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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR creates Manila Bay anti-pollution task force

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:32 PM January 29, 2021



The artificial white sand or crushed dolomite covers the shoreline of Manila Bay near the US Embassy portion on Roxas Boulevard, Manila on September 18, 2020 as part of the rehabilitation plan. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO / RICHARD A. REYES

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has created an anti-pollution task force to fast-track the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of the Manila Bay.

In an order dated Jan. 26, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the following offices will make up the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force:

- Manila Bay Coordinating Office
- River Basin Control Office
- Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office
- National Water Resources Board
- Laguna Lake Development Authority
- Environmental Management Bureau in Regions I, III, IV-A and the National Capital Region

The task force will ensure that government facilities, residential and commercial establishments, commercial centers within the entire Manila Bay region will comply relative to their connection on existing sewerage systems, or the construction of their individual sewerage plant.

The task force can recommend for the issuance of appropriate orders, imposition of fines, penalties and other administrative sanctions to compel compliance of the establishments. The new anti-pollution task force will be headed by the Undersecretary for Solid Waste and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda.

Antiporda also warned establishments found to be polluters in Manila Bay to reform or face the full force of the law.

It is also tasked to spearhead the undertaking of remedial measures using engineering and technological interventions to improve the water quality of Manila Bay.

The task force will also monitor the enforcement of provisions of the Clean Water Act on the containment, removal and clean-up operations. It will likewise supervise and control all aspects of water quality management in the Manila Bay region.



**“Shape up or ship out. We will deal with you head on,”
Antiporda warned business establishments that will
violate the environmental laws.**



It is also responsible for inspecting sanitary landfills in Metro Manila, Calabarzon and Central Luzon which affect the Manila Bay.

The task force will also have the authority to issue notices of violations or closure, cease and desist orders, and other appropriate sanctions to violators of all environmental laws, rules and regulations, including the filing of cases.

CFC

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1389779/denr-creates-manila-bay-anti-pollution-task-force>



Manila Bay anti-pollution TF created

Cimatu said the task force was created to ensure compliance of all government facilities and private establishments within the entire Manila Bay Region relative to their connection to existing sewerage systems or the construction of their individual sewerage plant.

Published 3 hours ago on January 30, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday announced the creation of a task force that will help expedite the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of Manila Bay.

Under Special Order 2021-17, signed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on 26 January, the creation of the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force is also meant to ensure compliance with the mandate given by President Rodrigo Duterte pursuant to Administrative Order 16 expediting the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of Manila Bay and creating the Manila Bay Task Force.

The task force will be headed by Benny Antiporda, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGU) Concerns, and supported by the Manila Bay Coordinating Office, River Basin Control Office, Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office, National Water Resources Board, Laguna Lake Development Authority and Environmental Management Bureaus in Regions 3, 4-A and National Capital Region.

Cimatu said the task force was created to ensure compliance of all government facilities and private establishments within the entire Manila Bay Region relative to their connection to existing sewerage systems or the construction of their individual sewerage plant, whatever is applicable, as well as recommend for the issuance of appropriate orders, imposition of fines, penalties, and other administrative sanctions to compel compliance thereof.

It is also tasked to spearhead the undertaking of remedial measures using engineering and technological interventions to improve the water quality of the Manila Bay.

It will also strictly monitor the enforcement of Sections 16 and 19 of Republic Act 9275, or the Clean Water Act.



Manila Bay anti-pollution task force, binuo ng DENR



January 29, 2021 @ 6:04 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines — Bumuo ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng anti-pollution task force para ma-fast-track ang rehabilitasyon at restorasyon ng coastal at marine ecosystem ng Manila Bay.

Sa kautusang itinakda noong Jan. 26, sinabi ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na bubuun ng mga sumusunod na opisina ang Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force:

- Manila Bay Coordinating Office
- River Basin Control Office
- Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office
- National Water Resources Board
- Laguna Lake Development Authority
- Environmental Management Bureau in Regions I, III, IV-A and the National Capital Region

Titiyakin ng task force will na ang government facilities, residential at commercial establishments, commercial centers sa loob ng Manila Bay region way susunod sa kanilang sewerage systems.

Babantayan din ng task force ang pagpapatupad sa probisyon ng Clean Water Act sa Manila Bay region.

Responsibilidad din nito ang pag-iinspeksyon sa sanitary landfills sa Metro Manila, Calabarzon, at Central Luzon na makaaapekto sa Manila Bay.

Ang lahat ng mga hakbang para sa pagpapaunlad at pagpapaganda ng Manila Bay ay pangungunahan ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda. **RNT/FGDC**



Antiporda to head new Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force

Published January 29, 2021, 8:05 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has created the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force (MBAPTF) via Special Order (SO) No.2021-17, the Manila Bulletin learned Friday.



Benny Antiporda

“In the interest of service and in order to expedite the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of the Manila Bay...the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force (MBAPTF) is hereby created,” read the document, which DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu signed last January 26.

The MBAPTF shall be headed by the Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns (SWMLGUC), a position currently held by Benny Antiporda.

Antiporda shall have the authority to call upon the assistance of other DENR offices including bureaus and attached agencies for the effective implementation of SO No.2021-17.

The creation of the task force is meant to “ensure compliance with the mandate given by the Office of the President to the DENR, pursuant to Administrative Order No.16.”



Dugyot negosyo sa Manila Bay wawalisin

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Jan 29, 2021

NEWS



Tutukan ng Anti-Pollution Task Force ang pagsunod ng mga establisimiyento sa paglalagay ng mga kanal, tubo, at creek sa dinadaluyan ng tubig patungo sa Manila Bay.

Ang nasabing task force ay binuo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), na layong maibalik ang dati nitong sigla at mapabilis ang paglilinis sa karagatan.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, ang nasabing task force ang siyang mangangasiwa para mabilis na maipatupad ang mga hakbangin sa paglilinis nito.

Sa Special Order No. 2021-17, inatasan ni Cimatu ang binuong Task Force na tiyaking matutukan ang pagpapairal ng batas para maibalik ang ganda at sigla ng Manila Bay.

Kukuha din ng engineering at technological specialist upang mapababa ang coliform level at mga bacteria sa naturang karagatan.

Kasama din sa tungkulin ng Task Force ang pag-inspeksyon sa mga sanitary landfill sa loob ng National Capital Region, Region 3 at Region 4A na nakadugtong sa Manila Bay. (Dolly Cabreza)



All systems go for Cagayan River dredging, riverbank stabilization —Cimatu

By DENR Published on January 29, 2021

QUEZON CITY, Jan. 29 -- The removal of sandbars to clear the constricted section of Cagayan River, known as the Magapit Narrows, and the massive planting of bamboo along its bank will begin on February 2, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and Task Force Build Back Better chair Roy A. Cimatu announced on Wednesday.

"This is the culmination of weeks of meticulous planning and detailed coordination to ensure that each of the dredging equipment is safely transported to the sandbar sites and that bamboos are grown at critical portions of the riverbank needing immediate measures to address stream bank erosion and instability.

