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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



U.S. and Philippines expand cooperation on Biodiversity Conservation and Water Security

By U.S. Embassy in the Philippines Published on May 28, 2021



(Center) Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu and USAID Deputy Mission Director Sean Callahan sign a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen partnership between the U.S. and Philippine governments on protecting the country's natural resources.

MANILA, May 28 -- As the United States marks its 75th year of diplomatic relations with the Republic of the Philippines, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have agreed to advance their cooperation to protect the Philippines' rich natural resources and improve access to clean water and sanitation.

In February, USAID and the Philippine government, through the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), signed a four-year, Php7.25-billion (\$150 million) agreement to protect the environment, promote sustainable use of natural resources, and reduce risks from natural disasters. On May 27, USAID and the DENR signed the sub-agreements to implement two projects under that agreement: the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) and Safe Water Project.

SIBOL is a five-year, Php1.1-billion (\$22 million) project that improves natural resource governance, stimulates public and private sector investments in conservation, and reduces environmental crime, leading to greater environmental stability and inclusive green growth.

The Safe Water Project is a five-year, Php870-million (\$18.4 million) project that helps improve water security for vulnerable and underserved communities. Working with both the national and local governments, Safe Water supports increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services, improves the sustainable management of water resources, and strengthens governance and regulation of the water sector.



“The long history of the partnership between DENR and USAID has been fruitful, and together we have achieved much in creating a more secure environment that sustains both ecological integrity and human development,” said Acting USAID Philippines Mission Director Sean Callahan. “As we mark the 75th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the United States and the Philippines this year, I am truly optimistic that these MOUs will help us achieve many more milestones together as we work toward our shared goal of inclusive and resilient growth for all Filipinos.”

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said he is looking forward to the partnership. “Given the current pandemic, the DENR is committed more than ever to address the country’s environmental challenges. USAID, a consistent and effective ally of the DENR, has also supported us in creating sustainable models which guided us for the management of our ecosystems. Together, through these projects, we will advance our shared goals of environmental sustainability and improve the lives of Filipino communities.”

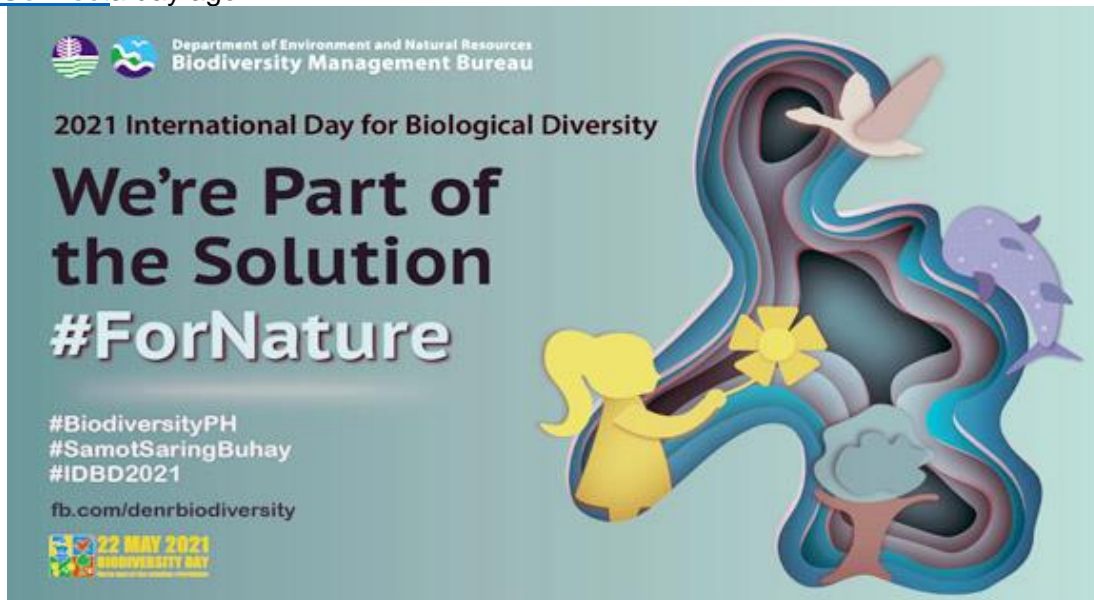
Since 2014, USAID has provided more than Php5 billion (\$100 million) to help conserve the Philippines’ biodiversity and protect its natural resources. (U.S. Embassy in the Philippines)



DENR Reaffirms Value of Unified Solutions to Restore Nature

International Biodiversity Day 2021: DENR Reaffirms Value of Unified Solutions to Restore Nature

by [Village Connect](#) a day ago



As the world celebrates the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDBD) on May 22, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) renewed its call for unified efforts of every Filipino toward biodiversity protection and conservation despite the pandemic.

With the global slogan, "We're part of the solution," the DENR underscores both individual and community actions, regardless of roles in society, as key to save the Philippines' threatened biodiversity.

"For many years, our country has been recognized as one of the mega biodiverse countries in the world. Our location in the Coral Triangle makes us a part of the global center of marine biodiversity. But the Philippines is also one of the world's biodiversity hotspots with our vast resources and endemic species threatened by human activity and habitat loss," said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Cimatu pointed out the critical need to protect biodiversity citing its countless functions that include air purification, food and water security, source of livelihood, nature recreation, and reducing the risk of emerging infectious diseases.

"Biodiversity will be the foundation on which we can build back better once this pandemic is over," he said.

To drum up the days leading to IDBD, the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) has launched an online information campaign on key solutions to pressing environmental issues which the public can engage with and support.

"I urge everyone to live with less plastic to save our oceans from plastic pollution. Educate yourselves on wildlife laws and support the government's campaign against illegal wildlife collection and trade," said Undersecretary for Special Concerns and DENR-BMB OIC Edilberto D. Leonardo.

Leonardo also called on the public to help stop the illegal wildlife trade by reporting illegal pet keepers and traders to the DENR.



Just recently, an illegal online wildlife trader of umbrella cockatoos and palm cockatoo was caught and charged for violation of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Cimatu has been warning the public that the online illegal wildlife trade is being monitored vigilantly by the DENR.

To celebrate IDBD, the DENR-BMB will hold a free virtual event on May 21, a day ahead of the official IDBD. The program will be aired at 10 a.m. via its official Facebook page.

DENR-BMB officials will deliver messages for the IDBD celebration including a lecture on urban biodiversity to promote collective efforts in greening our cities.

There will also be a talk on visual storytelling featuring conservation photography.

This will be followed by the announcement of the winners of the BiodiverCity photo contest, and a mini-talk show that will feature the winners.

Cash prizes await the ten (10) consolation and three (3) grand prize winners selected from the 44 shortlisted entries out of nearly 200 photo entries submitted.

The contest aims to showcase urban biodiversity or biodiversity that exists in urban areas, such as urban agriculture, cultural sites, green and blue spaces, and green infrastructure.

Urban biodiversity benefits communities through better health, mitigation of the effects of climate change, and nature recreation.

The IDBD is a global celebration espoused by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to promote the conservation of biological diversity, which is considered the world's life-support system.



DENR cites biodiversity conservation as great foundation to build back better

By DENR Published on May 28, 2021

QUEZON CITY, May 28 -- In celebration of this year's International Day of Biological Diversity (IDBD), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Friday, May 21, reiterated its call to protect wildlife habitats and properly manage the country's protected areas to restore its biodiversity.

