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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR breathes down Manila Bay polluter's neck

Published April 29, 2021, 7:47 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is going after the owner of a vessel that had been pinpointed as the source of the untreated wastewater that was dumped in Manila Bay over the weekend.



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu (Screengrab from Zoom meeting)

A notice of violation will be slapped against the owner of MV Sarangani, a statement from the DENR said Thursday, April 29.

It was only last Monday, April 26, when DENR Sec. Roy A. Cimatu visited the priority area of the Manila Bay rehabilitation and discussed the incident with representatives of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the local government of Manila, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), Manila Bay Coordinating Office, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), and Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

“After the investigation, if the shipowner is found liable, the DENR will impose fines. Additionally, the owner has to rehabilitate the vessel to avoid destruction to the environment, and the pollution of our waters,” said Cimatu.

“We hope to get to the bottom of this issue during the investigation,” he stressed.

The samples taken from the actual discharge area showed an effluent fecal coliform count of 1,700 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL) based on the report of EMB, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said.

The EMB also reported that the ambient fecal coliform was rather high at 2,400 MPN/100 mL, as against the standard 100 MPN/100 mL. Meanwhile, the oil and grease traced to the vessel were at 19 milligrams per liter (mg/L), way in excess of the standard of 5 mg/L.

“We found out that the wastewater from the vessel is above the standard of the DENR. On this basis, we can now issue a notice of violation to the owner. A technical conference will be called to hear their side,” Leones explained.

“After this requirement of the due process, the EMB and the Coast Guard will be filing a case against the shipowner before the Manila Bay Task Force (MBTF),” he added.

Leones said the MBTF will convene and discuss the violations of the shipowner and the penalties to be imposed.



“After we have completed the process, the MBTF will convene and they will be adjudicating the violations of the shipowner, and hopefully they will be coming up with the appropriate sanctions, penalties, and imposition of fines against the shipowner,” he said.

Leones said the shipowner could be charged for the alleged violation of Republic Act (RA) 9275, also known as the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004; the Marine Pollution Decree of 1976; Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998; and other regulations of the PPA.



DENR to issue violation notice vs shipowner for wastewater discharge in Manila Bay

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#)(Philstar.com) - April 29, 2021 - 6:30pm



Sandbags were placed along the artificial white sand beach along Manila Bay amid the ongoing rehabilitation of the natural harbor by the DENR in this undated photo.

The STAR/Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said it will issue a notice of violation against the owner of a ship identified as the source of the untreated wastewater that was discharged in Manila Bay over the weekend.

In a release Thursday, Jonas Leones, DENR undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs, said the wastewater dumped by MV Sarangani was above the standard of the department.

According to the report of the agency's Environmental Management Bureau, samples taken from the discharge area showed an effluent fecal coliform count of 1,700 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 ml), which is higher than the standard effluence fecal coliform of 200 MPN/100 ml.

The ambient fecal coliform reached 2,400 MPN/100 ml, exceeding the standard 100 MPN/100 ml. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria in marine environments indicates that the water has been contaminated with the fecal material of man or other animals, according to the Water Research Center

Meanwhile, the oil and grease discharge was at 19 milligrams per liter (mg/l), surpassing the required 5 mg/l.

Possible charges

Leones said a technical conference will be conducted to hear the side of the owner of MV Sarangani. Then, the EMB and the Philippine Coast Guard are expected to file a case against the owner of the vessel before the Manila Bay Task Force.

"After we have completed the process, the MBTF will convene and they will be adjudicating the violations of the shipowner, and hopefully they will be coming up with the appropriate sanctions, penalties, and imposition of fines against the shipowner," he said.

The owner of the vessel could face charges for allegedly violating the Clean Water Act of 2004, the Marine Pollution Decree of 1976, Fisheries Code of 1998, and other regulations of the PPA.



The shipowner, if held liable, will pay a daily fine ranging between P10,000 and P200,000 from the start of the discharge until such time that it has cleaned up the affected area.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the owner will also need to rehabilitate the vessel to avoid the destruction of marine ecosystem.

To prevent similar incidents, the agency will implement a 2.5-kilometer no-entry zone for vessels, except for those delivering dolomite for the ongoing beach nourishment project, which is part of the ambitious rehabilitation plan for Manila Bay.



Shipowner faces violation notice for alleged discharge of untreated wastewater in Manila Bay

April 29, 2021 | 8:06 pm



PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Thursday that it will be issuing a notice of violation against the owner of *MV Sarangani*, which was identified as the source of untreated wastewater dumped at the Manila Bay over the weekend.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu visited the area Monday where he discussed the incident with the coast guard and local authorities. In a media release issued on Thursday, he was quoted as saying that they hope to get to the bottom of the issue.

Samples taken from the discharge area showed a level of effluent fecal coliform at 1,700 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL), said DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones.

The standard effluent fecal coliform level is at 200 MPN/100 mL.

Meanwhile, data from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) also showed that ambient fecal coliform stood at 2,400 MPN/100 mL, higher than the standard 100 MPN/100 mL. Oil and grease traced to *MV Sarangani* reached 19 milligrams per liter (mg/L), which exceeded the standard of 5 mg/L.

"We found out that the wastewater from the vessel is above the standard of the DENR. On this basis, we can now issue a Notice of Violation to the owner," Mr. Leones said.

A technical conference will be held to hear *MV Sarangani's* side.

Once due process is completed, the EMB and coast guard will file a case against the shipowner before the Manila Bay Task Force.

Mr. Leones said the shipowner may face charges for violating the Clean Water Act, the Marine Pollution Decree, and Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, among others. "If held liable, based on the provisions of the Clean Water Act, the vessel owner has to pay a daily fine ranging from P10,000 to P200,000 from the start of the discharge until such time that it has cleaned up the affected area," the DENR said.

To prevent similar incidents, Mr. Cimatu said the department will implement a 2.5 kilometer no-entry zone for vessels, except for those that will deliver dolomite for the DENR's ongoing beach nourishment project in the bay. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/shipowner-faces-violation-notice-for-alleged-discharge-of-untreated-wastewater-in-manila-bay/?fbclid=IwAR3hao-o8mzClBiqOv5cEs7psbI01RihG-Y7cf1FlhzbNOVF4g8bin9J6vo>



Sandbags were placed along the artificial white sand beach along Manila Bay amid the ongoing rehabilitation of the natural harbor by the DENR in this undated photo.

The STAR/Edd Gumban, file

DENR to ship owner: Explain Manila Bay wastewater discharge

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 30, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will issue a notice of violation to the owner of a ship found to be the source of untreated wastewater observed in Manila Bay over the weekend, an official said yesterday.

In a statement, Secretary Roy Cimatu said the issuance of the notice of violation is meant to give the owner of M/V Sarangani a chance to air his side in connection with the DENR's ongoing investigation.

"After the investigation, if the shipowner is found liable, the DENR will impose fines. The owner has to rehabilitate the vessel to avoid destruction to the environment and the pollution of our waters," he said.

Cimatu ordered a joint investigation with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority after personnel from the Manila City government's department of public service observed a yellowish discharge during their daily cleanup of Manila Bay's shoreline along Roxas Boulevard.

The PCG reported that liquid waste was coming from Sarangani's cooling system.

DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said the samples taken by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) from the discharge area showed an effluent fecal coliform count of 1,700 most probable number per 100 milliliters. This is higher than the standard effluent fecal coliform of 200 MPN/100 mL.

The EMB also reported that the oil and grease traced to the vessel were at 19 milligrams per liter, exceeding the standard of 5 mg/L.

Leones said that after the investigation, the Manila Bay Task Force will convene to discuss filing charges and imposing fines against the ship owner for violating the Clean Water Act of 2004, the Marine Pollution Degree of 1976, Fisheries Code of 1998 and other regulations of the Philippine Ports Authority.

The ship owner faces a daily fine ranging from P10,000 to P200,000 from the start of the discharge until the affected area is cleaned up, Leones said.

The DENR will impose a no-entry zone of 2.5 kilometers from the shoreline for all vessels in Manila Bay, except for those that deliver dolomite for the ongoing beach nourishment project of the DENR.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/04/30/2094729/denr-ship-owner-explain-manila-bay-wastewater-discharge>



Water dumped by yacht into Manila Bay contains oil, grease: DENR

By **Margret Fermin** -April 29, 2021

According to the results of a laboratory [test](#) on [water](#) samples released this Wednesday, the water dumped by a yacht in Manila Bay was found to be oily, greasy and with a high fecal coliform level, based on the results of a laboratory test on water samples released this Wednesday the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ([DENR](#)).

It turns out that the oil and grease of the discarded dirty water are 19 milligrams per liter, against the normal level of 5 milligrams per liter, the DENR said.

Its fecal coliform level reaches 1,700 MPN per 100 milligrams, which is far from the normal level of 200 MPN per 100 milligrams.

Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said it was not just engine grease but also grease or oil used inside the yacht.

The DENR will file a Notice of Violation with yacht owner Emil Neri and invite him to explain at a technical conference.

"Next week, after we have completed the process, magko-convene na yung Manila Bay task force. And they will be adjudicating the violations of the shipowner. And hopefully, they will be coming up with the appropriate sanctions, penalties and impositions of the fines against the shipowner," explained Leones.

