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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR to expedite land distribution in Taytay, Rizal

[By Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

June 27, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) aims to complete the distribution of a land parcel in Lupang Arenda in Taytay, Rizal before President Rodrigo Duterte's term ends in 2022.

This will be done through the agency's continuous conduct of dialogues between concerned agencies and the informal settlers who have been appealing for ownership, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said.

He said the DENR has been moving to expedite the land distribution process through the resolution of issues concerning the 20,100-square-meter lot in Barangay Sta. Ana.

"I'm trying to fast track this, but, of course, it should be within the bounds of the law. I look forward that by the next time we meet, it would already be for the awarding of titles. I even hope to have our very own President Duterte award these titles," Antiporda said.

He said that it is only under the term of President Duterte that the case is being seriously dealt with and given attention.

In a recent meeting with the land claimants and officers of concerned government agencies, Antiporda settled the issue on the process of land titling with the help of the DENR regional office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro)-Rizal, local government of Taytay, and Samahang Masigasig Tapayan Homeowners Association Inc. (Samathoa).

The lot is part of the 50,300-sqm lot being appealed for ownership by the long-time informal settlers in Lupang Arenda, who have been complying with the necessary requirements and clearances for titling of the lands.

Antiporda also laid out the concerns on the 20,100-sqm lot, which was certified by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) as above the reglementary 12.5-meter elevation and is outside the shoreland of Laguna Lake.

Under the residential free patent program, Penro-Rizal is tasked to process the titling applications of the said lot for disposal.

The DENR official also instructed Penro-Rizal and Samathoa to submit a report every 15 days of the progress of actions undertaken or issues identified for monitoring and assistance of his committee.

Meanwhile, DENR-Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria committed "to provide technical assistance and oversight function over its field offices."

Penro-Rizal officer Ernesto Diso Jr. said a total of 297 lots are included in the 20,100-sqm land parcel, of which 101 applications with carpetas have been submitted and evaluated by Penro.

However, there are still 196 lots for application for the residential free patent, Diso noted.

He also reminded Samathoa to advise some of its members to submit their tax declarations on the lots they have been occupying as "tax declarations are a primary requirement in titling."



DENR to expedite land distribution in Taytay, Rizal

Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda President Vicente Barlos said they are ready to comply with the payment of real property tax for the issuance of tax declarations.

Meanwhile, Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor Chairman Alvin Feliciano is hoping that the municipality of Taytay will allow the exemption of the claimants from paying their real property tax.

Antiporda tasked Diso to endorse the Samathoa position paper for consideration for land titling on the remaining 30,200 sqm to DENR-Calabarzon.

The regional office will then give its recommendation to LLDA for the latter's evaluation and investigation.

"We are all in this together to help our fellow residents in Lupang Arenda," Antiporda said.



DENR target na maipamahagi ang land parcel sa Taytay sa termino ni PRRD



June 26, 2021 @ 4:37 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – UMAASA si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda na maipamahagi ang land parcel ng Lupang Arenda sa Taytay, Rizal sa termino ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte dahil na rin sa patuloy na pakikipag-usap sa mga ahensiya at informal settlers na nagnanais na mapunta sa kanila ang pag-aari.

Sa press release pinabibilis na rin ni Antiporda, na siya ring Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns, ang proseso sa pamamahagi ng lupa sa pamamagitan ng pagaayos ng mga isyu ukol sa 20,100-square meter (sq. m.) na lote na matatagpuan sa Barangay Sta. Ana.

"I'm trying to fast track this, but of course, it should be within the bounds of the law. I look forward that by the next time we meet, it would already be for the awarding of titles. I even hope to have our very own President Duterte to award these titles," saad ni Antiporda sa ginanap na pulong sa pagitan ng land claimants at concerned government agencies noong Hunyo 1, 2021.

Sa ilalim lang ng termino ni Pangulong Duterte nabigyan ng atensyon ang kaso.

Dagdag ni Antiporda, nababahala si Environment Roy A. Cimat sa tagal ng delay at umaasang maayos ito sa lalong madaling panahon.

Sa nasabing pulong na ginanap sa DENR Central Office, inayos ni Antiporda ang isyu tungkol sa pagproseso ng land titling sa tulong na rin ng iba't-ibang tanggapan kabilang na ang DENR regional office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), lokal na pamahalaan ng Taytay at ng Samahang Masigasig Tapayan Homeowners Association, Inc. (SAMATHOA).

DENR target na maipamahagi ang land parcel sa Taytay sa termino ni PRRD

Ang naturang lupa ay bahagi ng 50,300-sq. m. na lote na inaapela para sa kanilang pag-aari ng matagal nang naninirahan sa Lupang Arenda na kung saan ay nakatupad na rin ang mga ito sa mga kinakailangang requirements at clearances para matituluhan ang lupa.

Kaugnay nito initalag din ni Antiporda sa ginanap na pulong ang “concerns” sa 20,100-sq. m. lot na sinertipikahan ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) na “above the reglementary 12.5-meter elevation at labas din ito sa shoreland ng Laguna Lake.

Sa ilalim ng residential free patent program, ang PENRO-Rizal ang naatasan na magproseso sa titling applications ng naturang lote para maipamahagi.

Samantala, inatasan din ni Antiporda ang PENRO-Rizal at SAMATHOA na magsumite ng ulat kada 15 araw sa progreso ng aksiyon o ng matutukoy na isyu para para sa monitoring at tulong ng kanyang komite.

Nangako naman si DENR-Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria na maglalaan ito ng technical assistance at oversight function sa kanyang field offices.

Sa ulat ni PENRO-Rizal Officer Ernesto Diso, Jr., mayroong 297 lote ang kabilang sa 20,100-sq. m. land parcel kung saan ay 101 na aplikasyon na may carpeta ang naisumite at nasuri na ng PENRO.

Ngunit sinabi pa nito na mayroon pang 196 na lote ang nakalaan para sa “application for the residential free patent.”

Pinaalalahanan din nito ang SAMATHOA na abisuhan ang kanilang mga miyembro na magsumite ng kanilang tax declaration para sa lupa na kanilang inuukupa dahil ito ang isa sa mga kailangan para sa pagtititulo ng lupa.

Samantla inatasan din ni Antiporda si Diso na iendorso ang SAMATHOA position paper para sa konsiderasyon ng land titling ng nalalabing 30,200-sq. m. sa DENR-Calabarzon. Santi Celario



Next mission: DENR focuses on cleaning PH oceans

Published June 26, 2021, 4:33 PM

by [Bethena Unite](#)

After the closure of all 335 open dumpsites nationwide, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is now shifting its focus to cleaning the country's oceans.



(Photo courtesy of the DENR)

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda on Saturday, June 26, urged Filipinos to take part in clean-up drives initiated for the country's oceans to protect marine resources from the growing problem of marine pollution.

"If every person throws a piece of candy wrapper in the ocean, after just a few months, we would lose our oceans. This is the simplest form of explanation to this growing problem," he said.

Marine pollution is one of the main reasons the DENR closed all illegally operating open dumpsites nationwide as it is in line with the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Antiporda, who is also the head of the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force, pointed out that one of the objectives of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program is to save the oceans.

"In cleaning Manila Bay, we have three objectives - to see is to believe, *dapat wala na tayong makikitang debris* (there should be no debris). Second, to smell is to believe - *dapat pag dumaan tayo diyan, ang simoy ng hangin ay amoy dagat na at hindi amoy kubeta* (when we pass by the bay, we must only the smell of the sea and fresh air), and third, to test is to believe - '*pag test natin ng water quality, dapat standard na siya* (the water quality must be at par with the standard)," he said.

The DENR also partnered with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG) to inspect marine vessels at the Navotas Fish Port and Del Pan Bridge on June 4.



Next mission: DENR focuses on cleaning PH oceans

During the inspection, the team noted that many of the vessels docked alongside the Manila Bay area were rusted. Floating debris were also seen in the area. To check possible chemical contamination and to assess the water quality, the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) took water samples from the site.

“Despite our campaign to clean our oceans, if the sea vessel operators will not help in this endeavor, we will not be able to clean it up,” added Antiporda.

He also met with the captains of the wooden cargo vessels known as batil to discuss the wastewater discharge from the vessels, and their solid waste management system. He likewise sought the support of the shipyard owners in addressing the pollution in Manila Bay.

“We are racing against time, and unless something is done and fast, then we could one day wake up and learn that we already lost our oceans and marine resources due to our neglect and irresponsibility. We need to take action now to save the environment,” Antiporda stressed.