Almost a kilometer length of the riverbank in Barangay Bangag in Lallo will be planted with 925 bamboo propagules during the launch.

Cimatu stressed that the sandbar clearing and growing of bamboos "are inseparable twins" that TFBBB has adopted as a strategy to protect nearby agricultural lands and crops from damage during typhoons.

On top of the six amphibious dredgers of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), a total of 40 dredging equipment are expected to be deployed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), which consists of dump trucks, bulldozers, tractors, and scoop loaders.

The launch will formally open the first phase of the dredging operations, which entails the removal of three priority sandbars along the Magapit Narrows covering a total of 235 hectares with a volume of seven million cubic meters.

A total of 19 sandbars have been identified by the DPWH but immediate dredging was recommended for the three sandbars, which significantly hinder the flow of flood water to the Aparri Delta draining to the Babuyan Channel.

The three sandbars have a total estimated volume of seven million cubic meters, covering 235 hectares.

These are located at Barangay Bangag in Lal-lo town covering 11.4 hectares with 334,305 cubic meters of sand; Casicallan Norte, Gattaran that covers 89 hectares with 2.7 million cubic meters of sand; and Dummun, Gattaran covering 174.70 hectares with 4.04 million cubic meters of sand.

The planting operation will hire as laborers some 100 local residents who are beneficiaries of Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers program of the Department of Labor and Employment.

The dredging operation will include 48 laborers and operators trained by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

"This is whole-of-government at its best, with the support from almost all national agencies and the Cagayan provincial government," Cimatu said.



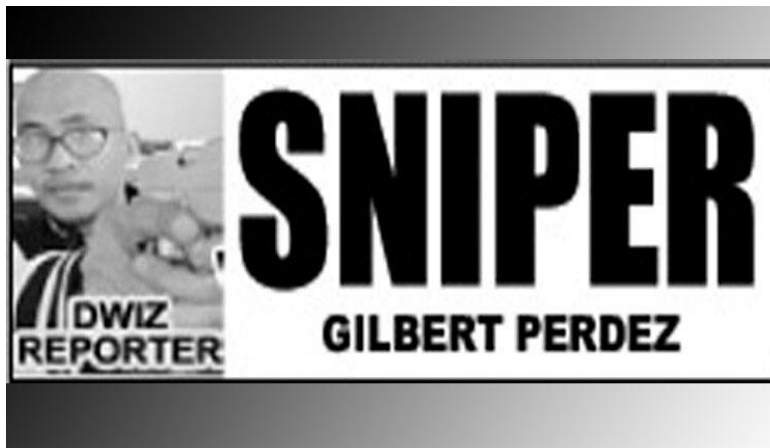
The DENR chief is expected to be joined by TFBBB co-chair DPWH Secretary Mark Villar, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, and AFP Chief of Staff General Gilbert Gapay during the launch of the first phase of dredging activities on February 2.

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba, Isabela Gov. Rodolfo Albano, Quirino Gov. Dakila Carlo Cua, Cagayan local chief executives Matthew Nolasco of Gattaran and Oliver Pascual of Lallo, DENR-Cagayan Valley Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan, and DPWH-Cagayan Valley Director Loreta Malaluan have also collectively worked on the programs. (DENR)



Manila Water katuwang ng gobyerno sa San Juan River Rehabilitation!

On Jan 29, 2021



MULING nagsanib-pwersa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), lokal na pamahalaan ng lungsod ng San Juan, at isang water company sa paglilinis at rehabilitasyon ng San Juan River.

Ang paglulunsad ng proyekto na ginanap sa Brgy. Addition Hills sa San Juan nitong Enero 27, 2021 ay bahagi ng “Adopt-An-Estero” program ng DENR at dinaluhan ng mga kinatawan mula sa ahensya, San Juan LGU, Manila Water Co., at Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

Kabilang sa mga dumalo sina City Mayor Francis Zamora, DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, Manila Water CEO at President Rene Almendras, at iba pa.

Kung hindi ako nagkakamali, noong September 2020 ay lumagda sa isang Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) ang Manila water, DENR, at ilang lokal na pamahalaan, kasama ang mga lungsod ng Quezon, Mandaluyong, at San Juan para sa ganap na implementasyon ng paglilinis at rehabilitasyon ng San Juan River at iba pang lugar na konektado rito.

Ang Ilog ng San Juan ay isa sa pangunahing main river systems sa Kalakhang Maynila, at isa sa malalaking ilog na konektado sa Pasig River.

Nabatid na ang dulo ng ilog ay malapit sa La Mesa Dam o San Francisco del Monte River habang karugtong din nito ang Mariblo Creek sa QC.

Ang programa ay bahagi rin ng inisyung “mandamus” ng Korte Suprema na nag-aatas sa DENR at iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno na linisin ang mga estero at waterways na dumadaloy patungo sa Manila Bay.

Matatandaang ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa kanyang State of the Nation Address (SONA) noong 2019 ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay kasabay ng pagbibigay ng babala sa mga establisimyento sa paligid ng baybayin na sumunod sa mga batas pangkalikasan upang hindi maisara ang kanilang negosyo.

Kaya naman, bilang tugon ay inilunsad ng DENR ang “Battle for Manila Bay” na mayroong tatlong bahagi na ang layunin ay unti-unting malinis ang tubig dito.

Pansamantalang binuksan ng DENR ang artificial white sand beach sa Look ng Maynila noong September 2020.

Samantala, sinasabing magkatuwang na gagawin ng Manila Water, LGU, at DENR ang paglilinis at pagtatanggal ng basura sa ilog.



Layunin nito maibsan ang polusyon at maipatupad ang solid waste management na bahagi rin ng kasunduan, kabilang ang water quality monitoring na pangungunahan ng Manila Water, koordinasyon sa lokal na pamahalaan at ang pagsasagawa ng environment education activities sa San Juan River.

Lubos naman ang pasasalamat ni Mayor Zamora sa pamunuan ng Manila Water bunsod ng naging ambag nito sa nabanggit na proyekto.

God bless at stay safe po, mga bossing.

Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

PARA sa inyong mga reaksiyon, suhestiyon, reklamo, atbp., maaari n'yo po akong i-email sa gil.playwright@gmail.com o kaya'y i-private message sa aking Facebook, Instagram, at FB pages. Paki-subscribe na rin po ang aking Youtube channel na 'Gilbert Perdez'. Maraming salamat at God bless!

Source: https://www.policefilestonite.net/2021/01/29/manila-water-katuwang-ng-gobyerno-sa-san-juan-river-rehabilitation/?fbclid=IwAR0NVC7E4BMs6_2xT0qvs3kcJIJZVkJ_Lb2Vk7CqCmoE5DibX1y3N526SGs



EDITORIAL - Cimatu's challenge

(The Freeman) - January 29, 2021 - 12:00am



The number of COVID-19 cases in Cebu City are on the rise again, and the man who oversaw the first time we brought it down, former general and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, has issued a challenge to the city's barangay captains.

"We have done it before. There is no reason we cannot do it now," Cimatu was quoted as telling the barangay captains during a virtual meeting.

