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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR pinarangalan ang solid waste management 'champions'



January 30, 2021 @ 4:00 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Dahil sa kanilang kontribusyon para pangalagaan ang kalikasan, pinarangalan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang environmental partners ng ahensya dahil sa ibinigay na suporta ng mga ito na nagresulta sa pagpapasara ng mga open dumpsites at ang paghadlang sa pagtatapon ng basura sa Manila Bay.

Ibinigay ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang parangal bilang pagkilala sa mga government agencies, non-government organization, at private company dahil sa suporta ng mga ito upang mapalakas ang kampanya sa solid waste management ng DENR sa ginanap na selebrasyon ng 20th year ng Republic Act 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 at sa pagtatapos ng Zero Waste Month noong Enero 26.

“For the past years, we have been boosting our campaign to address the solid waste problem in our country,” ayon kay Cimatu.

“The numerous achievements of our Department would not be possible without the help of our active partners,” dagdag pa nito.

Base sa DENR kabilang sa mga pinarangalan ay ang Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD), Ecological Waste (EcoWaste) Coalition, at ang Maersk Philippines.

Simula noong 2018, ang mga pinarangalan ay nakikiisa sa mga operasyon ng DENR upang mabigyan ng solusyon ang problema sa solid waste sa Manila Bay at pagpapasara ng dumpsites sa Bataan, Pampanga at Cavite.

Pinangunahan ni dating PNP-National Capital Region Police Office Director at ngayo’y Deputy Chief for Administration, Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar ang listahan ng mga awardees kasama rin si dating Regional Police Office Central Luzon Director Maj. Gen. Rhodel Sermonia na ngayo’y Directorate for Police Community Relations.

Nabatid pa sa DENR na kasama rin sa nabigyan ng parangal sina NBI-EnCD chief Eric Nuqui, Brig. Gen. John Mitchell Jamili ng PNP-Maritime Group, Col. Raynold Rosero ng Regional Maritime Unit-NCR, Maj. Rommel Sobrido ng Northern NCR Maritime Police Station, at Cpt. Randy Ludovice ng RMU NCR Intelligence and Investigation Branch.



Kabilang din sa kinilala si Maersk Philippines head of delivery Cherryl Ann dela Vega, at ang EcoWaste Coalition na inirepresenta ng kanilang board secretary Ramon Pascual dahil sa patuloy na pagsuporta nila sa mga inisyatiba ng DENR.

“We thank them for their relentless effort to help us in enforcing environmental laws, specifically RA 9003,” sabi ni Cimatú na nagsisilbi ring chair ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

Punto ni Cimatú, agresibo ngayon ang DENR sa kampanya nito sa solid waste management at ang pagpapatupad ng mga probisyon ng RA 9003.

Kabilang sa mga ito ang pagpapasara ng mga open dumpsites, pagtatayo ng materials recovery facilities (MRF), at ang pagtulong sa local government units (LGUs) para sa pagbuo ng kanilang 10-year solid waste management plans.

“Our action against open dumpsites has been relentless.”

Binigyang-diin ni Cimatú na ang DENR sa pamamagitan ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Benny D. Antiporda at ng Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ay nakapagpasara ng 38 open dumpsites sa isang araw bago pa ang selebrasyon ng 20th year ng RA 9003.

Samantala, nagbigay pa ng direktiba si Cimatú kay Antiporda na siya ring NSWMC’s Alternate Chair at sa EMB na ipasara ang lahat ng open dumpsites sa bansa sa loob ng dalawang buwan.

“This is my directive to them (EMB) and to you Benny, all open dumpsites must be closed by end of March this year,” paliwanag ni Cimatú.

Ayon sa DENR chief, nakahanda rin ang ahensiya na makipagtulungan sa LGUs upang madagdagan ang bilang ng sanitary landfills (SLF) sa bansa at pag-aralan ang implementing rules and regulations ng RA 9003 upang makapagpatayo ng mas malalaking SLF. **(Santi Celario)**



DENR GINAWARAN ANG MGA CHAMPION NG SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



January 31, 2021 @ 12:18 AM 6 hours ago

PINARANGALAN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang mga environmental partner ng ahensya dahil sa ibinigay na kontribusyon ng mga ito na nagresulta sa pagpapasara ng mga open dumpsite at paghadlang sa pagtatapon ng basura sa Manila Bay.

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Kabilang din sa kinilala si Maersk Philippines head of delivery Cherryl Ann dela Vega, at ang EcoWaste Coalition na kinatawan ng kanilang board secretary na si Ramon Pascual dahil sa patuloy na pagsuporta nila sa mga inisyatiba ng DENR.

“We thank them for their relentless effort to help us in enforcing environmental laws, specifically RA 9003,” sabi ni Cimatu na nagsisilbi ring chair ng National Solid Waste Management Commission.



Yellow bin ipamamahagi ng DENR sa mga barangay



Mamahagi ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources ng yellow bin sa mga barangay sa buong bansa.

Ayon kay Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, ito ay para masiguro na maayos na naitatapon ang mga face shield, face mask, gloves at iba pang personal protective equipment na ginamit kontra Covid 19.

“Immediately we came up with the yellow bin kung saan ho ipamimigay po ito sa bawat barangay. Kahit paano tig-isa po kada isang barangay ang bibigyan natin para ho masigurong mayroon lang sign kung saan po nila itatapon ito pong kanilang mga household healthcare waste ano po. Hindi po ito hospital waste, ito po ay household healthcare waste na ginagamit po natin sa araw-araw,” pahayag ni Antiporda.

“Ito po ay—kapag pira-piraso lang po iyong itatapon, sa loob po natin ng bin ilalagay. Kapag nakabalot naman po iyan at naipon na po sa ating mga bahay, ilagay po sa isang maayos na sisidlan at ito po ay i-seal nang maayos then ilagay po sa tabi noong yellow trash bin para ho kapag dinaanan na po iyan ng atin pong truck ng basura, iyong atin pong garbage collector, alam po nila na suspected contaminated waste po iyan ano ho. Hindi ho iyan iyong ipaghahalo po natin kapag nagtapon po tayo ng household waste eh kasabay po iyan, eh nilalagay po natin sa alanganin naman iyong buhay po ng ating mga kolektor ng basura,” dagdag ng opisyal.

Ayon kay Antiporda, nagsimula na ang DENR ng pamamahagi ng yellow bin noong Disyembre pero ito ay sa Metro Manila pa lamang.

Minamadali na aniya ng DENR ang pamimigay ng karagdagang 1,600 yellow bin sa buwan ng Pebrero.

“Well we started already last December, namigay na po kami sa Manila but ito po ay pilot project pa lang po, isandaang piraso pa lang po iyong naipamigay. Within this February pina-fast track po natin iyong another 1,600 and tuluy-tuloy na po iyan, palaki nang palaki po numero niyan dahil nakita na po natin iyong pangangailangan ng ating bayan ano po,”pahayag ni Antiporda.

Pagsusumikapan aniya ng DENR na mahanapan ng pondo ang naturang proyekto.



Ilalagay ng DENR sa bawat barangay YELLOW BIN PARA SA USED FACE MASK, FACE SHIELD

9 hours ago jake



NAKABABAHALA ang pagtaas ng bilang ng mga ginamit na face shields, face masks at itinatapong mga gamit na bagay na may kaugnayan sa COVID 19 pandemic sa level ng mga barangay sa nakalipas na ilang buwan.

Mayroon ding ilang mga tao ang gumagamit ng mga guwantes o rubber gloves bilang dagdag na pag-iingat at proteksyon.

