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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR launches 'Padayon' Covid-19 handbook

OCT 28, 2021, 12:40 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

COMMITTED to performing their tasks and accomplishing their 10-point priority programs despite the continuing threats posed by Covid-19, employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have decided to arm themselves with sufficient knowledge on how to deal with and prevent the spread of the dreaded virus.

This, as the DENR recently launched Padayon, a handbook on Covid-19 response which encapsulates the steps to be taken against the disease, using the "Four Es" which means Educate, Equip, Emerge triumphant, and Express to heal.

The handbook was produced by the Strategic Communications Initiatives Services with the help of other offices at the department, and was primarily aimed at keeping the workplace, families and respective communities of all DENR employees safe.

It also contains interventions for its employees concerning their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health during the pandemic.

To fully inculcate to the employees the contents of the handbook, a series of online lectures have been conducted after the program was rolled out as part of its education component.

In his message delivered by Environment Undersecretary Rodolfo C. Garcia, Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the manual will be beneficial to the agency's response against COVID-19.

"I am highly confident that this handbook would serve us well because it contains everything and anything we need to know about this dreaded and pesky coronavirus disease," Cimatu said.

"[It shows] what we can do to avoid contracting it (COVID-19), what we should do in case we get it, and how to avoid spreading it," he added.

Cimatu also noted that the handbook will support the existing DENR orders and memoranda to address COVID-19-related concerns.

He added: "I am proud that we are being consistent and reliable and doing our share in addressing the challenges brought about by the pandemic without much noise and fanfare."



Meanwhile Department of Health Undersecretary Ma. Rosario S. Vergeire, Civil Service Commission (CSC) Director Maria Luisa S. Agamata, and Lucre Mae H. Villaluna of the Career Executive Service Board (CESB), have extended their support and commended the DENR for institutionalizing the project.

Former CSC Commissioner and CESB Executive Director Mary Ann Z. Fernandez-Mendoza was also present during the online activity.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/denr-launches-padayon-covid-19-handbook?fbclid=IwAR2aPeazkOKIS2AVaJtV5VyoRbRWb-pyMsvWfDXeaqh-6QimU0vsP3FQ6vw>

DENR inilunsad ang 'Padayon' program, COVID-safe workplace handbook



October 28, 2021 @ 1:57 PM 16 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang palakasin ang pagtugon ng ahensiya sa COVID-19 inilunsad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Padayon Program nito na naglalayong palakasin ang pagtugon ng ahensiya sa COVID-19 gamit ang “Four Es” framework na kinabibilangan ng Educate, Equip, Emerge triumphant, and Express to heal.

Sa press release sinabi ng DENR bahagi ng pagpasinaya ng “Padayon” program, inilunsad din ng DENR ang sarili nitong handbook for COVID-19 management and prevention bilang suporta sa pagsisikap ng national government na mapigilan ang pagkalat ng nakamamatay na coronavirus sa ginanap na virtual activity na dinaluhan ng mga empleyado ng DENR sa buong bansa.

Kaugnay nito layon ng handbook na magbigay ng interbensiyon sa mga empleyado nito patungkol sa kanilang physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health sa panahon ng pandemya.

Magugunitang nagsagawa ng mga online lectures ang DENR simula ng ipinatupad ang programa bilang bahagi ng education component.

Kaugnay nito sa kanyang mensahe na inilahad ni Environment Undersecretary at Chief-of-Staff Rodolfo C. Garcia, sinabi ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na ang manual ay magiging kapaki-pakinabang bilang tugon ng ahensiya laban sa COVID-19.

“I am highly confident that this handbook would serve us well because it contains everything and anything we need to know about this dreaded and pesky coronavirus disease,” saad ni Cimatu.

“[It shows] what we can do to avoid contracting it (COVID-19), what we should do in case we get it, and how to avoid spreading it,” dagdag nito.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na ang handbook ay magsisilbing suporta sa kasalukuyang DENR orders at memoranda upang matugunan ang COVID-19-related concerns.

“This informative handbook is a complementary material to the existing policies the DENR has in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic,” pagdidiin nito.

Aniya: “I am proud that we are being consistent and reliable and doing our share in addressing the challenges brought about by the pandemic without much noise and fanfare.”

Nagpahayag naman ng suporta sa proyekto sina Department of Health Undersecretary Ma. Rosario Vergeire, Civil Service Commission (CSC) Director Maria Luisa S. Agamata, at Lucre Mae Villaluna ng Career Executive Service Board (CESB). **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/denr-inilunsad-ang-padayon-program-covid-safe-workplace-handbook/>

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, nag-sorry dahil sa pagdagsa ng maraming tao sa Dolomite beach nitong weekend.

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Oct. 28, 2021 at 5:25am



Humingi ng paumanhin sa publiko si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu dahil sa pagdagsa ng maraming tao sa Dolomite beach sa Manila Bay nitong weekend.

Ayon kay Cimatu, hindi na mauulit ang ganitong pangyayari kasabay ng pangakong mahigpit na nilang ipapatupad ang health protocols sa lugar.

Sinibak din ni Cimatu si Manila Bay Coordinating Office Deputy Executive Director Jacob Meimban Jr. bilang ground commander na aminadong hindi na nakontrol ang pagpasok ng tao sa nasabing pasyalan.

Sa ngayon, pinag-aaralan na ng DENR kung pansamatala na munang isasara sa publiko ang Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach.

Ito ay matapos itakda ang pagsasara ng beach mula October 29 hanggang November 3, 2021.

Source: https://rmn.ph/denr-secretary-roy-cimatu-nag-sorry-dahil-sa-pagdagsa-ng-maraming-tao-sa-dolomite-beach-nitong-weekend/?fbclid=IwAR2hERNaRzrtfGrC69hb8BQoils564ATxS76Q7G_ALOgkRODiPnnSwzHHdo



Dahil hindi nakontrol ang dagsa ng tao... Ground commander ng dolomite beach, sinibak

ni [Jasmin Joy Evangelista](#) | October 28, 2021



Facebook photo: Federal Philippines

Sinibak sa puwesto ang ground commander ng dolomite beach sa Manila Bay kasunod ng pagdagsa ng mga tao sa lugar, ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, papalitan ni Reuel Sorilla si Director Jacob Meimban Jr. bilang ground commander ng dolomite beach.

Si Sorilla ay kasalukuyang Director for the Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service ng kagawaran.

Giit ni Cimatu, bilang commander ay responsibilidad ni Meimban na bantayan at siguruhing nasusunod ang minimum health protocols sa lugar ngunit bigo ito matapos dumugin ng mga bumibisita rito.

Matatandaang simula nang buksan sa publiko ang dolomite beach ay hindi napigilan ang pagdagsa ng mga tao dahilan upang hindi na masunod ang safety protocols.



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Dolomite beach 'likely' to stay closed beyond 'Undas'

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan [October 28, 2021, 5:51 pm](#)



(File photo)

MANILA – The Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach may be closed even after the Undas holidays for additional improvement works, an official of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said on Thursday.

DILG spokesperson Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, in an interview with ABS-CBN News Channel, said the measure is being considered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told me that it is a decision to be made by Secretary (Roy) Cimatu -- there is a possibility that after Undas, they will still keep the dolomite beach closed until such time that they have completed with the expansion," Malaya said.

The beach will be closed from October 29 to November 3 to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

Malaya, quoting Antiporda, said the Manila City government is fully supportive of the project but it wants the number of people inside the area to be regulated.

"I think what they're considering is while the construction is ongoing, they would rather close the completed portion at this time," said Malaya.

Malaya also said the DILG will not file charges against the DENR over the supposed breach of health protocols at the beach, which drew thousands of visitors over the weekend.

