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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR shares ecosystems research findings online



Published 4 hours ago
on September 29, 2020 03:00 AM
By [Manny Angeles @tribuneph1_mba](#)



An online platform providing public access to various significant studies on environment and natural resources has been launched by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through its Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB).

The platform, according to Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, hosts various ERDB research findings and scientific publications that proved crucial in formulating DENR programs, policies, and decisions for the protection and conservation of the environment.

“As Secretary of the DENR, I am very pleased that through the collective efforts of the scientists, experts, researchers, and employees of the ERDB, the Department gets to understand more about our environment and every little (thing) that goes with it,” he said.

Cimatu’s speech was delivered by Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources, and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr. during the virtual launch of the online platform via Facebook live last 15 September.

“They spend months, even years, doing rigorous research to provide the Department with the scientific knowledge that we need,” he added.

The research materials can now be downloaded from the ERDB’s official website, <https://erdb.denr.gov.ph/>.

Among those that can be downloaded from the website are Sylvatrop, Canopy International, and Research Information Series on Ecosystems or RISE.

Sylvatrop is the DENR’s official technical journal for new and original scientific information and research breakthroughs on ecosystems and natural resources, while Canopy International is a semi-technical publication on science-based stories about ecosystems issues and solutions.

RISE, on the other hand, is a compilation of pertinent knowledge on the propagation and planting techniques of important indigenous reforestation species to help students and researchers save these species from extinction.



DENR shares ecosystems research findings online

Cimatu said the online platform is one of the innovative ways of the DENR to reach the public, especially amid the coronavirus pandemic.

“Even in the midst of a pandemic, this is our response to the growing demand for information that may empower us Filipinos into achieving sustainable growth and development,” he stressed.

The DENR chief also noted how research is vital to the agency’s strategic programs and policies that help address major environmental problems in the country.

“This pool of knowledge serves as a vehicle to allow us to move further. Science helps us arrive at more informed decisions. It tells us what to do next, which steps to take, and how far we will go. This is how we use knowledge in the DENR as a fuel towards growth and productivity,” he pointed out.



IBA'T IBANG RESEARCH FINDING IBINAHAGI NG ONLINE PLATFORM NG DENR



September 29, 2020 @ 12:27 AM 5 hours ago

INILUNSAD ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang isang online platform na magbibigay ng access sa publiko sa iba't ibang makabuluhang pag-aaral tungkol sa kapaligiran at likas na yaman na ginawa ng Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB).

Ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang online platform ay magbibigay-raan upang ma-access ang iba't ibang ERDB research finding at scientific publication na tunay na napakahalaga at kailangan sa pagbuo ng mga programa, polisiya at desisyon ng DENR para sa proteksyon at konserbasyon ng kalikasan.

“As Secretary of the DENR, I am very pleased that through the collective efforts of the scientists, experts, researchers and employees of the ERDB, the Department gets to understand more about our environment and every little [thing] that goes with it,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Ang mensahe ni Cimatu ay ipinahayag ni Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources, and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr. sa ginanap na virtual launch ng online platform sa pamamagitan ng Facebook live noong Setyembre 15.

“They spend months, even years, doing rigorous research to provide the Department with the scientific knowledge that we need,” dagdag pa nito.

Ang mga research material ay maaaring mai-download mula sa ERDB's official website na <http://erdb.denr.gov.ph/>.

Kabilang sa mga maaaring mai-download mula sa website ang Sylvatrop, Canopy International, and Research Information Series on Ecosystems o RISE.

Ang Sylvatrop ang opisyal na technical journal ng DENR para sa bago at orihinal na scientific information at research breakthroughs sa ecosystems at natural resources, habang ang Canopy International ay isang semi-technical publication sa science-based stories tungkol sa mga ecosystem issue at solution.



IBA'T IBANG RESEARCH FINDING IBINAHAGI NG ONLINE PLATFORM NG DENR

Ang RISE naman ay isang compilation ng mga pertinenteng kaalaman sa propagation at planting techniques ng mga importanteng indigenous reforestation species upang makatulong sa mga mag-aaral at mananaliksik na maisalba ang mga species na ito sa extinction.

Ayon pa kay Cimat, ang online platform ay isa sa mga innovative na paraan ng DENR upang abutin ang publiko, lalo na ngayong nasa gitna tayo ng coronavirus pandemic.

“Even in the midst of a pandemic, this is our response to the growing demand for information that may empower us Filipinos into achieving sustainable growth and development,” pagdiin pa nito.

Binanggit pa ng DENR chief kung gaano kahalaga ang research sa mga strategic program at mga polisiya ng ahensya na nakatutulong upang malapatan ng solusyon ang mga pangunahing problema sa kalikasan ng bansa.

“This pool of knowledge serves as a vehicle to allow us to move further. Science helps us arrive at more informed decisions. It tells us what to do next, which steps to take, and how far we will go. This is how we use knowledge in the DENR as a fuel towards growth and productivity,” pinunto pa nito.

Sa panig naman ni ERDB Director Henry Adornado, nangangako siya na ang bureau ay patuloy na gagawing updated ang website nito at patuloy na ipakikilala ito sa pamamagitan ng mga bagong research information.

“We assure the public, more so, the DENR bureaus, offices, and attached agencies that ERDB will live up to its mandate of providing more technologies and information for the protection and betterment of the environment,” sabi ni Adornado.

Ang ERDB’s research publications ay madalas gamitin ng iba’t ibang tanggapan ng DENR, mga state university at college, mga pampublikong library at iba pang mga institusyon.



DENR continues with beach nourishment



Published 3 hours ago
on September 29, 2020 03:50 AM
By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) assured his department will remain steadfast in its commitment to restore Manila Bay to its former glory through the “beach nourishment” project.

Cimatu made the remark even after a militant fishers’ group urged the DENR to suspend the “beach nourishment” project at the Manila Baywalk, following his suspension of the two mining firms involved in the extraction and processing of dolomite rock in Alcoy, Cebu.

In a statement, the DENR chief said the situation in Manila Bay has gone from bad to good as a direct result of the project, which was made possible through the support given by President Rodrigo Duterte, his fellow Cabinet members and other government officials.

“We will remain steadfast in our commitment to restore Manila Bay, and we will never get tired of explaining to the public the benefits, legality and environmental soundness of the beach nourishment project,” Cimatu stressed.

President Duterte previously praised Cimatu for his determination to clean up Manila Bay, saying “people are now enjoying the benefits of a determined action of a Cabinet member.”

At the same time, Cimatu thanked officials and employees of DENR and other mandamus agencies for their “dedication and hard work to fully carry out the President’s marching order to rehabilitate Manila Bay in compliance with the Supreme Court’s continuing mandamus.”

He reiterated the beach nourishment project is an important component of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program, which dates back to 2008 when the Supreme Court issued a writ of continuing mandamus directing the DENR and other agencies to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve the bay.

“We are truly grateful to our Cabinet colleagues, other government officials, civic groups and non-government organizations for publicly expressing their support for the project and for echoing the sentiment of majority of Filipinos,” Cimatu said.



DENR continues with beach nourishment

“This outpouring of support only inspires us to continue and even intensify our efforts to rehabilitate our beloved Manila Bay,” he added.

Manila Bay grabbed headlines earlier as environmental groups criticized the move to put pulverized rocks along the shores of Manila Bay to expand the beach, saying it would hurt the natural ecosystem in the area and in Cebu, where the crushed dolomite came from.



Saving Manila Bay



FROM THE STANDS - Domini M. Torrevillas (The Philippine Star ⓘ) - September 29, 2020 - 12:00am

Rotary District 3810, led by District Governor Odie Tarriela, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) supporting the activities, programs and projects of the department for the next 10 years. The signing took place at the Manila Yatch Club on Sept. 19. Tarriela also presented a pledge of support to DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu for his relentless effort to clean and restore the slowly dying Manila Bay.

“DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu is instrumental in carrying out the Supreme Court Mandamus ordering 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay. The mandamus was long neglected since 2008, and Manila Bay continued to deteriorate over the years,” commented Manila Yacht Club commodore and Rotary Club of Manila president Robert Lim Joseph Jr.

Tarriela signed the MOU on behalf of the 116 Rotary Club presidents of District 3810.

Rotary District 3810 will adopt the “Save Manila Bay” project and “TREES” program of the Rotary Club of Manila. “TREES” stands for “The Rotary Ecological and Environmental Strategem.” The programs include tree planting, conservation and development of clean water, education for barangay captains for sustainable waste management and support training for recycling plastics.

Tarriela will coordinate with the nine other district governors of Rotary in the Philippines for implementing these projects on a nationwide scale.



Saving Manila Bay

Witnessing the signing ceremony were Robert Lim Joseph Jr., RCM president; Jackie Rodriguez, immediate past president; Thad Liamzon, vice-president; and Johnny Chotrani and Farid Schoucair, directors, and Ferdie Co, PDSAA. Also present were district officers Kat Aguilar, Edwin Chiu, Diwata Gabat and Joey Gabat. Justice Lucenito Tagle, who issued the mandamus regarding the case that gave rise to the “Save Manila Bay” project, also attended the occasion.

“Imagine, all Rotary Clubs in the country are proactively contributing in protecting, conserving and expanding resources of the environment,” said Joseph.

He added that the ten district governors will sign a pledge of support and a memorandum of understanding with Secretary Cimat. They will also sign agreements with Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Agriculture (DA) and other agencies to get their support and cooperation nationwide.

“Fixing Manila Bay is still a long way to go,” says Joseph. “The cleanup will take about six years to complete since the project requires dealing not only with complex metropolitan problems but also with vast area coverage. The Manila Bay area covers eight provinces in three regions – the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Calabarzon. In addition, 17 principal river systems drain into the bay.”

The Rotary Club of Manila also expressed its appreciation to the Manila city government for its support to the national government and DENR in the implementation of the Manila Bay beach nourishment project. In its social media post, DENR said Manila Mayor Francisco ‘Isko Moreno’ Domagoso, in a press conference, said cleaning Manila Bay entails a lot of costs, which is why the city government appreciates all the efforts of DENR in cleaning the area.



Saving Manila Bay

Several statements applauding the speech delivered by President Duterte during the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 22, 2020, include one from Sen. Ralph Recto and another from peace advocate and a member of the Rotary Club of Gingoog City Saeed A. Daof.

Here's the senator's message:

"Great speech, Mr. President.

"If there's an Emmy for the UN General Assembly speeches, the one he delivered can win the prize for the best written.

"The team who put policies to prose should be congratulated. What they put together is the template for presidential addresses: cohesive, coherent and straight to the point.



Saving Manila Bay

“If he was able to convey his thoughts with clarity to the world, all the more he should do the same to his own people at this time when they need hope and direction.

“The President’s unequivocal stance against China’s illegal reclamation in our seas should put to rest any ambivalence on where he and our government stand on this important issue.

“From where he spoke, with the whole world watching, he was able to plant our flag on a territory that historically and legally is ours.”

