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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR, Justice, Customs hunting garbage exporter

posted October 26, 2020 at 11:40 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is coordinating with the Bureau of Customs and the Justice department to file charges against the exporter and consignee of the illegal waste shipments from the United States that were recently intercepted at the Subic Bay Freeport.

On Oct. 22, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda and Undersecretary for Special Concerns Edilberto Leonardo went to Subic to inspect the shipments.



TRASH HAUL. Bureau of Customs-Port of Subic District Collector Maritess Martin points to a shipment of garbage, which was foiled before exiting the Subic Bay International Terminal Corp. The shipment was intercepted through the combined efforts of the Port's District Collector, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) and Assessment Division, with close coordination and collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The shipment arrived from the United States and was consigned to a certain Bataan 2020 Inc. and was declared as American old corrugated cartons for repulping.

The shipments consisting of 30 container vans arrived in Subic in mid-October under the name VIPA Inc. and were consigned to Bataan 2020 Inc. with a business address in Baesa, Quezon City.

The manifesto declared that the cargoes were "American old corrugated cartons for repulping."

An examination of the initial five containers by Customs and the DENR revealed "prohibited materials which were illegally imported."

Antiporda said the waste materials found in the container vans were a mix of plastic, paper and face masks, a violation of DENR Administrative Order 2013-22 or the Revised Procedures and Standards for the Management of Hazardous Wastes.

"Because of our experiences in these illegal shipments, such as those from Canada and South Korea, it is now much easier for the government to monitor and control banned activities," Antiporda said.



DENR, Justice, Customs hunting garbage exporter

If the concerned companies were found liable, they would be held responsible to return the wastes to their source at their own expense, he said.

The shipments are also in violation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal prohibiting the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and the import of mixed and municipal waste, the DENR said.

Customs is set to open all 30 container vans to determine the specific cases to be filed against the exporter and the consignee.

DENR kaisa ng BOC, DOJ sa pagsasampa ng kaso vs illegal shipment ng basura mula US



October 26, 2020 @ 7:50 PM 9 hours ago

Manila, Philippines-Nakikipagtulungan ang Department of Environment ang Natural Resources sa Bureau of Custom at Department of Justice para sa pagsasampa ng kasong kriminal laban sa exporter at consignee ng illegal shipment ng basura galing United States na nasabat kamakailan sa Subic Bay Freeport.

Ang naturang shipment na kinabibilangan ng 30 container van ay dumating sa Subic nitong kalagitnaan ng October sa ilalim ng pangalan na VIPA Inc. at naka-consign sa Bataan 2020 Inc.,na may business address sa Baesa, Quezon City at ang manifesto ay idineklara na ang cargo ay “American old corrugated cartons na inihalo.

Subalit sa inisyal na eksaminasyon sa limang container ng BOC at ng DENR ay napag-alaman na mga ipinagbabawal na materyales na illegal na inimport.

Nabatid sa ulat na nitong October 22, ang DENR officials na kinabibilangan ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda at Undersecretary for Special Concerns Edilberto Leonardo ay nagtungo sa Subic para inspeksyunin ang naturang shipment.

Ayon kay Antiporda ang naturang waste materials na nakita sa container van ay pinaghalong plastic, papel at ilang face masks na labag sa DENR Administrative Order No. 2013-22 o Revised Procedures and Standards for the Management of Hazardous Wastes.

“Because of our experiences in these illegal shipments, such as those from Canada and South Korea, it is now much easier for the government to monitor and control banned activities,” ayon pa kay Antiporda at idinagdag na ang may kinalamang kompanya ay may pananagutan para ibalik ang naturang basura na gastos nila.

Ayon pa sa DENR ang shipment ay lumabag din umano sa Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal na nagbabawal sa transboundary movement ng hazardous waste at pag-import ng pinaghalo at municipal waste.



DENR kaisa ng BOC, DOJ sa pagsasampa ng kaso vs illegal shipment ng basura mula US

Pinagtibay noong 1989, ang convention ay naglalayong protektahan ang human health at environment laban sa epekto ng hazardous wastes.

Kaugnay nito, nakatakdang buksan ng BOC ang kabuuang 30 container van para matukoy ang espisipikong kaso na maaaring isampa laban sa exporter at consignee. SANTI CELARIO



Trash haul

posted October 26, 2020 at 07:21 pm



Bureau of Customs-Port of Subic District Collector Maritess Martin points to a shipment of garbage, which was foiled before exiting the Subic Bay International Terminal Corp. The shipment was intercepted through the combined efforts of the Port's District Collector, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) and Assessment Division, with close coordination and collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The shipment arrived from the United States and was consigned to a certain Bataan 2020 Inc. and was declared as American old corrugated cartons for repulping.

Topics: [Trash haul](#) , [Bureau of Customs-Port of Subic](#) , [Subic Bay International Terminal Corp.](#)



Exporter, consignee of illegal waste face raps

[Monday, October 26, 2020](#) [Cory Martinez](#)

APPROPRIATE criminal charges will be filed against the exporter and consignee of the illegal waste shipments from the United States that were recently intercepted at the Subic Bay Freeport.

This was the assurance made by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as it is now closely coordinating with the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the filing of the charges.

The shipments—consisting of 30 container vans—arrived in Subic mid-October under the name VIPA Incorporated and was consigned to Bataan 2020 Inc., with business address in Baesa, Quezon City. The manifesto declared that the cargo was “*American old corrugated cartons for repulping.*”

But based on the inspection conducted by the BOC and DENR on the initial five containers, it was found that “*prohibited materials which were illegally imported.*”

On Oct. 22, Benny Antiporda, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns, and Edilberto Leonardo, Undersecretary for Special Concerns Edilberto Leonardo inspected the shipment.

Antiporda said the waste materials found in the container vans were a mix of plastic, paper and some face masks which are in violation of DENR Administrative Order No. 2013-22 or the Revised Procedures and Standards for the Management of Hazardous Wastes.

“*Because of our experiences in these illegal shipments, such as those from Canada and South Korea, it is now much easier for the government to monitor and control banned activities,*” Antiporda said, adding that should the concerned companies be found liable, it will be their responsibility to return the wastes to their source at their own expense.

The shipment is also in violation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which prohibits the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and import of mixed and municipal waste.

Adopted in 1989, the convention is aimed at protecting human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.

The BOC is set to open all 30 container vans to determine the specific cases to be filed against the exporter and the consignee.

Solon wants policies on waste management reviewed

By Filane Mikee Cervantes October 26, 2020, 5:43 pm



File photo

MANILA – A lawmaker at the House of Representatives on Monday urged concerned government agencies to address the policy gaps in waste management that made the country as “foreigners’ dumping ground”.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliette Uy said companies abroad who dump their garbage in the Philippines have local collaborators that take advantage of procedural and discretionary loopholes in waste recycling regulations, as well as waste-to-energy policies.

“They are able to import the garbage and are complicit in making our country the foreigners’ dumping ground because they take advantage of government regulations and loopholes,” Uy said. “I strongly urge the DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources], Bureau of Customs, and Department of Trade and Industry to review the laws and regulations these importers are taking advantage of.”

Uy warned that others may just use the garbage as a disguise or cover to import other contraband like illegal drugs.

She said there may be insiders at DENR, Department of Trade and Industry, and Customs who are “intimately familiar” with the regulations and procedures and are conniving with the importers and consignees.

“The foreign companies and the importers cannot possibly carry out their schemes without the collaboration of insiders,” she said. “Careful scrutiny of the documents could lead to the discovery of patterns like money trail, signatories, date and time stamps, favorite freight forwarders, and other indicators of modus operandi.” (PNA)



10% of dolomite sand in Manila Bay swept to sea —DENR

Published October 26, 2020 9:03pm

About 10 percent of the dolomite sand in Manila Bay has been swept to sea by the heavy rains, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Monday.

According to Bernadette Reyes' report on "24 Oras," Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leonos said the black sand is also being washed in, covering the artificial white sand.

"May discoloration kasi 'yong black sand niya pumapatong doon dahil sa lakas ng wave, dinadala 'yong black sand, 'yong regular sand, but this is a clean sand naman eh," Leonos said.

He added that the DENR will put dolomite sand in the water so that instead of the regular black sand, the artificial white sand will be washed onto the beach.

"Nakikita natin 'yong magiging problema. Puwede laging mag-adjust. So later on, lalagyan pa rin namin dolomite 'yon pati sa tubig na para at least pagka lumakas 'yong wave, hindi na black sand ang dadalhin ng tubig, white sand na," he said.

As part of its Manila Bay rehabilitation program, the DENR covered a portion of the coast with 500 tons of crushed dolomite to create a "white sand" beach.

The project received criticisms from various sectors, with some saying the artificial white sand is likely to be washed away in the future. — **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BM, GMA News**



DENR pumiyok: Dolomite inanod sa Manila Bay

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Oct 26, 2020

NEWS



Humigit-kumulang sampung porsiyento ng dolomite sand sa Manila Bay ang inanod sa dagat dahil sa mga malalakas na pag-ulan, ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) nitong Lunes.

“May discoloration kasi ‘yong black sand niya pumapatong doon dahil sa lakas ng wave, dinadala ‘yong black sand, ‘yong regular sand, but this is a clean sand naman eh,” paliwanag ni Leones.

Anang opisyal, maglalagay na ang DENR ng dolomite sand sa tubig para kapag lumakas ang alon ay hindi black sand ang dadalhin ng tubig kundi white sand.

Magugunitang binatikos ang proyektong pagbubuhos ng artipisyal na puting buhangin sa Manila Bay dahil aanurin lang umano ito kalaunan. (Issa Santiago)

Sa ulat sa telebisyon, sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones na inanod din ang black sand at pumatong sa artificial white sand sa Manila Bay.