Neri also allegedly violated the Clean Water Act, Marine Pollution Decree, and Fisheries Code.

Water dumped by yacht into Manila Bay contains oil, grease: DENR

Neri initially refused to give a statement and said he was still waiting for a copy of the laboratory test results.

Meanwhile, the Philippine [Coast Guard](#) will also monitor yachts and ships that are outside 2.5 kilometers from the seawall of Manila Bay, according to the official.

The Manila Yacht Club is also under surveillance.

"We are monitoring the water quality dito sa yacht club. Itong yacht club, at Philippine Navy at Harbor Square, we are monitoring their outfalls. At may nakita kaming outfalls na nag-exceed ng ating standard, at na-issue-han na ito ng LLDA ng notice of violations," it said.

"We have also identified illegal pipes dito sa harbor square. We identified mga illegal outfalls. We are now scheduling the sealing of the illegal pipes."

Leones asked private yachts and ships to cooperate with the DENR while the beach nourishment project in Manila Bay, which is expected to be completed in June or July, is still underway.



Food-for-garbage community pantry is right up DENR exec's alley

Published April 29, 2021, 3:53 PM by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda has called the village youth council of a town in Rizal province as an “inspiration”.



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (Photo from Antiporda’s Facebook)

This, after the group of young officials found a way to marry the notion of environmental activism with the now-familiar community pantry initiative.

“Basura kapalit ay pagkain? Pwedeng-pwede ‘yan dito! (Food in exchange for garbage? That is very doable here!)” Antiporda wrote on his Facebook Thursday afternoon, April 29 as he marveled at the genius of the community pantry organizers in Barangay Hulo, Pililla, Rizal.

“Isang inspirasyon ang Sangguniang Kabataan ng Brgy. Hulo, Pililla, Rizal nang itayo nila ang community pantry na may barter system: solid waste para sa pagkain (The Sangguniang Kabataan of Brgy. Hulo, Pililla, Rizal has become an inspiration for setting up a community pantry that employs a barter system: food in exchange for solid waste),” he said.

“Ayon sa kanila, ito ay upang maengganyo ang kanilang komunidad na ihiwalay ng tama ang kanilang mga basura (According to them, this is meant to entice the community into segregating their garbage),” added the undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns.



Antiporda: 'Plastic' people a bigger problem than plastic in fight vs. waste

For Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, the biggest contributor to the country's waste management problem isn't plastic; rather, it's the people who claim that they are allies of the...



“Sa simpleng pamamaraang ito, tunay na malaki ang maitutulong nito sa ating kalikasan at masusugpuan ang krisis sa ating basura. #WasteNoMoreWasteNoTime (Through this simple deed, we help the environment thrive and at the same time eradicate the garbage crisis),” he said.

Antiporda also sits as alternate chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).



Pililla, Rizal community pantry barter food for recyclable trash

Published April 29, 2021, 8:44 AM

by [Nel Andrade](#)

PILILLA, Rizal — Residents of a village here can barter their plastic bottles, wrappers of chips, and other recyclable materials for food at a community pantry organized by a youth group.



Photo from Sangguniang Kabataan- Brgy Hulo, Pililla, Rizal's Facebook page)

In a Facebook post, Sangguniang Kabataan-Brgy Hulo, Pililla, Rizal said that its 'Barter Community Pantry' (BCP) in Barangay Hulo aims to implement proper waste segregation as the youth group is promoting a zero waste community in the village.

For every 20 pieces of plastic bottles or a half kilo of plastic wrappers such as empty shampoo sachets or wrappers of chips, a resident could bring home a kilo of rice.

To get a sachet of instant coffee and a piece of instant noodles, a resident should have seven pieces of plastic bottles or ¼ kilo of plastic wrappers or seven clean tin cans for bartering at the BCP.

Eight bottles of plastics or ¼ kilo of plastic wrappers or eight clean tin cans can be exchanged for a piece of canned goods.

To get two pieces of eggs, or a bottle of condiments; a toothpaste; shampoo; soap or a few string beans, a resident can exchange five plastic bottles or ¼ kilo of plastic wrappers or five clean tin cans at the community pantry.

As the BCP of the youth's group in Barangay Hulo is advocating zero garbage policy in the community, those who would like to avail of the items should bring their own eco bag and container for condiments.

"May pagkain sa basura, (There is food in trash). Segregate now! Help our Mother Nature," is the group's slogan.

Those who will participate in the community pantry, including the donors and those bartering their trash for food items, are called "Climate Warriors."

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/04/29/pililla-rizal-community-pantry-barthers-food-for-recyclable-trash/>



MGB eyes having more user-friendly geologic maps

By Catherine Teves April 29, 2021, 6:40 pm



MANILA – The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) aims to make its geologic maps even easier to use.

The maps are available to the public in "JPEG" format but some MGB clients are requesting to have these documents also in shapefile format which is a geospatial vector data format for geographic information system (GIS) software, said geologist Kevin Tee from the agency's General Geology Section.

He noted MGB is looking into the matter since such clients still need to convert maps they bought from the agency into shapefile-formatted documents, increasing their workload.

"Having ready-to-use shapefile-formatted maps will help facilitate their work," he said.

There is clamor for the shapefile – a simple, nontopological format for storing the geometric location and attribute information of geographic features. Geographic features in a shapefile can be represented by points, lines, or polygons (areas) – since this is more flexible than JPEG and is easier to use with geographic information system software, Tee noted.

Ease of use is important so the public can better access information in MGB's geologic maps, he said.

He said among such information is data on different rock types in an area.

Geologic maps are used in activities like land use planning, geohazard preparation as well as water, energy and mineral resource development, he noted.

Tee said MGB continues preparing geologic maps of different areas nationwide.

MGB is also updating its existing geologic maps to reflect the latest conditions in areas these documents cover, he said.

He said geologic mapping of the country may conclude within this decade. (*PNA*)



Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) -10 Regional Director Reynaldo S. Digamo discusses "Balsa" operations in Misamis Oriental. (JAKA/PIA10)

EMB-10 calls for responsible 'balsa' operation in MisOr

By Jan Albert K. Araña Published on April 29, 2021

MISAMIS ORIENTAL, April 28 (PIA)--The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-10 during a recently held "Talakayan sa PIA" media forum, has called on "balsa" operators in the beaches of Misamis Oriental to be responsible enough for their daily operations.

"Balsa" or wooden rafts used as floating cottages have grown in numbers and some patrons have been allegedly throwing their wastes into the sea.

"We do not oppose any economic activity through tourism. What raised the alarm is the apparent negligence in disposing of garbage by the patrons who had come to board the balsa," EMB-10 Regional Director Reynaldo S. Digamo said.

Aside from the wastes thrown into the sea, visible damage to the corals was observed by scuba divers because of the anchors that hold the "balsa" in place.

"I have talked to some scuba divers and they were alarmed to see damaged corals aside from the wastes and plastics," he added.

Digamo also disclosed that there is only one resort owner located in San Jose, Gingoog City that had applied for an Environmental Compliance Certificate as operator of the balsa.

The condition that the EMB has given to the said operator is to have his balsa afloat a few meters from the shoreline where there are no corals. The regulation in distance is to avoid any damage to the corals due to the anchors of the balsa, and to avoid damaging the corals like what happened in the municipalities of Laguindingan and Alubijid.

EMB has encouraged the operators to have an incentive system for their patrons such as having an initial deposit of P100 on top of the balsa rental fees. The deposit will be then collected by the patrons after they present to the management that they have brought back their wastes to the shore as they leave the balsa. In this way, the economic activity brought by balsa in the municipality will continue and at the same time the environment is being taken care of and the wastes are being managed. (JAKA/PIA10)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1073614>



ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Korean Embassy to team up for marine cleanup in PH

Published April 29, 2021, 3:29 PM

by [Jonathan Hicap](#)

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Korean Embassy in the Philippines are exploring possible areas for collaboration on marine cleanup in the Philippines.



A clean-up vessel, which will be donated by the Korean government under the KOICA project, is projected to arrive in the Philippines late next year. (Photo: Korea Marine Environment Management Corp./ MANILA BULLETIN)

This includes raising awareness on the issue of coastal and marine conservation in the Philippines where marine plastic pollution is causing environmental damage and posing health risks.

At present, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Korean government's development cooperation agency, has launched a marine litter management program in the Philippines in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippines Coast Guard (PCG).

The multi-year assistance from 2021 to 2025 is focused on establishing a marine litter monitoring system, stationing a cleanup vessel near Manila Bay, and enhancing marine litter management capacity in the Philippines.

“Korea is glad to be contributing to the marine environmental protection in the Philippines, a country widely known for its beautiful coral reefs and aquatic biodiversity. Korea hopes that the marine litter management assistance will help mitigate risks posed by the increasing marine debris problem that many experts claim is undermining the marine landscape of the Philippine archipelago,” said Korean Ambassador to the Philippines Inchul Kim.

A cleanup vessel, which will be donated by the Korean government under the KOICA project, is expected to arrive in the Philippines late next year tentatively upon completion of necessary procurement procedures. The vessel will be the first marine vessel dedicated to collect marine litter in the Philippines.