His advice was to strengthen the implementation of existing health protocols at their level.

As we keep mentioning, as the days pass we see more and more lax discipline when it comes to securing ourselves and our loved one against COVID. We only have to look outside to see that it's as if life has normalized and there is no global pandemic going on.

We have too many people in the streets and in public, too many people not wearing face masks or face shields properly, too many young kids outside unsupervised.

Now more than ever we have more reason to be concerned; there are new variants of COVID-19 spreading, including one strain first detected in the United Kingdom.

While earlier data seemed to suggest that this new variant was more contagious than the dominant variant but was not as deadly, more recent research indicates that we got it wrong; the new variant is actually deadlier than the dominant variant, aside from being more contagious.

And just in case people didn't know, that UK variant has been detected here in the country. The number of cases indicates this variant has not reached community level transmission, but if action isn't taken, like COVID, it may yet reach that stage.

Cimatu's advice came with a warning; if we cannot arrest the rise in COVID-19 cases then we may see our return to square one.

And just in case there are those who don't understand what square one means, that means a return to Enhanced Community Quarantine; no one except essential personnel leaving their homes, the closure of establishments, and even more restrictions.

This is something that many families and businesses can no longer afford.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/opinion/2021/01/29/2073905/editorial-cimatus-challenge/amp/>



DENR, DILG, MMDA sosolusyunan ang medical waste sa pandemya



January 29, 2021 @ 9:49 AM 22 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Hihingi ng tulong ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa ibang ahensya ng gobyerno ukol sa problema sa basura sa kalagitnaan ng COVID-19 pandemic.

[Ayon sa ulat ng Asian Development Bank na tumaas sa 280 toneladang medical waste ang nakokolekta sa Metro Manila nitong kasagsagan ng pandemya.](#)

Huwebes nang sabihin ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na inimitihan nila ang Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) para pag-usapan ang ipantatapat na solusyon.

“We are inviting DILG na rin tsaka MMDA for a meeting because of the biodegradable waste, wherein hindi na naa-address ‘yung segregation ng residual tsaka biodegradable waste,” ani Antiporda sa interbyu ng GMA.

Ani Antiporda na pantapat ng DENR dito ang yellow trash bins na pinamahagi na sa ilang barangay para sa mga household healthcare waste.

Giit niya na ang yellow trash bin ay magbibigay ng awareness sa publiko ukol sa paghihiwalay ng basura.

Aniya na kahit limitadao ang DENR sa pondo sa information dissemination ay makikipagtulungan sila sa ibang ahensya para masolusyunan ito.

“Itong medical waste na pinag-uusapan natin...the household healthcare waste, which are the face mask, face shield, tapos ‘yung gloves,” dagdag pa niya.

“These are the things which are suspected contaminated waste na what’s important only is the proper segregation,” ayon pa sa solid waste undersecretary.

“Ito kasi kapag kinuha ng mga garbage collector, they put it in a special cell in the sanitary landfill. They do not mix it with the ordinary residual (waste).” *RNT*



DENR, police partner for environmental protection in Pampanga

By Zorayda Tecson January 29, 2021, 6:45 pm



PRO-ENVIRONMENT COPS. The Police Regional Office-3, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-PENRO), plant some 500 seedlings of fruit and non-fruit bearing trees in a protected area in Barangay Ayala, Magalang, Pampanga on Friday (Jan. 29, 2021). The move is in line with the PNP's "Makakalikasan" core value. (Photo by DENR-PENRO Pampanga)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Police Regional Office-3 (Central Luzon) is doing its share to address global warming and climate change.

The PRO-3, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-PENRO) in this province, conducted a tree planting activity on Friday in Barangay Ayala, Magalang, this province.

Some 100 PRO-3 personnel and DENR-PENRO foresters planted 500 seedlings of fruit and non-fruit bearing trees in the environment protected area of Magalang.

“PRO-3 upholds the significance of the Philippine National Police (PNP) core value "Makakalikasan" and will continuously empower our personnel in preserving and protecting the environment,” Brig. Gen. Valeriano T. de Leon, PRO-3 regional director, said in a statement.

Prior to the tree planting activity, a memorandum of agreement was signed by De Leon and DENR-PENRO officer Laudemir Salac for the two agencies' stronger partnership on environmental protection.

Under the agreement, the PRO-3 will adopt 20 hectares of a National Greening Program site in Magalang through the conduct of tree planting activities. (PNA)



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
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- Feature Article



DENR PENRO Pampanga

16h · 🌐

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JAN. 29, 2021 - A Good Day to Plant Trees

Earlier today DENR PENRO Pampanga, headed by PENR Officer Laudemir S. Salac, had a MOA signing with the PNP Regional Officer 3 wherein they adopted 20 hectares of graduated National Greening Program site in Brgy. Ayala, Magalang, Pampanga.

The adoption of the said site by the PRO3, led by PBGen Valeriano T. De Leon, is to further develop the site with their Tree Growing Activity. Five Hundred (500) Guyabano Seedlings were planted on this very fruitful event.

Fruit Trees not only give us delicious produce but they also absorb carbon dioxide (CO2) and reduce greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere.



👍❤️👏 47

3 Shares

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=684983942181018&id=1494316757362



Sugatang head grass owl, nai-turn over na sa DENR sa Agusan del Norte

By **Bombo Radyo Butuan**

-January 29, 2021 | 8:02 PM

BUTUAN CITY – Ipinasakamay na ng mga tauhan ng local government unit ng Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang isang head grass owl.

Ang nasabing ibon ay nailigtas ng mga kawani ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Caraga sa Brgy. Sanghan, Cabadbaran City na may injury sa kanyang kanang pakpak.

Kaagad naman itong dinala sa City Veterinary Office para sa general check-up kungsaan nilinis ng city veterinarian ang sugat nito at tinurukan ng anti-bacterial shot upang maiwasan ang impeksyon.

Sa ngayon, temporaryong nasa kustodiya ang kuwago sa CENRO-Tubay compound bago ito itu-turn over sa Regional Wildlife Rescue Center sa bayan naman ng Kitcharao.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/sugatang-head-grass-owl-nai-turn-over-na-sa-denr-sa-agusan-del-norte/>



 News5 13h · 🌐 ⋮

Nasa 174 na pawikan hatchlings ang pinakawalan ng DENR sa dagat. Nagmula ang mga ito sa pangangalaga ng Lian Municipal Pawikan Hatchery.
For more latest stories, visit us at www.news5.com.ph

174 NA PAWIKAN, PINAKAWALAN SA BATANGAS

 DENR CALABARZON, Menro Lian, Centro Calaca



0:05 / 0:35 ⚙️ 📺 🔊

   379 21 Comments 23 Shares



Dominguez lauds Biden move for US to rejoin Paris climate deal

Friday, January 29, 2021 People's Tonight



Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III



US President Joe Biden

FINANCE Secretary Carlos Dominguez III on Friday extolled US President Joe Biden's decision for the US to rejoin the Paris Agreement on climate change, citing the need for greater cooperation to address the climate crisis.