"The DENR's marching order is the restoration and protection of wildlife habitats and ecosystems through area-based conservation measures, and the management of the country's protected areas, including caves and wetlands to bring back stability to natural environments," said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu in his speech read by Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) OIC Edilberto D. Leonardo.

"This includes the strict enforcement of wildlife regulation to ensure that wildlife trade is sustainable, legal, and safe," he added.

The DENR chief highlighted the "immense" benefits that humans gain from nature and their responsibility to take part in the solution to address the source of biodiversity loss.

"Biodiversity provides us with ecosystem services which range from basic necessities such as food and water to purifying the air we breathe, pollination, natural protection from natural disasters, recreational activities, natural healing from our ailments, and provision of livelihood," Cimatu said.

He also echoed this year's IDBD theme, "We're part of the solution," highlighting the importance of actions from all sectors of society in addressing the source of biodiversity loss while emphasizing that biodiversity conservation is the answer to several sustainable development challenges.

As the coronavirus disease continues to spread globally, the DENR chief also emphasized that the pandemic is "a wake-up call with critical realization of the damage of human activities has done to nature."

Cimatu said that destruction and conversion of natural habitats, including illegal wildlife hunting and trade bring communities into increased contact with wildlife and increases the risk of disease spillover to humans.

Moreover, he emphasized that biodiversity is not limited to rural areas, as cities can also serve as "cradles of biodiversity."

"We need to bring back biodiversity in urban settlements to regain nature and ecosystem services by incorporating green spaces in public and private places, rehabilitating river systems, and adopting green infrastructures," Cimatu said.

The DENR has also recognized the winners of the BiodiverCity photo contest during the IDBD celebration last Friday.

The contest was conducted to celebrate urban biodiversity and its benefits to the environment and community. (DENR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1076536>

Build Back Better, Tinalakay ng DENR sa mga Local Officials ng Isabela

By Rowena Munchang - May. 28, 2021 at 10:10am



Cauayan City, Isabela- Nagsagawa ng pag-uusap ang mga empleyado ng PENRO Isabela at CENRO Cabagan sa mga lokal na opisyal ng mga bayan ng San Pablo, Sta Maria, Cabagan, Sto. Tomas, Tumauini, at Delfin Albano upang talakayin ang mga gagawing plano sa Build Back Better (BBB).

Pinangunahan nina SEMS Baltazar Rañin at Engr. Raul Palaganas kasama ang grupo mula sa CENRO Cabagan ang pagtalakay kaugnay sa mga gagawing rehabilitasyon sa floodgates at mga ilog sa Isabela.

Kabilang din sa mga pinag-usapan ang pagtatanim ng kawayan o bamboo upang maiwasan ang pagguho ng lupa, siltation at mailayo sa peligro ang komunidad lalo na sa mga panahon ng sakuna o kalamidad.

Sinabi naman ni Ginoong Marlon Agnar ng PENRO Isabela, isasagawa ang delineation at demarcation sa mga dredging sites pagkatapos ng kanilang information drive sa mga lugar na nasa bahagi ng Ilog Cagayan mula sa bayan ng San Pablo hanggang sa Lungsod ng Ilagan.

Matatandaan noong ika-19 ng Pebrero, personal na pinangunahan nina DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, ang BBB taskforce chairperson, at Public Works Secretary Mark Villar, co-chair ang ceremonial dredging ng sandbars at pagtatanim ng mga kawayan sa gilid ng Cagayan river na sakop ng Barangay Bangug sa bayan ng Lal-lo, Cagayan.



'Blessing' for the forest

DENR issues new guidelines regulating the importation of timber, other wood products

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 29, 2021



IN an apparent bid to augment the dwindling local wood supply and meet the increasing demand for this economically important commodity, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is pinning its hopes on imported wood.

To streamline the process of importing wood and other wood products, Secretary Roy A. Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued new guidelines or policies regulating the entry and disposition of imported wood and timber products in the Philippines.



Asian Forest Cooperation Organization Executive Director Ricardo Calderon: "Per FMB records, we are still importing around 4 million cubic meters of round wood equivalent, as our local production can only provide a little less than 1 million cubic meters. We need around 42,000 hectares of mature plantation annually in order for us to be self-sufficient [in meeting our] wood requirements for the country."

DENR Administrative Order 2021-06, or the Revised Regulations Governing the Entry and Disposition of Imported Wood Products signed by Cimatu on April 21, 2021, prescribes new guidelines that, among others, aim to "rationalize" the requirements and procedures of the commodity into the country.

It effectively replaces all DENR policies on wood importation under DAO 99-46.

'Stop-gap' measure

SPECIFICALLY, DAO 2021-06 aims to allow the importation of wood materials as a stop-gap measure to ensure a continuous supply of wood raw materials until such time that local supply from tree plantations can adequately meet local needs.

It also aims to augment local sources in order to utilize existing wood processing plant capacities and enable wood-based industries, including the furniture and other downstream wood industries, to generate employment and income.



During the 2019 Wood Summit, the DENR's Forest Management Bureau (FMB) estimates that the Philippines requires 6 million cubic meters of wood annually based on the average consumption of wood from 2006 to 2014.

The demand for wood is projected to increase in the ensuing years. Of the national demand for wood, only 25 percent comes from local sources, while a hefty 75 percent is imported, according to the FMB.

Under the new guidelines, imported wood products now have corresponding tariff codes or Asean Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature or AHTN, a tariff code that classifies commodities being imported and exported.

The Philippines, both as an exporter and importer of wood and wood products, is becoming heavily dependent on imported wood because of its poor capacity to produce wood and wood products locally under existing forest policies.

This is mainly attributed to the country's shrinking forest cover due to legal and illegal logging activities.

Biodiversity loss

BETWEEN 1990 and 2005, the Philippines had lost 32.3 percent of its forest cover or around 3.4 million hectares equivalent to about 262,500 hectares of forest lost every year during the period, according to urban planner Argean Guiaya, highlighting the serious threats to the country's rich biodiversity during a lecture on May 21 as part of an online event in celebration of the International Day of Biological Diversity 2021.

Due to the unmet local demand in recent years, import volume has far outweighed the supply capacity of local wood producers.

Compounding the huge supply demand gap was the imposition of the total log ban policy by the past Aquino administration to allow the country's forest to recover.

EO 23, signed on February 1, 2011, imposed a total log ban on natural and residual forests.

However, despite the all-out campaign against illegal logging activities, harvesting of wood even in so-called protected areas persists with illegal loggers targeting "good lumber" for the supply of the construction as well as furniture industry.

In Northern Luzon, for instance, the DENR's Regional Offices there have come together to strengthen the campaign against illegal logging activities, starting with jointly conducting inter-provincial and regional checkpoints.

The Northern Luzon is still considered an illegal logging hot spot due to the rampant timber poaching in its forestlands.

Who may import and from where?

THE increasing demand for wood and the poor capacity of local wood producers have resulted in skyrocketing prices of wood products. Allowing the entry of imported wood and wood products is also meant to bring down the price of the valuable commodity.

Under the new guidelines, a holder of tenure instrument, Wood Processing Plant Permit or Certificate of Registration (COR) as Wood Furniture Manufacturer, Agent Contractor, Agent, Contractor or Dealer of logs/poles and Piles/Lumber issued by the DENR may import wood materials.

However, before availing of the privilege to import, the holder of tenure and or Wood Processing Plant (WPP) Permit shall have his or her current logs, commercial Poles and Piles and/or Lumber Dealer's Permit stamped by the Office of the Regional Executive Director of the DENR as a valid authority to imported wood materials.