"We (DILG) do not control this project. It's a project of the DENR. What we do is we support the policies enunciated by the DENR and yesterday (Wednesday), Secretary (Roy) Cimatu already made categorical pronouncements as to how we are going to regulate for example the five-minute to 15-minute rule, the maximum 3,000 persons to be allowed inside, the total prohibitions for minors 12 years old and below and other restrictions. So what we're going to do moving forward is just to support the DENR ensure that all of these regulations are followed," Malaya said.

Covid-19 response

In the same interview, Malaya described as "unfair" the Bloomberg report that highlighted the country as being the 'worst place to be' amid the pandemic.



“In the (Covid-19 response) recovery cluster, we talked about that and we feel that the Bloomberg resilience data is practically unfair to our country. Because we are not the lowest in the world, we are just the lowest among the 25 largest countries that were (listed) by Bloomberg,” he added.

He also noted that the report is not a response assessment to the pandemic but a "resilience assessment".

The DILG spokesperson stressed that factors such as universal health care and quality of life as mentioned in the study are standards that are favorable to Western countries but unfavorable to developing countries like the Philippines. **(PNA)**



DENR mulls temporary closure of dolomite beach

By [Dempsey Reyes](#) October 29, 2021

THE [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) is contemplating closing temporarily the [Manila Bay](#) dolomite beach for expansion, an official of the [Department of the Interior](#) and Local Government (DILG) said.

"There is a possibility that after Undas (All [Saints'](#) Day), they (DENR) will still keep the dolomite beach closed until such time that they have completed the expansion because they are actually expanding the beach further," DILG spokesman [Jonathan Malaya](#) said in a TV interview.

He explained that the expansion and rehabilitation of the artificial beach filled with crushed dolomites require temporary closure.

"What they are considering is, while construction is ongoing, they would rather close the completed portions at this time."

The development came after thousands of people flocked to the beach, disregarding [Covid-19](#) pandemic health protocols.

[Manila](#) Mayor [Francisco](#) "Isko Moreno" Domagoso called on the [Inter-Agency Task Force](#) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases to file charges against DENR officials for failing to enforce discipline in the area.

But Malaya said that based on his conversation with DENR Undersecretary [Benny Antiporda](#), Domagoso only wanted to regulate the number of people visiting the dolomite beach.

"We are working with the DENR because we do not control this project. It's a project of the DENR, as I [have] said and what we do is we support the policies enunciated by the DENR," Malaya said.

He added that DENR Secretary [Roy Cimatu](#) is considering allowing only 3,000 people in the dolomite beach every 15 minutes to prevent overcrowding. The DENR also recently prohibited the entry of minors in the area

The Manila Bay dolomite beach will be closed from October 29 to November 3 in observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.



Gov't mulls closing Dolomite Beach to complete expansion

Published 12 hours ago on October 28, 2021 05:39 PM

By **Jom Garner**



The government is considering closing Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach for a few more weeks, Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said on Thursday.

Malaya said that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is planning to close the controversial artificial beach to make way for the completion of its expansion.

“There’s a possibility that after Undas, they will still keep the dolomite beach closed until such a time that they are complete with the expansion,” he said.

Earlier, the DENR announced that the dolomite beach will be closed from 29 October to 3 November, in lieu of the order of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the observance of Undas or All Souls’ and All Saints’ Days.

Since its soft opening over the weekend, thousands of people have flocked to the area, ignoring minimum public health standards.

The event drew flak from the public, including Manila Mayor Isko Moreno who described the scene as a “super-spreader event.”

Moreno dared the IATF to file charges against the DENR for opening the dolomite beach which caused overcrowding in his city.

He blamed the lack of social distancing in the area to DENR, who he said is in control of the area because of its continuous efforts in developing the area.

He was referring to the Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO), an agency under the direct supervision of the DENR secretary, which has coordinative functions among all offices and agencies involved in the rehabilitation, restoration and conservation of Manila Bay.

On Wednesday, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu apologized that social distancing was disregarded during the opening of the dolomite beach.

Cimatu also relieved Manila Bay Coordinating Office deputy executive director Jacob Meimban Jr. from his post as ground commander for failure to implement protocols in the area.

He vowed that it will never happen again.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/10/28/govt-mulls-closing-dolomite-beach-to-complete-expansion/?fbclid=IwAR0JTTiDurLpYb_zEooE-YuswQjPNaHfR3qKP_rMIB4lCULhvkZyHBF3TRU



DILG spox: Dolomite beach may be closed while being completed

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Published October 28, 2021 12:59pm



Visitors check out the man-made dolomite beach at the Baywalk of Manila Bay on Saturday, October 16, 2021 under the watchful eyes of police to ensure minimum health protocols are observed. The beach was reopened to the public on Saturday on the same day Metro Manila was placed under Alert Level 3, down from Alert Level 4, as the number of COVID-19 cases declines. DANNY PATA

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is considering closing the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach until its expansion is completed, Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said Thursday.

Interviewed on ANC, Malaya said the DENR is planning to close even the completed portion of the dolomite beach while construction at a portion of the area is ongoing.

“There's a possibility that after Undas, they will still keep the dolomite beach closed until such a time that they are complete with the expansion,” he said.

From October 29 to November 3, the [DENR said the dolomite beach will be closed](#) in accordance with the order of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the observance of Undas or All Souls' and All Saints' Days.

Malaya said he asked for clarification about the closure with the DENR and that that Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told him the matter it is up to Secretary Roy Cimatu.

The DENR, as well as the police, recently drew flak after the artificial white sand area along Roxas Boulevard attracted large crowds over the weekend as health protocols were ignored.

On Wednesday, Cimatu [apologized that social distancing was disregarded](#) during the opening of the dolomite beach.

He relieved Manila Bay Coordinating Office deputy executive director Jacob Meimban Jr. from his post as ground commander due to the incident. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/808749/dilg-spox-dolomite-beach-may-be-closed-while-being-completed/story/?fbclid=IwAR3rnrIpbQbl0j0x4ADnuGydF6PbgWGS HdQX5uQR3aYZNCsX8wO69i7AJ5E>



DILG will not file any case vs DENR execs over brazen protocol violation at Dolomite beach

Published October 28, 2021, 2:26 PM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said on Thursday, Oct. 28, that it will not file charges against the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) over the breach of health protocols issue at the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach.

In an interview in ANC, DILG Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya insisted that the DILG has no control over the project and the operation of the Dolomite beach.

“What we do is we support the policies enunciated by the DENR and yesterday (Oct. 27) Secretary (Roy) Cimatu already made categorical pronouncements as to how we are going to regulate for example the five minute to 15 minute rule, the maximum 3,000 persons to be allowed inside, the total prohibitions for minors 12 or 11 below and other restrictions so what we’re going to do moving forward is just to support the DENR ensure that all of these regulations are followed,” Malaya said.

He admitted having spoken to DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda who noted that Manila mayor Isko Moreno told him that he was not really asking the government to file charges against the DENR.

The DILG spokesperson pointed out that Antiporda said that Manila supports the project and the locality just wanted the number of people inside the dolomite beach regulated.

In essence, Malaya said that the DENR is disputing the alleged statement of Moreno asking the government, in this case the DILG, to press charges against it.

When pressed why different standards are imposed for restaurants, Malaya maintained that charges will not necessarily be filed against these establishments for breach of health protocols and will just be closed.

“And in this case the DENR already closed the dolomite beach and in fact they are thinking of closing it for a few more weeks because there is going to be further improvement,” he added.

“So the message told to us by the DENR is that they are rethinking all of the strategies in closing the dolomite beach in the meantime. So we are treating the dolomite beach incident and a normal restaurant incident the same. We close that establishment until it complies with government rules and regulations,” Malaya insisted. (Chito A. Chavez)



Demand for open spaces cannot be ignored

October 28, 2021

LAST weekend, several thousand people flocked to Manila's oft-criticized "dolomite beach" to enjoy some fresh air and the novelty of a walkable seashore in the heart of the city. The evident public appreciation for the beach is a clear message to government planners: open spaces are considered valuable by the people, and to continue to ignore the demand for them is irresponsible, perhaps even inhumane, here in one of the densest urban environments on earth.