White sand beach a ‘white elephant’?

By [Federico D. Pascual Jr.](#) (Philstar.com)

- October 27, 2020 - 12:00am

We have a problem. It seems that the mastermind of the P389-million project recreating a strip of Boracay beach on Manila Bay was in a hurry to spread the fake white sand without factoring in the seasonal typhoons wreaking havoc on the beautification effort.

Just one month after some 3,500 metric tons of crushed dolomite rocks were brought in to simulate white sand on 500 meters of the north end of the Roxas Boulevard beachfront, the heavy rains came as scheduled and washed away the particles.

Now somebody has to fix or restore the white sand layer that is being carried away by sea and rain. How soon and how much would the recurring back-job cost taxpayers as typhoons from the Pacific make a beeline for Luzon?

Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources keep explaining that the dolomite particles had not been washed away but were merely dirtied up by the bay’s residual filth whipped up by the waves.

An official dared critics to produce metrics proving that the dolomite had been washed out. He said: “The darkening of the beach is just a deposition of darker-colored material on top of the white sand.”

He did not explain how the lighter-colored dolomite would be coaxed out from under the blackish dirt covering it to bring back the lighter hue of the fake sand.

Is there need to apply a new dolomite layer or to bleach the older dirty deposit? To achieve the desired Boracay effect, how much more will taxpayers have to spend to repair the damage to the fake white beach and the bruised ego of DENR officials?

Will millions be appropriated year after year for the recurring repair and upkeep of the project that has been promoted by the DENR as its prescription for “beach nourishment, coastal restoration and enhancement” of Manila Bay?

For buying and shipping the dolomite sand from Cebu, the department said it spent P28 million. The inadequate preparation indicates that the launching had to be rushed, otherwise the allocated funds would go back to the treasury or be realigned if not spent by yearend.

We see the makings of a “White Elephant” – an ill-conceived big project that cannot be disposed of easily and whose cost, particularly that of maintenance, is not in proportion to its usefulness. Has anybody in Malacañang caught a whiff of its foul odor?

But with the project already launched, even if haphazardly, we are stuck with it – problems and all. If it proves to be too unwieldy over the long term, how will the DENR drop it or reincarnate it in another viable form?

To assure its technical feasibility and preclude such problems as the dolomite being carried away by the perpetually churning sea, officials should have studied first the current patterns, the rhythm of the tides, the contour of the sea bed and such data.



White sand beach a ‘white elephant’?

Per research findings published in 2006, Manila Bay has an average depth of 17 meters and holds a volume of 28.9 billion cubic meters drained to it by 17,000 square-km of watershed area. About 49 percent of the water influx is contributed by the Pampanga River.

In a tempest, how seriously will this big volume of water batter the puny 3,500 metric tons of crushed dolomite? Considering the disproportion, how often would the fake sand quarried from Alcoy, Cebu have to be replenished?

How will gravity (we’re not referring to the gravity of technical problems, but to the gravitational pull to the center of the earth) accelerate the scattering of the dolomite on the downward-sloping seabed and helped along by the currents and the tides? What interventions are needed?

Social media may not always be on point, but it gives timely alerts on potential glitches. On Saturday, @KristonSisoff said on Twitter, for instance: “Manila Bay is currently messier than it was before this latest transformation project. Buoys meant to be wave breakers just left to float away. Dolomite washed. Wouldn’t be surprised if ***** just ran with the cash. Our cash.”

Aerial shots of the bay’s section radiating from the southern corner of the US embassy compound where the dolomite was spread out show the discoloration of the artificial white sand and the breaking up of the geo-tubes strung together to form a wall to secure the dolomite.

We have been lucky that in the past two months, we have not had typhoons generating giant waves that come crashing on the boulevard. When this happens and the angry sea hurls back to the shore the trash and assorted debris dumped into it, what will happen to the dolomite which is alien to the place?

• DENR faces Sisyphian fate with dolomite

The thought of the DENR and its successors forever replenishing the dolomite as it is washed away by the swirling waters and taken down by gravity reminds us of Sisyphus, a figure from Greek mythology whose story we recall to reiterate the lessons it imparts.

As king of Corinth, Sisyphus became infamous for his wickedness and cheating death twice. He ultimately got his comeuppance when Zeus dealt him the punishment of forever rolling a boulder up a hill in the depths of Hades.

When he is almost at the top with his burden, the huge rock would free itself and roll down. And Sisyphus, per his eternal punishment, would again start pushing the same boulder up the hill – only for it to roll down again when almost at the top.

The DENR better look for a way to escape the looming Sisyphian cycle of endlessly replenishing the crushed dolomite boulder long after the money earned from it had been spent.



UNTV News and Rescue ✓

Yesterday at 3:47 AM · 🌐

Naging mainit na usapin ang Dolomite White Sand na itinambak sa Manila bay. Pero alam niyo na ba dive buddies kung papaano nabubuo ang natural na buhangin sa dagat at kung ano ang papel nito sa ating ecosystem?

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/PiKDAP-Bv0I> ✓

BUHANGIN SA DAGAT





ANC 24/7

16 hrs · 🌐

Maintenance workers clean up debris along the “white sand” beach of Manila Bay, as Typhoon #QuintaPH moves westward across Southern Luzon on Monday. Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News





BIBILIB KAYO DITO SA MGA ESTERO RANGERS

Bakit ang SAYA ng CLEAN-UP Nila?

[DITO KAYO BIBILIB SA MGA ESTERO RANGERS!](#)

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7:09 AM

Fence illegally put up in Masungi Georeserve removed, but threat remains

Kristine Sabillo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 26 2020 01:52 PM | Updated as of Oct 26 2020 10:37 PM



PANOORIN: Kinondena ng pamunuan ng Masungi Georeserve ang anila'y ilegal na panghaharang ng mga armadong indibidwal sa isang bahagi ng protected area sa Sitio San Roque sa Brgy. Pinugay. Ayon sa isang environment group laganap ang "land grabbing" dhali sa kakulangan ng suporta mula sa gobyerno. | via Kristine Sabillo, ABS-CBN News

MANILA (UPDATED) — The fences put up by a company within the Masungi Georeserve, a protected forest area in Rizal province, have been removed, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Monday.

“As of this morning, tinapos na nila yung pagtanggap nung fence. So wala nang fence doon,” DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones told ABS-CBN News in a phone interview. “With assistance from our field officers and at the same time yung staff ng Georeserve.”

(As of this morning, they finished removing the fence. So there is no more fence there... with assistance from our field officers and at the same time, the staff of the Georeserve.)

Masungi Georeserve Foundation revealed over the weekend that parts of the protected area they are reforesting were fenced off by a group of armed guards.

A video shared by the foundation showed the guards claiming to be employed by Rublou Inc., a group of companies engaged in renewable energy, meat distribution and real estate.

Billie Dumaliang, a trustee and advocacy officer at Masungi Georeserve, told ABS-CBN News on Monday that while they were able to remove the fence, they are worried that the group will come back as they did over the weekend whenever Masungi Georeserve staff removed parts of the enclosure.

Photos from the group showed that trees were also cut inside the park.

Dumaliang appealed to the government to find ways to prevent it from happening again, especially since armed guards were present when the last incident was discovered. The guards were not able to show a land title, a permit, or a document authorizing them to install the fences.

Toyota adopts 10-ha mangrove plantation area in Lian, Batangas



By [The Manila Times](#)
October 27, 2020



The signing ceremony was participated in by (from left) TMP Vice President for General Services Department Cathy Benitez, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (Menro) representative Alvin Jonson, and City Environment and Natural Resources Office officer-in-charge (OIC) Isagani Amatorio.

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Local Government of Lian, Batangas to clean-up, rehabilitate and preserve a 10-ha mangrove plantation area along the coastlines of Lian. This project is in support of DENR's National Greening Program and aligned with the global All-Toyota Green Wave Project.

Under the MoA, TMP commits to plant 25,000 mangrove propagules by 2023 and provide necessary resources that will help protect marine life and biodiversity in the area, which then help in providing livelihood for the local community.

After the simple signing ceremony, volunteers from TMP and Lian Fisherfolk Association planted 5,000 mangrove propagules in the adopted area and collected over 471 kg. of wastes. Throughout the activities held, volunteers followed strict health protocols set by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases to ensure the safety and health of participants. TMP remains committed to the environment as it continuously implements programs aligned with the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050 aimed at creating a more sustainable future for the next generations.

Mangrove forest safeguards Nasugbu coastline

posted October 26, 2020 at 08:00 pm

by [Steph Llarena](#)

A 10-hectare mangrove forest in a municipality in Batangas proves that lush vegetation is the ideal solution to common environmental problems and that it is “Instagrammable,” too—red swimsuit optional.



LUSH LIFE. Conservationists believe that mangrove preservation—such as Hamilo Coast’s 10-hectare mangrove forest—is a sound investment due to its adaptive capacity to climate change. Mangroves provide a unique ecosystem and protect coastal communities from the impacts of tropical storms.

Mangrove trees play an essential part in nurturing the very ground they stand on. Its roots filter the silt and sediment that tides carry in and rivers carry out toward the sea.

The roots of this salt-tolerant tree lodge themselves in the soft soil of tidal mudflats, and once established, they provide an oyster habitat and slow the flow of water. Mangrove swamps stabilize the shoreline against erosion, storm surges, and hurricanes—owing to their massive root systems that are efficient at dissipating wave energy.

Mangroves act as marine sanctuaries for a massive diversity of fish, crustaceans, and other underwater creatures. These habitat-forming species take refuge in mangroves’ protective nursery where they often thrive at the interface of open water and the terrestrial environment.

Conservationists believe that of all coastal ecosystems, mangrove preservation is a sound investment due to its high adaptive capacity to climate change. They provide a unique ecosystem and protect coastal communities from the impacts of tropical storms—meaning they’re not at risk of being easily washed away during storm surges.