The new guidelines also listed the authorized ports of entry for Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

For Luzon, the authorized ports of entry are Poro Point; San Fernando, La Union; Santa Ana, Cagayan; Mariveles, Bataan; Subic Bay Port; Legazpi City; South and North Harbor Manila, and Batangas City.

For the Visayas, the ports of entry are Iloilo City, Cebu City, Bacolod City and Dumaguete City. For Mindanao, Cagayan de Oro City, Butuan City, Bislig, Surigao del Sur, Davao City, Parang Maguindanao and General Santos City have been identified as the authorized ports of entry.

Sources at the DENR-FMB said among the salient features of the revised guidelines are the “streamlined” procedures and requirements in the issuance of import authority or COR to import wood products, consistent with the Ease of Doing Business law.

“Examples of the requirements that were not included in the said DAO are certifications from Philippine Wood Producers’ Association (PWPA) and Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines or CFIP; and Supply Contracts and Authentication from the country of origin,” said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The source, a forestry expert, added that the wood products being regulated are already classified/categorized based on the AHTN Code, so that the importers/clients and the relevant agencies, particularly the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and DENR Field Offices, become aware of the kind of imported wood product being regulated by the DENR.

‘Gray areas’

HOWEVER, the kind of wood products or coverage is not specified, thereby resulting in confusion between and among the DENR and BOC, on whether or not the subject wood is covered by the AHTN.

“Under the old guidelines [DAO 99-46], the kind of wood products or coverage is generic. As a result, there is confusion among the BOC and DENR Field Offices if a particular item is covered by the regulation. With the inclusion of AHTN, it will be much easier for the various agencies to determine if the items are regulated for import or not because all items for importation now have corresponding AHTN,” the source said.

DENR Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Marcial C. Amaro Jr., the concurrent FMB director, could not be reached for comment and had not responded at press time to the BusinessMirror’s request to discuss the salient features of the new wood importation guidelines.

Self-sufficiency goal

SOUGHT for his expert opinion, Executive Director Ricardo Calderon of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) lauded the new policy.

“In my personal view, this is a very good enhancement of the previous regulation regarding importation,” Calderon, a forestry expert, said. Calderon is a former DENR assistant secretary and former director of the DENR-FMB.

Now the head of AFoCO, he observed that the objective of the guidelines is very clear and well-defined as the Philippines is still beefing up its local supply of wood.

“Per FMB records, we are still importing around 4 million cubic meters of round wood equivalent, as our local production can only provide a little less than 1 million cubic meters,” he said.

He added that the country needs to expand its forest plantation if it is to fill the supply gap and possibly reverse the trade balance in favor of exports.



“We need around 42,000 hectares of mature plantation annually in order for us to be self-sufficient [in meeting] our wood requirements for the country,” he said.

Calderon noted that in the Asian Region, the current focus is to rehabilitate and conserve primary forests and encourage private-sector investment in forest plantations in order to sustain the wood industry requirements.

“Forest plantation development should be fully supported while we protect and conserve our natural forest, including secondary forest,” Calderon said.

“The forest areas designated and legislated as protected areas and conservation areas are increasing worldwide, according to the last United Nations Forum on Forests report, which is also the current trend in the Philippines. Hence we are on track as far as these priority areas of forest management are concerned,” he concluded.

Image courtesy of Antonio Oquias | Dreamstime.com



2 PH serpent eagles rescued in Isabela

Published May 26, 2021, 5:42 PM

by [Liezle Basa Iñigo](#)



RESCUED EAGLES – 'Crizaldo' and 'James,' the two rescued Philippine serpent eagles in Isabela. (PNP photo)

CITY OF ILAGAN, Isabela – A concerned citizen has rescued two Philippine serpent eagles in a forested area in Benito Soliven, this province.

The concerned citizen turned over the two birds named “Crizaldo” and “James” to the Isabela Provincial Police Office which, in turn, gave them to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in this city headed by Arvin Perez, officer-in-charge of the Fuyot Spring National Park, Ilagan Sanctuary in Sta. Victoria, here.

The Isabela police said their concern and protection for wildlife is part of the Philippine National Police (PNP) core value “makakalikasan (pro-environment).” The city government of Ilagan through the CENRO shall keep the birds at the sanctuary for their protection.



Day Sin Pawikan festival holds annual celebration via online

Published May 28, 2021, 3:12 PM

by [Liza Abubakar-Jocson](#)

The world was given a glimpse of Turtle Islands as the small island municipality, the farthest in Southern Philippines, went online last Sunday, March 23 to celebrate “Day Sin Pawikan.”

“Day Sin Pawikan” is an annual festival to recognize the importance of green sea turtles, the animal which the island is known for.

The festival marked the turnover of the Turtle Island Wildlife Sanctuary from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources under the Bangsamoro.



GREEN AND GO. Dozens of green sea turtle were released into the ocean during the annual Day Sin Pawikan festival held last weekend in Turtle Islands in Mindanao. (MENR-BARMM/MANILA BULLETIN)

The sanctuary is the world’s first transboundary protected area for marine turtles found in the Southeast Asian countries of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia.

President Rodrigo Duterte, Senator Christopher “Bong” Go and Mindanao Development Authority Secretary Emmanuel Piñol gave their virtual greetings to the 12,000 residents of the small island municipality.

The celebration was also used to feature the V-SAT facilities installed by the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) last March.

The latest technology now enables the world to view spectacular beaches, the islanders’ exotic lifestyle and their famous green sea turtles- sights guaranteed to help the local government achieve its goal of developing their town into the next tourism destination of the South.

The islands, commonly known as Taganak to natives, straddles the seas between the Philippines and Malaysia and is 1,000 kilometers from Manila.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/28/day-sin-pawikan-festival-holds-annual-celebration-via-online/>



BARMM now supervises Turtle Islands wildlife sanctuary

By Edwin Fernandez **May 28, 2021, 7:10 am**



BACK TO THE SEA. BARMM environment officials release turtle hatchlings back to the sea during the Adlaw sin Payukan (Day of the Sea Turtle) Festival in Turtle Island in Tawi-Tawi on May 23, 2021, as the Bangsamoro region takes over supervision and care of the sanctuary. The Turtle Islands in Tawi-Tawi is the 11th known marine turtles' nesting area in the world. *(Photo courtesy of MENRE-BARMM)*

COTABATO CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 9 has turned over the protection, administration, and conservation of marine turtles in Tawi-Tawi to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy (MENRE) Forest Management Services Director Abdul-Jalil Umngan said here Friday they are now sustaining the supervision of the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary (TIWS), a protected area in Tawi-Tawi province.

Umngan said the MENRE-BARMM is mandated to formulate policies, guidelines and implement programs, activities, and projects for the protection and preservation of biological diversity and the endangered flora and fauna in the Bangsamoro region.

“Rest assured that our mission now includes the protection and conservation of the TIWS, its biodiversity, flora and fauna, and the habitat that’s inseparable from the survival of the species relying on the beauty of the islands,” he said.

In a statement, DENR-9 director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez said her office would always cherish its role in the Turtle Islands.

“Although distance has always been a challenge, it was never regarded as a hindrance to our efforts in environmental protection and biodiversity conservation (in the Turtle Islands),” Rodriguez said.

The TIWS is the 11th major marine turtle nesting area in the world.

It is recognized as primary nesting for two endangered marine turtles - the Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

The sanctuary is composed of the group of islands of Boan, Lihiman, Langaan, Great Bakkungan, Taganak, and Baguan.