In a statement, he said Biden's decision, which reversed the action of his predecessor Donald Trump, *"is a welcome development that comes on the heels of President Rodrigo Duterte's repeated call on all nations to act on the climate crisis with urgency as one united community under the Paris Agreement."*

"Now, more than ever, we need to ensure the mobilization of finance flows towards the adaptation needs of our most vulnerable communities. We need such action to be faster and on a greater scale. And we need it to bring about effective solutions on the ground across the globe," he said.

He also cited the need for focused efforts regarding the *"mobilization of the USD100-billion annual funding target enshrined in the Paris Agreement for the adaptation and mitigation needs of developing countries."*

"To ensure climate justice, developed countries must deliver on their commitments under the Paris Agreement, including support to developing economies leading to low-carbon and sustainable development," he said.

He said the current pandemic *"is a stark reminder that health, economic stability, and nature are intertwined"* and *"has shown to us the domino effect that is triggered when one element in this interconnected system is overturned."*



He said *“the resolute and urgent response to the pandemic demonstrated the remarkable capacity of human society to put the emergency brake on the “business-as-usual” mindset.”*

This response, he said, *“showed that we can act as one and radically change our ways and our systems to fight the scourge of a deadly virus for the greater good of all.”*

“The same unity, resolve, and sense of urgency should be applied in combating the climate emergency and pursuing low-carbon and sustainable development,” he added. *Philippine News Agency*



Pollution now seen as major world problem

Published January 29, 2021, 11:32 PM
by [Manila Bulletin](#)



The world may still be facing the COVID-19 pandemic, but there are other problems that continue to plague us, which may emerge as a bigger emergency to the people of the planet.

One such problem is pollution, about which the United Nations recently conducted a worldwide survey, its biggest ever. The survey covered 50 countries with over half the world's population. It asked 1.2 million people, of which over half a million were young people under 18 years of age, about a host of climate policies affecting the economy, energy, food and farms, nature, and protecting people.

Among the survey findings:

— The most serious forebodings about the impact of climate change were in Britain, Italy, and Japan, where 80 percent of the people in the survey expressed fears about more destructive storms. Close behind them were France, Germany, South Africa, and Canada, where about 75 percent voiced these fears — followed by another group of countries, including the United States, Russia, Vietnam, and Brazil, with 66 percent.

— Nearly 75 percent of people in small island countries see climate change as an emergency. Some face the prospect of their lands disappearing beneath rising seas. This group was followed by high-income countries, with 72 percent; middle-income countries, with 62 percent; and less-developed countries, with 58 percent.

— The most popular among the solutions offered were protecting forests and natural habitats, selected by 54 percent of the respondents. Following closely were development of solar, wind, and other forms of renewable energy; use of “climate-friendly” farming techniques; and investing in more green business and jobs.

— In four of five countries with the highest emissions from land-use change, the majority supported conserving forests and landfills, while nine of 10 countries with the most urbanized populations supported the use of electric cars and buses, as well as bicycles.

“The results of the survey clearly illustrate that urgent climate action has broad support among people around the globe, across nationalities, age, gender, and educational level,” Achim Steiner, administrator of the UN Development Program, said.

The poll also showed how people want their policymakers to tackle the climate crisis, he said. “From climate-friendly farming to protecting nature and investing in a green recovery from COVID-19, the survey brings the voice of the people to the forefront of the climate debate. It signals ways in which countries can move forward with public support, as we work together to tackle this enormous challenge.”



In our own corner of the globe, we have a pollution problem that the government is facing. After closing down Boracay island for six months in 2018, the government turned to Manila Bay, which is so heavily polluted that swimming is banned. The Supreme Court, no less, has ordered several government agencies led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to clean up the bay as well as the Pasig River, to a point where its waters are safe for swimming.

The Philippines has made its own contributions to the development of clean energy, with its geothermal, solar, wind, biomass, and water projects. We hope to keep up these efforts as our contribution to the solution of the global problem of pollution which, as the recent UN survey showed, is now recognized as a matter of great concern to the people of the whole world.



AFP Chief leads zero-plastic advocacy in camps

By AFP Published on January 30, 2021



Photo by SN1 Donald Viluan PN/PAOAFP

CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City, Jan. 30 -- The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), General Gilbert Gapay led the launching of the Zero-Plastic Campaign on Thursday at the General Headquarters Canopy Area.

"The AFP recognizes that the problem on plastic waste must be addressed with a sense of urgency and a greater sense of cooperation. So as a way of contributing to the national efforts to reduce our country's plastic waste, we launch today the "Zero Plastic Advocacy", General Gapay said.

The AFP-wide campaign is aimed at an economically sustainable approach in eliminating the consumption of single-use products in any offices or units in the AFP. It will also apply to all engagements and events within the organization.

During the event, Colonel George Joel Lalaquil, Commander of General Headquarters and Headquarters Support Command presented prohibited and phased-out single-use plastics as well as eco-friendly alternative materials that AFP units can utilize.

Also present were Major General Benedict Arevalo, Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil-Military Operations and other personnel from the GHQ who observed strict health protocols as precautionary measures against the coronavirus.

It was also attended by personnel from the Major Services via Zoom and interfaced via Facebook Live. This is to raise maximum awareness on the campaign through social media.

"With the Zero Plastic Advocacy campaign, we are taking a step forward in making a greater contribution in addressing plastic pollution. It is a bigger challenge because switching to a more sustainable life is a gradual process that asks for commitment and consistency but it is more rewarding knowing that it would do us all good, better even, in the end," General Gapay said.

Protecting the environment is not something new for the AFP. The military has been very involved in activities and projects that promote the protection and conservation of nature as it regularly conducts coastal clean-up drives and tree-planting programs among others.



With the launching of the zero-plastic campaign, the AFP further strengthens its pledge of allegiance to the nation, and the Filipino people whose common desire is to take better care of the environment.

"I would like to enjoin everyone to devote their time and effort with the same level of dedication to service in the effective conduct of this campaign. It is our responsibility to protect our nation and our people at all cost, and to protect them, we must protect the very resources that make us thrive as a nation, resources that give food and life to every Filipino," General Gapay concluded. (AFP)



AFP bans single-use plastics

[Michael Punongbayan](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 30, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines has banned the use of single-use plastic containers in all military camps nationwide and in all the AFP's activities and events held elsewhere.

AFP chief Gen. Gilbert Gapay led the launch of the military's zero-plastic campaign at Camp Aguinaldo on Thursday.

The AFP-wide campaign is aimed towards an economically sustainable approach in eliminating the consumption of single-use products in any offices or units in the military, officials said.

"Switching to a more sustainable life is a gradual process that asks for commitment and consistency, but it is more rewarding knowing that it would do us all good, better even, in the end," Gapay said.



EDITORIAL - Malulunod sa dagat ng plastik

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 30, 2021 - 12:00am



BUMAHA agad sa Ramon Magsaysay Blvd., Sta. Mesa noong Miyerkules sa sandaling pag-ulan. Hanggang tuhod ang baha na naging dahilan ng trapik. Walang bagyo o anumang sama ng panahon pero ang kaunting pag-ulan ay nagdulot agad ng pagbaha.