Mangrove forest tour guests are taken on a canoe ride where they cruise beneath the canopy of leaves while learning about the crucial role of mangrove trees.

Mangrove forest safeguards Nasugbu coastline

Its vital role in the marine ecosystem pushes Hamilo Coast further to continue its preservation of over 10,000 mangrove trees in its lush mangrove forest. Together with the World Wildlife Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF-Philippines), the seaside residential community safeguards the site—the largest of its kind in Nasugbu.

To promote and showcase the beauty of the forest, Hamilo Coast offers on-site tour that begins with a short 200-meter trek, during which guests can find posters along the path that explain the crucial role of mangrove trees in reforestation.

At the end of the trail, guests are taken on a canoe ride through the reforested area. Once everyone's life vest is secured, tour guides will share the inspiring story of how the once empty and gray plot of land was transformed into the lush mangrove forest it is now. Paddling through the cove's salty shallow waters, they also point to endemic species of plants and birds that help keep the delicate balance in its ecology.

As they cruise beneath the canopy of leaves that block out the sun, they can feel the crisp, clean air in the forest and surrounding areas. This can be attributed to the fact that mangrove trees are carbon powerhouses—they absorb up to four times more carbon dioxide by area than upland terrestrial trees. The constant hum and buzz of wildlife also serves as a reminder that reforestation efforts encourage whole ecosystems to reform.



These underwater havens aid in the proliferation of fish in Nasugbu's waters as well, which in turn contributes to the livelihood of the local fishing community that makes its home at Papaya Cove where the tour ends.

Netizens Raise PHP1.1M For Unemployed Tamaraw Rangers



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#)
October 26, 2020

Spotlight

October 22, 2020

Pong Capati emigrated from the Philippines to America in 1982, retiring after 30 years of work. Last July, he heard about #TogetherforTamaraws, an online fundraising campaign to help conservation frontliners affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I realized that without rangers, we cannot protect the tamaraw. I really wanted to help so I shared the campaign to my family, friends and colleagues. With my niece Sofia, we fused our love for food and art and managed to raise over PHP30,000 for our rangers.”



Other funds were raised in the most creative ways: Ruth Ann Cabria sold items online to declutter her home; Artist Issa Barte auctioned art pieces; Photographer Derald Umali raffled off a film camera.

All put, some 150 individuals and institutions raised over PHP1.1 million to help Mindoro’s tamaraw rangers and forest wardens, many of whom lost their jobs because of the pandemic. The funds shall be turned over on October 29 to cap off Tamaraw Month, celebrated in the Philippines each October.

Netizens Raise PHP1.1M For Unemployed Tamaraw

“These creative fundraising efforts show how the worst times can also bring out the best in people,” says DENR-BMB Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon. “Our Bayanihan Spirit lives on through crowdfunding. We thank our partners, donors and contributors in proving how everyone can do their part for conservation.”

Together for Tamaraws

Since March 2020, most of the Philippines has been under general or enhanced community quarantine. The country’s national parks were closed to prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

This left Mindoro’s Iglit-Baco Natural Park with little funding, cutting off the sole source of income for 32 wardens and one ranger, all members of Mindoro’s indigenous Taw’buid, Buid and Iraya tribes. Only 23 TCP rangers and three wardens are currently patrolling a core area of 2500 hectares inside the 106,655-hectare Iglit-Baco park, which hosts at least 480 of the world’s last 600 tamaraws.



“The Tamaraw Conservation Programme (TCP) and Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) are indebted to those who have and will continue to help us,” says TCP head Neil Anthony del Mundo. “The assistance to be given to our wardens and rangers will go a long way in keeping both our tamaraws and protected areas safe.”

Critical Time for Biodiversity

#TogetherforTamaraws is led by the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) project under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau and MIMAROPA Regional Office.

In July, the Philippine Parks & Biodiversity NGO further created the Tamaraw Society for its 20 for 20 campaign where they called on 20 organizations or individuals to pledge or fundraise PHP20,000 each. The Tamaraw Society is currently comprised of the following 18 entities: D’Aboville Foundation and Demo Farm, Eco Explorations, Masungi Georeserve Foundation, Ecoheroes, Far Eastern University, Fund the Forest, JaDine Habb Fans Club, Kids for Kids / Bye Bye Plastic Bags, Giselle Sy, Hey Namski x FIASFUD, Michael Montesano, Oscar Lopez, Planet CORA, Elmer and Kitkat Mercado, Ruth Cabria, The Learned Tribe, Thirty Five Studio, and WWF-Philippines.

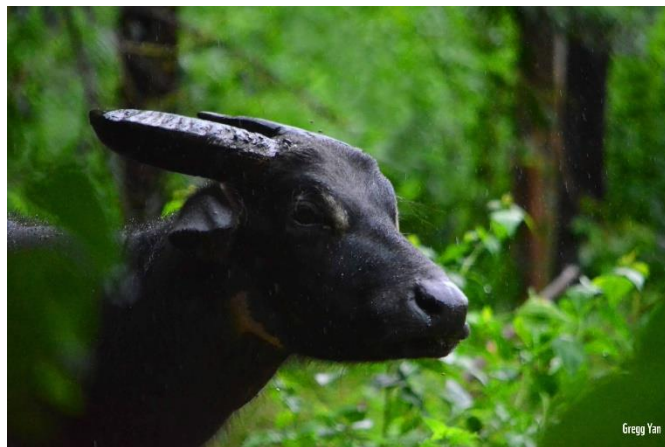
Netizens Raise PHP1.1M For Unemployed Tamaraw

“This is a critical time for Philippine biodiversity,” says UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Enrico Gaveglia. “With Philippine protected areas undermanned because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the threat of plant and animal poaching is at its highest. We need to do our part in ensuring that our conservation frontliners have the means and capacity to continue their mission. After all, if not for the TCP and MIBNP rangers working hand in hand with the Mangyan communities of Mts. Iglit-Baco, the tamaraw might well be extinct.”

Against the backdrop of the pandemic, the past few months have been a challenging time for Tamaraw conservation in the country. In September, MIBNP and TCP rangers successfully intercepted and caught three tamaraw poachers drying meat inside the park. The poachers later escaped and are still at large. Kalibasib, the world’s only captive-bred tamaraw, also died last 10 October after 21 years in captivity.

Space Needed for Tamaraw Herds

Today’s tamaraw populations are fragmented, with only four remaining populations spread throughout Mindoro. From an estimated 10,000 heads in 1900, tamaraw numbers plummeted to under 100 heads in 1969. Conservation efforts have paid off tremendously, helping the population recover to over 600. Impressive, but still a far cry from the original population.



“To truly allow the tamaraw population to grow, it is essential to provide more space for the species,” says D’ABOVILLE Foundation program manager Emmanuel Schütz, another donor. “This is a landscape approach where local communities must and shall benefit from the environmental enhancement and security that tamaraw conservation induces.”

The donation turnover ceremony shall be held at Barangay Poypoy in Mindoro Occidental. The funds shall be used to pay for wages, supplies and equipment.

The DENR-BMB, UNDP-BIOFIN and its allies shall continue fundraising for Mindoro’s tamaraw rangers. Individuals who wish to donate can click bit.ly/TogetherForTamaraws or email biofin.ph@undp.org while those who wish to join the Tamaraw Society can click bit.ly/TamarawSociety.



Mini eco-park eyed inside communal forest

[LAUREN ALIMONDO](#)

October 26, 2020

ESTABLISHMENT of a mini eco-park inside the Puguis Communal Forest in La Trinidad, Benguet is being targeted before the end of 2020.

The local government of La Trinidad will initiate the project and hopes to start the project this December with an initial fund of P500,000 allocated this year for the construction of a tree top walk and manmade cave.

Mayor Romeo Salda said the local government is in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the conservation of the communal forest.

Salda added once the eco-park is established and opened to the public, visitors entering the area will be properly monitored.

"Aside from the health benefits of mini eco-park, it can also generate revenue for the municipality or source of livelihood for the people in the town," added Salda.

Salda said with the joint effort of the local government, DENR and local police, illegal activities inside the communal forest such as burning, cutting of trees and construction were halted.

Various demolition activities were also conducted this year, including the removal of the newly installed fence put up by supposed claimants within the communal forest.

Aside from the mini eco-park, the communal forest is being eyed as training ground of the Philippine National Police.

Nickel group plants 6.3M trees

By [Jed Macapagal](#)

-October 27, 2020



THE Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) through its 8-member companies, reported a total of 6.3 million trees planted over 3,167 hectares in their respective mining areas.

The group said that despite the slowdown in operations during the community quarantine period, members have planted an additional 809,656 more trees in the first two quarters of 2020 alone, covering 322 hectares of land or equivalent to approximately 600 football fields, bringing their total number of planted trees to over 6 million to date.

PNIA said the increase in tree planting efforts resulted in a 13.9 percent growth in the total number of trees planted as of the second quarter of 2020.

Last year, the group planted a total of 5.3 million trees.

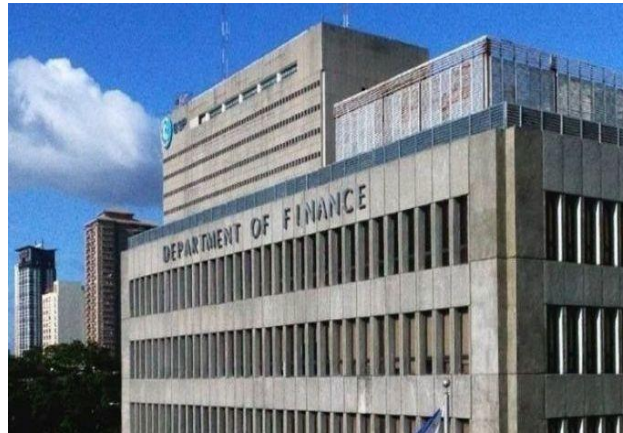
“PNIA members have consistently delivered beyond compliance to demonstrate our commitment to environment protection and rehabilitation. PNIA members have invested over P203 million on continued environmental protection and enhancement program activities and specifically P59.7 million on progressive rehabilitation this year despite the pandemic,” said Charmaine Olea-Capili, PNIA executive director.