Saeed Daof’s message was originally posted in Facebook and received 200 responses as of yesterday:

“With reference to my FB post yesterday, Sept. 23, 2020 and without aggrandizing myself, I am joining our countrymen, who for their unbiased reason(s) and love of our country, are overtly expressing their thanks and congratulations to our President Duterte for the well-composed speech he delivered during the United Nations General Assembly two days ago, the 22nd of September, 2020.

“Likewise, as a peace and development advocate who risked his life in helping win the peace in Mindanao, I am sincerely and modestly expressing and reiterating my opinion and strong belief that the speech of our President could serve as a viable template in designing and implementing immediate and long-term mutually beneficial relations and cooperation between and among our present and future leaders and member-countries of the United Nations.”



Saving Manila Bay

The flurry of discussion around the appointment of justices of the Supreme Court is far too perplexing. This happens in our country, as well as in other parts of the world, when appointments of the members to the high tribunal made by the heads of state are seemingly politically motivated. With respect to the appointment by US President Donald Trump of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the seat vacated by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the assumption of critics is that the nominee, if confirmed by the US Senate, will toe the Republican-filled Supreme Court line, and adhere to the wishes of Trump in decisions that the Republican Party has a hand. Two pending cases are the Obama affordable health care program for all Americans and women's right over their bodies.

I am surprised that the popular thinking is that justices are not given the freedom to think for themselves, to make decisions according to the Constitution and rule by law, but are expected to repay their benefactor with decisions in his favor.

Let me quote the role of the US Supreme Court: "The Supreme Court plays a very important role in our constitutional system of government. First, as the highest court in the land, it is the court of last resort for those looking for justice. Second, due to its power of judicial review, it plays an essential role in ensuring that each branch of government recognizes the limits of its own power. Third, it protects civil rights and liberties by striking down laws that violate the Constitution. Finally, it sets appropriate limits on democratic government by ensuring that popular majorities cannot pass laws that harm and/or take undue advantage of unpopular minorities. In essence, it serves to ensure that the changing views of a majority do not undermine the fundamental values common to all Americans, i.e., freedom of speech, freedom of religion and due process of law."

* * *



Booms, bags and barricades on Manila Bay's 'white sand' project

Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 28 2020 08:08 PM | Updated as of Sep 28 2020 08:21 PM



Curious onlookers take photos of the artificial "white sand" project in Manila Bay on Monday. Recent heavy rains have washed away parts of the dumped crushed dolomite, forcing project proponents to implement some mitigation measures to preserve the project aimed at beautifying Manila Bay.



DENR urged to suspend Manila Bay nourishment project

Published September 28, 2020, 10:31 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Fisherfolk group Pamalakaya on Monday urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to order the suspension of the Manila Bay beach nourishment project, following the suspension of two mining firms conducting dolomite extraction and processing in Cebu last week.



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

The group finds it “absurd” that a suspension order was issued against the Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC) and the Philippine Mining Service Corporation (PMSC), when the overlaying of dolomite at the Manila Bay beachfront is still allowed to continue.

“(DENR Secretary) Mr. (Roy) Cimatu seems to be out of his mind when he had the two mining firms suspended yet the beach nourishment project which these two firms have been supplementing remains in full operation,” said Pamalakaya national chairperson Fernando Hicap, adding that “beach nourishment” was never mentioned on the Supreme Court mandamus.”

Pamalakaya claimed that the DENR suspension order was “actually to cover-up the white sand mess and that it will never restore the marine life adversely affected by the dolomite mining in Cebu.”

“Damage has already been inflicted to the marine environment. It will take time to restore the coral reefs destroyed by this mining operation. Moreover, its impact on the local fishermen could be even worse, as it might affect their daily fish catch,” Hicap said.

The group urged the DENR and the two Cebu mining firms to pay for the damage they caused to the marine ecosystem.

The DENR last Sept. 25 ordered the suspension of operations of DMC and PMSC pending the results of an investigation on the alleged coral reef damage, and monitoring of water quality and ambient air quality in the surrounding areas of the mining sites.

Cimatu also ordered the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office in Cebu to conduct a coral assessment to determine the health condition of the corals which was the subject of the complaint by the Cebu provincial government.



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DENR urged to suspend Manila Bay nourishment project

DMC, which is the only large-scale producer of dolomite materials, is a holder of a 25-year Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) covering 524.6103 hectares of dolomite property located within the municipalities of Alcoy and Dalaguete, Cebu. It is set to expire in 2030.

Meanwhile, PMSC is a holder of a mineral processing permit that will expire in 2023.

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/28/denr-urged-to-suspend-manila-bay-nourishment-project/>



Groups troop to DENR opposing the resumption of operations in 13 mines

Published September 28, 2020, 2:14 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Environment and human rights groups on Monday trooped to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office in Quezon City to oppose the resumption of operations of 13 cancelled and suspended mines.

Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) national coordinator Jaybee Garganera said “the DENR’s recommendation to reopen these mines should be rejected, as DENR is unwilling to disclose the basis of this decision.”

ATM was joined by Sanlakas, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), Bantay Kita, Akbayan, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates, IDefend, Lilak, Green Thumb Coalition, and Masbate-based organization Ang Aroroy Ay Alagaan (4As) to call for an end to destructive mining.

The groups also emphasized that mining operations endanger the health of local residents in mining communities, noting that the decision of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu to revoke the cancellation and suspension orders of 13 mining companies will worsen these conditions.

Garganera also pointed out that mining and river dredging should not be part of the economic stimulus for recovery as a response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Mining is part of the problem because it is directly linked to deforestation and climate change, which are both drivers to the evolution of new diseases and pandemics, he said.

“A report from the International Council on Mining and Metals revealed that the global mining industry is a significant contributor of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries in terms of climate-related disasters. With COVID-19, the urgency of addressing this threat increased rapidly,” PMCJ energy officer Larry Pascua said.

Malou Verano of 4As called for the closure of Filminera mining operations in Masbate as “residents are anxious of health issues and the loss of livelihood.”

“Their tailings pond is also located just above the people’s houses. We fear that if there’s a storm or earthquake, the tailings dam will collapse and cover the entire community,” she added.

Rommel Yamzon of IDefend said “it is ironic how this government answers the climate emergency with abuses and threats, the same way it addressed a health crisis with militarization.”

“Economic activities that lower the resiliency of communities have no place in a pandemic. Mining for recovery is only counterproductive. The government has to hold these companies accountable for the livelihood and natural resources they destroyed,” Sanlakas secretary-general Aaron Pedrosa said.



Groups troop to DENR opposing the resumption of operations in 13 mines

The protest held on Monday was a part of the “Mining Hell Week,” an annual series of non-government organization-led activities parallel to the International Mining Conference organized by the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines.

It aims to represent and amplify the voices of mining-affected communities and marginalized sectors.



DENR urged to halt mining operations

Jire Carreon, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 28 2020 12:19 PM



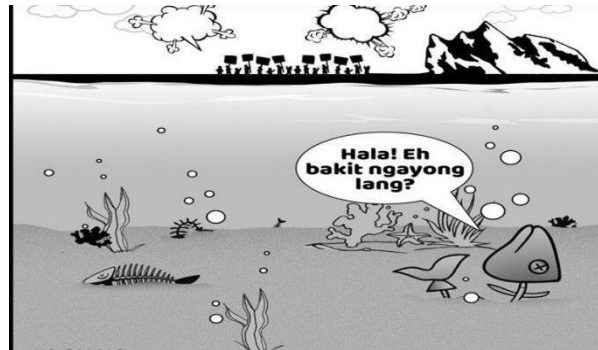
Anti-mining advocates from Alyansa Tigil Mina stage a protest outside the Department of Environment and Natural Resources headquarters along Visayas Avenue in Quezon City on Monday. The group demanded a stop to the continued mining operations despite the COVID-19 pandemic after the environment department endorsed mining operations as part of the government's economic stimulus recovery program.



EDITORIAL - Minahan ng dolomite imbestigahang mabuti

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- September 28, 2020 - 12:00am



Ngayon lang nakita ang pinsala nang pagmimina ng dolomite sa Alcoy, Cebu. Kung kailan malaki na ang pinsala sa corals saka lang kumilos ang mga awtoridad. Ayon sa Cebu Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office ang mga corals na nasa layong 500 meters sa dalampasigan ng Bgy. Pugalo. Napinsala ang corals dahil sa latak ng dolomite. Dinudrog ang dolomite para maging buhangin at saka ikakarga sa mga barges para dalhin o ideliber sa mga nag-order nito. Isa ang dalampasigan ng Manila Bay sa mga nilagyan ng dolomite para sa beautification project ng DENR. May pondong P389 milyon ang Manila Bay project. Noong nakaraang linggo binuksan sa publiko ang Manila Bay white sand beach at dinumog ng mga tao. Nasira ang health protocol kaya isinara muli ito.

Ipinag-utos ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu na suspendihin ang operasyon ng dalawang mining companies na nagmimina ng dolomite para maimbestigahan kung may paglabag ang mga ito. Ang dalawang mining companies ay ang Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC) at Philippine Mining Service Corp. (PMSC). Inatasan ni Cimatu ang Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) na magsagawa ng test sa kalidad ng hangin at tubig sa lugar kung saan nasira ang mga coral. Mananatili ang suspension ng dalawang mining companies hangga't hindi natatapos ang masusing imbestigasyon ng EMB. Mananagot umano ang dalawang kompanya kapag may paglabag na nagawa. Ayon sa report, ang DMC ay may 25-year mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) kung saan may kabuuang 524 hectares ang sakop ng pagmimina sa Alcoy samantalang ang PMSC ay may processing permit hanggang 2023. Sabi ng dalawang mining companies, makikipag-cooperate sila sa imbestigasyon ng DENR.

Nakapagtataka naman kung bakit ngayon lang pumiyok ang mga opisyaes ng Cebu provincial government kabilang si Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia. Kung kailan mayroon nang nasirang corals saka sila biglang nag-ingay gayung matagal na palang nagmimina. Kung hindi pa pumutok ang balita na ang dinurog na tone-toneladang dolomite ay ibiniyahe sa Maynila para itambak sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay.

Kung kailan mayroon nang napinsala saka lamang nagreklamo. Nagpapatunay lamang na hindi nagsasagawa ng pag-iinspeksiyon ang mga opisyaes ng Cebu sa kanilang nasasakupan. Marami nang nasira pero ngayon lang sila naging maingay sa isyu. Dapat tutukan ng DENR kung may nagawang pagkakamali ang dalawang mining companies. Dapat panagutin ang mga ito.



Olivarez belittles warning

posted September 28, 2020 at 10:40 pm
by [Joel E. Zurbano](#)

Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez on Monday belittled the warning made by Senator Cynthia Villar who said the city's planned reclamation project in Manila Bay would cause flooding in the areas nearby.

Olivarez said any proposed reclamation, including the issue of flooding, would be subjected to a thorough appraisal by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other concerned government agencies.

"The assessment, determination and all technical parameters of any proposed reclamation will also be subjected to investigation and checking not only by the DENR but also the Department of Public Works and Highways, whose chief is the son of the senator," he said.