The turnover ceremony was held on the same day Tawi-Tawi was celebrating its 3rd Adlaw sin Payukan or the Day of the Sea Turtle Festival in Taganak Island.

The Turtle Islands has an estimated population of 12,000. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1141777>



MGB: Cargo ship na maghahakot ng higit P9.7-M iron ore sa CamNorte, walang permit

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 28 2021 09:27 PM



Screenshot mula sa video ni Donde Consuelo

PARACALE, Camarines Norte — Nagdulot ng pagkabahala sa mga nakatira sa tabing-dagat ang pagdaong ng cargo ship na J. Peace Panama sa municipal waters ng Paracale, Camarines Norte noong Mayo 21.

Bukod daw kasi sa posibilidad na may dalang sakit ang mga tripulante, nakahimpil ang barko sa lugar na madalas na pangisdaan ng mga residente.

“Ang lugar na tinukod ay pangunahin o the best na ladlaran no’ng mga kwerna. Ang mga kwerna po ay yung mga panghuli ng balaw, animo’y malilit na hipon,” paliwanag ni Roger Data, isa sa convenors ng environmental group na Save Paracale.

Isang araw, lumapit ang barge at tugboat na kasama ng barko sa sarado nang Liaoning Fenghua Group Philippine Mining Company sa Barangay Bagumbayan.

Sa imbestigasyon ng Save Paracale, pakay nito na mahakot ang nasa 5,100 metric tons na old stockpile ng iron sand na materyales sa paggawa ng bakal.

Ayon kay Paracale Mayor Romeo Moreno, may mineral ore export permit (MOEP) at ore transport permit (OTP) na ipinakita ang kumpanya, na huling nakapag-extract ng iron sand noong taong 2013.

“Tinanong namin kung meron ba kayong permit, may ipinakita silang permit sa amin, at ang permit na ipinakita is signed by our governor na OTP and MOEP from provincial government,” ani Moreno.

Ayon naman kay Camarines Norte Gov. Edgardo Tallado, may naipakitang katibayan ang mining company na tapos nang magsagawa ng validation sa stockpile ng iron sand ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), kaya nag-isyu na rin ang kapitolyo ng OTP at MOEP.

Pero sabi ni MGB-Bicol regional director Guillermo Molina, lumang proseso na ito at dapat na sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na dapat pumunta para sa naturang permits.

“As far as doon sa permitting ng mga materials na ‘yon, it’s no longer the mandate of the LGU, sinabi ko na yun sa letter ko sa kanila na supposed to be the DENR who should be issuing those permits,” ani Molina.



Giit ni Tallado, dumaan sa maayos na proseso ang mga dokumentong hiningi ng kumpanya at hindi nila alam na hindi na maaaring mag-isyu ng OTP at MOEP ang kapitolyo.

"Yung department order nag-lapse noong last year katapusan ng last year, wala akong kopya, hindi kami pinadalahan ng kopya. Yung sa akin nga, kung may ganong department order dapat hindi na vinalidate yun o kaya sa validation report pinag-cite na nila yung department order," paliwanag pa ng gobernador.

Dahil sa kawalan ng permit mula sa MGB, umalis na lamang nitong Huwebes sa karagatan ng Paracale ang barko na hindi nahakot ang nasa mahigit P9.7 milyong halaga ng iron sand.

Dadalhin sana ito sa nakabiling mineral product company sa Lingbao City, Henan Province sa China.

– **Ulat ni Jonathan Magistrado**



PH to boost climate resilience, address ocean plastic pollution with aid from U.S., Korea cooperation partnership

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on May 28, 2021



Photos courtesy of *Climate Change in the Philippines 2011 report by AdapTayo, MDG Achievement Fund and state weather bureau PAGASA*

QUEZON CITY, May 28 (PIA) -- The Philippines is set to boost the country's climate resilience and address ocean plastic pollution with aid from joint development projects by the leading development assistance agencies of the United States of America and the Republic of Korea.

The partnership is a result of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) on April 7, 2021 to explore potential collaboration in an array of sectors, including poverty reduction in rural areas, empowerment of women and girls, water resource management, community rehabilitation in Marawi, and climate resilience.

In particular, the U.S. and Korea have agreed to jointly pursue a "Climate Resilient Cities" project to strengthen the resilience of Philippine cities against growing climate threats and vulnerability, and Marine Litter Management initiatives to mitigate the impacts of ocean plastic pollution.

Expanding the U.S.-Korea partnership in Southeast Asia, including in the Philippines, is one of the key elements of the Joint Statement and the Joint Fact Sheet of the Korea-U.S. Summit, which took place in Washington D.C. on May 21, 2021.

"For the past 75 years, the United States has been a strong friend, partner and ally of the Philippine government in achieving its long-term vision of sustainable and inclusive growth for the Filipino people," U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires John Law said. "Our work with like-minded partners like Korea will further advance our shared development objectives as we support the Philippines in its journey to self-reliance."

"Korea is glad to strengthen its partnership with the U.S. in the areas of development cooperation in the Philippines as reflected in the MOU last month and highlighted in last week's Korea-U.S. Summit. We will continue to work closely together in the Philippines to promote sustainable development in the Bayanihan spirit, particularly in addressing challenges faced by Philippine cities and vulnerable communities amid rising climate change concerns, among others" said Korean Ambassador Inchul Kim.



Korea and the United States are among the largest bilateral donors in the Philippines. Over the past 30 years, Korea has expanded its development assistance in both grants and budgetary support and is the second-largest development assistance country donor in the Philippines. (PIA NCR)



EDITORIAL - Solusyon sa plastic pollution

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - May 28, 2021 - 12:00am



May naisip nang paraan ang Quezon City kung paano sosolusyunan ang plastic pollution at sa isang banda, matutulungan ding kumita ang mga nagre-recycle ng kanilang basura. Inilunsad ni Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte ang “trash to cashback” kung saan hinihikayat ang mamamayan na mag-recycle ng basura at maging bahagi na ito ng pamumuhay. Sa ilalim ng programa, lahat ng mga basurang plastic ay puwedeng ipalit ng pagkain – bigas, itlog, gulay at iba pang grocery items. Ang mga recyclables na maaaring ipalit ay kinabibilangan ng single-use plastics, botelya, papel, bakal at maging ang mga sachet ng 3-in-1 coffee, shampoo at conditioner. Sa ilalim ng programa, bawat barangay ay magkakaroon ng drop-off point at doon dadalhin ang mga recyclables at papalitan ng pagkain o babayaran.

Noon pang Marso 1 ng kasalukuyang taon ibinawal ang paggamit ng plastic bags at single-use plastics sa Quezon City. Ang mga lalabag ay pagmumultahin. Maging sa mga hotel at restaurants ay ipagbabawal na rin ang plastics. Ang mga establisimientong lalabag ay may kaparusahan.

Sabi noon ni Mayor Belmonte, nararapat nang maipatupad ang matagal nang hinahangad ng lungsod na mabawasan ang mga basurang plastic. Ito rin ang sagot ng lungsod sa malawakang kampanya sa buong mundo na mabawasan ang greenhouse gas emissions at mapalakas ang climate resilience. Naniniwala si Belmonte na magtatagumpay ang kampanya sa pagbabawal sa paggamit ng plastic at magiging kaugalian na ito sa lungsod.