DENR noted that there is evident presence of marine litters or plastics floating at Manila Bay, exacerbated during the Habagat season (wet season) or strong typhoons, that are washed ashore. Meanwhile, as the World Bank Group recently published in March 2021, more than 75 percent of the material value of the plastics, equivalent to \$6 billion per year, is lost across three countries of Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand due to absence of recycling.

Under a partnership between the Korean government and the World Bank Group, the World Bank's study on the Philippines was funded by the Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF) in an effort to support the mainstreaming of green growth through the World Bank's lending operations.

“Korea will continue to take part in the global efforts to address environmental issues through various multilateral and bilateral cooperation, ranging from hosting the upcoming 2021 P4G Summit and collaborating with various UN agencies and international organizations to bilateral development cooperation with the Philippines on the protection of marine environment and biodiversity,” said Ambassador Kim.



Korea will be hosting the “Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals (P4G) 2030” Summit on May 30-31 in Korea, uniting heads of states, CEOs, investors and civil society leaders.

The Korean government has also been in close cooperation with various other international organizations to contribute to the preservation of marine environment in the region.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said these possible partnerships with Korea on marine litter management would be aligned with the priorities of the ASEAN, under the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment.



Green changes for a sustainable future

By: [Dindo Manhit](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:04 AM April 30, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the interconnectedness of public health, the economy, the environment, and society, and stressed the need to aggressively move toward a “green” economy. Private and public enterprises are now embracing the synergistic and sustainable benefits of environment, social, and governance (ESG) principles.

Through effective policies, impact-sensitive business practices, and the right adoption of technologies, we should be able to responsibly and efficiently utilize our natural resources, control pollution, and become responsible stewards of the environment. A survey conducted by Pulse Asia early this year found that aside from economic concerns, stopping the destruction and abuse of the environment was cited by the respondents as one of the most urgent national concerns.

The Stratbase ADR Institute and the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST) recently held a virtual townhall discussion on “Moving Towards a Sustainable Future Through ESG,” where the private sector highlighted their ESG initiatives to create a more sustainable economy.

At the forum, Dr. Carlos Primo “CP” David, Stratbase ADRi trustee and PBEST convener, emphasized that businesses possess the characteristics needed to solve environmental and societal problems, such as being more efficient, using monitoring and evaluation tools, and embracing technology and innovation.

The pandemic has only accelerated the shift to digital technologies as the convenient and safe medium to make goods and services available despite the mobility and supply chain disruptions of the lockdowns. For industries and consumers, the digital realm is now the primary medium for all transactions. Digitalization is central not just for commerce, but also as the solution toolbox for implementing the many objectives of the sustainability spectrum under ESG. Efficiency, connectivity, transparency, and accessibility are some of the benefits of digital transformation, and they are also the requisites for a viable green ecosystem.

Environment Undersecretary Analiza Teh stressed the need for ICT in accelerating climate change action, and how technology is essential for climate research and monitoring and for climate change mitigation. “If you want to really pursue or achieve a sustainable future, the solution is the promotion of transformational change to restore the balance between natural systems and human systems, which human activities have destroyed,” she said.

For climate action, Renato Redentor Constantino of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities pointed out that “The pandemic is an opportunity to mainstream climate concerns to make it into long-term development strategies, because we are provided with a window where we can change things and directions for the better, instead of going back to where we were in January last year.”

Through an inclusive and all-of-society approach to achieve a green economic recovery, we can bounce back from the COVID-19 crisis. All stakeholders—government, businesses, civil society, consumers—have a responsibility as inhabitants of this planet to do their part in addressing climate change, amid the challenges and complexities of the economic crisis and the pandemic.



The model of a closed loop circular economy to efficiently manage resources and waste is a viable framework that will only work with an all-of society approach. The growing solid waste pollution in our oceans is the consequence of gaping leaks in cycles of production, distribution, and consumption. In the long run, efficient resource and waste management bolsters the sustainability and profitability of business operations, and that will in turn support gainful employment opportunities for the people.

Becoming a sustainable and prosperous green economy may seem like an overly daunting objective, as the country is mired in a pandemic and the catastrophic prospects of climate change. But we must overcome the paralysis of fear and muster our strength and resiliency as a people. The hard lessons we encounter must be used to drive each other forward to build a better world.

Dindo Manhit is the founder and managing director of Stratbase Group.



Solon wants stronger role of Congress, DOF in taxing mines

By Filane Mikee Cervantes [April 29, 2021, 5:09 pm](#)



MANILA – The chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on Thursday said that Congress and the Department of Finance (DOF) should have a stronger role in determining new mining agreements to improve government revenues from mining under Executive Order 130.

This is part of Albay Rep. Joey Salceda's recommendations to Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez regarding actions that the Congress and DOF should take to complement EO 130, which lifts the nine-year moratorium on new mining agreements.

In separate aides-memoire, Salceda said Congress should enact the baseline for negotiations of mining production sharing agreements (MPSA) so that the state never gets shortchanged, while the DOF can be the main negotiator in the fiscal provisions of the MPSAs.

He argued that while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the expert in natural resource management, it is not the best negotiator for fiscal provisions.

"When it comes to taxing mining, Congress and the DOF are the main government bodies. So, I think EO 130 can be improved, by legislation and by action of the DOF and the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), so that it is not the DENR alone that negotiates mining agreements," Salceda said.

He was referring to the clause in the EO that allows the DENR power to "formulate the terms and conditions in the new mineral agreements that will maximize government revenues and share from production, including the possibility of declaring these areas as mineral revenues to obtain appropriate royalties in accordance with existing laws rules and regulations."

He noted that the role of the DOF in negotiating new revenue-sharing agreements is not clearly specified, stressing that the absence of a clear role for the agency in this matter is a serious risk to the government's position, especially without the downside protection accorded by a statutory baseline.

"The DOF is the main government body for that (negotiating fiscal provisions), and Congress is the tax policymaker of the country," Salceda said.

He also suggested having the new agreements taxed at better rates for the government, as he stressed the need for a new fiscal regime on mining to become a revenue stream to fund the government's coronavirus disease (Covid-19) response and recovery efforts.

He said House Bill No. 6135 mainly builds on the proposal of the DOF, including the crucial administrative provisions on ring fencing, the institutionalization of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and mandatory registration of small-scale miners for tax purposes.

Under the proposed regime, he said the government will generate PHP7.2 billion on the first year of imposition and PHP37.9 billion over the next 5 years.



"We need the money for Covid-19 relief. And more importantly, the people deserve more money from the mines. This is an extractive industry. Whatever is mined from Philippine soil cannot be recovered in the foreseeable future. We should at least tax the mining industry correctly," Salceda said.

Salceda proposed that mines be taxed corporate income tax (CIT), excise tax, royalties for indigenous peoples, local business tax, real property tax, and windfall profits taxes.

He said a natural resource trust fund should also be established out of mining taxes to help ensure consistency of government support for mining communities even when commodity prices are low

Furthermore, Salceda said mines should be ring-fenced from other units of mining holding companies to prevent transfer pricing, and to institutionalize in the law the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and mandatory registration of small-scale miners for tax purposes.

"We have to tax mining right. Otherwise, miners will simply extract wealth from our land without the proportional benefit to the public. Those who take from the country should give enough to the people," Salceda said.

Duterte signed EO No. 130 on April 14, amending Section 4 of EO No. 79, s. 2012 that prohibits the grant of mineral agreements "until a new legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect".

"The moratorium on mineral agreements under Section 4, EO No. 79 is hereby lifted," Section 1 of the amended EO 130 read.

Under the new EO, Section 4 of EO No. 79, which was signed by former President Benigno Aquino III in 2012, shall be amended to read as follows: "Section 4. Grant of Mineral Agreements. The Government may enter into new mineral agreements, subject to compliance with Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and other applicable laws, rules, and regulation." *(PNA)*



MICC Audit To Cover All Quarry Operations, 4 BARMM Mine Sites



BYBERNADETTE D. NICOLAS

APRIL 30, 2021



Finance Undersecretary Bayani H. Agabin

The interagency Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) will conduct its third round of audit in October that would cover quarry operations in the country and four mines in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Finance Undersecretary Bayani H. Agabin told the BusinessMirror that they are expecting the third round of audit to be finished by April next year. “Target is around April of next year, barring any unforeseen delays,” he said.

The Department of Finance (DOF) on Thursday said in a news statement that four mines within BARMM would also be covered under the third audit. But Agabin said the audit would also cover other quarry operations in the country.

“The [scope of this audit on] mining will be in BARMM. Quarrying covers all, even those outside BARMM,” he said.

Agabin explained that they have already covered mine sites outside BARMM in the two reviews that they have undertaken previously.

As for quarrying, Agabin said they have yet to still determine how many operations in the country will be covered under the third round of audit.

According to DOF, the evaluation will cover technical, legal, social, economic, and environmental aspects of the mining operations—the same framework used in the first two audits done by the MICC on 50 mining operations across the country starting in 2018. The first phase of the MICC review was done from February to August 2018, while the second was conducted from October 2019 to December last year.

Agabin also told the BusinessMirror that the MICC found in its second round of audit that “mines audited were generally compliant.”

“We plan to have a road show to present findings,” he said.

The DOF said the Intergovernmental Relations Body (IGRB) agreed that the MICC, together with the representatives and experts from the Bangsamoro Government, would conduct an audit on the operations of mines in BARMM.



