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DENR hinikayat ang MM residents na makiisa sa vertical gardening, tumulong na mapalawak ang green spaces



June 27, 2021 @ 4:40 PM 14 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang palawakin ang Urban Biodiversity Program sa mga lokal na pamahalaan nananawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko partikular sa mga naninirahan sa Metro Manila na gamitin ang vertical gardening techniques upang mapalawak ang green spaces sa metropolis.

Sa press release sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, “we can derive so much benefit from these green spaces, which include green walls, green roofs, vertical gardens, urban forest parks, linear forest along walk ways, transport routes and river systems.”

“These networks of green spaces improve air quality, reduce heat, increase energy efficiency, and reduce noise pollution, and provide habitats for wildlife,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Ayon sa DENR ang pagkakaroon ng vertical gardens ay hindi lamang nakapagbibigay ng proteksiyon sa biodiversity at nakadaragdag sa green spaces bagkus ay nakatutulong din ito sa kalusugan ng publiko, dagdag ni Cimatu.

“It will help relieve stress of average Filipinos by enhancing the aesthetics of their surroundings, especially during this time of health crisis,” saad ni Cimatu.

Kaugnay nito sinabi naman ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, na may ilan pa ring green spaces sa Metro Manila kabilang na dito ang Ninoy Aquino Parks ang Wildlife Center (NAPWC) kung saan matatagpuan ang DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau, University of the Philippines-Diliman, at Ateneo de Manila University, pawang sa Quezon City, Arroceros Forest Park sa Maynila at ang Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park.

Ayon kay Antiporda upang maragdagan ang green spaces at palawigin ang biodiversity sa urban areas, sinusulong ng DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ang Urban Biodiversity Program sa mga lokal na pamahalaan. Kabilang sa programa ang Urban Forest Bathing, at ang promosyon ng green infrastructures.

Nabatid pa sa DENR na tumutulong ang Urban Forest Bathing sa pagtaguyod ng kabutihan sa kalusugan ng mga kagubatan at green spaces. Ang green infrastructures ay mga gusali o inprastruktura na sumusuporta sa green energy at nagdudulot ng benepisyo sa kapaligiran.



Sa pamamagitan ng pagtaguyod ng Urban Biodiversity, nailalapit sa kalikasan ang mga naninirahan sa siyudad.

“We can only do so much based on our existing laws in preserving the green spaces in Metro Manila, but even an ordinary citizen can help us in this endeavor. Kahit maliit na lupa niyo—backyard lang—eh malaki na rin pong tulong iyan,” saad ni Antiporda.

Idiniin pa nito na “the trend of plantitos and plantitas has helped a lot to reverse the impacts of the fast infrastructure development in the National Capital Region (NCR).”

Samantala, nabanggit din ni Antiporda na bagama’t ito ay nakatutulong, ang pangangailangan sa ornamental plants ay nagdulot ng pagdami ng plant poachers.

“The DENR, through the BMB, is doing its best to catch these poachers because what they are doing is against Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001,” aniya.

Hindi dapat bumili ang mga plant hobbyists ng illegally-traded plants lalo na ang non-native plants “because of its possible adverse impacts to the environment that may result in bringing pests and diseases that may infest other species of plants,” babala pa nito.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda, ang departamento ay “committed to augment the green spaces in the NCR in the best ways that it can and promote the use of native species.”

Ipinaliwanag pa nito na ang development plans sa urban areas na nangangailangan ng pagputol ng puno ay kinakailangang sumunod sa DENR’s tree-cutting policy.

“The DENR mandates that for every tree cut in urban areas, 50 to 100 replacement trees should be planted in areas outside NCR,” aniya.

“We encourage everyone to join us in our mission to protect the environment. Magtulong-tulong po tayo. Hindi lang po para sa henerasyon na ito kundi para sa mga susunod pang henerasyon,” dagdag pa nito. **Santi Celario**



Protecting marine resources; DENR exec launches war vs ocean waste

JUN 26, 2021, 7:22 PM

Santiago Celario Writer

Usec Antiporda pointed out that 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 ocean and marine resources due to neglect and irresponsibility.

A TOP official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has urged Filipinos to take part in the clean-up of the country's seaboard to protect the marine resources.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda made the call after the successful closure of all 335 open dumpsites across the country.

Antiporda said he has taken the lead in organizing clean-up drives to encourage care for the ocean and to come up with preventive measures on the growing problem of marine pollution.

He noted that marine pollution is one of the main reasons the DENR closed all illegally operating open dumpsites across the country as it is in line with the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

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

"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," he said.

Sea vessels inspections

This, as the DENR 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 recently. (See also: Shape up or ship out; DENR orders ship owners in Manila Bay to comply with environmental laws)

During the inspection, the team noted that many of the vessels docked alongside the Manila Bay area were rusting. 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.

Other activities

Aside from the inspection in the Manila Bay area, Antiporda also spearheaded online learning events from May 26 to 29 in celebration of the Month of the Ocean (MOO).

More than 560 participants from the Boy Scout of the Philippines, as well as elementary and high school teachers, and personnel from D'Triumph, the janitorial manpower agency of DENR attended the events. (See also: DENR renews call to protect the ocean for food security)

“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 ocean and marine resources due to our neglect and irresponsibility. We need to take action now to save the environment,” Antiporda concluded.

(SC)



PAGLILINIS SA KARAGATAN TUTUTUKAN NG DENR

June 27, 2021



MAKARAAN ang matagumpay na pagpapasara sa lahat ng 335 open dumpsites sa bansa ay hinikayat naman ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda ang mga Filipino na makibahagi sa clean-up ng karagatan sa bansa upang maprotektahan ang marine resources.

Pinangungunahan ni Antiporda ang pagsasagawa ng clean-up drives upang makahikayat na magkaroon ng kalinga sa ating karagatan at magkaroon ng preventive measures sa lumalalang problema sa 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,” saad ni Antiporda.

Ang marine pollution ang isa sa dahilan ng DENR sa pagpapasara ng lahat ng illegally operating open dumpsites sa bansa bilang bahagi na rin ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ipinaliwanag din ni Antiporda na siya ring namumuno sa Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force na isa sa layunin ng Manila Bay rehabilitation program, na siyang prayoridad na programa ng DENR, ay upang maisalba 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.

Dahil dito, nakipag-partner ang DENR sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) at Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG) sa pagsasagawa ng inspeksiyon sa marine vessels sa Navotas Fish Port at Del Pan Bridge noong Hunyo 4.

Sa isinagawang inspeksiyon, napansin ng grupo na ang mga sasakyan na nakadaong sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay ay kinakalawang na. Makikita rin ang mga floating debris. Upang matukoy kung may chemical contamination at upang mapag-aralan ang water quality ay kumuha ng sample ng tubig ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) mula 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 ni Antiporda.



Nakipagpulong din ito sa mga kapitan ng wooden cargo vessels na tinatawag na batil upang mapag-usapan ang wastewater na itinatapon mula sa sasakyan at maging ang kanilang solid waste management system. Hiniling din nito ang tulong ng mga shipyard owner upang mabigyan ng solusyon ang pollution sa Manila Bay.

Bukod sa inspeksiyon sa Manila Bay area, pinangunahan din nito ang online learning events noong Mayo 26 hanggang 29 kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Month of the Ocean (MOO).

Umabot sa mahigit 560 participants na nagmula sa Boy Scouts of the Philippines, elementary at high school teachers at mga personnel ng D'Triumph na siyang janitorial manpower agency ng DENR, ang dumalo. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



DENR, Rotary Club of Binangonan link up to clean Laguna de Bay

Published June 27, 2021, 12:49 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has found a key ally in the cleanup of Laguna de Bay, which is one of the most important bodies of water in the country in terms of ecological and economic impact.



(Photo from Laguna Lake Development Authority)

The agency recently partnered with the Rotary Club of Binangonan in a bid to preserve the lake's biodiversity and help improve its waterflow in time for the onset of the rainy season.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, Rotary Club of Binangonan president Jerome C. Antiporda, and members of the Philippine Coast Guard took part in the Laguna de Bay Clean-up Drive Project on June 11.

“Malaki po ang maitutulong nitong proyektong ito hindi lamang sa Laguna de Bay, kundi pati na rin sa ibang karatig tubig nito tulad ng Pasig River at Manila Bay (This project will not only be of huge help to Laguna de Bay, but also to nearby bodies of water like Pasig River and Manila Bay),” Undersecretary Antiporda said.

Laguna de Bay—the largest freshwater lake in the Philippines and the third largest in Southeast Asia—is a major source of fish in the country. Its only outlet, the Napindan Channel, is connected to Manila Bay via the Pasig River.

Like other bodies of water in the country, biodiversity in the bay is under threat of uncontrolled development, population growth, and industrialization.

“The cleanup of water bodies does not only contribute to biodiversity conservation. They also mitigate flooding, which is part of climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction. This makes it an invaluable part of the DENR priority programs,” DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu noted.

The activity was part of the celebration of the Rizal Province's 120th Foundation Day and Rotary Club of Binangonan's 22nd founding anniversary.

The cleanup project, along with tree planting activities in several parts of the municipality, was conducted with the 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program) beneficiaries, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology-Binangonan Municipal Jail, Tulong Pilipinas Movement Binangonan Rizal, Binangonan Riders United, Guardian Brothers, Philippine National Police, and the Bureau of Fire Protection, and other organizations.