Ang dahilan nang pagbaha: mga plastic na nakabara sa drainage. Hindi makaagos ang tubig dahil sa sandamukal na basurang plastic. Mga supot na plastic na pinaglagyan ng buko juice at iba pang inilalakong palamig sa kalye. May mga plastic na pinaglagyan ng isda at karneng binili sa palengke o talipapa. Mayroon ding mga sachet ng 3-in-1 coffee, catsup, hot sauce, toothpaste, shampoo at hair conditioner.

Noon pa, ito na ang problema – plastic na basura. At magpahanggang ngayon, ito pa rin ang problema. Noong 2018, nagbanta si President Duterte na ipagbabawal ang paggamit ng plastic. Pero nawala ang banta. Tuloy ang paggamit ng plastic. Tuloy ang pagdami at pagbara sa mga drainages. Tuloy ang pagbaha.

Nagbabala ang coalition ng environmental groups na kung hindi gagawa ng paraan ang pamahalaan para mabawasan ang paggamit ng single use plastic, aapaw ang may 59.7 bilyong sachets sa Metro Manila. Malulunod ang mga residente sa sachets at iba pang basurang plastic na hindi natutunaw. Kailangan na umano ang isang matinding batas para rito at nang maisalba ang kapaligiran.

Hindi lamang pagbaha ang dulot ng mga basurang plastic kundi banta rin sa buhay ng mga lamandagat. Dahil sa maling pagtatapon ng basurang plastic, humahantong sa dagat ang mga ito at nakakain ng mga isda kabilang ang balyena. Marami nang balyena na sumadsad sa dalampasigan at namatay. Nang suriin kung ano ang ikinamatay ng mga ito, napag-alaman na dahil sa mga nakaing plastic na basura.

Ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ay nangangamba sa pagdami ng basurang plastic na sumisira sa kapaligiran. Kahapon, inilunsad ni AFP chief of Staff General Gilbert Gapay ang zero plastic campaign sa Camp Aguinaldo. Ipinagbawal ni Gapay ang paggamit ng plastic sa lahat na kampo ng military sa buong bansa. Naalarna na umano ang AFP sa plastic wastes.

Magkaisa ang lahat para ipagbawal ang produksiyon at paggamit ng plastic. Hindi maliit ang problemang ito. Gumawa ng hakbang bago malunod sa dagat ng plastic.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2021/01/30/2074031/editorial-malulunod-sa-dagat-ng-plastik/amp/>



Cash in trash: A vegetable garden blooms in Angono, Rizal recyclable dumpsite

Published January 29, 2021, 10:34 AM

by [Nel Andrade](#)

ANGONO, Rizal — There's cash in what used to be a place for recyclable trash.



Before and after photos of Siteo Labahan Eco Garden (Photo from Barangay San Isidro, Angono and Angono Municipal Government/MANILA BULLETIN)

What used to be a dumpsite full of non-biodegradable plastics and recyclable materials in Angono, Rizal is now a place that gives additional income and fresh vegetables to residents in a small community here.

Residents of Siteo Labahan in Barangay San Isidro, Angono, are now starting to enjoy their harvest of organically-grown vegetables such as “upo” (bottle gourd); “okra” (lady finger); string beans, eggplant, and other vegetables after four months since the ecological garden was established in the area which is part of the so-called ‘May Puso Ecological Park (Eco Park) and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)’.

The eco garden, managed by Siteo Labahan residents themselves, is the town's entry to the Search for the best Ecological Waste Management and Gardening in MRFs organized by the provincial government.

Alan Maniaol, chief of staff of Mayor Jeri Mae Calderon, told the Manila Bulletin that the members of the community and local environmental group Saranay at Kalikasan went into vegetable gardening after being trained by the local government on basic gardening techniques.

Using the compost materials that were generated from the biodegradable waste that were processed at the MRF, the community vegetable gardeners have managed to produce vegetables that are all organic and pesticide-free.

The MRF which was established by the municipal government a few years ago, is where sacks of garbage from nearby communities are sorted out for recycling. Non biodegradable wastes such as empty plastic bottles and glass bottles are separated for selling later while biodegradable wastes such as household and kitchen wastes are processed into composts and fertilizers.

The municipal government hopes that the vegetable garden would grow and continue to benefit the community as it is being envisioned to sustain the vegetable needs of the residents and provide additional income for them.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/29/cash-in-trash-a-vegetable-garden-blooms-in-angono-rizal-recyclable-dumpsite/>



Pampanga LGUs participate in cement-for-trash program

By ... -January 29, 2021



Nine local government units in Pampanga— Lubao, Sasmuan, San Fernando, Mexico, Guagua, Floridablanca, Macabebe, Mabalacat and Porac—have successfully reduced their residual plastics going into landfills and instead diverting these to a more sustainable and environment-friendly recovery and disposal process via cement kiln co-processing, in partnership with Republic Cement’s resource recovery group, Ecoloop.

Through Ecoloop’s Cement-for-Trash program, these LGUs received cement, which they can use for environment or social development projects, in exchange for qualified residual plastic wastes. These include waste that cannot be recycled or reused, which are usually plastic packaging such as sachets, plastic cutlery, grocery bags, food packaging and straws, among others.

“Republic’s Cement-For-Trash program not only helps save the environment but also helps LGUs save on landfilling and transport cost, as well as provides employment to support the Materials Recovery Facility operations,” said Lubao Municipal Environment & Natural Resources Office (MENRO) engineer Dan Aquino.

Ecoloop’s LGU partners diverted the equivalent of 100 dump trucks or 120 million sachets from landfills in the second half of last year.

Republic Cement is backed by the global expertise of CRH, a leading building materials company headquartered in Ireland, and diversified Filipino business conglomerate Aboitiz, recognized as one of the best-managed companies in Asia.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/pampanga-lgus-participate-in-cement-for-trash-program/



City to penalize improper disposal of soiled masks, anti-COVID-19 equipment

By [Mary Ruth R. Malinao](#) (The Freeman) - January 29, 2021 - 12:00am



The ordinance authored by Councilor Alvin Dizon prohibits and penalizes the improper disposal of soiled face masks and other items used to counter the dreaded coronavirus disease.

CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu City Council has approved an ordinance penalizing the improper disposal of discarded masks and other protective gears against COVID-19 in the city.

The ordinance authored by Councilor Alvin Dizon prohibits and penalizes the improper disposal of soiled face masks and other items used to counter the dreaded coronavirus disease.

“The reckless disposal of COVID-19 protective gears and products, particularly potentially infectious face masks, poses a threat to human health and environment and goes against the efforts of the government to clean up the city,” read the ordinance.

The ordinance aims to stop the unsafe disposal of used face masks and related protective gears and products; to ensure the ecological management of COVID-19 waste and to promote waste workers’ health and safety; and to promote health awareness and environmental responsibility among the citizens.