Napakaganda ng “trash to cashback” program ng Quezon City para masolusyunan ang plastic pollution. Ngayong papalitan ng pagkain ang mga basurang plastic, tiyak na marami ang mahihikayat na mag-recycle at tiyak na wala nang makikitang plastic na lulutang-lutang sa estero, ilog at dagat. Napatunayan na ang mga sachet ng 3-in-1 coffee, shampoo, toothpaste, catsup, at iba pang plastic na bagay ang bumabara sa mga daluyan ng tubig at ito ang dahilan nang pagbaha.

Magandang halimbawa ang “trash to cashback” at harinawang gayahin din ito ng iba pang lungsod at bayan para masolusyunan ang plastic pollution.



BASURA PINAPALITAN NG PAGKAIN SA QUEZON CITY



May 29, 2021 @ 12:57 AM 5 hours ago

LALO pang pinaigting ng Quezon City government ang pagpapatupad ng plastic waste trading program nito na tinawag na 'Trash to Cashback.'

Ito ay ang paglapit ng lokal na pamahalaan sa mga komunidad para higit na mapalakas ang segregation ng basura at mabigyan ng kaalaman ang mga tao sa kahalagahan ng recycling sa pamumuhay ng bawat mamamayan.

Sa pamamagitan ng programa, ang mga recyclable ay maaaring maipalit ng pagkain tulad ng bigas, itlog, gulay at iba pang essential grocery items.

Sinabi naman ni Mayor Joy Belmonte na sa tulong ng bago nitong partner na Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies o BEST ay dadalhin sa mga barangay ng lungsod na nakatakdang simulan sa darating na June 2021.

Sa ilalim ng programa, ang mga barangay ay maglalaan ng isang "drop-off point" sa kanilang komunidad para dalhin ng mga residente ang kanilang recyclables kapalit ng pagkain.

Bukod sa metal tinatanggap din sa drop-off points ang papel, PET bottles, single-use plastics tulad ng shampoo sachets, coffee packs, at online shopping plastic packages.

-ooOoo-

Zamboanga Peninsula, tumanggap ng karagdagang 99,000 sakong certified seeds mula sa DA-PhilRice

Kumpara sa 63,000 sakong certified seeds na natanggap ng Zamboanga Del Sur at Zamboanga Sibugay noong nakaraang taon, aabot na sa 162,000 sako ang inaasahang matatanggap ng dalawang probinsya para sa taniman ngayong tag-ulan.

Ayon kay DA-PhilRice Midsayap branch director Sailila E. Abdula, tamang-tama ang pagtaas ng alokasyon ng binhi dahil mas lumalawak ang tinataniman ng palay sa Zamboanga Peninsula tuwing tag-ulan kung kaya't mas maraming magsasaka ang magkaka-access ng libreng binhi.

Matatandaang nagdeklara ng state of calamity ang Zamboanga City noong 2018 dahil na rin sa kakulangan ng suplay ng bigas sa lugar.

Sa naging hakbang ng DA-PhilRice sa pamamagitan ng RCEF-Seed Program ay umaasa si Abdula na magdudulot ito ng malaking tulong upang makamit ang seguridad ng bigas sa mga nasabing probinsya.



Ayon kay Dr. Flordeliza H. Bordey, head ng RCEF Seed Program Management Office na nakabase sa DA-PhilRice, ang dalawang probinsya ay kabilang sa mga lugar na may mababang bilang ng mga gumagamit ng certified inbred seeds.

Aniya, malaki ang potensyal ng makamit ang mas mataas na produksyon ng palay dahil sa mas pinalawak na paggamit ng dekalidad na binhi.

Sa pag-aaral na ginawa ng DA-PhilRice, ang certified seeds na pinapamahagi ay nakatutulong na makamit ang dagdag 10% na ani o higit pa kada ektarya kumpara sa gumagamit ng itinabing binhi o kaya ani mula sa nakaraang tanim na hindi dumaan sa pagpupuro.

Kabilang sa mga ipapamahagi ay ang mga rekomendadong barayti sa lugar tulad ng NSIC Rc 402, Rc 442, Rc 216, at Rc 222, na napatunayang angkop sa lugar.



Grassroots zero-waste initiatives fuel sustainability movement in Asia Pacific

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on May 28, 2021



QUEZON CITY, May 28 (PIA) -- Grassroots zero-waste initiatives are fueling the sustainability movement in Asia Pacific as they help micro, small, and medium enterprises and consumers minimize plastic pollution and shift to sustainable alternatives.

This was discussed during the ninth episode of The Climate Reality Project Philippines' Klimatotohanan webcast series, a fortnightly Facebook webcast that features conversations and discussions about climate governance, science, solutions, research, and other related topics.

"We have a lot of zero-waste communities in India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia," Sherma Benosa, Knowledge Management Officer of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, said as she shared zero-waste models in Asia Pacific that could be replicated in the Philippines.

Benosa specifically mentioned the case of Kerola in India, which has introduced a decentralized system for waste management, which later resulted in a successful model where waste is neither burned nor buried. She shared that the state of Kerola has also introduced a Green Protocol, a regulation banning single-use plastics that has since been expanded to public events, such as festivals.

Benosa also cited businesses like Bring Me Home, a food rescue app based in Australia that enables consumers to buy unsold meals and other food items from restaurants, cafes, bakeries, and grocery stores at a significant discount; and BarePack, a subscription-based reusable and returnable container ecosystem for food takeaway and delivery across Singapore.

Dave Albao, Executive Director of the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc., walked the audience through their Wala Usik initiative, which localizes the principles of a circular economy in the context of Negros Island. "Wala Usik" is a Hiligaynon phrase meaning "nothing is wasted."

"How can we redesign the zero-waste store concept? How are we [going to] bring them to communities served by sari-sari stores? There are 800,000 stores [in the country]. Imagine just how much plastic sachet can be prevented if you transform a percentage of these sari-sari stores," Albao said on the inspiration behind Wala Usik sari-sari stores.

Albao explained that the concept of Wala Usik is to sell fast-moving consumer goods in the same volume sold in single-use plastics but using reusable bottles. With the help of the United States Agency for International Development, their group designed sari-sari stores to use refillery to dispense products. They noted, however, that there are regulatory barriers to refilling. "We need to make refilling mainstream and accessible, and sanitary," they said.



Climate change and environmental non-profit groups, including The Climate Reality Project Philippines, have started a petition two years ago for the Food and Drug Administration to enhance existing regulations to establish “safe, widely accessible refilling stations for cosmetics and household products.” Suggestions for enhancements include redefining refilling as an activity separate from manufacturing, defining refilling stations and their safety and sanitary requirements, and defining the minimum information that needs to be shown on refilled product labels and refilling stations.

Aside from sari-sari stores, Albao said that they are looking to expand the Wala Usik initiative to other business models, such as karenderyas and cafés. They also shared a menu of innovations for zero-waste and circular business ideas, which include shared reuse systems, native packaging, door-to-door or business-to-business central refilling systems, and micro-refillery.

Mother-daughter tandem and Climate Reality Leaders Rina and Dani Papio talked about how their social enterprise Green Space Pilipinas is helping households and businesses integrate composting into their daily lives and operations. “Food waste is a resource in disguise. We only call it waste because we have not given ourselves a chance to see it for what it’s worth,” the elder Papio said.

Green Space aims to divert food waste away from landfills through composting and soil regeneration. It provides consumers with alternative waste management solutions such as Bokashi composting tools, as well as composting workshops. For those who do not have enough household space, it also offers the Book-A-Bucket composting service, which enables consumers to have their food waste collected and composted for them.