Undersecretary Antiporda, who also heads the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force (APTF), has directed its members to prioritize the removal of water hyacinths or water lilies in Laguna de Bay and Pasig River.

He said local fisherfolk will also be employed to fast track the cleanup of these bodies of water.



DENR lauds CGHMC's environmental efforts

Published June 27, 2021, 11:40 PM

by [MB Lifestyle](#)

In a comprehensive assessment covering three years, the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (CGHMC) is cited for its constant adherence and dedication to the country's environmental laws and regulations.

Last May 31, 2021, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hailed the hospital's consistent endeavor in complying with the bureau's various directives to private institutions for cleaner surroundings in pursuance of the "EMB Memorandum Circular No. 2020-28."

"This is a testament to our renewed commitment to help the environment in every way we can," said Jameson G. Dy, Senior VP for Operations and Administration / DENR EMB Registered Managing Head. "We have been supporting the DENR and its many top-notch projects over the years."

Dy together with Emerson Vergara, CGHMC Pollution Control Officer, was presented with certificates of recognition for their efforts.

CGHMC's has wholly complied with the DENR requirements under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PD 1586), Toxic Substances and Hazardous Wastes Act (RA 6969), Clean Air Act (RA 8749), the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (RA 9003), and Clean Water Act (RA 9275).

The hospital has consistently submitted self-monitoring and compliance monitoring reports to ensure that the institution is strictly following the bureau's guidelines.

These efforts are manifested through various programs such as No Idling, Solid and Hazardous / Infectious / COVID Waste Management, Agreement with ABS-CBN's "Bantay Kalikasan" which recycled used oil and batteries, Waste Minimization such as the use of Paper Meal Boxes and Wooden Cutlery, which are aggregate parts of the hospital's Corporate Social Responsibility.

"We are continuously adapting to change for a more sustainable and systemized approach to our environmental applications towards the future," Dy added. "This has become way beyond compliance but more importantly it's about protecting our environment while exercising our function as a health care institution."

CGHMC, owned and operated by the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association, Inc. (PCCAI), has been at the forefront of quality health care for over 130 years.



DENR execs plant tree seedlings, bamboo culms along Marikina watershed

June 27, 2021 [Gemi Formaran](#)

MORE than a thousand indigenous tree seedlings and bamboo culms were planted by regional officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) along the streambanks inside the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape in Antipolo, Rizal.

As the Environment Department celebrates the 158th Philippine Forestry Service and Arbor Day, DENR- Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria led the planting of kawayang tinik, narra, banaba, kaimito, and langka inside the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) in Bgy. Calawis, Antipolo, Rizal.

The site was selected as part of the flood mitigation measures under the Executive Order 12 Task Force Build Back Better, and the Intensified Watershed Management of the PA.

Riverbanks in UMRBPL is targeted to be planted with bamboo for easement recovery.

Planting of bamboo helps in riverbank stabilization, flood mitigation, and prevents soil erosion.

Tamoria recognized the important role of People's Organizations in reforestation and protection of watersheds. "Ang pangangalaga sa tubig kanlungan ay hindi lamang obligasyon ng pamahalaan kundi obligasyon ng mga mamamayan lalo na ang mga taong nakikinabang sa ating watershed. Sana po, huwag nating hayaang lumala ang sitwasyon ng ating kagubatan. Ang pagtatanim po ay simula lamang, ang hamon po ay ang pagpapayabong ng ating kagubatan sa tulong ng bawat sektor ng ating komunidad," said Tamoria.

The official also emphasized the ridge to reef approach and reminded the community on the impacts of environmental activities from the forest down to the bodies of water. "Ang ginagawa po natin sa kagubatan ay may implikasyon sa ating karagatan," he said.

The activity was conducted simultaneously in the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, and Quezon.



(Bilang pakikiisa sa Arbor Day) 132 BRGYs SA QUIRINO NAGTANIM NG PUNO

June 28, 2021 [Rannie Lao](#)



QUIRINO PROVINCE- BILANG pakikiisa sa selebrasyon ng “Arbor Day”, ang 132 Barangays sa lalawigan ito ay nagtanim ng tig-100 na native trees at ornamental plants.

Ang nasabing aktibidad, pinangunahan ni Quirino Governor Dakila “Dax” Cua ang pagtatanim ng punong kahoy at Ornamental Plants sa Capitol Compound at sa Ecopark sa Cardenas.

Sa nakuhang pahayag ni Forester Estrella Passion ang OIC-PNREO ng Quirino, bawat barangay ay mandatang magtanim ng tig-iisang daang punong kahoy o kaya mga halamang pangdekorasyon para mapalago at mapaganda ang ecosystem ng probinsiya ng Quirino sa paligid nito at sa mga gilid ng daang maharlika na makita ng mga nagdaraan dito.

Kasabay nito, hinikayat ng gobernador ang kanyang mga kabsat sa buong lalawigan ng Quirino na makilahok sa Arbor Day upang mapreserba ang kalikasan para sa mga susunod na henerasyon.

Target ng probinsiya ng Quirino na makapagtanim ng higit pa sa 1 milyong puno bilang parte ng ika- 50th Founding Anniversary ng Quirino na naisabatas ang Arbor Day noong 2012 na kung saan ay mandatory na magtanim ng mga puno at ornamental ang mga lalawigan, bayan at munisipalidad sa buong bansa. **IRENE GONZALES**



Villar calls for tree protection on Arbor Day

BYBMPPLUS JUNE 27, 2021



Sen. Cynthia Villar and Congw. Camille Villar together with Barangay Officials from Talon 2 and Talon 5 of Las Pinas City, conducts a tree planting activity at Villar SIPAG Farm in celebration of the Philippine Arbor Day on June 25, 2021.

SAYING trees not only provide us with clean air, but also protect us from destructions due to calamities, Senator Cynthia Villar exhorted the public to protect them, and join in greening the communities as we observe the country's Arbor Day on June 25.

Villar, chair of the Senate committee on natural resources, said Arbor Day is a special occasion to remind us the importance and role of trees in environmental health and human life.

With the onset of the rainy season, Villar said Arbor Day is a reminder of the significant role of trees to help avert massive flooding and the mangrove trees to serve as barrier against storm surges.

Villar also encouraged the public to use the occasion to accelerate protection and conservation of areas like the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park (formerly LPPCHEA), which has been threatened by development initiatives in Manila Bay.

LPPWP, a protected area as declared by Proclamation No. 1412 and listed by the Ramsar Convention as one of the world's most important wetlands, has a 36-hectare mangrove forest with 11 mangrove species.

The mangrove species growing in the area are the Bungalon, Bakauan Babae, Bakauan Bato (or Bangkau in Cebuano), Pototan, Kolasi, Pagatpat, Banalo, Tabigi, Saging-saging, Butabuta and Nilad.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), mangrove forests are critical spawning grounds, nursery, feeding and temporary shelter areas, not only to fishes but other wild life species as well.

Mangrove forests also act as natural barriers. In the case of LPPWP, it serves as protection of the coastal communities of Las Piñas and Parañaque from storm surges and high tide.

The swamps at LPPWP also provides a habitat for many migratory bird species which create the East Asian–Australasian Migratory Flyway. It's the only known breeding ground for endangered species like the Philippine duck and Chinese egret.

June 25 is declared as Philippine Arbor Day by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 396. During this time, all government agencies including government-owned or controlled corporations, private sector, schools, civil society and citizens are encourage to participate in tree-planting activities.

Villar also told the public that Republic Act No. 10176 or the Arbor Act mandates citizens aged 12 years and above to plant one tree every year.



Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, activities

such as tree planting, watering of plants, coastal clean-up, and nature exposure walk were held at the LPPWP to celebrate Arbor Day.

Villar has partnered with Villar SIPAG (Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance), DENR – National Capital Region and several other agencies and organizations and engaged in several environmental-related activities to mark the celebration.



Villar calls for tree protection on Arbor Day

By [Javier Joe Ismael](#)

June 26, 2021

SAYING trees do not provide us only with clean air, but also protect us from destructive calamities, Sen. Cynthia Villar exhorted the public to protect them, and join in greening the communities as we observe Arbor Day on June 25.

Villar, chairman of the Senate Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Committee, made the call on Friday in observance of Arbor Day.

With the onset of the rainy season, Villar said Arbor Day is a reminder of the significant role of trees to help avert massive flooding, including mangrove trees that serve as barriers against storm surges.

Villar also encouraged the public to use the occasion to accelerate protection and conservation of areas like the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (formerly LPPCHEA), which has been threatened by development initiatives in Manila Bay.

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Villar also told the public that Republic Act 10176 or the "Arbor Act" mandates citizens aged 12 years and above to plant one tree every year.

If not for the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, activities such as tree planting, watering of plants, coastal clean-up, and nature exposure walk are held at the LPPWP to celebrate Arbor Day.

Villar has partnered with Villar SIPAG (Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance), DENR-National Capital Region and several other agencies and organizations to engage in several environmental-related activities to mark the event. **JAVIER JOE ISMAEL**

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/06/26/latest-stories/villar-calls-for-tree-protection-on-arbor-day/1804709?fbclid=IwAR2dVI9YvwZwDPLAIXITYm3qevcWV2-4KYJZ8VGannoNd3Z9-wD01_SR5Cg



Bulakenyos plant 1,000 trees on Arbor Day

By Frederick Silverio June 28, 2021

THE Bulacan provincial government led a tree-planting ceremony on Friday in observance of the National Arbor Day celebration by planting 1,000 fruit-bearing and forest seedlings on Friday in Barangay Camachin in Doña Remedios Trinidad town.