It shall apply to the disposal of all types of face masks, face shields, hand gloves and other personal protective equipment, as well as disinfectant and hygiene products such as wipes, tissues, rubbing alcohol and hand sanitizers.

The ordinance prohibits the littering, throwing or dumping of used face masks, face shields, hand gloves and other PPE, and related COVID-19 discards in public places such as streets, sidewalks, parks, canals, esteros and other water bodies.

“The use of face masks made of organic or recyclable materials or even indigenous materials is hereby encouraged to emphasize that effective waste management is primarily avoidance on the use of disposable materials that are single-used and can hardly be recycled,” Section 5 of the ordinance reads.

Section 6 also requires all households to cut used mask in half to avoid possible reuse. They shall then be disposed of by putting them in a small garbage bag, ideally yellow in color, and disinfecting them with the recommended bleach solution.



Bags containing the discarded masks must then be properly closed or sealed before disposal. The bags should then be segregated and labeled properly with a written mark which reads “USED MASKS”, or by any yellow color indicating the international color code for hazardous waste.

Violators of the ordinance will be penalized with a fine of P1,000 for first offense; P2,000 for second offense; and P3,000 or one month imprisonment or both for third and subsequent offenses.

If the offender is a juridical entity, the penalties include a fine of P2,000 for first offense; P3,000 for second offense; and P5,000 and revocation of business permit for third and subsequent offenses.

Section 9 provides, “An out-of-court compromise fee in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) may be availed: Provided, that this applies only to first time individual violators. If the violator cannot pay the compromise fee, the violator must render community service as prescribed by the Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office and/or Cebu City Solid Waste Management Board.”

The Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO) shall take the lead in the strict enforcement of the ordinance. It shall also ensure the safekeeping of database of violators to determine the first-time, second-time, and third-time violators.

— **FPL (FREEMAN)**



EDITORIAL - Disposal ordinance good, just make sure it is enforceable

(The Freeman) - January 30, 2021 - 12:00am



In an editorial last year we mentioned that an environmental crisis may soon follow this pandemic crisis, because we have to deal with the increasing waste resulting from the need to protect ourselves and to save others from the coronavirus.

This is slowly becoming a reality. More and more we are starting to see face masks, face shields, gloves, and other personal protective equipment appearing in our daily trash production. Sometimes they are even just recklessly discarded as single items in the streets, canals, rivers, and other bodies of water.

In line with this the city has passed an ordinance calling for the proper disposal of such items. "The reckless disposal of COVID-19 protective gears and products, particularly potentially infectious face masks, poses a threat to human health and environment and goes against the efforts of the government to clean up the city," read the ordinance authored by Councilor Alvin Dizon.

The ordinance also calls for the disposal of face masks by cutting them in half, disinfecting them with bleach, before putting them in a plastic bag, ideally a yellow one so collectors will immediately know what they are dealing with.

This ordinance is good. Although enforcing it might be somewhat of a challenge.

Considering that many households dispose of their garbage in the dead of night, enforcers might have a hard time finding out who is leaving unsanitized, uncut masks, and other PPE in garbage collection areas.

Then there is the matter of dealing with the really hard-headed people. Those who refuse to comply. Are trash collectors allowed not to collect such trash that has not been cut and sanitized, considering the risk it poses to them and the environment, to teach stubborn people a lesson?

Unless someone is caught in flagrante delicto disposing of a PPE item or items in public, it may also be difficult to trace who so carelessly disposed of such. Short of DNA testing or video evidence, it will be difficult to prove that that trash really belongs to a particular person.

Don't get us wrong, we aren't against the ordinance per se. But an ordinance is only effective if it can be enforced properly. We look forward to the authorities coming up with effective ways to carry it out.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/opinion/2021/01/30/2073992/editorial-disposal-ordinance-good-just-make-sure-it-enforceable/amp/>



Nestlé Philippines, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) tackle plastic waste in Donsol

By [BMPlus](#)

January 29, 2021



Nestlé Philippines and World Wide Fund for Nature–Philippines (WWF-PH) have formalized an agreement to tackle plastic waste in Donsol, Sorsogon. Whale shark watching is an ecotourism industry in Donsol, and its coastal location includes many pathways for waste to end up in the sea. In photo at the agreement signing are Nestlé Philippines Senior Vice President and Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications Arlene Tan – Bantoto (seated, right) with Assistant Vice Presidents Christine Garcia (seated, left) and Patricia Rabat (standing, left), WWF-PH Executive Director Joel Palma (center) and Lead, Brand and Innovative Partnerships Kent Rebutan.

Food and beverage manufacturer Nestlé Philippines has entered into an agreement with World Wide Fund for Nature – Philippines (WWF-PH) to tackle plastic waste in Donsol, Sorsogon, where whale shark watching is an ecotourism industry, and its coastal location includes many pathways for waste to end up in the sea.

Under the agreement and in line with its urgent priority to tackle plastic waste towards a waste-free future, Nestlé Philippines will support the Plastic Smart Cities project of WWF-PH, an initiative that works with Philippine cities and municipalities to push circular solutions to stop plastic waste leakage in nature. WWF is currently working in five project sites where it generates and pilots solutions to increase waste reduction, segregation, collection, and recycling.

Specifically, Nestlé Philippines will strengthen KALIPI operations and the pilot implementation of NAKAMOTO in six barangays in Donsol.

KALIPI or *Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina* was launched in September of 2013 to empower Filipino women through community activities and the development of livelihood practices. Last October, KALIPI Donsol launched a line of souvenir products made from recycled plastics together with WWF-PH.



In order to combat plastic pollution while creating new livelihood opportunities, KALIPI Donsol produces handmade items made of upcycled plastic, some of which are retrieved from the beach with the rest sourced from the local government waste collection service. In photo, a KALIPI member works at a sewing machine.

The province of Sorsogon shares a border with the Ticao-Burias Pass Protected Seascape (TBPPS). The TBPPS, a critical habitat, is home to the endangered whale shark. WWF-Philippines has been working with the municipal local government unit (LGU) of Donsol on the conservation of whale sharks since 1998.



Human activity surrounding the TBPPS presents a threat to the integrity of the protected area. Plastic pollution is becoming a threat, ending up in the habitat of marine life. KALIPI Donsol is addressing plastic pollution with its product line. In order to combat the threat of plastic pollution while creating new livelihood opportunities, the women's rights organization has rolled out various handmade products. Each product is made of upcycled plastic, some of which are retrieved from the beach with the rest sourced from the local government waste collection service.

Meanwhile, NAKAMOTO is a pilot solution to collect wastes through motorcycles in barangays that are not serviced by the municipal waste collection system. WWF, together with partner barangays and the Donsol LGU, will launch this solution whereby waste segregation will be propagated in pilot barangays, with collection by means of motorcycles. Collected segregated wastes will be brought to the municipal composting area for biodegradables, partner junk shops for recyclables, and KALIPI for residual wastes.



Recycled plastic waste is turned into souvenir items in Donsol. KALIPI or Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina empowers Filipino women through community activities and the development of livelihood practices.

