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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR wants all open dumpsites gone by March

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By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) regional directors have until the end of March to shut down all open dumpsites.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu issued the order as the country marked on Tuesday the 20th year of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

From 385 in 2017, there are still 233 open dumpsites all over the country, according to the DENR.

RA 9003 provides that “no open dumps shall be established and operated, nor any practice or disposal of solid waste by any person, including LGU (local government units), which constitutes the use of open dumps for solid wastes, is allowed.”

The law also cited the need for a comprehensive and ecological approach to managing discards primarily through waste prevention, reduction, segregation at source, reuse, recycling and composting, excluding open dumping, open burning and waste incineration.

Cimatu praised Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Benny Antiporda for relentlessly monitoring open dumpsites.

“Following the move of Usec. Antiporda, our EMB directors will continuously undertake closure of open dumpsite within their respective areas of jurisdiction. And this is my directive to them: All open dumpsite must be closed by end of March this year,” Cimatu said during a strategic dialogue with solid waste stakeholders at DENR central office in Quezon City.

Cimatu said that since 2018, DENR has gained significant ground in implementing RA 9003, particularly in the closure of open dumpsites, establishment of materials recovery facilities and helping LGU develop their 10-year solid waste management plans.

As of 7 p.m. on Monday, Cimatu received reports that 38 dumpsites in the regions have been closed, including 17 in Region 4B (MIMAROPA) and five in Region 6 (Western Visayas).

“There are regions that may have missed the reporting deadline but I presume that they were able to accomplish the task,” he said.

Going forward, Cimatu said the DENR aims to build stronger collaboration with civil society towards sustainable solid water management (SWM) while encouraging the participation of all stakeholders in reducing the volume of plastic wastes generation.



SWM includes the control and process of solid waste disposal as well as solid waste avoidance through reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.

Last year, 1,069 SWM plans were approved for a 62 percent overall compliance in 1,716 provinces, cities and municipalities.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/01/27/denr-wants-all-open-dumpsites-gone-by-march/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=denr-wants-all-open-dumpsites-gone-by-march



DENR chief sets closure of all open dumpsites this year

By Catherine Teves [January 26, 2021, 6:39 pm](#)



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – The country may finally see the closure of all open dumpsites nationwide.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered all the agency's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) regional directors to step up efforts against open dumpsites in their respective areas of jurisdiction, noting that Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000) prohibits these facilities.

"This is my directive to them: All open dumpsites must be closed by the end of March this year!" he announced Tuesday in a message for the RA 9003's 20th anniversary celebration.

He said a review of RA 9003's implementing rules and regulations are already underway "to make way for better and bigger sanitary landfills".

RA 9003 said sanitary landfill is a waste disposal site that's "designed, constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that exerts engineering control over significant potential environmental impacts arising from the development and operation of the facility."

"Open dump shall refer to a disposal area wherein the solid wastes are indiscriminately thrown or disposed of without due planning and consideration for environmental and health standards," RA 9003 noted.

Upon assuming DENR's top post, Cimatu prioritized solid waste management as he observed RA 9003 was neither promptly nor fully implemented despite the country's increasing waste generation.

"We have so much catching up to do," he said.

No-nonsense implementation of RA 9003 already resulted in increased closure of open dumps, establishment of more materials recovery facilities and sanitary landfills as well as further development of LGUs' respective 10-year solid waste management plans, he noted.

"I'm honored to report that we have gained significant ground," he said.

The campaign against open dumps has particularly been relentless, Cimatu continued.

"As of yesterday (Jan. 25) at 7 p.m., report that reached our office indicated that we have thus far closed a total of 38 open dumpsites in the regions," he said.

Majority of regions were able to each close around two dumpsites, he noted.

"The report also states that Region IV-B was able to close 17 dumpsites while Region VI was able to close five," he said further.

Cimatu acknowledged much of such accomplishment was inspired by DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda's efforts to close open dumps in Bataan, Pampanga and Cavite provinces.

"His aggressive yet decisive move is being followed by our EMB regional directors nationwide," he said.



Antiporda assured DENR will "excellerate" or excel and accelerate efforts to implement RA 9003.

"In the next two years, we commit to work even harder," he said in his message for RA 9003's 20th anniversary celebration.

Aside from closing open dumps, he said DENR will help further promote the development of sanitary landfills nationwide, practice of waste segregation at home and improvement of garbage collection.

There'll be house-to-house campaigns as well to promote solid waste management among communities, he noted.

"Yes, we can do it!" he added. "And we must do it! Let us all manage our garbage towards a cleaner, healthier and progressive Philippines." (**PNA**)



DENR orders closure of Bohol town garbage dump

By: [Leo Udtohan](#) - Correspondent / [@leoudtohanINQ](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 08:27 PM January 25, 2021

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has shut down a garbage dump in Guindulman, an old town in the eastern part of Bohol province.

The DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) served the cease and desist order (CDO) against the local government unit of Guindulman on Monday (Jan. 25) afternoon.

The DENR said the closure order meant that “it will not anymore be allowed to accept disposal of any type of waste and that any person or entity who shall act in contravention of the closure order shall be liable.”

The environment department said Guindulman officials have long been advised to rehabilitate the area heeding guidelines for safe closure and rehabilitation plan (SCRP) of open dumps and controlled garbage facilities.

On March 3, 2020, the DENR ordered Guindulman officials to immediately cease and desist operating the dump and carry out its SCRPs.

But in a follow-up inspection on April 1, 2020, the EMB regional office found that the municipality continued to operate its dump and no closure and rehabilitation efforts were made despite the closure order issued by the DENR bureau.

TSB

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1388129/denr-orders-closure-of-bohol-town-garbage-dump>



DENR targets closure of all open dumpsites by March 2021

Published January 26, 2021 6:51pm
By TED CORDERO, GMA News

As part of the intensified campaign to strictly implement the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) plans to close all open dumpsites in the country by March this year.

During the 20th anniversary celebration of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that due to the strict implementation of the law the number of open dumpsites was down to 233 at the end of 2020 from 385 in 2017.

“We will ‘excellerate,’ meaning, we will excel and accelerate our efforts as regards the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act,” added DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

In a press conference following the event, Antiporda explained that the closures were achievable despite the short deadline, stressing that he would personally oversee the effort. “Within one month kayang ipasara ‘yan,” Antiporda said.

The National Solid Waste Management Commission has filed cases against 55 erring local governments due to continued illegal operations of open dumpsites, according to the DENR. Meanwhile, Antiporda said that LGUs would be encouraged to partner with private companies to operate sanitary landfills.

“We do know, there is a problem with the procurement process. It will take you a minimum of three months to purchase something... if you are using a backhoe and you need parts, you will wait for three months eh di sira na ‘yung sanitary landfill bago dumating ang parts na ‘yan,” he said.

“If they are not interested in PPPs (public-private partnerships), we are encouraging them to do cluster sanitary landfills,” he added.

The DENR official said a category 4 or cluster sanitary landfill is more ideal than having one in every LGU since such a type of sanitary landfill can accommodate the wastes of up to 10 municipalities.

According to the DENR, the number of sanitary landfills, which are for final waste disposal increased by 77.8% to 240 at the end of 2020 from 135 in 2017. — **DVM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/773351/denr-targets-closure-of-all-open-dumpsites-by-march-2021/story/>



DENR vows to close all open dumpsites by end of March

April Raffles, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 26 2021 06:12 PM

MANILA—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said recently there were still 195 open dumpsites in the country that it aims to close by the end of March.

Republic Act 9003 — or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 — prohibits establishing and maintaining open dumpsites, which threaten the environment and public health. If allowed to remain, open dumps often grow in size and could attract dumping of both solid and hazardous wastes.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the DENR was still giving local government units the benefit of the doubt, as some of them have not been aware of dumpsite operations within their jurisdiction.

“Kapag habitual naman, matapos dito hinuli mo, nalipat dito, we will be filing cases against them. That says they are tolerating the operation already,” Antiporda said.

The DENR suggested using cluster sanitary landfills, if local government units cannot provide a sanitary landfill, especially with the challenge of identifying a large parcel of land that could be converted into the said purpose, or if the local government unit cannot engage in public-private partnership.

According to the [European Environment Agency](#), sanitary landfill is “spreading the waste in thin layers, compacting it to the smallest practical volume and covering it with compacted soil by the end of each working day or at more frequent intervals if necessary.”

“You can come up with a sanitary landfill in Area 1, if we can give you a 40-kilometer radius nung mga areas beside the municipality or city they can cater when it comes to collecting the garbage,” Antiporda said.

“We don’t need a lot of sanitary landfills because we will be clustering it naman. if you have a Category 4 sanitary landfill and maliliit na municipalities ’yan, it can cater up to 10 or 15 municipalities in one time ’yung sanitary landfill natin.”

Antiporda recommended using a Residual Containment Area, “where you reduce your solid waste, come up with an honest-to-goodness residual. That warehouse yero sa taas, yero sa gilid basta di magkaroon ng leakage. Magkaroon ng storage bago mo itransfer sa sanitary landfill or if you have the technology to come up with zero waste.”

He added that they will help local government units in composting to avoid contaminating residuals that can still be recycled.

He said the agency noticed the presence of household healthcare waste in the dumpsites and challenged local government units and even barangay leaders to designate a common area to collect them, also known as the “yellow bin”.

“Kulay dilaw na basura basta nakamamatay na basura itapon sa dilaw na basurahan. Maglagay ng isa kada barangay na dito natin ipunin yung ga household healthcare waste, which is itong facemask, face shield, doon po natin itapon,” he said.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/26/21/denr-vows-to-close-all-open-dumpsites-by-end-of-march?fbclid=IwAR3RSVNIG_HdxQjAsZYoi0cncrZ_6r5KttHhNf5Hx9345f7OrfQzrVtyHmBM



No more open dumpsites by end of March 2021 – Cimat

Published January 26, 2021, 2:27 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimat on Tuesday ordered the closure of all open dumpsites in the country by end of March, 2021.

“Despite our significant gains, a great deal remains to be done because our volume of waste generation continues to grow. We must stop this trend,” Cimat said in his keynote message on the 20th year of the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

A total of 195 open dumpsites are still operating in the country, based on the latest data of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

They are mostly in Western Visayas, Mimaropa, Central Visayas, Bicol region, and Davao region.

Meanwhile, there are already 189 established sanitary landfills in the country.

The regions with the highest number of sanitary landfills are CALABARZON with 36, followed by Cagayan Valley (35), Ilocos region (33), Northern Mindanao (18), and Central Visayas (15).

If there’s a will, there’s a way,” DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said in response to Cimat’s order.

Antiporda noted that 38 open dumpsites were closed down on January 25 alone. “If you are really serious in doing what the Secretary has told us, basically within one month kaya tapusin ‘yan (it can be done in one month),” he said.

“Kapag hindi nila ginawa ang trabaho nila (if the LGUs will not do their job), then I will go to them personally (to close down the open dumpsites) just to show the Secretary na kaya naman pala ipasara sa loob lang ng ilang buwan (that it can be done in just a matter of months),” he added.

Under Section 37 of RA 9003, the establishment and maintenance of open dumpsites are strictly prohibited due to serious threat to the environment and public health.

