

20 APRIL 2021, Tuesday



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Mas maraming trabaho at malaking kita, aasahan matapos alisin ang mining ban

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Apr. 19, 2021 at 7:14am



Nasa 4-billion dollars o higit 193 billion pesos na capital investment ang aasahan ng Pilipinas mula sa tatlong pangunahing mining projects sa bansa.

Ito ay matapos na alisin na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang siyam na taong moratorium sa bagong mineral agreements.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, ang mga bagong mining projects ay inaasahang makapagbibigay din ng P40 billion na local taxes at P20 billion na halaga ng mga proyektong panlipunan na papakinabangan din ng indigenous people.

May makukuha ring kita dito ang bansa na magagamit para suportahan ang mga key infrastructure programs ng gobyerno na lilikha naman ng mas maraming trabaho.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/2316600095231066/posts/3710162875874774/?app=fbl>



Bagong mining deals hahakot ng P21B kita



April 19, 2021 @ 7:47 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Dinpensahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang mga bagong mining deal na makatutulong sa pagbangon ng ekonomiya ng bansa.

“Kapag na-implement natin ito they can generate 21 billion para sa coffers ng pamahalaan,” ani DENR Usec. Jonas Leones sa isang briefing.

“Ito ang nakita natin na isang paraan para ma-resolve ang mga problema sa financial,” dagdag nito.

Nitong nakaraang linggo nilagdaan na ni Pangulong Duterte ang Executive Order No 130 na magpapahintulot sa bagong mineral mining agreements sa bansa na naaayon sa batas.

Kasalukuyang nasa ebalwasyon ang mga kasunduan sa pagmimina. *RNT/ELM*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/bagong-mining-deals-hahakot-ng-p21b-kita/>



Philippines lifts ban on new mining permits

TOPICS: [Build Build Build Infrastructure Project](#)[Mining](#)[Philippines](#)[Rodrigo Duterte](#)



A nickel mine run by Taganito Mining Corporation in Surigao del Norte. Photo: [Ryan Dael of EITI](#), [CC BY-SA 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

APRIL 19, 2021

The Philippines has announced it will end a nine-year ban on new mining projects in a bid to expand the role of mining in the national economy and raise state revenues.

Editorial

On April 14, President Rodrigo Duterte [signed](#) an order lifting a moratorium on new mining permits in place since 2012. The [order](#) references the need for new growth to support an equitable economy and help the “underprivileged”, as well as to supply raw materials for the government’s Build, Build, Build infrastructure plan.

The Philippines is a major exporter of copper and gold and in 2020 became the number one exporter of nickel ore to China, after Indonesia imposed a [ban](#) on raw mineral exports last January.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines [said](#) that removing the ban “will help bring the Philippines back on the investment map,” though the mining industry currently represents an extremely small portion of the country’s economy.

Environmental and sustainable development advocates have condemned Duterte’s decision and [called](#) for the president to rescind the order and to enforce existing suspension and closure orders for mining operations. Critics say the decision represents an about-face for the president and that it endangers communities affected by mining projects, including indigenous groups, as well as the country’s ecosystems and other natural resources.

Philippines lifts ban on new mining permits

Leon Dulce of the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment [told Mongabay](#) that the decision to reopen permitting exposes mining-affected communities to major threats under the country's existing Mining Act.

"The Mining Act provides auxiliary rights to mines that allow them to cut timber, deplete water, and 'ease out' communities away from their lands. As part of its investment guarantees, the Mining Act commits government to ensuring the removal of obstacles to mining, and that includes conflicting land uses such as agricultural lands and communities," Dulce said.

In addition to the risks of environmental and rights abuses, the Duterte administration's plan to boost growth through the mining sector places significant faith in an industry that has so far brought few benefits to the country.



Open pit mine in Central Cebu. [Photo: Storm Crypt](#) shared under a [Creative Commons \(BY-NC-ND\) license](#)

Government touts prospects for growth in mining

The Philippine government and mining firms have focused on the potential for growth as the mineral resources are opened up again.

There are now over 290 existing [applications](#) for mining permits and the Duterte administration has set its sights on these investors as a major source of revenue. Duterte's order specifically [mentioned](#) that the tax mineral producers in the country has [doubled](#) since 2018 to 4%. The executive order also calls for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to set terms for new mining agreements that will maximize state revenue.

Though mining operations in the country have largely continued through the pandemic, the mining industry [contributed](#) less than 1% of the Philippines' GDP in 2020. [According](#) to government figures, less than .5% of the country's employed labor force works in the industry. As

Philippines lifts ban on new mining permits

anti-mining coalition Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) [put](#) it in a statement following Duterte's announcement, "mining has never been a significant contributor to GDP, taxes or employment."

The Philippine government [says](#) it has tapped less than 5% of its mineral resources and the country's Mines and Geosciences Bureau has labeled over a third of the Philippines' land area as having "high mineral potential."

The Australian firm RTG Mining issued a [statement](#) welcoming Duterte's order, saying that it will create job opportunities in remote areas such as Labo in Camarines Norte, where the company has been working to advance the Mabilo copper and gold project.

Dante Bravo, head of Global Ferronickel, the second-biggest nickel mining firm in the country, [pointed](#) to the mining industry as a key opportunity for the Philippines as the world copes with the economic effects of the pandemic. "There will be a need for a lot of raw materials like nickel, copper, gold, manganese, chromite, etcetera when the world returns to normal," he said.

The decision appears to show the Duterte administration pegging part of its economic recovery from COVID-19 to an industry that has brought local communities little, without addressing the significant risks of environmental and rights abuses.



Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte. Photo: [Ceslou](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Mining could help domestic building push

The government also [hopes](#) the order will support its Build, Build, Build program, an [initiative](#) to drive economic growth by building massive public works and bringing the Philippines into a "golden age of infrastructure". At first, the program saw [large pledges](#) of financing from Chinese investors, at one point totalling US\$24 billion or more.

Philippines lifts ban on new mining permits

But little of this money has come through. As Asia-Pacific author and academic Richard Heydarian [wrote](#) in March for *Nikkei Asia*, "After five years of strategic servility, Duterte has little to show for his pivot to Beijing, not even the large volume of free COVID vaccines China promised to deliver by the end of 2020." Some analysts [argue](#) that the Philippine president is now using his earlier full-on embrace of China as a bargaining tool with the US, including around the [Visiting Forces Agreement](#) with Washington.

The Duterte administration appears to view the opening up of the mining industry as a way to bring much-needed momentum to the Build, Build, Build scheme. The president [said](#) that together, these steps will increase "employment opportunities in remote rural areas where there are mining activities and thereby stimulating countryside development".