DOF to address legal issues of mining assets

By [Mary Grace Padin](#) (Philstar.com)

- October 26, 2020 - 12:00am



In a memorandum addressed to the DOF, the Privatization and Management Office said the government's efforts to privatize its mining assets have been set back by lawsuits from their respective private sector proponents.

STAR/File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Finance (DOF) has formed an interagency team tasked to address the legal issues hampering the privatization of mining assets held by the government.

In a memorandum addressed to the DOF, the Privatization and Management Office (PMO) said the government's efforts to privatize its mining assets have been set back by lawsuits from their respective private sector proponents.

To sort out these issues, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said a team composed of representatives from the DOF, the PMO, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the Office of the Solicitor General will be created.

"We are forming an interagency team to study ways on how we can clear the path for these assets to be privatized and revive their operations," Dominguez said.

Earlier, Dominguez said the government is pushing for the privatization of its mining assets to help reinvigorate the mining industry, thereby providing more jobs in rural areas and propelling economic development in the countryside.

The finance chief said the valuation of these assets are currently being updated.

According to the PMO, some of the mining assets that are still facing legal issues are the copper-gold project of the Maricalum Mining Corp. in Negros Occidental, the nickel mines of Nonoc Mining and Industrial Corp. in Surigao del Norte, and the gold and copper mine of the North Davao Mining Property in Davao del Norte.

These mines failed to settle their debts with government financial institutions, leading to their foreclosure and transfer of assets and shares of stocks to the national government.



DOF to address legal issues of mining assets

The PMO said the government had auctioned off the shares of these mining firms, but winning bidders failed to fulfill their obligations, which resulted in decades of litigation that have left these mining assets idle.

Moreover, the PMO said the copper mines of the Basay Mining Corp. in Negros Oriental and the nickel mine of Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corp. (MMIC Bagacay Mine) in Western Samar have also remained unoperational because of legal concerns on how these assets should be disposed.

Basay Mining, formerly the CDCP Mining Corp., had its operations suspended in 1983 because of lack of working and operating funds. The company had entered into a Deed of Assignment of Mining Claims and Leasehold Rights with the Philippine National Bank to secure credit

Technical studies by the PMO showed that Basay mine is estimated to contain at least 105 million tons of copper ore and could generate at least P1 billion.

MMIC Bagacay mine, for its part, had been involved in environmental complaints, and was foreclosed by the Development Bank of the Philippines and PNB in 1984 with an outstanding claim of P19.5 billion.

Meanwhile, the PMO said DENR Administrative Order 2012-07, which tasks the MGB to formulate the guidelines for the privatization of mines, also needs to be reconciled with the PMO's mandate to dispose of state assets, in order to move forward with the revival of these mining operations.



Green Mining: Engine for rural development



Published 4 hours ago
on October 27, 2020 03:42 AM
By [Jun Yap](#)



Green Mining is expected to contribute to the country's starch and flour industry, as well as helping the small farmers during the pandemic. PHOTOGRAPH BY JUN YAP FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

The local flour industry is seen to benefit from the innovative farming shift which intends to increase production and food security in Negros Occidental as well as other provinces in the country.

The simple but life-changing technology called "Green Mining" will contribute to the country's starch and flour industry, as well as help the small farmers during these most difficult times, said Kabankalan City-based Central Philippines State University (CPSU) president Dr. Aladino C. Moraca, in an exclusive interview with the *Daily Tribune*.

Through a collective effort and advocacy to help the small farmers in the countryside, Moraca together with CPSU Research and Development head Dr. Angelie Rose Lumba and university instructor and farm manager Rhaprap Tondo developed a new approach of planting sweet potato or kamote, which is commonly known as the "poor man's crop."

According to Moraca, the simple but very promising approach is dubbed "Green Mining Method" that covers soil analysis, land preparation, plot layout and proper harvesting of sweet potato cuttings.

Local flour production

"The implementation and realization of this method starts with intricate but practical processes and procedures to ensure an abundant supply of raw materials for the local production of flour," Moraca explained.



Green Mining: Engine for rural development

With the recent development and launching of its own flour mill, the CPSU now produces its flour requirements as well as residents of nearby areas.

“This initiative is now being pursued since sweet potato is among the main ingredients for the local production of flour,” he stressed.

The method utilized by the CPSU in planting sweet potato is different from the usual farmer’s practice, where the soil on the plot is now mounded to about 70 millimeters.

“With agriculture being dubbed ‘wealth generator emerging from the soil,’ this method ensures sustainability, food security and economic development, particularly amid these most trying times,” Moraca said.

He explained that the method of elevating the soil will prevent erosion, particularly during the rainy season

Cost effective

He said the design is cost effective and energy efficient since it only requires “one-time” preparation.

Some four months after propagation, each mound is expected to yield approximately four kilograms of sweet potato.

After each harvest, the mounds can be utilized for the succeeding cropping cycles, making it economical for the small farmers.

According to Moraca, this practical technology jibes well with another initiative of the CPSU which is dubbed “Conservation Agriculture,” a new approach that increases yield while enhancing the soil.

Currently, the Green Mining method is being implemented in all the 10 campuses of the CPSU, where the university is willing to share this innovation to the communities, stakeholders and other people who may want to learn about this practical process.



Año: Mayors want GCQ extension

posted October 27, 2020 at 01:30 am

by [Willie Casas and Vito Barcelo](#)

Metro Manila mayors want to extend the general community quarantine (GCQ) in the country's capital region as COVID-19 remains a threat, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said Monday, short of saying the extension would be imposed only for next month or until December 31.

Speaking to Teleradyo, the Interior chief said Metro Manila mayors were also mulling further easing of business and travel to revive the pandemic-battered economy.

Meanwhile, the government is urging businesses to create staggered work shifts for their workers to comply with physical distancing measures as curfew hours were eased in Metro Manila to gradually reopen the economy amid the continuing threat of coronavirus 2019.

In Joint Advisory 20-01 dated October 22 the interior, labor, and trade departments said this was to allow more workers and buyers to contribute to the economy.

"As we gradually re-open the economy in increments mindful of the current hospital capacity threshold, local government units, where applicable, are enjoined to ease curfew hours, e.g. from 12 midnight up to 4:00 a.m. The curfew implementation shall be guided by the respective local ordinance," the joint document read.

In a related development, the Joint Task Force COVID Shield, which serves as the quarantine enforcement arm of the coronavirus task force, announced it would be ordering more police on the streets of cities and towns as well as in business districts with the easing of quarantine restrictions.

Last week, Malacañang allowed motorcycle taxis to operate as the government sought to raise the capacity of the mass transport system.

Año said: "We've noticed our citizens are becoming cautious. Despite that more transport modes have resumed, they don't go out as much.

"It's because the threat persists since we haven't flattened the curve. So anytime you can get infected."

However, Año didn't say if the strict lockdown will be imposed only for next month or until the end of the year.

Metro Manila, Bacolod, Tacloban, Iloilo City, Batangas and Iligan are under GCQ until Oct. 31 while the rest of the country were placed under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ).

The Philippines employs a 4-level community quarantine scheme ranging from the strictest enhanced community quarantine to the most relaxed modified general community quarantine (MGCQ).

The quarantine level dictates the type of business activities allowed in a certain area, as well as travel restrictions.



Año: Mayors want GCQ extension

“While still encouraging work-from-home arrangements and other flexible workplace plans, business establishments are enjoined to adopt multiple and staggered work shifts (workers are to be allowed to adopt work shift schedule starting at e.g., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., and so on) to allow more workers to report to work but still maintaining the physical distancing requirements, to spread out the congestion on our roads, and to ease the demand for public transportation,” the DILG-DTI-DOLE advisory also said.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said this move would bring back more jobs in a safe manner, and the easing of curfews would generate additional economic activities in the evening that would improve the income of workers.

Bello said the coronavirus crisis had also so far displaced around 3.5 million workers, including 1.9 million who were temporarily laid off while businesses were shuttered at the height of lockdowns from March to June.

Meanwhile, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said more sectors were also allowed to operate within half to full capacity while mall-wide sales were allowed and restrictions on cooler temperatures, free WiFi and longer operating hours were also eased.

The IATF recommended a shorter and later curfew hours to allow workers to travel at ease.

malls and other establishments that provide essential goods and services should also extend their operating hours to complement the staggered shifts.

The public is urged to strictly follow minimum health standards such as the proper wearing of face masks and face shields, no talking and eating in public transportation and crowded areas, and observing physical distancing.

“The transmission of the virus will definitely slow down even if we open more of the economy. Thus, this will allow more people to go back to work and generate more income, and bring back our strong momentum in reducing poverty and malnutrition,” Lopez said.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Immigration will no longer require Filipino travelers going abroad to undergo antigen tests after the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases lifted the requirement.

IATF task force spokesperson Harry Roque said they amended Resolution 79, which requires travelers to present a negative antigen test result as a pre-boarding requirement.

They previously required all outbound travelers to present antigen test results unless the destination requires a negative RT-PCR result.

However, the BI said that should the country of destination require a negative Covid-19 test certificate, the same must be prepared.

BI Commissioner Jaime Morente clarified that the other requirements set by the IATF for outbound travel are still in place such as a round trip ticket for those who will be leaving under a tourist visa.