Passed by the Philippine Congress on December 20, 2000 and subsequently approved by the Office of the President on January 26, 2001, RA 9003 provides the legal framework for the country’s systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program to ensure the protection of public health and environment.

It seeks the creation of mechanisms and incentives to pursue an effective solid waste management at the local government levels.

The law calls for mandatory segregation of solid wastes; establishment of materials recovery facility; prohibition against the use of open dumpsites, littering in public places, open burning of solid waste, and squatting in open dumps and landfills; among others.

“We are encouraging the LGUs to come up with legal sanitary landfills and partner with private companies rather than operate the sanitary landfill on their own because we do know that there is a problem with the procurement process,” Antiporda said.

He pointed out that it is high time the LGUs be pressed to comply with the provisions of RA 9003.

The DENR, Antiporda said, will not hesitate to file charges against non-compliant cities and municipalities that continue to operate open dumpsites.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/26/no-more-open-dumpsites-by-end-of-march-2021-cimat/>



Open dumpsites due for total shutdown by March — DENR

January 26, 2021 | 8:10 pm



PHILSTAR

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Tuesday that its regional offices have been ordered to shut down all open dumpsites by March.

“Our EMB (Environment Management Bureau) regional director(s) will continuously undertake closure of open dumpsites within their respective areas... And this is my directive to them and my directive to you, Benny (D. Antiporda). All open dumpsites must be closed by the end of March this year,” DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said during the anniversary of the signing of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or Republic Act (RA) No. 9003.

Mr. Antiporda is the DENR undersecretary in charge of solid waste management and local government unit concerns. He is also the alternate chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

According to RA 9003, open dumpsites are defined as those where solid waste is deposited without planning and consideration for environmental and health standards, and are illegal to establish or operate.

Mr. Cimatu said his office received a report last night that the DENR shut down 38 open dumpsites in one region in a single day. He did not identify the region.

The NSWMC has so far shuttered 152 open dumpsites, most recently in Tanza, Cavite. The estimate for the number of open dumpsites still operating is 233 as of the end of 2020, down nearly 40% from the total operating in 2017.

On its website, the DENR said dumpsite closures form part of its solid waste management program, the other key component being the creation of material recovery facilities. Mr. Antiporda told reporters that he is confident that the DENR will meet the March target for closures.

“If there’s a will, there’s a way... If we’re really serious, basically within one month *kaya pa po* (we can do it),” he said at a briefing.

He added that should he encounter uncooperative officials, he will “deal with them personally.”

On Jan. 15, the DENR sealed the entry points of a six-hectare open dumpsite in Tanza. According to a report from the department’s Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, the accumulated solid waste at the privately-owned dumpsite was estimated at about three meters high. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/open-dumpsites-due-for-total-shutdown-by-march-denr/>



Close all dumps by March – Cimatu

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 27, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered the closure of all dumps in the country by the end of March.

In his speech during a dialogue with solid waste stakeholders yesterday, Cimatu said regional directors of the Environmental Management Bureau have been directed to ensure the closure of these dumps.

Records at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) show that 195 dumps are still operating in the country, mostly in Western Visayas, Mimaropa, Central Visayas, Bicol and Davao.

Data from the DENR also show that there are 189 sanitary landfills in the country.

Calabarzon has the most number of sanitary landfills at 36; Cagayan Valley, 35; Ilocos, 33; Northern Mindanao, 18, and Central Visayas, 15.

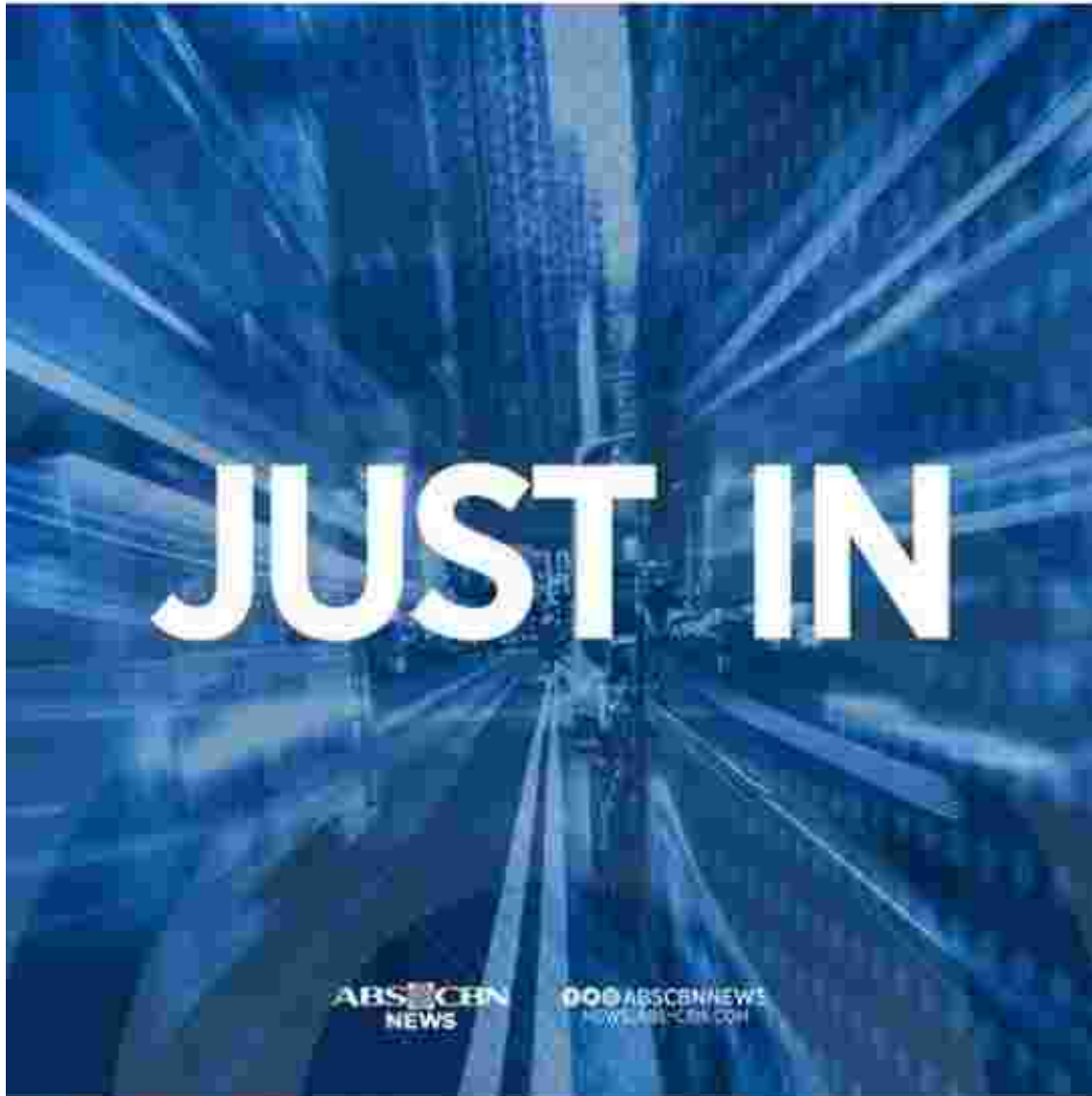
DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units' Concerns Benny Antiporda said 38 dumps were closed on Monday.

Under Section 37 of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the establishment and maintenance of open dumps are prohibited due to the serious threat posed to the environment and public health.

The DENR vowed to file charges against erring LGUs.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu says all open dumpsites must be closed by end of March this year. | via April Raffles, ABS-CBN News



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PAMBABABOY SA PAGTATAPON NG BASURA, PAGPAPAKALAT DIN NG PANDEMYA



January 27, 2021 @ 12:30 AM 5 hours ago

KUNG bubulatlalin natin ang tunay na nagaganap sa pagtatapon ng basura, napakarami ang hindi sumusunod sa mga tamang patakaran.

Una, naririyang ang nagtatapon ng basura kahit saan, kahit sa mga kalsada.

Ikalawa, marami ang nagbabalewala sa patakaran sa paghihiwalay ng nabubulok at 'di nabubulok na basura.

Ikatlo, may mga basurero ng mga trak na hindi sumusunod sa health protocol gaya ng hindi pagsusuot ng face mask, glove at iba pa.

Ikaapat, may mga trak na may tatak na para sa nabubulok at 'di nabubulok ngunit halo-halo pa rin ang kinakarga.

Ikalima, maraming lugar ang binibisita lang ng mga basura minsan sa loob ng isang linggo kaya naman winawakwak at ikinakalat ng mga hayop ang mga basura hanggang sa mag-uwi pa ang mga ito sa mga bahay-bahay.

Ika-anim, marami pa rin ang mga nagtatapon ng basura sa mga daluyan ng tubig kahit pa may mga bakod na ang mga ito.

Ikapito, ang mga likidong basura mula sa mga kusina, pabrika at iba pa, nagpapalusot sa mga drainage, sapa, ilog at iba.

At marami pang iba na hindi pagtatapon ng basura nang tama ang nagaganap.

Kaya naman, hirap na hirap ang lahat ng kinaukulan at mamamayan para makamit ang masasabi nating malinis na kapaligiran sa lupa, hangin at tubig.

DISIPLINA SA BASURA

Ang disiplina sa basura, kung magagawa lang natin, ay napakalaking tulong hindi lang sa mamamayan kundi sa pamahalaan.

Tingnan ninyo ha!

May mga nagsusumikap na mamamayan na maging maayos ang pagtatapon ng basura gaya ng pagkakaroon ng kahon at ipinupwesto sa daanan ng mga trak ng basura.



Pero ‘pag hindi nabantayan ang mga ito, tinatangay ng mga magnanakaw ang kahon at ikinakalat ang basura, at kung minsan, ang mga tao ng trak ng basura mismo ang tumatangay para angkinin o ibenta.

Ugali rin ng iba ang mistulang daga na kung walang pusa, tapon dito, tapon doon ang ginagawa at saka maghihiyaw ng human rights kung damputin sila para magmulat at makulong.

Kaya naman kung umulan, nagbabaha na kahit saan dahil hinaharangan ang mga daanan ng tubig ng mga basura at doon na nagkakaroon ng sakit ang mga nakaaapak o nalulubog sa baha.

Napakalaking gastos naman para sa pamahalaan ang masiraan ng mga pumping station dahil mga basura ang nasisipsip ng mga station sa halip na tubig-baha para itapon sa mga dapat pagtapunan.

Paano kaya mabawasan ang mga magnanakaw ng mga magagandang basurahan, walang pakundangang pagtatapon ng basura kahit saan at tamang pagtatapon ng basura kahit walang pusa, este, bantay na nanghuhuli?

BASURANG PANGKALUSUGAN

Ngayon naman, nasa gitna tayo ng pandemya dulot ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Gusto lang nating idiin na sana’y bigyan natin ng matinding disiplina ang ating mga sarili rito.

Siyempre pa, may tinatawag na hospital waste mula sa mga personal protective equipment gaya ng face mask at glove hanggang sa mga gamit sa pangagamot gaya ng mga eringilya, bulak, bote, plastic na sisidlan ng mga swero at dugo.