Antiporda tututukan ang paglilinis sa karagatan bilang proteksyon sa marine resources



June 26, 2021 @ 4:45 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Matapos ang matagumpay na pagpapasara sa may 335 open dumpsites sa buong bansa hiniling ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda sa mga Pilipino na maging bahagi sa paglilinis ng mga karagatan ng bansa para maprotektahan ang ating mga marine resources.

Ginawa ni Antiporda ang pahayag matapos nitong pangunahan ang inorganisang clean-up drives para hikayatin ang pangangalaga sa karagatan at magsagawa ng kaukulang hakbang upang harapin ang suliranin na kinakaharap na polusyon sa karagatan.

“If every person throws a piece of candy wrapper in the ocean, after just a few months, we would lose our oceans. This is the simplest form of explanation to this growing problem,” ayon kay Antiporda.

Sa press release sinabi ng DENR na ang Marine pollution ang siyang pangunahing dahilan kung bakit isinara ng DENR ang mga illegal open dumpsites na nago-operate sa buong bansa habang isinasagawa ang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay.

Si Antiporda na siya rin head ng Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force, at binigyang diin ang pangunahing nito ay ang Manila Bay rehabilitation program, bilang pangunahing programa ng DENR, para sagipin ang karagatan.

“In cleaning Manila Bay, we have three objectives – to see is to believe, dapat wala na tayong makikitang debris. Second, to smell is to believe – dapat pag dumaan tayo diyan, ang simoy ng hangin ay amoy dagat na at hindi amoy kubeta, and third, to test is to believe – pag test natin ng water quality, dapat standard na siya,” dagdag pa nito.

Antiporda tututukan ang paglilinis sa karagatan bilang proteksyon sa marine resources

Sa kaugnay na ulat ang DENR katuwang ang Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) at Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG) ay ininspeksyon ang mga marine vessels sa Navotas Fish Port at Del Pan Bridge nitong nakalipas na Hunyo 4.

Sa isinagawang inspeksyon ang grupo ay nabatid na ang mga vessel na naka daong sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay area ay pawang may mga kalawang na. Habang ang ilang basura ay nasa lugar din. Para mabatid kung may posibleng chemical contamination sa lugar tinignan at sinuri ang water quality ng DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) matapos kumuha ng water samples sa lugar.

“Despite our campaign to clean our oceans, if the sea vessel operators will not help in this endeavor, we will not be able to clean it up,” dagdag pa ni Antiporda.

Nakadaupang palad din nito ang captains ng wooden cargo vessels na batil para ipaliwanag ang wastewater na itinatapon ng barko at ang kanilang solid waste management system. Hiniling din nito ang suporta ng may-ari ng barko para tumulong sa pag-address ng polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Bukod sa inspection sa Manila Bay area, pinangunahan din ni Antiporda ang online learning events mula May 26 hanggang 29 bilang selebrasyon ng Month of the Ocean (MOO). (santi celario)



Bataan, DENR boost bamboo propagation

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

Published 1 day ago
on June 26, 2021 02:30 AM
By [Jonas Reyes](#)



HERMOSA, BATAAN — To help protect the waters and coastal areas of Manila Bay, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon and the local government unit (LGU) here partnered to propagate more bamboo species while establishing a 1.7 hectare bambusetum and bamboo nursery.

DENR executive director Paquito Moreno Jr. said that the planned bamboo nursery and bambusetum will help boost the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay while stabilizing the riverbanks around it.

He added that the propagation of bamboo is in support of the marching order of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to plant and use bamboo as priority species to rehabilitate riverbanks and the Manila Bay.

Moreno said that the agency and the LGU have already planted some 30 propagules of Yellow bamboo in the closed sanitary landfill in Barangay Mambog in Hermosa town.

"We are eyeing the planting of another 950 propagules of Giant Bamboo, Yellow bamboo, Budda belly bamboo, Kawayan tinik, Kawayan killing and Bayog species.

These species are a potential source of engineered bamboo and as planting material to control soil erosion, stabilize river banks and rehabilitate degraded areas," Moreno said.



Bataan, DENR boost bamboo propagation

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

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



DENR-Central Luzon joins Bataan town in bamboo propagation



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Luzon led by executive director Paquito Moreno, Jr., partnered on June 23, 2021 with the local government unit of Hermosa in Bataan to propagate bamboo species and establish a 1.7-hectare bambusetum and bamboo nursery to further help boost the rehabilitation of Manila Bay and to stabilize river banks. (Photo courtesy of DENR)

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

June 26, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon led by executive director Paquito Moreno, Jr., partnered with the local government unit (LGU) of Hermosa in Bataan to propagate bamboo species and establish a 1.7-hectare bambusetum and bamboo nursery to further help boost the rehabilitation of Manila Bay and to stabilize river banks last June 23, 2021.

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

The DENR and LGU Hermosa have also initially planted some 30 propagules of yellow bamboo in the closed sanitary landfill in Barangay Mambog in Hermosa town.

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

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



4,000 mangroves planted in Macabebe town



More than 4,000 mangrove propagules covering two hectares were planted in the coastal waters of Barangay Consuelo in Macabebe town to strengthen the protection of marine ecosystem and help boost the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, and as part of the celebration of Arbor Day and Environment Month. (Photo courtesy of DENR)

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

June 26, 2021

MORE than 4,000 mangrove propagules covering two hectares were planted on June 26, 2021 in the coastal waters of Barangay Consuelo in Macabebe town, Pampanga, in a bid to strengthen the protection of marine ecosystem and help boost the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, and in line with the celebration of Philippine Arbor Day and Philippine Environment Month this year.

Laudemir Salac, head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) provincial office in Pampanga said, mangrove species are important component of coastal environment because it served as spawning and breeding ground of fishes, mollusks, shrimps, crabs and other marine life.

"Mangrove can provide numerous benefits like food and livelihood. It also acts as natural barrier against strong typhoons and storm surge that enable to protect our coastal communities," he explained.

He added that the mangrove planting event was a collaboration between the DENR regional office, the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Pampanga, the local government of Macabebe, the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) and the Society of Filipino Forester Incorporated (SFFI)- Pampanga Chapter.

"Restoring our environment is a challenging task that needs the active participation of every individual. That is why collaboration with the different stakeholders of the environment is vital to bring positive changes in our environment," he said, adding that the establishment of mangrove forest is vital in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.



4,000 mangroves planted in Macabebe town

Earlier, the DENR-PENRO Pampanga has also planted some 200 seedlings of fruit-bearing species within the 3,706-hectare Mount Arayat National Park in Magalang, Pampanga in a bid to increase the forest cover in the province.

Philippine Arbor Day is celebrated throughout the country every 25th of June under Proclamation No. 643 of 2004 by planting of trees and ornamental plants to restore the ecosystem and combat the loss of natural resources.



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DENR Penro Bukidnon is with Yam Cajes Omas-as Eluna and Basong Julie Fe.

June 25 at 5:25 PM · 🌐

Proclamation No. 396 dated June 2, 2003 declaring every 25th of June as Philippine Arbor Day to be observed throughout the nation by planting trees. In line with the celebration, the Office spearheaded by ENR Ambassador Ms. Julie Fe Basong and selected DENR Personnel conducted a joint tree planting activity with Peoples Organization Kalasungay Ancestral Domain Agriculture Cooperative.

#TayoAngKalikasan

IATF Health protocol was strictly observed during the conduct of the activity.





Bulakenyos plant over 1,000 trees on National Arbor Day

Published June 26, 2021, 11:03 AM

by [Freddie Velez](#)

In observance of the National Arbor Day, Bulakenyos planted over 1,000 trees on Friday, June 25, in Barangay Camachin in the mountain town of Dona Remedios Trinidad.



Around 120 Bulakenyos join the Arbor Day Tree Planting and Growing Activity spearheaded by the Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office on Friday, June 25. More than 1,000 assorted fruit-bearing and forest trees were planted in Barangay Camachin, Dona Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan. (Photo courtesy of Bulacan Gov't / MANILA BULLETIN)

The activity dubbed as Arbor Day Tree Planting and Growing Activity was spearheaded by the provincial government of Bulacan through the Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO).

More than a hundred Bulakenyos planted assorted seedlings of Guyabano, Langka, Lanzones, Rambutan, and forest trees.

In his message, Gov. Daniel R. Fernando highlighted the importance of cooperation and unity between the government and its people in terms of conserving the environment and natural resources.