Año: Mayors want GCQ extension

“Travelers will likewise be required to sign a declaration acknowledging the risks of traveling, which will be given to them by the airline upon check-in,” he added.

The BI also reported that the number of Filipino travelers under a tourist visa “did not increase significantly despite the policy change”.

Meanwhile, IATF announced that starting November 1, foreign nationals with investors visas and those visas issued by the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority, as well as the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority will be allowed to enter the country.

Previously only Filipinos, their spouse and minor children, foreign children with special needs of Filipinos, foreign parents of minor Filipinos, and foreign parents of Filipino children with special needs were allowed to enter the country.

Those who are eligible to enter under a tourist status are still required to secure an entry visa from Philippine embassies or consulates, prior to arrival.

Apart from those mentioned, accredited foreign government and international organization officials and their dependents, foreign airline crewmembers, foreign seafarers with 9(c) visas, and foreigners with long-term visas are allowed.

BI Port Operations Chief Atty. Candy Tan added that both departing and arriving travelers are still required to undergo regular immigration inspection, and present documents needed for their travel.

“Arriving passengers are also required to have a pre-booked accredited quarantine facility before they arrive, and are still subject to the maximum capacity of inbound passengers set by airport authorities,” said Tan.

“After immigration inspection, arriving passengers will proceed to the one stop shop at our airports, where they will be tested and referred to their assigned quarantine facility,” she added.

Meanwhile, cemetery administrators have reminded the public that only those aged 15 to 65 are allowed inside cemeteries, in line with guidelines imposed by the inter-agency task force for the management of emerging infectious diseases.

Manila South Cemetery administration director Raffy Mendez said that children, those older than 65, and those pregnant are not allowed inside the cemetery, and these visitors would be told to head back home should they insist on entering.

Cemeteries are imposing strict health measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, such as the mandatory use of face masks and face shields, and physical distancing among individuals.

Earlier this month, the IATF-EID allowed persons aged 15 to 65 to go out of their homes as the government seeks to restart the economy and boost consumer spending amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Metro Manila Council chairman and Parañaque mayor Edwin Olivarez, cemeteries would only be allowed to fill up to 30 percent of their capacity before and after Undas this year, with all cemeteries in Metro Manila -- public and private -- closed from October 31 to November 3.



Philex halts underground mining after reported coronavirus cases

October 27, 2020 | 12:03 am



PHILEX MINING Corp. temporarily suspended its underground operations on Oct. 23 and 24 to mitigate community transmission after several of its employees tested positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

In a disclosure to the stock exchange on Monday, Philex Mining said that after conducting mass testing, it recorded 26 COVID-19 positive cases in its Pacdal mine site as of Oct. 23.

Most of the patients were working in underground operations.

According to the mining firm, some of the patients were quarantined in the medical and isolation facilities of its Pacdal mining site in Benguet while other employees were transferred to Baguio General Hospital.

Philex Mining said it had started to perform contact tracing procedures to determine employees and their family members who were in possible close contact with the COVID-19 patients.

The company added that it plans to finish the mass testing of its 1,000 personnel who may be exposed.

“Additional isolation and quarantine facilities are being readied for any eventualities,” Philex Mining said in the disclosure.

To prevent the spread of the virus, Philex Mining has implemented health measures in its mine site such as the wearing of face masks and face shields, social distancing and implementation of 24-hour curfew, disinfection activities, and strict inspection at its main gate.

Meanwhile, the mining company said it was too early to declare the potential impact of the event to its operations and financial results.

Philex Mining added that it planned to resume its mining operations by Sunday afternoon.

On Monday, shares in Philex Mining at the stock exchange rose 0.18% or P0.01 to close at P5.61 each. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

HEALTH PROTOCOLS SA EVACUATION CENTERS TIYAKIN— PALASYO

written by [Krista De Dios-Dagala](#) October 27, 2020



Pinatitiyak ng Malakanyang sa mga lokal na pamahalaan sa mga lugar na apektado ng bagyong Quinta ang patuloy na pagpapatupad ng mga hakbang kontra COVID-19.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, dapat matiyak na nasusunod ang mga umiiral na minimum health standards tulad ng pagsusuot ng face mask at physical distancing sa mga evacuation centers.

Gayundin ang pag-isolate o paghiwalay sa mga evacuees na makikitaan ng anumang sintomas ng COVID-19.

Dagdag ni Roque, mananatili ring bawal ang mga pagtitipon-tipon sa loob ng evacuation centers habang dapat maglagay ng mga kinakailangang safety markings bilang paalala.

Una nang sinabi ni Senator Christopher Bong Go na mahigpit na nakatutok si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa sitwasyon sa mga lugar na apektado ng bagyong Quinta.

Philippines reports 1,607 new coronavirus cases, 62 more deaths

October 27, 2020 12:25 AM by [DZRH News Online](#)



FILE PHOTO: A healthcare worker performs a swab test to a vendors at Pritil Public Market amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Tondo, Manila, Philippines, October 8, 2020. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez/File photo

MANILA (Reuters) – The Philippines' health ministry on Monday recorded 1,607 new coronavirus infections and 62 more deaths.

In a bulletin, the ministry said total confirmed cases had increased to 371,630, while deaths had reached 7,039. The Philippines has the second-highest number of COVID-19 infections and deaths in Southeast Asia after Indonesia.

(Reporting by Neil Jerome Morales; Editing by Ed Davies)



EDITORIAL - A perfect 10

(The Freeman)

- October 25, 2020 - 12:00am



According to reports, Inter-Agency Task Force in Cebu designated overseer Secretary Roy Cimatu gave Cebu City the highest rating of 10 for its COVID-19 response.

“Ten, because there is no substitute for success. Walang semi-success. It’s either failed ka or success ka. So, I’ll rate 10,” Cimatu was quoted as saying during a press conference a few days ago.

We thank Cimatu for this high rating, but let’s not let this go to our head. We are not being graded like students in a school, and his giving us this high score is just symbolic gesture of his appreciation for the efforts that have been made. It will not have an impact on anything at all.

It will not be listed on some national report card, it will not guarantee us more tourists when the worst is over, or mean that our economy will recover faster. The virus will not look at our score and decide to skip town. Maybe it gives us some bragging rights to some extent, but that’s it and no more.

Let us also not let this high rating lull is into a false sense of complacency.

Just as news came out about Cimatu’s high rating, news also came out that at least 189 households have been placed on granular lockdown in two sitios in Barangay Hilotongan, Bantayan town, Cebu, after a reported spike in COVID-19 cases.

This means we aren’t out of the woods just yet.

While Bantayan town may not be part of Cebu City, and is in fact very far away from it on another island, remember that the virus doesn’t recognize borders or even natural barriers like the sea. It will spread as long as people are moving from one place to another.

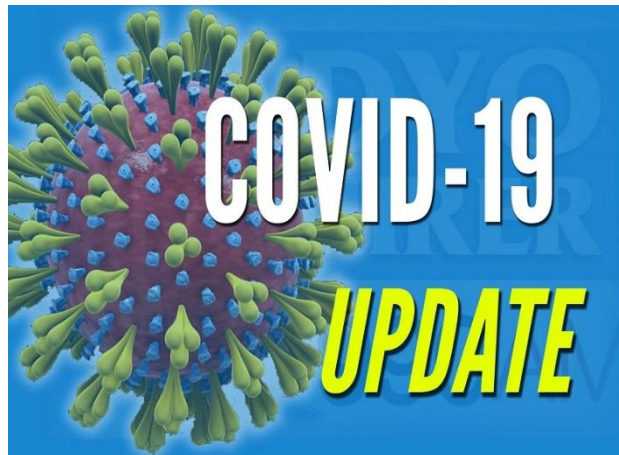
The latest easing of restrictions for certain age groups should also not fool us into thinking the worst is over. As we have seen from other areas in the Philippines, as well as other countries, COVID seems to have a nasty habit of bouncing back when just enough people drop their guard.

We don’t have to remind everyone what will happen if we suddenly find ourselves under harsher quarantine restrictions again.



Global cases ng COVID-19 nadagdagan ng mahigit 400,000 sa magdamag

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo October 26, 2020 - 11:17 AM



Umabot na sa mahigit 43.3 million ang naitatalang kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa pinakahuling datos na nakalap ng Radyo INQUIRER hanggang umaga ng Lunes, (Oct. 26) ay 43,323,390 na ang global cases ng COVID-19.

Ito ay makaraang makapagtala ng mahigit 404,000 na bagong kaso sa magdamag.

Ang US ay nakapagtala ng mahigit 60,000 na dagdag na mga kaso.

Mahigit 45,000 naman ang bagong kaso na naitala sa India.

Ang Brazil ay nakapagtala lang ng dagdag na 12,000 na mga kaso.

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

USA – 8,889,179
India – 7,909,049
Brazil – 5,394,128
Russia – 1,513,877
France – 1,138,507
Spain – 1,110,372
Argentina – 1,090,589
Colombia – 1,015,885
Peru – 888,715
Mexico – 886,800

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/271566/global-cases-ng-covid-19-nadagdagan-ng-mahigit-400000-sa-magdamag#ixzz6ciDIH3wG>

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Rains to continue over parts of Luzon as 'Quinta' moves away

By Ma. Cristina Arayata October 26, 2020, 7:30 pm



MANILA – Rains will continue over parts of Luzon as Typhoon Quinta slightly intensified while moving towards the western boundary of the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), the weather bureau said on Monday.

In its 5 p.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Quinta was last seen 310 kilometer west of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

The typhoon now packs maximum sustained winds of 130 km per hour near the center, and gustiness of up to 160 kph. It is likely to exit PAR on Tuesday, according to the PAGASA.

Moderate to heavy with at times intense rains will continue over Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, northern Palawan including the Calamian and the Cuyo Islands, Calabarzon, Aurora, and Isabela.