Bahala na ang mga ospital na sumunod dito at huwag hayaang mga magbabasura ang pupulot sa mga ito.

Pero lahat ngayon ay gumagamit ng face mask at marami sa mga ito ang nagtuturing pa rin dito bilang ordinaryong basura at itinatapon kahit saan.

Dapat intindihin na “potential na super spreader” ng COVID-19 ang mga ito kaya naman dapat lang na maayos ang pagtatapon dito, lalo na ang mga one-time use gaya ng mga surgical mask.

Maganda sana kung bawat opisina o lugar ng trabaho at maging sa tahanan ay may sisidlan ng mga ito na kakaiba at nakahiwalay.

At maganda rin kung ang mga pupulot sa mga ito ay mga may malinaw na proteksyon sa pagpulot at pagtatapon.

Pagdating ng mga trak ng basura o kolektor ng basura, malinaw sa mga ito na mga basurang pangkalusugan ang dadamputin nila kaya naman, dapat silang magsuot ng karampatang kasuotan bago sila dumampot hanggang sa kanilang pagtatapunan na landfill at hindi isama sa mga basura para sa mga material recovery facility o MRF kung tawagin.



Tatandaan, kung nakatatakot man ang COVID-19, ang mga bagong anyo nito o variant o mutant ay higit na nakatatakot.

Sa United Kingdom na may 20,000 biktima ng mga COVID variant na UK, South African at Brazilian, natagpuang bawat 10 patay sa orig na COVID-19, 13-14 naman sa mga variant.

At kwidaw tayo, may 17 na tayong COVID variant na nakita sa Calamba City sa Laguna, Quezon City, Benguet at Bontoc at maaaring meron na rin umano sa Baguio City bagama't wala pang naiulat dito.

Mas deadly na nga sa buhay natin ang mga variant, mas mabilis pang makahawa ang mga ito at kinakapitan lahat – bata at may edad.

MGA MAY COVID MADALAS MAGPALIT NG FACE MASK

Madalas magpalit ng face mask ang mga may sintomas ng COVID-19 dahil sa kanilang pag-ubo, pagbahing at iba pa dahil natatalsikan ng laway nila ang nasabing gamit.

Kahit pa ang mga asymptomatic, nagpapalit din ng mga face mask.

Nandiyan ang posibleng pagkalat ng virus ng pandemya kaya idinidiin natin ang tamang pagkuha, pagtatapon at pagiging maingat ng mga nagbabasura nito.

Makatutulong tayo nang malaki laban sa pandemya kung magkaroon tayo ng mga disiplina sa pagbabasura, kahit kaunting kaalaman man lang sa mga posibleng pagmumulan ng virus at istriktong pagsunod naman sa mga batayang patakarang pangkalusugan o health protocol.



Cimatu to barangay captains: Step up or back to square one

By [Caecent No-ot Magsumbol](#)(The Freeman) - January 27, 2021 - 12:00am



CEBU, Philippines — Secretary Roy Cimatu has challenged barangay captains in Cebu City to step up and arrest the current rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in the city – or go back to square one.

“We have done it before. There is no reason we cannot do it now,” Cimatu was quoted as telling the barangay captains in a virtual meeting during which he told them to strengthen the implementation of existing health protocols at their level.

The Zoom meeting was also attended by Vice Mayor Michael Rama; Councilor Joel Garganera, deputy chief implementer of the city's Emergency Operations Center; Ret. Major General Melquiades Feliciano, IATF Visayas implementer; Dr. Peter Mancao; and a representative of City Administrator Floro Casas, Jr.

Rama, the chairman of the City Council's committee on health, requested for Cimatu's intervention following the spike in new COVID-19 cases in the city.

As of January 25, the Department of Health (DOH)-7 logged 955 cases for Cebu City, including 70 new cases.

The EOC, after verification, confirmed 942 cases.

The city has identified the 10 barangays with the most number of cases but Rama said it is best to include the other barangays in the meeting.

Cimatu has acknowledged the contribution of barangay captains in the success of the city's efforts to flatten the COVID-19 curve in 2020.

Even with the fresh challenge, Cimatu is reportedly confident the city can put a stop to the new rise in cases.



“Gi-challenge mi niya nga kung nahimo namo sauna, mahimo pud namo’g balik karon or else basin balik ta ani’s sinugdanan... although wa siya niingong lockdown, pero unsa man diay atong sinugdanan?” Guadalupe captain Michael Gacasan told The Freeman.

Gacasan said Cimatú told them to strengthen border controls, which Guadalupe has started doing on Sunday, January 24.

Guadalupe has the most number of active cases at 57, as of Tuesday.

“Naa na unta toy ni-graduate pito, napun-an na pud ug laing pito, 57 gihapon ning amoa karon apil na tong usa gyud kapamilyahan gatakod-takod, hasta bata gida nag-apil sa ginikanan sa quarantine center kay wala may makabantay,” Gacasan said.

From January 11 to 24, home transmission went up to 44.56 percent while outside transmission was at 55.43 percent.

Sources of transmission outside homes include workplaces, social gatherings, prison facilities, vacations, hospitals and medical frontliners, public markets and supermarkets, neighborhood transmission, eateries, mall strolling, inbound travelers, exposure to a probable and COVID-19 positive patient, delivery services, dialysis centers, visitors, processing documents, funerals, coffee shops, and the homeless.

With regard to homeless individuals, Barangay San Nicolas Captain Clifford Jude Ninal who has experience helping homeless individuals accepted the challenge of keeping an eye on these people but hopes the city government will take serious action on these people.

“Unta pud, seryosohon na nila (city government) ang paghipos aning mga homeless. Dakop-dakop, unya buhian ra gihapon, di man pud atimanon, balik ra gihapon sila sa agi,” Ninal said.

Feliciano, for his part, has reminded the barangay officials to follow the city’s COVID-19 “playbook” on how to contain the virus.

Rama also said that staffing at the EOC also needs to be addressed since the center has become undermanned since it loosened staffing when the number of cases in the city lowered last year. — JMO (FREEMAN)

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2021/01/27/2073359/cimatu-barangay-captains-step-or-back-square-one/amp/>



80,000 migratory birds seen in Pampanga

Published January 26, 2021, 11:03 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Some 80,000 migratory birds, composed of 63 species, have been observed in Pampanga during the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) held this year.



(DENR / MANILA BULLETIN)

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office in Central Luzon, most of the waterfowl species that were observed include herons, egrets, geese and ducks, rails, gallinules, coots, gulls, and kingfisher.

The annual bird census activity, which serves as an important staging and wintering area for ducks and other threatened waterbirds from the northern hemisphere, transpired in three counting sites, which include the wetland areas in the towns of Sasmuan and Candaba, and the west bank of the Pampanga River that passes through Brgy, Consuelo in the municipality of Macabebe, the DENR-Central Luzon said.

The AWC, which takes place during the second and third weeks of January, aims to obtain annual waterbird populations in the wetlands for the evaluation of the status and condition of wetlands, as well as the changes in the waterbird area distribution.

It was initiated in 1987 in the Indian subcontinent, and has grown rapidly to cover 26 countries of South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Pacific, as well as Russia Far East.

In the Philippines, the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) coordinates the AWC conducted in selected wetlands around the country. The census is primarily carried out by volunteers.

The Philippines is part of the East Asian-Australasian Migratory Flyway, hosting a number of migratory birds in protected areas, such as the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecosystem Area, Naujan Lake National Park in Oriental Mindoro, and Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Cebu.



According to the DENR-BMB, annual bird migration season in the Philippines commences around September every year when migratory birds go on southward migration and ends when they go northwards to return to their breeding grounds in March of the following year.

During the season, migratory birds stop briefly along wetlands—swamps, marshes, intertidal, coastal areas, rivers, ponds, lakes, as well as forests throughout the country, to rest and refuel for their onward journey.

The Philippines serves as habitat to more than 80 species of migratory birds that visit the country every year.

Migratory birds are major players in the ecosystem as they pollinate plants, disperse seeds, and consume insects and small mammals.



A whiff of fresh air, these migratory birds

By ... -January 27, 2021

'We are sure many environmentalists will be happy to push for this effort to maintain and conserve the wetlands and their annual winged visitors.'

IT should come as a whiff of fresh air, this arrival in Pampanga of some 80,000 migratory birds from the north, escaping the harsh snow and ice of the northern hemisphere and traveling south, then returning to their places of origin for their annual breeding season. The coming of the migratory birds, some 63 species in all according to the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) in its latest count, is a ray of sunshine to our people who have been inured to sacrifices and suffering brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 3 reported that the waterfowl species visiting mostly the wetland of Candaba include kingfishers, herons, egrets, gulls, gallinules, rails, geese, and ducks.

These species chose to make their stopovers mostly in three areas — the wetland areas of the towns of Candaba and Sasmuan in Pampanga, and the west bank of the Pampanga river in Barangay Consuelo, Macabebe.

According to the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR, the annual bird migration season in the Philippines commences in September every year when migratory birds travel southward, and ends when they go northwards to return to their breeding grounds in March of the following year.

It is good that the government has partnered with the AWC in tracking the arrival and departure of these birds. The survey that usually takes place during the second and third weeks of January aims to obtain correct information on waterbird populations in the wetlands for the evaluation of the condition of the country's wetlands and the changes in the waterbird area distribution.

The numbers are monitored in environment-protected areas such as the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecosystem Area, Naujan Lake National Park in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, and Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Cebu, among others. Of course, the center of this data gathering is Pampanga, particularly Candaba, Sasmuan, and Macabebe.

We are sure many environmentalists among officials will be happy to push for this effort to maintain and conserve the wetlands and their annual winged visitors. Among them are Rep. Loren Legarda and Sen. Cynthia Villar. This effort will be good for tourism, too, and so it deserves the support of all Filipinos.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_opinion/a-whiff-of-fresh-air-these-migratory-birds/



NBI arrests 5 persons for occupying, selling protected lands around Marikina River

Published January 26, 2021, 8:04 PM

by [Jeffrey Damicog](#)

Five persons who occupied, erected homes and even tried to sell parts of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) in Antipolo City have been arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).



(PIXABAY/ MANILA BULLETIN)

NBI Officer-In-Charge Director Eric Distor on Tuesday, Jan. 26, announced the arrest of Milanio Ruserreccion, Zernan Villafranca, Jojo Mallorca, Marwin Lleavanes and Erwin Intelta.

Following their arrest, the five persons were charged before the Department of Justice (DOJ) for violating Sec. 20 (n) and (o) of Republic Act 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992, as amended by RA 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Areas System Act of 2018; and for violating Sec. 81 of Presidential Decree 705 or the Forestry Reform Code.

Distor said the five persons were arrested during an entrapment operation conducted by operatives of the NBI's Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) last Thursday, Jan. 21.

The operation was conducted at the request of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“The aforesaid area located within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) has illegal occupants who constructed infrastructure without Protected Area Management Board clearance,” the NBI said in a statement.

After learning that there have been attempts to sell portions of the UMRBL, NBI operatives hatched a plan to set up an entrapment operation.

Resurreccion was arrested after he was caught receiving a P20,000 downpayment from an NBI agent acting as a poseur buyer of a 1,000 square meter lot within Sitio San Ysiro in Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City for P150,000.