"Ang inyo pong lingkod, katuwang ang BENRO ay nakatuon sa pag-aalaga ng ating kalikasan at kaisa ng bawat mamamayan sa patuloy na pag-iingat at pagtanim ng mga puno at halaman. Dahil nga po sa nililimitahan lamang natin ang pagkakaroon ng malaking pagtitipon, ako po ay nanawagan na kahit sa kani-kanilang bakuran o kapaligiran ay maging aktibo ang lahat sa pakikilahok sa ganitong mga gawain," Fernando said.

Meanwhile, BENRO division head Atty. Julius Victor Degala emphasized the importance of trees in people's survival.



Bulakenyos plant over 1,000 trees on National Arbor Day

“Napakahalaga po ng Arbor Day dahil ipinaalala nito sa atin na kinakailangang palitan po natin ang mga punong kahoy na nawala. At hindi po nagtatapos lamang sa pagtanim ng punong kahoy, kailangang siguraduhin nating lumaki ang mga punong kahoy na ito upang magbigay sa atin ng oxygen,” (Arbor Day is vital because it reminds us to replace the lost trees. And we will not only plant trees, we need to make sure to grow these trees in order to give us oxygen),” Degala said.



Soil conservation month celebrated through tree planting



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Agriculture-Regional Soils Laboratory (DA-RSL) marks the observance of the Soils Conservation Month this June with a tree planting activity Friday, June 25, 2021 at the agency's research station in La Paz village, this city. A photo handout shows the DA-RSL personnel head to the tree planting site bringing with them Canella Cinamon tree seedlings. (SunStar Zamboanga)

June 26, 2021

THE Department of Agriculture-Regional Soils Laboratory (DA-RSL) marked the observance of the Soils Conservation Month with a tree planting activity.

The tree planting activity was held on June 25, 2021 at the agency's research station in La Paz village, Zamboanga City.

During the activity, canella cinnamon trees were planted with the support of the DA-Integrated Laboratories Division (ILD) and La Paz Research Station.

DA-RSL chief Maria Gemma Genaldo said that the celebration of the Soil Conservation Month is observed every June and spearheaded by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM).

Genaldo said that through tree planting, the soil increases its capability to absorb and retain water, which in return supplies the nutrients needed for the plants and food crops to grow.

"We appeal to all to learn the importance of soil conservation management as it is the very essence in sustaining our food production. Trees also help improve soil quality, as they do save our environment," Genaldo said.

She added that the tree planting activity was also timely since June 25 is Philippine Arbor Day.



Soil conservation month celebrated through tree planting

This year's Soil Conservation Month is anchored on the theme "Conserving soil together: A key to land restoration and recovery." (SunStar Zamboanga)



Ilocos Norte lauds ranger officers for forest rehab efforts

[June 25, 2021](#) 2 min read



LAOAG CITY – The province of Ilocos Norte has lauded the efforts of its barangay ranger officers (BROs) for safeguarding its upland forest and watersheds.

Running for eight years now, the provincial government, through its Environment and Natural Resources Office, has sustained its local greening program particularly in ensuring the upkeep of the so-called “Green Wall” of Ilocos Norte that spans around 8,000 hectares of forest lands and watersheds in the municipalities of Solsona, Marcos, Nueva Era, Dingras, Vintar and the cities of Batac and Laoag City.

Parts of it can be accessed through bike and other four-wheeled vehicles, which serves as added highway and eco-tourism attractions of Ilocos Norte especially in this time of the pandemic.

According to Community Development officer Estrella “Baby” Sacro, they can not thank enough the barangay ranger officers (BRO) who are responsible for planting and growing thousands of forest tree seedlings and fruit-bearing trees in these areas.

With a minimum salary of PHP3,000 a month, hundreds of them are deployed up in the mountains to plant more trees and at the same time, guard the area from various threats.

On Thursday, at least 65 of them came down and went to the Capitol to receive their stipends, which were personally handed to them by Governor Matthew Joseph Manotoc.

Each of them receives PHP12,000 which accounts for their salary from January to April.

“Our BROs are responsible for preventing forest fires, planting fruit and tree seedlings as well as in ensuring a high survival rate of the plants through applying fertilizers and safeguarding the watershed,” said Sacro in an interview Friday.

The program of recruiting BROs is also meant for job-generating purposes.



Ilocos Norte lauds ranger officers for forest rehab efforts

Sacro said that aside from their cash allowances, they can also grow some root crops such as ginger, taro, and sweet potatoes which they can sell to sustain their family needs.

Under Governor Matthew Joseph Manotoc's leadership, the hiring of more BROs for every town is a priority program to address and find solutions for various climate change issues in the province such as landslides and frequent droughts. (PNA)



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Masungi Georeserve

13h · 🌐



LOOK: DILG and PNP join the joint mission to the site of the illegal activities and encroachments in the watershed. DILG Asst. Secretary for peace and order Manuel B. Felix and Rizal Police Director Joseph Arguelles inspected the site after threats were made by the perpetrators of a recently closed illegal resort development ("GSB") to forest rangers. Their alliance with a professional squatting syndicate and certain dubious "priests" who are known to misrepresent the Catholic religion and promote illegal occupation inside the protected area have also been uncovered.

The DILG under Secretary Eduardo M. Año is one of the agencies that has vowed for intensified forest protection in the wake of the devastations caused by typhoon Ulysses. The same agency led the arrest of the professional squatting syndicate in San Mateo, Rizal in December 2020.

The joint mission was attended by representatives from the youth, indigenous, media, government, and environment sectors to promote truth and a common understanding of the challenges of our watershed. 🔍

[#SaveOurWatershed](#) [#ReforestNow](#)





'Tree massacre' natuklasan sa kagubatan ng Upper Marikina Watershed

By [Bombo Christian Yosores](#)

-June 27, 2021 | 12:02 AM



IMAGE | Masungi Georeserve Foundation

MANILA – Halos hindi na makilala ang isang bahagi ng kagubatan ng Upper Marikina Watershed sa Rizal dahil sa labis na pamumutol at pagsunog sa mga punung-kahoy.

Isiniwalat ng environmental conservation organization na Masungi Georeserve ang “tree massacre” na sinapit ng isang bahagi ng kagubatan.

“Inspecting a site of recent burnings, we saw what hell on earth might look like: scores of young trees cut down, multiple new structures and outsiders installed, large tracts of the protected area illegally burned and cleared. We were gutted,” nakasaad sa [online post](#) ng foundation.

Noong [Abril](#) nang matuklasan ng Masungi Georeserve ang mga insidente ng panununog sa isang bahagi ng watershed.

Sa ginawa raw nilang documentation kamakailan, natuklasan nila ang grupo ng mga nagpakilalang magsasaka na nasa likod ng mga panununog.

“We know from experience that transplanting people and using various dummies as fronts is a common tactic used by vested interests to occupy forest land.”

Gayunpaman, hindi kumbinsido ang organisasyon sa pakilala ng mga magsasaka dahil sa parehong bahagi ng kagubatan daw dineploy ng dalawang pribadong kompanya ang ilang armadong guwardiya noong nakaraang taon.

“Rublou Inc. and Green Atom Renewable Energy Corp. have installed armed guards since October 2020 without any proof of ownership or authority from the DENR.”



'Tree massacre' natuklasan sa kagubatan ng Upper Marikina Watershed

Ini-report na ng Masungi Georeserve sa mga otoridad ang insidente.

Habang hinihintay ang aksyon ng mga ahensya, nagtayo ng dagdag na checkpoint ang grupo sa paligid ng watershed para maharang ang mga magtatangkang mang-angkin at manira ng kagubatan.

"Persistent environmental violators must be immediately removed and barred from the critical watershed and protected area, which by law should be free from human exploitation."

Nagsisilbing "larger ecosystem" ng conservation area na Masungi Georeserve ang Upper Marikina Watershed.

Malaki rin ang papel na ginagampanan ng watershed para hindi malubog sa baha at iba pang kalamidad ang malaking bahagi ng Metro Manila.

"Why should we care? Because the watershed is our only natural defense against disastrous flooding, scorching heat, the loss of clean water, and the extinction of our unique wildlife."

Noong Martes nang magsagawa ng hiwalay na documentation mission ang Department of the Interior and Local Government at Philippine National Police sa isa pang bahagi ng watershed kung saan naman naitala ang mga itinayong illegal resort.

Kung maaalala, iniulat din ng Masungi Georeserve ang pananakot sa kanilang volunteers ng mga nagtatayo ng iligal na establisyemento sa lugar.