Co-chaired by Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III and BARMM Education Minister Mohagher Iqbal, the IGRB reached the decision during its 7th meeting held last March 26.

The Bangsamoro government agreed during that meeting that four mines in BARMM would be included in the third round of audit.

For its part, the IGRB said the participation of Bangsamoro government experts and representatives in the audit will provide the body with a baseline on the status of mining activities in the Bangsamoro region and allow the transfer of skills and technology in the evaluation of mining operations.

The IGRB also said experts from BARMM may also be included in future mining audits outside of the autonomous region to further develop their skills and technical capacity.

MICC was constituted in 2012 but it was only during the Duterte administration that the review or audit of mining operations was initiated by the council under the co-chairmanship of Dominguez and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the DOF said.



Gov't to audit mining firms in BARMM

By: [Karl R. Ocampo](#) - Reporter / [@kocampoINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:06 AM April 30, 2021

The interagency Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) will audit mines within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) for the first time, this after President Duterte ordered to stop all mining operations on a small island in Tawi-Tawi for their adverse impact on the environment.

The MICC, cochaired by Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, has audited 50 mining operations across the country in two rounds since 2018. Given the autonomy of BARMM, the mining firms in the region were excluded.

However, the third round of the audit, to begin in October, will cover four mines within BARMM, the Department of Finance said in a statement. Representatives and experts from the Bangsamoro government will be involved in the audit, it added.

The evaluation will cover the technical, legal, social, economic and environmental aspects of the mining operations—the same framework that guided MICC in its previous audits.

It was in January when Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said that Mr. Duterte had ordered the suspension of a mining firm in Tumbagaan Island in Tawi-Tawi over reports that the area had been “completely devastated” due to mining activities.

The province houses some of the country’s nickel projects but is not being monitored by the Mines and Geoscience Bureau as it falls within BARMM.

According to the Intergovernmental Relations Body—which facilitates the relations of the Bangsamoro regional government and the Philippine national government—the audit will allow MICC to impart some of its skills and technology to BARMM in the evaluation of mining operations, while Bangsamoro experts can provide the body with a baseline on the status of mining activities in their region.

It added that experts from BARMM might also be tapped for future mining audits outside the region to further develop their technical capability.



New mineral reporting code seen implemented this year

April 29, 2021 | 7:51 pm



FULL IMPLEMENTATION of the changes to the 2007 Philippine Mineral Reporting Code (PMRC) to comply with international reporting standards is expected within the year, according to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. (PSE).

PSE Chief Operating Officer Roel A. Refran said at a virtual briefing Thursday that the proposed 2020 version of the PMRC could be implemented by that timeframe.

"The full implementation, hopefully, will take effect within the year, including the provision for the transitory period which is two years from approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)," Mr. Refran said.

"We are already in discussions with the SEC on the finalized version. We are just going to finalize a couple of regulatory issues as they pertain to PSE," he added.

The PMRC Committee initiated the review of the current reporting code in February 2019 to make it more internationally compliant.

Ciceron A. Angeles, Jr., the PMRC Committee chair, said at the briefing that the 2007 PMRC sets out the minimum standards, recommendations, and guidelines for the public reporting of exploration results, mineral resources, and ore reserves.

Mr. Angeles added that the 2007 PMRC is applicable to all solid mineral raw materials such as coal, gold, nickel, and chromite, but does not include liquid or gaseous materials such as oil.

"It is required for all listed mining and mineral exploration companies in the PSE or when applying for listing with the PSE," Mr. Angeles said.

However, Mr. Angeles said there is a need to revise the 2007 PMRC to bring it in line with major global mineral reporting codes such as 2019 Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards.

Some of the changes include in the proposed 2020 PMRC include changing the term "competent person" to "accredited competent person;" changing reporting terminology from ore reserve to mineral reserve; introduction of technical studies such as the scoping, pre-feasibility, and feasibility studies; and the addition of other non-technical aspects of reporting like commodity pricing, among others.

The PSE also proposed changes to the 2007 PMRC such as mitigation and remediation plans to solve environmental, social, and health and safety impacts; and the inclusion of a consent form to indicate the accredited competent person agrees to the public disclosure of the report.

Dennis A. Quintero, Philippines Australia Business Council chairman, noted that the mining industry currently accounts 6.3% or \$4.38 billion of Philippine exports, while its share of gross domestic product is 0.6% or P124.5 billion.



Chamber of Mines of the Philippines Chairman Gerard H. Brimo said the revision to the PMRC is timely after the signing of Executive Order (EO) No. 130 on April 14, which lifted the nine-year moratorium on new mining projects.

However, Mr. Brimo said the return of foreign investors will take time despite the lifting of the moratorium, adding that the ban on open-pit mining should be lifted.

He cited a report released by a Canadian think-tank, Fraser Institute, which showed that the Philippines was unranked in its 2019 and 2020 surveys for attractive and stable mining jurisdictions.

"The ban on open-pit mining, a standard mining method practiced all over the mining world, needs to be lifted, as without this, the lifting of the moratorium on new mining projects alone will not allow the industry to achieve its full potential," Mr. Brimo said.

"We want to be able to attract quality investors with substantial resources and expertise. We can only achieve that if the fiscal regime for mining is competitive, keeping in mind that we are competing with other mineralized countries for investment in this sector," he added.

The ban on open-pit mining method was implemented by the late former Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez in 2017 due to its adverse impact on the environment.

Meanwhile, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said the draft implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of EO 130 is making progress, adding that he was able to recently discuss the draft with Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

"Mr. Cimatu said the IRR should be issued soon and he is ready to sign it. We shall soon be inviting stakeholders as part of due process to hear their comments, suggestions, and inputs to this draft IRR. It may (happen) next week or the following week," Mr. Moncano said.

"The MGB will strive to have this IRR forwarded to the Office of the Secretary for his signature as soon as possible. This IRR will come in the form of a department administrative order," he added.

Asked to identify companies or projects affected by the lifting of the moratorium, Mr. Moncano said the MGB is still weighing whether to release the list.

"We need to balance the interests of the mining companies. There were opinions that if we publicized these names to the media, they might be targets of anti-mining protests," Mr. Moncano said.

"We are seriously looking at providing these names to the media and to the public but we are also looking at the possibility that these mining projects will be opposed by these anti-mining groups," he added.

In 2020, the MGB estimated the value of metallic mining output to have risen 1.13% to P132.21 billion, of which nickel ore and its by-products accounted for 51.8% or P68.48 billion; gold 36% or P47.60 billion; copper 11.25% or P14.88 billion; and silver, chromite, and iron P1.26 billion.

— **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



COMP Lauds Move To Revise Minerals Reporting Code



BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

APRIL 30, 2021



In Photo: A miner walks along a road stained by red nickel laterite near a mining operation in Surigao del Norte on April 9, 2017. The Philippines exports more nickel ore than any country in the world.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) on Thursday welcomed the proposed revision of the 2007 Philippine Minerals Reporting Code (PMRC) that would elevate local minerals reporting at par with globally accepted standards.

Speaking in an online forum on the Philippine Minerals Reporting Code, COMP Chairman Gerard H. Brimo said the revision and the discussion by industry players are timely as it came two weeks after the lifting of the nine-year moratorium on new mining projects under Executive Order (EO) 130.

“We, in the industry and those dependent on it for livelihood, are of course most grateful for this move. The investment community and the business sector in general also welcome this development, as it is acknowledged that the large-scale mining sector can contribute substantially to economic growth if allowed to do so. This is particularly critical at this time when our economy has been badly clobbered by the pandemic, so many people have lost their jobs, and government needs additional revenues,” Brimo said in his welcome remarks. Under the Philippine Stock Exchange’s (PSE) Consolidated Listing and Disclosure Rules, a public report is required in accordance with the PMRC if it includes a statement on Exploration Results (ER), Exploration Targets (ET), Mineral Resources or Mineral Reserves (MR).

Public reports are prepared for the purpose of informing investors or potential investors and their advisers on ERs, MRs, including annual and quarterly company reports; media releases, information memoranda, technical papers; web site postings, public presentations; and corporate disclosures to the PSE. Listed companies are obliged to update and disclose material information to the accredited competent person, or ACP, even after the submission of the public reports.

‘Major Step’

Martin Antonio G. Zamora, president and CEO of Nickel Asia Corp. agreed with Brimo that the webinar could not have come at a better time with the issuance of Executive Order 130, which the former described, as “a major step towards creating an atmosphere where mining can indeed flourish.”



“With PMRC 2020, our national mineral reporting standards will finally be on par with globally recognized reporting standards such as Australia’s JORC 2012 and Canada’s CIM 2014; hopefully, this will result in membership in CRIRSCO sometime in the near future,” he added. According to Zamora, when national standards are seen to be on par with the best in the world, the investment community, in turn, begins to take greater interest.

He noted that PMRC 2020 would now feature performance indicators for Environment, Social and Governance or ESG requirements. “This is a timely, game-changing enhancement, which will surely result in the elevation of our industry’s reputation and the widening of the investor base for PSE-listed mining companies,” he said.

Brimo, however, believes that while the lifting of the moratorium has been noticed by foreign investors, their return to the country’s shores may take some time.