“This partnership with WWF – Philippines gives us the opportunity to work with KALIPI and help pilot NAKAMOTO to advance waste collection, segregation, and recycling in Donsol. We strongly believe collaboration is indispensable in preventing plastic waste from ending up in landfills, the oceans, or as litter,” said Nestlé Philippines Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki, “In this case, we welcome the chance to participate in piloting and expanding solutions that will help keep our oceans clean.”

“We are thankful for this support from Nestlé Philippines in helping us expand our solution which aims to lessen plastic wastes by 20% in Donsol, while providing livelihood support to women. With this, we will be able to help create more upcycled products from plastics and reach a wider market. We, as a women's group in Donsol, are excited to increase our support for our LGU in implementing our 10-year solid waste management plan,” said KALIPI President Wilma D. Arevalo.

Initiatives of Nestlé Philippines to tackle plastic waste include achieving plastic neutrality on a monthly basis starting last August, which means it retrieves plastic waste equivalent to what it generates from its packaging in the market, averaging over 2,000 metric tons a month. It is also actively supporting a mandated Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for plastic waste in the country in which producers will assume responsibility for plastic packaging beyond the consumption of products. In addition, the company is currently pursuing the reduction of plastics and redesigning its packaging to make these more recyclable.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/29/nestle-philippines-world-wide-fund-for-nature-wwf-tackle-plastic-waste-in-donsol/>



Native PH lizard, which is' vulnerable to extinction', found dead in Davao City watershed

Published January 29, 2021, 1:41 PM

by [Antonio Colina IV](#)

DAVAO CITY – Davao City-based environmental group Interface Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) found a dead Philippine Sailfin Lizard, considered an endemic species of the Philippines that is already vulnerable to extinction, which was reportedly shot along the riverbanks of Panigan-Tamugan watershed in Baguio District here.



Dead Philippine Sailfin Lizard, or known to locals as "ibid," was found along the riverbanks of Davao City's next water source. (Photo courtesy of Atty. Mark Peñalver, IDIS executive director / MANILA BULLETIN)

IDIS executive director Mark Peñalver said, in an interview, that the dead creature, known to locals as "ibid", was found during a routine river clean-up and brand audit conducted by the environmental group with members of Bantay Bukid last Wednesday, January 27, along the riverbanks of the watershed, considered as Davao's next water source.

He added that the team also spotted another "ibid" lurking near where the dead creature was discovered.

Peñalver called on the local government to strengthen efforts to protect these creatures to live up to the city's campaign slogan that "Life is here in Davao", adding that this must include the "life of our natural resources, including those within it."

"As what we always say in IDIS, a clean water means a healthy watershed. Let's continue to protect and conserve our watersheds for us to have more sources of clean water," he added. The "ibid" has been listed by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as "vulnerable species" due to habitat loss through land conversions, logging operations, human intrusions, and monocrop plantations.

The lizards are also being hunted for food, and are heavily collected as pets, he added. He said there were also sightings of Philippine Long-tailed Macaque, considered by IUCN as "near threatened" species in the same watershed.

He said the presence of these creatures are an important indicator of a healthy and balanced watershed and of high endemism in the area.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/29/native-ph-lizard-which-is-vulnerable-to-extinction-found-dead-in-davao-city-watershed/>



Sea turtle saved from laying eggs in crowded beach in Mati

Published January 29, 2021, 12:32 PM

by [Zea Capistrano](#)

DAVAO CITY – A sea turtle, which was about to lay eggs at a crowded beach in Dahican, Mati City, on Thursday night, was rescued by three surfers.



A sea turtle, which was about to lay eggs at a crowded beach in Dahican, Mati City, on Thursday night, was rescued by three surfers. (Photo courtesy of Amihan sa Dahican-Save our Seas Project / MANILA BULLETIN)

The female sea turtle, tagged as PH1677L, eventually laid 74 eggs, said Amihan sa Dahican-Save our Seas Project in a post on Facebook.

“Bayugyug, Panggoy and Eric, our very own skimboarders/surfers, found a mother turtle in the crowded beach bar. With their hearts for (marine) conservation, they immediately called the Amihan Team to keep an eye on the mother,” it said.

“Fortunately, after 20minutes, the mother got (the) right quiet and safe place to lay her 74 eggs,” it added.

The team noted that it was the first time that they witnessed PH1677L lay her eggs.

“Her (little) babies are now in the pawikan hatchery and projected to hatch for approximately 60 days,” it said.

The team is also expecting turtle hatchlings on February 25, February 27, and March 4.

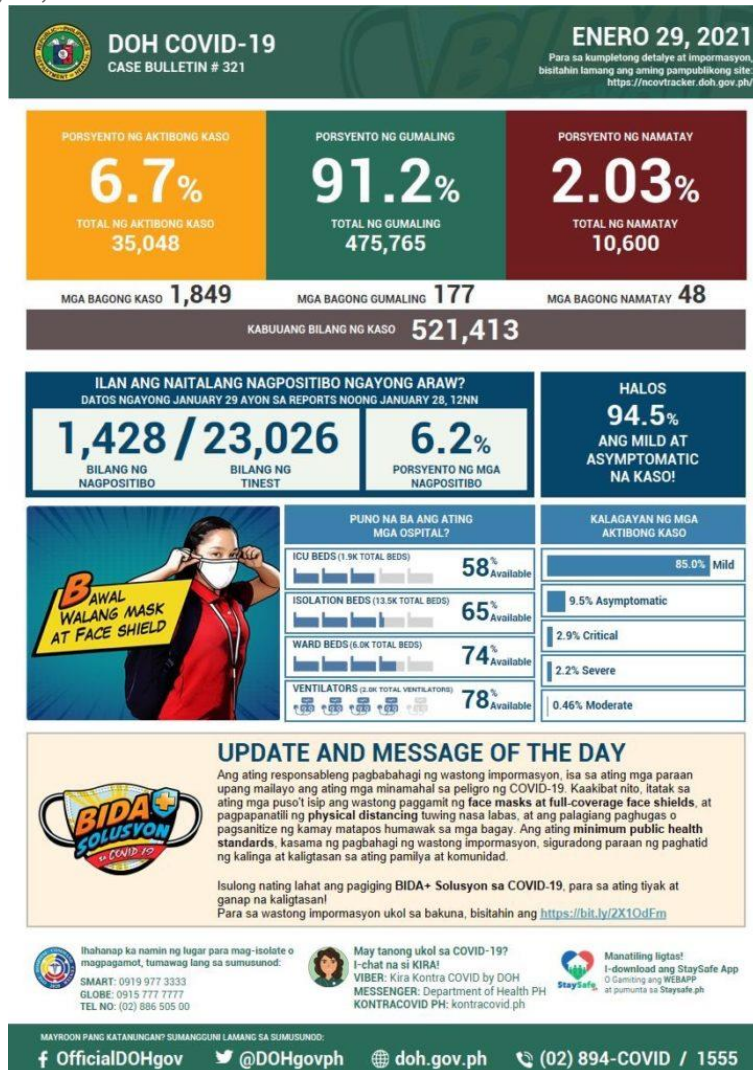
Amihan sa Dahican was established on April 4, 2004. It aims “to conserve marine wildlife species in the bay, take care of young kids, and share surfing and skimboarding skills with visitors.”