"Their alliance with a professional squatting syndicate and certain dubious "priests" who are known to misrepresent the Catholic religion and promote illegal occupation inside the protected area have also been uncovered."



Manila Bay reclamation halted

posted June 27, 2021 at 12:40 am

by [Manila Standard](#)

President Rodrigo Duterte said he rejected proposals of private companies to conduct massive land reclamation activities in Manila Bay because of corruption issues.

Duterte said the processing of thousands of applications for reclamation projects in Manila Bay was stopped.

"You know, for the planned reclamation in Manila Bay, thousands have applied. But because of the corruption that I heard early last year, there's no more processing of papers. I had it stopped," he said.

Duterte did not specify the companies embroiled in corrupt activities but hinted they earned "lots of money" in the reclamation proposals.

"I told you, do not give money to the people in government. If I know that you have given even a single centavo, I will throw your application to the wastebasket. And I have done that and I am doing it every day so they will shape up," he added.

In February last year, Duterte said he may only consider government-related reclamation projects at Manila Bay, adding the private sector can wait for his successor to pitch their proposed projects.

Nearly 10,000 hectares of Manila Bay from Navotas City to Cavite were supposed to be included in 25 reclamation projects.

Duterte earlier said the proposed Manila Bay reclamation projects will "choke the entire Manila."

"Not in my time. If you allow one, you have to allow all. If I allow that, I will choke Manila. The entire City of Manila will be put in peril," the President said last year.

"Manila is an old city. It will decay if you add so many things in front of Manila Bay," he added.



Duterte ipinatigil ang reclamation projects sa Manila Bay dahil sa korapsyon

By [Malou Escudero](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- June 27, 2021 - 12:00am



Sa talumpati ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kamakalawa sa Camp Crame, Quezon City, sinabi nito na libu-libo ang aplikasyon para sa Manila Bay reclamation pero ipinahinto niya dahil sa korapsiyon.
The STAR/Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — Inamin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na korapsiyon ang dahilan kaya niya ipinatigil ang mga reclamation projects sa Manila Bay.

Sa talumpati ni Duterte kamakalawa sa Camp Crame, Quezon City, sinabi nito na libu-libo ang aplikasyon para sa Manila Bay reclamation pero ipinahinto niya dahil sa korapsiyon.

Dahil aniya sa mga nahintong proyekto, maraming malalaking kompanya ang nawalan ng pera o na-delay ang proyekto.

"That is what I said. I told you do not give money to the people in government. If I know that you have given them even a single centavo, I will throw your application to the wastebasket. And I have done that and I'm doing it every day para talaga magtino ito," ani Duterte.

Ayon pa kay Duterte maraming tao na ang pinatalsik niya sa puwesto at minsan ay isinisiwalat pa niya ang pangalan ng mga ito.



Reclamation projects sa Manila Bay pinatigil ni Duterte dahil sa korapsyon

By [Malou Escudero](#)(Pang-Masa)
- June 27, 2021 - 12:00am



Sa talumpati ni Duterte kamakalawa sa Camp Crame sa Quezon City, sinabi nito na libu-libong aplikasyon para sa Manila Bay reclamation pero ipinahinto niya dahil sa korapsyon.
Edd Gumban/File

MANILA, Philippines — Mismong si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang umamin na korapsyon ang dahilan kaya niya ipinatigil ang mga reclamation projects sa Manila Bay.

Sa talumpati ni Duterte kamakalawa sa Camp Crame sa Quezon City, sinabi nito na libu-libong aplikasyon para sa Manila Bay reclamation pero ipinahinto niya dahil sa korapsyon.

"If it's a big one... You know itong sa Maynila na Manila Bay na reclamation, thousands have applied but because of the corruption that I have heard early last year, there's no more processing of papers for... Hininto ko," ani Duterte.

Dahil aniya sa mga nahintong proyekto, maraming malalaking kumpanya ang nawalan ng pera o na-delay ang proyekto. Ipinaalala nito na huwag magbibigay ng pera sa mga tao sa gobyerno dahil itatapon lang niya ang aplikasyon sa basurahan.



Corruption issues force PRRD to halt reclamation projects

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos June 25, 2021, 9:18 pm



BEAUTY. The Manila Bay after a rainy afternoon on June 2, 2021, with workers continuing the beautification project, was caught on camera by Aerielle Maerie B. Del Rosario. The photograph titled "After the Rain" is Del Rosario's entry to the Manila Bay Urban Rivers photography contest. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-NCR)*

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte revealed Friday that he thumbed down the proposals of private companies to conduct massive land reclamation activities in Manila Bay because of corruption issues.

In a speech delivered at Camp Crame in Quezon City, Duterte said the processing of thousands of applications for reclamation projects in Manila Bay was stopped due to corruption.

"You know, *itong sa Manila Bay na* reclamation (the planned reclamation in Manila Bay), thousands have applied. But because of the corruption that I've heard early last year, there's no more processing of papers. *Hininto ko* (I stopped it)," he said.

Duterte did not specify the companies embroiled in corrupt activities, but hinted they earned "lots of money" in the reclamation proposals.

He said he would not allow firms to bribe government officials in exchange for preferential treatment.

"It has caused the big companies lots of money just for delayed projects," he said. "I told you, do not give money to the people in government. If I know that you have given even a single centavo, I will throw your application to the wastebasket. And I have done that and I am doing it everyday *para talagang magtino ito* (so this government will be free of corruption)."

In February 2020, Duterte said he may only consider government-related reclamation projects at Manila Bay. He added the private sector can wait for his successor to pitch their proposed reclamation activities.



Corruption issues force PRRD to halt reclamation projects

Nearly 10,000 hectares of Manila Bay from Navotas City to Cavite were supposed to be included in 25 reclamation projects.

In December 2019, Philippine Reclamation Authority General Manager Joselito Gonzales said at least four reclamation projects have been approved — Navotas City Coastal Bay Reclamation Project, Pasay 360-Hectare Reclamation Project, Pasay 265-Hectare Reclamation Project, and the Horizon Manila 418-Hectare Reclamation Project.

The projects must still undergo value engineer approval before they begin. *(PNA)*



'No to BIDA' tarps spread around Boracay

The local government of Malay is also invoking the local government code to strongly oppose the passage of BIDA law as a GOCC.



Published 1 day ago
on June 26, 2021 02:30 AM
By [Jun Aguirre](#)



BORACAY Island, Malay Aklan — The proposed measure seeking to create a Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) last year is being met with fierce opposition as tarpaulins bearing "No to BIDA" sprouted around this resort island.

This developed after both the committee on government enterprise and privatization and the committee on good local government in Congress jointly approved the BIDA bill which aimed to place Boracay under the Government Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC).

In President Rodrigo Duterte's State of the Nations Address last year, he called on Congress to pass a law that will oversee the management of this resort island to ensure environmental sustainability.

Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores said that they support the BIDA Law only if it is for regulatory purposes and not as a government controlled body.

For his part, Provincial Board Member Jay Tejada said that the Sanguniang Panlalawigan of Aklan along with several stakeholders in Aklan oppose the GOCC concept of the BIDA Law.

"The BIDA as a GOCC concept has been patterned to that of the creation of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. But the situation of Subic is different from Boracay," Tejada said.

The local government of Malay is also invoking the local government code to strongly oppose the passage of BIDA law as a GOCC.

The tarpaulins here were installed by a group which call themselves the One Boracay Movement. The tarpaulins were placed at the front beach, passenger boats, jetty ports, residential houses and business establishments.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/06/26/no-to-bida-tarps-spread-around-boracay/>



Coral restoration in Marinduque begins



[BYS&T MEDIA SERVICE](#)

JUNE 27, 2021

2 MINUTE READ



Deployment and planting of coral fragments in coral nursery units with the support of fisherfolk in Barangay Tungib-Lipata, Buenavista.

The Department of Science and Technology has collaborated with the provincial government of Marinduque, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), local government units and their fisherfolk to deploy coral transplantation technology off the coast of Buenavista, Marinduque, the DOST said in a news release.

This is the first large-scale restoration effort in the Mimaropa region that seeks to reverse reef degradation and improve the productivity of marine resources.

Ten coral nursery units (CNU) were placed in the Marine Protected Areas of Tungib-Lipata in Buenavista on June 10 and 11, while another 10 CNU were established in Poctoy, Torrijos, on June 22 and 23.

CNU are used to facilitate the growth of the asexually reproduced corals or live coral fragments—also known as the “corals of opportunity” (COPs)—dislodged from a colony through the natural process of fragmentation.