Villar claimed the reclamation project being pushed by the Paranaque City government would cause flooding in Cavite, Las Pinas and other areas including Paranaque, and will destroy 35 hectares of mangrove forest along Manila Bay.

But Olivarez pointed out that no reclamation project could be implemented without first passing compliance of all the technical requirements of the law.

"No reclamation project can also be realized without approved policies and issuance of the government, otherwise, the proposed project is doomed for denial and therefore should not be implemented," he explained.

The project will be situated along the coast of Manila Bay fronting the five coastal barangays in Paranaque, namely Baclaran, Tambo, La Huerta, Don Galo, and San Dionisio.

In addition, Olivarez said, three inland barangays namely Moonwalk, Sto.Nino and Vitalez were included as beneficiaries.

The reclamation will consist of one island with approximately 950-meter distance from the nearest corner of the reclamation layout to the nearest shoreline of Manila Bay, which is also a reclaimed land.

According to Olivarez, the environmental impact statement (EIS) report has been prepared to serve as a requirement application for an environment compliance certificate (ECC) for the proposed project.

The city chief executive said the ECC application covers only the horizontal development or the reclamation of land, including the construction of access ways.



Villar warns vs. more floodings

posted September 28, 2020 at 10:50 pm
by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Senator Cynthia Villar has warned the reclamation project being pushed by the Parañaque local government will cause more floodings in Cavite, Paranaque, and Las Pinas and claims this will be detrimental to the viability of the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park.

Villar, chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, issued the statement in response to the public hearings set October 1 and 2 for the creation of a 287-hectare artificial island along the coast of Manila Bay in Paranaque.

“The Paranaque Reclamation Project will be built on the buffer zone of the Las Pinas- Paranaque Wetland Park. This should not be allowed to proceed because it will hamper the free flow of water which is critical to the survival of the wetland ecosystem,” Villar said.

Villar also cautioned against the destruction of the 35-hectares mangrove forest, a spawning ground of fishes in Manila Bay which supports the livelihood of 300,000 fisherfolks.

Villar also debunked the stand of Paranaque Mayor Edwin Olivarez, project proponent that the flooding would be prevented by the Imus catchment basin.

She said the infrastructure was constructed for the existing problem in Cavite brought about by the Cavite expressway. She said the Paranaque reclamation project was not considered when this was planned.

“According to former DPWH Secretary (Rogelio) Singson, the Cavitex Expressway is supposed to be a viaduct based on the plan. But instead, they reclaimed Manila Bay and constructed the expressway on top of the reclaimed road which causes so much flooding in Imus, Bacoor and other places in Cavite. To address this, DPWH built the Imus catchment basin. This project is not intended to solve flooding in Paranaque and Las Pinas,” Villar explained.

Villar also appealed to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to consider the buffer zone of the wetland park before approving any reclamation in the area.

She also objected to the 320-hectare Bacoor reclamation project which is to be built on the wetland’s buffer zone

Under Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, the 175-hectare wetland situated South of Manila Bay is a protected area.

It is also listed as one of the seven areas in the country declared a wetland of international importance by the Ramsar Convention because of its critical role in the survival of threatened, restricted-range and congregatory bird species.

Topics: [Cynthia Villar](#) , [local government](#) , [Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park](#)



'Mal'lambugok' returns to the wild



Photo by Eden Jhan Licayan

September 28, 2020

CARAGA, Davao Oriental -- A Philippine Eagle is finally able to fly back to its forest home after spending two months in rehabilitation following her rescue from a farmer's trap.

Mal'lambugok, a two-year-old female Philippine Eagle, majestically spreads her wings and launches herself into the air as the crowd cheers after she was released from a cage. Her release was held in time for the celebration of the World Environmental Health Day on September 26, 2020.

Davao Oriental Governor Nelson Dayanghirang together with partners from the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), Local Government Unit of Caraga, and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led the Philippine Eagle's release at Sitio Palo Siete in Barangay PM Sobrecarey here which is near the forest covering the Mount Mayo-Kampalili Mountain Range, one of the nine Key Biodiversity Areas along the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor.

"Mal'lambugok was rescued more than a month ago. It was in a very weak condition so we had to move it back to the center for rehab. Now, having fully recovered and in excellent health condition, it's ready for release back into the wild," said Philippine Eagle Foundation Executive Director Dennis Salvador.

The Rescue

On July 31, 2020, the juvenile eagle was rescued in Sitio Tagbanahao in Barangay PM Sobrecarey after being caught in a trap set by a local farmer whose piglets have been hunted down for weeks.

Tito Pagsac, the farmer who set up the trap to prevent it from further preying on his livestock, immediately called the Philippine Eagle Foundation after discovering the eagle in his snare. "Although it was affecting my livelihood, I've already known beforehand that it is illegal to harm eagles, so I immediately contacted the PEF," said Pagsac, who is now one of the 25 registered forest guards protecting the forest and wildlife in his village.



'Mal'lambugok' returns to the wild

Responding to the urgent call, a team from the PEF immediately took the bird to its center in Davao City where it was subjected to a series of tests and medical examinations. Based on the assessment, the bird was alert and has sustained no injuries. She was then placed under rehabilitation until her health was fully restored.

With her release, it is hoped that Mal'lambugok will be reintegrated back into the wild population. "Once she becomes sexually mature, she would find a mate, nest, and contribute new individuals that will help sustain the population into the future," says the PEF.

Critically Endangered

Mal'lambugok, whose name is the Mandaya term for Philippine Eagle, is only one of the few Philippine Eagles who are lucky enough to be rescued and released back into the wild.

While being considered a symbol of national pride as it is found nowhere else in the world except in the Philippines, the Philippine Eagle is also one of the world's most threatened raptors and is being listed by the International Union for Conservation (IUCN) as a "critically endangered" species, says the PEF.

Mal'lambugok, being a young "surplus" bird who will disperse across the landscape until she is sexually mature and breeds, is vulnerable to shooting, hunting, and trapping, the PEF adds.

Moreover, the degradation of the forest and human intrusion by competing with the eagles in terms of prey animals are other challenges that the species constantly face. Mr. Salvador of the PEF said that the eagle's predation of domestic animals is a big eye-opener indicating some degree of disturbance in their natural habitat. "Usually, eagles' prey on wild animals. But when it starts taking domestic animals, that says a lot on the condition of our forests. That's why it is important to have a sustained education campaign and perhaps there may be a need to support and provide conservation incentives so people don't take resources off the forest," he said.

Calls for conservation

Barangay PM Sobrecarey, which largely covers the ancestral domain of the Mandaya Indigenous Peoples, has been reported to have sightings of six other Philippine Eagles. The PEF says that the eagle's presence means that the forest and ecosystem here is still intact.

"Being the top predator of the forest ecosystem, the presence of the eagle acts as a barometer and serves as an indicator of the health of the forest ecosystem. The eagles give an umbrella of protection to all other organisms that live in the forest and, in turn, eventually benefits man," he said, adding that in order to maintain the health of the forest, an intensified awareness and education campaign is needed in the community.



'Mal'lambugok' returns to the wild

For the last few months, the foundation together with the local government units and concerned agencies are doing massive campaigns to highlight the protection and conservation of the Philippine Eagle and the forests. "We had a series of education campaigns in the area to let people know about the bird, its value, and the laws related to its protection and conservation. We also had some film showing, focus interviews with the people in the community," said Salvador.

Moreover, a group of 25 local forest guards deputized by the DENR as Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEO) has been organized and trained to help protect the forest and the local wildlife within the ancestral domain. As a means of support, the provincial government initially provided each of them a pair of rubber boots, a new set of uniforms, and a provision of one sack of rice.

However, the PEF and the provincial local government are looking at more sustainable and long-term means of conservation. Among them is providing incentives for those who protect the forest and placing heavy penalties on those who commit illegal acts like poaching and wildlife vandalism, among others.

Governor Nelson Dayanghirang said, "The government must intervene and must take its active role to protect not only the forests but also the people who live through the forest." He cited the provincial government's plan to be launched early next year an alternative but a lucrative livelihood program for farmers through the planting of agarwood trees in the ancestral lands.

He also mentioned Barangay PM Sobrecarey's huge potential for eco-tourism because of its cold atmosphere and the sightings of the Philippine Eagle which could attract many tourists. This, in turn, could provide alternative livelihood for the locals.

"We should be proud that our place is endowed with the presence of the Philippine Eagles. As we are blessed with this gift, it is but right that each of us take our responsibility to protect the Philippine Eagles and our forests," said Governor Dayanghirang as he spoke to the villagers.

For the villagers, Mal'lambugok's release was a historic moment in their sleepy, hinterland village. In awe of its majestic beauty and appreciating its value to the forest, residents here have signified their cooperation and support to the local government to help protect the Philippine Eagles.

Aside from PM Sobrecarey in Caraga town, other upland barangays in the province have been identified to host couples of Philippine Eagles. Based on an official report, nine out of the eleven component LGUs of Davao Oriental have sightings of the Philippine Eagle. In fact, three Philippine Eagle Sanctuaries in the province are already declared -- one in Macambol, City of Mati, one in Tarragona town, and one in Manay town.

For this reason, the provincial government and the local government units aim to strengthen programs to safeguard forests while empowering the communities which are at the heart of the conservation and management efforts. **(Karen Lou Deloso)**

Green sea turtle rescued in Dapitan City



ZAMBOANGA. Personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte, with coordination from the Dapitan City Agriculture Office, rescue a Green Sea Turtle stranded on the shore of that city. A photo handout shows CENRO personnel examine the condition of the rescued turtle. (SunStar Zamboanga)

September 28, 2020

THE Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte, has rescued a giant Green Sea Turtle that was stranded on the shore of Purok Sinaob in San Vicente village, Dapitan City.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 9 said Monday, September 28, that the stranded turtle was spotted by the Dapitan City Agriculture Office personnel who reported their find to CENRO-Piñan.

The DENR-9 said that initial findings from the Coastal Resources Management Unit indicated that the sea turtle, which was rescued Thursday, September 24, had an injured flipper and was very weak.

It said that the Giant Green Sea Turtle is female and weighs 150 kilograms, has a carapace length of 42 inches, and a width of 37 inches.

The rescued turtle was placed under the care of the Dapitan City Agriculture Office for monitoring and rehabilitation.

The DENR-9 said that the rescued turtle will be sent back to its natural habitat once “it will be fit for release.” (SunStar Zamboanga)



Barangays reminded to segregate waste



Published 4 hours ago
on September 29, 2020 03:10 AM
By [Pat C. Santos @tribunephil_pat](#)



Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso called on all the city’s 896 barangays to strictly follow the mandated waste segregation scheme and practice the recycling of materials in order to lessen the volume of garbage.

The mayor made the appeal to intensify the campaign for proper garbage disposal.

If waste segregation is started at home, he said this will be a big help in ensuring wastes do not end up in esteros or Manila Bay and cause flooding.

Domagoso based his directive on the report submitted to the Manila Bay Task Force by the city’s Department of Public Services, headed by director Kenneth Amurao.