Climate Reality Leader Kate Mana-Galido, meanwhile, shared about Back to Basics Ecostore, a refillery and ecostore she co-founded in 2019 with her four other friends that aims to provide easy, affordable, and convenient access to household and personal care products without unnecessary packaging. She said that they are now working with more than 20 local brands and suppliers that wanted to be part of the zero-waste ecosystem.

Galido also shared the following zero-waste tips for consumers:

- Swap plastic toothbrushes with bamboo toothbrushes;
- Use washable cotton rounds instead of cotton balls or pads;
- Switch from bottles to bars; and
- Use produce bags instead of plastic bags. “Going zero-waste starts with baby steps,” she told consumers.

For more meaningful discussions about climate and sustainability solutions, watch the full episodes of Klimatotohanan [here](#). (PIA NCR)



Mambajao SK Federation President Earl Gamao says during the Network Briefing News with Communications Sec. Martin Andanar, May 28, that the SK donated reams of bond paper, inks for printers, and other school materials to primary schools. (Network Briefing News)

Mambajao SK boosts learning support, environment care

By Recthie T. Paculba Published on May 28, 2021

MAMBAJAO, Camiguin, May 28 (PIA)--Emphasizing the importance of continued education and care for the environment, the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) of Mambajao doubles their effort in providing services amid the coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic affected our daily lives isa na po ang kabataan natin na nasa estado pa po ng pag-aaral. 'Yung iba nahihirapan po about the expenses they spent on online classes, 'yung iba naman po nagsa-struggle to pass ng patong-patong na mga modules," Mambajao SK Federation President Earl Gamao said during the Network Briefing News with Communications Sec. Martin Andanar, May 28.

(The pandemic affected our daily lives and this includes our youth who are still studying. Some are having a hard time on financing the expenses for the online classes while the others are struggling on the bulk of modules they need to submit)

To address such need, the SK donated reams of bond paper, inks for printers, and other school materials to primary schools.

The SK groups also aided in the distribution of the school materials noting that minors are not allowed to go outside of their homes.

Care for environment

Living in one of the most visited places in Mindanao, Gamao said they continuously conduct the monthly SK Kalikasan where they clean their coasts and other areas, and plant trees together with the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) members.

"Bukas (Tomorrow), May 29, we have the invitation from our local PNP [Philippine National Police] asking the presence of the SKs in the municipality to assist them in their activities like feeding program, coastal cleanup, canal declogging, and cleanup drive po sa (in) barangay centers," the SK president added.



They also held the Sikad Kabataan Unity Bike to heighten awareness on environmental care and health among the over 100 youth participants.

Online activities were also held such as the poster making contest and quiz bee to enjoy the youth in supporting the government's programs and campaigns.

"Suotin po natin ang ating mga (Let us wear our) face masks at (and) face shields at all times. We the SKs and the youth, we will set ourselves as the helping hand of the government. Let's be part of the solution, not the problem," Gamao urged. (RTP/PIA10)



CHR urged to issue resolution on climate inquiry after landmark Dutch ruling

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com)

- May 28, 2021 - 2:37pm



Protesters march the streets, holding a banner reading, "Hold the Big Polluters Accountable" on September 22, 2015.

Handout/Greenpeace/Vincent Go

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental and human rights groups urged the Commission on Human Rights to release its long-awaited resolution to the investigation into corporate responsibility for the climate crisis after a Dutch court ordered an oil giant to slash its greenhouse gas emissions.

Groups such as Greenpeace Philippines, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement and PhilRights hailed the landmark ruling of the district court in The Hague, Netherlands that declared that Shell is “contributing to the dire consequences of climate change for the population” and must reduce its carbon emissions by 45% by 2030.

They said the decision is a “huge win for Filipinos and other climate-impacted communities around the world.”

So the CHR should take this as a cue to release its resolution on the inquiry that looked into the responsibility of fossil fuel companies for human rights impacts that aggravate climate change, the organizations stressed. The investigation is said to be the first of its kind in the world.

“This is legal recognition that Shell and other carbon majors’ business model of continued extraction, production and burning of fossil fuels—and their denial of climate science—is costing us lives and livelihoods, and impinges on our most basic rights and dignities as human beings,” Greenpeace campaigner Virginia Benosa-Llorin said.

“Following this ruling, we hope to see the immediate release of the resolution to the CHR climate inquiry, which we believe will be another historic precedent that will help end reliance on fossil fuels,” she added.

In 2015, typhoon survivors and civil society groups filed a complaint before the CHR, calling for probe into the possible human rights violations of 47 biggest fossil fuel and cement companies resulting from climate change.

The inquiry took place from 2015 to 2018, with public hearings conducted in Manila, New York and London as part of the commission’s investigations.

“At a time when our people are already experiencing the escalating impacts of climate change, further and inaction and delay on the part of the CHR effectively translate to condoning the human rights violations being committed on millions of Filipino by the fossil fuel industry,” said Von Hernandez, global coordinator of Break Free From Plastic.



“We have waited long enough for the case to be resolved in favor of the Filipino people who are bearing the brunt of climate impacts on their lives and human rights,” said Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of EcoWaste Coalition.

In a statement sent to Philstar.com, the Office of CHR Commissioner Roberto Cadiz said the commission is “working hard to ensure that all relevant issues are covered therein, thus the need for utmost care in its preparation.”

“The CHR is committed to releasing a report that is fair, accurate, complete, and nuanced; and that all parties involved will be properly informed of its release,” it added.

Under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, global warming must be limited well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels while pursuing efforts for a tougher ceiling of 1.5 degrees.

A day of superlatives for climate advocates and big oil

Rebel share holders won breakthrough victories over Exxon and Chevron, showing the increasing power of investment managers to force businesses and CEOs to pursue environmental and social goals.



The Dutch court's decisions could set a new precedent that oil companies must dramatically change in order to meet Paris Agreement pledges. Image: [Marc Rentschler, via Unsplash. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.](#)

[Nexus Media](#)

May 28, 2021

Outlets and analysts used a variety of words and phrases to describe developments in the oil and gas sector on 26 May 2021, but the consensus was clear: [rebel shareholders](#) won [breakthrough victories](#) over Exxon and Chevron while a Dutch court [wrecked](#) Shell. (Some outlets were [even more succinct](#).)

All told, it was a [breakthrough](#), [no good, very bad](#), [watershed day of reckoning](#) for Big Oil and Gas.

The shareholder wins over Exxon and Chevron show the increasing power of investment managers to force businesses and CEOs to pursue environmental and social goals. The Dutch court's decision could set a new precedent that oil companies must dramatically change in order to meet Paris Agreement pledges.

Little Engine No. 1 handed Exxon's stunning defeat

ExxonMobil shareholders elected at least two new board members with climate and clean energy expertise, [nominated by activist hedge fund Engine No. 1](#) and opposed by the company's management.

BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, supported three of the four nominees put forward by Engine No. 1, joining other institutional investors including multiple state pension funds to send a clear signal to the company's notoriously climate-unfriendly management.

Even with two of the board's 12 seats still undetermined, as of Thursday morning, this is a stunning rebuke of Exxon leadership, who have rejected calls to take climate change more seriously.

Dutch court gives Shell a shellacking

On 26 May 2021, a Dutch court ruled Shell must slash its carbon pollution by 45 per cent by the end of 2030 compared to 2019 levels to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The landmark decision held that Shell's 2050 net-zero goal was too vague and thus failed to meet its duty of care to reduce emissions, which are on par with Russia's, the fourth largest emitter in the world.