“In 2018, a survey conducted by the Canadian think tank, the Fraser Institute, ranked the Philippines in the bottom seven out of 91 mining jurisdictions in terms of attractiveness and stability of mining policies, and last in terms of investment attractiveness in the Australia/Oceania region. The Philippines was in fact not ranked at all in the 2019 and 2020 surveys as there was no interest from international mining investors that participate in the survey every year,” he lamented.

To revitalize the industry and set it on a growth path so that the government’s objective of increasing its contribution to the country’s economy can be achieved, Brimo said, foreign and even local investors must be assured that policies that will be put in place after EO 130 are proper, stable, and will not change in mid stream.

Lift Ban On Open-Pit Mining As Well

Moreover, Brimo underscored the need to lift the ban on open-pit mining method as the lifting of the moratorium on new mining projects alone will not allow the industry to achieve its full potential.

“The ban on open-pit mining, a standard mining method practiced all over the mining world, needs to be lifted, as without this, the lifting of the moratorium on new mining projects alone will not allow the industry to achieve its full potential,” he said.

Brimo said that country’s competitiveness as a mining investment destination should also be a top priority.

“We want to be able to attract quality investors with substantial resources and expertise. We can only achieve that if the fiscal regime for mining is competitive, keeping in mind that we are competing with other mineralized countries for investments in this sector,” he said.

Meanwhile, Brimo expressed concern over the illegal mining operations around the country whose destructive activities are blamed on responsible mining companies.

He said the public, in general, does not distinguish between the large-scale mining sector and the informal sector, which results in an industry with a poor image.

Moreover, accidents that sometimes occur in other large mining countries and in other industries as well should not be blamed on the large-scale miners, saying that when such accidents happen, remedial action is taken and companies find ways to avoid their recurrence.



“With respect to the large-scale sector, it is acknowledged that our country has one of the most stringent mining laws, rules, and regulations that are being enforced to mitigate the impact on the environment and host communities, including progressive and final mine rehabilitation in order to restore the environment and determine alternative uses of the land,” Brimo said.

Brimo noted that the Philippines is one of the few mining countries that requires setting aside funds for social development programs, which are approved in consultation with our host communities and regulators.

“In most other mining countries, it is voluntary. The industry’s positive impact on host communities can be clearly seen in regions around the country where mining has been allowed to flourish, such as in Caraga and MIMAROPA, and in some municipalities that, despite their isolated location, have become first class municipalities as a result of a large scale mining operation in their area,” he pointed out.

Moreover, Brimo said the Philippines is one of the few mining countries that require approval from Indigenous Peoples if we want to work in their areas, with compensation before being given consent to do mining.

“We are also one of the few mining countries that require every large-scale metallic operator to secure ISO certifications on environmental management. Many of our members have gone beyond and also obtained certifications pertaining to safety and health, among others,” he said.

Yet, despite the stringent regulatory requirements, member companies of the COMP have agreed to voluntarily adopt the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) program, a global environment and social performance standard developed in Canada that compels our members to operate beyond mere compliance by using global mining best practices, he said.

“We are in the first in Asia to do so. Australia, one of the world’s most significant mining jurisdictions, adopted TSM last month. I understand Indonesia is also looking to adopt this program. We have also subscribed to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, or EITI, to further demonstrate our commitment to the highest standards of transparency and accountability in business. The Philippines was the first out of 51 implementing EITI countries found to have satisfactorily met the 2017 EITI Standard for fiscal transparency in the extractives sector,” he stressed.

Lastly, Brimo reminded mining detractors to realize that people depend on metals and minerals for just about everything in our modern life. “The clamor should not be against mining, but against irresponsible mining. We are all for that,” he ended.



Lifting ban on new mining deals

Indeed, it is everyone's hope that the economic ends of the EO be achieved but without creating a negative effect on Philippine ecology and the indigenous community in the periphery.

Published 5 hours ago on April 30, 2021 12:30 AM

By [Dean Nilo Divina](#)



Last 14 April 2021, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Executive Order (EO) 130, amending Section 4 of EO 79 s. 2012 that prohibits the signing of new mineral agreements until a new law changing revenue sharing schemes takes effect.

To recall, EO 79 was signed by Former President Benigno Aquino III in 2012 to institutionalize and implement reforms in the Philippine mining sector and provide policies and guidelines to ensure environmental protection and responsible mining in the utilization of mineral resources.

Almost a decade after, the hit of the Covid-19 pandemic to the national economy pressed President Duterte, who initially frowned mining at the start of his Presidency, to recognize the economic potential of the mining industry in boosting the country's revenues.

After realizing that the Philippines, an archipelago rich in minerals like gold, silver, copper, nickel, chromite, and complex ores, has only tapped less than five percent of its mineral resources, EO 130 was issued to optimize the mining industry as one of the initiatives of the government in heightening the country's economic recovery effort amid the unprecedented global pandemic.

EO 130 lifted the nine-year moratorium on mineral agreements, consequently allowing the government, through the the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to enter into mineral agreements, subject to compliance with the Republic Act (RA) 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

EO 130 assured that during the nine-year ban, the DENR has thoroughly reviewed the regulatory framework of the mining industry and has adopted additional rules, regulations and policies that provide for and enhance environmental safeguards ensuring compliance by mining companies with laws on environmental protection.

Moving forward, EO 130 mandates the DENR to formulate terms and conditions in the new mineral agreements to maximize government revenues from mining operations. It is also calls the said agency to review existing mining agreements for possible renegotiation of the proposed terms and conditions, which shall be mutually acceptable to the government and the mining contractor.

Establishing the existence of a law changing revenue sharing schemes, EO 130 cites RA 10693 or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusive (TRAIN) Act, signed by President Duterte in 2017, which doubled the rate of excise tax on minerals, mineral products, and quarry resources from two percent to four percent.



EO 130 hopes that the revenues to be received from the mining industry, such as taxes, royalties, and fees, can usher significant economic benefits to the country, support various government projects, develop other industries, and provide employment opportunities in remote rural areas where there are mining activities. To rationalize existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanism, the EO orders the Department of Finance to work with the DENR, and implement measures.

To balance the need for environmental protection, EO 130 mandates the DENR to “strictly implement” environmental policies and rules, and measures recommended by the the Mining Industry Coordinating Council relating to all mining operations.

Indeed, it is everyone’s hope that the economic ends of the EO be achieved but without creating a negative effect on Philippine ecology and the indigenous community in the periphery.



CCC, DILG launch Local CCET Training Webinar for LGUs

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on April 29, 2021

LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE EXPENDITURE TAGGING WEBINAR FOR LGUs
Mindanao Cluster - May 6, 2021

Secretary Eduardo M. Año
Department of the Interior and Local Government

Secretary Emmanuel M. De Guzman
Vice Chairperson and Executive Director
Climate Change Commission

Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin
Member, CCC National Panel of Technical Experts

Arnold Belver
Development Management Officer IV
Policy Research and Development Division
Climate Change Commission

Danielle Torralba
Information Officer II
Strategic Partnership Division
Climate Change Commission

Anna Liza F. Bonagua
Director, Bureau of Local Government Development
Department of the Interior and Local Government

Sandee Recabar
Chief, Implementation Oversight Division
Climate Change Commission

Francisco Dacumos III
Development Management Officer II
Implementation Oversight Division
Climate Change Commission

Nael Crusero
City Planning and Development Coordinator
General Santos City

www.climate.gov.ph | @cccphl

CALOOCAN CITY, April 29 (PIA) -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) invite local government units (LGUs) to join the Local Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) Webinar, a virtual orientation on identifying and tagging climate change plans, activities, and programs in local investment plans and programs.

The webinar will be held via Zoom and streamed live on the CCC Facebook page on the following dates: May 4 for Luzon LGUs; May 5 for Visayas LGUs; and May 6 for Mindanao LGUs.

The virtual orientation will cover eight essential topics on climate science and the policy responses of the Philippine government – zooming into entry points for national and local action. Climate change planning and investment programming based on actual local government experience will also be shared to add practical knowledge.



Secretary Emmanuel M. De Guzman, Commissioners Noel V. Gaerlan and Rachel Anne S. Herrera of the CCC will join Secretary Eduardo M. Año of the DILG, and Director Anna Liza F. Bonagua of Local Government Development as guest speakers to the said three-day webinar.

Furthermore, members of the CCC's National Panel of Technical Experts, Dr. Rodel D. Lasco, Dr. Juan Pulhin, and Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin will serve as resource speakers alongside Mr. Gerard Lavadia, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer from Tagbilaran City; Mr. Raoul Cam, City Planning and Development Coordinator from Ormoc City; and Mr. Nael Crusero, City Planning and Development Coordinator from General Santos City.

Last year, despite the imposition of community quarantines across the country, the CCC and its partner agencies delivered several virtual CCET webinars and orientations to institutionalize CCET in the national and local budget programming and expenditure tracking processes and to ensure that institutions are aware of and compliant with the CCET requirements provided in the National Budget Preparation for the Fiscal Year 2021 memorandum.

The CCET aims to serve as an effective basis for allocating and prioritizing government resources by generating timely statistics and baselines to evaluate the impact of climate public expenditures.