NBI operatives also arrested the other four persons who occupied structures in the area “after failing to show any document claiming title or right to occupy a portion of the UMRBPL.”

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/26/nbi-arrests-5-persons-for-occupying-selling-protected-lands-around-marikina-river/>



NBI arrests 5 for occupying Antipolo site

posted January 26, 2021 at 11:00 pm by **Willie Casas**

Operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) have arrested five suspects for illegal occupation of a protected area in Antipolo City.

NBI OIC-Director Eric B. Distor identified Subjects as Milano Resurreccion, Zernan Villafranca, Jojo Mallorca, Marwin Lleavanes, and Erwin Intelta.

OIC-Distor said that on January 12, 2021, a request from DENR-PENR Rizal was sent to the NBI-EnCD requesting assistance and joint operation in Sitio San Ysiro, Brgy. San Jose, Antipolo City.

The area located within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) has illegal occupants who constructed infrastructure without Protected Area Management Board clearance.

During the verification and inquiries, a report was received that a certain "ELIO", one of the five identified illegal occupants within UMRBPL, is allegedly involved in selling the other portions of the land also falling within UMRBPL.

With this, poseur-buyers transacted with "ELIO" later identified as Resurreccion wherein a 1,000-sqm lot within Sitio San Ysiro, Brgy. San Jose, Antipolo City was agreed to be bought for Php150,000.00. The parties also agreed that the poseur buyers will pay Php20,000.00 as down payment.

Operatives saw that there are permanent structures found within the UMRBPL and they were able to verify the existence of the five structures owned by Resurreccion (structure 1), Gigi and Junjun Mutya with actual occupant Villafranca (structure 2), Mallorca (structure 3), James Bautista with actual occupant Lleavanes structure 4), and John Juarez with actual occupant Intelta (structure 5).

Upon communication with the DENR-PENRO Rizal, the entrapment operation was conducted on January 21, 2021 resulting in the arrest of subject Resurreccion after receiving the boodle money as down payment.

Occupants of the illegal structures were likewise arrested after failing to show any document claiming title or right to occupy a portion of the UMRBPL.

A certification from the DENR-PENRO Rizal was likewise issued identifying that the above-named Subjects are not authorized to conduct, erect, or maintain the structure built within the same area.

Charges for violation of Section 20 (n) and (o) of RA 7586 as amended by RA 11038 and violation of Section 81 of PD 705 were filed against the Subjects before the Office of the Prosecutor General, Department of Justice.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/lgu/luzon/345438/nbi-arrests-5-for-occupying-antipolo-site.html>



ANTAS NG TUBIG NA ANGAT DAM, LAMPAS MULI SA 212 METERS NHWL



January 27, 2021 @ 12:20 AM 6 hours ago

MAGANDANG balita sa mga nananinirahan sa Metro Manila, dahil sa araw-araw ng pag-ulan, tumaas muli ang antas ng tubig ng Angat Dam. Makalipas ng mahigit tatlong taon, ngayong taon lamang lumampas sa 212 meters normal high water level (NHWL) sa ikatlong linggo ng unang buwan ng taon.

Isinasagawa ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang unang pagbabasa sa unang araw ng Enero (January 1, 2021 (8:00AM), ang lebel ng tubig ay nasa 212.17 metro, pero pagkalipas ng mahigit isang linggo, sinukat muli ng ahensya ang antas ng tubig, base sa ulat ibinigay sa inyong lingkod, ang antas ng tubig noong Enero 13, 2021 (8:00AM) ay nasa 211.79 metro, bahagyang bumaba sa 212 NHWL.

Base sa Hydrological Information ng Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC), nasa 213.49 meters ang level ng tubig sa Angat Dam, base sa pinakahuling ulat (Enero 22, 2021, 8:00AM).

Sa darating ng ika-21 ng Pebrero ang mismong araw ng Miyerkules ng Abo, ibig sabihan, papasok na ang buwan ng tag-init.

Bilang paghahanda sa panahon ng tag-init, paulit-ulit ang panawagan ni Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na si Dr. Seville D. David Jr. sa publiko na umpisahan na ang pagtitipid sa paggamit ng tubig, kahit na may sapat na tubig sa kasalukuyan.

Ayon pa sa NWRB, ang mga pinagkukunan ng tubig ay hindi na sapat sa lumolobong populasyon, lalo na kung sumasapit ang panahon ng tag-init, na likas namang mahabang panahon sa Pilipinas.

Sa orihinal datos ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration o PAG-ASA, ang dry season sa bansa ay mula Disyembre hanggang Mayo.

-ooOoo-

ISANG ULIRAN NA KATRABAHO AT TUNAY NA KAIBIGAN

IPINAALALA ni Pearl Aragon kung paano inilaan ng kanyang huling kapatid na si Undersecretary Joji V. Aragon, para sa kanyang trabaho at sa kanilang departamento.



Sa necrological service sa Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) office noong Enero 14, 2020, ipinahayag ni Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III ang kanyang pakikiramay sa pamilya ng namatay na senior official.



Sabi ng punong manggagawa, “nawalan din siya ng mahal na kaibigan at tinuturing naming alahas sa departamento ng trabaho”.



Battle for pasture lands heats up

By Jerry N. Adlaw

January 27, 2021

Bl'aan: Titling in lease holders' favor 'fraudulent'

GENERAL SANTOS CITY: Holders of forest land grazing lease agreements (FLGLAs) and indigenous Bl'aan in General Santos City are heatedly battling for rightful ownership of vast tracts of pasture leases that, according to the tribal group, had been fraudulently titled in favor of the holders allegedly by unscrupulous personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 12 (Soccsksargen) in exchange for money.

The 3,293 hectares of pasture leases were the subject of a complaint filed by former General Santos City mayor Darlene Ricasa Antonino before the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) where 18 personnel of the DENR-Region 12 were slapped with administrative charges over the controversial titling of the leases.

In an interview with The Manila Times, Jean Anne Moindog-Zoilo, former executive director of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in Soccsksargen, assailed the DENR-Region 12 personnel for allegedly manipulating the facilitation of the land-titling applications of the FLGLAs holders without adopting the free, prior and informed consent or FPIC that she said was in violation of Republic Act 8371 or the "Indigenous Peoples Right Act (IPRA) of 1997."

Zoilo also said that while they had not decided on whether to declare the pasture leases in Barangay Tumbler in the city as ancestral domain as claimed by six Bl'aan clans, "[w]e cannot award the stewardship of ownership" because of the complaint filed before the OSG.

She added that the IPRA "requires the State to consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them under the Article 19 of the law."

Zoilo said the DENR-Region 12 personnel approved the titling of the pasture leases without consulting the NCIP-Region 12, whose "consent" over the issue was needed before the adoption of any legislative or administrative policies that affect the indigenous peoples under Article 19.

Meanwhile, DENR-Region 12 officials under newly installed Regional Executive Director Felix Alicer were not available for comment at press time.



Masungi Georeserve wins top prize in Water Changemaker Awards

Published January 26, 2021, 2:55 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Youth-led conservation group Masungi Georeserve has won first place at the inaugural Water Changemaker Awards for its efforts to protect and restore the Upper Marikina Watershed from large-scale threats, such as quarrying, land trafficking, and timber poaching.



(Masungi Georeserve)

Global Water Partnership (GWP) chair Howard Bamsey said Masungi Georeserve's story is an "inspiring campaign for watershed restoration and reforestation led by the next generation of water changemakers."

The winner, which was chosen from 350 nominees, was announced at the Water Anchoring Event of the Climate Adaptation Summit on January 25.

"It is heartening to see the youthful idealism, hard work, and unwavering bravery of our team recognized especially through a most challenging time. Masungi and our restoration projects are under threat by destructive interests. It is a battle between conservation or extraction, between restoration or the plunder of our forests, and between the future we want and the future we are being forced to accept," said Masungi Georeserve Foundation project manager Ann Dumaliang.

"We continue to urge our leaders to make the right decisions for the Filipino people. We also continue to engage and dialogue with different sectors, governments, local communities, and indigenous groups to join this movement and make a stand," she added.

Climate policy expert Tony La Viña cited the award as a "great recognition" as he has seen the Masungi Georeserve as a model for climate adaptation and mitigation action as well as an effective way of protecting and enhancing forests and landscapes.



The GWP said the award was launched to make visible the teams and organizations who shape water decisions that build climate resilience.

Winners and finalists of the awards were evaluated based on four criteria: extent to which the initiative has contributed to climate resilience and water decisions, magnitude and longevity of change, depth of learning through crisis, and breadth of collaborations with stakeholders.

The jury was composed of Bamsey; Barbara Buchner of the Climate Policy Initiative; Johannes Cullmann of the World Meteorological Organization; Klaus Leroch of the Austrian Development Agency; and Patrick Verkooijen of the Global Center for Adaptation.

The Masungi Georeserve is a globally acclaimed conservation and geotourism project that has protected historic limestone formations and hundreds of plant and animal species for more than twenty years.

In 2017, it entered into a landmark partnership with the national government to restore and rewild 2,700 hectares of degraded land around the limestone formations using innovative financing and resourcing approaches for biodiversity conservation.

To date, the project has enabled the planting of 60,000 native trees, rescued 1,000 hectares for reforestation, established 12 kilometers of monitoring trails and stations, and engaged 100 local park rangers.



Photo from Masungi Georeserve shows the reforestation site in the area.
Masungi Georeserve Foundation, Handout

Masungi Georeserve wins global award for watershed protection, restoration

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - January 26, 2021 - 5:20pm

MANILA, Philippines — The initiative of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation to rehabilitate and protect the Upper Marikina Watershed from threats of quarrying, land trafficking and timber poaching has won a global award.

The movement to restore the watershed area largely led by people under 30 won first place at the inaugural Waterchangemakers Award, which “aims to make visible the teams and organizations that shape water decisions that build climate resilience.”

“Our winner is a youth-led movement from the Philippines, the Masungi Georeserve story, an inspiring campaign for watershed restoration and reforestation led by the next generation of water changemakers,” Global Water Partnership Chair Howard Bamsey announced at the Water Anchoring Event of the Climate Adaptation Summit on January 25.

Aside from being a popular destination for day trips and hikes, Masungi Georeserve has also protected historic limestone formation and hundreds of wildlife species—many of them endemic, threatened or endangered—for more than two decades.

Climate resilience

In 2017, it entered into an agreement with the national government to restore and rewild some 3,000 hectares of degraded land around the Masungi limestone formations.

Masungi said the project, which protects secondary forest and grasslands from deforestation, acts as a [carbon sink](#).

“The protected area currently stores an estimate of 160,000 tons of carbon or the equivalent of 66 million gallons of gasoline consumed. Once fully restored, the area will be able to store almost one million tons of carbon and sequester even more every year,” Masungi said.

The initiative has led to the planting of 60,000 native trees and rescued 1,000 hectares for reforestation, which can help prevent landslides and floods.

Under threat

Masungi Georeserve is threatened by quarrying activities, land trafficking and other destructive interests, Ann Dumaliang, the foundation’s project manager, said.