"Green" spaces, as they are commonly called, are considered vital for a city for a number of reasons, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). They provide urban residents with adequate exposure to nature and opportunities for outdoor activities. They help to preserve biodiversity. Green spaces help to mitigate environmental hazards such as air and noise pollution, as well as help protect the urban environment against the effects of extreme weather events such as heat waves, heavy rainfall and flooding. And of course, green spaces help to improve the overall health and well-being of the population.

There are standards for how much green space a city should contain, although these vary slightly from source to source. In general, most follow the rule of thumb established by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), which sets a benchmark of 15 percent of the land area of a city, provided it is equitably distributed. As far as that distribution goes, the WHO recommends that every resident of a city should have access to at least 0.5 to 1 hectare of green space, at a straight-line distance from his or her residence of no more than 300 meters.



Despite constant warnings shouted into a megaphone by authorities that visitors are not allowed to go into the water, visitors are seen taking selfies and playing in the water of the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach on Oct. 23, 2021.

PHOTO BY MIKE ALQUINTO

Metro Manila falls woefully short of both or all of these benchmarks. Using data from the National Mapping and Resource Information Agency (Namria), researchers a couple of years ago determined that in absolute terms, only about 12 percent of the land area of the National Capital Region (NCR) is green space. Nearly half of that is found at the La Mesa Ecopark in the far northeastern corner of the NCR, and about one-fourth is the open space within the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, which is obviously not accessible to the public. While there are a few sizable green spaces elsewhere — for example, Rizal Park in Manila, the Quezon City Memorial Circle and the Rainforest Park in Pasig — most of the rest is actually contained in less-than-ideal areas such as golf courses and cemeteries.

The most important takeaway from this, in our view, is that the Philippines has a critical need for an up-to-date, rational land use plan, particularly for urban areas. This is a goal that has been pursued by some forward-thinking congressional and administration leaders for years, but so far without success, largely because the idea is perceived to be harmful to the commercial interests of large-scale infrastructure and real estate developers.



We certainly hope that this important work will be taken up with intent by the new administration and Congress that will be installed by the elections next May, but as a stopgap alternative, accommodation of green and open space can be managed through permitting processes for real estate and infrastructure projects. Any project, whether a condominium building, road or other transport infrastructure, or commercial development, should include an open or green space component, ideally at the 15-percent ratio. Since the definition of "green" space includes not only literally green areas such as parks but also other publicly accessible open areas such as pedestrian and bikeways and beaches, among others, a requirement that green space be included in a project design could be met flexibly, and would likely be far less of an imposition than developers might assume.



DENR reports successful closure of illegal dumpsites in Central Luzon

October 27, 2021 | 8:22 pm



DENR

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it has successfully closed all illegal dumpsites in the Central Luzon region, citing close cooperation with local governments.

“LGUs (Local government units) in Central Luzon played a significant role in the closure of open dumpsites in the region and have been cooperative and supportive with the DENR campaign including implementation of Solid Waste Management Law,” DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito T. Moreno, Jr. said in a news release on Wednesday.

The presence of an engineered sanitary landfill in Tarlac, according to Mr. Moreno, contributed to the success of the DENR’s campaign to improve the country’s solid waste management “as it ably provided the necessary facilities to accommodate a large number of wastes all over the region.”

The facility, owned by Metro Clark Waste Management Corp., is the country’s first engineered sanitary landfill certified by the International Standards Organization.

It accepts 3,500 tons of waste daily, of which 3,000 tons come from cities and municipalities of Central Luzon.

The Solid Waste Management Law enacted in 2001 mandates the country to “adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program.”

DENR Secretary Benny D. Antiporda had earlier said that the closed illegal dumpsites will undergo a safe closure and rehabilitation plan under the supervision of the Environmental Management Bureau. — **Bianca Angelica D. Año**

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-reports-successful-closure-of-illegal-dumpsites-in-central-luzon/?fbclid=IwAR0ryLUfCYEgg_04NGGUXQXKhG5EhxaZs9OmR-O_JXvuMtGI9jATZiFN0MU



DENR draft order lifting open-pit mining ban ready for Cimatu's OK

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

OCTOBER 28, 2021



Months after the signing of Executive Order (EO) 130, which lifts the moratorium on the processing of new mining projects, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is now poised to reverse the ban on open-pit mining method for copper, gold, silver, and complex ores before the end of the year.

The lifting of the ban imposed by former Secretary Regina Paz Lopez, through DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2017-10, will be in the form of another DAO to be signed by Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, the BusinessMirror gathered.

The move, which was rejected by anti-mining groups under the Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) stated that the draft DAO aims “to revitalize the mining industry and usher in significant economic benefits to the country by providing raw materials for the construction and development of other industries and by increasing employment opportunities in rural areas where there are mining activities thereby stimulating countryside development.

“We reject this move of the DENR to lift the ban on open-pit mining. DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu must not sign this Department Administrative Order, especially in the light of the coming COP 26 climate summit. Such a policy move is a drastic reversal of preventing deforestation and protecting the remaining key biodiversity areas,” Jaybee Garganera, national coordinator of ATM told the BusinessMirror when sought for comment.

The group also demanded that President Duterte, who was vocal against destructive large-scale mining operations, to categorically instruct the DENR not to sign any order lifting the ban on open-pit mining.

Nevertheless, Garganera said, they will not be surprised if Duterte would actually remain silent or even be supportive of such a move by the DENR.

“It is simple to understand that huge Chinese demand for our minerals is driving this policy direction of aggressively promoting mining amid the pandemic,” he alleged.

Aside from lifting the ban on open-pit mining for select ores, the five-page draft DAO also aims “to establish enhanced parameters and criteria for the types of surface mining methods under the Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility [DMPF] to address the environmental and safety issues of surface mining methods, particularly with open-pit mining.”

To recall, President Duterte signed EO 130 in April this year, amending Section 4 of President Benigno Aquino's mining policy, EO 79 which imposes the ban in the processing of new mining projects pending the enactment of a measure that will increase the government's share in mining revenues. The lifting of the mining moratorium is expected to open the floodgates for more mining projects in the Philippines.



In recommending the lifting of open-pit mining ban, members of the technical working group of the DENR have put more weight on the arguments made by big mining industry players under the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP).

The draft order states that open-pit mining, which requires scraping of forests, flattening of mountains, and digging huge holes to extract minerals, is a globally accepted method of mining considered to be the most feasible option for mining near-surface or shallow ore deposits, and that not all open-pit mines produce acid rock drainage or acidic contaminants.

It also said that:

There are best practice control strategies and technologies that can help avoid or manage the negative impacts of open-pit mining;

There are existing policies/laws that designate areas that are not allowed for mining (e.g., protected areas, critical watershed, ancestral lands, and prime agricultural lands);

Major issues concerning mining, including open-pit mining, cannot be attributed to the use of the method itself, but rather on the accidents involving wastes and tailings confinement;

Progressive rehabilitation of mined-out areas is now being practiced to restore vegetative cover and reduce adverse impacts on the environment;

Continuing the ban on open-pit mining may result in loss of economic opportunity.

To recall, an environmentalist and anti-mining advocate, Lopez issued the ban on open-pit mining and cited as the reason the lessons learned as evidenced by the so-called legacy mines in various parts of the country.

These legacy mines are open-pit mines that were eventually abandoned by mining companies after extracting minerals in the area. These areas are usually turned into huge man-made lakes with water tainted with toxic chemicals or heavy metals.

Moreover, Lopez said then, open-pit mining can cause enormous and irreversible damage to the environment, citing the case of the Marcopper Mining Disaster, one of the worst mining environmental disasters in the country's history that happened on March 24, 1996, on the island province of Marinduque.