Moderate to heavy rains will also continue to prevail over Cagayan, Apayao, Kalinga, Abra, Ilocos Norte, and Ilocos Sur, due to the tail-end of a frontal system.

PAGASA maintained that the two weather systems will continue to cause light to moderate with at times heavy rains over Metro Manila, Western Visayas, the Zamboanga Peninsula, BARMM, and the rest of Luzon.

Meanwhile, Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) No. 1 remains hoisted over Batangas, Occidental Mindoro including Lubang Island, Oriental Mindoro, Calamian Islands, and the extreme northern portion of Antique (Caluya). A strong breeze to near gale conditions will be experienced in these areas.

Rough to high seas will be experienced over the seaboard of areas under TCWS.

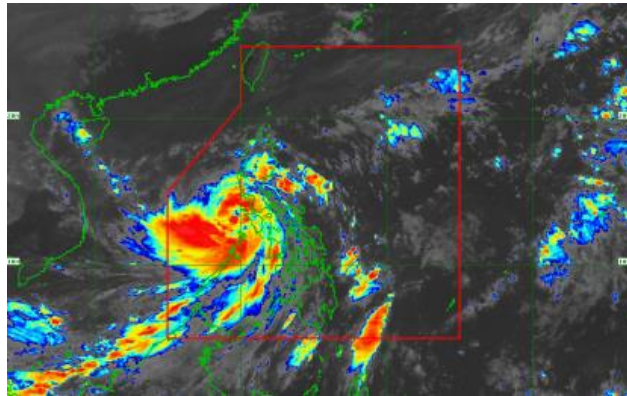
Rough to very rough seas will prevail over the remaining seaboard of Luzon and the western seaboard of Visayas.

Moderate to rough seas will be experienced over the eastern seaboard of the Visayas and Mindanao, and the seaboard of the Zamboanga Peninsula, PAGASA said.

PAGASA said a low pressure area (LPA) may enter the PAR on Wednesday or Thursday “but is less likely to develop into tropical depression in the next 48 hours.” (PNA)

'Quinta' to leave PAR Tuesday morning

By Ma. Cristina Arayata October 26, 2020, 1:49 pm



Satellite image of Quinta (*Image grabbed from PAGASA's Facebook page*)

MANILA – Typhoon Quinta is expected to leave the Philippine Area of Responsibility Tuesday morning but has maintained its strength as it moves west-northwestward, the weather bureau said in an update posted before noon Monday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) forecast Quinta to re-intensify and may reach its peak intensity within 24 to 48 hours. It packs maximum sustained winds of 125 kilometers per hour near the center, and gustiness of up to 150 kph. It was last tracked 125 km north of Coron, Palawan, or 120 km west southwest of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, moving westward at 25 kph.

Moderate to heavy with at times intense rains will continue over Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Marinduque, northern Palawan including Calamian and Cuyo Islands, Calabarzon, Aurora, Isabela, Quirino, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Benguet, Aklan, Capiz, and Antique.

Moderate to heavy rains will also continue over Cagayan, Apayao, Kalinga, Abra, Ilocos Norte, and Ilocos Sur, due to the tail-end of a frontal system.

Metro Manila, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, BARMM, Northern Mindanao, Caraga, and the rest of Luzon, will continue to experience light to moderate with at times heavy rains caused by the two weather systems.

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) No. 3 is hoisted over the northwestern portion of Occidental Mindoro (Abra de Ilog, Mamburao, Paluan) including Lubang Island.

Oriental Mindoro, the rest of Occidental Mindoro, Calamian Islands, Batangas, and the extreme northern portion of Antique (Caluya) remain under Signal No. 2.

The southern portion of Zambales (San Antonio, Castillejos, Subic, Olongapo City), Bataan, the southwestern portion of Pampanga (Floridablanca, Lubao, Sasmuan, Masantol), the southwestern portion of Bulacan (Hagonoy, Paombong, Malolos City, Bulacan, Obando, Meycauayan City), Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon including Polillo Islands, Marinduque, Romblon, and the northern portion of Palawan (El Nido, Taytay) including Cuyo Islands, Aklan, and the rest of the northern portion of Antique (Laua-An, Barbaza, Tibiao, Culasi, Sebaste, Pandan, Libertad), are under Signal No. 1.



'Quinta' to leave PAR Tuesday morning

Rough to high seas will be experienced over the seaboard of areas under TCWS.

Rough to very rough seas will also prevail over the remaining seaboard of Luzon and the western, northern, and eastern seaboard of Visayas.

Elsewhere, moderate to rough seas will prevail, PAGASA said. *(PNA)*

P60-M crops, fisheries destroyed by floods, landslides in Cagayan

By Villamor Visaya, Jr. October 26, 2020, 6:16 pm



LANDSLIDE. A road in Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan damaged by landslide as a result of continuous monsoon rains in Northern Luzon. The provincial agriculture office said on Monday (Oct. 26, 2020) that the rains have damaged PHP59.59 million worth of agricultural crops and fisheries. *(Photo courtesy of Cagayan Provincial Information Office)*

TUGUEGARAO CITY – The monsoon-induced floods and landslides, which continue to hound villagers in northern Luzon, have damaged PHP59.59 million worth of agricultural crops and fisheries in Cagayan province, initial reports reaching the agriculture office showed on Monday.

Acting provincial agriculturist Danilo Benitez said in a media briefing that the hardest hit towns in the province were Sta. Praxedes, Claveria, Sanchez Mira, Pamplona, Abulug, Ballesteros, and Allacapan.

Sanchez Mira town suffered damage in 244 hectares of palay farms and dead cattle worth around PHP6.87 million; Pamplona, 260 hectares of palay and 100 hectares of corn worth PHP6.3 million;

Abulug town, 1,257 hectares of palay worth PHP18.85 million; Claveria, 274 hectares of palay, 10 hectares of vegetables, some 5,410 bags of drenched palay, and dead cattle worth a total of PHP11.46 million;

Ballesteros, 212 hectares of palay farms worth PHP5.08 million; Allacapan, 300 hectares of damaged palay farms worth 10.8 million; and Sta. Praxedes, 2.67 hectares of destroyed palay farms, 85 fruit-bearing trees and 2,158 square meters of fishponds worth PHP228,168.

Benitez said the data could still increase due to the continuing bad weather.

“This is a big loss to our farmers who are still enduring the effects of pandemic. Many of them are hoping to have an income from their farms,” he said, adding that the provincial government has been planning on giving assistance to the affected farmers. *(PNA)*

AFP activates disaster response as Typhoon Quinta lashes Luzon

Marje Pelayo • October 26, 2020 • 18



MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has activated all its disaster response units to help in the relief efforts along the path of Typhoon Quinta.

In a statement on Sunday, AFP Spokesperson Marine Maj. Gen. Edgard Arevalo announced that AFP Chief-of-Staff, General Gilbert Gapay ordered all units to be prepared for deployment and assist local government units and other relevant agencies in any event of preventive or forced evacuation.

Arevalo added that the AFPCS has also directed all ground commanders in areas along the path of the typhoon to exercise all precautionary measures necessary to ensure the safety of military personnel and equipment including aircraft, ships and other key assets.

Arevalo hopes that all affected residents will heed calls for evacuation and take advantage of the AFP assistance ahead and at the onset of the weather disturbance. **MNP / Julie Anne Gernale**

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NDRRMC: More risk communication needed to avoid maritime incidents

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Oct 26, 2020 10:33:42 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 26) — The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council says more risk communication is needed, especially in local government units, to avoid maritime incidents when weather disturbances hit the country.

“*Kailangan ng ibayong risk communications para maintindihan ng mga tao kung ano ang panganib na badya nitong mga bagyo,*” NDRRMC executive director Ricardo Jalad told CNN Philippines’ News.PH on Monday.

[Translation: There is a need for more risk communication so that people would understand the threats brought by these typhoons.]

Jalad said the Philippine Coast Guard always makes sure that advisories are issued when typhoon signals are raised, but he emphasized that stricter control at the LGU level is required to keep fishermen from venturing out to sea.

The assessment came after [12 fishermen in Catanduanes remain missing](#) after their vessel capsized at the height of Typhoon Quinta. Jalad said they have already reached out to the Bicol region’s Office of Civil Defense, as well as those in nearby regions for better coordination in the rescue effort..

Meanwhile, Jalad said there are still no reported casualties in areas ravaged by Typhoon Quinta, which has [slightly gained strength on its way out of the Philippine Area of Responsibility](#).



Go asks senators to fast-track bill on Disaster Resilience Department

Published October 26, 2020 9:36pm
By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

Senator Christopher "Bong" Go on Monday appealed to his fellow lawmakers in the upper chamber to expedite the approval of the bill creating a Department of Disaster Resilience in the Philippines.

"I am again urging my colleagues in the Senate to act on this measure. Matagal ko nang sinabi ito. Paulit-ulit na ako na huwag na nating hintayin magka-sakuna na naman bago ipasa ang panukalang magtatatag ng Department of Disaster Resilience," Go said after Typhoon Quinta wreaked havoc in some parts of Luzon.

The senator, who filed Senate Bill No. 205 last year, emphasized that an agency focused on disaster preparedness and resiliency was necessary for the country.

"Palagi na lang kung merong kalamidad sa bansa ay kaya napag-uusapan ang pagkakaroon ng DDR. Dapat maging mas proactive tayo at ipasa na ito sa lalong madaling panahon," he said.

Go appealed to his colleagues after House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco [urged the Senate to prioritize the bill's passage](#).

The Lower House had [approved a bill](#) for such on third and final reading last month.

Several bills pushing for the creation of this new department are still pending at the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification, and Reconciliation chaired by Senator Panfilo Lacson.