“It’s a battle between conservation or extraction, between restoration or the plunder of our forests, and between the future we want and the future we are being forced to accept,” Dumaliang said.

“We continue to urge our leaders to make the right decisions for the Filipino people. We also continue to engage and dialogue with different sectors, governments, local communities and indigenous groups to join this movement and make a stand,” she added.

Winners and finalists of the awards were assessed based on four criteria: the extent to which the initiative has contributed to climate resilience and water decisions, the magnitude and longevity of change, depth of learning through crisis, and breadth of collaborations with stakeholders.



Masungi Georeserve wagi ng Water ChangeMaker Award sa pag-restore sa Marikina Watershed



January 26, 2021 @ 7:13 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Wagi ng Water ChangeMaker Awards ang proyekto ng Masungi Georeserve Foundation na “The Masungi Georeserve Story: Restoring Forgotten Watersheds Through Youth-led Movements.”

Nanguna sa 350 nominado ang nasabing proyekto na prinotektahan at ni-restore ang watershed sa “large-scale threats such as quarrying, land trafficking, and timber poaching” sa Climate Adaptation Summit nitong Lunes.

Ani Global Water Partnership chair Howard Bamsey na ang pagsisikap ng Masungi ay “inspiring campaign for watershed restoration and reforestation led by the next generation of water changemakers.”

“This award is a precious reminder of why this area we’re protecting deserves a fighting chance,” anang Masungi representative sa awarding ceremony.

Pumangalawa ang Brazil’s Regulatory Agency for Water, Energy and Basic Sanitation ng Federal District-Adasa at Mexico’s Fondo Mexicano para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza A.C., na sinundan ng Bolivia’s Fundacion Natura Bolivia. *RNT*



Masungi Georeserve wins Water ChangeMaker Award for efforts to protect, restore Marikina Watershed

Published January 26, 2021 6:13pm

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation, a conservation in Rizal, has been recognized for its efforts to restore and protect the Upper Marikina Watershed.

Out of over 350 nominees worldwide, Masungi's project "The Masungi Georeserve Story: Restoring Forgotten Watersheds Through Youth-led Movements" won first place at the Water ChangeMaker Awards for its efforts to protect and restore the watershed from "large-scale threats such as quarrying, land trafficking, and timber poaching" during the Climate Adaptation Summit on Monday.

Global Water Partnership chair Howard Bamsey described Masungi's efforts as "an inspiring campaign for watershed restoration and reforestation led by the next generation of water changemakers."

"This award is a precious reminder of why this area we're protecting deserves a fighting chance," a Masungi representative said during the awarding ceremony.

Landing on second place was Brazil's Regulatory Agency for Water, Energy and Basic Sanitation of the Federal District-Adasa and Mexico's Fondo Mexicano para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza A.C., followed by Bolivia's Fundacion Natura Bolivia.

In December, Masungi asked for the help of the government in addressing the alleged harassment by "[professional squatters](#)" who claimed large tracts of lands in the site. –

Kaela Malig/RC, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/hobbiesandactivities/773348/masungi-georeserve-wins-water-changemaker-award-for-efforts-to-protect-restore-marikina-wa/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0Dv2FDA2QdbdeYsDqIFwr2IF3hOFNeZ3RusN0XFAAit95JZIbChO6HwIw



CCC urged to submit Philippines' climate pledge to Paris Agreement

Published January 26, 2021 9:12pm

By ERWIN COLCOL, GMA News

A measure has been filed at the House of Representatives urging the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to submit the Philippines' pledge to the Paris Agreement to help address climate emergency and drive the country towards sustainable pandemic recovery.

Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda has filed House Resolution 1494, which calls for the country's pledge to the Paris Agreement, known as the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), to give the "highest possible climate ambition in reflection of the government's strong commitment to contribute to global efforts to advance climate justice."

"There is no place for fear or hesitancy in expediting our country's NDC submission [as] will drive all sectors of the economy to strengthen their capacity to reduce disaster risks and adapt to climate change into a thriving a post-crisis scenario that turns crisis into opportunity," Legarda said in her resolution.

At the same time, the former senator also pushed for a "more inclusive and consultative process from a wide range of stakeholders" in formulating the NDC, recognizing the calls of civil society groups for urgency, ambition, and justice as the bottom lines of the country's pledge.

Signed at the end of the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, more commonly known as COP21, in April 2016, the Paris Agreement aimed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions worldwide by 2030.

Parties to the agreement were asked to submit their NDCs by December 31, 2020, but the Philippines has failed to submit its pledge before the deadline, according to a joint statement of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, Aksyon Klima, Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development, and other climate networks.

"With the pandemic, we have come to realize that our world is not that advanced and resilient as we thought it to be. Our social and economic systems are fragile. However highly interconnected, we are only as strong as the most vulnerable among us," Legarda said.

"The best way forward is to heed science and take decisive actions for our collective recovery that also secures a cleaner, safer, and more resilient world for all," he added.

In a separate statement on Tuesday, the Climate Reality Project Philippines, an organization of Filipino climate reality leaders, backed Legarda's call for the CCC to submit the Philippines' climate pledge.

"It is unfortunate that we are one of the last few remaining countries to submit their NDCs because other countries have looked up to us for climate ambition and leadership," it said.

"We must however remain resolved in the whole process and continue recalibrating our economic simulation and integrating input from the civil society, private sector, and stakeholders, so we could convey the highest climate ambition that our whole nation could possibly commit," it added. — **BM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/773375/ccc-urged-to-submit-philippines-climate-pledge-to-paris-agreement/story/>



LGUs share climate strategies

posted January 26, 2021 at 10:50 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Local government officials shared their efforts to make their communities resilient from both climate change and COVID-19 in today's launch of a webinar series for the online international Climate Adaptation Summit hosted this year by the Netherlands.

The three-webinar series, "Climate Change and COVID-19: Adapting to Two New Normals," is organized by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Manila with the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities.

Representatives of the local governments of Coron, Palawan; Mandaue City, Cebu; and Guiuan, Eastern Samar shared how the climate resilience plans and multisectoral networks they have been leading in their respective cities and towns became instrumental in their localities' response to the pandemic.

"Communities and local governments must have the tools and means to strengthen their resilience and must have a say in how national policy is designed and implemented. Through your work, you have experienced building strong, healthy, and resilient communities. Now, it's time to share these experiences with other communities in the Philippines and the wider global community through the Climate Adaptation Summit," said Pieter Terpstra, the Netherlands Embassy in Manila's Deputy Head of Mission for the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.

Engineer Fernando Lopez, disaster risk reduction management officer of Coron, Palawan, shared how he and the other members of the Calamianes Resilience Network, comprised of Coron and four other towns in Northern Palawan, had to roll out their studies and plans without compromising health protocols. Coron's 10-year local climate plan was approved by their municipal council last June 2020, a few months into the national lockdown. The network also supported the installation of portable handwashing stations and the making of face shields for local frontliners across their island group.

"Our watersheds are vulnerable. We expected supply problems but because tourism was halted because of the lockdown, there was less demand. Still, we needed to act given the water shortage," Engr. Lopez said, adding that resilience building should not be a mere phrase but must be acted upon.

He also highlighted how indigenous knowledge and community engagement, particularly with the Tagbanua indigenous peoples of Coron, were important in addressing the water problems in their town.

Architect Marlo Ocleasa, head of Mandaue, Cebu's city planning and development office, agreed that community engagement and empowerment was the "one common denominator in addressing climate change and COVID-19."

"Our resilience is being tested by the pandemic. It is not enough to survive, but we need to move forward amid these challenges. No amount of planning for development is enough if we cannot plan to be resilient in the first place," added Architect Araceli Barlam, Head of Mandaue's city environment and natural resources office.

Both Ocleasa and Barlam are active members of the Mandaue Resilience Network, which led the crafting of the city's local climate plan and Low Carbon Model Town project. In the wake of the pandemic, the network also launched urban gardening projects, sponsored hygiene kits, and installed interconnected bike lane networks in Mandaue, which aims to be a "green city". Mandaue City, Lapu-Lapu City, and Cebu City also strengthened their tri-city transportation plan.

"The city's adaptation framework focuses on two main strategies: building a resilient community and ensuring food and water security. We cannot do this alone. We need to collaborate with our neighboring cities in addressing climate change and the pandemic," Ocleasa said.

Rectito Melquiades, secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan in the easternmost town of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, shared how their town has been on the frontlines not only of Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) and other extreme weather events, but also slow onset climate impacts such as increasing sea level rise, sea surface temperature, and ocean acidification.

Melquiades said he and the other members of Guiuan's own resilience network have been working for years to strengthen their second-class municipality's transition from disaster response to rehabilitation to climate resilience building when the pandemic struck.

Volunteers from their network partnered with women's groups and agencies to produce sanitizers and turn over face masks and PPEs to Guiuan's health workers.



“The story of our lives now couldn’t have been better written. This is our plot twist and how we are able to grapple both new normals will define how we move forward,” ICSC executive director Renato Redentor Constantino said in his closing remarks. “It’s about time science guides institutions to address vulnerabilities to climate change and the pandemic.”

“The question of equitable access to resources for all countries amid the pandemic is also demonstrating the fundamental inequities the climate community has been experiencing. We need to push harder for a climate resilient recovery,” he added.

Rich nations and institutions have been routinely over-reporting funding to protect developing countries from the climate crisis, which is expected to have left climate adaptation funds short by over USD 20 billion, according to a report released last week by CARE International with ICSC and other groups ahead of the Climate Adaptation Summit.

CARE, ICSC, and other partners in the Philippines, Vietnam, Nepal, Ghana, Uganda, and Ethiopia assessed 112 projects representing 13 percent of total global adaptation finance between 2013 to 2017. The research found climate adaptation finance to be over-reported by 42 percent, which if applied to the remaining projects, would result in USD 20 billion of over-reporting across this period.

For the Philippines, from the USD 2.1 billion of adaptation finance reported by donors across 18 assessed projects also from 2013 to 2017, USD 770 million or 37 percent can be considered as over-reported, according to researchers from ICSC, Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development (ACCORD) Inc., and CARE in the Philippines. The Philippine-specific Climate Finance Adaptation Study report will be released by the team in the following weeks.



PMO Surigao joins zero waste month clean-up drive

By Port Management Office-SurigaoPublished on January 26, 2021

SURIGAO CITY, Surigao del Norte, Jan. 26 (PIA) -- In support of advocacy efforts for zero waste, the Port Management Office (PMO) of Surigao joined a multi-sectoral 'Clean-Up' Drive to celebrate January as "Zero Waste Month."

With the theme "Engaging Response to the Changing Environment," the PMO joined other agencies and barangays in the city for the early morning clean-up activity on January 22, 2021.

For its part, the PMO Surigao contingent worked on areas near the port of Surigao.

Wielding broomsticks, sacks (to contain waste/debris) and other cleaning implements, around 34 PMO Surigao personnel participated in cleaning up its designated area.