Cops to intensify crackdown vs. environment destroyers

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan October 28, 2021, 2:04 pm



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT. Members of the PNP Maritime Group seize some 7,000 kilos of "taklobo" (giant clams) in Barangay Cayhagan, Sibalay City, Negros Occidental on Oct. 26, 2021. The police force vowed to intensify its enforcement of environmental laws in the country. *(Photo courtesy of 4th Special Operations Unit-PNP Maritime Group)*

MANILA – The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday vowed to continue working with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in going after perpetrators of acts that destroy the environment.

PNP chief, Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, made the statement following separate operations that resulted in the recovery of giant clams and illegally gathered lumber in Negros Occidental and Northern Samar, respectively.

Citing reports that reached his office, Eleazar said members of the PNP Maritime Group seized a total of 7,000 kilos of endangered fossilized and fresh clams, locally known as "taclobo", in Sitio Ondol Pasil, Barangay Cayhagan in Sibalay City, Negros Occidental last October 26.

The operation resulted in the seizure of endangered clams worth PHP490,000 and the arrest of two suspects.

On Wednesday, police officers confiscated illegally cut lumber worth around PHP400,000 at a checkpoint in Allen, Northern Samar.

The logs were found inside a 10-wheeler reefer van driven by a certain Jan Richard Ballosa. He was arrested after failing to present documents showing that he is authorized to transport these logs.

Criminal charges against the suspects in the two incidents are already being readied.

Eleazar reminded the public about existing laws that aim to preserve the environment and the country's natural resources.

He tasked all police offices and units to strengthen measures against individuals or groups engaged in illegal activities such as poaching of endangered species, illegal quarrying and illegal logging. **(PNA)**



Cimatu, other Cabinet officials sued before SC for failure to address plastic crisis



(File photo)

October 28, 2021

MEMBERS of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), including Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, were sued before the Supreme Court by various sectors over their failure to address plastic pollution in the country.

Fifty-two petitioners, majority of whom are members of the youth sector, a fisherfolk, divers, waste pickers, local lawmakers, are being joined by former Senator Sergio Osmeña III, in filing a petition seeking for the issuance of the Writ of Kalikasan and Writ of Continuing Mandamus for the government's 20-year inaction on non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging (NEAPP).

The groups who sued the NSWMC were led by Oceana Philippines, an international advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the world's oceans.

Aside from Cimatu, other NSWMC members who named in the petition are Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez; Department of Science and Technology (Dost) Sec. Fortunato dela Peña; Department of Health (DOH) Sec. Francisco Duque III, former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Sec. Mark Villar; Department of Agriculture (DA) secretary William Dar, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) CEO Benjamin Abalos Jr., among others.

"As climate activists we have to talk about plastics because plastics is not just a waste management issue, but a climate issue as well. At every single point of its life cycle, it emits greenhouse gases," said Xian Guevarra of Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP), one of the petitioners in the case.

Oceana Philippines Vice President Gloria Estenzo Ramos emphasized that the NSWMC's continuing neglect of its duty to uphold R.A. No. 9003 was a violation of the Filipino people's constitutional right to "a balanced and healthful ecology."

"Plastic not only affects our environment but results in a whole gamut of concerns that will ultimately threaten our existence as inhabitants of this planet. It puts our food security, livelihood and health on the line. And what is so frustrating is the fact that these problems could have been avoided had the NSWMC acted on its mandate. We are sitting on a time bomb called plastic pollution," she stressed.



A study released in 2015 by Ocean Conservancy showed that the Philippines produced 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste – of which more than half a million metric tons ended up in the ocean.

Meanwhile, the 2019 Waste Management Brand Audit report of the Global Alliance for Incinerators Alternatives (GAIA) revealed that the country produced 164 million pieces of sachets, 48 million shopping bags, and 45.2 million pieces of “labo” bags every day.

Studies have found that plastic is also toxic and hazardous. It contains endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) that interfere with normal hormone balance and function, leading to infertility, cancer, developmental disorders, and other noncommunicable diseases. As of 2017, global sperm counts have declined by 50 to 60 percent and epidemiologists have placed the blame EDCs.

The Philippines has been singled out as the largest contributor to plastic emissions in the world in a study published in Science Advances in April of this year. The study said that the country emits 356,371 metric tons of mismanaged plastic waste per year, which passes through 4,280 of its rivers and into the ocean. And as staggering as that figure is, it represents only 8.8% of the total mismanaged plastic waste of the country, which is estimated at 4,049,670 metric tons per year. Worldwide, a report funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimated that there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050.

“The two decades that NSWMC has wasted is a clear manifestation that the agency is not taking this problem seriously. The Filipino people have had enough and are now demanding accountability,” Ramos added. **(JKV, PR)**



Environmentally unacceptable? 7 gov't execs charged over uncontrolled plastic waste

OCT 28, 2021, 12:38 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

Plastic wastes have been killing marine resources, thereby reducing fish catch of fishermen prompting environmental advocates to ask the Supreme Court to issue a continuing mandamus and a writ of kalikasan, in a suit they filed against seven members of the Duterte Cabinet.

FOR procrastinating over the list of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging (Neapp) required under Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, seven Cabinet members are being sued before the Supreme Court by several environmental and youth activists, fisherfolk and a former lawmaker.

The environmental advocates are seeking a writ of kalikasan and a writ of continuing mandamus, citing “government negligence that had allowed the unabated emission of millions of tons of plastic waste into every nook and cranny of the Philippine archipelago.”

Ecological time bomb

A 2021 Oxford University study entitled “Our World in Data” cites the Philippines as accounting for a third of the 80 percent global ocean plastic coming from Asian rivers.

Plastic wastes have drowned coastal areas resulting in reduced catch for fishermen, who now haul more plastics than fish.

They asked the Supreme Court on Wednesday to stop a “ticking ecological time bomb” by directing government to take a major step in curbing plastic pollution, which was supposed to have been done 20 years ago, to prevent an irreversible damage to the environment.

The writ of kalikasan is a legal remedy for persons or organizations whose constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology is being violated.

The continuing mandamus would specifically compel the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), to list banned plastic products.

RA 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, mandates the NSWMC to prepare a list of Neapp within a year of the approval of the measure.

It has not published the Neapp since the passage of the law, which was authored by then Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, who is now one of the petitioners.



Respondents

Named respondents were Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez, Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato dela Peña,

Also charged were Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Public Works Secretary Mark Villar (who has resigned to run for the Senate), Agriculture Secretary William Dar, and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr.

The petitioners also asked the high tribunal to issue a temporary environmental protection order to prohibit the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of Neapp.

“After 20 years of thumb-twiddling, it has become abundantly clear that the respondents could not be bothered to avoid or diminish the threat of plastic pollution in line with the precautionary principle. Just as well, the future for the youth-petitioners who will be here long after older generations have passed remains bleak,” the petitioners said.

Existential threat

“To put an end to the runaway existential threat, the petitioners come seeking extraordinary relief so that their progeny—their generations yet unborn—may be given a fighting chance of being born at all into a world that is not drowning in plastic,” they said.

The petitioners asserted that the state must uphold its stewardship of the country’s ecology. The respondents’ inaction had caused direct injury due to plastic pollution like fishermen “catching less fish and more plastic” and constant and worsening floods, they said.

Finishing stage

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, spokesperson for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said that the implementing rules and regulations on the Neapp were being still finalized.

The environmental group Ecowaste Coalition has been demanding that the NSWMC and DENR act with more urgency.

It was the first to seek the immediate release of the Neapp list. Without the list, the prohibitions under RA 9003 cannot be imposed, particularly on manufacturers of plastic products.

“Had the respondents taken their mandate seriously, they would have, among other things, long ago prepared an effective list of Neapp and thereby enforced the statutory prohibition under the law,” according to the petition.