Pero matagal nang ikinababahala ng environmentalist groups ang pagdami ng mga naitatapong face mask at face shield na hindi naman nabubulok.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, hindi naman maaaring tukuyin ang volume nito dahil maaaring pagmulan na naman ng diskusyon ng ibang sector ng lipunan.

Kaya sa halip, nakapokus aniya ang DENR sa pagtiyak na mahahakot nang maayos ang mga nabanggit na patapon na tinatawag na "household health care waste" dahil sa kontaminasyon na maaaring maidulot nito.

"These are all being used to protect lives, 'yun ang main objective niya and yet pagdating sa disposal nade-defeat ang purpose niya dahil sa indiscriminate na pagtatapon," sabi ni Usec. Antiporda.

Alinsunod sa pandemic protocols ng bansa, kinakailangang naka-face mask at face shield ang mga lalabas ng bahay para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Plano aniya ng tanggapan na maglaan sa bawat barangay ng mga dilaw na trash bin para roon itapon ng mga residente ang ganoong uri ng basura.

"Kapag pira-piraso lang ang itatapon sa loob ng bin kapag naipon na sa bahay, ilagay sa maayos na sisidlan at i-seal nang maayos and ilagay sa tabi ng yellow trash bin kasi kapag dinaanan na po 'yan ng truck ng basura alam na nila na suspected contaminated waste po iyan, hindi po iyan ihahalo kapag nagtapon tayo ng household waste. Again, this will serve as a sign na segregate na-household health care waste para maproteksyunan ang mga magpi-pick up ng ating mga basura," " sabi ni Antiporda.

Aminado ang opisyal ng DENR na hindi lahat ng barangay ay mabibigyan ng yellow bin dahil sa kakulangan ng pondo, kaya naman umaapela si Antiporda sa mga lokal na pamahalaan na maglaan din ng sari-sariling disposal area para sa household health care waste sa kani-kanilang mga barangay.



“Susupportahan po sila ng national government, very cooperative naman po sila when it comes to health protocols, eh maisama pa rin siya sa health protocol para hindi ma-defeat ang purpose ng pagtatapon ng face masks,” sabi pa ni Antiporda. (DAVE MEDINA)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/metro/ilalagay-ng-denr-sa-bawat-barangay-yellow-bin-para-sa-used-face-mask-face-shield/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0vrtSpHxHykKdVrzA-m_1zKzu_DkJu15LGjT0pCO7KorTOcUD1ynosuI



DENR, bumuo ng Manila Bay anti-pollution task force

By **Bombo Bam Orpilla** - January 30, 2021 | 7:28 AM

Lumikha ng anti-pollution task force ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang mapabilis ang rehabilitasyon ng coastal at marine ecosystem ng Manila Bay.

Batay sa kautusang itinakda noong Enero 26, sinabi ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na bubuunin ang Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force ng mga sumusunod na opisina:

Manila Bay Coordinating Office

River Basin Control Office

Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office

National Water Resources Board

Laguna Lake Development Authority

at Environmental Management Bureau sa Region 1, 3, 4-A at ang National Capital Region

Sisiguruhin ng task force na susunod sa kanilang sewerage systems ang government facilities, residential at commercial establishments, maging mga commercial centers sa loob ng Manila Bay region.

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

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

Pangungunahan ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda ang lahat ng mga hakbang para sa pagpapaunlad at pagpapaganda ng Manila Bay.



'Pasaway na polluters' of Manila Bay warned

Published January 30, 2021, 11:31 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda gave a stern warning to habitual polluters of Manila Bay on the heels of his designation as head of the new Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force (MBAPTF).



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“Shape up or ship out”—my message for business establishments that violate our environmental laws. We will deal with you head on,” he told reporters.

Special Order (SO) No.2021-17, which effected the creation of the MBAPTF along with Antiporda’s new function, was issued only last January 26. He said the task force is “long overdue.”

The DENR official clarified that he won’t be in charge of all things that have to do with Manila Bay; rather, only go after the polluters who worsen the situation at Manila Bay.

Antiporda personally described them as “pasaway na polluters (disobedient people who pollute).”

Antiporda concurrently holds the position of Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns chief.

The formation of the task force is in line with Administrative Order No.16. Issued in February 2019, the Palace order seeks to “expedite the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of the Manila Bay.”



DENR sa publiko: Gamit na face mask, shield, itapon nang maayos



January 30, 2021 @ 3:10 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nagpaalala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang publiko na itapon nang maayos ang mga ginamit na face mask at face shield o ang tinatawag na “household health care waste” dahil sa posibleng maidulot na kontaminasyon nito.

Sinabi ni Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na nawawala ang silbi ng paggamit ng face shield, face masks, at mga gloves sa labas kung hindi basta na lamang ito itatapon.

“These are all being used to protect lives, ‘yun ang main objective niya and yet pagdating sa disposal nade-defeat ang purpose niya dahil sa indiscriminate na pagtatapon,” paliwanag ni Antiporda.

Dagdag pa ng opisyal, nakababahala ang bilang ng mga naitatapon na tinatawag na household health care waste kung kaya’r plano ng tanggapan na maglaan sa bawat barangay ng mga dilaw na trash bin para doon itapon ng mga residente ang ganitong klase ng basura.

“Kapag pira-piraso lang ang itatapon sa loob ng bin kapag naipon na sa bahay, ilagay sa maayos na sisidlan at i-seal nang maayos and ilagay sa tabi ng yellow trash bin kasi kapag dinaanan na po ‘yan ng truck ng basura alam na nila na suspected contaminated waste po iyan, hindi po iyan ihahalo natin kapag nagtapon tayo ng household waste,” punto ni Antiporda.

Aminado ang ahensiya na hindi lahat ng barangay ay mabibigyan nito dahil sa kakulangan ng pondo. Kaya naman apela ni Antiporda sa mga lokal na pamahalaan na maglaan din ng sari-sariling disposal area para sa mga household health care waste sa kani-kanilang mga barangay.

Handa naman daw anila sila tumulong sa mga LGU.

“Susupportahan po sila ng national government, very cooperative naman po sila when it comes to health protocols, eh maisama pa rin siya sa health protocol para hindi ma-defeat ang purpose ng pagtatapon ng face masks,.”

“Again this will serve as a sign na segregate na-household health care waste para maproteksyunan ang mga magpi-pick up ng ating mga basura,“ lahad pa nito. [RNT/FGDC](#)

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/denr-sa-publiko-gamit-na-face-mask-shield-itapon-nang-maayos/>



DENR: Dispose of masks, gloves properly

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:04 AM January 31, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reminded the public to dispose of their masks and gloves properly by putting them into yellow bins, which will be distributed to barangays to serve as receptacles for these health-care waste. Benny Antiporda, undersecretary of the DENR, said the amount of household health-care waste had risen amid the pandemic, but these were not always disposed of properly. “They are thrown away indiscriminately,” Antiporda said at an online press briefing. This was why the DENR has started distributing yellow bins to barangays where these health-care waste could be placed. Antiporda reminded the public not to mix their discarded masks and gloves with regular household waste. “Otherwise we would be putting the lives of the garbage collectors at risk,” he added. —Leila B. Salaverria



Apela ng DENR: Gamit na face mask, shield, itapon nang maayos

Angela Coloma, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 30 2021 12:23 PM



Araw-araw pinag-iingat ang housekeeping staff ng Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center sa Marikina City sa pag-dispose ng kanilang medical waste nila. Dumami ang bilang ng naitatapong medical waste dahil sa pagdami ng mga pasyenteng may COVID-19 at pagdami na rin ng ginagamit na personal protective equipment. *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News*

MAYNILA - Pinaalalahanan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang publiko na itapon nang maayos ang mga gamit na face mask at face shield o ang tinatawag na "household health care waste" dahil sa kontaminasyon na maaaring maidulot nito.