Regardless of the possible benefits, environmental advocates have been calling for reforms to the Philippines' mining industry for years. But the Philippines is currently one of the world's most dangerous places for those who speak up about mining issues. Global Witness [found](#) that in 2019, more environmental advocates and defenders were killed for mining-related work in the Philippines than anywhere in the world.

Despite this, ATM and others are still pushing for Duterte to reverse his decision. ATM [told Mongabay](#) that the order shows the government will allow mining projects that threaten permanent damage to the country's natural resources and could have major negative impacts for the public.

"President Duterte has completed his turnaround, from claiming to protect and stop the destruction of forests by destructive mining, to a pro-mining president," the group said. "Lifting the moratorium exposes this administration's support for mining projects that will impact our water, food supply, forest, biodiversity, Indigenous communities and fragile island ecosystems."

"As we confront the impacts of climate change and this pandemic, more environmental destruction from mining is the last thing that our rural poor and forest-dependent communities need," ATM [said](#) in a statement, [adding](#) that "corporate interests and profit have won again over the welfare and benefits of the many."



DENR ignores calls to reconsider lifting of mining ban, cites billions of revenues needed

By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News
Published April 19, 2021 1:05pm



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is not keen to heed the calls for it to review the lift on the mining ban, as it cited the billions in revenues the government stands to gain from the sector.

In a virtual briefing on Monday, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones was asked to respond to calls of environment groups and stakeholders to reconsider Executive Order 130, which allows the government to enter into new mineral agreements.

"Ngayon hindi natin tutuunan ng pansin 'yung ganyan dahil kailangan natin kasi marami tayong problema ngayon sa bansa na kailangan natin ng pagkukuhanan ng pondo," he said during the Laging Handa briefing.

"Ito 'yung nakita natin na talagang isa sa mga paraan para tayo ay makaahon ng konti para magamit natin 'yung mga pondong makukuha natin para rin sa like for example, sa COVID-19 activities," he added.

(We will not pay attention to that because we need mining due to the number of problems the country is facing that need funding... We saw this as a way to alleviate the situation and to use the funds for COVID-19 activities for example.)

[Duterte last week issued EO 130](#), which lifted the mining ban imposed by his predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, in 2012. With this, new mineral agreements may move forward.

According to Leones, the government expects to gain P21 billion in revenues from royalty and excise taxes from the mining industry, but it will take up to five years before this will be felt.



DENR ignores calls to reconsider lifting of mining ban, cites billions of revenues needed

"We saw the mining sector as a way to undertake economic recovery. We saw that we can use our resources to come up or to generate the necessary income for our economy," he explained in a mix of English and Filipino.

At present, Leones said there are some 100 projects in the mining pipeline -- 35 in the first phase and another 65 in the second phase.

For its part, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines -- an umbrella organization of mining, mineral quarrying, and processing companies in the country -- cheered the lifting of the ban on new mining projects.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) earlier said that the recent two-week reimposition of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the NCR Plus bubble would result in [P30 billion in losses in households' income](#), and shave off 0.8 percentage points from the GDP.

Prior to this, NEDA said the [Filipino families lost some P1.4 trillion in 2020](#) due to the lockdown restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The country reported [a record-low gross domestic product \(GDP\) of -9.5%](#) in 2020, which the government also attributed to the shutdown of the economy due to the lockdowns. — KBK, GMA News

Tags: [DENR](#), [Mining](#), [business and industry](#)



DENR rejects calls to reconsider lifting of moratorium on mining, cites source of fund needed

Marje Pelayo • April 19, 2021



MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has rejected calls from environmental groups for the agency to review its decision to lift the ban on mining.

In a virtual briefing on Monday (April 19), Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones cited the country's need for funds especially considering the current COVID-19 crisis.

The decision, stated in Executive Order 130, allows the government to enter into new mining agreements.

“Sa ngayon hindi natin pagtutuunan ng pansin ang ganyan dahil kailangan natin kasi, marami tayong mga problema ngayon sa ating bansa na kailangan natin ng pagkukuhanan ng pondo,” Leones said during Monday's Laging Handa virtual press briefing.

The official said the mining industry is a significant source of funds in addressing COVID-19.

“At isa ito (mining) sa nakita natin, isa sa mga paraan na para tayo makaahon ng konti, para naman magamit natin mga pondong makukuha natin para din sa...like sa COVID-19 activities, pagbibigay ng ayuda sa mga mamamayan,” he added.

Currently, Leones said there are some 100 mining projects from which the government expects to gain P21 billion in revenues from excise taxes and royalty.

However, it will take up to five years before the government benefits from it.

Leones assured that the government is not just considering gaining from the sector but likewise ensuring a balance between environmental aspects and economic aspects.

Source: <https://www.untvweb.com/news/denr-rejects-calls-to-reconsider-lifting-of-moratorium-on-mining-cites-source-of-fund-needed/>



NIXES CALL FOR RECONSIDERATION: Gov't to yield P21B from mining

By [Jocelyn Montemayor](#)

-April 20, 2021



Under consideration. A big-ticket project, Silangan Mining in Surigao del Norte by Philex Mining Corp., is among the 100 pipeline projects being evaluated by DENR.

The government is setting aside calls to reconsider the lifting of the mining ban for now as it expects to generate at least P21 billion from 100 pipeline mining projects which will be a big boost to the economy, an environment official said yesterday.

Undersecretary Jonas Leones of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), at the Laging Handa public briefing, acknowledged calls of some environmental groups to reconsider Executive Order 130 that President Duterte issued last week which allows the government to enter into new mining agreements.

Leones said the department, however, is considering the positive impact of the mining deals in terms of royalty and excise taxes which could be used to fund government activities including efforts to address the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

"For now, we would not put too much attention on those calls because we need... we have a lot of problems in the country and we need funds for that," Leones said when asked about the calls of the environmental groups.

"This is one of the solutions that we see (will help us) survive and we can use the funds we generate for example for COVID-19 activities," he added.

Leones, however, said the economic effects of the new mining deals would not be felt by the public immediately but that the effects on the economy in terms of income will be felt in five years.



NIXES CALL FOR RECONSIDERATION: Gov't to yield P21B from mining

He said the DENR is now evaluating 100 pipeline projects to determine which can proceed. Of the 100 mining projects, 35 are under phase one and 65 are under phase two.

Leones said one of the big- ticket projects under consideration is the \$700 billion Silangan Mining in Surigao del Norte.

Leones assured the DENR would ensure environmental laws and safety guidelines would be followed if the mining projects proceed.

"This is not just about the extraction. We repeatedly say that environmental compliance is vital in balancing the economic aspect and environmental aspect," he said.