Largest contributor

World plastic emission is over 300,000 metric tons of plastic wastes/year.

Several studies have already singled out the Philippines as the largest contributor to plastic emissions in the world, emitting over 356,371 metric tons of mismanaged plastic waste annually.

A 2015 report by international group Ocean Conservancy said the Philippines produces 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste annually and was the third biggest marine plastic polluter in the world.

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives reported in a 2019 study that the country disposes off 163 million plastic sachets and 45.2 million pieces of thin-film plastic bags daily.

Brand audit

A 2020 Philippine brand audit by the environmental group Break Free from Plastic (BFFP) showed that eight major companies engaged in manufacturing food, beverage, and personal care products have been the top plastics polluters in the country in the previous three years.



The group's analysis showed that majority of plastic trash collected in 2020 was from products by Universal Robina Corp., Nestlé, and Colgate-Palmolive.

The 2020 audit covered 38,580 pieces of branded plastic waste items recovered from 17 sites, BFFP said.

In August this year, Nestlé Philippines reported the completion of its first year of "plastic neutrality" by collecting, co-processing and diverting from the environment over 27,000 metric tons of plastic waste.

This amount is slightly more than the plastic packaging that it had put out in the market over the past year.

Pasig River

The Pasig River alone provides up to 6.43 percent of ocean plastic originating from rivers, the report said.

The government's own figures recognize that plastic waste accounts for 10.6 percent of all solid waste in the country and that it is set to "increase indefinitely." Much of this is single-use plastics such as sachets and shopping bags.

These then flow into 4,280 rivers and into the ocean, where it has "exposed an uncountable number of humans and wildlife to hazards that will last for up to thousands of years in the environment," the petitioners warned.

Alexandra Cousteau, an adviser to Oceana Philippines international, one of the petitioners, said that fears of ingesting plastics are "very real."

"We now have micro plastics not only polluting the ocean but falling from the sky in raindrops," she said.

Oceana is the largest international organization advocating for ocean conservation.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/environmentally-unacceptable-7-gov-t-execs-charged-over-uncontrolled-plastic-waste?fbclid=IwAR0ef_ExcFiYrt6XLdEBF6YDjEzCkMiaH_dMldfHwMFxW0eAXDSjTpbpKqE



Environmentalists sue gov't for 'inaction' on plastic pollution

October 27, 2021 | 8:23 pm



PHILSTAR

By **Angelica Y. Yang**, *Reporter*

MORE THAN 50 petitioners from the youth, fisherfolk and waste management sectors have filed a lawsuit against government officials for their alleged inaction on releasing the list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP).

This comes four months after the groups said they intend to press charges against the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) and other government agencies for taking so long in preparing the list of products and packaging considered harmful to the environment. Oceana said the petitioners filed the case with the Supreme Court on Wednesday morning.

“Plastic not only affects our environment but results in a whole gamut of concerns that will ultimately threaten our existence as inhabitants of this planet,” Oceana Vice President Gloria Estenzo Ramos said in a statement.

“It puts our food security, livelihood and health on the line. And what is so frustrating is the fact that these problems could have been avoided had the NSWMC acted on its mandate,” she said.

Under the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or Republic Act 9003, the NSWMC is required to prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable materials within a year of the law’s implementation, and provide updates every year.

“Through their refusal, the respondents allowed the unabated emission of millions of tons of plastic waste into every nook and cranny of the Philippine archipelago. This in turn exposed an uncountable number of humans and wildlife to hazards that will last for up to thousands of years in the environment,” the petitioners said in their lawsuit.

Respondents in the case include the NSWMC and its members: Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu; Trade Secretary Ramon M. Lopez; Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato T. dela Peña; Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III; Public Works Secretary Mark S. Villar, who recently resigned as he is running for the Senate in the May 2022 elections; Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar; and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Benjamin de Castro Abalos, Jr.; among others.



Earlier this year, a study published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science showed that 28% of the rivers responsible for global plastic pollution are in the Philippines, with Pasig River as the “world’s most polluting river when it comes to plastic waste.”

It added that Pasig River accounted for 63,000 tons of plastic entering oceans from rivers every year.

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/environmentalists-sue-govt-for-inaction-on-plastic-pollution/?fbclid=IwAR0W5koTPaQOYmTADL_AcFWO4Sv3uEL5zjwmqepztZ_BQlqpxzGmGyDKrJQ

Leonardia: World Cities Day celebration centers on climate resilience



THE 2021 World Cities Day (WCD) celebration will center on climate resilience and top city executives in the Philippines will have an opportunity to discuss environment and climate action-related initiatives with experts in the field on Friday, October 29, 2021.

This was disclosed by Mayor Evelio Leonardia, concurrent national president of the League of Cities of the Philippines, who will preside the virtual Friday WCD commemoration jointly organized by the LCP and the United Nations-Habitat Philippines as a highlight of Urban October.

This year's WCD celebration, Leonardia said, is anchored on the theme, "Better Cities, Better Life: Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience."

"The Urban October provides an avenue for stakeholders to be part of the conversation about the challenges and opportunities created by the fast rate of changes in our cities and towns as more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas and all have a stake in and can contribute to improving our urban environment," the LCP project brief said.

That is why, every October, the brief continues, everyone interested in sustainable urbanization, from national and local governments to universities, non-government organizations and communities is encouraged to hold or participate in virtual or physical activities, events and discussions.

The UN-Habitat campaign, on the other hand, has adopted the theme, #ClimateActions4Cities, for the Urban October event.

All told, the twin virtual event-- WCD and Urban October -- hopes to provide an avenue to showcase climate actions in cities and highlight how cities can benefit from partnerships with development advocates in achieving local climate goals, Leonardia explained.

Expected to attend the World Cities Day online celebration are city mayors, local policymakers, technical staff, national government agencies, development partners and other key stakeholders.

The Philippines has 146 cities, 33 of which are HUCs or highly-urbanized cities, including Bacolod.

Messages of support to the 2021 WCD and Urban October will be delivered by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año, Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif of the UN-Habitat and Undersecretary Marilyn Pintor of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.



Program partners from the World Bank, represented by Marilyn Martinez, senior disaster risk management specialist; UN-Habitat Philippines, headed by country programme manager Christopher Rollo, and Elsa Lefebvre, program management officer of the UN Environment Programme, will also deliver messages.

The World Bank will also hold a final knowledge-sharing session on its Green and Resilient Cities Project as a highlight of the October 29 WCD observance. **(PR)**



San Miguel plants 3.5 million trees, mangroves nationwide



San Miguel Corp. (SMC) reported it has planted 3.5 million trees on 1,000 hectares of upland and coastal land nationwide for the last three years as part of its corporate-wide initiative to help rehabilitate and manage degraded forest lands and improve livelihoods of forest-dependent rural communities.

Together with local government agencies and communities, the company said its initiative has yielded a survival rate of 89 percent for upland trees and 91 percent for mangrove saplings.

“It’s been a meaningful year for us and our major environmental projects. Even as we made great progress in our river cleanup and rehabilitation initiatives—particularly for the Tullahan and Pasig River systems—progress on our nationwide upland and mangrove reforestation project has been better than expected,” said SMC President Ramon S. Ang.

“It’s largely due to the commitment and focused efforts of our businesses, employees, volunteers, and community partners who have been working together to achieve our goals. As our country starts to recover from the pandemic, we will further expand these programs, which are essential to improving quality of life, supporting livelihoods and shaping an overall better future for all of us, post-pandemic,” he added.

Ang said that in all, SMC’s group-wide reforestation project targets to plant endemic trees and fruit tree species over 4,000 hectares nationwide recommended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and local communities with vast knowledge of their areas.

Ang said the bulk of its 2021 total includes close to 1.5 million trees and mangroves planted by its power subsidiary, SMC Global Power Holdings, (SMCGP) as of October 15, as part of its carbon capture initiative dubbed Project 747. The project entails planting of seven million trees in at least seven provinces nationwide.