Presidential Proclamation No. 760 has designated January as 'Zero Waste Month' which defined Zero Waste as an advocacy that promotes the designing and managing of products and processes to avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials. (NC Nusog, PMO-PPA Surigao/PIA-Surigao del Norte)



Pandemic brings end to Southern Leyte coral reef project

By Roel Amazona January 26, 2021, 5:00 pm



MARINE BIODIVERSITY. A variety of healthy and colorful corals, sponges, and other marine organisms found at the reefs off Panaon Island in Southern Leyte. Movement restrictions due to coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic prompted an international organization to stop the Southern Leyte Coral Reef Conservation Project. *(Photo courtesy of Oceana Philippines)*

TACLOBAN CITY – Movement restrictions due to coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic has prompted an international organization to stop the Southern Leyte Coral Reef Conservation Project (SLRCP).

An official statement on Tuesday by Alistair Cole, United Kingdom-based Coral Cay Conservation chief executive officer, said the organization made a difficult decision to close the SLRCP due to the health crisis that continues to disrupt international travel and cause strain on resources and finances.

Founded in 2002, the SLRCP aims to secure the long-term benefits and services of coral reefs and associated systems; protecting food security and supporting livelihoods of the residents in the Southern Leyte province, according to the information on the website of Coral Cay.

It also aims to enhance marine biodiversity and alleviate community poverty through the evaluation, protection, and restoration of coral reefs, and associated ecosystems in the province.

The project is implemented into two phases: the LRCP Phase I (2002 to 2012) and was founded to assist the provincial government of Southern Leyte in the conservation of the coral reefs of Sogod Bay for the long-term benefit and food-security of residents.

During Phase I, surveys were conducted in the entire Sogod Bay covering the seawaters from the towns of Malitbog, Padre Burgos, Limasawa, and San Francisco towns.

The LRCP Phase II was undertaken between 2013 and 2018 and was founded to develop local capacity and ensure the long-term protection and sustainable use of marine resources, through the establishment, and monitoring, of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Southern Leyte.

Even after the second phase, the project has continued the monitoring of MPAs and build the capacity of communities.

“This closure will be with immediate effect concerning our activities in-country and we will now instigate an exit strategy that will focus on the efficacious transfer of project deliverables to necessary parties. We will cease to accept volunteer bookings over this period for the project,” Cole said.

The group has been present in the country for 25 years advocating for sustainable development and protecting some of the Philippines’ most valuable natural resources.



“This was not an easy decision to make. After several months of deliberating, internal reviews on the project’s timeframe, and the forecast of the Covid-19 pandemic proving uncertain, we have come to this decision. We aim to ensure that the achievements of the project, made possible by the support of volunteers, scholars and committed staff, over the past 20 years, are sustainable and that local stakeholders and government units can continue receiving the benefits of the project,” he added.

The group thanked the thousands of volunteers who helped them in their projects, train scholars and teams that have brought conservation and coral reefs to the forefront of hundreds of classrooms, inspiring the next generation of environmental advocates.

“Over the past 18 years, the rich biodiversity of Sogod Bay has been mapped, countless Marine Protected Areas have been established and even the smallest of conservation efforts have proved vital; all of which would not be possible without the support of the Coral Cay Conservation community,” Cole said.

Since the project started, Coral Cay through SLRCP has undertaken over 2,400 independent surveys, collecting critical ecological, environmental, and anthropogenic data, allowing building a detailed picture of the current status of the area and assessing any changes over time.

The information and data collected by the group are available on their official website, <https://www.coralcay.org/the-philippines>. **(PNA)**



Pagsulpot ng mga patay na baboy sa baybayin ng Or. Mindoro, ikinabahala

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 26 2021 05:29 PM | Updated as of Jan 26 2021 07:23 PM



Mga larawan mula kay Naujan Mayor Mark Marcos.

NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO — Ikinabahala ng mga awtoridad at residente sa bayan na ito ang paglipana ng mga patay na baboy sa kanilang dalampasigan simula nitong Lunes, na umabot na sa 12.

Ayon kay Mayor Mark Marcos sa panayam sa ABS-CBN News, iniimbestigahan na ng mga awtoridad kung saan ito nanggaling.

Base sa inisyal na impormasyon na nakarating sa lokal na pamahalaan, galing umano sa mga barkong dumaraan ang mga patay na baboy. Mayroon rin daw kahalintulad na insidente sa karagatan ng bayan ng Pola.

"It caused panic sa aming mga mamamayan, lalo na nga at may pandemiya na ganito at alam naman nating may African swine fever (ASF). Eh, ito yung nagkaron cause ng alarm sa aming mga mamamayan, sa aming mga hog raisers, dun sa aming mga manininida sa aming palengke," ani Marcos sa panayam nitong Martes.

"Maaaring maapektuhan yung hog industry dito sa aming bayan at baka maging sa aming lalawigan," dagdag niya.

ASF-free ang buong lalawigan ng Oriental Mindoro.

Umaapela naman ang alkalde sa sinumang responsable sa pangyayari.

"Assuming, for the sake of argument, na ina-allow silang magtapon, sana naman ito ay nai-coordinate dito sa ating mga awtoridad sa Coastguard natin, para naman mabigyan ng babala o ng warning itong aming mga coastal barangay, maging kaming mga munisipalidad na nanditong malapit sa dagat," aniya.

Sa 70 barangay at higit 100,000 populasyon ng Naujan, isa sa kabuhayan ng mga residente rito ang pagbababoy.

— **Ulat ni Andrew Bernardo**

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/26/21/pagsulpot-ng-mga-patay-na-baboy-sa-baybayin-ng-or-mindoro-ikinabahala?fbclid=IwAR0EKYXmaH8t6lhOH2SjWhDxM8XabNWntjRQUJsnG22Vx_ee5bEsdnSAfRU



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

News5 19h

MGA PATAY NA BABOY NATAGPUAN SA DALAMPASIGAN NG NAUIAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO

Natagpuan kahapon ng mga mangingisda ang ilang patay na baboy na palutang-lutang sa tubig sa Nauian, Oriental Mindoro.

Hinihinalang tinapon ang mga baboy dahil sa African swine fever.

Na-disinfect na ang mga baboy at pinalibing na ang mga ito.

Pirayuhan ng mga otoridad ang mga residente sa lugar na huwag kainin at katayin ang mga natagpuang baboy.

📍 Oriental Mindoro PSD

9K

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TINGNAN: 2 grupo ng mga dolphin, namataang naglalaro sa baybayin sa Tagum

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Dec 09 2020 10:38 PM

TAGUM CITY— Namangha ang ilang residente na malapit sa baybayin ng Brgy. Libuganon sa lungsod na ito nang makita nila ang dalawang pod o grupo ng mga dolphin na tumatalon sa dagat at tila naglalaro nitong Sabado ng hapon.

Sa video ni Giovanni Rellon, makikitang malapit lang sa bangka nila ang mga dolphin na tinatayang nasa dagat na may 200 hanggang 600 metro ang lalim.

"It seems nag-rest sila from migration at feeding. Isang grupo ng adult dolphin at another group of youngster ang nakita namin," ayon kay Rellon.

Ilang beses na rin umanong may sightings ng dolphin doon, pero unang beses itong nangyaring naglalaro sila malapit sa bangka.

Ayon kay Rellon, hindi na niya ibibigay ang eksaktong lokasyon ng mga dolphin para hindi maistorbo ng mga tao.

Umaasa rin siyang mapangalagaan ang mga marine species para lalo pa itong dadami sa Davao Gulf.

Batay sa pag-aaral ng World Wildlife Fund (WWF) noong 2004, kinilala ang Davao Gulf, na may lawak na 650,000 hectares, na isa sa mga top diversity sites para sa mga whales at dolphins sa bansa.

Kabilang sa mga sightings sa naturang marine area ang 10 whale at dolphin species gaya ng sperm whale, dwarf sperm whale, Fraser's dolphin, Risso's dolphin, short-finned pilot whale, killer whale, long-snouted spinner dolphin, Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, at Cuvier's beaked whale.

Patuloy na nanawagan ang mga awtoridad at mga environmentalist na huwag pakialaman ang mga marine mammals na madalang makita sa Davao gulf, at kinakampanya na huwag magtapon ng mga basura sa dagat dahil mapanganib ito sa mga marine species.--**Ulat ni Hernel Tocmo**

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/12/09/20/tingnan-2-grupo-ng-mga-dolphin-namataang-naglalaro-sa-baybayin-sa-tagum?fbclid=IwAR12knBSHaK0fhTpjRC4MXvOwYWAdE_YZhvKXPw5XuXZey7r4yQ7nGm0cDk



25 dolphins stranded on Camarines Sur beach

Published January 26, 2021 7:49am

Updated January 26, 2021 3:26pm

DEL GALLEGO, Camarines Sur - Twenty-five dolphins got stranded on the beach in Barangay Magais 1 in Del Gallego, Camarines Sur before dawn on Tuesday.

Residents saw the dolphins, identified as Fraser's dolphins, past 3 a.m. and informed the local government.



A dolphin lies on the beach in Barangay Magais 1, Del Gallego, Camarines Sur before dawn on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021. Twenty-five dolphins were found on the beach, with five already lifeless and the rest still alive but weak and wounded. PEEWEE BACUÑO

According to a report of Unang Balita on GMA News, 10 of the dolphins died and bore wounds. However, a later update showed the death toll rose to 13.

The rest of the dolphins were weak but still alive, and were also wounded.





Residents at first tried to lure the dolphins near the shore back to the deeper part of the sea.

However as low tide came in, the dolphins were seen stranded on the beach and in the mangrove.

Local authorities went to the site in response.

Nonie Enolva, team leader of Bicol Regional Fisheries Emergency Stranding Response Team of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said external examination on the dolphins showed they bore wounds from dynamite explosion.

Dynamite fishing is said to be rampant in Ragay Gulf.

Tuesday's incident is the first such mass stranding of dolphins this year.

Authorities appealed to fishermen near Ragay Gulf to abandon the use of dynamites in fishing.

They also appealed to residents to report any such incident of dynamite fishing.

The dolphins will be subjected to necropsy at the Philippine Marine Mammal Stranding Network on Wednesday. —**Peewee Bacuña/KG, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/773243/twenty-dolphins-stranded-in-camarines-sur-beach/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0KS_GNoZvzXwh43nGOXGertfogWVZ6qzYf7hc1mh1mFRvIJ4XO2gAVtk8



A worker sanitizes the railings as commuters start to flock the LRT Line-2 Santolan station in Pasig City on January 22, 2021.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

Philippines sees 1,173 new COVID-19 cases as total hits 516,166

Gaea Katreena Cabico (Philstar.com) - January 26, 2021 - 4:00pm

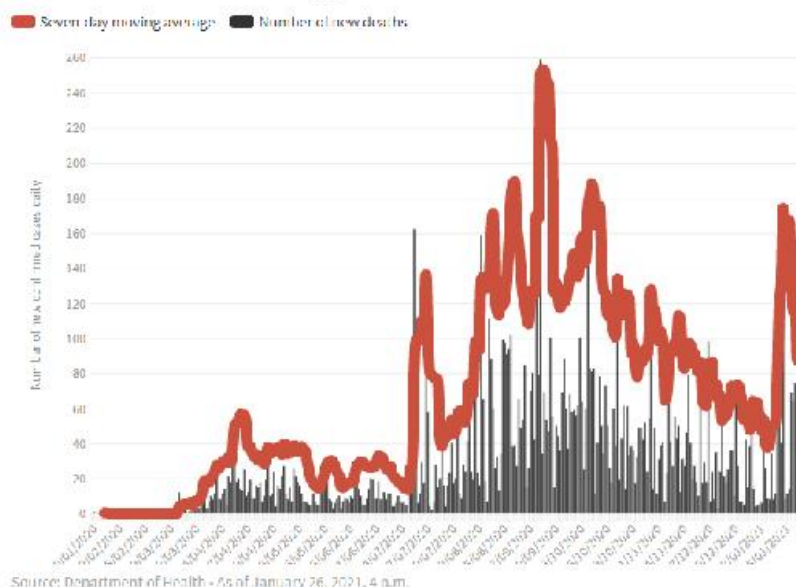
MANILA, Philippines — Coronavirus cases in the Philippines climbed past 516,000 Tuesday after the Department of Health recorded 1,173 additional infections.