The report said barangays from Districts 4, 5 and 6 have fully complied with the segregated waste collection system even before the coronavirus pandemic started.

However, the program was halted in Districts 1,2 and 3, also because of the pandemic.

“We have a program that will teach and require barangays and households to segregate their waste based on Republic Act 9003. This is being done in some areas, particularly Districts 4, 5 and 6 because these were the first to benefit from the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign,” Amurao said.

The declaration of a health crisis in March slowed down the momentum of the campaign in Districts 1, 2 and 3. This coincided with the order from the Department of the Interior and Local Government for mass clearing operations, which was prioritized.

This time, Amurao said the program is being resumed online to continuously remind and teach residents on proper waste segregation and the schedule of garbage collection.



WASTE SEGREGATION SCHEME, ISTRIKTONG IPATUPAD – ISKO

Panawagan sa 898 barangay:

[NEWSMETRO](#)

On Sep 28, 2020



NANAWAGAN si Manila Mayor Isko Moreno sa lahat ng 896 na barangay sa lungsod na istriktong ipatupad ang waste segregation scheme o paghiwa-hiwalay ng basura kasabay din ng kanyang pasasalamat sa ibang gumagawa na nito bago pa niya inanunsyo sa online na tuloy ang nasabing programa.

Ayon kay Moreno, malaking tulong ang waste segregation na magsisimula sa bawat tahanan upang matiyak na hindi mauwi sa Manila bay o esteros ang mga basura na maari ring maging dahilan ng pagbaha.

Dahil dito ay umapela ang alkalde sa lahat ng mga barangay officials na paigtingin pa ang kampanya sa tamang paraan ng pagtatapon ng basura.

Idinagdag pa ni Moreno na base sa ulat na isinumite ng Manila Bay Task Force, sinabi ng department of public services ng lungsod na pinamumunuan ni director Kenneth Amurao na ang mga barangay sa Districts 4, 5 at 6 sumusunod na sa itinakdang segregated waste collection system na ipinapatupad ng lungsod.

Bago pa nagsimula ang pandemya sinabi ni Moreno na Districts 4, 5 at 6 nagpapatupad na ng waste segregation program.

Nabatid kay Amurao na ang malawakang programa ay nagsimula na sa mga nabanggit na distrito pero nahinto dahil sa pandemya kaya naman ang programa ay ngayon pa lamang nagsisimula sa Districts 1, 2 at 3.

“Meron tayong programa na turuan at obligahin ang mga barangay at kabahayan na mag-segregate ng basura alinsunod din sa Republic Act 9003. Nagagawa naman po ng iba lalo na sa district 4,5,6 dahil sila po ang ating inuna sa malawakang Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign,” sabi ni Amurao.



WASTE SEGREGATION SCHEME, ISTRIKTONG IPATUPAD – ISKO

Idinagdag pa nito na: “Nag-uumpisa na po sana tayo sa District 1,2,3 inabot ng Covid at medyo nawala rin ang momentum ng project nung mag-order ng mass clearing operations ang DILG dahil halos sabay-sabay na mga clearing at cleaning operations at binigyan natin ng priority na mahakot agad ang lahat ng uri ng basura at kalat pati debris, dahil na rin sa kautusan ni Mayor na isang malinis at maaliwalas na Maynila.”

Sa ngayon ayon kay Amurao, ang programa ay tinuloy na muli at maging sa online upang patuloy na paalalahanan at turuan ng tamang paghihiwalay ng basura at gayundin sa schedule ng garbage collection. (**Andi Garcia**)



Bottle-shaped bins make appearance in Baguio for Coke's recycling campaign

By: [Vincent Cabreza](#) - Reporter / [@Inquirer Baguio](#)
[Inquirer Baguio](#) / 06:41 PM September 28, 2020

BAGUIO CITY—Transparent bins shaped like giant soda-bottles will be distributed around the city exclusively for empty plastic bottles in a campaign by soda manufacturer Coca Cola Philippines to prevent more plastic pollution during the pandemic.

The bins would be repositories for clear bottles made of Polyethylene terephthalate, or PET, which can be recycled, said lawyer Juan Lorenzo Tañada, Cola Cola director for community and regulatory affairs during flag-raising ceremony at City Hall on Monday (Sept. 28).

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic “is the greatest challenge we face as a nation in the last 50 years,” he said, “but there are other pressing issues we must address such as the environment.”

The soda bottle bins will take back discarded PET bottles from Coca Cola and other companies which sometimes end up as street litter, Tañada said.

Coca Cola invested \$20-million in a PET recycling facility that intends to process up to 16,000 metric tons of bottles. “We will be able to reuse it again for full grade packaging. This means the life of a PET bottle doesn’t end with one use (and thrown in the dumps). We can use over and over again. That is the beauty of PET bottles,” Tañada said.

The first Coca Cola bin was stationed at the fork leading up to downtown Session Road, but some people mistook it for an ordinary waste basket.

“We realize we have an issue with PET bottles lying around uncollected and we want to do our part,” Tañada said.

Earlier during the lockdown, Coca Cola promoted “honesty carts,” or unmanned sales carts which relied on customers dropping coins or bills in a pay box each time they purchased a water bottle.

The money it raised was donated to Baguio residents, who were most economically displaced by the quarantine.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1341192/bottle-shaped-bins-make-appearance-in-baguio-for-okes-recycling-campaign#ixzz6ZnKBXXml>

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Proper disposal of healthcare wastes stressed

Published September 28, 2020, 3:59 PM

by [Bethena Unite](#)

The Department of Health reminded health facilities and local government units to strictly follow protocols on disposing healthcare waste to prevent possible transmission of coronavirus disease due to these waste materials.



(Photo by AHMAD AL-RUBAYE / AFP / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire reiterated Monday that protocols have been set to properly manage waste materials from hospitals and other facilities, including those coming from households.

Health facilities and local government units (LGUs) must coordinate when it comes to disposing of wastes that may harm people, Vergeire said.

Healthcare wastes must be properly labeled and marked in order for garbage collectors to handle them correctly “because these waste materials are picked up on a certain schedule and disposed of in a certain place.”

By segregating and labeling the medical waste, garbage collectors would also be spared of the possibility of being infected while picking up the waste for disposal.

“We have protocols and even before this pandemic, we have this healthcare waste management. We have partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and LGUs to set a schedule for regular collection of healthcare waste,” Vergeire said.

The LGUs are also responsible to coordinate with healthcare facilities in their areas while healthcare providers should know the schedule and the proper way to dispose such wastes.

“So, again, we remind all healthcare providers and our local government units, We are asking help from them to further observe the proper waste disposal. There is this protocol that we follow, saying it must be properly segregated and marked as healthcare waste,” Vergeire said.

“We also enjoin everybody, not just the local government but all of us in the community. Kapag nasa bahay tayo, ilagay natin sa separate na plastic kapag dumating ‘yung mga magbabasura sabihin natin na ito mga mask ito (When we are at home, we have to put it in a separate plastic and inform the garbage collector its contents). You have to label it so they know how it is going to be disposed,” Vergeire added.



Proper disposal of healthcare wastes stressed

September 28, 2020 | Filed under: [News](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)



VERGEIRE

By BETHEENA UNITE

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Basurang PPEs ng ospital ikinalat sa EDSA

[Danilo Garcia](#) (Pang-masa) - September 29, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Pinaiimbestigahan ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sa Philippine National Police (PNP) ang mga nagkalat na personal protective equipments (PPEs) sa EDSA malapit sa harapan ng EDSA Monument sa Quezon City.

Ayon kay MMDA official Bong Nebrija, may tatak ng isang ospital ang natagpuang mga PPE na binubuo ng mga face mask, glove at iba pa.

Tinawagan na ni Nebrija si PNP Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, Joint Task Force COVID-19 Shield, para pangunahan ang imbestigasyon.

Patuloy ang imbestigasyon paano nangyari ang insidente at kung anong sasakyan ang responsible rito.

Nagkataon umanong nasa kabilang direksyon ang CCTV camera ng MMDA nang maganap ito at hindi nito nakunan ang pangyayari.

Samantala, hiniling ni Health Usec Maria Rosario Vergeire ang tulong ng LGUs sa pagbabantay sa pagtatapon ng basura dahil maaaring makahawa ang mga nagkalat na medical waste kapag ito ay pinulot ng garbage collector ng walang tamang proteksyon.

Pinayuhan din ng opisyal ang mga residente na sabihan ang mga garbage collectors kapag sila ay nagtatapon ng PPEs upang ito ay maayos na maitapon o ma-dispose.



DOH reiterates waste management protocols after PPEs scattered along EDSA

Kristine Sabillo, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Sep 28 2020 11:03 AM

MANILA — The Department of Health on Monday reminded health institutions and local government units to properly dispose personal protective equipment (PPEs) after masks and gloves were found scattered along EDSA.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said there are already protocols in place for health care waste management even before the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It is marked and labeled that it is health care waste,” she said, adding that this should be followed even by households.

“So we remind our health care providers and our local government units, humihingi po kami ng tulong para mamonitor natin ang pagtatapon natin ng basura,” Vergeire said.

(So we remind our health care providers and our local government units, we are asking for your help in monitoring the disposal of waste.)

Vergeire pointed out that the COVID-19 virus can attach itself to objects, which can in turn cause people to be infected.

“Pag kumalat yan sa daan, pag pinulot ito ng ating garbage collectors and they are not wearing their gloves...or even when they are wearing their gloves, pag na miss out nila naka hawak sila sa kanilang mukha maaari silang mahawa,” she said.

(If that waste is littered, and our garbage collectors pick it up and they are not wearing their gloves...or even when they are wearing their gloves, if they neglect and touch their face, they might get infected.)

Vergeire said residents should also tell their garbage collectors if they are throwing away PPEs so that it will be properly disposed of.

The DOH issued a similar warning earlier this month after test kits were found scattered on a street in Manila.



COVID-19 cases sa bansa lagpas 307,000 na kahit infection trend bumaba

By [James Relativo](#) (Philstar.com)
- September 28, 2020 - 3:42pm



Binabantayan ng opisyal na ito sa Caloocan City ang border sa pagitan ng baranggay 12 at baranggay 8, habang nagpapatupad ng lockdown sa nasabing lugar noong Mayo
The STAR/Michael Varcas, File

MANILA, Philippines — Ayaw pa ring paawat sa pagkalat ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) sa Pilipinas kahit nasa ika-29 linggo na ang community quarantine na ipinatutupad kontra pandemya.

Ayon sa huling tala ng Department of Health (DOH), Lunes, pumapatak na sa 307,288 ang kumpirmadong nadadali ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas. 'Yan ay matapos madagdagan pa ng karagdagang 3,073 kaso ang talaan ng kagawaran ngayong hapon.

Umabot na sa 3.43 milyon indibidwal ang nasusuri sa bansa para sa SARS-CoV-2 — ang virus na nagdudulot ng COVID-19 — bagay na nagdulot ng mga naturang pagbabago sa tally ng gobyerno. Sa kabila niyan, hindi nai-turnover ng anim pang laboratoryo ang kani-kanilang test results.