Sa isang public press briefing, sinabi ni Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na nawawala ang silbi ng paggamit ng face shield, face masks, at mga gloves sa labas kung hindi ito itatapon nang maayos.

"These are all being used to protect lives, 'yun ang main objective niya and yet pagdating sa disposal nade-defeat ang purpose niya dahil sa indiscriminate na pagtatapon," ani Antiporda.

Alinsunod sa pandemic protocols ng bansa, kinakailangang naka-face mask at face shield ang mga lalabas ng bahay para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Kasabay nito, may iilang gumagamit ng mga guwantes o rubber gloves bilang dagdag-proteksyon. Pero matagal nang ikinababahala ng mga environmentalist group ang pagdami ng mga naitatapon na face mask at face shield na hindi naman nabubulok.

Ayon kay Antiporda, nakababahala ang bilang ng mga naitatapon na tinatawag na household health care waste. Dahil dito, plano ng tanggapan na maglaan sa bawat barangay ng mga dilaw na trash bin para doon itapon ng mga residente ang ganitong klase ng basura.

Ibinahagi rin ni Antiporda ang wastong paraan ng pagtatapon ng mga ito sa mga trash bin.

"Kapag pira-piraso lang ang itatapon sa loob ng bin kapag naipon na sa bahay, ilagay sa maayos na sisidlan at i-seal nang maayos and ilagay sa tabi ng yellow trash bin kasi kapag dinaanan na po 'yan ng truck ng basura alam na nila na suspected contaminated waste po iyan, hindi po iyan ihahalo natin kapag nagtapon tayo ng household waste," ani Antiporda.

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"Again this will serve as a sign na segregate na-household health care waste para maproteksyunan ang mga magpi-pick up ng ating mga basura," ani Antiporda.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/30/21/apela-ng-denr-gamit-na-face-mask-shield-itapon-nang-maayos>



233 OPEN DUMPSITES IPINASARA NG DENR

January 27, 2021 jake



UMAABOT pa sa 233 nakaladlad na imbakan ng mga basura ang pinasasaraduhan ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Sa Marso ng kasalukuyang taon ang palugit na ibinigay ni Cimatu sa pagpapasara ng 233 imbakan ng mga basura na lantarang nakabuyangyang.

Si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda ang nakatoka sa trabahong ito.

Lubos na naniniwala si Cimatu na natutupad at matatapos ni Antiporda ang trabaho nito dahil nasimulan na ng opisyal ang pagpapasara ng open dumpsites sa iba't ibang rehiyon ng bansa.

Ang utos ni Cimatu ay nakabatay sa patuloy na pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9003, ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Nakasaad sa RA 9003 na: "no open dumps shall be established and operated, nor any practice or disposal of solid waste by any person, including LGU (local government units), which constitutes the use of open dumps for solid wastes, is allowed".

Noong 2017, mayroong 385 pang mga bukas na tapunan ng mga basura sa maraming bahagi ng bansa, batay sa rekord ng DENR.

Delikado sa kalusugan at nakasisira ng kalikasan ang mga basurahang bukas, kaya wasto ang ginagawa ng DENR laban sa mga ito. (NELSON S. BADILLA)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/metro/233-open-dumpsites-ipinasara-ng-denr/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR1pNA4HVM1VPb4_850-XFG3EC9boFvUu6-49Yd7N_Gqv1tFaEpwOToBvDA



DENR seeks to shut down all open dumps by March

ABS-CBN News

Jan 30 2021 04:08 PM



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is looking to shut down by March all open dumps, which are deemed illegal in the country, with close to 200 on its target list, an official said Saturday.

The national government started a crackdown on open dumps on Monday, Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said, starting from a list of 233 to be shuttered. By Tuesday, the figure had gone down to 195.

The operation of open dumps is prohibited under Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/amp/news/01/30/21/denr-seeks-to-shut-down-all-open-dumps-by-march>

EMB-7 promises closure of all open dumpsites in CV by March 2021

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital | January 30, 2021 - 01:31 PM



EMB-7 recently ordered the closure of the dumpsite in Barangay Luyang in Carmen town. | CDN Digital File Photo

CEBU CITY, Philippines — The Environment Management Bureau in Central Visayas (EMB-7) is determined to close all open dumpsites in the region before March 2021 ends in compliance with the directive of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Cimatu gave emphasis on the need to already close all open dumpsites in the country in compliance with Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 during the 20th anniversary celebration of Negros Oriental province which he attended last January 26, 2021.

“This is my directive to them (EMB): All open dumpsites must be closed by the end of March this year,” the secretary had said.

In a statement, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR-7) warned local government units (LGUs) in the region that will continue to operate their open dumpsites of the issuance of a cease and desist order.

Earlier, EMB-7 issued cease and desist order against the municipalities of Carmen in northern Cebu and Guindulman located on the western side of Bohol province for operating open dumpsites.

At the same time, EMB-7 continues to engage with the different LGUs in Negros Oriental through its “Capacity Development on Environmental Laws and LGUs’ Compliance to RA 9003,” a series of forum that will end this Saturday, January 30.

During the said seminar, financial mechanism schemes were presented to LGU representatives to give them ideas on how they can comprehensively establish their solid waste management facilities.

Furthermore, private waste management service providers were also allowed to offer their technologies to provide LGUs with options on how to manage especially the household wastes.

EMB-7 expressed hope that with their continuous engagement, LGUs will be able to redefine their solid waste management plans and choose a more sustainable solid waste management system that will fit their needs. / dcb

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/361421/emb-7-promises-closure-of-all-open-dumpsites-in-cv-by-march-2021>



Close your dumpsites, LGUs told

By **Boy Ryan B. Zabal** -Saturday, January 30, 2021



Local government units (LGUs) without sanitary landfills could put up temporary "residuals containment areas" to accommodate wastes while looking for locations for sanitary landfills, says Atty. Ramir Neil Pascua (inset), director of the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Western Visayas. Pascua also encourages LGUs to pool their resources for cluster sanitary landfills that will replace their open dumps.

KALIBO, Aklan – Two towns in the province of Aklan voluntarily closed their open dumpsites in compliance to Section 47 of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Roy Cimatu ordered on Jan. 26 the immediate closure of at least 200 open dumpsites in the country by end of March.

The open dumpsites voluntarily closed in Aklan were located in Barangay Bonza, Libacao and Barangay San Isidro, Banga.

Libacao mayor Charit Navarosa said they will utilize the fully-operational Materials Recovery Facility in Barangay Janlud, the adjacent village of Barangay Poblacion, after the closure of the open dumpsite.

"Kalimitan ang basura ay galing sa (Barangay) Poblacion at halos mga 80 porsyento ay sanga at dahon ng mga puno," he added.

Navarosa stressed a study is ongoing for a sanitary landfill in the boundaries of Barangay Arcangel, Balete and Barangay Ogsip, Libacao which will benefit the towns of Kalibo, Banga, Libacao, Balete and Altavas.

Western Visayas has 12 established sanitary landfills in the provinces of Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental while six are being constructed this year, including one in Passi City, Iloilo.

Of the 17 towns in Aklan, only the town of Malay has an engineered sanitary landfill in mainland Malay. The accumulated solid wastes in Boracay Island are disposed of in the Barangay Kabulihan landfill to comply with the zero-waste mandate of the national government in the island.

DENR Region 6 director for environmental management Bureau Atty. Ramir Neil Pascua said local government units (LGUs) without sanitary landfills could put up temporary residuals containment areas to accommodate the wastes while they look for suitable locations for sanitary landfills.



Pascua also encouraged LGUs to pool their resources for cluster sanitary landfills that will replace the open dumps.