Environmental group Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) earlier expressed concern the lifting of the moratorium might lead to more disasters.



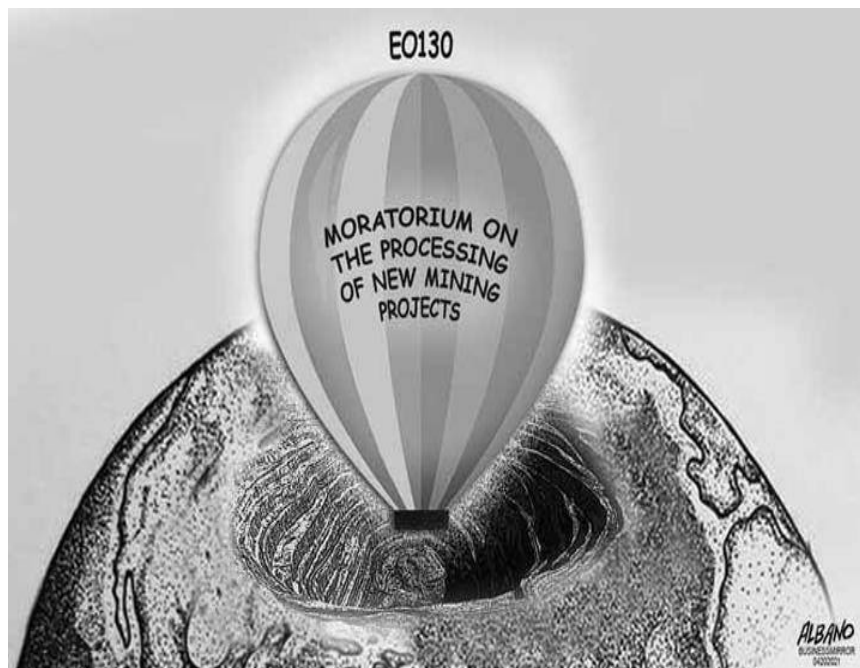
Easier Said Than Done



[BYBUSINESSMIRROR](#)

APRIL 20, 2021

4 MINUTE READ



Editorial

(BM)

It is very easy to say that our country could benefit from its natural resources and huge revenues from mining could help improve people's lives in a pandemic.

But this has yet to be proven in the Philippines, where promises of mining bonanzas have often turned into cautionary tales of environmental catastrophes.

President Duterte recently signed Executive Order (EO) 130, lifting an almost decade-old moratorium on the processing of new mining projects.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) immediately welcomed the new EO: "A major roadblock to the huge potential of the Philippine mining industry to contribute to socioeconomic growth has been removed. We welcome the lifting of the moratorium on new mining projects—in place for nearly nine years—in this time of great national difficulty as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic."

With the moratorium lifted, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) is looking to grant 100 new mining deals that could net P21 billion in the next five years, besides generating 42,000 new jobs in the mining sector.

The mining sector can be a huge boost to economic growth if managed properly. The Philippines is reportedly blessed with \$2 trillion of mineral wealth. Because of its huge reserves of natural resources, in particular non-renewable rich mineral deposits and even oil and gas deposits like those found around the waters of Palawan (much coveted by other countries like China),



Easier Said Than Done

sustainable mining could indeed be one of the top recipients of foreign investments and a main job generator.

But so far only a small cabal has reaped the financial benefits of mining. The rich revenue streams from extractive activities have had no significant impact on the country's economic development.

Although the Philippines is among the world's top producers of copper and gold and the leading supplier of nickel ore to China (the world's biggest metals producer and user), the mining sector makes a relatively small contribution to the national economy—only 0.6 percent share to total GDP, per latest official data.

Mass poverty afflicts many mining communities. For instance, Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte are two provinces richly endowed with metallic minerals, such as copper, gold, chromite, cobalt, nickel and lead zinc. They also have an abundance of nonmetallic minerals, like limestone, coal and feldspar, clay diamotite/bentomite and coarse or fine aggregates.

Along with Dinagat Islands, which used to be part of Surigao but now an independent province, Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte have hosted mining operations for decades. And yet mining has failed to significantly improve the lives of many Surigaonons.

Often, the people who fail to reap the benefits from their natural resources are the ones left with degraded environments – straining their ability to meet their own basic needs, if not endangering their lives altogether.

We have heard many stories about how the tailings from mines would seep into the soil and kill microorganisms that help crops grow; or how brown water would ooze from mines and reach coral reefs, covering them in sediment and eventually destroying them. How water for irrigating farms has been contaminated, forests denuded, rivers and seas polluted because of mining operations. How people suffered from floods, landslides and health problems, forced at times to leave their homes.

In 2017, President Duterte signed the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusive (TRAIN) Act. Section 48 of the law doubled the excise tax rate on minerals, mineral products, and quarry resources from 2 to 4 percent. But even with this increase and the corporate and royalty taxes mining companies pay, the government can do a much better job of harnessing more mining revenues for development purposes.

It's time to heed the suggestion by mining engineer Graciano Calanog Jr., who noted, in an article in this page last February, the crucial difference between a country like the Philippines that exports all (26 MMT in 2018) its low-priced raw nickel ores – all to China – and Indonesia, which has 11 processing plants for the raw metals (27 MMT) and exports the high-priced ferronickel. He suggested that lawmakers include a requirement for setting up nickel processing plants (ferro-nickel smelters, etc.) among the policy tweaks in crafting a better fiscal regime for mining, beyond simply relying on royalty fees.



Easier Said Than Done

While the Philippines and Indonesia's 2018 nickel production don't vary much, the price they fetch is worlds apart, because we send all raw ores to China while they export ferro-nickel. Ferro-nickel is priced at 90 percent of the official price of the London Metal Exchange (LME) while raw nickel ore is generally priced at only 10 percent (or even lower, depending on the grade) of the official LME nickel price, or a price advantage of 9x for Indonesia's ferro-nickel.

In other countries government's share in mining profits is anywhere from 50 to 60 percent; imagine how much more revenue can be raised if this government were to do as Indonesia did while tweaking the fiscal regime.

Meanwhile, it must also ensure local communities get their fair share from mineral resources, as well as address long-standing concerns on environmental pollution and compensation for people displaced by mining operations. But costs and compensation cannot all be measured in monetary terms, especially when lives and livelihoods are lost and environmental damage is irreversible.

Image courtesy of Jimbo Albano



Cebu grants permit for more dolomite shipment to Manila

By [Le Phyllis F. Antojado](#) (The Freeman)

- April 20, 2021 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu provincial government has allowed an additional shipment of dolomite products from Alcoy town in southern Cebu for the beautification project of Manila Bay.