Though questions remain about the enforcement of the ruling, which will be appealed, the court's decision could have wide-ranging impacts for oil majors around the world, and the 1,800 court cases challenging them.

One of the lawyers on the Shell case told [Dutch news site NU](#), via Earther, that because the company is headquartered in the Netherlands, "a Dutch judge can impose a judgment that should be enforced in the 80 countries where Shell is active."

Chevron shareholders defeat management, demand scope 3 cuts

Chevron investors adopted a proposal on 26 May 2021 — over the objections of management — calling for the company to "substantially" cut climate pollution from consumers' combustion of its products.

The resolution calling for Scope 3 emissions cuts, adopted with 61 per cent approval, does not specify a specific size or timeline of the cuts, but its overwhelming support underlines shareholders' frustration with companies failing to sufficiently address climate change.

Two other resolutions, one requiring a report on the business impact of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and another requiring lobbying disclosures, narrowly failed with 48 per cent support for each. Chevron has not set any long-term targets for achieving net-zero emissions.

This story was published with permission from [Nexus Media](#).

29 MAY 2021, SATURDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

8,748 new COVID-19 cases push Philippines' active cases to 53,770

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

Published May 28, 2021 4:23pm

The Philippines on Friday reported 8,748 new coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infections, bringing the total tally to 1,209,154, as four laboratories failed to submit data on time.

This is the first time that more than 8,000 cases were recorded in 25 days.



Ngayong 4 PM, Mayo 28, 2021, ang Department of Health ay nakapagtala ng 8,748 na karagdagang kaso ng COVID-19. Samantala ay mayroon namang naitalang 3,017 na gumaling at 187 na pumanaw.

Sa kabuuang bilang ng mga naitalang kaso sa bansa, 4.4% (53,770) ang aktibong kaso, 93.9% (1,134,818) na ang gumaling, at 1.70% (20,566) ang namatay.

Ayon sa pinakahuling ulat, lahat ng mga laboratoryo ay operational noong May 26, 2021 ngunit mayroong 4 laboratoryo na hindi nakapagsumite ng da
... See More

11K 1.5K 1.5K

According to the Department of Health (DOH), this brought the active cases in the country to 53,770.

Of this, 93.2% are mild, 2.2% are asymptomatic, 1.8% are severe, and 1.4% are in critical condition.

Meanwhile, total recoveries climbed to 1,134,818 with 3,017 new ones while 187 new fatalities brought the country's death toll to 20,566.

Twenty-four duplicate cases were also removed from the total case count.

“Moreover, 122 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation,” the DOH said.



Data also showed that 59% of the country's intensive care unit beds are in use while 37% of the mechanical ventilators are occupied.

In the National Capital Region, 57% of the ICU beds are being utilized by patients while 38% of the mechanical ventilators are in use.

Meanwhile, Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Manuel Romualdez earlier said the country will be among the countries that will [receive surplus](#) Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine doses from the United States.

Romualdez said the shipment may arrive as early as June.

He said the US has around 80 million surplus vaccine doses against COVID-19.—**AOL, GMA News**



1.2 milyong Pilipino nadali na ng COVID-19;



The last time the DOH documented more than 8,000 cases was on May 2 when 8,346 cases were recorded.

Michael Varcas, file

COVID-19 cases on the rise anew

[Shiela Crisostomo](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 29, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — After declining for several weeks, the daily tally for new COVID-19 cases reached a new high of 8,748 cases yesterday, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

The last time the DOH documented more than 8,000 cases was on May 2 when 8,346 cases were recorded.

Based on the DOH's case bulletin, total cases reached 1,209,154 with active cases pegged at 53,770 or 4.4 percent. Fatalities rose to 20,566 after 187 individuals succumbed to the virus, while 3,017 patients recovered, bringing total recoveries to 1,134,818. Four laboratories failed to submit their data to the COVID-19 Document Repository System (CDRS) last May 26.

DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said they are not yet keen on allowing people to remove face masks, even for those fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

She noted that while 1.02 million individuals have already received two doses, the number is minimal compared to the unvaccinated population.

"If the US now has a policy, not requiring the wearing of masks in public, here in our country, we have not yet reached their vaccination rate. We have not reached their level of vaccination," she said.

The DOH gave assurance that achieving herd immunity has not been dropped even when government shifted its strategy against COVID-19 to population protection.

"When we say that that is our objective, our major objective right now for the short term is to reduce the number of those with severe infections, to reduce hospitalizations and to reduce deaths," Vergeire said.

"This 70-percent goal is there and it will remain to be our end-goal. All countries in the world have this goal – to vaccinate their entire population," she maintained.

Community transmission

Vergeire also said that DOH is working on the assumption that there is community transmission of new COVID-19 variants, even without confirmation from the World Health Organization (WHO).



She maintained that this assumption is based on the rising number of variant cases documented locally: 967 cases of United Kingdom (B.1.1.7) variant, 1,109 cases of South African (B.1.351) variant, 12 cases of Indian (B.1.617.2) variant, two cases of Brazil (P.1) variant and 158 cases of the P.3 variant first found in the Philippines.

The Philippines, meanwhile, will be among the first countries to receive surplus Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines from the US, Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Manuel Romualdez said yesterday.

The US government pledged to give to other nations 60 million AstraZeneca vaccines that have not received emergency approval in the US, as well as 20 million doses of Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

“In the next couple of days, we will know how many will be sent to us, but this is good news to us. It is part of the help they are giving to allies like the Philippines and other countries that really need it,” Romualdez said on Teleradyo.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) received medical supplies and equipment worth P68 million from the Australian government yesterday, boosting the military’s COVID-19 efforts.

The military said the donated medical supplies and equipment will be used by the AFP Health Service Command. In June last year, the Australian government delivered the first batch of hospital and personal protective equipment now being used at the V. Luna Medical Center. – **Helen Flores, Michael Punongbayan**



1.2 milyong Pilipino nadali na ng COVID-19; patay nadagdagan ng 210

(Philstar.com) - May 27, 2021 - 4:04pm



Senior citizens wait to be inoculated with Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines at Mandaluyong's mega vaccination site next to the city hall on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 6,483 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Huwebes, kung kaya nasa 1,200,430 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **Lahat ng kaso:** 1,200,430
- **Nagpapagaling pa:** 48,109, o 4% ng total infections
- **Kagagaling lang:** 4,335, dahilan para maging 1,131,942 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **Kamamatay lang:** 210, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 20,379

Anong bago ngayong araw?

- Ngayong araw ang may pinakamaraming bilang ng bagong namatay sa COVID-19 (210) sa Pilipinas sa nakaraang 47 araw — isang buwan at dalawang lingo na ang nakalilipas.
- Kahit [nakatakdang aprubahan](#) ng Food and Drug Administration ang pagtuturok ng Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines sa mga 12-15 taong gulang ngayong linggo, nilinaw ni Health Secretary Francisco Duque III na [hindi pa masasama ang mga teenager sa immunization program agad dahil sa limitadong suplay ng gamot](#).
- [Binalaan](#) din ni Duque ngayong araw ang aktor na si Robin Padilla, at lahat ng sumusubok mag-"swab test" sa sarili na itigil ito lalo na't pwedeng maging kwestionable ang COVID-19 results kung hindi masunod ang tamang pamantayan.
- [Pinalitan din ng DOH ang vaccination target nito](#) laban sa COVID-19 mula "herd immunity" patungong "population protection" lalo na't masyado raw maraming criteria na hinihingi bago masabing may herd immunity na ang isang bansa. Una nang tinarget ng gobyerno na makamit ang herd immunity sa Metro Manila at iba pang probinsya ngayong Nobyembre 2021.
- Umabot na sa higit 167.5 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang halos 3.5 milyong katao.