The Climate Change Act of 2009 (Republic Act No. 9729, as amended by RA 10174) identifies local government units as the frontline agencies in formulating, planning and implementing climate action in their communities.

Interested participants may pre-register for free via this link: bit.ly/RegisterCCETWebinar

.For more information about the Local CCET Webinar for LGUs, visit the Facebook page of the Climate Change Commission at www.facebook.com/CCCPhl or directly contact the CCET Helpdesk CCET Helpdesk through Mr. Francisco III Dacumos at lguhhelpdesk@climate.gov.ph, lguhhelpdesk.ccet@gmail.com or (02) 8254-7056.

(PIA NCR)



Maasin City strengthens campaign for re-usable, carry-on plastics

By Ma. Rebecca G. Cadavos Published on April 29, 2021

MAASIN CITY, April 29 (PIA) -- The local government unit of Maasin City has strengthened efforts at spreading awareness for people to make use of recyclable or re-usable hand-carried bags where they can put consumer goods bought in the market and commercial stores.

Last week, the city LGU through the Office of General Services (OGS) put up vertical tarpaulins in public places around the city, the tarps displaying the main contents of City Ordinance 2019-122.

The regulation, also known as plastic bag regulation ordinance, "regulates the use and provision of single plastic bags as a packaging material in Maasin City and prescribing penalties hereof."

Single-use sando cellophanes, as illustrated in the tarps information, education campaign (IEC), are disallowed, but eco bags provided by big, commercial stores are allowed for repeat marketing usage.

Sando-type cellophanes are often thrown after use since these can only be used once and can often end up as non-biodegradable garbage.

Other packing containers allowed under the ordinance to be brought during shopping are baskets, bayongs, recycled juice pouch, and oxo biodegradable plastic.

Ordinance 2019-122 designated two days in a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays, as "No Plastic Days," and consumers buying essential goods in bakeries, food outlets, agrivet stores, among others, often receive their bought items in packaging materials made of paper.

Based on the ordinance, individual violators are fined P150 and confiscation of plastic bags for the first offense; P300 fine and confiscation of plastic bags for second offense and, for third and succeeding offenses, P600 fine and imprisonment of not more than six months upon discretion of the court.

Violating business establishments face the following graduated penalties: first offense – P1,000 fine and confiscation of plastic bags; second offense - P3,000 fine and confiscation of plastic bags; and third, succeeding offenses - P5,000 fine and imprisonment of not more than six months upon discretion of the court. (nbq/rgc/PIA8-Southern Leyte)

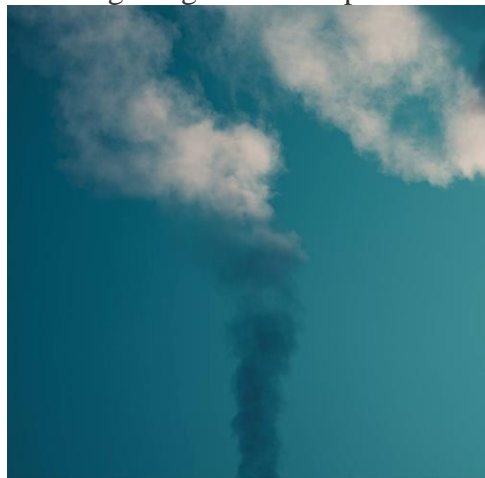


'Cremation pollution' is real and must be addressed, says EcoWaste Coalition

Published April 29, 2021, 1:37 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Smoke coming from crematoriums—which have become more active as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic—is causing a legitimate air pollution issue.



(Photo by Ryunosuke Kikuno/ Unsplash)

In this regard, pollution watchdog EcoWaste Coalition urged crematorium operators on Thursday, April 29 to employ remedial measures to control the smoke coming from their facilities, which are in the business of burning corpses.

“Crematorium operators should waste no time in assessing their compliance to environmental regulations following these incidents,” said Thony Dizon, chemical safety campaigner of EcoWaste Coalition.

“They need not wait for aggrieved citizens to turn to the media or for a video of thick smoke billowing from the stack to go viral before taking the right action,” he pointed out.

The group noted that residents of Muntinlupa City and Santa Rosa have voiced their complaints on television regarding the stinking odor and thick smoke coming from public crematoriums not far from their homes.

“The exceptional demand for bodies to be cremated amid the COVID-19 pandemic is no excuse to downplay the right of citizens to clean air. It’s a basic right protected by law,” Dizon stressed.

Republic Act (RA) No. 8749, or the Clean Air Act, recognizes the people’s “right to breathe clean air” and directs the state to guarantee its enjoyment by all, he said.

EcoWaste Coalition further reckoned that crematoriums must have valid permits to operate as well as be registered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) as a hazardous waste generator.

Every crematorium should have an accredited pollution control officer and should be equipped with the necessary pollution prevention and control devices to keep emissions within the allowable limits, the group said.

Dizon said that “while we lack local data on pollutants released by crematoria and their health impacts, it’s no secret that cremators release hazardous air pollutants.”

A 2018 study on the “Emission Characteristics of Harmful Air Pollutants from Cremators in Beijing, China” showed that emissions from facilities directly discharging flue gas exceed standards.



“The process of corpse cremation generates numerous harmful air pollutants, including particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals,” the report said, adding “these pollutants could have severe effects on the surrounding environment and human health.”

A more recent paper on “Crematoria Emissions and Air Quality Impacts” published in 2020 by the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health in Canada said “the pollutants of most concern are those known to be toxic to humans and which can bioaccumulate in tissues (for example, dioxins/furans and mercury) as well as fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), which can negatively impact the heart and lungs and is associated with some chronic illnesses and adverse birth outcomes.”



Undated file photo shows workers in protective suits waiting outside a crematorium facility in Manila. In suspected or confirmed COVID-19 deaths, hospitals must seal remains in plastic and send them directly to crematories or funeral homes.

AFP/Maria Tan

Crematorium operators told: Control smoke, emissions

(Philstar.com) - April 29, 2021 - 11:35am

MANILA, Philippines — A pollution watchdog group on Thursday urged crematorium operators to carry out remedial measures to control the smoke from burning bodies as facilities struggle with COVID-deaths.

In a statement, the EcoWaste Coalition called for pollution remedial measures and urged crematorium operators to check if they have a valid permit to operate and if they are registered with the Environmental Management Bureau as a hazardous waste generator.

This comes after affected residents of Muntinlupa and Santa Rosa voiced their complaints on television against the stinking odor and thick smoke coming from public crematoria not far from their homes.

“Crematorium operators should waste no time in assessing their compliance to environmental regulations following these incidents,” said Thony Dizon, chemical safety campaigner of the EcoWaste Coalition.

“They need not wait for aggrieved citizens to turn to the media or for a video of thick smoke billowing from the stack to go viral before taking the right action,” he insisted.

Republic Act 8749, or the Clean Air Act, recognizes the people’s “right to breathe clean air” and directs the state to guarantee its enjoyment by all.

The toxics group added that every crematorium should have an accredited pollution control officer and be equipped with the necessary pollution control devices to keep emissions within allowable limits.

“While we lack local data on pollutants released by crematoria and their health impacts, it’s no secret that cremators release hazardous air pollutants,” said Dizon.

The coalition in its statement pointed to a 2018 study on the “Emission Characteristics of Harmful Air Pollutants from Cremators in Beijing, China” showed that emissions from facilities directly discharging flue gas exceed standards.



“The process of corpse cremation generates numerous harmful air pollutants, including particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals,” the report said, adding “these pollutants could have severe effects on the surrounding environment and human health.”

The group also cited a 2020 paper on “Crematoria Emissions and Air Quality Impacts” by the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health in Canada which asserted: “The pollutants of most concern are those known to be toxic to humans and which can bioaccumulate in tissues (for example, dioxins/furans and mercury) as well as fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), which can negatively impact the heart and lungs and is associated with some chronic illnesses and adverse birth outcomes.”

“The exceptional demand for bodies to be cremated amid the COVID-19 pandemic is no excuse to downplay the right of citizens to clean air,” Dizon said. “It’s a basic right protected by law.”



Permit to transport animals

By [Persida Acosta](#) April 30, 2021

Dear PAO,

I am a public utility jeepney (PUJ) driver, and I was contracted to deliver various species of dogs from Metro Manila to Bulacan. In the border of Bulacan, I was asked by a personnel in the checkpoint to present my permit to transport said animals. Can I be held liable for transporting said animals?

Julio

Dear Julio,

The law that addresses your situation is Section 4 of the “Animal Welfare Act of 1998,” which provides:

“Section 4. It shall be the duty of any owner or operator of any land, air or water public utility transporting pet, wildlife and all other animals to provide in all cases adequate, clean and sanitary facilities for the safe conveyance and delivery thereof to their consignee at the place of consignment. They shall provide sufficient food and water for such animals while in transit for more than twelve (12) hours or whenever necessary.

“No public utility shall transport any such animal without a written permit from the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry or his/her authorized representative. No cruel confinement or restraint shall be made on such animals while being transported.

“Any form of cruelty shall be penalized even if the transporter has obtained a permit from the Bureau of Animal Industry. Cruelty in transporting includes overcrowding, placing of animals in the trunks or under the hood trunks of the vehicles.” (Emphasis supplied)

Relatedly, the same law provides a penalty for violation of the same, viz:

“Section 8. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than two (2) years or a fine of not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) nor more than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) or both at the discretion of the Court. If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the officer responsible therefore shall serve the imprisonment when imposed. If the violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall be immediately deported after service of sentence without any further proceedings.”