"Eleven duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 6 were recovered cases," paliwanag ng DOH sa kanilang inilabas napahayag.

"Moreover, two cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified to deaths after final validation."

Pinakamarami naman sa mga sariwang ulat na kaso ang natuklasan sa mga sumusunod na lugar:

- National Capital Region (1,158)
- Cavite (225)
- Laguna (203)
- Rizal (173)
- Batangas (169)



COVID-19 cases sa bansa lagpas 307,000 na kahit infection trend bumaba

Nananatili namang 49,242 ang aktibo sa mga kasong 'yan, na nangangahulugang hindi pa sila gumagaling o nasasawi sa virus.

Samantala, hindi naman pinalad ang 37 iba pa na dinapuan ng sakit. Sumatutal, 5,381 na ang namamatay mula sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Mas marami naman ng 163 nai-report na gumaling ngayong araw mula sa pathogen, dahilan para maitulak ang mga datos patungong 252,665.

Bagama't hindi pa nahihinto ang COVID-19 transmission sa bansa, ibinahagi ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na pababa na nang pababa ang arawang kaso na naidaragdag sa nitong mga nagdaang araw. Gayunpaman, pinaalalahanan ng DOH official na huwag makampante sa "downtrend" na ito.

"Pag tinignan natin 'yung number of cases natin and we look at the trends nung ating average per week, makikita natin na, oo, bumababa," sambit ni Vergeire sa mga reporters nitong umaga, lalo na't hindi na gaano umaabot sa 3,000 ang naidadagdag sa daily case tally.

"Pero makikita pa rin natin na merong lugar pa rin na merong piling pagtaas nitong mga number of cases that's why we always say we cannot be complacent at this point. Kailangan andyan pa rin talaga 'yung ginagawang minimum health standards. Kailangan lahat tayo vigilant pa rin."

Sa ibang balita, maaaring ianunsyo rin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang ilang pagbabago sa mga quarantine classifications sa Pilipinas mamayang gabi — bagay na magtatakda kung luluwagan, hihigpitan o pananatilihin sa parehong antas ang community quarantine at lockdowns sa iba't ibang panig ng arkipelago.

Nasa 32.73 milyon na ang nahahawaan ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo, ayon sa pinakahuling tala ng [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, 991,224 na ang binabawian ng buhay. — may ulat ni [Philstar.com/Gaea Katreena Cabico](#)



Ex-IATF adviser cites decrease in COVID-19 cases but warns vs. MGCQ in NCR

Published September 28, 2020 5:11pm

A former adviser to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Monday cited the downward trend in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country but said easing Metro Manila to a modified general community quarantine might lead to a surge.

Interviewed on “Balitanghali,” Dr. Tony Leachon said Metro Manila must remain under general community quarantine.

“Though alam natin na bumababa na ang cases from August 12 hanggang September 23, from 4,300 to 2,900 ayon sa UP OCTA research group. At ang reproductive number... .82 so mababa ‘yon so ang NCR naman ang cases bumaba from 2,006 to 1,002... ‘yong reproductive number natin ay bumaba to .74 for NCR so iisipin mo baka puwede na,” he said.

“Pero kung titingnan mo ang ibang metriko of success, ‘yong positivity rate natin dati ay 15% noong August, ngayon 10%. Malayo pa siya doon sa ideal rate or benchmark ng World Health Organization na 5%,” he added.

Leachon said this means that there is still local transmission in the capital region.

Moreover, he said easing quarantine restrictions in Metro Manila might cost the “gains of the last eight months.”

“This can create a surges in the next two months kasi dapat ang kino-consider natin na sustainable mga dalawang buwan na trying to flatten the curve,” Leachon said.

Meanwhile, he said the COVID-19 hospital occupancy rate in NCR is still near the danger zone.

“Ang danger zone ang definition ng Department of Health ay 70% below. Ang occupancy for all COVID-19 cases ay 57%. Ang ICU beds natin for COVID ay 65%,” he said.

Nationwide, cases of COVID-19 ballooned to 304,226 on Sunday with 252,510 recoveries and 5,344 fatalities. -NB, GMA News

PAGASA warns Ilocos residents to brace for La Niña

By Leilanie Adriano September 28, 2020, 4:43 pm



Engr. Cynthia Iglesia, chief meteorological officer of the Laoag Synop Airport Upper Air Station of PAGASA. (PNA photo by Leilanie G. Adriano)

LAOAG CITY – The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has warned Ilocos residents to get ready for the impact of La Niña, which is likely to affect the northern part of Luzon during the last quarter of the year.

Engr. Cynthia Iglesia, the chief meteorological officer of the Laoag Synop Airport Upper Air Station, said Monday the amount of rainfall in Ilocos Norte for the past few months is way below normal but La Niña alert is underway from October to December.

“We have had encountered typhoons and low pressure in the previous months but the amount of rainfall is way below normal,” said Iglesia.

As the La Niña alert has been issued, residents are advised to prepare over the likelihood of flooding in some parts of the province.

As part of the disaster preparedness of the province, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management and Resiliency Council (PDRRMRC) has already started mobilizing its units to clean waterways, trim large branches of trees along the highway, and install rainwater harvesting facilities to take advantage of the predicted rainfall.

Other local government units in the province, such as in the northeastern part of Piddig, have constructed small water impounding dams and spring development in local communities where drought or flooding continues to threaten their livelihood.

Piddig Mayor Eduardo Guillen, who is a civil engineer, acknowledged that too much water or less rain could greatly affect the town’s economy but with long-term planning to mitigate its effects, this can be reduced if not avoided.

With rising temperatures over the past few months, Piddig town’s ongoing spring development in the hilly mountains of Maruaya village has sustained its agro-tourism farm in the area.

Representatives of the PDRRMRC and Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Police Office (INPPO) have also started conducting consultations in the barangay level to identify their main concerns and come up with strategic plans before, during, and after disasters.

Some of the main concerns that were initially raised include improving rescue and evacuation for residents and animals in order to minimize loss and damages.

They also organized risk reduction councils in the barangay level to ensure better and faster response and coordination during emergencies. (PNA)



Pagasa: 2 to 3 tropical cyclones may enter PH in October

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lulu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLuluINQ](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 07:36 PM September 28, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — State meteorologists are expecting two to three tropical cyclones that may enter the country's area of responsibility for the month of October, based on analysis of past years' weather patterns.

In a report on Monday afternoon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) explained that most of the storms that entered the Philippine area of responsibility during the month of October tended to make landfall on the eastern side of Luzon.

If ever storms enter in October, they will be named Nika, Ofel, and Pepito.

“Dalawa o tatlong bagyo ang posibleng pumasok sa ating area of responsibility ngayon pong October 2020,” weather specialist Ariel Rojas said.

(Two or three storms are expected to enter our area of responsibility this October 2020.)

“Makikita natin sa ating mga figures sa slide na ito na mas tumatama sa kalupaan or naglalandfall ang mga bagyo na pumapasok sa ating area of responsibility sa buwan ng Oktubre kesa sila ay lumiliko pabalik sa Dagat Pasipiko,” he added.

(We can see over our figures on this slide that storms entering our area of responsibility tend to make landfall from the month of October, rather than moving towards the Pacific Ocean.)

Pagasa said that the release of these information is geared at helping towns in the eastern side of the country, especially those inside Bicol Region, provinces of Quezon, Aurora, Cagayan, Isabela, and Batanes, to prepare ahead of the storms.

Meanwhile, Pagasa noted that it would issue a La Niña advisory this coming October, as they are still on La Niña alert due to indications pointing to the said phenomenon.

If the La Niña condition persists, it may lead to a higher chance of thunderstorm activity due to warmer than usual air temperatures, which are brought by enhanced easterlies.

“Naglabas po ang Pagasa ng pahayag ngayong Setyembre ukol sa 70 percent chance na pagkakaroon ng La Niña ngayong last quarter ng 2020 dahil po ito ay ipinapakita ng karamihan ng climate models,” Rojas noted.



Pagasa: 2 to 3 tropical cyclones may enter PH in October

(Pagasa released a statement this September about the 70 percent chance of a La Niña for the last quarter of 2020, according to the various climate models.)

“Kabilang sa mga inaasahang epekto ng La Niña ay ang mas mataas na tsansa ng pagkakaroon ng malalakas na thunderstorms, may kasama po ‘yang mga hail o maliliit na tipak ng yelo. At dahil kapag may La Niña po mas malapit sa kalupaan ng Pilipinas nabubuo ang mga bagyo, ibig sabihin mas maraming mga bagyo ang posibleng nasa loob ng ating area of responsibility,” he added.

(Among the expected effects of the La Niña is the higher chance of stronger thunderstorms, including hailstorms or small chunks of ice during rains. And with La Niña, storms usually build up closer to the country’s land mass, which means there may be more storms inside our area of responsibility.)

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1341196/pagasa-2-to-3-tropical-cyclones-may-enter-ph-in-october#ixzz6ZNizCPVA>

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Habagat, frontal system umiiral sa ilang bahagi ng bansa

By Angellic Jordan September 28, 2020 - 07:02 PM

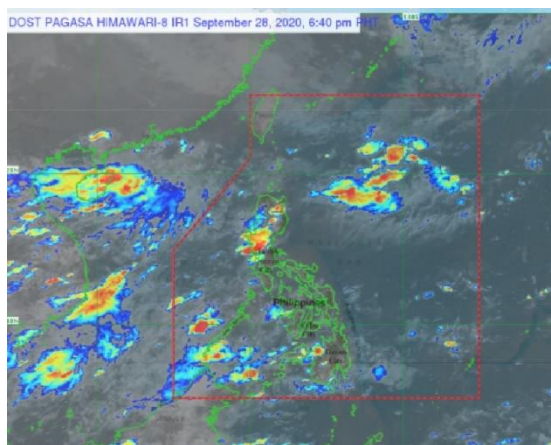


Photo grab from DOST PAGASA website

Patuloy na nakakaapekto ang Southwest Monsoon o Habagat at Frontal System sa ilang parte ng bansa.

Ayon kay PAGASA weather specialist Ariel Rojas, umiiral ang Habagat sa Kanlurang bahagi ng Luzon.

Mayroon aniyang makakapal na ulap na magdudulot pa rin ng pag-ulan sa Palawan, kasama ang Kalayaan Group of Islands.

Ang mga nararanasang pag-ulan naman sa Batanes, at Babuyan Group of Islands ay dulot ng Frontal System.

Samantala, sinabi ni Rojas na dalawang bagyo ang binabantayan ng weather bureau sa labas ng Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Gayunman, papalayo aniya ang pagkilos ng dalawang bagyo at walang direktang epekto sa bansa.

Sinabi rin ng PAGASA na walang nakkitang sama ng panahon na posibleng mabuo sa teritoryo ng bansa sa susunod na dalawa hanggang tatlong araw.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/266752/habagat-frontal-system-umiiral-sa-ilang-bahagi-ng-bansa#ixzz6ZNNU1q39>

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Duterte keeps NCR under GCQ



Published 5 hours ago
on September 28, 2020 11:48 PM
By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephil [MJB](#)



Pres. Duterte announces the community quarantine levels in different cities Monday night. (RTVM image)

President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday night kept Metro Manila under general community quarantine (GCQ) until 31 October after health experts had warned that a premature easing of restrictions would lead to an “exponential” rise of coronavirus infections come Christmas time.