Governor Gwendolyn Garcia confirmed that the Capitol has granted a permit for the shipment of the 8,600 cubic meters of 2-5 millimeter (mm) size dolomite sand and 6,600 cubic meters of 10-22 mm size dolomite pebbles from Dolomite Mining Corporation to be poured as artificial white sand in Manila Bay.

"Trusting this expedites the completion of the rehabilitation program of Manila Bay as I remain fully supportive of the Department of Environment and Natural Resource's programs," read part of the letter of Garcia to Atty. Jonas Leones, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Internal Affairs of DENR last December 11, 2020.

Garcia though clarified that the cease and desist order (CDO) she imposed against DMC and Philippine Mining Services Corporation (PMSC) for further extraction and domestic selling of the mineral product last year still remains.

"I did not lift that, we gave an exception upon the request of Secretary (Roy) Cimatu because they needed to finish the Manila Bay project," Garcia told reporters during her live press conference at the Capitol yesterday.

Garcia ordered the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO) to monitor the shipment ensuring that the volume of the dolomite sand and pebbles is within the allowed volume to be shipped.

Rodel Bontuyan, PENRO chief, said that the mining firm has already shipped three metric tons of dolomite in February and another three metric tons in March this year.

Another shipment is expected this month, according to Bontuyan.

Last week, it was reported that another volume of the dolomite was poured in at the Manila Bay for its rehabilitation project. The said activity drew another criticism from the public. — GMR (FREEMAN)

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2021/04/20/2092470/cebu-grants-permit-more-dolomite-shipment-manila/amp/>



DOLOMITE SAND MULA CEBU PARA SA MANILA BAY PINAHINTULUTAN

written by [Jennelyn Valencia- Burgos](#) April 20, 2021



Pinayagan ni Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia ang shipment ng dolomite sand at pebbles mula sa bayan ng Alcoy para sa nagpapatuloy na rehabilitasyon ng Manila bay.

Ito mismo ang kinumpirma ni Garcia kung saan binigyan niya umano ng exemption ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources o DENR para sa partikular na dami ng dolomite at pebbles para sa nasabing proyekto.

Pinahintulutan aniya niya ang pagbyahe ng nasa 8,600 cubic meters na dolomite sand at 6,600 cubic meters na dolomite pebbles patungong Maynila.

Magugunitang noong Setyembre ng nakaraang taon, nagpalabas ng cease and desist order si Garcia laban sa dalawang kumpanya na sangkot umano sa pagkuha at pagbebenta ng dolomite na kaparehas na ginagamit ngayon sa Manila bay.



Capitol allows shipment of dolomite sand, pebbles for Manila Bay 'white beach'

By: Morexette Marie B. Erram - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital|April 19,2021 - 01:36 PM



Heavy vehicles dump fresh dolomite at the "Dolomite Beach" along Roxas Boulevard in Manila on Tuesday, April 13. Grig C. Montegrando/Philippine Daily Inquirer

CEBU CITY, Philippines – The Cebu Provincial Government confirmed that the "fresh dose" of dolomite sand recently poured into Manila Bay "white sand beach" came from Alcoy town.

This after they allowed the shipment of dolomite sand and pebbles from Alcoy for the controversial Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia on Monday, April 19, said that she has given Dolomite Mining Corp. an exception to transport raw dolomite sand and pebbles. But the governor said they set a limit in terms of the volume of dolomite that will be sourced from Alcoy in southern Cebu.

The Capitol has not lifted its cease and desist order (CDO) prohibiting dolomite suppliers in the province to export and sell the mineral to the local market, said Garcia.

But the governor on Monday's press conference revealed that the Capitol received a request from the Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu to allow their agency to source dolomite sand from Alcoy town.

"I did not lift that (CDO), we gave an exception upon the request of Secretary Cimatu because they needed to finish the Manila Bay project," Garcia added.

She also said they allowed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) a maximum of 8,600 cubic meters of 2 to 5 millimeters (mm) of dolomite sand and 6,600 cubic meters of 6 to 10 mm of dolomite pebbles.



Capitol allows shipment of dolomite sand, pebbles for Manila Bay 'white beach'

The Capitol sent an official communication last December 11 to DENR to inform the latter of their decision.

During the same press conference, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Penro) Rodel Bontuyan told Garcia and members of the media that the Dolomite Mining Corp. has already shipped three metric tons of dolomite last February and another three metric tons last March.

Bontuyan said they are expecting another shipment of dolomite from Alcoy to the country's capital this April.

On April 13, INQUIRER.net reported that a "fresh dose" of dolomite sand was poured to Manila Bay's white beach, months after it first drew criticism from environment and fisherfolk groups questioning the project. / dcb

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/373621/capitol-allows-shipment-of-dolomite-sand-pebbles-for-manila-bay-white-beach#ixzz6sW1mvP7k>

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Gwen Garcia says she allowed dolomite shipment for Manila Bay project

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News
Published April 19, 2021 8:41pm



Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia on Monday said that she allowed the shipment of dolomite sand and pebbles from the municipality of Alcoy for the completion of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

In September last year, Garcia issued a [cease and desist order](#) on two companies involved in the extraction and sale of the dolomite used in the said project.

In a press conference on Monday, Garcia said she gave an exemption for a specific amount of dolomite sand and pebbles for the rehabilitation project upon the request of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

She said she issued a letter in December 2020 addressed to Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones, approving the department's request.

She said she allowed the shipment of 8,600 cubic meters of dolomite sand and 6,600 cubic meters of dolomite pebbles to Manila.

"I did not lift that (cease and desist order). However, we gave an exemption upon the request of Secretary Cimatú because they needed to finish that Manila Bay project," Garcia said.

"But that is limited. We have very specific volumes, sizes for the sand and pebbles. After that, wala na. We did not want na ma-caught in the middle and DENR for that project... That was given clearance so we will allow but at a very specific volume," she added.

In Executive Order 25 dated September 8, 2020, Garcia instructed both the Dolomite Mining Corporation (DMC) and the Philippine Mining Service Corporation (PMSC) to stop activities involving dolomite.



Gwen Garcia says she allowed dolomite shipment for Manila Bay project

The two companies were ordered to "immediately cease and desist from further extracting, processing, selling, and transporting of dolomite, associated mineral deposits, and other quarry resources."

Earlier this month, a [fresh coat of dolomite](#) sand was placed at the baywalk area of Manila Bay.

As part of its Manila Bay rehabilitation program, the DENR placed tons of crushed dolomite to beautify and rehabilitate a small stretch of the bay's shoreline.

The project received criticisms from various sectors, with some saying the artificial white sand is likely to be washed away in the future. — NB, GMA News



Ban on dolomite export remains, says governor



Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia. (File photo)

April 19, 2021

THE Cebu Provincial Government has confirmed that the fresh cover of dolomite sand that was recently poured at the Manila Bay “white sand beach” came from the southern town of Alcoy.

Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia said Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu had asked her to approve the shipment of additional dolomite sand to finish the Manila Bay rehabilitation project. That’s why she allowed it, she said.

However, Garcia said she set a limit on the volume of dolomite sand and pebbles that could be shipped to the national capital.

The governor also clarified that she did not lift the cease and desist order (CDO) that she issued against the sale and export of dolomite anywhere in the country.

“I did not lift that (CDO). We gave an exception upon the request of Secretary Cimatu because they needed to finish the Manila Bay project,” the governor said on Monday, April 19, 2021.

Garcia, in a letter to DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones dated last December, said the Province would allow the shipment of 8,600 cubic meters of two-five millimeters size dolomite sand 6,600 cubic meters of 10-22 millimeters size dolomite pebbles from the Dolomite Mining Corp. in Alcoy “to expedite the completion of the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.”

During the conference at the Capitol on Monday, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Rodel Bontuyan said three metric tons of dolomite were shipped to Manila in February and another three metric tons in March.



Ban on dolomite export remains, says governor

He said they're looking at sending another shipment this month.

Meanwhile, the governor said the Philippine Mining Service Corp. (PMSC), which processes the mined dolomite, has yet to settle the P1.9 billion in taxes it owes the Provincial Government for the volume of minerals it has sold since 2012.

"Wa gihapon (It has yet to pay). I don't think that it will be settled at the level of that resident manager. He is rather arrogant. Maybe kung (if) this was brought up to the level of the owners basig mas ma-okay (maybe it will be) but that's their call. Okay ra mi og dili (It's okay if they don't)," Garcia said.

The mining firm also has unpaid taxes from 2008 to 2011.

The Province passed an ordinance in 2008, ordering mining firms to pay a 10 percent tax on the fair market value of their mined materials.

Since the ordinance took effect, the PMSC reportedly has yet to pay its tax dues. (ANV / PJB)



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Concerned Manila residents reported that the dolomite dumping has been continued despite the public outcry, according to two environmental groups.





MAY PARANGAL UKOL SA "CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCY" ANG DENR



April 20, 2021 @ 1:01 AM 6 hours ago

INILUNSAD ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Gender and Development Office at Climate Change Service ang Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards na may titulong "Mga Kwentong KLIMA -likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards."

Layunin nito na makapagbigay ng pagkilala sa Filipino "movers and workers" na patuloy na gumagawa ng hakbang upang mapalakas ang kampanya laban sa climate and disaster resiliency.

Ang Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards na sumusuporta sa Global Good Stories Movement ay layuning mahanap at mabigyan ng pagkilala ang mga kuwento ng bawat indibidwal o grupo kung ano ang epekto ng climate change and disaster sa kanilang komunidad at paano nila ito nabigyan ng solusyon sa pamamagitan ng mga programa sa pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa kanilang kapaligiran at konserbasyon, climate change at disaster risk reduction.

Ang Global Good Stories Movement naman ay isang samahan na nagbabahagi ng kanilang paniniwala sa katagang "we can change the story of the world by changing the storyline."

Ang nationwide search ay bukas sa magagandang istorya tungkol sa women leadership, community livelihood development, integrated water resources management, at coastal/upland protection.

Kabilang din dito ang istorya tungkol sa critical resilient infrastructure, climate and disaster information services, solid waste management, marine conservation, at coastal governance, road sharing and non-motorized mobility, edible landscaping and food gardens.

Kasali rin dito ang eco-governance, environmental legislation, environmental education, arts for the earth, environmental jurisprudence, youth leadership, environmental diplomacy, marine

MAY PARANGAL UKOL SA "CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCY" ANG DENR

enforcement, renewable energy, cultural heritage, beach restoration, environmental litigation, at water use and recycling.

Dapat na ang mga inisyatibang ito ay hindi bababa sa tatlong taong ipinatupad o sinimulan noong pang 2018.

Ang mga kalahok ay huhusgahan base na rin sa mga sumusunod na criteria: climate and disaster resiliency content – 60%, visual appeal of the photographs and video – 30% at geographical reach of the initiative – 10%.

Makatatanggap ang mananalo ng Php 50,000 para sa first prize, Php 40,000 para sa second prize, at Php 30,000 para sa third prize. Mayroon ding Php 15,000 bawat isa ang pitong mapipiling consolation prizes.

Ang parangal ay gagawin sa June 2021 bilang bahagi ng selebrasyon ng Philippine Environment Month.

Sa mga nagnanais na lumahok, maaaring magsumite ng kanilang entries sa cco.dnr@yahoo.com, at ccs.dnr@gmail.com, bago ang May 4, 2021.

Maaari ring isumite ang entry sa pinakamalapit na DENR Community o Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office o sa DENR regional offices.

EMB-10 looks into Jasaan oil spill incident

By EMB 10 Published on April 19, 2021



Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-10 Regional Director Keywala S. Ocampo inspects the oil spill deposits on the shoreline of Barangay Lower Jasaan and Kimaya, (EMB10)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, April 19 - Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-10 together with Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) conducted an ocular investigation on the oil spill incident with the MV Tower 1 (formerly, MV Racal) at the Bay of Cabulig in front of Barangay Lower Jasaan, Jasaan, Misamis Oriental.

Acting Station Commander Lt. Stephen S. Pagcaliwagan, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Jasaan Sub-station and Marine Environmental Protection Force of PCG-10 PO2 Ronald R. Moncayo shared that MV Tower 1 watercraft sank releasing its bunker fuel that affected five barangays along the shoreline of Cabulig Bay, namely, Luzbanzon, Kimaya, Upper Jasaan, Lower Jasaan, and Solana.



Oil spills contained in steel drums located in Barangays Luzbanzon and Kimaya. (EMB10)



EMB-10 looks into Jasaan oil spill incident

PCG-10 and Jasaan town immediately responded by conducting a survey of the affected areas and implementing oil spill response and control measures.

The PCG-10 and the municipality have recovered 21 drums of oil spill and oil-contaminated materials which are sawdust and sands, and another 21 sacks of oil-contaminated debris.

Following the investigation, EMB-10 Regional Director Reynaldo S. Digamo conducted an ambient water quality sampling for the five affected barangays to assess their water quality which includes the following parameters: Dissolved Oxygen, Oil and Grease, pH, and Temperature.

The EMB-10 team will release the Laboratory Analysis Results to the PCG-10, BFAR-10, and Jasaan town to assist them in evaluating potential impacts of the spill and identify to proper mitigating measures.