Lacson previously said that instead of creating a new agency, the head of an office or authority that will handle the country's disaster resilience efforts should just be [elevated to a Cabinet rank](#). — DVM, GMA News

Senate urged to pass disaster resilience dep't bill

By Filane Mikee Cervantes October 26, 2020, 5:28 pm



House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco (*File photo*)

MANILA – Speaker Lord Allan Velasco on Monday called on the Senate to prioritize the passage of a bill creating the Department of Disaster Resilience (DRR) as Typhoon Quinta battered different parts of Luzon.

“We earnestly urge our counterparts in the Senate to pass their own version so we can subsequently work on the enrolled bill to be sent to President Duterte’s desk for his signature,” Velasco said.

The House of Representatives approved the bill on third and final reading last September 21. The measure is now awaiting deliberations in the Senate.

Velasco, one of the authors and sponsors of the bill, said a department that deals specifically with disaster response and management is urgently needed, considering that the Philippines is frequented by typhoons and located along the Pacific Ring of Fire.

Velasco said the creation of the DDR will help the country in mitigating the devastating effects of natural disasters, especially amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

“The creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience allows us to be constantly prepared and well-equipped when natural disasters occur. This will enable other Departments to put all their focus and efforts in helping the country recover from Covid-19,” Velasco said.

The bill seeks to establish the DDR as the primary government agency that will lead, organize and manage the national effort to reduce disaster risk, prepare for, and respond to disasters, and lead in recovery and rehabilitation efforts.

Velasco, meanwhile, said he is currently coordinating efforts to rehabilitate his home province, Marinduque, in the typhoon’s aftermath

“We assure Marinduqueños that relief efforts are underway, and that we are working closely with the Provincial Government in the recovery and rehabilitation of Marinduque,” he said.

The Speaker has also coordinated with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) so that assistance and immediate relief operations may be extended to other areas hit by the typhoon. **(PNA)**



PXP Energy keen on Shell's stake in Malampaya project

posted October 26, 2020 at 09:05 pm

by [Alena Mae S. Flores](#)

PXP Energy Corp., an oil and gas exploration company led by businessman Manuel Pangilinan, plans to bid for the 45-percent stake of Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. in the \$4.5-billion Malampaya gas-to-power project in northwest Palawan.

"We are looking at it. We've been talking to JP Morgan who has been advising Shell on the sale of their stake in Malampaya," Pangilinan, chairman of PXP Energy, said in a virtual briefing Monday.

Spex announced last month a plan to sell its 45-percent stake in Service Contract 38, or the Malampaya gas project.

Udenna Corp. and state-run PNOOC Exploration Corp. owns 45 percent and 10 percent of SC 38, respectively. Udenna expressed intention to exercise preemptive rights and acquire the stake of Spex.

Meanwhile, Pangilinan said PXP Energy was preparing the work program for SC 72 (Recto Bank) following the government's decision to lift the moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the West Philippine Sea.

PXP Energy received last week the "resume-to-work" notice from the Department of Energy in relation to SC 72 in northwest Palawan, while PXP's subsidiary Forum Energy Ltd. also received a notice for its operating interest in SC 75.

"I think in the next few weeks, we will be able to finish our work program which we will submit to DOE for approval," Pangilinan said.

He, however, expressed concern over the actions of China once PXP Energy proceeded with the work program.

Pangilinan said they might have to look at the work program in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed by the Philippines and China in November 2018.

"We do have to speak to CNOOC [China National Offshore Corp.] and our government to the Chinese government," he said.

"The question is what will China do? What will CNOOC do? Can we just send our oil rig without their permission or cooperation? That's something we don't know yet," Pangilinan said.

PXP Energy and CNOOC were in talks for a possible joint exploration over the West Philippine Sea but the parties had not yet signed any agreement.

Pangilinan said PXP Energy would need to drill two exploratory wells in SC 72 which would mean deploying an oil rig to the area.

"We think probably [we] need to do another survey because typically the operator of the oil rig would need an updated survey of the underlying ground, the ocean floor...Then agree with DOE where to put the oil rig and where to put the exploratory wells," he said.



PXP Energy keen on Shell's stake in Malampaya

PXP Energy's shares soared last week, after the government lifted the moratorium on oil exploration in the West Philippine Sea.

The company reported a net loss of P56.4 million in the first half because of the decline in Galoc oilfield's production.

Topics: [PXP Energy Corp.](#) , [Manuel Pangilinan](#) , [Shell Philippines Exploration B.V.](#) , [Malampaya gas-to-power project](#) , [northwest Palawan](#)



Easing rules is 'scary'; BOC-NAIA condemns 24.6 tons of unsafe goods

[Saturday, October 24, 2020](#) [Itchie G. Cabayan](#)

FIRST of all, happy birthday to Mayor Isko Moreno and his son Joaquin who celebrated their natal day yesterday, October 24. They are 46 and 19, respectively.

We can only wish them good health and a long life free from stress and problems.

To the good mayor of Manila, may you continue to be blessed and be a blessing to others.

At the rate restrictions are being eased thus allowing more people out and freer movements around, the possibility of transmission is also thus increased, amid the fact that the cure for COVID-19 is not found yet.

More and more, the situation is becoming some sort of a 'to each his own' kind of thing which is very scary, specially in the wake of pronouncements made by no less than President Rodrigo Duterte that government funds are stretched to the limit, even likening it to an overstretched rubber band.

The Philippines has the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases in Southeast Asia, with 356,618 reported as of recently. The number includes 310,158 recoveries and 6,652 deaths.

While prohibitions are being relaxed, government, both national and local, should also be stepping up measures to constantly keep the populace reminded that COVID-19 is still here, that the risk of getting infected is still very much around, that the coronavirus is deadly and that there is still no cure available.

People, as we all know, have the tendency to put their guards down or even become careless, given a bit of freedom to go out and do whatever they want and thus expose themselves to possible infection which, in turn, may result in community transmission.

If this happens, all the efforts, previous lockdowns and quarantines are put to naught and, God forbid, we find our country back to square one.

Our medical practitioners have already said they are not ready for a second wave and may no longer be able to handle it. They are all tired and have been risking so much already as in fact, many have also died in the process of keeping others alive as a result of the pandemic.

As ordinary citizens, let us do our share by making sure that we take all the necessary precautions when we go out and that we only leave our homes when extremely necessary.

By constantly wearing face masks and face shields, washing or sanitizing our hands frequently and watching our distance from one another wherever we go while we avoid touching our eyes, nose and mouth, we can lessen the risk of getting infected. Once we are safe, we also keep our loved ones safe by not bringing home the virus we may have gotten from being careless while outside of our homes.



Easing rules is ‘scary’; BOC-NAIA condemns 24.6 tons of unsafe goods

Most of all, don't forget to pray constantly that we all be kept safe and that this pandemic finally ends.

The Bureau of Customs-NAIA has condemned another 24.6 tons of vape products, cosmetics, expired medicines and supplements and other hazardous and unsafe goods with approximate value of P10 million. The said goods were imported without necessary Food and Drug Administration (FDA) registration and permits.

The hazardous and unsafe imported goods have undergone condemnation proceedings and were destroyed thru the Thermal Decomposer (Pyrolysis) Facility of the Integrated Waste Management Inc., in Trece Martires, Cavite, on October 17 and 19, 2020.

The destruction of the said goods was properly coordinated with Food & Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Optical Media Board (OMB) and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

In her statement, Port of NAIA District Collector Carmelita ‘Mimel’ Talusan said that the condemnation proceedings are in line with the directive of Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero to address perennial congestion problems of customs facilities on abandoned and illegally shipped items in order to further facilitate business and trade within the Port.

This, not to mention the concomitant role of the Bureau of Customs in border control and protection against the entry and proliferation of unsafe and hazardous goods. Kudos!!



SALAPING BAYAN, IBALIK SA BAYAN, HUWAG IBULSA NG SINOMAN



October 26, 2020 @ 7:51 AM 21 hours ago

Kakarampot ang salaping bayan ng Pinas kaya sana naman, makonsensya ang mga korap at mandarambong.

Tingnan ninyo ang nangyayari.

Karambola ang ating pamahalaan sa paghahanap ng pondo upang magkaroon ng panggastos sa darating na taon.

Nariryan ang pagpayag nitong magbukas ang maraming negosyo bagama't nakatali sa mga patakaran, lalo na ang quarantine na pinaiiiral upang makontrol ang nakamamatay at nakakakrisis na coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19.

Sa pagbubukas ng negosyo, kikita ang mamamayan sa pagnenegosyo at kikita rin sa kanila ang gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng buwis.

Nariryan din ang pangungutang ng pamahalaan sa loob at labas ng bansa.

Nariryan din ang pagsusumikap nito na makasingil ng buwis gaya ng sa lupa, minahan, imported na bigas at iba pa.

Nariryan din ang mga proyektong imprastraktura na gawa ng pamahalaan para makalikha ng trabaho at makapagbigay-ginhawa sa paglalakbay ng mga mamamayan, produkto at serbisyo na pagkakakitaan pa rin nito.

Kalakip ng pangangalap ng pondong pangserbisyong-bayan sa iba't ibang paraan, mga Bro, nariryan din ang pagsisikap ng pamahalaan na hindi mahahaluan ng anomang korapsyon at pandarambong ang nasabing pondo.

MALIIT ANG PONDO

Nasa P4.5 trilyon lang ang pondo para sa susunod na taon.

Malaki sa tingin subalit sa totoo lang, maliit ito sa totoong pangangailangan ng taumbayan, lalo ngayong panahon ng pandemya na umaasa nang malaki ang taumbayan sa ayuda ng pamahalaan.