— James Relativo at may mga ulat mula kay Xave Gregorio

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/05/27/2101225/12-milyong-pilipino-nadali-na-ng-covid-19-patay-nadagdagan-ng-210/amp/>

IATF trims A4 priority group, orders dedicated vaccination lanes for A1-A3

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 28, 2021 12:36:29 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 28) — The country's pandemic response task force on Friday simplified the list of essential workers who will be prioritized in the government's COVID-19 vaccination drive.

Instead of having 17 industry-specific subgroups, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases divided it into three subgroups:

- Private employees required to physically report to work
- Employees in the government
- Workers in the informal sector and self-employed who may be required to work outside of their homes and those working in private households.

The rollout to the A4 cluster will be initially focused in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao.

The IATF also required local government units to establish "special lanes" or designate vaccination centers to accommodate the groups A1 to A3.

A1 refers to healthcare workers and their immediate family, outbound overseas Filipino workers, tourism frontliners, and local chief executives. A2 and A3 are the senior citizens and people with comorbidities, respectively.

The task force said LGUs may give vaccination preference to qualified individuals aged 40 to 59 over persons aged 18 to 39.

The government targets to start the inoculation in this priority sector in June. Officials previously said COVID-19 doses donated by global initiative COVAX cannot be administered to this group.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/5/28/A4-priority-group-COVID-19-vaccine.html>



TAG-ULAN VS BAKUNA AT HUWAG MAGING PASAWAY



May 28, 2021 @ 9:48 AM 20 hours ago

NAGSIMULA nang mag-anunsyo ang Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration ukol sa darating na tag-ulan.

Ibig sabihin niyan, gaya ng nararanasan natin taon-taon, magkakaroon tayo ng mga malalakas na bagyo, siyam-siyam na ulan, katakot-takot na baha, ilang araw o linggong blackout o brownout, sirang mga kalsada, tulay at paliparan at marami pang iba.

Sa ngayon, nagsimula nang maging pukpukan ang pagbabakuna laban sa coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19.

Kapag nagsimula nang manalasa ang masamang panahon at lilikha ng mga kasiraan at kalamidad, magiging apektado ang pagbabakuna.

TIYAK NA MANGYAYARI

Ipagpalagay na nating nariyan na ang masamang panahon, ano ang mga mangyayari?

Sa brownout o blackout lamang na nagtatagal ng kung ilang linggo makaraang manalasa ang superbago at bahang mala-Ondoy o Ulysses, anak ng tokwa, maaaring masira ang mga bakuna sa kawalan ng kuryente.

O masira mismo ang mga imbakan ng bakuna at kasamang masira ang mga bakuna.

Kapag nasira ang mga tulay, paliparan at pier dahil sa napakasamang panahon, hindi maibibiyahen ang mga bakuna sa tamang panahon at maaaring masira ang bakuna o maantala nang husto ang programang pagbabakuna.

Ngayon naman, gusto nating magkaroon ng herd immunity.

'Yun bang === sapat na bilang ng mga mamamayan sa buong bansa na nabakunahan upang hindi gaanong magkaroon ng mga hawaan sa COVID-19 at mabawasan ang mga naoospital at namamatay sa pandemya.

Paano tayo magkakaroon ng herd immunity kung sira ang mga bakuna, naaantala ang mga pagbabakuna dahil sira ang kapaligiran at mga paraan para sa maayos at napapanahon na pagbabakuna?

MABAGAL ANG PAGBABAKUNA

Sinasabing mabagal ang pagbabakuna sa ating bansa.

Ito'y dahil sa kabila ng 8.3 milyong dose ng bakuna, mahigit 4 milyon pa lang ang naituturok simula noong Marso 1, 2021.

Heto ang mga bakuna natin: 5.5 milyong Sinovac; 2.5M AstraZeneca; 193,000 Pfizer at 30,000 Sputnik V.



Hindi naman natin masisisi ang pamahalaan dahil unti-unti ang pagdating mga bakuna at natrapik pa nang husto nang tumigil ang India sa paglalabas ng bakuna para sa ibang bansa at gamitin ang mga gawa nilang bakuna para sa sarili nitong mamamayan na grabeng sinasalanta ng second wave ng COVID-19.

Nag-hoard din ang United States at European Union ng mga bakuna makaraang bilhin ang malalaking buldo ng mga bakuna para sa kani-kanilang sariling mamamayan.

Pero may isang malaking problema rin sa atin.

Katakot-takot ang dami ng mga ayaw magpabakuna dahil sa nalalaman o natsitsismis sa kanila na hindi magandang side effect.

‘Yung iba, sadyang matitigas lang ang ulo at ayaw talagang magpabakuna habang ang iba “choosy” o “picky.”

HIRAP AT GUTOM KAHIT SAAN

Kapag nagsama-sama ang masamang panahon at mga harang sa pagbabakuna, hindi natin makakamit ang herd immunity.

At magbubunga ito ng higit na nakasasamang kalagayan sa ating lahat kaysa mabuti.

Mananatili sa mga lockdown ang maraming lugar gaya ng nagaganap sa mga lalawigan dahil inaatake sila ng COVID-19.

Taas-baba naman ang mga uri ng quarantine sa kagaya ng nagaganap sa Metro Manilat at mga lalawigan ng Rizal, Laguna, Cavite at Bulacan.

Sira lahat ang ating paghahanapbuhay, sira ang kalayaan nating mabuhay nang normal at maging edukasyon milyong-milyong kabataan, nasa 27 milyon lahat, sira rin.

Masisira rin ang kakayahan ng ating pamahalaan na pagsilbihan tayo nang normal at masisira rin ang kakayahan nating magtulungan sa isa’t isa.

Isa sa napakasakit na ibinubunga ng kalagayan nating ganito ang malawakang kagutuman at paghihirap.

MAGPABAKUNA NA

Habang nariryan na ang mga bakuna at maganda pa ang kalagayan natin sa panahon, magpabakuna na tayo.

Panghawakan natin ang magandang paniniwala na lahat ng mga bakuna ay pantay-pantay at ginawa para sa kaligtasan natin sa pagkakasakit, pagkakaospital at kamatayan sa COVID-19.

Panghawakan natin ang tamang paniniwala na kung ano ang merong bakuna na nasa ating harapan at ituturok sa atin, ito ang “best vaccine” at hindi ang mga darating pa sa mga susunod na buwan o taon.

Huwag nating hintayin na tamaan tayo ng COVID-19 na uubos hindi lang ang laman ng bulsa natin kundi maging ng buhay natin at ng buhay ng pamilya natin.

Huwag nating hintaying dumapo sa atin na pami-pamilya ang inuubos ng COVID-19 hanggang pagsusunugin na lang ang bangkay ng mga ito sa mga gilid ng ilog o basta ibaon na lang ang mga biktima sa mga pampang ng ilog o itapon na lang mismo sa ilog.

Huwag nating hayaang bumagsak ang ating pamahalaan na gumagawa ng lahat ng paraan para lang masalba tayo sa pandemya.

Kapag bumagsak ang lahat: tayong mamamayan, pamahalaan at bansa, saan tayo hahantong?

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/tag-ulan-vs-bakuna-at-huwag-maging-pasaway/>

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