MORE than 120 Bulakenyo participants joined the Arbor Day Tree Planting and Growing Activity spearheaded by the provincial government of Bulacan, through the Bulacan Environment Natural Resources Office, June 25, 2021. They planted 1,000 assorted fruit-bearing and forest trees in Barangay Camachin, Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan.

PHOTO BY FREDERICK SILVERIO

The activity, dubbed Arbor Day Tree Planting and Growing Activity, spearheaded by the provincial's Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office division head, Julius Victor Degala, wherein he emphasized the importance of trees in people's survival. Among the seedlings planted were assorted seedlings of guyabano, langka (jackfruit), lanzones, rambutan and narra.

Gov. Daniel Fernando highlighted the importance of cooperation and unity between the government and its people in terms of conserving the environment and natural resources. Other participants who graced the event were the Dumagats, Homeowners Association of Pandi, Philippine National Police, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office representatives from the towns in Bulacan, and Barangay Capt. Lowel Sembrano of Camachin and its residents.



Environmental group to sue NSWMC for 'inaction' on plastic pollution

By: [John Eric Mendoza](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:24 PM June 27, 2021



TRASHY SHORES Plastic waste covers this coastline in Tondo, Manila. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

MANILA, Philippines — A marine conservation group is eyeing to sue the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) for its alleged inaction to solve the problem of plastic pollution.

The marine conservation group Oceana, in a statement released Sunday, said a notice to sue was sent to the members of NSWMC for alleged inaction to implement Republic Act 9003, also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“We can no longer bear the inaction of the NSWMC which has failed to implement its mandated task to prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging (NEAPP),” said Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of the said organization dedicated to protecting the world’s oceans.

RA 9003 was enacted to promote the adoption of a systematic, comprehensive, and ecological solid waste management program.

Under RA 9003, the NSWMC is mandated to prepare a list of NEAPP within a year after the law came into effect, with an update every year thereafter.

House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, one of the principal authors of RA 9003, also filed a resolution on June 2 to investigate and audit the NSWMC.

“Despite these legal mandates and budgetary support is given in 2016 and 2017 amounting to P1.3 billion, the commission has unjustifiably failed to act on its ministerial function of preparing the list of NEAPP,” Congresswoman Legarda was quoted as saying.

The Waste Assessment Brand Audit 2019 report of the Global Alliance for Incinerators Alternatives (GAIA) also showed that the country, on a daily basis, produced 164 million pieces of sachets, 48 million shopping bags, 45.2 million pieces of “labo” bags.

The country produced 2.7 million metric tons of plastic wastes, of which, more than half a million metric tons were leaked to the ocean, according to a study by Ocean Conservancy in 2015.

[The Pasig River](#) also topped the list of contributors of plastic wastes among 1,600 polluted rivers across the world, according to a study published in the journal Science Advances in April.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1451885/environmental-group-to-sue-nswmc-for-inaction-on-plastic-pollution>



Govt execs face charges for marine plastic pollution

 **BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA** JUNE 28, 2021

VARIOUS stakeholders led by ocean conservation advocacy nongovernment organization Oceana are taking the first step in the legal arena to press concerned government agencies, particularly the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), to implement Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and address the worsening marine plastic pollution.

In a statement, Oceana said notices to sue were served to the NSWMC through Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu and heads of national agencies which include Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato dela Peña, Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Francisco Duque III, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark S. Villar, and Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary William Dar, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benjamin Abalos Jr., among others.

Serving the notices to sue is the first step to compel the NSWMC—composed of various government agencies—through their officials to act to counter what complainants deem as “apathy to the heavy burden of mounting plastic pollution” inundating the country’s waters, land and air.

Oceana Vice President Atty. Gloria Estenzo Ramos said: “We can no longer bear the inaction of the NSWMC which has failed to implement its mandated task to prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging (NEAPP). Their lack of concern for 20 long years is far too deplorable and inexcusable. The groups believe it was time to interpose and take the necessary action on this issue.”

The Philippines produced 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste—more than half a million metric tons of which were leaked to the ocean, a study by Ocean Conservancy in 2015 revealed.

The Waste Assessment Brand Audit 2019 report of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), meanwhile, showed that the country produced daily 164 million pieces of sachets, 48 million shopping bags, 45.2 million pieces of labo bags.

As provided in Republic Act 9003, also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the NSWMC is mandated to prepare a list of Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products and Packaging (NEAPP) within a year after the law’s effectivity and updates every year thereafter.

The NSWMC is composed of 14 national government agencies and private sector representatives.

The manufacture, distribution or use of non-environmentally acceptable packaging materials and the importation of consumer products packaged in non-environmentally acceptable materials are prohibited under Section 48 of RA 9003.

RA 9003, signed on June 26, 2001, was enacted to promote the adoption of a systematic, comprehensive, and ecological solid waste management program to ensure the protection of public health and development.

The groups’ move comes on the heels of a resolution filed by House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda on June 2 to investigate and audit the NSWMC.



In the resolution, Legarda—who was one of the principal authors of RA 9003—pointed out that “despite these legal mandates and budgetary support is given in 2016 and 2017 amounting to P1.3 billion, the commission has unjustifiably failed to act on its ministerial function of preparing the list of NEAPP.”

Cortes to Mandauehanons: Throw garbage properly, help us solve flooding problem

By: Mary Rose Sagarino - Multimedia Correspondent - CDN Digital | June 27, 2021 - 08:50 PM



Mandaue City Mayor Jonas Cortes calls on the Mandauehanons to help the city government in solving the flooding problem in the city. | CDN Digital file

MANDAUE CITY, Cebu, Philippines — Mandaue City Mayor Jonas Cortes is appealing to the Mandauehanons to help the city government in declogging the drainage to ease flood problems in the city.

Cortes made the appeal after he found out that there were still a lot of garbage clogging the drainage system in the city, which has contributed to the flooding problem in some parts of the city.

He is also calling for cooperation from the different sectors in the city to help the city government in this endeavor.

“Panawagan nato nga magtinabangay ta. You’re part of the problem, you’re part of the solution, tabangi ang Mandaue kay ato ning tanan,” he said.

(I am appealing to the public to help us. You are part of the problem, but you are also part of the solution. Help Mandaue because this is for all of us.)

Aside from appealing to the public for help in properly disposing their garbage so these will not end up in the drainage systems, Cortes also plans to widen the declogging of drainage systems and outfalls to help prevent floodings in the city.

Cortes said that there was a frequent coordination between the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the city government about the matter.

“We need to declog sa outfall nga drainage or if not padak-an mao gyud na ang among permi gikuan (gicooordinate) sa DPWH, (and) gi encourage nga to sit down with the city planning kay lisod man gyud kaayo nga mag-iyahay og project ang DPWH and LGU,” said Cortes.

(We need to declog the outfall of the drainage o if not we need to make it bigger and that is what we always coordinate with the DPWH and that we encourage them to sit down with the city planning because it is so difficult if the DPWH and the city government will just do their own projects.)

Cortes said there were also some business establishments that overlapped with the city’s drainage systems, and that was one of the reasons of the delay of projects to prevent flooding from happening.



He said the city government would no longer allow anyone to build an establishment in the city's drainage systems.

“Basta naay drainage, no build zone na gyud. Kinahanglan amoa na na kuanon gyud no if necessity calls ato na i expropriate mao na siya,” he said.

(If there is a drainage, then it should be a no build zone. We need to do this, if necessity calls we can always expropriate it.)

“Mao nay ako ipangutana sa OBO ngano'ng na tukuran na og mga buildings, we have to do something nga easy access ang maintenance at any given time nga ato maabilihan, malimpyohan, usa na sa among gikuan (giestoryaan) sa DPWH,” he said.

(That is what I am asking OBO, why there are buildings on the drainage. We have to do something for easy access and maintenance at any given time and we can open and clean it. That is one of the things we discussed.)



Chemicals in plastic wastes contaminate food chain – study

By [Elizabeth Marcelo](#)(Philstar.com) - June 28, 2021 - 12:00am



In a study released by the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) with the environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition, it was shown how common disposal methods of plastic waste such as by burning and dumping, as well as their exportation, end up contaminating the food supply and threatening community health.

Edd Gumban, file

MANILA, Philippines — Burning and improper disposal of plastic wastes lead to contamination of the food chain, especially in developing countries like the Philippines, a global study showed.

In a study released by the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) with the environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition, it was shown how common disposal methods of plastic waste such as by burning and dumping, as well as their exportation, end up contaminating the food supply and threatening community health.

The study, titled “Plastic Waste Poisoning Food and Threatening Communities in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America,” involves analyzation of egg samples obtained from free-range chicken eggs in the vicinity of various plastic waste disposal sites and facilities from 14 countries.

The countries included in the study were Belarus, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Gabon, Ghana, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand and Uruguay.

The egg samples were analyzed in European laboratories. The IPEN explained that egg analysis was employed for the study as eggs easily show traces of contamination with persistent organic pollutants (POPs) because of their significant lipid content where POPs like dioxins can accumulate and “because eggs from contaminated areas can readily lead to exposures that exceed thresholds for the protection of human health.”