In his public address, the President also approved the recommendation to place Batangas, Tacloban City, Bacolod City, and Iligan City under GCQ.

Iloilo City would also be put under a more relaxed GCQ from 1 to 30 October. Earlier, President Duterte imposed modified enhanced community quarantine in the city until the end of September.

Meanwhile, a stricter modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) was imposed in Lanao del Sur including Marawi City.

The rest of the country would be under modified GCQ, the most lenient lockdown classification.

Under modified GCQ, public gatherings such as movie screenings, concerts, sporting events and other entertainment activities are allowed, but participants may fill no more than half of the capacity of the venue.

The same rule applies to religious gatherings, community assemblies, and non-essential work gatherings.

Metro Manila is the region that has stayed the longest under GCQ for nearly four months, a quarantine classification which allows public transportation and most industries but prohibits tourism activities, entertainment events, and large mass gatherings.



Duterte keeps NCR under GCQ

Business groups have been pushing to ease restrictions in Metro Manila to allow the reopening of more businesses and public transportation.

The OCTA Research group, composed of analysts and statisticians from the University of the Philippines and the University of Santo Tomas, have observed that the rate of transmission, number of cases, positivity rate, and measures for hospital resource utilization are all on a downward trend in Metro Manila.

The group, however, warned that the improving COVID-19 situation is reversible.

So far, the Philippines has recorded over 307,000 coronavirus infections, of which 49,000 are active cases.



Palace favors climate call



Published 4 hours ago

on September 29, 2020 01:00 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) [@tribunephil](#) [MJB](#)



President Rodrigo Duterte would consider declaring a “climate emergency” in the country in response to calls of environmental group Greenpeace Philippines, Malacañang said Monday.

Last week, the group urged President Duterte anew to make such a declaration, saying it would enable the country to achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement, which commits world leaders to keep the planet’s temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Philippines and its Southeast Asian neighbors Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia are signatories to the Paris Agreement formed in 2015 and came into force a year later.

The carbon emission curbs put forward by countries under the agreement are not legally-binding but the framework of the accord, which includes a mechanism for periodically cranking those pledges up, takes affect.

Greenpeace has noted that the Philippines remains to have a “strong inclination to coal power” despite being an early leader on renewable energy.

The group’s country director Lea Guerrero said a climate emergency declaration would ensure the Philippines’ “rapid and just transition to a low-carbon pathway through the phaseout of coal and fossil fuel investments.”

In response to this, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the declaration lies in the hands of the Chief Executive.

“It (climate change) is on top of the agenda of the President and the President will consider this suggestion made by Greenpeace,” Roque said.

“The fact that he included climate change in his maiden address before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) shows that the President prioritizes climate change,” he added.

President Duterte recently appealed to the 193 member-states of the United Nations to honor their commitments under the Paris accord, saying the climate change has “worsened the ravages of the pandemic.”



Palace: Duterte to consider declaring climate emergency

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:41 PM September 28, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte will consider declaring a climate emergency as addressing climate change is among his top agenda, Malacañang said Monday.

Environmental group Greenpeace Philippines has [called on Duterte](#) to declare a “climate emergency” to help the country achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement.

“Ang masasabi ko lang po, top of the agenda po ng ating Presidente ‘yan and the President will consider this suggestion made by Greenpeace,” Roque said.

(What I can only say is that this is top of the agenda of our President and that he will consider this suggestion made by Greenpeace.)

Roque also said that how the President tackled climate change in his debut at the United Nations General Assembly was proof that this matter was among his priorities.

In his UN speech, Duterte said [climate change](#) must be addressed as urgently as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The President also appealed to parties of the Paris Agreement to comply with its terms as developing countries like the Philippines suffer the effects of climate change the most.

The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen global response by keeping the global average temperature this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.[ac]

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1341077/palace-duterte-to-consider-declaring-climate-emergency#ixzz6ZKlcawPq>

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Duterte mulls 'climate emergency' declaration

Published September 28, 2020, 4:19 PM

by [Argyll Cyrus Geducos](#)

President Duterte will consider declaring a "climate emergency" in the Philippines to help achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

(ACE MORANDANTE / PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque made the statement after environmental group Greenpeace Philippines urged the President to declare a "climate emergency" after Duterte, in his speech during the 75th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) last year, called on other countries to honor their commitment to fighting the crisis.

In his Monday presser, Roque said it will be up to the President to heed the advice of Greenpeace Philippines but added that Duterte will surely consider it.

"That will be a decision of the President," he said.

"Ang masasabi ko lang po, top of the agenda po ng ating Presidente 'yan (All I can say is it's on top of the President's agenda) and the President will consider this suggestion made by Greenpeace," he added.

According to Greenpeace, President Duterte should issue an executive order that will put climate action at the center of all policy decision-making from local to the national level as this will ensure the Philippines' rapid and just transition to a low-carbon pathway through the phaseout of coal and fossil fuel investments.

It added that a climate emergency declaration would enable a recovery that will transform the Philippine economy and society to tackle climate change and promote positive environmental and health outcomes.

"Aside from calling in countries to enhance their commitments to the Paris Agreement, the declaration must also be a call for climate justice and hold big polluters—fossil fuel and cement companies—accountable for their role in driving climate change, which has placed millions of Filipinos in vulnerable situations with loss of lives, homes, and livelihoods," Greenpeace country director Lea Guerrero wrote in a statement.



Duterte mulls 'climate emergency' declaration

She likewise said that none of the eight countries in Southeast Asia were meeting the global targets set to help prevent the planet's temperature from rising by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius without significant market and regulatory changes.

According to Roque, the mere fact that President Duterte raised the issue during the UNGA means that the Chief Executive is taking the matter seriously.

"Isa kasi tayo sa parang Top 5 o Top 10 countries na pinaka-maaapektuhan ng climate change (I think we're one of the Top 5 or Top 10 countries that will be most affected by climate change)," he said.

"Kung hindi nga po maaagapan ang climate change baka lumubog ang malaking teritoryo ng Pilipinas pagdating ng panahon (If we cannot do something about it now, then there's a possibility that a large part of the country will sink in the future)," he added.

In 2017, despite his misgivings, President Duterte signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change Instrument of Accession. It is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which deals with greenhouse gasses emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance starting in the year 2020.

Duterte had expressed doubts about the treaty mainly because of the fund needed. He said he found the treaty problematic as it does not state who will foot the fund of \$5 billion and that those who will violate it will face no sanctions.

In 2018, Duterte blamed climate change on Western countries, saying they only called for a global effort to address climate change only after witnessing their actions' impact on the environment.



PRRD mulls 'climate emergency' declaration

By Azer Parrocha September 28, 2020, 5:59 pm



CLIMATE CHANGE. President Rodrigo Duterte delivers his first speech before the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 23, 2020. Duterte urged parties of the Paris Agreement to honor their commitment to fighting climate change. (Screenshot)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte will consider declaring a "climate emergency" in the Philippines to help achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement, Malacañang said Monday.

Environmental group Greenpeace Philippines earlier urged Duterte to declare a "climate emergency" after urging parties of the Paris Agreement to honor their commitment to fighting climate change during the recent United Nations General Assembly.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said that while it will be up to the President to decide on Greenpeace's proposal, Duterte recognizes the importance of addressing climate change.

"Well, that will be a decision of the President. *Pero* the fact *na sinama po ni Presidente* *iyong* climate change *sa kaniyang talumpati nang kauna-unahang pagkakataon sa UN General Assembly ay nagpapakita na talagang binibigyan ng prayoridad ng ating Pangulo ang problema ng climate change* (But the fact that the President included climate change in his maiden speech before the UN General Assembly shows that he really prioritizes the problem of climate change)," he said in a virtual presser.

Roque explained the Philippines is among the countries most affected by the effects of climate change.

"*Isa kasi tayo sa parang top 5 o top 10 countries na pinakamaapektuhan ng climate change 'no at kung hindi nga po maaabtan ang climate change baka lumubog ang malaking teritoryo ng Pilipinas 'no pagdating ng panahon* (We are, I think, among the top 5 or 10 countries most affected by climate changes and if we cannot do something about it now, then there's a possibility that a large part of the Philippines' territory will sink in the future)," he said.

Climate change, he said, is among Duterte's top priorities.

"*Ang masasabi ko lang po, top of the agenda po ng ating Presidente iyan* (All I can say is, that's at the top of the President's agenda), and the President will consider the suggestion made by Greenpeace," he added.



PRRD mulls ‘climate emergency’ declaration

In his speech before the UNGA last Wednesday, Duterte said that climate change has “worsened” the ravages of the pandemic.

He said it was just as important to address climate change as urgently as the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

“The same urgency needed to fight Covid-19 is needed to address the climate crisis. This is a global challenge that has worsened existing inequalities and vulnerabilities from within and between nations,” he said.

In 2017, Duterte signed the Paris Agreement which aims to reduce the emission of gases that contribute to global warming.

He previously had doubts over signing the treaty, fearing it would limit the country's industrialization.

In a statement, Greenpeace country director Lea Guerrero urged Duterte to issue an executive order “to put climate action at the center of all policy decision-making from local to national level.”

“Aside from calling in countries to enhance their commitments to the Paris Agreement, the declaration must also be a call for climate justice and hold big polluters -- fossil fuel and cement companies -- accountable for their role in driving climate change, which has placed millions of Filipinos in vulnerable situations with loss of lives, homes, and livelihoods,” Guerrero said. **(PNA)**

Pasay City Host Lions Club officers nanumpa kay DG Usec. Benny Antiporda



September 28, 2020 @ 7:24 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pinangunahan ni District 301-A2 District Governor at DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, 2PMJF, ang ika-72 taong panunumpa sa tungkulin ng mga bagong opisyal ng Pasay City Host Lions Club para sa LY 2020-2021 noong Sabado, Setyembre 26, 2020 via zoom sa National Press Club, Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila.



Kabilang sa mga nanumpa sina PCHLC President Lydia Bueno, MJF, 1st Vice President Joseph Uyching, SVP Baby de Leon; 3rdVP Lourdes Icban, Sec. Lea Botones, Treas. Jennifer Magalona, Membership Chairperson Carmelita Tan-Gatue; Lion Tamer Kenneth Ngo, Tail Twister Renato Teodoro at mga direktor na sina Albert Uy, MJF; Jimmy Chua, MJF; Hilda Ong, Samuel Uy, Ramon Balay at Danilo Feliciano, MJF.