A cluster sanitary landfill, he said, is easier and less expensive for LGUs to maintain and operate in a manner protective of the environment and public health.

The sanitary landfill is a key component of LGUs' solid waste management program to address garbage woes, aside from reduction, recycling and reuse of wastes.

"LGUs in Aklan are reminded to voluntarily close their open dumps. We continue to secure their commitment until end of February for the total shutdown of all open dumpsites," he stressed.

Pascua said they will issue cease and desist orders against erring LGUs if they fail to voluntarily close their open dumpsites by next month.

Local officials found guilty for establishing and operating open dumps for solid wastes in violation of RA 9003 and other applicable rules and regulations can be charged criminally and administratively.

Pascua urged the residents to help in the daily proper collection and segregation to reduce the volume of garbage produce.

"Kailangan tumulong din ang mga barangay sa pagkolekta at tamang segregation ng mga basura," he added./**PN**



Philippine eagles given second chance

By [BusinessMirror](#)

January 31, 2021



The Philippine eagle that was recently found and rescued early this month in Maitum town in Sarangani province. A piece of marble, that was used as a bullet, was recovered embedded near the eagle's right collarbone.

Another Philippine eagle was recently found and rescued in the hinterlands of Maitum town in Sarangani province. It was the first eagle rescued this year, and after seven were rescued from several areas in Mindanao last year.

A municipal government team retrieved the eagle that was trapped in thorny rattan vines while preying on a monkey.

The rescue was relayed to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office for its proper handling and turnover to the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Davao City, said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region-12 in a news release.

It was found out that a piece of marble, which was used as a bullet in an improvised rifle, was recovered embedded near the eagle's right clavicle or collarbone, the DENR-12 said.

The bird was found near Mt. Busa complex, a declared key biodiversity area and home to critically endangered, threatened, vulnerable and rare fowl species.

The rescued Philippine eagle was the third found in Sarangani in a span of four years, the DENR-12 said. The two previous eagles were found on January 2, 2017, and December 13, 2019, and were likewise turned over to the PEC for rehabilitation.

7 Philippine eagles rescued in 2020

The nonprofit Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), which runs the PEC, said it received a call about the rescued Philippine eagle on January 9.

The still immature eagle, about 3 years to 4 years old, was entangled in thorny vines near Salagbanog Falls.

It was thereafter named "Salagbanog" after the falls, where it was rescued by T'boli farmer, Mang Gamang, of Barangay Ticulab, Maitum, Sarangani province, according to PEF.

Salagbanog is the first rescued Philippine eagle this year.

Last year, the PEC reported a record-high of seven rescued eagles amid the travel restrictions and community quarantine because of the 2019 coronavirus pandemic.

DENR authorities attribute the frequent sightings of the country's national bird in the mountain area to the healthy biodiversity of its forests, which also host endemic flora, fauna, and hardwood species.



In a telephone interview on January 26, PEF Director for Research and Conservation Jayson Ibañez said that of the seven rescued eagles last year one died due to malnutrition, three were successfully released back into the wild, while the remaining three are currently under rehabilitation.

Survived 2 hunting attempts

Taking its X-ray after the turnover, the PEF team discovered that Salagbanog, believed to be a male based on its weight, appeared to be one tough eagle.

It has survived two hunting attempts as evidence suggested.

The marble that was used as a bullet and found embedded near its collarbone was removed in a surgery. Another bullet, a pellet from an air rifle, was also embedded near its neck. The veterinary team decided it is better left untouched.

“Our veterinary team had successfully removed the marble as it was not deeply embedded. But the pellet, we decided to leave it as is,” Ibañez told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on January 26.

Both “bullets” have no visible entry wounds, meaning the injuries they caused had already healed.

Hunted for food

Like an ordinary slingshot used by villagers in upland areas in hunting small birds, marble guns that is about 10 times more powerful can cause serious injuries and possibly maim for life, if not kill, even a Philippine eagle, the largest bird of prey in the world.

Anson Tagtag, chief of the Wildlife Conservation Section of the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on January 26 that like other guns used in hunting, marble gun is illegal and should be confiscated by authorities.

He said hunting in the Philippines using deadly weapons are meant to kill the target on site.

“Most of the hunters using guns are hunting for food out of necessity,” he said partly in Filipino.

Besides hunting animals with deadly firearms, some hunters also use traps, which are equally harmful, if not deadly.

Second chance

Salagbanog was fortunate to have survived not only one, but two attempts on its life. At the PEC, rescued eagles are given a second chance.

Not all rescued eagles, however, are released back into the wild, Ibañez said, as some that were turned-over to the PEC were maimed and could not survive in the wild.

“If they are not fit for release, they end up either as a breeder or as an education eagle,” he said.

Wild and free

Among last year’s rescued Philippine eagles that were released back into the wild is “Siocon.” It was found by a farmer while it was hiding in the bushes in the forest of Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, in April.

But because of the travel ban and community quarantines imposed by the government then, the PEC veterinary team and the DENR office in Siocon decided to provide the eagle the next best thing—telemedicine and online rehabilitation guidance.

After recovering, Siocon was released back into the wild on May 21.



The eagle's solar-powered GPS/GSM tracker indicated the eagle has settled inside the forests of Balingoan town, some 3 km away from its release site.

Philippine eagle "Makilala-Hiraya" that was retrieved from its rescuers in Barangay Kisante in Makilala, North Cotabato, was pinned to the ground by a flock of crows when rescued by three residents who handed it over to local officials.

After getting cleared of viral diseases and over a month of rehabilitation at the PEC, the female eagle was finally released back to its forest home in Mt. Apo on July 28, 2020.

Makilala-Hiraya was last located within the protected ancestral domain of the indigenous Obu Manobo in Magpet town, 13km north of her release site.

The third rescued eagle that was released into the wild last year, "Mal'lambugok" was trapped allegedly after it killed a resident's livestock.

The captor claimed it was already the fourth piglet killed by the eagle before its capture in July.

Cleared for release after less than two months of rehabilitation, Mal'lambugok flew to her freedom on September 26, 2020, as the world celebrated World Environmental Health Day.

To serve a higher purpose

According to Ibañez, eagles that can no longer be released back into the wild, when badly injured or has become domesticated after many years in captivity, serve a higher purpose.

They are either used for breeding under the PEC's captive breeding program or become "ambassadors" of biodiversity and become part of the information, education and communication campaign of the PEF to save the iconic Philippine eagle from extinction.

Such would most likely happen to three of last year's rescued eagles.

Philippine eagle "Balikatan" that was rescued with the help of a concerned citizen.

The PEF was informed on August 28, 2020, about an eagle that was under the care of his cousin in Bacuag, Surigao del Norte.

The eagle was bought by his cousin from an indigenous Mamanwa trapper for P8,000 apparently to save it from harm.

Together with DENR staff in Butuan City, a PEC team retrieved the already docile Philippine eagle. "It seemed comfortable being handled by [humans]," Ibañez said.

While the subsequent X-ray test showed no injuries or abnormalities in its body, it was found that the eagle was half blind. Its left eye could not see, while the other eye is also showing early signs of a possible cataract.

"Our rehabilitation team at the PEC is working remotely with two US veterinary consultants to save the bird's right eye. But with its current condition, it could no longer be released back to the wild," Ibañez said.

Philippine eagle "Caraga," on the other hand, has its right leg fractured by gun pellets.

On September 25, 2020, a day before Mal'lambugok's release back to her forest home in Barangay Sobrecarey in Caraga, the PEC got a phone call that another eagle was trapped at Sitio Tagbanahao, the same place where Mal'lambugok was rescued.

It also reportedly killed a piglet, making its captor retaliate by trapping the bird.