“We thank the DENR and our local partners for their continuing support and cooperation for our initiatives, especially in helping us determine which tree species to plant in their respective areas. This is key to the trees’ survival and ensuring that the existing environment is not disrupted,” Ang said, noting that in some areas, fruit-bearing trees have been planted in line with the government’s agro-forestry program, to benefit surrounding communities for generations.

Ang touted SMC’s partnerships with local communities and farmers’ and fishermen’s groups as key to the high survival rate of its trees. For Project 747 alone, the survival rate is at 89 percent for upland trees, and 91 percent for mangrove saplings.



“The success of our programs lies in the support and participation of communities—from farmers, to fisherfolk groups, to residents of our sustainable housing communities. In our experience, trees and mangroves planted have a higher chance of growing to adulthood if the community has a sense of pride and ownership over them, and when everyone fully appreciates their benefits—whether its shade, protection from tidal floods, better air quality, or fruits that they provide,” Ang said.

For this year, SMCGP has planted 600,014 tree seedlings and 947,752 mangrove propagules, exceeding its one million annual goal to make up for a slightly lower output last year, due to the onset of the pandemic. The company is looking to plant up to 1.7 million trees by end of the year.

Ang said that overall, this brings SMCGP’s total to 3,476,914 million trees and mangroves planted in less than three years.

Tree varieties

Since the program started in 2019, Project 747 has already covered 1,021 hectares of upland and mangrove coastal areas. Trees and saplings planted are continuously maintained with the help of 39 people’s organizations throughout Zambales, Davao Occidental, Negros Occidental, Bataan, Pangasinan, Albay, Quezon province, and Bulacan.

Among upland tree varieties planted and maintained are Narra, Molave, White Lauan, Palosapis Agoho, Batino, Igang, and Malabayabas, while mangrove varieties include Bakawan Babae, Bakawan Lalaki, Bungalon, and Api-Api.

Meanwhile, Ang said that ongoing community-based reforestation projects of other SMC subsidiaries in various provinces, also added to SMC’s overall total. San Miguel Brewery’s Trees Brew Life Program this year planted 22,600 mangroves and trees in Mandaue, Cebu, and 1,500 trees in Bacolod and Tagoloan cities. In the last 10 years, SMB’s Trees Brew Life has planted an estimated one million trees in various locations nationwide.

Company volunteers from SMC’s Bulacan Bulk Water Supply unit have so far planted 6,400 trees over 14 hectares of land since 2019, under the annual Million Tree Planting Challenge with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System. This year, it planted a total 3,200 narra and guyabano tree varieties.

The MWSS program with partner organizations aims to reforest or replenish the forest cover of 126 hectares of the Angat Dam Watershed in three years.

Also in Bulacan, SMC employee volunteers have planted a total of 8,000 mangrove saplings at the Bulakan Mangrove Ecopark, which is now jointly maintained by the local government of Bulakan town and SMC. A total of 13,000 mangroves are also being grown at the coastal areas of Hagonoy and Obando towns.

SMC also recently involved residents from Balayan, Batangas and San Miguel-Christian-Gayeta Homes in Sariaya, Quezon province, in reforestation activities, through community-based tree-planting projects. A total of 2,500 assorted tree varieties such as langka, guyabano, mulawin, Philippine cherry, and Philippine almond, were planted and are being grown in their respective localities.

Meanwhile, Ginebra San Miguel Inc., employee volunteers together with community stakeholders are taking care of 40,000 full-grown trees across 12 hectares of land in Bago City, Negros Occidental as the company is also undertaking a two-hectare expansion at the same site.

Petron Corp. is also eyeing to plant at least 50,000 seedlings as part of its proposed 10-year biodiversity conservation efforts for the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape. Since 2000, Petron has planted over 1 million trees and mangroves nationwide and has also adopted a total of 30 hectares of mangrove reforestation areas in Tacloban City, Leyte, Roxas City, Capiz



under its “Puno ng Buhay” program.

In the first half of 2021, Petron received approval to reforest one hectare each in Bawing, General Santos City and Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. Bawing is expected to be planted with approximately 2,500 new mangrove propagules, while Tagoloan will have bamboo and other seedlings for reforestation.



Philippines to rally developing nations for more green financing

[Elijah Felice Rosales](#) - The Philippine Star October 29, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines will rally its fellow developing economies at the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to seek higher financing for climate change interventions from developed nations.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said yesterday the Philippine delegation to the COP26 would initiate a dialogue with leaders of the developing world to compel the superpowers to do their part in mitigating climate damage.

“We will consult with the other climate vulnerable countries so we can jointly put forward a united and principled but practical position,” Dominguez said in a text message to reporters.

Dominguez is the head of delegation, chief negotiator and official representative of the President at the COP26. Officials from the Office of the President, Departments of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Energy, and Environment and Natural Resources will join him in Glasgow, Scotland.

According to Dominguez, the Philippines will push for financial policies that will incentivize the use of green and renewable investments. This way, he said, private firms will be encouraged to reduce their carbon emission given the returns they will get from doing so.

“We are hitting the ground running with simultaneous initiatives to demonstrate that much can be done by clear and coherent financial policies that give primacy to the environment,” he said.

Dominguez said the Philippines would also ask developed economies to commit to bring down their greenhouse emission similar to the country’s target of cutting its own by at least 75 percent in the next decade.

“Nothing would please us more than seeing the countries that emitted and continue to emit the most greenhouse gases to accept the responsibility of financing the transition to carbon neutrality,” the finance chief said.

The Philippines ranked as one of the most affected countries from extreme disasters, based on the 2020 World Risk Index, due to threats of natural hazards and lack of adaptive mechanisms. The country also placed fourth in 10 nations severed by climate extremities from 2000 to 2019, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.



DoF's Dominguez says rich countries need to offer more climate funding

October 28, 2021 | 7:48 pm



FINANCE Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said wealthy economies have not offered enough climate financing to help developing nations reduce their carbon footprints as they transition to clean energy, adding that such countries bear the most responsibility for their historic emissions.

In a statement issued by the Department of Finance (DoF) Thursday, Mr. Dominguez said: “We have seen very little funding and actions promised by Western countries materialize. All that has been done is talk without concrete action.”

“We need the Western countries to take responsibility for having contributed and continuing to contribute the most to greenhouse gas emissions. They must be given the greater burden of paying for the grants, investments, and subsidies needed for the most climate-vulnerable countries to mitigate the effects of global warming.”

The Philippines will consult with other countries that are vulnerable to climate risks “so we can jointly put forward a united principled but practical position,” he told reporters on Viber.

Mr. Dominguez will be leading the Philippine delegation at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland next week.

Developed countries will discuss plans to improve climate financing after they failed to fulfill a pledge to roll out \$100 billion to help developing nations tackle climate change each year by 2020.

China emitted 27% of the world’s greenhouse gas total in 2019, followed by the US at 11% and India at 6.6%, think tank Rhodium Group said.

“Nothing would please us more than seeing the countries that emitted and continue to emit the most greenhouse gases to accept the responsibility of financing the transition to carbon neutrality,” Mr. Dominguez said.

“Those who have polluted and continue to pollute the most must bear the largest financial burden.”

The DoF and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last week launched the Philippines’ sustainable finance roadmap to address policy gaps in sustainable investment.



“Financial policies incentivizing green and renewable investments, supported by a complete policy framework guiding government action, eventually affect the bottom line of private businesses,” Mr. Dominguez said.

“These financial policies can be powerful instruments to encourage enterprises to be more conscious of their effects on the climate.” — **Jenina P. Ibañez**



12 arrested for illegal quarrying, mining in Rizal

Published October 29, 2021 12:44am

Twelve individuals were arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation's Environmental Crime Division for their alleged involvement in illegal quarrying and mining operations in Rodriguez, Rizal.