For the Philippines, the egg samples were obtained near a hazardous waste incinerator in Trece Martires City in Cavite, and in a neighborhood in Caloocan City where electronic waste (e-waste) dismantling is taking place

The egg samples were specifically analyzed for dioxin, a common byproduct of plastic waste open-burning, crude recycling, chemical production and incineration technologies. The eggs were also analyzed for the presence of other POPs, collectively known as “flame retardants” which have been banned or are in the process of being banned globally through the Stockholm Convention on POPs.



Based on the laboratory analyses, all the egg samples from the 14 countries contain various kinds of toxic chemicals “many of which are banned or regulated,” including chemical additives polybrominated diphenyl ethers, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), short-chained chlorinated paraffins and unintentional byproduct POPs like dioxins.

The study found that the levels of dioxin and PCBs in eggs in some locations “were so high that residents could not eat a single egg without exceeding the health safety threshold limits for these chemicals established in the European Union.”

The “extremely high” levels of dioxin were specifically observed in the egg samples from seven African and Asian countries, including the Philippines. The report noted that egg samples from these countries were collected near facilities “where plastic waste is, or was either used as fuel or incinerated, often in combination with other waste.”

For instance, egg samples obtained near tofu factories using plastic waste as fuel in Tropodo, Indonesia had dioxin levels between 140 to 200 picogram (pg) toxicity equivalent (TEQ) g-1 fat, way in excess of the European Union’s limit of 2.5 pg TEQ g-1 fat for chlorinated dioxins in eggs.

Analyzed eggs from the Philippines, meanwhile, had dioxin levels ranging from 5.3 to 53 pg TEQ g-1 fat.

The experts involved in the study said that using non-combustion alternative methods, instead of waste-to-energy incineration technologies, for the treatment of hazardous waste and other wastes can prevent the creation of unintentional POPs formed during the burning process.

The study also called on the plastic industry to invest in safe plastic alternatives, eliminate toxic chemical additives to plastics, list plastic ingredients on labels, and create closed-loop systems that don’t create toxic waste.

“Dioxins and other POPs remain in the soil for decades or even centuries, creating a reservoir of highly toxic contaminants that poison the food chain now and will continue to do so for a long time into the future,” said Jindrich Petrlik, study co-author and Toxics and Waste program director of Arnika Association.

“This report confirms that the harm being caused by plastic waste exports is not limited to visible litter and pollution, but includes the insidious damage to human health caused by contamination of the food chain in importing countries. Toxic chemical additives and the world’s most hazardous substances are literally bleeding into the food supply of those countries least able to prevent it,” Lee Bell, IPEN’s policy advisor on POPs, added. As for the Philippines, EcoWaste Coalition chemical safety campaigner Thony Dizon said the findings of the study strengthen their resolve to push for state policies against hazardous wastes.

“This global study provides advocates for a zero waste and toxics-free society in our country with critical data to justify strong policy solutions to curb plastic and chemical pollution, including a ban on hazardous waste imports such as electronic waste and plastic waste often disguised as scraps for recycling, a ban on non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging, and the enforcement of the ban on waste incineration, including proscribing burn or thermal waste-to-energy technologies,” Dizon said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/28/2108567/chemicals-plastic-wastes-contaminate-food-chain-study/amp/>



International study shows that poor plastic waste disposal methods can cause contamination in eggs

Published June 27, 2021, 2:46 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

A study conducted on eggs has produced evidence that plastic waste disposal—including the export of plastic waste—can cause the contamination of the food chain.



(Photo by Hybrid / Unsplash)

Released by the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) with the EcoWaste Coalition, the report involved the study of eggs obtained near a hazardous waste incinerator in Trece Martires City, Cavite and in a neighborhood in Caloocan City where e-waste dismantling is taking place.

The acquisition of egg samples near similar environments in 13 other countries was also carried out by other non-government organizations like the EcoWaste Coalition in line with the study.

“Eggs were used to assess contamination with persistent organic pollutants (POPs) because of their significant lipid content where POPs like dioxins can accumulate, and because eggs from contaminated areas can readily lead to exposures that exceed thresholds for the protection of human health,” a statement from the coalition read on Sunday, June 27.

The eggs were then analyzed for dioxins, a highly toxic byproduct POP of open burning, crude recycling, chemical production, and incineration technologies. Additionally, the eggs were analyzed for other POPs known as flame retardants that have been banned or are in the process of being banned globally through the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

The group said that even small amounts of these plastic chemical additives and byproduct emissions can cause damage to the immune and reproductive systems, cancers, impaired intellectual functions, and/or developmental delays.

“Based on the laboratory analyses, the analyzed eggs from 14 countries contained some of the most toxic chemicals ever studied, many of which are banned or regulated, including chemical additives polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and short-chained chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs), and unintentional byproduct POP like dioxins,” it said.

The report found that the levels of dioxin and PCBs in eggs in some locations were so high that residents could not eat a single egg without exceeding the health safety threshold limits for these chemicals established in the European Union (EU).

Aside from the Philippines, the countries Belarus, Cameroon, the Czech Republic, Gabon, Ghana, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, Tanzania, Thailand, and Uruguay, also took part in the eggs analysis. The samples were studied in European laboratories.



Egg samples collected near facilities in seven African and Asian countries where plastic waste is or was either used as fuel or incinerated, often in combination with other waste, were found contaminated with extremely high levels of dioxin. For example, egg samples obtained near tofu factories using plastic waste as fuel in Tropodo, Indonesia had dioxin levels between 140 to 200 pg TEQ g-1 fat, way in excess of the EU's limit of 2.5 pg TEQ g-1 fat for chlorinated dioxins in eggs.

Eggs from the Philippines had dioxin levels ranging from 5.3 to 53 pg TEQ g-1 fat.

"This global study provides advocates for a zero waste and toxics-free society in our country with critical data to justify strong policy solutions to curb plastic and chemical pollution, including a ban on hazardous waste imports such as electronic waste and plastic waste often disguised as scraps for recycling, a ban on non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging, and the enforcement of the ban on waste incineration, including proscribing burn or thermal waste-to-energy technologies," noted EcoWaste Coalition Chemical Safety Campaigner Thony Dizon.

The group pointed out that using non-combustion alternative methods, instead of waste-to-energy incineration technologies, for the treatment of hazardous waste and other wastes can prevent the creation of unintentional POPs during the burning of such wastes.

IPEN's POPs Policy Advisor Lee Bell stated: "This report confirms that the harm being caused by plastic waste exports is not limited to visible litter and pollution but includes the insidious damage to human health caused by contamination of the food chain in importing countries. Toxic chemical additives and the world's most hazardous substances are literally bleeding into the food supply of those countries least able to prevent it."

The report recommends global controls on hazardous chemicals in plastic, including the phase-out on the use of such chemicals in plastic production in any new United Nation plastic treaty negotiations.

The report also calls on the plastic industry to invest in safe plastic alternatives, eliminate toxic chemical additives to plastics, list plastic ingredients on labels, and create closed-loop systems that don't create toxic waste.



House panels OK Boracay superbody amid objections



BYMA. STELLA F. ARNALDO JUNE 28, 2021

DESPITE opposition from government agencies, local government units, stakeholders, and fellow congressmen, two committees in the House of Representatives approved the creation of the Boracay Island Development Authority (Bida) as a government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCC).

The means the Substitute Bill to House Bills 4175, 6214, 6285, 7249, 7256, 7280, 7294, 7313, 7360, and 7931 creating the Bida, as contained in a House Committee Report, is now up for plenary discussion.

Since then, a “No to Bida as GOCC” movement has been set up on the island, supported by a number of residents and business owners. A businessman in Boracay who requested anonymity told the BusinessMirror, “They railroaded the Bida in the committee. The approval was scripted even though there were many participants who spoke out against it.”

The Substitute Bill, not only will “manage, develop, preserve, and rehabilitate” Boracay, it also gives Bida control over Brgy. Caticlan in the municipality of Malay, “and the entire area occupied by the airport, which extends to the municipality of Nabas.” It also gives Bida the power to “contract, lease, buy, sell, acquire, own or dispose movable and immovable, as well as personal and real property of whatever nature, including shares.” (See, [“New bill on Boracay Island regulatory authority opposed,”](#) in the BusinessMirror, February 28, 2021.

‘A golden opportunity’

After interested parties made plain their opposition to the bill, Rep. Eric Go Yap (ACT-CIS), coauthor of the HB6214 with Davao Rep. Paolo Z. Duterte—son of President Duterte—and another Davaoño, Sandro L. Gonzalez (Marino), sought the approval of the Substitute Bill during a hearing on June 15, saying he understood the concerns raised by those opposed to the proposed legislation.

But he said in Filipino, they saw “a golden opportunity to create a GOCC. We shouldn’t pass this up; Boracay is not only for those in Aklan but it belongs to all Filipinos as it has been a huge help to the country. That’s why I and chairman Paolo Duterte will not stop until we pass this Bida bill because we know it’s for everyone’s good.”

However, Yap failed to respond to the issues raised by the national government agencies, LGUs, and colleagues in the House opposed to the Bida.

For one, Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores said, the proposed bill “encroaches, diminishes, or even divests the constitutionally and legally mandated powers of local government units, specifically its local autonomy and power to generate and apply resources and just share in the national taxes.” He added, “There are 19 existing government agencies that can undertake the function of the Bida.”