CNU are set up 25 feet underwater with each CNU designed to hold 500 COPs per batch several times a year.

The technology was developed by the University of San Carlos under the “Filipinnovation on Coral Reef Restoration Program” of the DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development.



Coral restoration in Marinduque begins

In 2018, the DOST-Mimaropa initiated the assessment of coral reef areas in Marinduque through the adoption of the Automated Rapid Reef Assessment System (Arras) that successfully generated a comprehensive report and maps of the coral reef and seagrasses.

Arras is a program for coral reef monitoring developed by the University of the Philippines Diliman and funded by the DOST.

The long-term monitoring project revealed that major areas in the province have no live coral cover due to siltation and sedimentation along the coast. Hence, a high priority for management and protection was recommended for these degraded areas.

For a holistic approach to address the problem, DOST-Mimaropa collaborated with different stakeholders, including government agencies and communities.

The provincial offices of the BFAR and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources conducted their monitoring and evaluation to provide pertinent data for the project and processed the necessary permits.

Meanwhile, the provincial government of Marinduque and Marinduque State College engaged experts to install, monitor and maintain these CNUs and covered training expenses.

DOST-Mimaropa led in procuring and deploying the CNUs, provided technical diving experts, conducted periodic monitoring and evaluation of the coral's growth and survivorship and conducted forum and other awareness activities.

It also ensured that communities were involved in the activities—from planting the coral fragments to setting up the CNUs.

The office plans to deploy the technology to six other municipalities in Marinduque by the end of July.

S&T Media Service



Man-made reefs do more harm than good to oceans



[BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

JUNE 27, 2021

5 MINUTE READ



Failed artificial reef and coral gardening projects show fragments of abandoned dead corals.

Ocean conservation advocate and divemaster Danny Ocampo is appalled by the sight of plastic waste every time he takes a dive in Anilao, a famous dive spot in the town of Mabini in Batangas.

Ocampo, together with his fellow dive enthusiasts, makes it a point to pick up trash, mostly single-use plastics on the ocean floor, as part of their diving and sightseeing activities.

“But what [are we] to do with garbage?” he asked.

Ocampo refers to the wreckages or remnants of failed artificial reef and coral gardening projects that he finds on the ocean floor, which end up polluting the coastal and marine environment in the Philippines.

On his Facebook post to celebrate World Oceans Day on June 8, Ocampo shared the photos he took from his past dives, expressing dismay over what he calls the creeping garbage of man-made reefs.

Man-made reefs

An artificial reef is a man-made structure deployed in the ocean to mimic the functions and characteristics of a natural reef.

In the Philippines, the deployment of artificial reefs or artificial habitats aims to address the decline in fish production by allowing the natural regeneration and recolonization of degraded coral reefs and their environment.



Man-made reefs do more harm than good to oceans

Coral gardening, meanwhile, is a method of regenerating corals by transplanting live coral fragments either over the surface of a natural structure such as rocks or degraded reefs, or man-made structures deployed for the purpose. It also aims to provide another tourist attraction in the oceans.

Feel-good projects

According to Ocampo, diving resorts offer artificial reef and coral gardening projects in their tour packages for foreign and local tourists, which they consider a way of bringing back to life the country's degraded coastal and marine environment.

"[These tourists] feel good leaving behind something, but after a year this is what happens," Ocampo told the BusinessMirror in an interview over Zoom on June 20.

"These projects are supposed to have permits from the government. Some are even implemented together with the BFAR [Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources], Philippine Navy, and [Philippine] Coast Guard," he lamented.

Fad since the 70s

Dr. Wilfredo Y. Licuanan, founding director of the Br. Alfred Shields FSC Ocean Research Center of the De La Salle University (DLSU), said artificial reef or artificial habitat projects became widespread in the 1970s up to the 1980s.

This period saw old tires, and even old cars, dropped on the ocean floors to provide artificial homes to fish or as replacements to coral reefs damaged by destructive fishing methods.

He also said that even old ships were sunk to provide an artificial habitat for fish and other marine life—an old practice but not a very good idea.

Reef heals itself

"One of the things we point out why it's not a good idea is, in most cases, it is best to just allow the reef to heal itself," he said.

A full professor at the DLSU Biology Department, Licuanan explained that similar projects commonly shown on social media are not addressing the reason why the reefs are dying to begin with.

"If the factors that kill the corals are still there, gathering the corals in one place makes them more likely to die because they are not normally transferred," he said.

Licuanan noted that there is a joint order that provides the guidelines for the establishment and management of artificial reefs in the Philippines, referring to the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Agriculture and National Defense Memorandum 2000-01.

According to Licuanan, artificial reefs and coral gardening should require special permits from the local mayor and BFAR.

The regulation was put in place because these artificial reef and coral gardening projects, which were borne out of the goodness of people, lack the much-needed science, he said.



Man-made reefs do more harm than good to oceans

However, these guidelines were not implemented or followed, resulting in failed projects, including those implemented by communities without the guidance of concerned authorities and experts in related fields of science.

Different reef species

Many believe that what they see on social media could be replicated anywhere else, but “they need to realize that there are different species of reefs,” Licuanan said.

The Philippines has, by conservative estimate, about 600 species of reefs, while other areas have no more than 50 coral species.

“This is the big difference,” he said.

Another difference is that rich countries such as the US can spend money on reefs, but this is “not realistic for low- or middle-income countries like the Philippines.”

In a Department of Science and Technology-funded project, Licuanan undertook a nationwide assessment of the coral reefs in the Philippines and found that they are in a worst state.

“Zero percent of the country’s coral reefs are in excellent condition,” he said.

Extensive study needed

For coral reef and coral gardening projects to succeed, Licuanan said there should be an extensive study on where an artificial reef can be deployed, stay in place and not easily destroyed by ocean current, especially during strong typhoons. It should also determine which coral species can be used in coral gardening for a particular area.

“Because of the huge number of species here in the Philippines, even experts have difficulty identifying them, so that’s already a problem,” he said.

When the wrong coral species is placed beside another species, one of them tends to die due to competition for essential nutrients, food and space.

Alarming trend

According to Licuanan, there is reason to be alarmed when an increasing number of resorts with diving schools or offer diving as an attraction includes artificial reef and coral gardening project as part of a tour package.

He noted that some resort owners who have the capacity to finance such projects—without consulting the experts—may exploit the good intention of people.

In coral gardening, for instance, he noted that some fishermen tapped by these resorts tend to gather live coral fragments by cutting them off from healthy corals and offering them as “corals of opportunity” to be transplanted by tourists.



Man-made reefs do more harm than good to oceans

Reef monitoring

Licuanan said that, to help protect and conserve these corals, activities should be limited and communities should be empowered to help in reef monitoring.

Reef monitoring, he said, will enable concerned authorities to know in advance which reefs, natural or man-made, are exposed to serious threats, and can then introduce measures to reduce stress to the threatened corals. This is particularly helpful in case of ocean warming that cause coral bleaching.

“Monitoring provides us early warning. We can identify the areas [where corals are] prone to bleaching as opposed to areas [where] corals recover that are not experiencing bleaching at all. That way, we can do something about it,” he said.

For his part, Ocampo appealed to resort owners and fellow divers to organize activities to help protect and conserve the corals, such as monitoring various threats to them.

Besides coral bleaching, divers can also undertake activities that will address, if not prevent, the outbreak of crown-of-thorns starfish that can extensively damage and even wipe out an entire coral reef in a matter of days.

More important, he said, is for dive resorts, dive instructors and divers themselves to discourage artificial reef and coral gardening projects that tend to do more harm than good to the coastal and marine environment.



Nestlé PH intensifies info drive against plastic waste



[BYBUSINESSMIRROR](#)

JUNE 27, 2021

2 MINUTE READ



Nestlé Philippines (Nestlé PH) has intensified its information drive to help address the plastic waste crisis in the country, its news release said.

The Philippines ranks third among the world's largest sources of ocean plastic waste, considered one of the "greatest environmental challenges today," according to the statement.

"As a food and beverage manufacturing company, Nestlé Philippines is committed to tackle plastic waste as an urgent priority in all stages of its value chain," Nestlé PH SVP and public affairs, communications and sustainability head Arlene Tan-Bantoto said.

"We are also working to drive new understanding and behavior on waste and waste management and support both our consumers and employees in their efforts to live a more sustainable lifestyle," Tan-Bantoto said.

During the World Oceans Day celebration, Nestlé PH launched "Isabuhay sa Bahay" challenge for its employees who want to take an active role in helping care for the planet by accomplishing different tasks.