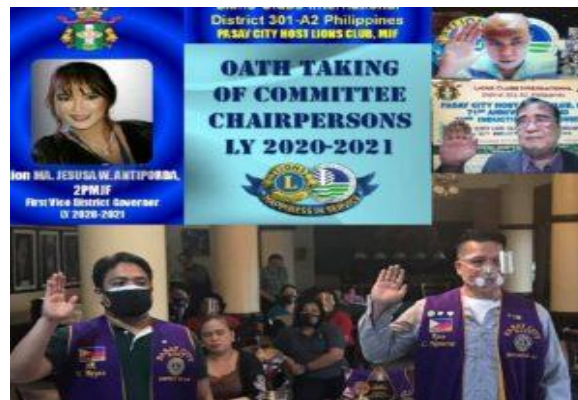


Pasay City Host Lions Club officers nanumpa kay DG Usec. Benny Antiporda

Sa kanyang talumpati, nagpasalamat si PCHLC Pres. Bueno, ika-71 at ika-72 pangulo ng samahan, sa tulong, suporta, respeto at gabay na ipinagkaloob sa kanya ng mga opisyal at miyembro sa loob ng isang taong panunungkulan at tiwala para sa isa pang karagdagang taon bilang pangulo ng samahan.

Nabatid na kauna-unahan sa kasaysayan ng Pasay City Host Lions Club ang pagkakaroon ng babaeng presidente, sa katauhan ni Pres. Bueno, na nahalal sa loob ng dalawang magkasunod na taon.

Unang nakapagtala ng dalawang magkasunod na taong panunungkulan bilang pangulo ng PCHLC si DG Usec. Antiporda habang si PDG Stephen Sia ay nahalal sa ikalawang termino subalit sa 'di magkasunod na taon.



Samantala, pinangasiwaan naman ni First Vice District Governor Ma. Jesusa Antiporda ang panunumpa ng mga bagong committee chairperson na sina PID Michael So, 451PMJF/SCA (awards); PP James Huang, MJF, (constitution and by-laws); PP Alan Co, MJF (marketing communications); PP Dr. Lauro Feliciano, MJF (service); PP Sammay Yuquico, 6PMJF (leadership); PDG Betty Sia, 6PMJF (LCIF coordinator); PDG Stephen Sia, 10PMJF (finance); Bong Tan-Gatue (leo programs); Rico Navarro (sports); Mary Ann Ann (cancer); Renato Teodoro (sight first); Millet Galve (diabetes); Joy Base (hunger); Mina Navarro (peace poster); Carmen Ang (pr and fund raising); Jorrelyn Mirador (environment); Eduardo Reyes, Jr. (youth outreach); Danilo Feliciano, MJF (club administration) at mag-asawang Erwin at Michelle Ortañez (Pamaskong Handog.)



Pasay City Host Lions Club officers nanumpa kay DG Usec. Benny Antiporda



Si Ret. Commodore Amado Sanglay naman ang nagpanumpa sa mga bagong miyembro ng PCHLC na sina Rosievick Aquino Tanes, Eldeliza Aguilar-Nava, Mia Billones, Dennis Napule, Bambi Purisima at Francisco Marzo, Jr. habang si Global Membership Team District Coordinator Rosario Sarao, MJF, ang nangasiwa sa ‘charging at candle lighting ceremony.’





Pasay City Host Lions Club officers nanumpa kay DG Usec. Benny Antiporda



Nagbigay naman ng mensahe ng pagbati ang mga pangulo ng sister clubs ng PCHLC na kinabibilangan nina Lion Jeff Chen ng Taipei Shilin Lions Club; Lion Hsu Chun Chuan ng Taipei Hsien Lions Club; Alex Lam ng Lions Club of Hong Kong Island; Bogyeung Kim ng Incheon Korea Lions Club; Alex Ng ng Lions Club of Georgetown Island at April Jayne Cua Temew ng Davao City Host Lions Club.



Kasabay nito, isinagawa rin ang ika-30 taong panunumpa kay Lion Belinda TG. Cariño, MIF, ng mga bagong halal na opisyal ng Pasay City Leo Club na sina Pres. Jason Teasdale, VP Bea Antiporda, Sec. Alliah Plaza, Treas. Jerick Base at Membership Chairman Tenten Cabalbag.



Pasay City Host Lions Club officers nanumpa kay DG Usec. Benny Antiporda



Pinanumpa naman ni District 301-A2 Leo President Benjamine Antiporda ang mga bagong miyembro ng PCLC na sina Miguel Joaquin E. Napule, Ernest John Arenas Mirador, Anj Niña Bascuquin, Marco Iñigo Valenzuela, Jaygee Valdez at Atasha Denise Napule.



Nagsilbing panauhing pandangal at tagapagsalita sa pagdiriwang ng 71st Anniversary at 72nd Induction Ceremonies ng PCHLC at 29th Anniversary at 30th Induction Ceremonies ng PCLC si DG Usec. Antiporda kung saan binigyang-diin niya ang boluntaryo at buom pusong paglilingkod ng mga lion na naayon sa tema ng distrito sa taong ito na “Happiness in Service” sa gitna ng nararanasang coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

Bukod sa pagkilalang ginawa sa mga natatanging opisyal at miyembro ng PCHLC para sa LY 2019-2020 at sa mga naging kabahagi ng naturang okasyon, binigyan din ng posthumous award ang ilang haligi ng PCHLC na sina PCC George Yuquico, PP Lino Ong Tiong Muck at PP Marcelino Lee.



HEADLINES

Government addresses virus-induced hunger



Published 4 hours ago

On September 29, 2020 12:05 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephil [MJB](#)



The Palace on Monday said the government has not been negligent in providing aid to poor families affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

This was after a recent poll suggested that a record-high 7.6 million number of Filipinos went hungry during large-scale lockdowns.

The Social Weather Stations (SWS) reported over the weekend that hunger incidence rose to 30.7 percent in 17 to 20 September, surpassing the previous peak of 23.8 percent in March 2012.

The hunger trend has been rising since May 2020, according to SWS, which conducted the poll using mobile phone and computer-assisted telephone interviews of 1,249 adult Filipinos nationwide.

The SWS said there was an increase in the scores in all survey areas, with new record hunger rates logged in Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao.

The survey had a ± 3 percent error margin, ± 6 percent each for Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao, and ± 5 percent for Balance Luzon.

While the poll results are saddening, presidential spokesperson Secretary Harry Roque underscored that the government has not been remiss in its obligation to provide relief packages to Filipino families hit by the pandemic.

“We are saddened by the news and that’s why we are reopening the economy so we can lower the numbers especially those who are hungry,” Roque said.

The Palace official noted that the government has launched programs to provide livelihood to workers affected by the pandemic, as well as aid to those who reside in places under granular lockdowns.

Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, meanwhile, urged the government to provide aid to families affected by the COVID-19 and reopen the economy to address hunger amid the pandemic.



Government addresses virus-induced hunger

“It is important to gradually open the economy and continue the aid from the government,” he said.

The lawmaker pointed out that there are measures provided by the Bayanihan to Recover as One to cushion the economic impact of the pandemic. “There are programs from the Departments of Trade and Industry (DTI), Agriculture (DA), Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and other agencies to recover and regain our livelihoods and ensure food security in the country,” he stated.

While the country is waiting for a vaccine against coronavirus, Go reminded to maintain minimum health protocols to ensure the safety of the Filipinos.

Roque said the government has also allowed select public transportation to resume operations to address the concerns of workers who need to go to their places of work.

About 27.3 million people or nearly half of the adult workforce were out of work in July, according to a different SWS poll.

During the period, the Philippine economy contracted by 16.5 percent in the second quarter as the country plunged into a recession and saw its worst downturn in three decades.

Several senators echoed Go’s statement as they also expressed alarm on the survey.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said the survey’s result should be a valid reason to include social amelioration program or ayuda in the 2021 national budget.

“I am alarmed by the worsening condition of poor Filipino families affected by the pandemic. They are hungry, most of them women and children. This validates our concerns over the lack of ayuda in the proposed P4.5-trillion national budget for 2021,” he said.

The lawmaker urged the government to put in place measures to address the increase in hunger incidence before it “spirals into a full-blown crisis.”

Drilon reiterated his position to augment the budget for the DSWD in order to help the poor cope with the effects of the pandemic to their livelihood.

He suggested to realign the P16.4 billion funds lodged in the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, P9 billion in government’s confidential and intelligence funds, and the P468 billion flagged as lump sum appropriations under the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Senator Risa Hontiveros, on the other hand, said that the government should devote necessary attention and resource to stop the increase in hunger incidence in the country before it gets.

She suggested reviving the budget for the feeding program under DSWD for 2021.

Hontiveros also noted that the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act will not be sufficient, emphasizing that more jobs should be opened especially in the agricultural and BPO sectors.



Government addresses virus-induced hunger

“Unfortunately, the budget of the Department of Agriculture has been slashed, and internet connectivity limits the extent to which the BPO industry can reconfigure towards safer working arrangements,” she said.

The lawmaker asked the government to assign a “Balik-Trabaho Czar” who will lead the reemployment and employment of more Filipinos amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senator Sonny Angara, on the other hand, said the spike in hunger incidence is expected given the status of the Philippine economy and the quarantine protocols implemented by the government.

He said that “all hands should be on deck” to ensure that this will be addressed immediately.

“School feeding programs of DepEd and DSWD should definitely continue and DA and DTI should strive to make sure there is affordable food available to the public all over the country,” he said.

Opening the economy to create jobs and trigger consumer spending is needed to address hunger in the country, Senator Francis Pangilinan said.

But unless the government addresses the main crisis, which is the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger and unemployment will continue, he explained.

with HANANEEL BORDEY

Boracay reopening signals domestic tourism revival — Roque

Published September 28, 2020, 4:10 PM
by [Argyll Cyrus Geducos](#)

Malacañang said the reopening of the Boracay Island only signifies that the tourism sector has to revitalize itself as the threat of COVID-19 still exists.



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque
(OPS / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque made the statement after it was announced that Boracay will start to receive visitors from areas under general community quarantine (GCQ) starting October 1.

In his Monday presser, Roque clarified that the reopening of the world-class white-sand beach does not mean that the country is already out of the woods.

He said it only means that workers in the tourism sector must now also work.

“It means kinakailangang balansehin talaga natin ang katotohanan na kinakailangan magtrabaho na yung mga nasa sektor ng turismo (It means we need to balance the reality that workers of the tourism sector must now resume work),” he said.

“Na pupwede namang mangyari kung pangangalagaan natin ang ating mga kalusugan (It means that it is possible for us to work if we just take care of our health),” he added.

Starting October 1, Boracay will open its doors to visitors from GCQ areas as on as they test negative for the COVID-19. It will likewise follow strict testing, quarantine, and health protocols.

“Effective Oct. 1, Boracay Island may accept tourists from areas within a community quarantine classification of GCQ or lower, apart from travelers from Western Visayas,” Roque said in a statement last week.

According to Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, the reopening of the Boracay Island to more local tourists will build momentum for the country’s domestic tourism.

“The reopening of Boracay to new market sources signals a gathering momentum for domestic tourism all over the country. We are pleased that the BIATF and the LGUs of the Province of Aklan and Municipality of Malay have agreed to put health and safety as top priority as we carefully and safely welcome guests to the island,” she said.