Overtourism, overdevelopment

Natividad Bernardino, chairman of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group and a director of the Department of Environment and National Resources, pointed out, “The problem of Boracay is one of overtourism and overdevelopment. What we need in terms of sustaining the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of the island is a regulatory body instead of a GOCC.”

She stressed that the island has already exceeded its carrying capacity for the environment and population, and “There is no more space for further investment and development.”



Interior Undersecretary Epimaco V. Densing III said the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, proposed a professionally managed Bida “primarily to manage and ensure that the environment in the area will not be degraded and preserve it to make it sustainable.”

John Castillo of the Department of Budget and Management said the agency agreed with the Department of Finance that Bida as a GOCC, “will create a redundancy... and is inconsistent with the ongoing policy of streamlining the government corporate sector.” (See, “[Dominguez nixes proposed Boracay authority’s roles](#),” in the BusinessMirror, March 2, 2021.)

Aklan Rep Teodorico Haresco Jr. cited Executive Order 138 of President Duterte signed on June 1 implementing the so-called Mandanas Ruling, where the Supreme Court ruled that “basic services and facilities shall be devolved from the national government to provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays...”

He said he earlier supported the younger Duterte’s original bill establishing a Bida as a regulatory authority, but couldn’t understand why it morphed into a GOCC in the proposed new legislation.

After Yap’s statements, Rep. Noel Villanueva, chairman of the Committee on Local Government, quickly approved the Committee report, despite his earlier withdrawal of support and co-authorship to the Substitute Bill, noting the massive opposition to it.



A small-scale miner takes a break from extracting gold in the village of Gumatdang in Itogon, Benguet. More than 60 percent of Gumatdang's residents are engaged in small-scale mining.

The STAR/Artemio Dumlaog

Commentary: Ensuring mining industry's role in recovery

[Paco Pangalangan](#) (Philstar.com) - June 26, 2021 - 5:22pm

Over a year into the pandemic, we are still under lockdown, over 12 million Filipinos remain jobless and public debt has grown to 10.99 trillion pesos. Moreover, the economy has contracted by 9.6% and the country's growth projections have been revised downwards.

The past year has also highlighted the instrumental role of the private sector in responding to and recovering from the pandemic. It has also made us reassess economic drivers and presented us with a chance to build back better.

One of the economic drivers the Philippine government is revisiting is the mining industry. Earlier this year, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Executive Order 130, lifting the ban on new mining agreements and seen to boost government revenue and help the economy recover from the pandemic.

However, the revival of the mining industry has also rekindled concern over environmental challenges often associated with extractive industries such as land degradation, the use of dangerous chemicals; the loss of biodiversity; and pollution from poorly disposed waste.

These concerns, however, set up a false dichotomy that the decision to revive the mining industry comes down to a choice between economic growth and environmental degradation. But this just isn't the case.

Undoubtedly, these unregulated, often illegal, operations around our country have shaped public perception of the Philippine mining industry. Usually, it's these unregulated operations that skirt environmental rules and cause the most damage.

For instance, last year, illegal mining and logging activities in Cagayan Valley were investigated, causing landslides, river siltation and catastrophic flooding in the region. Many small-scale miners also continue to use highly toxic mercury for gold mining operations.

Mercury acts like a "magnet" that extracts gold from the soil, but it is also bad for the miner's health and can contaminate and pollute nearby local communities' soil and water sources.

However, not all mining in the Philippines is bad. Many of the country's formal large-scale mining operations practice "responsible mining." Responsible mining is defined as mining that involves and respects all stakeholders, minimizes and takes account of its environmental impact, and prioritizes a fair division of economic and financial benefits.



First, they do not use hazardous chemicals like mercury in their operations. Second, these companies also implement and fund programs for reforestation, rehabilitation, air, land and soil monitoring and treatment, and waste management to ensure that the impacts of their activities are mitigated and that measures are in place to assure compliance with social and environmental management standards, regulations, and laws.

Furthermore, these companies also have strong corporate social responsibility programs that positively impact their host communities. In addition to creating jobs, these mining operations improve the quality of life of their host communities by providing health and sanitation facilities, schools, community halls, and electric and water facilities.

In fact, when the pandemic came along, the mining industry was part of the private sector-led push to respond to these new challenges.

For instance, many mining companies realigned their Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) funds and spent over P380 million in 2020 for COVID-19 responses. In addition, mining firms also provided isolation units for communities and food and logistics support. Because of this, over 1.1 million households and nearly 300,000 front liners all over the country were supported.

In Benguet, for instance, Philex Mining Corp. (PMC) supported the barangays in purchasing medicines to augment the government's Social Amelioration Program and cash assistance to families in Barangay Camp 3, Tuba. In addition, PPEs were also donated to at least five hospitals in Baguio and 3 in Benguet.

In Surigao del Norte, PMC provided funds for fuel used by barangay emergency vehicles in hauling goods and ferrying medical patients and frontliners to and from Baguio. Meanwhile, Silangan Mindanao Mining Co. Inc. in Surigao lent its stockyard in Barangay Macalaya as a temporary isolation facility. They also distributed surgical PPEs to the Caraga Regional Hospital in Surigao City, the Provincial Hospital in Placer, and the Municipal Health Offices of Placer, Tagana-an, and Mainit.

Yet another example is OceanaGold Phils. Inc. that, despite being non-operational since July 2019, distributed medicines, PPEs and food supplies to 19,000 households in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

In 2021, mining firms have also been allowed by the MGB to realign their SDMP and Safety and Health Program funds to procure COVID-19 vaccines for their host and neighboring communities and employees. This will boost the national and local government's COVID-19 vaccination programs and ensure that all Filipinos, especially those in remote and isolated areas, have access to vaccines.

These mining companies' proper environmental management and social responsibility demonstrate that responsible mining is possible in the Philippines. However, the industry must operate beyond mere compliance with local environmental standards to sway the public's perception.

Several local mining companies have already subscribed to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a multi-stakeholder initiative and recognized global standard that promotes the open, accountable management and good governance of oil, gas, and mineral resources. As EITI members, companies are audited for their compliance with environmental regulations and rules on social expenditures.



However, in the spirit of building back better, the Philippine mining industry should also widen the adoption of the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) initiative. TSM sets strict environmental, social, health, safety, innovation and human rights standards for mining operators to follow. The process also involves a yearly self-assessment by mining companies and an external verification process.

The last year has made the government realize the mining industry's economic value. It has also allowed responsible mining companies to distinguish themselves from unregulated and illegal operators through their social responsibility and COVID-19 response efforts. However, if the industry wants the industry's revival to last, it must show that it can contribute to the economic recovery while simultaneously operating in the most socially, economically and environmentally responsible way.

Paco Pangalangan is the executive director of think tank Stratbase ADR Institute.



Ayuda from responsible mining

posted June 28, 2021 at 12:20 am by [Orlando Oxales](#)



OPEN THOUGHTS

"These are good models of how private sector investments can develop a thriving and sustainable mining ecosystem."

The Spanish word "Ayuda," a word that fits well with the spirit of "bayanihan" as a collective effort of society, was widely adopted as a sort of brand for giving aid to hard-hit families whose livelihoods were abruptly disrupted or even lost when the economy took a nosedive due to the long, on-and-off lockdowns. As government mobilization proved slow and inadequate, the private sector was able to greatly fill in the distribution gaps with its nimble problem solving and efficient culture, and of course, fast, and substantial funding capacity.

This crisis has had a galvanizing effect on the biggest business groups in the country coming together in an unprecedented private business-led movement to help the country survive and rebound from this health and economic disaster.

An important sector that should be recognized is the mining industry that responded to the government's call for help and gave "ayuda" directly to 1.1 million families and about 300,000 front liners in the host and neighboring communities of mining projects nationwide. These are remote areas of the country and should be seen as good models of how private sector investments can develop a thriving and sustainable mining ecosystem from practically nothing.

Even more interventions in food security, education, and livelihood are already looking beyond the pandemic and are being implemented by the large scale mining companies under the holistic approach and discipline of the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) principles. This is a globally proven framework that integrates stakeholder interests in sustainable mining practices.

To site some on the ground ayudas, about 19,000 families in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino received food supplies, medicines, and personal protection equipment from OceanaGold Phils. Inc. though their copper-gold project has not been operating since July 2019 pending renewal of government contract. FCF Minerals Corp. also gave food supplies to 10,500 households.

In Benguet province, Philex Mining Corp. (PMC) augmented the government's Social Amelioration Program for medicines in several barangays and gave cash support to families in Barangay Camp 3 in Tuba through subsidiary Silangan Mindanao Mining Co., Inc. which also converted its stockyard to temporary isolation facilities for Placer, Surigao del Norte.

Also in Benguet, Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. (LCMC) and Far Southeast Gold Resources, Inc. opened quarantine facilities for Casubigan camp with its own hospital staff adequately equipped with PPEs and medical supplies. The company implemented mass testing and isolation protocols for those found positive. This included free meals.

In Masbate, Filminera Resources Corp. and PhilGold Processing and Refining Corp. kept the Christmas spirit alive with food distribution for 400 families in Albay, 100 of which are indigenous people hardest hit by typhoon Rolly and Ulysses. In the aftermath of the 6.6-magnitude earthquake in Masbate, P5 million was donated by the company to rebuild homes and for the relief goods of victims.



In Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte, a fully equipped, 150-bed quarantine facility was funded by the Cagdiano Mining Corp (CMC), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp (NAC) in cooperation with the local government's "Katre-Karpintero" program. NAC together with subsidiaries CMC, Taganito Mining Corporation (TMC), and Taganito HPAL Nickel Corp (THPAL) donated P18 million to the Philippine Red Cross for the establishment of a Molecular Testing Laboratory for COVID-19 in Surigao del Norte. TMC also donated about 5,000 rapid antibody test (RAT) kits while THPAL provided Calver Town with RATs, and an iChroma II antigen device. THPAL also distributed 489 relief goods to IP families in cooperation with the Army 30th Infantry Battalion.

Mining companies gave a total of 92,000 sacks of rice to communities all over the country. P30 million worth of rice was donated by Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTNMC) and Coral Bay Nickel Corp. (CBNC). The Platinum Group Metals Corp (PGMC) has allocated P12 million for its Food Security Project which will provide food and livelihood for partner communities.

In Kiblawan, Davao del Sur, 30 barangays in Kiblawan, Davao del Sur received P25,000 "seed money" for development initiatives from the Sagittarius Mines Inc. The company has been supporting the centuries-old Blaan tribal domains through humanitarian and education interventions despite not operating since 1995 because of regulatory delays which hopefully will be resolved soon.

Already the members of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines are looking beyond this crisis and are poised to become one of the country's most important economic drivers that will catalyze long-term prosperity. With the global shift to digital technologies, all electronic devices that we will need require the mineral resources that we happen to have abundance and just waiting to be responsibly harnessed. If the remaining ban on open pit mining is lifted, which many experts say, and I agree, was more ideological and not science based, the right investments will come in to spark the rebirth of a vibrant and sustainable mineral development industry benefiting millions of stakeholders.



Private sector's hand essential in climate change mitigation efforts

Published June 27, 2021, 6:44 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The importance of the private sector's role in mitigating the adverse impact of climate change was once again highlighted during a recent virtual townhall discussion organized by Stratbase Albert del Rosario Institute (ADRI).



Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala (left) and Victor Andres "Dindo" Manhit (Photo credits: Ayala Corp. and ADRI Facebook page)

"It is vital that multi-sector engagements and best practices be discussed and more widely adopted to proactively address climate risks before they even happen," Stratbase ADRI President Prof. Victor Andres "Dindo" Manhit said during the event, which was attended by big names in local business.

"With these, the vulnerability of communities to physical, social, and economic shocks will be lessened," Manhit pointed out. The online event was dubbed "Best Practices for a Proactive Approach to Climate Resiliency."

One of the attendees, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) President Rene "Butch" Meily, said, "The private sector has a role to play in terms of fighting the effects of climate change and helping reverse it – mitigate its effects."

"We're one of the countries with the most typhoons in the world. We are number two in terms of the number of displaced people in the world. We had something like 4.4 million people just last year displaced by disasters," he noted.



Submerged homes in Cagayan Province, which felt the wrath of Typhoon Ulysses in November 2020. (Photo by Handout / Philippine Coast Guard / AFP / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)



PDRF is an alliance of top Philippine business groups supporting programs to boost disaster management capabilities in areas of prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and rehabilitation and recovery.

In a statement, PDRF co-chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Chairman of Ayala Corporation said, “Corporate executives should have a strong understanding about the implications of climate change, as well as have the opportunities to dialogue about these issues at the highest levels to enable officers and the company as a whole to make informed and sustainable strategic decisions.”

Ayala had acknowledged in the past that climate change “is an existential threat to everyone, whether you are a business, a government institution, or just an individual”.

“Now, more than ever, everyone must play a role in building resilience and mitigating risks as more devastating calamities arise in the future. I think we should be contributors of resilience and help minimize the contributions we make in worsening the situation,” he said.

Perhaps the most notable climate change-triggered extreme weather event that the Philippines went through in recent memory was super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in November 2013.

The unusually strong typhoon officially killed 6,340 people, but there’s a persisting belief that a lot more perished during it onslaught in the country’s central islands.

Globe Telecom Chief Risk Officer Rizza Maniego-Eala ,for her part, assured her company’s support to rescue operations launched by the national government. The company does so by deploying emergency equipment and Globe personnel to disaster areas by land and air.

“Communications systems are even more critical during a crisis, especially since our subscribers rely on our products and services for key day-to-day activities. Our continued investments in risk management systems have assured that our network will be up and running when needed the most,” Eala said.

It was only last April when the Philippines submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations (UN) in connection with the 2015 Paris Agreement. The NDC states the Philippines commits to reduce the country’s greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent between 2020 and 2030.

The NDC represents the country’s pledged actions to help achieve the goal of the Paris accord, which is to limit the rise of global temperature to 1.5-degree Celsius (maximum of 2.0-degree Celsius) from the pre-industrial era, and in effect prevent global warming.

The 75 percent target on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions—the high concentration in the atmosphere of which leads to climate change—will be taken from the agriculture, wastes, industry, transport, and energy sectors.



Private sector's hand essential in climate change mitigation efforts

Published June 27, 2021, 6:44 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

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"It is vital that multi-sector engagements and best practices be discussed and more widely adopted to proactively address climate risks before they even happen," Stratbase ADRI President Prof. Victor Andres "Dindo" Manhit said during the event, which was attended by big names in local business.

"With these, the vulnerability of communities to physical, social, and economic shocks will be lessened," Manhit pointed out. The online event was dubbed "Best Practices for a Proactive Approach to Climate Resiliency."

One of the attendees, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) President Rene "Butch" Meily, said, "The private sector has a role to play in terms of fighting the effects of climate change and helping reverse it – mitigate its effects."

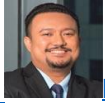
"We're one of the countries with the most typhoons in the world. We are number two in terms of the number of displaced people in the world. We had something like 4.4 million people just last year displaced by disasters," he noted.



Submerged homes in Cagayan Province, which felt the wrath of Typhoon Ulysses in November 2020. (Photo by Handout / Philippine Coast Guard / AFP / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)



A climate for change in the financial services sector



By [Jesus Lava III](#) June 28, 2021

At the start of the year, Deloitte conducted a survey of 750 executives worldwide to see how organizations are approaching the climate crisis and if the coronavirus pandemic has affected their sustainability initiatives. According to our 2021 Climate Check report, 82 percent of the executives who were surveyed said their organizations are either concerned or very concerned about climate change. If you look at that result from an industry perspective, you would find that 77 percent of respondents from the financial services industry (FSI) are either concerned or extremely concerned about climate change.

As leaders of organizations that play a big role in fueling growth and maintaining financial stability, FSI executives have seen firsthand how climate-related disasters can affect their stakeholders. But as with the other industries that were represented in the survey, FSI players have had to cut back on their environmental sustainability initiatives due to the pandemic.

Here in the Philippines, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) recently started public consultations on its plans to amend the Manual of Regulations for Banks (MORB) to include environmental and social concerns when banks perform their risk assessments. The move is part of the BSP's phased approach to introducing regulations for the way banks manage environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and disclosures.

This is a regulatory trend we are seeing around the region as nations acknowledge the tremendous work that is needed to bring us back from the edge of a climate crisis. For Deloitte's part, we have been working with clients to help them prepare for, or comply with, such regulations surrounding ESG matters. And we've observed that there are certain shared traits that will define "climate-centered" financial firms, traits that banks can work on now to build on their resilience and sustainability.

Climate-infused governance and corporate strategy

Climate-centered financial firms have a clear philosophy, position, and intentions related to climate risks, and part of this clarity is incorporating climate considerations into every strategic decision. Naturally, the board of directors (BOD) will be critical to this shift. Besides setting the tone at the top about having an established structure for climate oversight, board members will also have to develop a proficiency in climate and other ESG risk matters.

Financial institutions may also want to consider engaging climate scientists, financial modelers, and other topic specialists who can paint a clear picture for them of the overlap between climate science, policies and financial risks so that they can make sound decisions regarding direction and strategy in relation to ESG matters. Already, there are financial firms that have created specialized teams tasked with enabling enhanced disclosure and transparency of climate-related business risks and opportunities and how these are being managed.

Targeted product and service innovation

Just as regulators are making new demands for environmental sustainability, customers are also looking for service offerings that align with their views and beliefs. Some leading banks are already creating dedicated businesses and offerings that are focused on sustainability, diversity and other ESG-related mandates.



In the retail banking sector, for example, firms can consider mortgages that incentivize eco-friendly borrowing, such as giving better rates to borrowers who will opt for solar panels for their homes. Banks can also issue credit cards that allow clients to track the carbon impact of each purchase they make, with the added benefit of raising consumer awareness of climate-conscious products.

In the insurance space, climate-centered insurers will likely offer products that cover climate risk more directly. For example, customers can already purchase insurance that protects food supplies against the impact of climate change. As insurers improve their understanding of ESG-related risks and how they can be managed, they can detect, price and cover a broader range of risks and contribute to a wider socioeconomic solution.

Enhanced risk management capabilities

In order to improve their capabilities in managing the financial implications of climate change, financial institutions need to expand their climate-centric information. One of the ways they can do this is by actively participating in the dialogue around evolving and developing regulations on ESG concerns, an opportunity that the BSP has opened up to local players. They also need to build capacity for analysing intersecting data on climate change and economic risks and for scenario analysis and stress testing. In this regard, digital solutions, such as artificial intelligence-driven risk simulations, can help support such a complex, data-heavy exercise.

