday, around 4.3 million vaccine doses have been administered in the Philippines, according to National Task Force Deputy Chief Implementer Vince Dizon. Some 3.3 million people have received their first shot, while 986,000 have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

The government is targeting the inoculation of 70 million Filipinos by yearend to achieve herd immunity.



26 MAY 2021, WEDNESDAY



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