Of the 516,166 total confirmed cases, 30,357 or 5.9% are active.

Recoveries rose to 475,423 after 18 additional patients recovered from the respiratory illness.

Meanwhile, 94 more COVID-19-related deaths were registered, the highest in more than a week. This pushed the fatality count to 10,386.

COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines



A Flourish chart

Where most cases were reported

- Cebu City (modified general community quarantine) - 84
- Davao City (GCQ) - 67
- Cavite (MGCQ) - 51
- Quezon City (GCQ) - 47
- Rizal (MGCQ) - 41



What's new today?

The DOH confirmed the [local transmission](#) of the new and more contagious coronavirus variant in Bontoc, Mountain Province. But the department stressed there is “no strong evidence” of community transmission based on the criteria set by the World Health Organization.

President Rodrigo Duterte said he is [revoking his coronavirus task force's decision](#) allowing children aged 10 to 14 years old in areas under modified general community to step out of their homes. He cited the threat of the new and more contagious coronavirus variant.

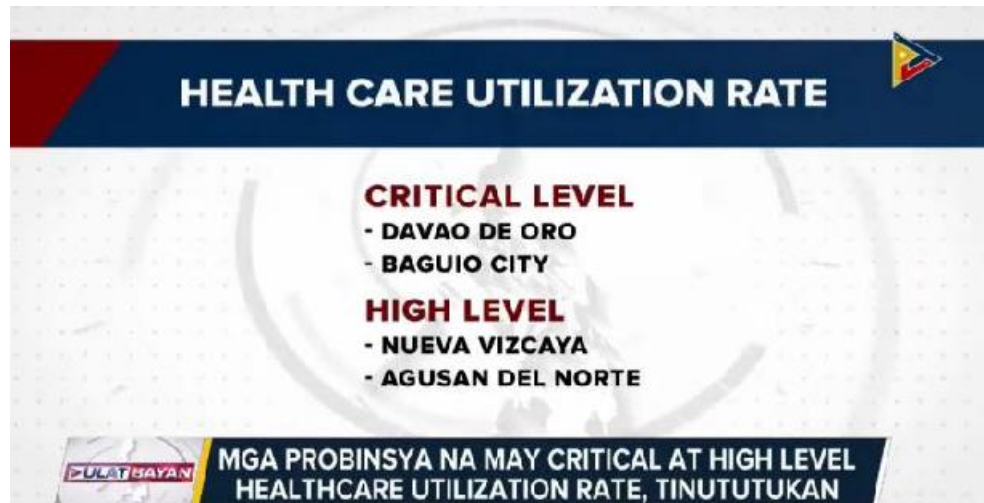
Malacañang said Duterte has approved the holding of [limited physical classes](#) for students in medical and allied health science programs. Traditional face-to-face classes in the country had been called off for nearly a year now due to the coronavirus pandemic.

— with report from **Xave Gregorio**



IATF-EID to decide on February quarantine

January 26, 2021



Malacañang said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) will meet today to discuss its recommendation on the quarantine classification for February.

Earlier report of the Department of Health (DOH) stated that Davao de Oro and Baguio City are already at the critical level of healthcare utilization rate (HCUR), while Nueva Vizcaya and Agusan del Norte have reached high level.

Among the established criteria on the escalation or de-escalation of the community quarantine classification of a certain area are attack rate and HCUR.

"I guess you can say na iyong mga nasa critical care, iyan po ay isang ground for escalation. Pero babalansehin naman po natin dahil may iba pa tayong mga factors na tinitingnan, kagaya ng social factor at saka economic factor (I guess you can say that those at critical care may have ground for escalation. But we will balance it because there are factors that we are considering such as social and economic)," Roque stated.

Meanwhile, President Rodrigo Duterte has approved limited face-to-face classes for several medical courses in areas under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ).

"Obvious ang dahilan kung bakit kinakailangang magpatuloy ang training ng mga doctor (The reason is obvious on why it is important to continue the training of doctors) ... At the time of pandemic, we need all the doctors we can have," Roque explained.

Malacañang reiterated its call to the public to practice health standards amid the increase of COVID-19 cases and the detection of the UK variant in the country. It added that the vaccines against COVID-19 are arriving very soon. - *Report from Mela Lesmoras*



Pilipinas 'dedma' sa bagong batas ng China ukol sa South China Sea

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 26 2021 07:12 PM | Updated as of Jan 26 2021 09:26 PM

MAYNILA – Habang ang isang kamay ay nagtitimon ng bangka, pilit kumukuha ng cellphone video noong Lunes ang mangingisdang si Larry Hugo para maipakita sa tao ang naranasan niya sa paligid ng Pag-asa Island sa West Philippine Sea.



"Marami akong kalaban sa dagat. Ayan oh. Mga barko ng Chinese 'yan, sa unahan ko lang," aniya sa video.

Papunta sana si Hugo sa isang sandbar malapit sa isla para mangisda nang lumapit at humarang ang barko ng China Coast Guard.

"Hinarang nila ako, hindi ako makapasok sa sandbar 2. Lalayo muna ako," aniya.

Kuwento ni Hugo, 13 taon na siyang nakatira sa Isla Pag-asa pero ngayon lang niya naranasang pagbawalan siyang dumaan ng China Coast Guard.

Sigurado si Hugo na siya ang pinupunterya ng barko.

"Ako talaga hinaharang nila. Kasi akala ko dadaan lang. Biglang huminto sa may harapan ko. Kinakabahan nga ako eh. Akala ko talagang madadali na ako doon. Ngayon lang nangyari na inaabangan kami sa may gitna na 'yon, dati po pag papalapit sila, dadaan lang sa amin, hindi hihinto sa may harapan namin," ani Hugo.

Sa lapit ng barko, nabasa na ni Hugo ang numero sa gilid: Bow number 5103.

Umuwi na lang siya sa takot pero namuo rin ang galit sa dibdib niya.

"Siyempre nagalit tayo. Eh dati naman tayong nakapunta dyan, atin man 'yan eh. Bakit ngayon babawalan tayong magpunta doon na samantalang diyan tayo nangingiasda, diyan tayo naghahanapbuhay? Parang na-trauma ba ako," aniya.



Inireport ni Hugo sa AFP Western Command ang insidente pero wala pa itong inilabas na pahayag sa mga oras na ito.

Nabahala din sa pangyayari ang mayor ng Kalayaan municipality na si Roberto del Mundo, pero sinabihan ang mga mangingisdang umiwas na lang muna sa mga sandbar na pinangingisdaan nila.

"Papayuhan ko silang huwag na lang muna pumunta doon sa mga lugar na 'yan. Kasi alam naman nating kahit anong gawin natin, ini-insist din nila na kanila 'yan. Na kung tutuusin, talaga namang atin naman," ani Del Mundo.

Nang tanungin kung anong hakbang ang gagawin nila bilang munisipalidad, sabi ni Del Mundo: "Kami susunod lang kung ano ang utos sa itaas, sa AFP, DND, saka sa DFA. Lagi lang namang sinasabi sa amin sa task force meeting, magpakumbaba lang, manahimik lang, iwas lang para walang gulo."

Noong Enero 22, nagpasa ng bagong batas ang China. Pinahihintulutan na nila ang China Coast Guard na gamitan ng armas ang sinumang bangka o barko ng ibang bansa na magiging banta sa mga bahagi ng karagatang inaangkin nila.

Kasama sa mga lugar na tinuturing nilang teritoryo ay ang West Philippine Sea, kung nasaan ang Isla Pag-Asa.

Ayon sa pamahalaan, walang gagawing hakbang ang Pilipinas tungkol dito.

"Wala naman po tayong diplomatic moves na gagawin diyan. It's their law... Under international law, general international law, ang paggamit po ng dahas ay generally prohibited except for two well-defined exceptions: by way of self-defense at kinakailangan meron pong sending of armed troops into the territory of China; at kinakailangan ang paggamit po ng dahas ay necessary, proportional, and when authorized by the UN Security Council," ani Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque.

Sana lang daw, ayon kay Roque, walang gawin ang sinumang bansa ng bagay na makakapagpalala ng sitwasyon sa West Philippine Sea.

–Mula sa ulat ni Chiara Zambrano, ABS-CBN News

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/26/21/pilipinas-dedma-sa-bagong-batas-ng-china-ukol-sa-south-china-sea?fbclid=IwAR0k_5kEg9WvVhyr4ByrEQuQvansNTB2KfDm2CtpAVjw22gDWT3aG9JR9yI



UN urges donors to raise funds for climate change adaptation

January 26, 2021, 6:59 pm



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION. Photo taken in the Hague, the Netherlands on Jan. 25, 2021 shows screens displaying International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and Ban Ki-moon, former secretary-general of the United Nations, and co-chair of the Global Commission on Adaptation (L-R), attending the opening session of the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 via video link. Hosted by the Dutch government, the two-day summit aims to adopt a roadmap for a decade of transformation towards a climate-resilient future by 2030. (CAS/Handout via Xinhua)

UNITED NATIONS – United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday urged donor countries and banks to significantly increase the volume and predictability of their finance for climate change adaptation and resilience.

"Donor countries and multilateral, regional, and national development banks need to significantly increase the volume and predictability of their finance for adaptation and resilience," the UN chief told the Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS 2021).

The online global conference is aimed at accelerating, innovating, and scaling-up the world's efforts in adapting the global societies and economies to the inevitable effects of climate change over the coming decade.

"We are already witnessing unprecedented climate extremes and volatility, affecting lives and livelihoods on all continents," Guterres said.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, there have been more than 11,000 disasters due to weather-, climate- and water-related hazards over the past 50 years at a cost of some USD3.6 trillion.

"Extreme weather and climate-related hazards have also killed more than 410,000 people in the past decade, the vast majority in low and lower-middle-income countries," the top UN official said.

This is the main reason that he has called for "a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience," Guterres said.

"We need the trillions of taxpayers' dollars funding the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic to jump-start the low-carbon, high-resilience future we need. But recovery cannot only be for the developed world," he said. "We must expand the provision of liquidity and debt relief instruments to developing and middle-income countries that lack the resources to relaunch their economies in a sustainable and inclusive way."

He said the recent United Nations Environment Programme Adaptation Gap Report calculates annual adaptation costs in developing countries alone to be in the range of USD70 billion. These figures are likely to reach USD140-300 billion in 2030 and USD280-500 billion in 2050.