While it is understandable for organizations to train most of their focus towards addressing the current pandemic at the expense of some environmental sustainability initiatives, it is also clear that the climate crisis is one we cannot simply set aside. That the BSP is pushing ahead with its sustainable finance agenda even during this period of continued uncertainty points to the gravity of the situation. These new regulations surrounding ESG matters may be another disruptive challenge for financial institutions, but I think we can all agree that it's a challenge we should embrace if it gives us a chance to preserve the only home we truly have.

The author is a risk advisory partner at Navarro Amper & Co., a member of the Deloitte Asia Pacific Network. For comments or questions, email jlavall@deloitte.com. Deloitte Asia Pacific Ltd. is a company limited by guarantee and a member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Ltd. Members of Deloitte Asia Pacific Ltd. and their related entities, each of which are separate and independent legal entities, provide services from more than 100 cities across the region, including Auckland, Bangkok, Beijing, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Melbourne, Osaka, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo and Yangon.



Masbate town renews coral reefs, marine life

posted June 27, 2021 at 10:40 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

A growing town in Masbate province has made headway in enhancing its marine ecosystem, following a sustained joint effort of town officials and a Masbate-based company in deploying reef balls and planting coral fragments covering the town's large protected area.



Reef balls restore coral reefs achieving sustainable marine ecosystem.

Environmentalists view reef restoration as a crucial factor in a sustainable environment-friendly marine life which, in turn, will assure an thriving source of livelihood of thousands of fisherfolk in the area.

The joint drive of local officials of Aroroy town and PhilGold Processing and Refining Corporation (PhilGold) has achieved significant gains in reef recreation, following more than three years of reef ball deployment and coral restoration.

The recent report said that some 2,203 reef balls have been deployed, and 29,273 coral fragments have been planted. The work began in 2017, following the joint move of town and company officials to rehabilitate the coral reefs, following their destruction by dynamite and illegal fishing.

A reef ball is an artificial reef designed to mimic the function of a natural reef, with holes that create whirlpools around it. It is placed there to restore ailing or destroyed coral reefs.

These are made of a special, marine-friendly concrete and used around the world to create habitat for fish and other marine and freshwater species. Reef balls are made in many sizes to best match the natural reef type.

A new technology and local government's political will, fish and marine life now abound in Aroroy town, particularly at the Marine Protected Area (MPA) of Colorada Point, in Barangay Tigbao.

The Colorada Point was declared a marine protected area, with PhilGold serving as its main driver. Also, Phil Gold has been continually expanding the mangroves planting program to provide additional livelihood to the coastal community of Port Barrera in the same town.

Various species of fish, including the presence of some turtles, lobsters, and other marine life, have been observed thriving at the protected marine area.

The Reef Ball Foundation, a U.S.-based and a publicly supported non-profit global environmental NGO has introduced the new technology. The global foundation is driven by a three-pronged mandate: rehabilitate the world's ocean reef ecosystems, restore ailing or destroyed coral reefs, and create new fishing and scuba diving sites.



PhilGold has also hired the local fishermen in the community to serve as wardens of the MPA and assistants for coral planting and propagation works. A goat dispersal project was also implemented as part of the livelihood program support to the fisherfolk organization in the area.

PhilGold is a wholly owned by Vancouver-based gold producer B2Gold, and has been operating the processing plant in the Masbate Gold Project since 2007. It reported its first gold pouring in 2009.

The \$250-million project is PhilGold's single biggest investment in Masbate and is now one of the largest operating gold projects in the country.



Mahigit 100 baby pawikan, pinakawalak sa baybayin ng Antique

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 27 2021 11:42 PM

Nasa 105 baby pawikan ang pinakawalan sa baybayin ng Laua-an, Antique, Linggo ng umaga.

Ayon kay Punong Barangay Roger Ader Bandiola Nalam ng Barangay Guisijan sa Laua-an, nakita nila ang mga itlog ng pawikan noong buwan ng Abril at minabuti ng mga opisyal ng barangay na ilipat ito sa mas ligtas na lugar at hintaying mapisa ang mga itlog.

Umabot sa 72 ara ang hinintay ng mga opisyal ng barangay upang mapisa ang mga itlog. Sa 132 na itlog ng pawikan 105 lamang ang napisa at nabuhay.

Sa tulong ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Laua-an, Laua-an Police, Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Laua-an, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Laua-an, at mga opisyal ng barangay ay minabuti ng mga ito na pakawalaan ang mga pawikan sa dalampasigan sa lugar.

Ilang beses nang may nakitang nangingitlog na pawikan sa kanilang barangay ayon sa kapitan.

- ulat ni **Rolen Escaniel**



Dev't of tissue culture technique for mass production of 6 bamboo species in PH underway – DOST

Published June 27, 2021, 11:46 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

The development of a tissue culture technique for the mass production of selected bamboo species is underway.



(PIXABY)

This was disclosed by Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato “Boy” T. de la Peña during his weekly report on Friday, June 25.

“The DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) is supporting a project being implemented by the Visayas State University (VSU) which aims to develop an effective tissue culture protocols for sterilization, plantlet regeneration, multiplication, and in vitro rooting using growth regulators for economically important bamboo species,” he said.

He said potted out plantlets of the selected bamboo species were established and tissue culture plantlets in the nursery were developed for easy planting in the field.

“Six bamboo species were also established in the nursery from cuttings and seeds as source of planting material,” de la Peña said.

The bamboo species were the following: *Dendrocalamus giganteus*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Dendrocalamus asper*, *Dendrocalamus membranaceus* var *Grandis*, *Dendrocalamus latiflorus* var *Machiku*, and *Guadua angostifolia* var *Oliver’s*.

“Based on their experiments, the use of commercial bleach solution and ethyl alcohol as sterilant was more effective compared to the use of mercuric chloride in establishing clean cultures. Browning and contamination rate of cultures was lessened with this technique,” the DOST chief said.

“Among the source of explants, nodal segments from field grown mother plant and seeds grown in vitro were identified as a best source of explants for micropropagation of test bamboo species,” he said.

He said the VSU team was also able to inoculate and establish stock plants of the selected bamboo species.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/06/27/devt-of-tissue-culture-technique-for-mass-production-of-6-bamboo-species-in-ph-underway-dost/>



World's smallest hog released into wild

By [Agence France-Presse](#) June 28, 2021



A dozen of the world's smallest pigs have been released into the wild in northeastern India as part of a conservation programme to boost their population Biju BORO AFP

MANAS, INDIA: A dozen of the world's smallest pigs have been released into the wild in northeastern India as part of a conservation program to boost the population of a species once thought to have become extinct.

The pygmy hog, which has the scientific name *Reithrodontomys volles*, lives in tall, wet grasslands and was once found along plains on the Himalayan foothills in India, Nepal and Bhutan.

Its population declined in the 1960s, leading to fears it had become extinct until it was rediscovered in India's northeastern state of Assam in 1971, conservationists say.

By 1993, it was only found in a few pockets of Assam's Manas National Park, which borders Bhutan.

The Pygmy Hog Conservation Program, involving several organizations including from state and national governments, established a captive breeding scheme with six hogs in 1996 to try and revive their population.

"This time we are releasing 12 pygmy hogs including seven male and five female," the program's field scientist Dhritiman Das told Agence France-Presse at the release site in Manas National Park on Saturday.

Eight of the hogs were released in Manas on Tuesday and four more on Saturday. Some 14 were released last year.

The program looks after around 70 captive hogs and is breeding more to be released.

The past week's releases take the number of pigs reintroduced into the wild by the program to 142.

The wild population is estimated to be less than 250, conservationists say.

"In next four years, we target to release 60 hogs... so that they can build their own population in the wild," Das added.



The program has also sought to rehabilitate the grasslands home to the tiny creatures, which measure about 25 centimeters (9.8 inches) in height and 65 centimeters in length and weigh around 8 to 9 kilograms (17.6 to 19.8 pounds).

The species' survival has been threatened by the loss and degradation of its habitats due to human activity such as settlement and agriculture, and the improper management of such areas, experts say.

28 JUNE 2021, MONDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



6.9K new Covid-19 survivors up PH recovery tally to 1,321,050

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor **June 27, 2021, 5:59 pm**

MANILA – The nation's total number of recovered coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases has reached 1,321,050 after 6,912 new recoveries were reported on Sunday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) said recoveries account for 94.5 percent of the total case count which has reached 1,397,992 since the start of the pandemic last year.

Meanwhile, 6,096 new infections brought the total number of active cases to 52,570.

About 89.5 percent of these active cases are mild, 5.6 percent are asymptomatic, 1.4 percent are critical, 2 percent are severe, and 1.48 percent are moderate.

Some 128 new deaths were also reported, pushing the country's total number of Covid-19 fatalities to 24,372.

According to DOH data on June 25, about 12 percent of 47,927 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"About 15 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, 13 are recoveries. Moreover, 69 cases previously tagged as recoveries have been reclassified as deaths after final validation," it added.