It is clear from the cited provision that no public utility shall transport any such animal without a written permit from the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry or his/her authorized representative, and any violation thereof may subject the offender to an imprisonment or fine or both, at the discretion of the court. In your case, transporting animals without the necessary written permit from the concerned agency may hold you liable for an imprisonment or fine.

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. This advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to dearpao@manilatimes.net



6K new recoveries, total reaches 942K

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor **April 29, 2021, 5:40 pm**



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Thursday reported 6,636 patients who have beaten the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the total number of recoveries nationwide to 942,239.

This is equivalent to a 91.6-percent recovery rate out of the country's total case tally of 1,028,738.

The agency's latest case bulletin also reported 8,276 new confirmed Covid-19 cases, bringing the total number of active cases to 69,354.

Of the active cases, about 94.9 percent are mild, 1.6 percent are asymptomatic, 1.4 percent are severe, 0.92 are moderate, and 1.1 percent are in critical condition.

The DOH also logged 114 more deaths on Thursday, pushing the death toll to 17,145.

"There were 33 duplicates removed from the total case count, and of these, 24 are recoveries. Moreover, 68 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it said.

All laboratories were operational on April 27 while one laboratory was not able to submit their data to the COVID-19 Document Repository System (CDRS).

The department also reported that 64 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds, 47 percent of 13,500 isolation beds, 50 percent of 6,000 ward beds, and 46 percent of 2,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are currently in use nationwide.

Meanwhile, 72 percent of 800 intensive care unit beds, 54 percent of 3,800 isolation beds, 63 percent of 2,200 ward beds, and 57 percent of 800 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are used in the National Capital Region.

The public is reminded to stay at home and to observe minimum health standards when going out.

The DOH urged those experiencing Covid-19 symptoms to immediately isolate and contact the Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams. **(PNA)**



Palace cites healthcare utilization, daily attack rates for MECQ extension

By OPS-PCOOPublished on April 29, 2021

MANILA, Apr. 29 -- Presidential Spokesperson Secretary Harry Roque Jr. on Thursday, April 29, cited the National Capital Region's healthcare utilization and average daily attack rates for the two weeks extension of the Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ).

"Bumababa po ang mga kaso sa buong bansa at sa NCR pero yung average daily attack rate po ay nasa high risk threshold pa rin dahil ito po ay nasa 19 to 55 new cases per 100,000 per day," said Secretary Roque in a press briefing.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte earlier approved during his Talk-to-the-People Address the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) to extend for another two weeks the MECQ classification of the National Capital Region (NCR), Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, and Cavite from May 1 to 14, 2021. Secretary Roque, who also sits as IATF spokesperson, added that while healthcare and ICU utilization rates have improved in Metro Manila, it is still above 70 percent at high-risk threshold in most cities.

"Kaya po two weeks yan eh dahil nakita naman natin na bumababa talaga ang mga kaso dito po sa NCR at ibig sabihin yung attack rate ay nagdadahan-dahan, yung ating R naught na tinatawag ay bumaba na to under 1, pero kinakailangan pa rin nating palakasin lalong-lalo na yung ating mga ICU beds," said Secretary Roque.

The Palace official said that the Department of Health is taking steps to increase ICU beds. "Hanggang 'di po natin napaparami yung mga ICU beds natin eh baka masayang yung gains ng isang linggo ng travel bubble, dalawang linggo ng ECQ, at dalawang linggo ng MECQ. Kaya po ito ay hanggang May 14 pa lamang," explained Sec. Roque.

With the extended MECQ, Sec. Roque said that the IATF will be finalizing the list of additional businesses or establishments that can be allowed open even while under MECQ. "Ito po'y sang-ayon dun sa ating goal na i-promote po ang total health ng mga mamamayan, mabawasan ang mga kaso ng COVID, at itaguyod po ang hanap-buhay ng mga mamayan ng hindi naman sila magutom," said the Palace spokesperson.

Roque added, "Napakalaki po ng impact ng isang linggo ng travel bubble, dalawang linggo ng ECQ, at dalawang linggo ng MECQ at itong karagdang dalawang linggo pa ng MECQ. Sabihin na lang natin na itong additional na mga negosyo na bubuksan ay para nga po maibsan yung pagbaba ng ating ekonomiya."

On additional healthcare capacities, Roque announced that another modular hospital facility will be inaugurated tomorrow, April 30, at the Batangas Medical Center. The said modular hospital will have 10 additional ICU units and 43 additional rooms, of which 21 can be converted to ICU Units, said Roque.

Meanwhile, National Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF) Deputy Chief Implementer and Testing Czar Secretary Vivencio "Vince" Dizon, said that the target is to add some 3,000 beds for hospitals that can accommodate moderate and severe cases. Sec. Dizon added that the priority right now is to increase critical care beds, while more isolation facilities are also being added.



Dizon also reported some of the gains of the ECQ and MECQ implementation, which include 635 additional health facilities, 23,241 additional COVID-19 beds, 500,000 procured rapid antigen test kits, and 61 percent healthcare utilization rate. Dizon added that there were also an additional 14,668 human resources for health, P7-B obligated for the healthcare workers' benefits, 107 million PPE sets distributed, and about two million doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered.

In the same press briefing, NTF Chief Implementer and Vaccine Czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr confirmed the arrival of 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccines this morning, April 29. Sec. Galvez also announced the expected arrival of 15,000 doses of Sputnik V vaccine on May 1. Galvez added that a total of 2 million doses of Sinovac is also expected to arrive this May. The Vaccine Czar assured that the country can expect a steady supply of vaccines in May of around four million doses. (OPS-PCOO)



NBI tapped to stop fake tests in Boracay

Crackdown on people, groups behind forged health documents starts

By: [Nestor P. Burgos Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@nestorburgosINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:45 AM April 28, 2021

ILOILO CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation has been tapped to look into the falsification of COVID-19 test results presented by more than 100 tourists as a requirement to enter Boracay Island in Aklan province.

In an order dated April 23, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra directed the NBI to conduct an investigation, case buildup and, if warranted, prosecution of those found liable for using falsified negative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test results.

Criminal complaints

Aklan provincial administrator Selwyn Ibarreta, head of the provincial COVID-19 Technical Working Group, welcomed the involvement of the NBI in running after those responsible for the fake documents.

As of April 26, the provincial government had recorded 166 tourists who used fake or tampered test results in seeking approval to enter the 1,032-hectare resort island in Malay town. Ibarreta said most of these tourists were barred from boarding their flights to Barangay Caticlan in Malay, the jump-off point to the island.

In a meeting of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force on March 18, local officials sought the assistance of the Department of Justice to address the problem.

The provincial government and Malay police have filed criminal complaints for falsification of documents against 11 tourists who were carrying falsified COVID-19 results and were intercepted in Boracay.

Deceived

The Department of Tourism also filed criminal complaints against six other tourists. Tourists bound for Boracay Island are required to provide a negative RT-PCR test result within 72 hours before their trip to the island. It was only late last month that saliva COVID-19 tests were allowed.

Ibarreta said that while many of those who were barred deliberately submitted falsified test results, others were unwittingly deceived by people offering home testing services. "We also want to protect tourists who may have been deceived by persons falsifying the test results," he told the Inquirer.

Boracay Island has been struggling to manage a local COVID-19 outbreak in recent weeks. The Malay government had recorded 229 cases on the island since the pandemic started. These include 56 active cases, 172 recoveries and one death. INQ



PRRD won't surrender PH's sovereign rights over WPS: Palace

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos April 29, 2021, 4:53 pm



NTF-WPS photo

MANILA – Malacañang on Thursday assured the public that President Rodrigo Duterte will not surrender the Philippines' sovereign rights over the West Philippine Sea (WPS) despite its improving ties with China.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque made the assurance, a day after Duterte said he would not “bargain” the Philippines' sovereignty over WPS with its friendship with China.

“It is in connection *doon sa pangako niya na walang teritoryong mawawala sa atin habang siya po ay Presidente* (It is in connection with his promise that we will not lose any territory while he is the President),” Roque said in a virtual press briefing.

Roque also said there was nothing wrong with Duterte's latest statement that the Philippines has a “huge debt of gratitude” to China for donating 1 million Sinovac's CoronaVac vaccines against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

“*Hangang ngayon naman po, ang aasahan lang natin, Sinovac. Aminin po natin iyan. Ilang buwan na tayong nagsimula eh Sinovac ang naaasahan talaga natin. So tama lang po na tumanaw ng utang na loob* (Until now, we only rely on Sinovac. Let's admit that. It has been months since we started our vaccination and it's only Sinovac that we can rely on. It's only right to honor our debt of gratitude),” he said.

Starting war a 'crime of aggression'

In a public address delivered Wednesday night, Duterte vowed that the Philippines' sovereign rights over the WPS would not be compromised, even if China is the country's “good friend”.

Duterte, however, said he has no plan to launch a futile war against China.

Roque, citing international law, said waging a war against any country is a “crime of aggression.”