Meanwhile, Sherwin Doctora and Dr. Lord Sanny Salvaña (owners of the sunken ship), has agreed during a meeting with EMB and LGU officials that the owners will pay the expenses incurred in the cleanup operation along with the transport and treatment of the collected oil spill and oil contaminated materials and debris to the TSD facility. (EMB10)



17 ka mga establishmento nga yara sa forestlands ginpasarado sang DENR 12.

By [Eden Ca. ete](#)

-Apr. 19, 2021 at 1:35pm



Ginpasarado sang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 12 paagi sa pag-isyu sang closure orders ang 17 ka mga structures/business establishments sa General Santos City kag Polomolok, South Cotabato nga nagaoperate sa forestlands ukon lasang.

Suno kay Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) GenSan Ma. Elvira V. Lumayag nga ang pagpapanaug sang closure orders ang base sa Memorandum nga gin-isyu ni Regional Executive Director, Atty. Felix S. Alicer base sa Section 20 kag Section 78 sang Presidential Decree No. 705 ukon ang Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Pahayag ni Lumayag nga ang mga nagapanag-iya sang nasambit nga mga establishmento ang napaslawan nga magpresentar sang nagakaigo nga dokumento nga nagasuporta sa ila nga operasyon sa nasambit nga lugar.

Gin-isyu ang "Closure Orders matapos ang ginhimo nga inspeksyon kag orientation sa mga balaud angot sa paggamit sang forestland.

Dugang pa ni Lumayag nga ang ila nga opisina ang nagpatigayon sang inventory sang mga establishmento nga nagaoperate sa forestlands nga malakip sa Base Map kag posible may-yata pa sang batch sang mga establishmento ang ila nga pagasarad-an sa nagapadayon nga inspeksyon. Samtang ginhatagan punto ni DENR-XII Regional Executive Director (RED) Atty. Felix S. Alicer nga importante ang development, apang kinahanglan man ang environmental protection paagi sa tama nga paggamit.

Ginsiguro man ni Alicer nga suportahan sang ahensya ang nasambit nga mga establishmento sa tion nga mangin legal ukon lehitimo na ang ila nga operasyon paagi sa pagcomply sang nagakaigo nga mga dokumento.



4 pawikan pinakawalan matapos malambat sa Ilocos Sur

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 19 2021 11:01 PM



Kuha ni Alden Paino

Apat na pawikan ang nalambat ng mga mangingisda sa dagat sa Brgy. Camindoroan sa bayan ng San Juan, Ilocos Sur, Lunes ng umaga.

Ayon sa punong barangay na si Gaudelio delos Santos, tinatayang higit 60 kilo ang dalawang malalaking pawikan na nahuli, habang ang dalawang mas maliit ay 10 hanggang 15 kilo.

Aniya, aksidente ang pagkakahuli sa mga pawikan.

Dagdag niya, wala namang sugat ang mga pawikan at agad din silang pinakawalan matapos sila utusan ng opisina ng DENR sa bayan.

Hindi ito ang unang beses na nakalambat ang mga mangingisda sa nasabing barangay ng mga pawikan.--Ulat ni Grace Alba

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10159417169570168/?app=fbl>

11-ft long saltwater croc found in Bislig City

Published on April 19, 2021



BISLIG CITY, Surigao del Sur, Apr. 19 (PIA) -- An 11-foot long saltwater crocodile was caught in one of the fishponds on April 12, 2021, by the residents in Barangay Pamanlian, this city.

Bislig City Administrator Romulo Gray revealed that there was already a sighting of a crocodile in one of the piers in Bislig City almost two years ago.

The report said the captured saltwater crocodile was the first to happen in the city.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-CENRO-Bislig bared that the said crocodile weighs approximately 250-300 kilograms.





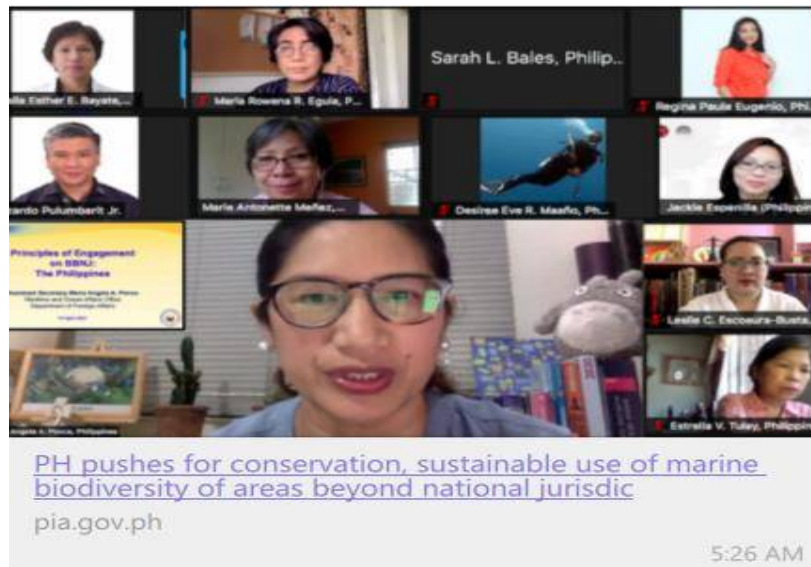
11-ft long saltwater croc found in Bislig City

The huge reptile was under the custody of Barangay Pamanlian headed by Barangay Captain Jennifer Magno before it was handed over to the Pag-asa Farms Wildlife Resource Center in Kapalong, Davao del Norte on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

It was transported and assisted by the local government unit of Bislig City-Environment and Natural Resources Office (City-ENRO) under the administration of Mayor Florencio Garay, DENR-CENRO Bislig, and the barangay Council of Pamanlian, it was learned. (with a report from CIO-Bislig/PIA-Surigao del Sur)

PH pushes for conservation, sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

By DFA Published on April 20, 2021



PASAY CITY, April 20 -- Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary for Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office (MOAO) Maria Angela A. Ponce reaffirmed the Philippines' support for an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), during the virtual webinar "The BBNJ Agreement Dialogue Series for ASEAN Member States," on 14 April 2021, organized by the Centre for International Law (CIL) of the National University of Singapore (NUS), together with Hanoi Law University, and with support from The High Seas Alliance.

In her statement, Assistant Secretary Ponce underlined the principle of the common heritage of mankind to guide the new legal regime for BBNJ, including access to and sharing of benefits of marine genetic resources. She further mentioned that "due regard must be given to the rights and jurisdiction of adjacent coastal States, like the Philippines, and thus, any activity that impacts areas beyond national jurisdiction, directly or indirectly, must be communicated to adjacent coastal States."