All laboratories were operational on June 25 while three laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH said the three non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 0.81 percent of samples tested, and 0.86 percent of positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

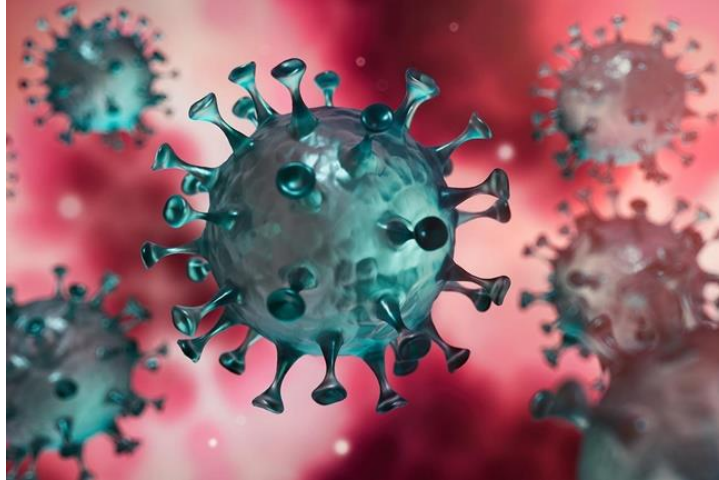
To date, 57 percent of 3,500 intensive care unit beds, 47 percent of 19,300 isolation beds, 44 percent of 12,200 ward beds, and 37 percent of 2,800 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 45 percent of 1,200 intensive care unit beds, 39 percent of 4,800 isolation beds, 32 percent of 3,500 ward beds, and 32 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region. **(PNA)**



KASO NG COVID SA NCR PATULOY ANG PAGBABA

written by **Ashley Jose** June 27, 2021



Tuloy-tuloy na ang pagbaba ng kaso ng COVID-19 o Coronavirus Disease sa NCR o National Capital Region.

Ayon kay Dr. Guido David ng Octa Research Group, nasa 650 na lamang ang bilang ng average daily cases sa NCR.

Sinabi ni David, isa sa mga tinitingnan nilang dahilan nang pagbaba ng kaso ng COVID-19 ay ang pagtaas ng bilang ng mga nabakunahan sa kalakhang Maynila.

Gayunman, sinabi naman ni David na kailangang pumalo sa 40 porsyento ang bilang ng bakunado sa NCR upang tuluyan nang mabuksan ang ekonomiya sa Metro Manila.

PH close to 10-M target of total vax doses jabbed

June 27, 2021



Health Secretary Francisco Duque III administers a Covid-19 shot to an elderly woman in San Juan City. Malacañang appealed to senior citizens, including those who have already been inoculated against the coronavirus to stay as "home-liners" amid the prevailing pandemic. (PNA Photo by Joey Razon)

By Christine Fabro

The Philippines is about to reach the 10 million mark of vaccine doses administered among five priority groups. As of June 23, the total number of vaccine doses administered is at 9,281,235.

According to National Task Force (NTF) Against COVID-19 Deputy Chief Implementer Vince Dizon, the record 10 million doses is the national government's target number of vaccines inoculated by the end of June.

A symbolic vaccination for the 10 millionth dose of COVID-19 vaccine to be administered will be held at the Valenzuela Astrodome on Monday (June 28) at 10:00 a.m.

The first five priority groups now being vaccinated are healthcare workers, senior citizens, persons with comorbidities, economic workers from the private, government, and informal sectors, and indigenous groups.

About 5,000 vaccination sites are being prepared for the arrival of 11 million vaccine doses in July.

In addition to the National Capital Region Plus areas, also listed as priority areas for vaccination are the cities of Bacolod, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Baguio, Zamboanga, Dumaguete, Tuguegarao, General Santos, Naga, and Legazpi.

As of June 27, there were a total of 1,397,992 COVID-19 cases in the Philippines, 1,321,050 recoveries, and 24,372 fatalities. – *jlo*

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/ph-close-to-10-m-target-of-total-vax-doses-jabbed/>

PH receives initial delivery of 249,600 Moderna COVID-19 jabs

ABS-CBN News Posted at Jun 27 2021 11:10 PM



A healthcare worker holds a vial of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine at a pop-up vaccination site operated by SOMOS Community Care during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in Manhattan in New York City, New York, U.S., January 29, 2021. *Mike Segar, Reuters/File Photo*

MANILA - The Philippines on Sunday received its first shipment of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine containing 249,600 doses, as the country tries to ramp up its vaccination drive.

The initial delivery of the US drugmaker's coronavirus jab arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 around 11 p.m.

Jervis Manahan @JervisManahan · Jun 27, 2021

DOH officials and the media wait for the first batch of Moderna vaccines which is expected to arrive tonight, 11pm, at NAIA Terminal 3.

249,600 doses of Moderna vaccines will be arriving via Singapore Airlines Flight SQ918 @ABSCBNNews



Jervis Manahan @JervisManahan

JUST IN: Plane carrying the first batch of Moderna vaccines for the Philippines has landed in Manila.

Part of this batch of vaccines will allocated for the private sector. @ABSCBNNews



10:58 PM · Jun 27, 2021 from Pasay City, National Capital Region

139 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter



The Philippine government will get 150,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine while 99,600 doses will go to ICTSI, the company of ports billionaire Enrique [Razon](#) who procured it for the private sector.

Moderna said in April its vaccine showed strong protection against the coronavirus six months after people received their second shot, with efficacy of more than 90 percent against all cases of COVID-19 and more than 95 percent against severe COVID-19.

The jab should also remain effective against new coronavirus variants first reported in India, Brazil, UK, and South Africa, the company said.

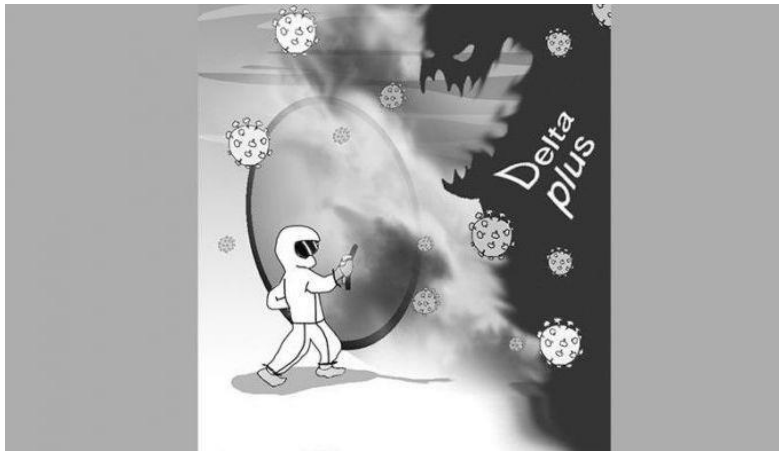
The Philippines aims to vaccinate at least 58 million individuals this year to achieve herd immunity against the coronavirus. A total of 8,050,711 jabs have been administered nationwide as of June 18, government said.

--With a report from Reuters



EDITORIAL - Bantayan ang Delta variant

(Pang-Masa) - June 28, 2021 - 12:00am



MABANGIS ang Delta variant kaya nararapat na huwag maging kampante ang pamahalaan. Ang pag-iingat at pagsunod sa health protocols ay dapat nasusunod sapagkat masyadong mabilis kumalat ang variant.

Ang Delta variant ang tumama sa India noong Abril at Mayo na naging dahilan para marami ang mamatay sa nasabing bansa. Sobrang bilis ng pagkalat ng Delta variant at wala nang mapaglagyan ang mga pasyenteng isinusugod sa mga ospital. Dalawang pasyente ang nagsi-share sa iisang kama. Nagkaubusan ng oxygen kaya pinapasok na ng mga tao ang mga tindahan para makakuha nito. Mayroong sa daan pa lamang ay marami na ang namamatay dahil hindi makahinga.

Sa dami ng namatay, hindi na sa mismong crematorium sinusunog ang mga bangkay kundi sa isang open field. May mga kahoy nang tinipon at dito na sinusunog ang mga biktima ng Delta variant. Ang ibang mga bangkay, ipinaaanod na lamang sa Ganges River. Umabot sa 400,000 ang namatay sa India dahil sa Delta variant.

Bahagyang humupa ang surge ng Delta variant sa India pero mayroon na namang lumutang na mas matindi pa umano at tinawag na Delta plus at may mahigit nang 21 kaso sa tatlong estado sa India. Pina-ngangambahan na muling dumami ang kaso sa India.

Ang Delta variant ay nasa Pilipinas na at may 17 kaso nang naitala. Apat na OFW ang unang nagpositibo sa Delta variant at isa na ang namatay ayon sa report. Pawang mga seamen ang nagpositibo sa variant.

Nagbabala na ang India sa pagkalat ng Delta plus kaya nararapat maging alerto ang bansa para mapigilan ang pagpasok nito. Magkaroon ng pagbabantay sa mga border. Maging mahigpit lalo na sa mga magmumula sa ibang bansa, particular sa India. Sinasabing ang Delta plus ay mabangis sa human immune system.

Huwag maging kampante sa Delta plus. Ang pagkampante ay maaring magbunga nang pagdami ng kaso na walang ipinagkaiba sa nangyari noong Marso, Abril hanggang Mayo. Maging mahigpit sa pagpapatupad ng health protocols. Ipagpatuloy ang pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield. Paigtingin din naman ang pagbabakuna sa mamamayan para maabot ang herd immunity.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2021/06/28/2108624/editorial-bantayan-ang-delta-variant/amp/>

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