Ibañez said a wild eagle with leg injury could not hunt and survive in the wild and that the only way it could make it this far is if someone cage and feed it.

Philippine eagle “San Fernando,” another immature eagle needing rescue, was the last to be rescued in 2020. The PEC learned of the captive eagle from DENR’s Edgar Agbayani on October 4, 2020.

Two residents gave information about the captive eagle that was caught in a trap intended for palm civets on the Pantaron mountains in San Fernando town in Bukidnon last October 1.

The bird was turned over to the PEC staff in Malaybalay City on October 5. Its X-ray showed an air-gun pellet lodged at the eagle’s right wing.

The eagle could now eat on its own but has to undergo further tests at the PEF’s quarantine area, just like eagle “Caraga.”

According to Ibañez, all rescued eagles turned over to the PEC undergo thorough evaluation. But all, if not fit for release, will serve a higher purpose, eventually, after their rehabilitation.

Protected by law

Ironically, the Philippine eagle is supposed to be protected by law

The iconic Philippine eagle, like other endangered wildlife, is protected by several environmental laws, foremost of which is Administrative Order 235, s. of 1970 that prohibits the wounding, taking, selling, exchanging and exporting, possessing and killing of the *Pithecophaga Jefferyii*.

Likewise, Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Act, provides for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats, and penalizes violators depending on the gravity of the offence.

A critically endangered species, only about 400 pairs of the Philippine eagle is left in the wild.

Community awareness

Tagtag said it is apparent that in some areas, lack of community awareness remains a problem.

“Without the community’s support, all our efforts [in conservation] are doomed to fail,” he said.

It is for this reason that the DENR-BMB continues to engage the communities who are at the forefront of the campaign to protect and conserve the country’s rich biodiversity, he said.

Image credits: [DENR-Region-12](#)



Injured grass owl rescued in Cabadbaran City

By Alexander Lopez January 29, 2021, 7:37 pm



RESCUED OWL. The City Veterinary Office of Cabadbaran in Agusan del Norte cleaned the wound of a rescued grass owl Thursday. The grass owl, which has a wound on its wing on the right, was rescued in Barangay Sanghan and was handed over to the city government for proper care and disposition. *(Photo grab from Cabadbaran Today Facebook Page)*

BUTUAN CITY – The city government of Cabadbaran in Agusan del Norte reported Friday the rescue of a grass owl, among the number of wildlife species of birds that can be found in the area.

In a statement, the city government said the grass owl was rescued by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) personnel last Thursday in Barangay Sanghan.

The bird has an injury on its wing on the right, the report added.

“The rescued grass owl was immediately handed over to the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) for proper care and administration,” the city government said

The City Veterinary Office of Cabadbaran cleaned the maggots that infested the owl's wound and administered an anti-bacteria shot to prevent infection.

“The grass owl is now at the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Tubay, Agusan del Norte for temporary custody,” the city government said.

The bird will eventually be handed over to the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte, for recuperation and release back to its natural habitat.

The city government also reminded its residents not to kill, sell or pet any wildlife species they encounter.

“The City of Cabadbaran strongly adheres towards the preservation and protection of the wildlife. This is one of the incidents where our City ENRO and City Veterinary Office have collaborated their efforts with the DENR-CENRO on saving the life of an endangered grass owl,” the statement said. **(PNA)**



Benguet wants small-scale mining to resume

By [Dexter A. See](#) January 31, 2021

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet: The provincial government had sought the approval of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to allow small-scale mining to resume in the Cordillera mountain range.

According to Gov. Melchor Diclas, the coronavirus pandemic had limited the sources of livelihood for residents.

In his letter to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Diclas conveyed his all-out support for the clamor of the pocket miners in the province for the immediate lifting of the moratorium on small-scale mining operations.

Diclas said the resumption of small-scale mining will allow thousands of pocket miners, who come from different Indigenous Peoples (IPs) inside and outside the province, to have legitimate sources of livelihood to provide for the needs of their families.

The governor said if granted, the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB) will be issuing a temporary small-scale mining permit to pending applications for the declaration as Minahang Bayan sites around the province.

In September 2018, Cimatu announced the temporary suspension of all small-scale mining operations in the region, following the tragic landslide at Level 070, Ucab, Itogon town that claimed the lives of hundreds of small-scale miners and members of their families, who sought shelter in an abandoned bunkhouse of the Benguet Corp. at the height of Typhoon “Ompong” (international name: “Mangkhut”).

According to Cimatu, the affected small-scale miners are mostly members of the region’s IPs, who claim that their mining areas have been operational since time immemorial or, at least, before Aug. 1, 1987.

He claimed that their areas of operation are within the applied areas for declaration as Minahang Bayan sites, which are, coincidentally, the preference case mentioned in different memoranda from the central office of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), notably those dated April 15, 2019; Nov. 5, 2019; and Nov. 15, 2019.

Earlier, the PMRB Benguet approved Resolution No. 002, series of 2019, dated Jan. 25, 2019, that adopted the guidelines in the processing and awarding of temporary small-scale mining permits within the province.

However, the MGB central office claimed that, pursuant to Section 11(b) of Executive Order 79, small-scale mining activities shall be undertaken within the declared people’s small-scale mining areas or Minahang Bayan, and small-scale mining contracts can only be issued, following the declaration of an area as a Minahang Bayan, subject to the submission of pertinent requirements outlined in DENR Administrative Order 2015-03.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/01/31/news/regions/benguet-wants-small-scale-mining-to-resume/835341/>



A white elephant in 50 years

By: Solita Collas-Monsod - @inquirerdotnet - Columnist/Philippine Daily Inquirer|January 30,2021 - 11:19 AM

You've heard the saying, Reader: The road to hell is paved with good intentions. Well, the Bulacan International Airport, aka New Manila International Airport, aka San Miguel Aerocity, may be a good example.

You remember when Ramon Ang, chief honcho of San Miguel, came out with an unsolicited proposal to build an airport on a build-operate-transfer basis (the government owns it after 50 years), and it all seemed very lighthearted: "I offered to build an airport in Bulacan and if they want it, we will build it, but if they don't like it, it's okay," Ang is quoted as saying.

He is also quoted as saying that he would ask no government guarantees, or any subsidy. It was repeated by a Neda (National Economic and Development Authority) press release two years ago, which emphasized that a key feature of its concession agreement was that there was no subsidy in whatever form. Which of course is required of an unsolicited proposal by public-private partnership rules.

Good intentions, right? They build, operate it for profit, and after 50 years, they transfer it to the government, which hasn't spent a single centavo on it. Benefits all around. What can be better?

The first thing that has gone awfully wrong with this project is that the government is, after all, going to subsidize it. Why? Because Congress passed a bill, which President Duterte conveniently allowed to lapse into law (Republic Act No. 11506), that gives San Miguel Aerocity the following tax privileges: For 10 years, it is exempt from paying all direct and indirect taxes and fees related to the project, such as income taxes, value-added taxes, percentage taxes, excise taxes, documentary stamp taxes, customs duties and tariffs, as well as property taxes on land, buildings, and personal property.

Moreover: For the rest of the 50-year term, the company will remain exempt from paying income and real estate taxes until a "competent authority" declares that the company has "fully recovered its investment cost" on the project. Who that "competent authority" is, we have yet to be told. The point is that theoretically, the government, in all the 50 years, may not get a single centavo in taxes, let alone in the "profit-sharing scheme" that looks so good on paper where the government receives any windfall beyond the 12 percent annual rate of return allowed the Aerocity (again to be determined by unnamed competent authority).

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. When it doesn't collect those taxes and duties, isn't the government essentially giving those amounts to the corporation? How can it not be "a subsidy in whatever form"?

You may say, "So what? After 50 years the government takes over the entire shebang anyway, and it will be making money hand over fist!"