According to a report on "24 Oras" on Thursday, NBI-EnCD agents arrested the suspects after receiving a complaint that a company has been conducting illegal quarrying activities since 2019 in the area.

NBI-EnCD chief Jun Carpeso said those arrested were with issued permits but were conducting quarrying operations outside it.

"This company has been extracting gravel and sand despite only having a landfill permit," NBI-EnCD chief Jun Carpeso said in mixed Filipino and English.

Seized from the suspects were heavy equipment.

Those arrested will face charges for violation of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995. — **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BM, GMA News**



Duterte pleads for 'climate justice' in East Asia Summit

Published October 28, 2021, 8:12 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)



President Duterte has appealed for “climate justice” for the Philippines during the 16th East Asia Summit (EAS), which was attended by United States (US) President Joe Biden and Japan Prime Minister Kishida Fumio.

“Competition for domination is a futile exercise on a dying planet. Development without regard for environmental sustainability has led to global warming,” Duterte said in his speech at the summit on Wednesday, Oct. 27.

According to Duterte, the Philippines contributes less than 1 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions, “Yet, we bear the brunt of the horrendous effects of climate change.”

High volumes of GHGs act as a sort of blanket that trap heat close to the earth’s surface, thus accelerating climate change.

China, the US, and countries in the European Union (EU) are said to be the biggest emitters of GHGs.

“We are battered by extreme weather events like typhoons that are increasing in frequency and intensity. These affect livelihoods, claim lives and destroy infrastructure. We adapt. We try to build back better—only to be hit by another big disaster.

“Like many in the developing world, the Philippines calls for climate justice. We too deserve a fighting chance at progress,” Duterte said in the EAS, which is part of the ongoing 38th and 39th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summits and Related Summits.

Duterte reminded the EAS attendees of the upcoming COP26 (United Nations Conference on Climate Change) which will convene in Glasgow.

“We hope for urgent and serious climate action. It’s within the means and power of many of our EAS partners to avert an impending collective disaster,” he said.

“But our window for effective climate action is fast closing. Those most responsible for the problem—past and present—must commit to our common goal of net zero emissions, or we are all doomed,” Duterte said.

Typhoon “Yolanda” (international name: Haiyan), which brought the Philippines’ central islands to its knees in November 2013 due to its sheer destructive force, is commonly referred to as a climate change triggered event.

Duterte attended the meetings of the twin summits via video conference.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/10/28/duterte-pleads-for-climate-justice-in-east-asia-summit/>



G20 meets on climate, Covid

By [Agence France-Presse](#) October 29, 2021



European Commission President [Ursula Von der Leyen](#) speaks during a press conference ahead of the G20 Summit and the [UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\)](#) at the EU headquarters in Brussels on October 28, 2021. AFP PHOTO

ROME: The leaders of the world's major economies gather in Rome this weekend for the first in-person [Group of 20 \(G20\)](#) summit since the pandemic began, with [Covid-19](#), economic recovery and climate change topping a packed agenda.

US President [Joe Biden](#) is flying in to reiterate his message that "America is back" after four years of Donald Trump's bruising diplomacy although Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) and [China's](#) Xi Jinping will attend only by video link.

Their absence has lowered expectations for the summit, normally a forum for deals between allies and rivals of differing size and power, from the [United States](#) and China, to Turkey, [India](#), Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Australia and the [European Union](#).

But all eyes will be on their language on climate change, on the eve of crunch [United Nations Climate Change Conference \(COP26\)](#) talks starting in [Glasgow](#) on Monday.

Leaders are also expected to rubber-stamp a deal to impose a 15-percent minimum tax on global corporations and discuss the post-pandemic recovery and associated risks including the uneven rollout of Covid-19 vaccines.

Italian Prime Minister [Mario Draghi](#) said the summit "marks the return of multilateralism after the dark years of isolationism and of isolation linked to the health crisis."

However, [Antonio Villafranca](#), from the ISPI foreign policy think tank, warned the absence of Xi and Putin was "not a positive sign."

The G20 "is not a transatlantic format but a multilateral format in which it is fundamental that everyone contributes," he told [Agence France-Presse](#).

The timing of the G20 summit, ahead of marathon [UN](#) climate talks in Glasgow, has put the effort to slow the global warming center stage.

G20 members are responsible for 80 percent of all man-made greenhouse gas emissions, but are at different stages of development and disagree on how fast they can act.

[Italy](#) hopes the G20 will collectively endorse the UN goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, one of the aspirations of the landmark 2015 Paris climate accords.



But G20 members remain at odds over the other major goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050. China has set a 2060 target, but India — pointing to its status as a developing country — has not made a similar commitment.

The risks to the post-pandemic recovery will also feature in the Rome talks, from inflation and rising energy prices to supply chain issues and the slowdown in China's economic growth.

No new pledges are expected on Covid-19 vaccines, but Italy wants more help for lower income countries to help distribute existing jabs and build more resilient health systems.

"Global solidarity in facing this pandemic has been pretty wanting," noted [Emma Ross](#), senior research fellow at the Chatham House think tank.



Challenges facing climate summit loom large

October 29, 2021

"THE clock is ticking loudly." That is the grim reminder issued by the executive editor of the [UN Environment Program \(UNEP\)](#) to world leaders who will be attending the [Glasgow](#) climate change conference, which opens this Sunday.

The agency has just published its "Emissions [Gap](#)" report, and it makes for depressing reading. Basically, it suggests that efforts to curb global warming have been feeble so far, and there is not much time left before it reaches the point where its impact becomes irreversible.

Unless there is a dramatic downshift, the global temperature will rise by 2.7 degrees Celsius before 2100. That mocks the 1.5 C cap that was set by the Glasgow summit, known as COP26, for Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The UNEP is not the only international agency to sound the alarm. Last month the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#) released a study showing a record rise in greenhouse gas emissions last year, with carbon dioxide leading the charge.

The unprecedented increase "has major negative repercussions for our daily lives and well-being, for the state of our planet and for the future of our children and grandchildren," notes WMO Secretary-General Prof. [Petteri Taalas](#).

These dark pronouncements put more pressure on the summit participants to fully commit to its goal, which is to "mobilize public and private finance to support those on the frontline of the climate crisis, and reach global net zero by mid-century." The [Paris Agreement](#) that laid down the strategy for cutting greenhouse gas emissions called for raising \$1 billion a year to support climate change programs. The 2020 deadline for raising that amount has come and gone without the major donor nations delivering on their pledges.

They also are not on the same page when it comes to setting net zero targets, the UNEP said. The 20 richest nations, particularly, have crafted their own long-term plans, which are "ambiguous." As host of the Glasgow conference, [Britain](#) must first, see to it that commitments are fulfilled, and second, that diverse plans are forged into one cohesive and effective blueprint.

It's a tall order, but unless everyone pushes together like they've never pushed before, the summit is doomed to fail.

The anemic response to climate change mitigation has not escaped UN Secretary-General António Guterres. "The emissions gap is the result of a leadership gap," he has declared.

All is not lost. The major actors "can still make this a turning point to a greener future instead of a tipping point to climate catastrophe," Guterres said.

The task ahead is daunting. According to the UNEP, "to stand a chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 C, we have eight years to almost halve greenhouse gas emissions: eight years to make the plans, put in place the policies, implement them and ultimately deliver the cuts." Global warming requires a global response. The summit's participants should imprint that in their minds.

The urgency for climate change action cannot be overemphasized. We are already feeling its effects. Higher temperatures are spawning extreme weather conditions like searing heat waves, heavier flooding and more ferocious wildfires. Low-lying islands and coastal populations are threatened by rising sea levels as polar icecaps melt.



What is chilling is that these changes are taking place in just a matter of years, not millenniums or centuries.