Through the initiative, the company and its employees would strengthen their promise to the planet, which they made during the Net Zero Fair in April.

To prepare for the challenge, employees attended a training-workshop with Anna Oposa, executive director and chief mermaid of Save Philippine Seas.

The workshop discussed "zero-waste lifestyle tips, an introduction to segregation, and composting of three important areas" to help them practice responsible solid waste management at home.



Nestlé PH intensifies info drive against plastic waste

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

The session participants learned practical ways to cut down waste at home; the importance of segregation and the types of waste that fall under the recyclable, residual, and biodegradable categories; and the methods and benefits of composting.

But more than just practicing these home activities, Oposa encouraged them to extend their efforts to the community.

She said they can support sustainability efforts of corporations and organizations by reaching out to people in authority when needed and influencing others by example.

Nestlé PH is “addressing the complex challenge of plastic waste” with the support of key sectors and partners, including consumers.

For a waste-free future to become a reality, the company engaged in efforts that encourage behavioral change.

These include the development of solid-waste management education modules endorsed by the National Solid Waste Management Commission.

The modules were given out to thousands of public schools for Grades 1 to 10 students through Nestlé’s partnership with the Department of Education under the Nestlé Wellness Campus program.

Condensed versions of the modules were also made available to parents and teens for home use.

In partnership with Plastic Credit Exchange, Nestlé has also established plastic waste collection points at SM Mall of Asia, SM North Edsa and SM Fairview.



'State of emergency' eyed for trash woes

By [Caecent No-ot Magsumbol](#) (The Freeman)

- June 27, 2021 - 12:00am



"In just a few weeks serving as acting mayor of Cebu, I have come to realize the sorry state of our garbage disposal. This is truly a cause of concern, not only of the Cebu City government but the whole citizenry of the City," Rama said in a press conference at the Cebu City Hall's Social Hall yesterday.

STAR/File

CEBU, Philippines — Acting Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama is contemplating on declaring a state of emergency or calamity in Barangay Inayawan to address the "sorry state" of the city's garbage disposal system.

But Inayawan barangay captain Kirk Bryan Repollo said such declaration will be useless if politics will come in the way.

"In just a few weeks serving as acting mayor of Cebu, I have come to realize the sorry state of our garbage disposal. This is truly a cause of concern, not only of the Cebu City government but the whole citizenry of the City," Rama said in a press conference at the Cebu City Hall's Social Hall yesterday.

The problem at hand is that the garbage collected from different barangays in Cebu City end up being stalled at the transfer station in Inayawan because the contracted garbage hauler of the city has been refused to dump at a landfill in Binaliw due to its supposed financial obligations.

Docast ready to settle?

Rama is bent on having the city government and the civil society acting as one to address the problem in Inayawan first.

"Last Wednesday, I visited the transfer station in Barangay Inayawan. Mind you, the situation there is beyond comprehension. Piles of garbage can be found everywhere and the stench is unbearable causing so much inconvenience and threat to the health of over 6,000 households within the area," he said.



'State of emergency' eyed for trash woes

Apart from the threat to the health of residents, Rama also took notice of the road condition in Inayawan that, he said, added injury to the situation.

John Javier, general manager of DOCAST, denied that its firm has P18 million in unpaid dues to the landfill operator ARN Waste Management Inc. He said he was even ready to settle things with the latter but was allegedly not allowed to enter ARN's office.

DOCAST does not have its own transfer station for the north and south districts. Neither Javier nor Department of Public Services (DPS) head John Jigo Dacua commented on this matter.

Dacua said that though he was part of the Bids and Awards Committee, he was not in a position to speak on the committee's behalf. He promised that DPS will continue to serve the Cebuanos.

For his part, Acting Vice Mayor Donald Hontiveros has also expressed his full support to address the city's garbage problem and is willing to form a task force in the City Council to this end.

He said a series of meetings are taking place already to address the situation in Inayawan but he is also open to the possibility of declaring a state of emergency or a state of calamity in Inayawan if needed.

Fell on deaf ears?

Meanwhile, Repollo said that he had long lobbied for the fixing of the road leading to the transfer station in Inayawan but the request appeared to have fallen on deaf ears.

"If only our concern had been addressed when I raised the road condition in 2019 after I appeared in the city council session. If DPS is just fully conversant (or if they have knowledge but they just turned a blind eye) on the terms of reference in the bidding documents for the bidding for the private hauler and if only the Cebu City government had not been too focused in trying to politicize Barangay Inayawan in the hope of paralyzing me as the barangay captain, then there should have been no need to declare a state of emergency or calamity," Repollo lamented.

Repollo also aired his gripe over the Mayor's Information and Liaison Office (MILO) of Inayawan which has a "direct line" to the Office of the Mayor.

"What had they been doing? If, indeed, they would pursue the declaration of a state of emergency or calamity, would they stop politicking the services? Would they coordinate with the barangay and not on their useless MILO?" he said.

Repollo said declaring a state of emergency or calamity will just be a waste of funds if the current administration will politicize the situation.

"But they should just make sure that whatever funds will be released, it should be properly accounted for. There should be itemization and cost of the scope of the declaration and proper liquidation later because I don't want that Barangay Inayawan be used as a possible money-making venture by anyone," said Repollo.

Repollo earlier filed a complaint against Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella and Department of Public Services (DPS) head John Jigo Dacua before the Office of the Ombudsman due to uncollected garbage in his barangay but Labella labeled it as a "cheap shot." —JMD (FREEMAN)

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2021/06/27/2108428/state-emergency-eyed-trash-woes/amp/>



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GO Bulacan

15h · 🌐



BULACAN AIRPORT HAS BEEN GIVEN AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE OF DENR

On June 24, San Miguel Corporation announced that they were officially given the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the Bulacan Airport being made in Bulakan, Bulacan.

In the hands of San Miguel Aerocity Inc. ECC from DENR for their airport in Bulakan, Bulacan.

On June 1, it will be remembered that the Environmental Management Bureau of Central Luzon of ECC took an issue in DENR to complete the necessary documents for the P740 billion airport project of San Miguel Corp. A copy of this document was only made public on June 24.

According to EMB Central Luzon Director, Wilson Trajeco, having an ECC ensures that the project will follow the safety steps of the Environmental Impact Statement Study (EIS), with the goal of protecting the health of the community, and nurture the nature.

On the other hand, environmental groups and experts disagree with the construction of the said airport even though it has been granted by ECC.

Source: Gaea Katreena Cabico (PhilStar) / Arjay L. Balinbin (BusinessWorld)

📺: CNN

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**BULACAN AIRPORT HAS BEEN GIVEN AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE
CERTIFICATE OF DENR**



**BULACAN AIRPORT, NABIGYAN NA NG
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE NG
DENR**

Noong Hunyo 24, isinapubliko na ng San Miguel Corporation na opisyal na silang nabigyan ng Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para sa pinapagawang Bulacan Airport sa Bulakan, Bulacan.

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KALAHI-CIDSS, RRP: How these DSWD programs addressed coastal, soil erosion in Siargao Island

Published June 26, 2021, 11:47 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has vowed to continue implementing programs that would strengthen community resilience to lessen the damages brought by climate change-induced disasters and calamities.



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

One of its programs seeking to mitigate the impacts of climate change is the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS) that benefits the residents of Barangay San Roque in the municipality of Pilar, one of the communities in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, affected by coastal erosion due to the rising sea water caused by global warming.

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

Through KALAHI-CIDSS, the San Roque residents were able to carry out a community project that would address coastal erosion in their area.

Using the community-driven development (CDD) strategy, KALAHI-CIDSS allows communities to gain control over decisions and resources.



KALAHI-CIDSS, RRP: How these DSWD programs addressed coastal, soil erosion in Siargao Island

"Through the program, community members actively participate to identify and prioritize their community's concerns and allow them to design, implement, and manage solutions to their priority problems," the DSWD said.

It was during the second cycle of the implementation of KALAHI-CIDSS in 2016 when the San Roque residents decided to pursue the construction of the 80-linear meter wharf that will serve as a barrier to the rising sea water and at the same time, will also be used as mini port and fish landing area.

The project, which started on June 9, 2016, has a budgetary requirement amounting to more than P1.27 million.

Through the collaboration of DSWD KALAHI-CIDSS, the municipal government of Pilar, the barangay local government of San Roque, and community volunteers, the wharf was immediately finished on August 17 of the same year, the DSWD cited.