Assistant Secretary Ponce expressed the Philippines' appreciation to the organizers of the webinar, and highlighted the importance of finding possible convergence of positions among ASEAN Member States, including the special recognition to environmentally vulnerable States.

The Philippine delegation was composed of representatives from MOAO, the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), DA – Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), DENR – Environment Management Bureau (EMB), De La Salle University, University of the Philippines (UP) – Marine Science Institute (MSI), and UP – Institute of Maritime Affairs and the Law of the Sea. (DFA)



Philippines pledges 75% cut on carbon emissions

By [Adam Ang](#)
-2021-04-19



The country was last among Southeast Asian countries that submitted their official commitments to the Paris Climate Change agreement.

The Philippines has submitted its official pledge to the global climate change treaty, planning to reduce three-fourths of carbon emissions within the decade.

The majority of the target or 72.29% is conditional or dependent on international aid, while 2.71% is unconditional or shall be met through its own resources, according to the five-page [Nationally Determined Contribution](#) (NDC) filed with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The “[ambitious](#)” target was actually raised from the [initial 30% pledge](#) over the next two decades. It was pegged against the projected cumulative economy-wide emission of 3,340.3 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO_{2e}).

“The NDC will be our tool to upgrade our economy by adopting modern and low carbon technologies and approaches that would help mitigate the climate crisis and make our economy more resilient and our growth sustainable,” said Philippine Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, who also leads the country’s Climate Change Commission.

The emissions cut is intended for agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy sectors.

In an e-mailed statement, Greenpeace said the 75% reduction target is “underwhelming,” stating that the country’s commitment “does not reflect the urgency needed to address the climate emergency.

Despite the “low” unconditional commitment, the international policy group Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) said it expects the Philippine Energy Department to continuously update its pledge, citing its move to ban new applications for coal projects in the country last year.



Philippines pledges 75% cut on carbon emissions

"The challenge now is to see the NDC process as a means by which the modernization of the electricity sector is realized, driven by genuine competition and premised on greater reliance on flexible generation," ICSC climate governance head Rex Barrer said in an e-mailed statement.

Another local environmental campaigner underscored the "lack of transparency" on how the country will perform its climate vows and what the sectoral contributions will be.

"It is also unclear on how the interlinkages between sectors and other cross-cutting issues, such as poverty eradication, gender, health, education, and Covid-19 recovery would affect the country's ability to fulfill its own pledges," added John Leo Algo of Living Laudato Si' Philippines in his [opinion](#) piece.

The Philippines, which is heavily dependent on coal, recorded an average emission of 1.98 MtCO₂e per capita in 2020, lower than the global average of four metric tons per capita.

The Paris Agreement took effect in 2016, aiming to keep the rise of global temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

A year later, the Philippines ratified the accord, which in turn allowed it [access to the Green Climate Fund](#) which assists developing countries in countering global warming.

The Philippines is the last ASEAN country to formally commit to the Paris Agreement, following Cambodia and Brunei, which both submitted their NDCs last December. The UNFCCC says 192 out of 196 countries have already submitted their pledges.

In late March, the country's central bank governor warned of [risks associated with leaving coal power](#), one of the dirtiest power sources.

"While we are accustomed to physical risks such as typhoons and earthquakes, we should focus our attention as well to the transition risks that arise from migrating out of fossil fuels," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Benjamin Diokno said.

"This may seem like a very long-term risk, but in reality, it also takes a long period to properly move towards low greenhouse gas emissions, especially for a country that is traditionally dependent on fossil fuels," the official added.

Photo by [James Stevenson](#)/Flickr ([CC BY-NC 2.0](#))

Tagalog News: Modernisasyon, low carbon technologies isinulong para labanan ang global warming -Dominguez

By Ma. Elaine P. Allanigue Published on April 19, 2021



LUNGSOD QUEZON, Abril 19 (PIA) -- Inihayag ni Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, Chairman-designate ng Climate Change Commission (CCC), ang isinumiteng "Nationally Determined Contribution" (NDC) ng Pilipinas ang magiging instrumento para umunlad ang ekonomiya sa pamamagitan ng pag-adopt ng modernisado at low carbon na teknolohiya gayundin ang mga pamamaraan na magpapagaan ng krisis sa klima.

Ani Sec. Dominguez, sa papagitan ng NDC, ang ekonomiya ay mas tatatag at mapapanatili ang pag-unlad.

Nauna nang inaprubahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang unang "Nationally Determined Contribution" (NDC) sa bansa para mabawasan ang greenhouse gas (GHG) emission.

Layon nitong pababain ng 75 porsyento ang "GHG emission and avoidance" bilang pangako ng Pilipiinas sa Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Ang NDC ang kumakatawan sa layunin ng Pilipinas na ma-modernisa at magkaroon ng low carbon at resilient na pag-unlad para sa sektor ng agrikultura, waste, industriya, transportasyon at enerhiya mula taong 2020 hanggang 2030.

Ang 75% target ay base sa projected business-as-usual cumulative economy-wide emission ng bansa na 3,340.3 metric tons (MT) ng carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e).

Nagpasalamat din si Sec. Dominguez sa mga ahensya --- Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), of Agriculture (DA), of Transportation (DOTr) and of Energy (DOE); of Foreign Affairs (DFA); and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)— na na



Tagalog News: Modernisasyon, low carbon technologies isinulong para labanan ang global warming -Dominguez

nagtulong-tulong para mabuo ang NDC sa kabila ng pandemiya at tuluy-tuloy na mga bagyo na siyang nag pa antala ng proseso nitong nakaraang taon.

Pinasalamatan niya rin ang mga kinatawan ng mga industriya gayundin ang mga lider sa academe at civil society organizations para sa mga ambag at suporta sa government's vision of a transformational NDC.

Sa kabilang banda, nanawagan din ang kalihim sa international community na magsama-samang patatagin ang global efforts for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Ayon kay Sec. Dominguez, inaasahan ang developed nations, na nagdulot ng global climate crisis ayon sa kasaysayan, ay tutugon sa commitment nito sa Paris Agreement, na panatilihin ang global average temperature na hindi hihigit sa 1.5 degrees Celsius survival threshold.

Dagdag pa ni Sec. Dominguez, ang mga kritikal na oras ngayon hanggang 2030 ay oportunidad para sa transformative climate action para masiguro ang planetary well-being bago maging huli ang lahat.

Ang mga NDC ay mga pangako o "pledges" na isinumite ng mga bansa sa United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) bilang ambag upang makamit ang mga layunin ng Paris Agreement partikular na ang paglimita sa global warming, mas mababa sa two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels or further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Ang pagbuo ng Philippine NDC ay sumailalim sa matinding proseso ng economic modeling analyses, expert reviews and consultations kasama ang iba't ibang stakeholders mula sa public, private and civil society sectors. (PIA NCR)



SMC doubling up Tullahan River cleanup

By ...
-April 20, 2021



Heavy equipment work on widening a portion of the Tullahan River from the Tinajeros Bridge to Potrero in Malabon and Valenzuela cities.