SALAPING BAYAN, IBALIK SA BAYAN, HUWAG IBULSA NG SINOMAN

Lalo na para sa kalusugan, partikular ang laban sa COVID-19 at iba pang batayang pangangailangan gaya ng ayuda sa mga nawalan ng trabaho at negosyo at kung may trabaho o negosyo man, pitsa-pitsa lang.

‘Yun bang === kung may trabaho, hindi buo ang pasok at kung may negosyo, matumal naman.

Ang totoo, mas mayaman pa ang dalawang taong may-ari ng mga kompanyang computer kaysa ang pamahalaan ng Pilipinas.

Si Jeff Bezos na may-ari ng Amazon.com ay may yamang \$113 bilyong dolyar samantalang si Bill Gates naman na may-ari ng Microsoft, may yamang \$98B.

Itong si Mark Zuckerberg na may-ari naman ng Facebook, may yamang halos \$58B at \$35B lang ang lamang ng gobyerno natin.

Pero heto ang nakagugulat, may nilalarong \$328B ang mga sangkot sa droga sa buong mundo sa taong ito at still counting, mga Bro, dahil hanggang katapusan lang ng Oktubre ang rekord na ito at wala pa ang para sa Nobyembre-Disyembre 2020.

Ang mahal kong Pinas?

Kawawang tingnan sa pagkakaroon lang ng P4.5 trilyon na ang katumbas ay \$93B lamang.

Kukunin ng pamahalaan ang pondo pangunahin sa koleksyon ng Bureau of Internal Revenue at Bureau of Customs bilang pangunahing tagakolekta sa buwis at taripa at hahaluan pa ng utang.

MANIOBRA SA KONGRESO

Inaprubahan ang 2021 pambansang badyet noong nakaraang Linggo pero isusumite ang soft copy nito sa Senado sa Oktubre 28, 2020.

Ang siste, makaraang maaprubahan ng plenaryo o lahat ng kongresman, may naghabol at may nagsingit nang wala sa isinumiteng badyet ng Malakanyang.

Umaabot na yata sa bilyon-bilyon ang isiningit ng ilang kongresman at nakikita na ito ng ilang senador na ngayon pa lang ay todo-reklamo na sa pagkakaroon ng errata o mga mali sa inaprubahang badyet.

At ang mga mali ay kailangang ituwid at ang pagtutuwid ay ang pagsingit ng mga kongresman ng proyektong para umano sa kanilang mga “napapabayaang distrito.”

Hehehe!

Pero para sa mga senador, may ibang mga dahilan at ayaw nilang tawagin itong pork barrel.

Wala umanong pork barrel sa 2021 budget, sabi nila.

Wala silang nakalaan na P70 milyon para sa bawat kongresman at wala ring P200 milyon para sa bawat senador gaya ng nagaganap noong naunang administrasyon?

Bahala na ang mga senador na sumilip kung ano ang totoo at pumikit na rin kung merong kasinungalingan.



SALAPING BAYAN, IBALIK SA BAYAN, HUWAG IBULSA NG SINOMAN

DAPAT MABUNGA LAHAT

Ang puntirya ng pamahalaan, bawat proyekto na pagkakagastusan nito ay mararamdaman ng taumbayan, ng bawat indibidwal.

‘Yun bang === maging mabunga at kapaki-pakinabang sa kanila bagama’t may mga halong aberya kung minsan, gaya ng ipinararating ng masamang kalikasan at pandemya gaya ng COVID-19.

Ang La Niña, halimbawa, ay magdadala ng mga malalakas at siyam-siyam na ulan at mga bagyo sa susunod na limang buwan at magbubunga ito ng mga sakit, kamatayan, baha, landslide at iba pa.

Pinsala sa tao at kalikasan ang kabilang sa nagsisimula na nating maranasan.

Ang pandemya naman ay hindi na nating ipaliliwanag kung gaano kabagsik ito sa buong bayan at hindi pa tayo nakatitiyak kung kailang ito magtatapos.

Sa harap ng lahat ng ito, kailangang bawat sentimo ng salaping bayan ay makalilikha ng pakinabang sa taumbayan, makapagbibigay sa kanila ng mga oportunidad na maging partner ng pamahalaan na huhubog ng makabuluhang bukas.

Lahat ng larangan ay dapat may maramdaman ang taumbayan na pakinabang at kaaya-aya: Sa kalikasan at kapaligiran, sa kalusugan, sa kabuhayan, sa kapayapaan at kaayusan, sa turismo, sa komunikasyon at teknolohiya, sa transportasyon, sa imprasktraktura, sa edukasyon at iba pa.

PAGPAPAYAMAN SA PWESTO TALIKURAN NA

Ang salaping bayan ay hindi dapat na pag-interesan ng mga nagpahalal at nagpatalaga sa pwesto para lang magpayaman.

Hindi magandang tingnan na ginagamit ang ngalan at kapakanan ng taumbayan para sa korapsyon at pandarambong.

Panahon nang talikuran ang kasakiman sa salaping bayan at sa halip, ibalik sa taumbayan ang mga buwis at iba pa nilang ibinibigay sa pamahalaan.

Bawat opisyal at empleyado ng pamahalaan, mula nasyunal hanggang sa mga barangay ay trabahante lang ng mga mamamayan.



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BusinessWorld Insights Sustaining Sustainability Series: "Reducing Carbon Emissions for a Sustainable Future" | October 28, 2020

Japan PM sets 2050 deadline for carbon neutrality



By [Agence France-Presse](#)
October 27, 2020

TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Monday set a 2050 deadline for the world's third-largest economy to become carbon neutral, significantly firming up the country's climate change commitments.

"We will bring the total amount of greenhouse gas (emitted by Japan) to net zero by 2050, meaning carbon neutral," Suga said in his first policy address to parliament since taking office.

"I declare we will aim to realize a decarbonized society," he added, to applause from Diet members.



CLIMATE GOALS Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga wearing a face mask gives his first policy speech during an extraordinary session at the lower house of parliament in Tokyo on Monday. AFP PHOTO

Tokyo had previously only aimed to achieve carbon neutrality some time in the latter half of the century, a goal criticized by climate activists as vague and unambitious.

The new goal puts Japan on the same timeline as Europe, Britain and a host of smaller nations, and a decade ahead of China, which last month set a 2060 goal.

Suga did not give precise details on how Japan, a country still heavily reliant on coal, will achieve the goal but said technology would be essential.

"The key is innovation," Suga said, citing examples including next-generation solar batteries.

He said Japan would also push the use of renewable energy and nuclear power, stressing that safety would be a priority — a key point in a country that suffered the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Japan, which is a signatory to the Paris agreement, was the sixth-biggest contributor to global greenhouse emissions in 2017, according to the International Energy Agency.



Japan PM sets 2050 deadline for carbon neutrality

It has struggled to cut carbon emissions after shutting down nuclear reactors following the 2011 meltdown in Fukushima sparked by a devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Reliance on fossil fuels like coal increased after the Fukushima disaster, as public anger over the accident pushed all of the country's nuclear reactors offline temporarily.

'The time is right'

Japan has regularly come under fire for continuing to build coal-fired plants at home, as well as financing projects to build them abroad, notably in Southeast Asia.

The country's 140 coal-fired power plants provide nearly a third of its total electricity generation.

The fuel is the second-biggest power-generation method behind LNG-fired plants, which provide 38 percent of the nation's needs.

The new deadline is expected to shape the country's basic energy plan, which is currently being revised.

The most recent plan, issued in 2018, aimed to have 22-24 percent of the country's energy needs met by renewable sources including wind and solar by 2030, a figure critics called unambitious based on current levels of around 17 percent.

That plan also called for nuclear to provide more than 20 percent of the country's energy needs by 2030.

Takaharu Niimi, a climate change specialist at the Japan Research Institute, told Agence France-Presse that Suga's announcement was in line with an international move towards stronger commitments on the environment.

In September, the world's largest greenhouse gas polluter China announced it would be carbon neutral by 2060, a goal hailed by climate activists as a major step forward.

"Considering the international trend, I think the time is right for Japan to declare the plan," Niimi told AFP.

"I see this announcement as being part of the broad trend."



Chinese leaders tackle Xi's carbon promise



By [Agence France-Presse](#)
October 27, 2020

BEIJING: China's Communist leadership will discuss Xi Jinping's ambitious carbon neutral pledge in talks that began on Monday on the country's economic strategy for the next five years.

The climate goals, which challenge the world's biggest polluter to reach peak emissions in 2030 and go carbon neutral 30 years later, are the most concrete environmental action announced by Beijing yet but are thin on public detail.

The latest plenary will discuss the country's new five year plan, to take effect from 2021, which is expected to flesh out how a country that accounts for a quarter of the planet's greenhouse gases will rewire the economy to meet Xi's targets.

The opaque meetings are always held behind closed doors, without media access, and a statement outlining decisions made by the leadership is usually published after the gathering concludes.

China's draft five year plan will then be presented to its rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress, for formal approval.

The carbon promise, announced last month in a speech by Xi to the United Nations, came as a surprise as China has relied heavily on coal to spur its economic emergence from poverty to superpower status over the last few decades.

Its five year plans are "not designed to attract votes or score political points as is done in the West by some politicians [but] are aimed at realizing the people's aspirations for a better life," said official news agency Xinhua over the weekend.

Xinhua said more than one million suggestions for the five year plan had been submitted online in August, and that input had come from universities, think tanks and other official bodies.

The new plan will be the country's 14th since the Communist government was established in 1949.

The state news agency said on Sunday that pollution targets in the last plan had been met, and urban residents in China "now breathe in unpolluted air for 82 percent of the days in a year, and water quality has improved to sound levels."

China's new environmental targets have been welcomed by climate activists but have also prompted political fallout.

Beijing accused the United States of "obstructing" the global fight against emissions last month, as tensions soar between the two over a number of topics including trade.