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/29/sea-turtle-saved-from-laying-eggs-in-crowded-beach-in-mati/>



BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, sumampa na sa higit 521,000

By Angellic Jordan January 29, 2021 - 04:14 PM



Halos 2,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Biyernes (January 29), umabot na sa 521,413 confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 35,048 o 6.7 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,849 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

85.0 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 9.5 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.46 porsyento ang moderate; 2.2 porsyento ang severe habang 2.9 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 48 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 10,600 o 2.03 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 177 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 475,765 o 91.2 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/283875/breaking-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-sumampa-na-sa-higit-521000>



Metro, Cordillera under GCQ; looser controls likely after February

posted January 30, 2021 at 02:30 am

by [Willie Casas and Maricel V. Cruz](#)

Metro Manila and the entire Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and six other areas will be under general community quarantine (GCQ) for the whole month of February, Malacanang said.

In a televised briefing, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said other areas to be under GCQ from Feb. 1 to 28 are Batangas, Tacloban City, Davao City, Davao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Iligan City.

CAR's quarantine classification shifted from MGCQ to GCQ after its health care capacity reached "moderate risk."

The rest of the country will be under a modified general community quarantine.

Placing the entire CAR was approved after the Department of Health (DOH) detected the presence of the more transmissible UK coronavirus variant in Bontoc, Mountain Province, and in La Trinidad, Benguet.

Shift to MGCQ

But Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said the entire country may shift to MGCQ, the loosest quarantine classification, within the first quarter of the year.

"That is very much doable. We just have a new COVID-19 variant that is why we are being extra careful in our decisions, even on the age restrictions and possible movement to MGCQ," Lopez said in a digital presser.

1,849 new cases reported

The Philippines logged on Friday 1,849 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the total to 521,413, with eight laboratories failing to submit their data on time, the Department of Health (DOH) reported.

There were 48 new fatalities, bringing the death toll to 10,600, which is 2.03 percent of the total cases.

The DOH also reported that 177 patients recovered recently, bringing the total recoveries to 475,765, which is 91.2 percent of the total.

This left 35,048 active cases, which is 6.7 percent of the total.

DOH not alarmed over Cebu surge

A Department of Health official on Friday allayed fears about the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in Cebu, saying its health care system is still at the "safe" level.

"We are still very safe now but what we're saying is, although this data are reflective of what's happening here, we want to ensure also that people would not become complacent," said Dr. Mary Jean Loreche, spokesperson and chief pathologist of the Department of Health-Central Visayas.

She made the remark in response to a study by a group of researchers and professors that COVID-19 cases in Cebu had become "a serious concern."

"We respect their data and their concern, and we appreciate that. But in fairness to us here in Cebu City, we are far from what happened to us in May, June, and July last year. At that time, we really struggled with bed allocations," she said.

New rules out for visiting foreigners

The government has set new conditions for foreigners who are allowed to enter the Philippines despite the travel restrictions to curb the spread of the new variant of the coronavirus disease, Malacañang said on Friday.

Roque said foreign travelers who wish to visit the Philippines are required to pre-book hotels for quarantine purposes and undergo a reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test six days after their arrival.

"These foreign nationals should also have pre-booked accommodation for at least seven nights in an accredited quarantine hotel or facility. They shall also be subject to Covid-19 testing at the quarantine hotel or facility on the sixth day from the date of their arrival," Roque said.



Disinfect trains, lawmakers urges

Quezon City Rep. Precious Castelo on Friday called for thorough disinfection against COVID-19 of all trains and stations of MRT-3, the mass rail transit system along EDSA.

Castelo made the call after the Department of Transportation (DOTr) reported that at least 42 depot and maintenance personnel had tested positive for COVID-19 and that the facility's general manager was fighting the disease at a hospital's intensive care unit.

"This report is alarming. It should prompt the DOTr and health authorities to thoroughly disinfect all train cars and stations along the entire stretch of the system. The underground depot at the North Avenue area in Quezon City should be extensively sanitized as well," she said.

Case closed on domestic in HK

The case of the Filipina domestic helper in Hong Kong who had contracted the virus' UK strain has been deemed closed, as all of her contacts in the Philippines have already been tested and found negative of the more transmissible COVID-19 variant, the Department of Health (DOH) said on Friday.

The said overseas Filipino worker tested positive for the more transmissible COVID-19 variant when she arrived in Hong Kong from Manila in December.

She underwent quarantine in Hong Kong on Dec. 22 but she tested positive for COVID-19 and the new variant on Jan. 2.

It remains uncertain where she got infected, as she had tested negative before departure from Manila.

The DOH traced her contacts in her hometown in Cagayan Valley and her agency's office in Manila.



PH to safeguard sovereignty amid geopolitical issues: Lorenzana

By Priam Nepomuceno January 29, 2021, 1:49 pm



Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. (File photo)

MANILA – The Philippines will continue to maintain its independent foreign policy to protect its sovereignty and national interest amid geopolitical issues, the country's defense chief said on Friday.

"We will continue to uphold our independent foreign policy to safeguard our sovereignty and national interest. We will maintain and enhance our existing alliance while exploring potential partnership, all for the advancement of our country and the welfare of our people," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in a virtual conference organized by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP).

Lorenzana also maintained that the long-standing geopolitical rivalry between the United States and China will continue to test the Philippines' adeptness in balancing its relationship between the two nations.

"It is necessary for us to continuously engage with China not only for existing cooperation in various areas but also for the peaceful resolution of our competing claims in the South China Sea," he added.

Lorenzana said the Philippines must remain mindful of the role of the US "as the stabilizing force in the Indo-Pacific Region and a counterbalance to China."

He also noted that maintaining a stable international rules-based order is in the best interest of all.

Lorenzana also hoped that Manila would benefit from Washington DC's "pivot to Asia strategy" under the administration of President Joe Biden.

"Thus, we welcome with great optimism the change of leadership in the US government, hoping that the strong and reliable friendship between the Philippines and the US would flourish ever further," he added.

He also expressed hope that the appointment of former Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim as an assistant secretary of the US Department of State, who has a deeper understanding of the country, will result in the exercise of prudence and restraint in dealing with other countries' domestic affairs.

"American leaders must note that the foundation of our alliance is our shared commitment to the preservation of democracy and protection of human rights and that the Philippines has never reneged from such commitment," he said.

Noting that bilateral relations is a two-way concern, Lorenzana said the Philippines must do its share in fulfilling its comment to the alliance and undertake its role in preserving this decades-old friendship.

"Our country can be a more responsible partner by exerting efforts commensurate to those of the US and its neighbors such as investing in the modernization and capability upgrade of its own Armed Forces and developing its own defense industry. By taking a relatively larger responsibility in the alliance in terms of burden-sharing, the Philippines can generate openness and confidence with the US and its neighbors," he noted. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1128947>

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