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

Prior to the implementation of the project, San Roque barangay captain Nilda Gonzales recalled the plight of the residents, particularly the students, saying that "it's so hard here in the past. Students often get muddy [boarding a boat to school]."

"The wharf is such a huge defense against the seawater," she added.

The DSWD also implemented in 2020 its Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) that benefited the San Roque residents.

"The RRP, through the Cash-for-Work (RRP CFW) on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable families and communities by providing cash assistance and involving them in temporary employment activities that address climate and disaster risks," it said.

Under RRP, the residents were paid to build a stone wharf to address soil erosion in the area.

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



DOST to unveil 3 health research breakthroughs under DDR, climate change adaptation program

Published June 26, 2021, 11:25 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) announced Saturday, June 26, that it will unveil its three major health research projects under the disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRR-CCA) program of its Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD).



(DOST)

The three DRR-CCA projects will be presented during the second Talakayang HeaRT Beat (Health Research and Technology) of 2021 on Monday, June 28 via Zoom.

In a statement issued to the media on Saturday, the DOST said one of the completed DRR-CCA projects is the development of ready-to-eat food products for children aged one to five years old in response to nutrition and food security concerns during disaster events.

"This research developed emergency food products that will address age-appropriate nutrient requirements of children. Enriched with essential micronutrients, the ready to eat food products are developed to treat possible nutritional deficiencies and acute malnutrition of children in events of disaster," it said.

The second project that will be featured during the event is the development of microfluidic paper-based analytical devices (μ PADS) for the detection of diarrhea causing pathogens in water.

"After the onset of disasters, water-borne diseases like diarrhea are among the most documented outbreaks caused by poor water quality. Recognizing the importance of monitoring water quality,



DOST to unveil 3 health research breakthroughs under DDR, climate change adaptation program

this project developed a microfluidic paper-based analytical device or μ PADs that can detect diarrhea-causing pathogens by assessing the water-quality after disaster events," the DOST said.

"It uses the "lab-on-paper" concept which condenses the equipment, resources, personnel and time needed to obtain an accurate result," it added.

The development of Health Index and Vulnerability Reduction System for Region 4B (D-HIVE 4B Capital) will be the third project to be unveiled.

"To increase resiliency of island provinces in the country, this project developed the eSalba system, a web-based and mobile application that aids emergency responders in making absolute decision during disasters and helps prepare the local government unit of Region 4B in health monitoring, route planning, defining optimal evacuation policies and adaptation measures in events of disaster," the DOST said.

Included in the list of resource persons of the Talakayang HearT Beat are DOST Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña, DOST Undersecretary for Research and Development Rowena Cristina Guevara, DOST Undersecretary for S&T Services Renato Solidum, PCHRD Executive Director Jaime Montoya, and the DRR-CCA project leaders—Ms. Ma. Christina Ramos of Philippine Women's College of Davao, Dr. Lori Shayne Busa of Nueva Viscaya State University, and Dr. Delia B. Senoro of Mapua University.



Liter of Light and the Embassy of Italy in Manila, with the Philippine Italian Association Organize a Day of Climate Action featuring Participative Solar Art in Bonifacio Global City on July 3-4

[Saturday, June 26, 2021 Journal Online](#)



PASAY CITY, PHILIPPINES – Liter of Light, a Filipino-born global grassroots solar lighting movement, the Embassy of Italy in Manila and the Philippine Italian Association (PIA) are organizing a Day of Climate Action on July 3-4 on 5th Avenue in front of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Bonifacio Global City.

Coinciding with the International Day of Cooperation, July 4, the Day of Climate Action invites members from the private sector, organizations, individuals, and residents of Bonifacio Global City to join the initiative and show their commitment to taking action for climate change.

The Day of Climate Action is being done in partnership with Philippine Italian Association, Management Association of the Philippines, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., Galleria Duemila, Rotary Club of Makati Business District 3830 and Philippines AirAsia, Italian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, Archipelago for you.

There will be socially distant workshops at the tented area of My Street High Street to raise funds to provide clean and sustainable source of energy communities who have been affected by lack of tourist due to the pandemic.



Liter of Light and the Embassy of Italy in Manila, with the Philippine Italian Association Organize a Day of Climate Action featuring Participative Solar Art in Bonifacio Global City on July 3-4



At 6:30pm on July 4, Liter of Light will unveil a huge woven participative solar artwork on 5th Avenue in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. The artwork, built using 1,500 hand-built solar lights assembled from the safety of home for Liter of Light's "Light It Forward" Challenge, features a symbol for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UN SDG) #13: Climate Action.

The artwork is the latest in a series of pop-up artworks that Liter of Light has built across Metro Manila to pay tribute and call for action in achieving the UN SDGs in the lead-up to the global climate change conference (COP26) which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, this November. Liter of Light will be participating at COP26, as well as the special Pre-COP26 program organized for youth climate change advocates, Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition, hosted by conference co-host Italy in September 2021.

"More than ever, youth want to be empowered to be part of creating climate solutions," says Illac Diaz, Founder and Executive Director of Liter of Light. "We have been given an opportunity to activate Filipino youth through our engagement at the Pre-COP26 and COP-26 meetings. Through these artworks, we are making a strong statement to raise awareness on climate action by giving people an opportunity to contribute to real solutions and have a tangible impact, even at a time when public art has disappeared and people are confined to their homes."

"The Embassy of Italy joins the Light it forward campaign to build up awareness on the greatest challenge of our time – climate change – and bring attention to the pre-COP26 and COP26 events that will take place later this year," announces Mr. Eugeniu Rotaru, Deputy Head of Mission of the Italian Embassy in Manila. "The importance of these meetings in Milan and Glasgow cannot be overstated: they will have to update the global framework on climate change that was agreed in 2015, in Paris, and set the basis for protecting our Planet and future generations in the spirit of



Liter of Light and the Embassy of Italy in Manila, with the Philippine Italian Association Organize a Day of Climate Action featuring Participative Solar Art in Bonifacio Global City on July 3-4

ambition, sustainability and solidarity. We believe that campaigns such as “Light it forward” are crucial for building momentum to Milan and Glasgow and show to the world the commitment of ordinary citizens, ordinary Filipinos, to a brighter, cleaner future.”

“Light it Forward campaign will be moving Italy during the PreCOP26 event in Milan this coming September and the Italian community in the Philippines is united in giving its endorsement” adds Alessandro Milani, general manager of the Philippine Italian Association. “As PIA, we are very happy to endorse this campaign that is able, through public art, to bring people together for the defense of the environment and the purpose of giving the right to access clean electrical power to those who are more in need. For this we warmly invite everyone to join the Light it Forward Challenge, in time for our Day of Climate Action”

Liter of Light began its Light It Forward campaign (www.lightitforward.ph) in July 2020 with building messages of hope to pay tribute to medical frontliners. In the past year, its grassroots campaign has grown to mobilize thousands of youth from across Metro Manila to take action for energy poverty and the 13 million Filipinos still without light, making an impact from the safety of home and giving these communities a new means of livelihood even in the middle of a global health pandemic.

The Philippines’ geography is one of the main factors for being most at risk from the effects of the climate crisis. The Philippines is hit by an average of 20 typhoons every year, with the intensity of these storms increasing exponentially in recent years, making it one of the most countries most vulnerable to climate change. Many youth are nervous about the future, with billions of pesos in economic losses, and over thousands of lives already lost due to the effects of climate change.

Through large-scale participative solar artworks that the organization will unveil at landmarks throughout Metro Manila, Liter of Light is showing how grassroots actions can amplify the voices of our youth to take action on the SDGs.

About the Light It Forward Challenge:

Everyone who participates in the LIGHT IT FORWARD campaign receives a kit that they will use to build a solar light, which takes less than 30 minutes to assemble. Liter of Light has created online videos to guide participants on how to assemble the devices. Challenge participants are asked to dedicate their light to an essential worker or frontline that has impacted them during the COVID-19 pandemic. After recording their solar light building, each participant must challenge their friends to build a light.



Liter of Light and the Embassy of Italy in Manila, with the Philippine Italian Association Organize a Day of Climate Action featuring Participative Solar Art in Bonifacio Global City on July 3-4

The campaign is part of a broader strategy for Liter of Light, a UN FCCC “Momentum for Change” Awardee and the Philippine private sector representative to the upcoming World EX-PO, which will take place in Dubai from October 2021 to March 2022. [<https://tinyurl.com/yxfv2e7b>] The organization will use its platform to shine a light on how Fili-pino malasakit is paving a way for a brighter future in a tangible, measurable way.