Boracay reopening allows work resumption for tourism sector

By Azer Parrocha September 28, 2020, 7:52 pm



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque (File photo)

MANILA – Malacañang on Monday clarified that the reopening of Boracay Island did not mean that the country is already safe from the threat of coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

In a virtual Palace briefing, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the reopening of the famous beach island would support tourism industry workers and businesses amid the prevailing coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

“Well, it means that *kinakailangan balansehin talaga natin iyong katotohanan na kinakailangan magtrabaho na iyong mga nagtatrabaho sa sektor ng turismo na pupuwede namang mangyari kung pangangalagaan natin ang ating kalusugan* (We need to balance with the reality that workers of the tourism sector must now resume work, and it is possible as long as we take care of our health),” he said.

Starting October 1, Boracay will be open to visitors, from areas under general community quarantine (GCQ) or lower, after testing negative for Covid-19.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the resumption of tourism businesses on the resort-island would be “calibrated” with several measures in place.

She said the reopening of Boracay signals the “gathering momentum for domestic tourism all over the country”.

‘Love is not tourism’

Following the Love is Not Tourism movement made by unmarried, long-distance couples to allow governments to relax travel restrictions and allow them to reunite, Roque said he will bring the matter up before the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

“Well, love is not tourism, I agree *po*. I will bring this up to the IATF because it is the IATF that will make that decision,” he said.

Currently, only foreign nationals married to Filipinos are allowed to enter the country upon presentation of their marriage certificates.



Boracay reopening allows work resumption for tourism sector

He also encouraged concerned parties to raise their concern before the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

“Subukan ninyo po, sumulat po kayo kay Undersecretary (Brigado) Dulay ng DFA, at pupuwede naman po siguro iyong mga fiancé visa ay pupuwedeng makiusap kay Usec (You can try writing to Undersecretary Dulay of the DFA and perhaps those with fiancé visas may be allowed),” he said.

He said granting entry permits on a case to case basis is within the power of DFA. **(PNA)**

Global coronavirus death toll passes one million



Published 18 hours ago
on September 28, 2020 10:30 AM
By [Agence France-Presse](#)



More than one million people have died from coronavirus, according to an AFP toll, after the deadly disease emerged less than a year ago in China and swept around the globe.

The pandemic has ravaged the world's economy, inflamed geopolitical tensions and upended lives, from Indian slums and Brazil's jungles to America's biggest city New York.

Sports, live entertainment and international travel ground to a halt as fans, audiences and tourists were forced to stay at home, kept inside by strict measures imposed to curb the virus's spread.

Drastic controls that put half of humanity — more than four billion people — under some form of lockdown by April at first slowed its pace, but since restrictions were eased cases have soared again.

On Sunday 2230 GMT the disease had claimed 1,000,009 victims from 33,018,877 recorded infections, according to an AFP tally using official sources.

The United States has the highest death toll with more than 200,000 fatalities followed by Brazil, India, Mexico and Britain.

For Italian truck driver Carlo Chiodi those grim figures include both his parents, who he says he lost within days of each other.

“What I have a hard time accepting is that I saw my father walking out of the house, getting into the ambulance, and all I could say to him was ‘goodbye,’” said Chiodi, 50.

“I regret not saying ‘I love you’ and I regret not hugging him. That still hurts me,” he told AFP.

With scientists still racing to find a working vaccine, governments are again forced into an uneasy balancing act: Virus controls slow the spread of the disease, but they hurt already reeling economies and businesses.



Global coronavirus death toll passes one million

The IMF earlier this year warned that the economic upheaval could cause a “crisis like no other” as the world’s GDP collapsed.

Europe, hit hard by the first wave, is now facing another surge in cases, with Paris, London and Madrid all forced to introduce controls to slow infections threatening to overload hospitals.

Masks and social distancing in shops, cafes and public transport are now part of everyday life in many cities.

Mid-September saw a record rise in cases in most regions and the World Health Organization has warned virus deaths could even double to two million without more global collective action.

“One million is a terrible number and we need to reflect on that before we start considering a second million,” the WHO’s emergencies director Michael Ryan told reporters on Friday.

“Are we prepared collectively to do what it takes to avoid that number?”



Britain, Canada, EU throw weight behind 2030 biodiversity protection goal

Published September 29, 2020 1:01am

By KATE ABNETT and SIMON JESSOP, Reuters

BRUSSELS/LONDON — Britain and Canada on Monday joined the European Union in pledging to protect 30% of their land and seas by 2030 to stem "catastrophic" biodiversity loss and help galvanize support for broader agreement on the target ahead of a UN summit.

With the twin crises of climate change and wildlife loss accelerating, leaders are trying to build momentum ahead of the meeting in Kunming, China, in May, where nearly 200 countries will negotiate a new agreement on protecting nature.

"We must act now—right now. We cannot afford dither and delay because biodiversity loss is happening today and it is happening at a frightening rate. Left unchecked, the consequences will be catastrophic for us all," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said.

"Extinction is forever—so our action must be immediate."

Without action, 30% to 50% of all species could be lost by 2050, threatening economic and social prosperity, a report by The Nature Conservancy charity this month said. For example, losing bees, butterflies and other pollinators could cause a drop in annual agricultural output worth \$217 billion.

Scientists have said a minimum of 30% of the planet must be safeguarded, through protected areas and conservation. A draft of the Kunming agreement includes this pledge.

While Monday's pledges did not detail specific actions nor funding plans, protected areas are usually managed to ensure the long-term conservation of nature. This can mean curbing or banning commercial or extraction activities, ensuring unspoiled natural areas remain unspoiled, or restoring and maintaining ecosystems such as forests and wetlands.

"We have both the responsibility and the opportunity. We have the second largest land mass, a fifth of the world's freshwater, and the longest coastline in the world, that together are critical for biodiversity and for securing carbon in nature in the fight against climate change," Canada's Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson said.

Action pledge

In England, where 26% of land is already protected, the government said an extra 4,000 sq km would be safeguarded.

However, E.J. Milner-Gulland, professor of biodiversity at the University of Oxford said: "It's great to get another 4%, but that, in itself, is not going to be a transformative thing in this country—and particularly if there's no funding."

The EU's executive Commission has proposed a target for the 27-country bloc to legally protect 30% of its land and sea by 2030. That would safeguard 4% more land and 19% more sea than today.



Britain, Canada, EU throw weight behind 2030 biodiversity protection goal

Speaking at the United Nations' Nature Finance Forum, Germany's Federal Minister Gerd Mueller said it planned to increase its 500 million euros annual investment in protecting biodiversity in low- and middle-income countries, without elaborating.

Germany also plans set up a fund with public and private lenders to provide long-term financing to protected areas in those countries, he said.

A growing body of evidence suggests that it pays to protect nature. Expanding areas under conservation could yield a return of at least \$5 for every \$1 spent, according to a paper by more than 100 researchers, published in July.

The Nature Conservancy report said the world needed to spend an extra \$598 billion to \$824 billion each year over the next decade to reverse the extinction crisis.

Separately on Monday, more than 60 countries—also including EU states, Britain and Canada—committed to 10 actions to reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030, including integrating nature protection into COVID-19 recovery plans, increasing financing to protect the natural world, and clamping down on marine pollution and deforestation.

The pledge was signed by countries including Mexico, Bangladesh, Germany and Norway. Notable absences were Brazil and Indonesia—two hotspots of deforestation—and China and the United States, the world's top two emitters of greenhouse gases. — **Reuters**



China fires back at US over environment, South China Sea

AP

By [Associated Press](#)
September 28, 2020

BEIJING: US-China friction flared again on Monday, with Beijing firing back at accusations by Washington that it is a leading cause of global environmental damage and has reneged on its promise not to militarize the South China Sea.

A document issued last week by the State Department cited China's record on issues from greenhouse gas emissions to air and water and soil pollution, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking.

"While the Chinese people have suffered the worst environmental impacts of its actions, Beijing also threatens the global economy and global health by unsustainably exploiting natural resources and exporting its willful disregard for the environment," the document said.

Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus followed that with a statement Sunday saying China has "pursued a reckless and provocative militarization" of disputed outposts in the South China Sea's Spratly Islands, adding that China's ruling Communist Party "does not honor its words or commitments."

Foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin responded Monday by asking why the United States was withdrawing from the Paris agreement on climate change, calling the US the "biggest destroyer of international environmental cooperation."

Wang also said US military actions have made it "the biggest threat to the peace and stability of the South China Sea."

The trading of accusations comes amid disputes over trade, technology, Hong Kong and Taiwan, spying accusations against Chinese diplomats and Beijing's assertions of territorial claims in the South China Sea and elsewhere that have driven the bilateral relationship to its lowest point in decades.

The State Department's attack on China's environmental record follows China's announcement to the United Nations General Assembly last week that it aims to have carbon dioxide emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, a pledge that won applause from environmentalists.

The State Department cited China as "the largest emitter of greenhouse gases; the largest source of marine debris; the worst perpetrators of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and the world's largest consumer of trafficked wildlife and timber products. "



China fires back at US over environment, South China Sea

It singled out leader Xi Jinping's signature "Belt and Road" global infrastructure building initiative as lacking "clear environmental guidelines, safety standards, and worker protections," and said China is saddling host countries with environmental burdens and leading them away from sustainable development.

"Tragically, the Chinese Communist Party represses civil society and a free press, slowing changes that would benefit its citizens and people all over the world," the State Department document said.

Wang defended China's record on reducing pollution, touting China's promotion of new energy vehicles and creation of new forest cover.

The US is the "greatest danger to the global environment," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing. "We advise the US side to stop political manipulation and malicious slander, and to do more practical work and less trouble for the global environment."

In her statement, Ortagus cited Xi's pledge during a 2015 visit to the White House that "China does not intend to pursue militarization" of the Spratly Islands. China's deployment of anti-ship cruise missiles and advanced surveillance capabilities on the islands, some of them man-made, and the construction of fighter jet hangars and runways showed that it is using such outposts as "platforms of coercion to assert control over waters to which Beijing has no lawful maritime claim," Ortagus said.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea for itself and Wang said it was entitled to proceed as it saw fit on the islands, especially when it came to exercising its right to self-defense. Infrastructure on the islands also benefits the world, he said.

"The international community and regional countries must be highly vigilant and resolutely oppose the sinister plot of some US warmongers to sow chaos in the South China Sea and East Asia," Wang said.



Wildfires hit 3.6M acres of forests



By [Xinhua](#)

September 29, 2020

SAN FRANCISCO: More than 3.6 million acres of land have burned from wildfires in California so far this year, and 26 people have died and nearly 7,630 structures have been damaged or destroyed, according to the updated on Sunday (Monday in Manila) by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The state's biggest-ever fire, the August Complex in Mendocino, Humboldt and Lake counties, has been active for 41 days and grown to 873,079 acres (about 3,533 square kilometers) with 43 percent containment as of Sunday noon. The fire burned mainly through forest land, damaging or destroying 56 structures and causing thousands of evacuations. About 1,750 firefighters are battling the blaze.