"Huge gaps remain on financing for adaptation in developing countries," he said.

Guterres said that he has called for 50 percent of the total share of climate finance provided by all donors and multilateral development banks to be allocated for climate adaptation and resilience.



"Adaptation cannot be the neglected half of the climate equation," he noted.

Noting that the African Development Bank set the bar in 2019 by allocating over half of its climate finance to adaptation, Guterres urged all donors and multilateral development banks to commit to this goal by the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or known as COP26, and deliver on it by 2024.

"Let us remember that developed countries must meet the commitments made in the Paris Agreement to mobilize 100 billion dollars a year for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries," he added.

The UN chief stressed that all budget allocations and investment decisions need to be climate-resilient.

"Climate risk must be embedded in all procurement processes, particularly for infrastructure," he said.

Guterres also called for efforts to "significantly scale-up existing catastrophe-triggered financial instruments such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility and the African Risk Capacity."

He urged countries "to ease access to finance, especially for the most vulnerable, and expand debt relief initiatives."

Finally, he made a call "to support regional adaptation and resilience initiatives."

Guterres said that one person in three is still not adequately covered by early warning systems and that risk-informed approaches "are not at the scale required."

Citing the fact as illustrated by the Global Commission on Adaptation that, a 24-hour warning system of a coming storm or heatwave can cut the ensuing damage by 30 percent, the secretary-general said that "we need to work together to ensure full global coverage by early warning systems to help minimize these losses."

"We have the tools, skills, and opportunity to deliver 'more, faster and better' adaptation actions," Guterres said.

The CAS 2021 on Jan. 25-26, which is expected to jump-start a year of climate-related events, will link up with the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda Week scheduled for Jan. 25-29.

The summit, hosted by the Netherlands government, creates a dedicated platform of global leaders and local stakeholders aimed at placing the world firmly on a pathway to accelerated climate adaptation and resilience. **(Xinhua)**



CLIMATE CHANGE | Earth losing ice faster today than in the mid-1990s, says study

January 26, 2021 , 09:27 AM

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (Reuters) – Earth’s ice is melting faster today than in the mid-1990s, new research suggests, as climate change nudges global temperatures ever higher.

Altogether, an estimated 28 trillion metric tons of ice have melted away from the world’s sea ice, ice sheets and glaciers since the mid-1990s. Annually, the melt rate is now about 57 percent faster than it was three decades ago, scientists report in a study published Monday in the journal *The Cryosphere*.

“It was a surprise to see such a large increase in just 30 years,” said co-author Thomas Slater, a glaciologist at Leeds University in Britain.

While the situation is clear to those depending on mountain glaciers for drinking water, or relying on winter sea ice to protect coastal homes from storms, the world’s ice melt has begun to grab attention far from frozen regions, Slater noted.

Aside from being captivated by the beauty of polar regions, “people do recognize that, although the ice is far away, the effects of the melting will be felt by them,” he said.

The melting of land ice – on Antarctica, Greenland and mountain glaciers – added enough water to the ocean during the three-decade time period to raise the average global sea level by 3.5 centimeters. Ice loss from mountain glaciers accounted for 22 percent of the annual ice loss totals, which is noteworthy considering it accounts for only about 1 percent of all land ice atop land, Slater said.

Across the Arctic, sea ice is also shrinking to new summertime lows. Last year saw the second-lowest sea ice extent in more than 40 years of satellite monitoring. As sea ice vanishes, it exposes dark water which absorbs solar radiation, rather than reflecting it back out of the atmosphere. This phenomenon, known as Arctic amplification, boosts regional temperatures even further.

The global atmospheric temperature has risen by about 1.1 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times. But in the Arctic, the warming rate has been more than twice the global average in the last 30 years.

Using 1994–2017 satellite data, site measurements and some computer simulations, the team of British scientists calculated that the world was losing an average of 0.8 trillion metric tons of ice per year in the 1990s, but about 1.2 trillion metric tons annually in recent years.

Calculating even an estimated ice loss total from the world’s glaciers, ice sheets and polar seas is “a really interesting approach, and one that’s actually quite needed,” said geologist Gabriel Wolken with the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys. Wolken was a co-author on the 2020 Arctic Report Card released in December, but was not involved with the new study.

In Alaska, people are “keenly aware” of glacial ice loss, Wolken said. “You can see the changes with the human eye.”

Research scientist Julienne Stroeve of the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado noted the study had not included snow cover over land, “which also has a strong albedo feedback”, referring to a measure of how reflective a surface is.

The research also did not consider river or lake ice or permafrost, except to say that “these elements of the cryosphere have also experienced considerable change over recent decades.”

Reporting by Yereth Rosen; Editing by Katy Daigle and Philippa Fletcher

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/climate-change-earth-losing-ice-faster-today-than-in-the-mid-1990s-says-study?fbclid=IwAR0fH6SWIDvV1XWzrhQdp9pgMEVulS4GhrMbEBoxV2VJcmOKxmPH0TiWRO>



Air pollution is linked to an increased risk of irreversible sight loss, study finds

By Amy Woodyatt, CNN

Published Jan 27, 2021 1:00:19 AM



(CNN) - Increases in air pollution are linked to an increased risk of irreversible sight loss, according to a new study.

Researchers from University College London (UCL) found that even low exposure to air pollution across England, Scotland and Wales appears to impact the risk of age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

AMD is the leading cause of irreversible blindness among people over 50 in high-income countries. AMD is linked to the loss of central vision -- needed for reading, performing fine detailed tasks and recognizing faces -- and the biggest risk factors for the disease are genetics, old age and smoking.

Researchers found that people living in the most polluted areas were at least 8% more likely to report having the condition, in a study published Monday in the British Journal of Ophthalmology.

The team studied data from 115,954 people aged between 40-69, who had participated in the UK Biobank, a large study of half a million people focusing on the medical diagnoses and biological measurements of participants.

Using eye measurements and data from questionnaires, experts studied those who said they did and did not have macular degeneration, and then compared the results to the amount of pollutants estimated to be at their residential addresses.

"People who live in a more polluted area report macular degeneration more frequently," Paul Foster, a professor of glaucoma studies and ophthalmic epidemiology at UCL and senior author of the paper, told CNN.

Foster said that the main pollutants linked to macular degeneration were particulate matter PM2.5, nitrogen dioxide and oxide nitrogen.

PM2.5 is tiny particulate pollution that can move deep into the lungs when inhaled and enter the bloodstream. The particles, made up of dust, dirt, soot or smoke, originate from construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, smokestacks or fires, and can contain different chemicals. But most particles are a mix of pollutants from power plants, industrial and vehicle emissions.

Nitrogen oxides refers to nitric oxide gas and nitrogen dioxide gas, as well as other gaseous oxides containing nitrogen. The main source of these gases in urban areas are motor vehicle exhausts, indoor gas stoves and kerosene heaters.

Foster told CNN that the pollutants enter the body through the lungs, and seem to cause particular damage to the eyes because of high blood flow in the eye wall.

"It's people breathing the stuff in, and it going down into the lungs, being absorbed into the blood, carried round in the blood," he said.



"There's definitely a relationship between the more disadvantaged members of society and higher risk of getting this condition," he added.

Air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), which says such deaths occur largely as a result of increased mortality from stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and acute respiratory infections.

WHO data shows that nine out of 10 people breathe air that exceeds guideline limits on high levels of pollutants.

Chris Inglehearn, a professor of molecular ophthalmology at the University of Leeds said that the UCL research is similar to a 2019 study from Taiwan. "Both show a link between air pollution and age-related macular degeneration, a common cause of blindness in older people," he told the Science Media Centre.

"The profile of pollutants the two groups looked at is slightly different but the source is the same, combustion. Of course, correlation does not prove causation, but the fact that these two independent studies reach similar conclusions gives greater confidence that the link they make is real," Inglehearn, who was not involved in the UCL study, said.

Inglehearn said such studies "provide further evidence that links air pollution with detrimental impacts on human health."

This story was first published on CNN.com, ["Air pollution is linked to an increased risk of irreversible sight loss, study finds"](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2021/1/27/Air-pollution-is-linked-to-an-increased-risk-of-irreversible-sight-loss--study-finds)



Dozens of smuggled chameleons found in suitcase in Austria

Published 10 hours ago



AUSTRIAN FINANCE MINISTRY

image caption The animals were found hidden in socks and containers

Dozens of protected chameleons are being nursed back to health at an Austrian zoo after they were discovered in a suitcase at Vienna airport.

The animals were spotted by security after an X-Ray of the suitcase appeared suspicious. Some 74 chameleons were found hidden in socks and boxes.

They would sell for about 37,000 euros (£32,850; \$44,970) on the black market, officials said. A 56-year-old man who had travelled from Tanzania was later arrested.

The man, who has not been identified by police, could face a fine of up to 6,000 euros, the finance ministry said.

"[Chameleons] can camouflage themselves well... but they ultimately did not outsmart the X-Ray machine," the ministry said in a statement.

The animals were immediately transported to Vienna's Schönbrunn Zoo, where they were examined by specialists.



AUSTRIAN FINANCE MINISTRY

image caption Some 74 chameleons had been stashed in the suitcase



AUSTRIAN FINANCE MINISTRY

image caption The animals range in age from newborns to adults



Three of the chameleons did not survive the journey. They range in age from one week old, to adult specimens.

"According to the zoo's experts, they come from the Usambara Mountains, a currently very rainy and cool region in Tanzania," the finance ministry said.

The surviving chameleons are now being cared for at Schönbrunn Zoo.

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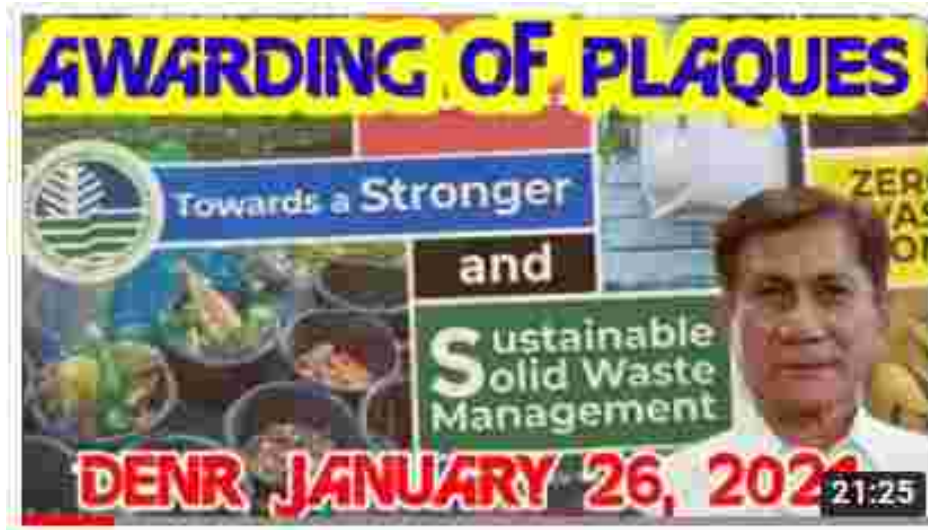
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