The economic cost is equally high. Rising temperatures have been blamed for heat-related mortality and work impairment, and more than 103 billion potential work hours were lost globally in 2019 compared with those lost in 2000, the WMO reported.

Guterres is convinced that for the Glasgow summit to be turning point, "we need all countries to commit to net zero emissions by 2050, backed up by concrete long-term strategies...." To achieve this. "we need much greater solidarity, including full delivery of the long-standing climate finance pledge to help developing countries take climate action. There is no alternative if we are to achieve a safer, more sustainable and prosperous future for all." We cannot allow "net zero" to become nothing more than a catchy but empty slogan.

29 OCTOBER 2021, FRIDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH lists 3,694 more COVID-19 cases

(Philstar.com) - October 28, 2021 - 7:06pm



Vendors prepare bouquets and other flower arrangements at the Dangwa Flower Market in Manila on Oct. 26, 2021 for people who will visit their departed loved ones at various cemeteries before All Souls' Day.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Health authorities on Thursday posted 3,694 new coronavirus infections, bringing the Philippines' overall count to 2,772,491.

Active COVID-19 cases continued to be on the decline by 317 from the 50,152 on October 28. The Department of Health said one laboratory failed to turn in testing results.

- **Active cases:** 49,835 or 1.8% of the total
- **Deaths:** 227, pushing the count to 42,575
- **Recoveries:** 3,924 bringing the number to 2,680,081

Still lowest in pandemic resilience ranking

- The Philippines stayed at the bottom of Bloomberg's COVID-19 resilience ranking. It indicated the country is still the "[worst place to be](#)" amid the pandemic despite the declining cases. The government has rejected the ranking as unfair, saying it does not include all countries in the world.
- Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said they are looking to hire more COVID-19 vaccinators and open more inoculation sites as the country further [expands its inoculation drive](#).
- Ahead of the nationwide vaccination of minors, DOH reported more than [23,000](#) of the age group have now received their COVID-19 jab during the pilot run in select Metro Manila hospitals.
- The Philippines welcomed 976,950 new doses of [Pfizer's](#) COVID-19 vaccine under the government's procured supply, as well as more than 896,000 [Astrazeneca](#) doses donated by Japan.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/10/28/2137311/doh-lists-3694-more-covid-19-cases/amp/>



Superspreader events

posted October 29, 2021 at 12:35 am

Superspreader events like class and family reunions, birthday parties, and outings will be commonplace now amid declining COVID-19 infections. With over half of the population in Metro Manila vaccinated and the inoculation drive gaining traction in the provinces, Filipinos are being emboldened to get out of their homes and test the waters, so to speak.

Nobody can blame the Filipinos for venturing out, visiting public parks, and going into restaurants after months of being cooped up in their homes. Many of them have received protection from the vaccine and health authorities themselves have given the green light to participate in the reopening of the economy.

The government may further downgrade the quarantine restrictions to Alert Level 2 in Metro Manila next month. About 86 percent of the target population of 70 percent in the capital region, or close to 7.8 million, have received vaccine jabs. A greater number of people in the metropolis, thus, are expected to troop back to the malls and other public places and ride on public transportation.

The vaccine jabs, however, are not foolproof. A vaccinated person can still get infected, especially by the unvaccinated. The looser restrictions and superspreader events can result in a new COVID-19 spike if local government units or concerned government agencies lower their guard.

The reopening of the dolomite beach in Manila Bay is a case in point. About 8,000 Metro Manila residents flocked to the new tourist attraction on Oct. 17 when it was reopened to the public. The figure reached 65,000 on Sunday, including young children.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which oversees the beach project, clearly has been remiss on its job. There was no social distancing to speak of in the event due to the sheer number of people who visited the beach.

Authorities and local government units should be reminded that the Philippines is not yet out of the woods yet, despite the positive COVID-19 data. No country for that matter can claim that it has won the battle against the virus. Vigilance, health protocols and the vaccine will remain the most effective armor against the pandemic.



EDITORIAL - Ibayong pag-iingat vs Delta sub-variant

Pang-masa October 29, 2021 | 12:00am



NARITO na sa bansa ang Delta sub-variant, ayon sa Department of Health (DOH). Noong Marso pa na-detect sa Pilipinas ang sub-variant na nag-originate sa Mauritius. Isang 34-anyos na babae mula sa Bacolod, Negros Occidental ang nagtataglay ng variant at na-detect ito makaraang sumailalim sa COVID test sa Philippine Red Cross noong Marso 10. Ayon sa DOH, nanggaling ang babae sa United Arab Emirates at dumating sa bansa noong Marso 5. Ganunman, nakarekober na umano ang babae noon pang Marso 21.

Sinabi ni DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, mino-monitor na nila ang sub-variant. Hindi raw dapat mag-panic ang mamamayan. Basta sumunod lamang sa health protocol.

Kung Marso pa na-detect ang Delta sub-variant maaring may nahawahan na nito. At malay pa ba ng lahat kung ang pagtaas ng bilang ng kaso noong Hulyo, Agosto at Setyembre ay dahil sa sub-variant na ito. Hindi naman na-monitor ang babae mula nang magpa-test sa Red Cross kaya marami siyang nakasalamuha. Walang kaalam-alam na carrier siya ng virus.

Ganyan din ang nangyari noong Enero 2020 nang magsimulang kumalat ang coronavirus sa bansa. Isang Chinese ang malayang nakapasmasyal sa bansa at sa isang iglap, kumalat ang virus na hanggang ngayon ay nagpapahirap sa bansa. Bagama't bumababa na ang kaso ng COVID sa Metro Manila hindi pa rin dapat magkampangante sapagkat posibleng tumaas ang bilang dahil sa pagluluwag.

Isara muna ang mga pasyalan at beach sa Metro Manila na pinagkakalipunpunan ng mga tao. Isang halimbawa ang dolomite beach na dinadagsa. Huwag sayangin ang nasimulang pag-iingat. Huwag nang bumalik sa dating sitwasyon. Mag-ingat sa Delta sub-variant.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2021/10/29/2137452/editorial-ibayong-pag-iingat-vs-delta-sub-variant>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 593

OKTUBRE 28, 2021

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: <https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

1.8%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
49,835

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

96.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,680,081

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.53%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
42,575

MGA BAGONG KASO **3,694**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **3,924**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **227**

KABUUNANG BILANG NG KASO **2,772,491**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING OKTUBRE 26

DATOS NGAYONG OKTUBRE 28
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG OKTUBRE 26

8.6%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

50,755

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS

80.2%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

KABUUNANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)



ISOLATION BEDS (20.9K TOTAL BEDS)



WARD BEDS (14.6K TOTAL BEDS)



VENTILATORS (3.3K TOTAL VENTILATORS)



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

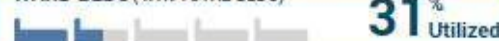
ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)



ISOLATION BEDS (4.9K TOTAL BEDS)



WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)



VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)



KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 73.4%

6.8% Asymptomatic

2.6% Critical

6.2% Severe

10.97% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Itatak sa ating mga puso at isipan ang masusing pagtupad sa mga paraan upang matiyak ang ating kaligtasan. Bukod sa pagsunod sa lahat ng **Minimum Public Health Standards**, nariyan din ang ating pambansang pagbabakuna laban sa COVID-19. Piliin ang proteksyon ng mga bakuna, at protektahan ang iyong buong pamilya. Sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas, makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** sa **1555**, **(02)886-505-00**, **0915-777-7777**, o **0919-977-3333** para sa karampatang gabay.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

29 OCTOBER 2021, FRIDAY



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ANG HULING ARAW NG DOLOMITE BEACH? SINULIT NA NG MGA TAO!

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




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
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#manilabay

#dolomite

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MANILA BAY OCTOBER 28,2021,DATI NAPAPANOOD KO LANG! DREAM COME TRUE! Miz July

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



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