Ah! But in 50 years, that airport may be underwater. As we speak, that airport location is sinking. In 50 years, it will have sunk below sea level. It's simple arithmetic. According to a PowerPoint presentation of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the project, the location is susceptible to land subsidence (gradual caving in or sinking of land) of up to 8.3 centimeters per year, storm surges of 5 meters, and flooding; it is also susceptible to liquefaction, ground shaking, tsunami.



Let's focus on the 8.3 cm part. If the land is sinking at 8.3 cm a year, that means that in 12 years, it will have sunk by 1 meter (8.3 cm x 12 = 99.6 cm). Therefore, in roughly 37 years it will have sunk by 3 meters and 7 centimeters. The airport will be built 3 meters above sea level. So, 13 years before government takes over the airport, it may already be underwater.

You may say that 8.3 cm is the maximum subsidence, so it will take longer than 37 years. I acknowledge that. On the other hand, this simple calculation "does not take into account the rate of sea level rise (SLR) in Manila Bay, which is projected to be higher than the global average of 29 cm by 2050. Nor does it take into account projections of a 14.4 percent increase in precipitation in the region, which will lead to more frequent and extreme flooding events that last for longer periods."

All told, the government may have a white elephant in 50 years. And that isn't all. In later columns, I will discuss the terrible toll this airport is going to take on the environment as well as some public safety issues that still haven't been resolved.

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Environmental group calls for ban of single-use plastics in Davao City

Published January 30, 2021, 11:57 AM

by [Zea Capistrano](#)

DAVAO CITY – Environmental groups here are calling for the banning of single-use plastics here after almost 2,000 different types of solid wastes were collected in a recent river clean-up.

In a statement Friday, January 28, the Interface Development Interventions (IDIS) and Bantay Bukid volunteers said they were able to collect a total of 1,954 pieces of waste in the river clean-up and brand audit last January 27 at the Panigan-Tamugan Watershed in Baguio District here.

“With this alarming result of river clean-up, IDIS and other environmental groups once again call for the ban of single-use plastics in Davao City,” they said.

The groups said most of the collected wastes were food packaging, plastic bottles, and household products packaging. The group also said they have collected empty bottles of pesticides.

The brand audit involved the “counting and documenting the brands found on plastic waste collected during the clean-up to help identify the companies responsible for plastic pollution.”

The groups identified popular consumer brands whose products ended up as waste in the river.

Juan Lumpit, a Bantay Bukid volunteer from Barangay Wines, said they found out that the problem of plastic wastes ending up in the river was serious.

“Basi sa among aktibidades na mao ang river clean-up ug paglista sa mga nagkadaiyang basura nga plastic nga napunitan, among nasuta nga grabe gayod ang problema diri sa kasapaan (Based on our river clean-up and brand audit on various plastic wastes we collected, we found out that the problem on waste in the rivers is serious),” he said.

“Dapat unta adunay lig-on nga polisiya aron mabawasan ang paggamit og plastic labi na sa mga dagkong kompanya. Among ipahimangno nga tagaan kini og pagtagad kay ang tubig sa Panigan-Tamugan kay maong ilimnon sa dakbayan sa sumusunod (There must be a strong policy to lessen the use of plastics especially on the part of big companies. This must be looked into because the water in Panigan-Tamugan will be a source of drinking water in the future),” Juan Lumpit from Brgy. Wines, Bantay Bukid Volunteer, said.

Meanwhile, Mavic Hilario, IDIS Program Coordinator, said “more than the plastics, we are alarmed that we found bottles of pesticides in the rivers.”

Hilario said they were urging those who were using pesticides, “especially those whose areas are near rivers” to bury the empty containers.

“Or better yet practice organic farming to protect our rivers and watersheds,” Hilario added.

The group called on the City Council to “urgently tackle” the proposed ordinance to ban the use of single-use plastics in the city.

“While the banning of single-use plastics ordinance has been into several committee hearings, it could have been better if the City Council will urgently tackle this matter and pass this ordinance now,” the group added.

The groups conducted the river clean-up in celebration of Zero Waste Month this January.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/30/environmental-group-calls-for-ban-of-single-use-plastics-in-davao-city/>



Sunday, 31 January 2021
Daily Tribune

Nestlé tackles plastic waste

KALIPI was launched in September 2013 to empower Filipino women through community activities and development of livelihood practices

Food and beverage manufacturer Nestlé Philippines 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 said it 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 now working in five project sites where it generates and pilots solutions to increase waste reduction, segregation, collection and recycling.

Specifically, Nestlé said it will strengthen KALIPI operations and the pilot implementation of “Nakamoto” in six barangays of Donsol.

Empowering women

KALIPI or Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina was launched in September 2013 to empower Filipino women through community activities and development of livelihood practices.

Last October, KALIPI Donsol launched a line of souvenir products made from recycled plastics together with WWF-PH.

Sorsogon shares a border with the Ticao-Burias Pass Protected Seascape or TBPPS, a critical habitat that is home to the endangered whale shark.

WWF-Philippines has been working with the local government unit 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, while plastic pollution is becoming a threat, ending up in the habitat of marine life.

KALIPI Donsol has been addressing plastic pollution with its product line, and in order to combat the threat of plastic pollution while creating new livelihood opportunities, the women’s organization rolled out various handmade products.



An effective zero-waste approach for PH

By: [Geri Matthew Carretero](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:05 AM January 31, 2021

Proclamation No. 760, issued in 2014, declared every January as Zero Waste Month in the Philippines to promote the redesign of processes and products to systematically reduce, if not eliminate, the quantity and toxicity of waste that industries, businesses, institutions, households, and individuals generate. Its goal is to guide people, businesses, and institutions to change their lifestyles and practices toward sustainable systems in an ethical, economical, and efficient way, and to ensure that wastes become valuable for other uses.

Even years before the declaration, Philippine environment groups that are also members of the Break Free From Plastic (BFFP) movement have already been working toward zero waste for a future free from plastic pollution. Under a zero-waste approach, recycling, composting, reuse and minimization of waste help decrease the volume of trash sent to landfills.

Some cities are already practicing zero waste, committed to solving their garbage woes. The Ecowaste Coalition, Mother Earth Foundation, and War on Waste Dumaguete have been working with communities and the local governments in Trece Martires in Cavite, San Fernando in Pampanga, Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental, and Siquijor, among others, by providing training programs to effectively implement zero-waste systems and craft policies that will ban the use of single-use disposable plastic packaging.

In 2020, the necessity of the zero-waste approach in communities around the country was highlighted when the COVID-19 pandemic brought tremendous amounts of plastic waste. Along with the declaration of climate emergency in the same year due to several climate-related disasters, many local government units struggled to find effective solutions to garbage disposal. Instead of finding real solutions to the problem, many of them are being enticed to consider incineration or the burning of wastes, which is prohibited under the Clean Air Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

In fact, the zero-waste approach is pursuant to the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act where LGUs must craft their own local solid waste management plan by reusing, recycling, and composting waste in their cities. However, without support from national government agencies and legislators, transforming into a zero-waste city cannot be achieved.

To support zero waste, the government should promote and put forward safer practices in communities that would reduce waste; ban the production, selling, and use of single-use plastic; stop the legalization of incineration under the guise of waste-to-energy plants; and pass policies that would defend public health and the environment from further misuse and degradation. Corporations should also be made accountable for the waste generated by their products, especially e-commerce platforms where plastic packaging waste gets thrown away once consumers receive their parcels.

According to Greenpeace Philippines, most of these plastic wastes end up unrecycled in landfills or in our oceans, providing a convenient escape route for foreign waste management companies, the plastics industry, and the corporations that profit from the continuing use and production of throwaway plastics. A report by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia-Pacific also noted that the problem of waste is caused by single-use plastics, sachets particularly, which add to and worsen the growing plastics pollution problem.