“*Yung punto na hindi tayo pupuwedeng magsimula ng giyera iyan po ay nakaukit na sa international law, krimen nga po iyan kapag tayo ay gumamit ng dahas, iyan po iyong crime ng aggression* (In terms of launching a war, the international law states that it is a crime of aggression to use violence),” he said.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) defines the crime of aggression as the “planning, preparation, initiation or execution, by a person in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State, of an act of aggression which, by its character, gravity and scale, constitutes a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations.”

The act of aggression, according to the ICC, is the “use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another state, in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations”.



China's actions monitored

Duterte, while he intends to further improve ties with China, wants to ensure the public that there is a "limit" to Manila's friendship with Beijing, Roque maintained.

"Malinaw ang sinabi ni Presidente. May hangganan ang kaniyang pagnanais na pagkakaibigan sa Tsina. Siguro 'yung pangingisda, puwedeng mangyari pero kapag langis na ang pinaguusapan, paninindigan na (He made a clear stance that there's a limit to his friendship with China. He may allow fishing but he would not allow oil exploitation. He would make a strong stance)," Roque said.

Roque added that the Philippines is currently monitoring China's actions.

"At ang sabi nga po niya bagama't wala siyang magawa at nadatnan niya ang problemang ito ay tinitingnan din niya kung ano ang mga susunod na hakbang ng Tsina (He said that while he could not do anything and the problem was there even before his term, he is monitoring China's next steps)," he said.

On April 14, the Department of Foreign Affairs filed two diplomatic protests against China amid the prolonged presence of its vessels in WPS.

The National Task Force (NTF) for WPS reported Wednesday the continued illegal presence of three Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) vessels in Bajo de Masinloc, one CCG vessel in the municipality of Kalayaan, and one CCG vessel in Ayungin Shoal.

The NTF-WPS said the Philippine government continues to patrol WPS in the exercise of its sovereignty and sovereign rights under the Philippine Constitution and international law.

It added that the government shall not waver in pursuing "peaceful, rules-based and proactive initiatives on environmental protection, safety of navigation, maritime and food security within our maritime domains." **(PNA)**



RISING SEA LEVELS | Study finds world's glaciers melting faster due to climate change

April 29, 2021 , 09:27 AM

(Reuters) – Nearly all of the world's glaciers are losing mass – and at an accelerated pace, according to a new study published Wednesday that could impact future projections for ice loss.

The study in the science journal Nature provides one of the most wide-ranging overviews yet of ice mass loss from about 220,000 glaciers around the world, a major source of sea level rise.

Using high-resolution imagery from NASA's Terra satellite from between 2000 and 2019, a group of international scientists found that glaciers, with the exception of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets which were excluded from the study, lost an average of 267 gigatonnes of ice per year.

A gigatonne of ice would fill New York City's Central Park and stand 341 meters (1,119 feet) high.

The researchers also found that glacier mass loss accelerated. Glaciers lost 227 gigatonnes of ice annually from 2000 to 2004, but that increased to an average of 298 gigatonnes each year after 2015.

The melt was significantly impacting sea levels by about 0.74 millimetres a year, or 21% of overall sea level rise observed during the period.

Glaciers tend to have a faster response to climate change compared with ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica, and are currently contributing more to sea level rise than either individual ice sheet, scientists said.

The study could fill important gaps in understanding about ice mass loss, leading to more accurate predictions, said co-author of the study Robert McNabb, a remote sensing scientist at Ulster University in the United Kingdom. Previous studies looking at individual glaciers only account for about 10% of the planet, he said.

Scientists have long warned that warming temperatures driven by climate change are eating into glaciers and ice sheets around the world, contributing to higher sea levels that threaten the world's populous coastal cities. The [latest reports](#) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change project that future sea levels will rise by more than a meter by 2100.

Some glaciers in Alaska, Iceland, the Alps, the Pamir mountains and the Himalayas were among the most impacted by melting, researchers found. Glaciers with surrounding communities provide an important water source and their decline could lead to serious food and water shortages.

"Those areas are seeing a rapid pace of glacier melt that could be fairly worrying," McNabb said.

"We get this increase in melt and that actually increases the availability of water that comes in these rivers... but the problem is, after a period of time, that stops increasing and then decreases fairly rapidly," he added.

While the study did not delve into the cause of the glacial retreat, rising temperatures widely believed by scientists to be the result of human emissions were inevitably leading to more ice loss, McNabb said.

"It's hard to separate the fact that the temperature is what is causing the melt with the fact that humans are, by and large, causing the increase in temperature," he said.

Once glacial ice melts, it could take decades or centuries to regrow because it must pile up year after year, scientists said. The study reiterates that the world must bring down global temperatures to slow ice loss, said Twila Moon, a glaciologist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center who was not involved in the study.

"I have no expectation, in all honesty, that even substantial action to reduce our emissions and control the Earth's temperature rise is going to grow our glaciers," Moon said. "We're at a point where we're trying to keep as much ice as possible and slow that rate of loss," she added.



While researchers identified instances where melt rates actually slowed between 2000 and 2019, like Greenland's east coast, they attributed that to a weather anomaly that led to higher precipitation and lower temperatures.

McNabb said the study's overall picture was one of "fairly rapid" ice mass loss, with no indication it would change soon, but there is still time to put the brakes on melt by reducing emissions.

"When you see something like this where glaciers are losing mass, it's getting faster, that sounds really bad," he said. "But there's something that we can do here, we need to act."

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/rising-sea-levels-study-finds-worlds-glaciers-melting-faster-due-to-climate-change?fbclid=IwAR2z3owRVI8wJJlmz7y0NWMIGzg-hE67WxhseifNi4ZsZ7v3Csr4qgf5zL0>



Dozens of ships clean up massive oil leak in Shandong

By [Global Times](#) April 30, 2021

SHANDONG: Hundreds of tons of oil might have leaked into the sea after a tanker collision off Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province. Maritime authorities have sent a dozen vessels to the site for an emergency clean-up, the Shandong Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) told the Global Times on Wednesday.

The Suezmax tanker A Symphony registered in Liberia had a hole about six to seven meters long and two meters wide above the sea surface after being rammed by an inbound Panamanian bulk carrier Sea Jus tice while the tanker was at anchor, an official of the Command Center of the MSA who asked to remain anonymous revealed to the Global Times.

A preliminary investigation found that the oil leak might be hundreds of tons, showing an oil slick 3 kilometers long and 600 meters wide, he said, adding the exact amount of the oil leak is unknown as the situation in the ocean has to be further verified.

The collision happened at about 8:50 a.m. on Tuesday, Goodwood Ship Management was quoted as saying in a report by Reuters. The MSA said it received a report around 9:15 a.m.

The bulk carrier collided with the oil tanker when the latter was at anchor southeast of Chaolian Island off Qingdao in heavy fog, with visibility of less than 200 meters, the MSA official said.

No injuries were found among the crew, he confirmed to the Global Times. The damaged ballast tank had cargo of 10,061 tons, of which about 2,000 tons was pumped out and transferred to other undamaged ones, he noted.

The tanker was fully laden with 1 million barrels of oil, according to a tweet on Tuesday by Tanker Trackers, an online service that tracks shipments of crude oil.

The cargo aboard the tanker was declared a "bitumen solution," but the specific content — heavy oil, light oil or other materials — requires further testing, the MSA official noted.

30 APRIL 2021, FRIDAY



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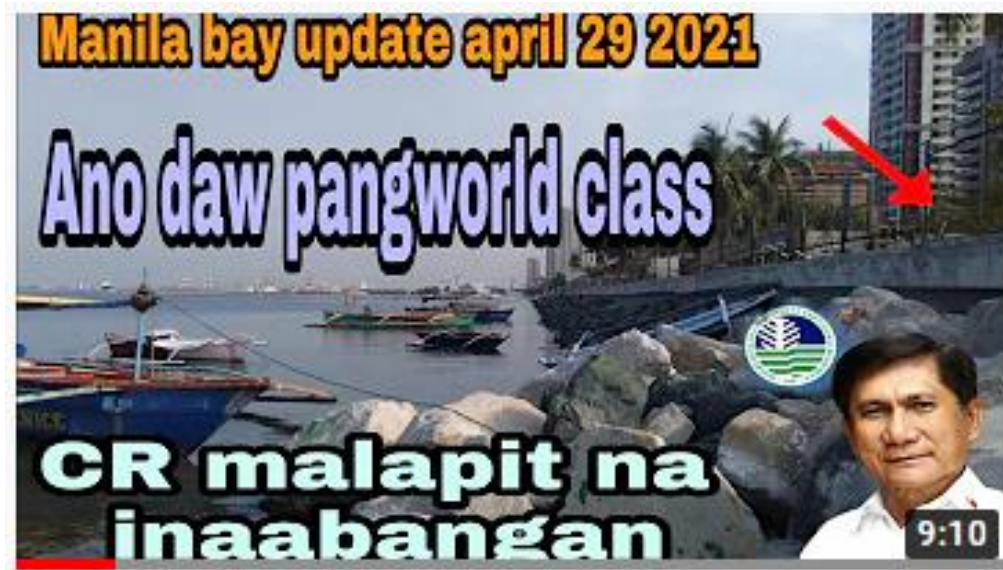
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