To learn more about Liter of Light and its Light It Forward campaign, visit:

www.lightitforward.ph

Instagram: @literoflight

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aliteroflight

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmkj2sShWG4O5xGdq15gB7A/>

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/events/liter-of-light-day-of-climate-action/>



Elephant exodus sign of habitat loss

[By Agence France-Presse](#)

June 27, 2021

YUNNAN: A mammoth trek across southern China by a herd of elephants that has captivated the world with their playful antics has thrown a spotlight on the loss of their habitat and conservation challenges.

The lumbering mammals have journeyed around 500 kilometers from their home in one of the longest animal migrations of its kind recorded in China. Scientists are still baffled by what prompted the elephants to leave their home at the Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve, bordering Laos.

Since setting off in spring last year they have pilfered shops and trampled crops worth over \$1 million, and thousands of residents have been evacuated from their path.

"For some reason these elephants felt that their traditional home range was no longer suitable... and then they just left to find somewhere else," Ahimsa Campos-Arceiz, an elephant specialist at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, told Agence France-Presse.

"But they didn't have a destination in mind. They are just moving around trying to find a place that will work for them." Officials have been tracking the wandering herd with drones round the clock, worried they might go on a rampage if they are stressed.

Elephants rely on infrasonic sound - the vibration of their feet - to communicate but in towns they can be easily confused due to vehicle noises.

"What has surprised me the most is that these elephants are very healthy and look very happy despite roaming in densely populated, unfamiliar areas," Campos-Arceiz said. "These elephants are very playful, which tells me that they are fine," he added.

Forests in far southwest Yunnan province, where the elephants came from, are rapidly giving way to rubber and tea plantations, and herds have become marooned in disconnected preserves.

China is one of the few places in the world where the population of the endangered Asian elephant is increasing, due to strict anti-poaching laws and conservation efforts.

The country's wild elephant numbers have doubled to over 300 animals in the past three decades.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/06/27/news/world/elephant-exodus-sign-of-habitat-loss/1804759>

27 JUNE 2021, Sunday



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COVID-19

NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



6,871 new COVID-19 infections push Philippines caseload to 1.39M

(Philstar.com)

- June 26, 2021 - 4:00pm



People belonging to A1 to A4 categories queue for a Sinovac vaccine at Bagong Silang Elementary School in Caloocan City on June 9, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Saturday reported 6,871 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,391,911.

- Active cases: 53,447 or 3.8% of the total

[LIVE updates: COVID-19 in the Philippines 2021](#)

- Recoveries: 8,720, pushing total to 1,314,220
- Deaths: 92, bringing total to 24,224

Vaccination programs in 'race against time' to contain Delta variant, experts warn

- The highly contagious Delta variant is [causing](#) a surge in new COVID-19 cases even in countries with high vaccination rates -- and experts warn that immunization campaigns are in a race against time to contain it.
- In Indonesia, [over a dozen fully vaccinated doctors have died of COVID-19](#), a medical association said Friday, as the Southeast Asian country battles a rash of severe cases in inoculated medical workers, the Delta variant and other highly infectious new virus strains.
- The National Task Force Against COVID-19 on Friday [said](#) it is confident that it will reach the "important milestone" of administering over 10 million jabs before the month of June is out.
- Malacañang on June 24 said the government has administered over eight million COVID-19 shots and has fully inoculated 2.24 million Filipinos, only 2.04% of the population.



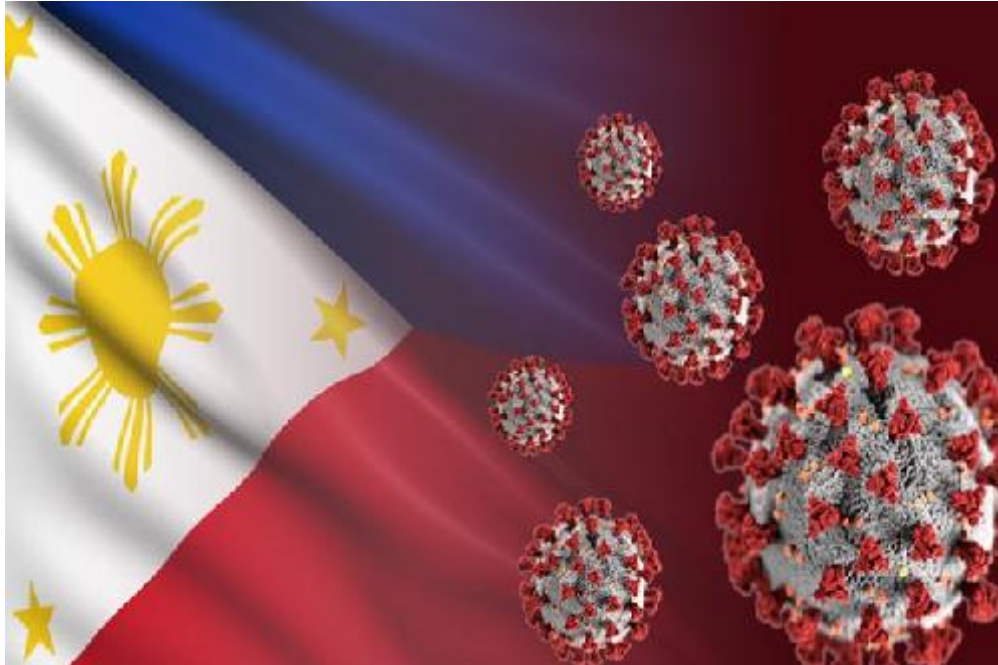
6,871 new COVID-19 infections push Philippines caseload to 1.39M

- Meanwhile, a member of the local vaccine expert panel [assured](#) Friday that recipients of the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine do not need to worry if they take the second dose later than scheduled.
- Dr. Rontgene Solante said this amid the delayed delivery of 50,000 doses of Sputnik V "due to ongoing upgrades and latest developments. The doses were intended as the second shot for those who have been inoculated with the Russian-made vaccine early in June.



GUMALING SA COVID-19 SA BANSA LUMOBO SA 1,314,220

written by [Gilbert Perdez](#) June 26, 2021



Pumalo na sa 1,314,220 ang kabuuang bilang ng mga gumaling sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas matapos maitala ang 8,720 na bagong recoveries.

Batay sa case bulletin, binanggit ng Department of Health (DOH) na sumirit na sa 1,391,911 ang total cases bunsod ng 6,871 na pinakahuling tinamaan ng impeksiyon.

Sa nasabing bilang, nasa 53,447 ang active cases.

Samantala, dahil naman sa pagpanaw ng 92 pang pasyente, sumampa na sa 24,244 ang death toll sa buong kapuluan.

27 JUNE 2021, Sunday



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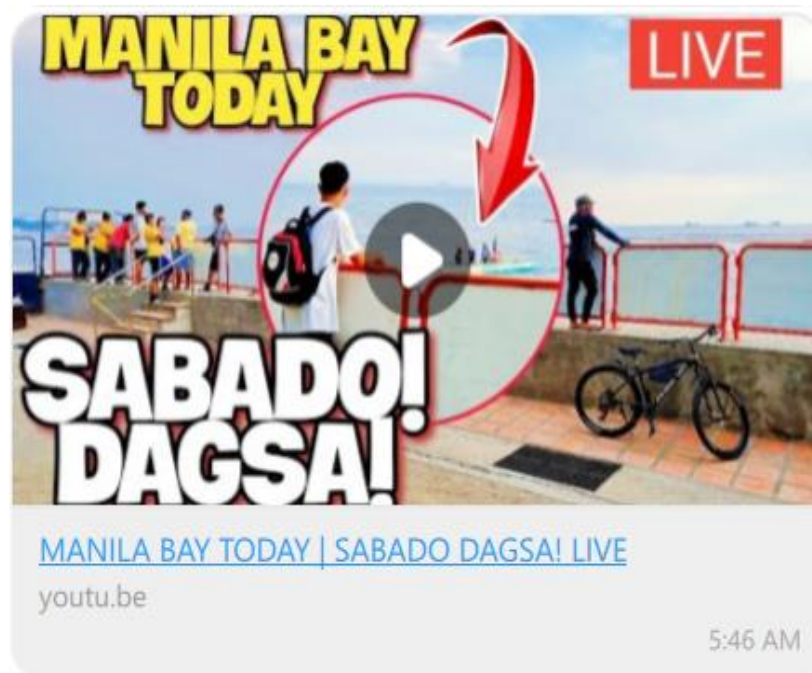
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