By having a strong solid waste management plan and effective implementation of laws in place without resorting to landfills and incineration, shifting to zero waste becomes the only effective option. Through proper segregation, biodegradable discards can be composted in our homes, schools, and offices while discarded materials can become resources for others to use or even a source of livelihood for waste workers. The year 2021 is hopefully when we finally begin to move away from living a wasteful way of life. By working together, we can help stop practices that pose tremendous threats to our communities and the environment.

Geri Matthew Carretero is the communications officer for the #breakfreefromplastic PH project. Break Free From Plastic (BFFP) is a global movement working toward a future free from plastic pollution. The BFFP PH project is a collaboration of #breakfreefromplastic members EcoWaste Coalition, GAIA Asia Pacific, Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia, and Mother Earth Foundation, in partnership with Oceana International Philippines.



A man asks for alms from passing motorists along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City on Friday morning. About four million workers were left jobless due to the effects of the pandemic as of December 2020, according to the labor department.

The STAR/ Miguel De Guzman

Coronavirus cases in the Philippines rise to 523,516 with 2,109 new infections

(Philstar.com) - January 30, 2021 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Saturday said 2,109 more people contracted coronavirus in the country, bringing the national caseload to 523,516.

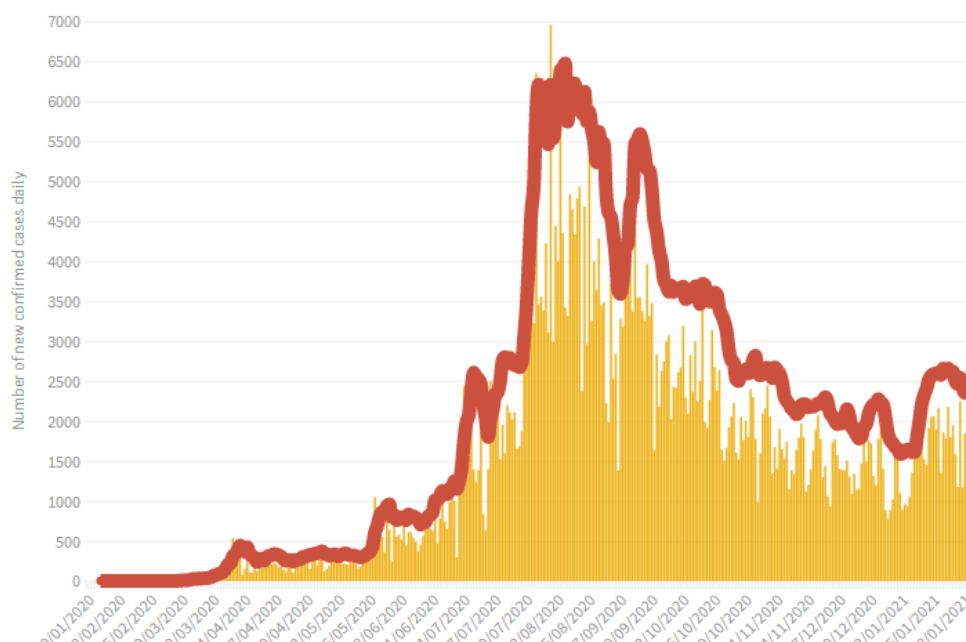
Of the total number of cases, 33,943 or 7.1% are marked active.

Recoveries rose to 475,904 after another 146 Filipinos were reported to have beat the virus.

But the death toll hit 10,669 after the DOH logged 71 new fatalities.

COVID-19 cases in the Philippines

Seven-day moving average Number of new confirmed cases



Source: Department of Health • As of January 30, 2021, 4 p.m.



New today

- Philippine envoy to the US Jose Manuel Romualdez confirmed that [56 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines from American pharmaceutical companies](#) are expected to arrive in Manila by May.
- Manila City Mayor Isko Moreno is prohibiting all street parties, stage shows, parades, street games and dragon dances from February 11 to February 12, [canceling all Chinese New Year celebrations](#) to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.
- Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine showed an overall efficacy of 66% in multi-continental trials, [the company said](#). However, the shot does not protect as well against a variant first detected in South Africa where the vaccine proved 57% effective.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs on Friday night said Filipinos [across 85 countries and territories](#) have contracted coronavirus.

— **Bella Perez-Rubio with reports from Xave Gregorio and Agence France-Press**



GLOBAL GOALS

Climate change a ‘global emergency’

Its target audience of 1.2 million included over half a million people under the age of 18.

Published 4 hours ago on January 31, 2021 02:30 M

By [TDT](#) [@tribuneph1](#)



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UN thermal power plant in Port Louis, Mauritius is contributing to greenhouse gas emissions on the Indian Ocean island.

Almost two-thirds of over 1.2 million people surveyed worldwide say that climate change is a global emergency, urging greater action to address the crisis, results from a new United Nations (UN) climate survey revealed.

Described as the biggest climate survey yet conducted, UN Development Programme (UNDP)’s “People’s Climate Vote” poll also showed that people supported more comprehensive climate policies to respond to the challenges. The survey covered 50 countries with over half the world’s population.

“The results of the survey clearly illustrate that urgent climate action has broad support among people around the globe, across nationalities, age, gender and education level,” Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator said in a news release.

The poll also showed “how” people want their policymakers to tackle the climate crisis.

“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,” Steiner added.

UNDP said the poll was the world’s biggest survey ever of public opinion on climate change. It was conducted as countries prepare for negotiations at November’s COP26, the 26th session of Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The survey asked respondents if climate change was a global emergency and whether they supported 18 key climate policies across six action areas — economy, energy, transport, food and farms, nature and protecting people.

Its target audience of 1.2 million included over half a million people under the age of 18, a key constituency on climate change that is typically unable to vote yet in regular elections. Innovations, such as distribution across mobile gaming networks, were used to ensure that the young audiences are reached.

According to UNDP, polling experts at the University of Oxford weighted the huge sample to make it representative of the age, gender, and education population profiles of the countries in the survey, resulting in small margins of error (+/- 2 percent).



The results showed that people supported “broad climate policies,” beyond the current situation, UNDP said.

For instance — in eight of 10 surveyed countries with the highest emissions from the power sector — majority backed more renewable energy. In four out of five countries with the highest emissions from land-use change and enough data on policy preferences, the majority supported conserving forests and land. Nine out of 10 of the countries with the most urbanized populations backed more use of clean electric cars and buses, or bicycles.

The survey also found a direct link between a person’s level of education and their desire for climate action, according to UNDP.

Actions on vaccines, climate needed – UN

By [Xinhua](#) January 30, 2021

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for immediate attention to three global emergencies after listing a long string of threats and challenges the world is facing.



(FILES) In this file photo taken on February 4, 2020 United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaks during a press briefing at United Nations Headquarters in New York City. – UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on May 6, 2020 called on governments around the world to specifically take into account the billions of people with disabilities in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo by Angela Weiss / AFP)

“Among the challenges we face, there are three global emergencies that demand immediate attention,” the UN chief told the press conference held at the UN headquarters in New York.

The secretary-general said the first global emergency that needs immediate attention is the “distribution of vaccines for Covid-19.”

Guterres said more than 70 million doses have been administered, but less than 20,000 of these were on the African continent. “A global immunity gap puts everyone at risk,” he said.

“Vaccine nationalism is an economic as well as a moral failure,” he said. “While every country has the right — and the duty — to protect its own people, no country can afford to neglect the rest of the world.”

“We must close the funding gap; ramp-up vaccine production by making licenses widely available and sharing technology; and get doses into the arms of all who need them — starting with health workers and those most at risk around the world,” said the secretary-general, adding that “we need a global vaccination campaign to deal with a global pandemic.”

“The second area for urgent action is financial support for all countries that need it,” said Guterres. “In today’s world, self-interest cannot be separated from solidarity.”

The global economy is made up of an intricate web of transactions between developed and developing countries,” he said.

“While the pandemic continues to disrupt supply chains, developed [economies] will not make a full recovery,” added the UN chief.

The top UN official warned that for a fast and full recovery, the developed world should not only share vaccines equitably; it should support developing economies by ensuring continued liquidity, including through the issuance of Special Drawing Rights, and expanding debt relief to all developing countries and Middle-income countries in need of it.

Guterres said the third global emergency is the climate crisis.



“The recovery from the pandemic must embrace renewable energy and green and resilient infrastructure,” he said. “We have an opportunity to end our senseless war on nature and start the healing process.”

“At five minutes to midnight, governments are finally starting to listen to scientists, businesses, cities, academia and in particular, the young people who have been global leaders on this issue,” said the UN chief, noting that “we need to build on that momentum.”

Guterres underscored that the central objective of the United Nations for 2021 is to build a global coalition for carbon neutrality by 2050.

“Every country, city, financial institution and company needs to adopt credible plans for transitioning to net zero emissions by 2050 and take decisive action now to put themselves on the right path.”

“Countries must review their Nationally Determined Contributions before COP26 (the UN Climate Change Conference) in Glasgow to cut global greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent by 2030 compared with 2010 levels,” he said.



‘Developing countries’ need to take lead in climate action

By [The Manila Times](#)

January 30, 2021

A CLIMATE Action Summit held earlier this week sounded dire warnings for the world, particularly for the most vulnerable “developing countries,” if efforts toward climate mitigation and adaptation are not accelerated. As citizens of one of those “developing countries” most vulnerable to climate change, we think it is high time global leaders consider a different approach, as endlessly repeated, sympathetic rhetoric about climate action does not seem to be accomplishing much at all.

In spite of more than 20 years of global attention to the problem of climate change, the prospects for a grim future continue to grow. At present, the Earth’s environment is on track to experience average temperatures 3.7 to 4.5 degrees Celsius warmer than the pre-industrial age by the end of this century — within the lifetime of children being born now.

While even just a few years ago the impact of human-caused climate change was the subject of intense debate, people all over the world are now recognizing direct effects of it, from intense wildfires in Australia, the US, and parts of Europe; extreme temperature fluctuations across much of the northern hemisphere; and stronger, more frequent tropical storms, often in places that typically do not experience them, such as Madagascar, which was hit by a cyclone while the Climate Action Summit was in progress.

About 20 world leaders, along with the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the heads of international development finance institutions such as the International Monetary Fund spoke during the two-day summit, which was held online due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The change in format did not, however, result in any change in content: One after another, leaders from former US Secretary of State and now the US climate envoy John Kerry, to French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte took turns to emphatically repeat everything they’ve said in every other global climate summit held this century. Yes, the world’s richest countries (which also happen to be its biggest polluters) need to do much, much more to support the world’s vulnerable nations and populations — “Support for adaptation and resilience is a moral, economic and social imperative,” Guterres told the summit. And yes, each would pledge billions and billions of dollars to help fund the effort, just as they promised in 2009 in Copenhagen, and in 2010 in Cancun, and in 2015 in Paris.

The fact that promises made at each of those meetings, and at every meeting before, in between, and after have all fallen woefully short of their stated goals was obviously not something anyone was comfortable acknowledging, and only did so reluctantly because it could not be completely avoided. The message to the world was — again — “We are taking climate action seriously and are going to start doing something about it now.” The most telling examples of the “broken record” rhetoric came from Guterres and Dutch PM Rutte, who both stressed that 50 percent of climate funding should be dedicated to climate adaptation efforts — a suggestion that might be considered a bold initiative, if it hadn’t already been formally agreed upon by the participants of the Copenhagen summit — 11 years ago.

In a larger sense, there is something very patriarchal about “developed economies” telling the “developing economies” what the latter needs in terms of climate change action, and what they intend to provide to meet those needs. When that promised largesse then fails to materialize, our would-be caretakers simply add injury to insult.



As the world's "leaders" have failed to lead on climate action and have once again demonstrated that the prospects for their doing so remain unpromising, perhaps it is time that those who stand to suffer the greatest consequences take ownership of the effort.

After all, we are in the best position to determine what our needs are, and the best ways to address them. We certainly could do no worse than the developed world, which so far has done little at all.



French lawmakers debate ban on wild animals in circuses

By [The Associated Press](#)

January 31, 2021



A circus worker holds a poster to defend the circus business during a protest on January 26. Circus workers stage a protest outside the National Assembly to denounce a bill that would ban using wild animals in traveling circuses and keeping dolphins and whales in captivity in marine parks.

PARIS—French lawmakers this past week debated an animal welfare bill that would ban using wild animals in traveling circuses and keeping dolphins and whales in captivity in marine parks, amid other restrictions.

Circus workers held a protest against the bill outside the National Assembly, saying the measure would cause circuses and jobs to vanish, if it becomes law.

“That’s death for circuses,” Royal Circus director William Kerwich told The Associated Press.

The bill, which also bans the use of wild animals in television shows, nightclubs and private parties, calls for a transition period of five to seven years depending on the location.

The wild animal ban would not apply to permanent shows or to zoos.

Another provision of the legislation is aimed at shutting down mink farms within the next five years.

The bill would also require new pet owners to obtain certificates guaranteeing they have the specific knowledge needed to care for their animals.

It would stiffen penalty for committing abuse that leads to the death of pet animals to up to three years in prison and a maximum fine of €45,000 (\$54,750.)

Protesting circus workers said French law is already strict enough to ensure the welfare of the animals appearing in their shows.

Kerwich, the Royal Circus director, said he is worried about what would happen to the 800 or so animals owned by French circuses.

“They are alive, we won’t be able to reintroduce them in nature and we won’t be able to keep them. Who will pay?” he asked. “We don’t want to abandon them.”

Kerwich said that about 14 million spectators attend traditional circuses featuring animals in France while 1 million go to circuses with only human acts.

Frederic Edelstein, a lion trainer for the Pinder Circus, advocated for “an art that is part of our country’s culture.”



“A trainer doesn’t hurt an animal, he seeks complicity, respect between humans and animals,” Edelstein said. “I have 12 magnificent white lions. They love me.... It is out of question for me to let my animals go away.”

Animal-rights activists also organized a gathering near the National Assembly last Tuesday, saying they think the proposed law does not go far enough.

“There’s nothing about hunting. There’s nothing about intensive farming.... So we are here to demand that these gaps be filled,” Muriel Fusi, a representative of the Animalist Party in Paris, said.

One Voice, an animal defense organization, called the bill “a big step in the right direction,” but said it wants the wild animal ban to be extended to nontraveling circuses and shows.

“Maybe we won’t see elephants, lions and hippopotamuses on the roads any more, but a new category of sedentary circuses will be allowed to multiply,” it said in a statement.

Lawmakers in French President Emmanuel Macron’s party, which has the majority at the National Assembly, support the measure. After the lower chamber votes, the bill will go to the Senate.

Most European countries have partially or totally banned the use of wild animals in circuses.

In recent years, some major circuses in France announced they were voluntarily ending such acts.

An amusement park north of Paris recently announced it was shutting down its dolphin show. The Asterix park said its eight dolphins would be transferred within two months to other aquariums in Europe because they could not be reintroduced into their natural environment.

Image credits: [AP/Lewis Joly](#)

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