San Miguel Corp. is on track to more than double its daily dredging of silt and trash for its P1-billion Tullahan-Tinajeros river system cleanup project from 600 metric tons (MT) per day to 1,500 MT per day for the 11.5-kilometer (km) stretch it is working on.

This covers the initial sections 1-3 of the project from the mouth of the Manila Bay in Navotas City to Tinajeros Bridge, and sections 4-5 from Tinajeros Bridge to Potrero in Malabon and Valenzuela cities. SMC's five-year project covers the entire 27-km length of the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system.

SMC is also advancing the start of dredging at the tributary's Malabon and Valenzuela sections, to boost government's flood mitigation efforts before the rainy season sets in.

From 1,000 MT per day last March, monthly now averages averaging 1,200 MT and will gradually increase to 1,500 MT. With the arrival of new, additional dredging equipment, SMC will also start dredging Sectors 4 and 5 where heavier flooding was experienced during heavy typhoons last November 2020.

As of April 13 this year, a total of 168,004 MT of silt and solid waste had been removed from the river.



MCWM Rallies Efficient, Improved Waste Management Amid Surge In COVID-19 Waste



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#)
April 19, 2021

One year after its onset, the coronavirus pandemic continues to put pressure on healthcare workers and medical facilities across the country. As the government addresses the growing number of cases, and vaccinations are now truly underway, the Philippines is reminded of another looming concern: because by significantly increasing the medical and plastic waste generated as part of fighting and living with the virus, COVID-19 has also added to the country's growing garbage problem.

According to the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) forecast, hospitals in Metro Manila alone generate 280 metric tons of medical wastes daily during the pandemic, a 595% increase from the 47 metric tons that healthcare facilities produce each day prior to the pandemic.





MCWM Rallies Efficient, Improved Waste Management Amid Surge In COVID-19 Waste

Leading waste management firm Metro Clark Waste Management (MCWM) says the challenge is growing, as hospitals, local governments, and medical waste treatment facilities work to continually treat and dispose of infectious waste produced daily.

“Handling waste generated in our hospitals and other medical facilities such as quarantine sites and COVID-19 testing centers requires a mandatory and complex process to ensure public health and safety. It is a scheme that needs a concerted effort from different stakeholders as the waste goes from trash bin to landfill,” remarks MCWM executive vice president Vicky Gaetos.



Healthcare waste includes used PPEs, dressings, swabs, blood bags, urine bags, sputum cups, syringes, and test tubes. Given that these are classified as high-risk, disposals from medical facilities undergo a long journey in a treatment facility before they arrive at a sanitary landfill or a designated site that can properly dispose of infectious waste. According to MCWM, medical wastes from local government units (LGU) and private and industrial companies are treated first by medical waste treatment companies before they are disposed of at its landfill.

The problem with plastic

Alongside the increased volume of infectious waste is the surge in the amount of plastic from all sources, whether directly related to fighting COVID, such as face masks, face shields, gloves, and alcohol and sanitizer bottles, or just regular disposable plastic packaging that we have all become accustomed to during lockdown, such as disposable packaging and utensils. Gaetos remarked that MCWM is well prepared to meet the expected increase in demand for landfills, regardless of the type of waste in question.



MCWM Rallies Efficient, Improved Waste Management Amid Surge In COVID-19 Waste

According to the 2021 study 'COVID pollution: impact of COVID-19 pandemic on global plastic waste footprint' by Heliyon, a global all-science, open-access journal, the Philippines ranks 17th worldwide in terms of global plastic waste generated from COVID-19 facemasks, with an estimated 41 million units discarded daily.

"Plastic has been an environmental issue even before the pandemic. With the public utilizing personal safety implements such as face masks and face shields regularly, we are well prepared to accommodate the increased demand for proper waste management of such plastic waste products, along with treated infectious waste," Gaetos says. "We reiterate the need for a strategic and efficient waste management program that can maintain the integrity of our public's health and that of our land and water resources," Gaetos added.

Even before the current pandemic, the Philippines was already dealing with a growing garbage crisis, with much more waste being generated than the available disposal capacity. The COVID-19 pandemic has merely highlighted this.

Whether it is treated hospital and industrial waste or household garbage, MCWM has been helping its LGU clients and corporate customers meet their waste disposal needs for over 20 years, in full compliance with the government's Ecological Solid Waste Management Act since the first day of the company's operations.

"The garbage crisis is not something new. It is a very real issue that unfortunately doesn't get as much coverage as it should," says Gaetos.

"While there is really nothing positive about this pandemic, the issue of infected waste has helped draw attention to this long-standing garbage problem. The key is to acknowledge these points and work together to solve them through efforts from the individual, community, local, and national levels. MCWM is working closely with local government units, medical facilities, and our peers in the industry to ensure that we all live in safe, clean spaces not only during this pandemic but even once we are finally out of it." Gaetos closes.

Source: <http://pageone.ph/mcwm-rallies-efficient-improved-waste-management-amid-surge-in-covid-19-waste/>

VP Robredo, lawmakers join climate advocates in Earth Day pledge

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on April 19, 2021



The Climate Reality Project Philippines Facebook Page screengrab

QUEZON CITY, April 19 (PIA) -- To join the celebration of Earth Day 2021, Vice President Leni Robredo, senators, and House representatives joined climate advocates in unveiling their commitments to help address the prevailing environmental and climate crises.

In the virtual event organized by The Climate Reality Project Philippines today entitled “Pledge for a Better Earth, Better Reality,” government leaders vowed to pursue actions to help restore the Earth by pushing for policies, programs, and initiatives that will enable the country to transition into a sustainable society.

Acknowledging that being mindful of climate risks and pursuing climate justice is “key to our survival,” the Vice President said that her office is joining Climate Reality Philippines in its “resolve to create a larger, more strategic, more intensified push for a more climate-forward agenda.”

“We will continue to support and promote businesses that offer sustainability and eco-friendly packaging. We will continue to make low-carbon choices. And we will continue to help push for policies and programs that will enable the transition of our country into a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy,” Robredo said.

Senator Pia Cayetano, Chair of the Senate Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking, said that she will continue to ensure that sustainability is incorporated in all policy discussions at the Senate.

Cayetano shared she has filed the Sustainable Cities and Communities Act—a bill that tasks local governments to preferential use of renewable resources, efficient waste management systems, as well as reliable mass transport, among others.

VP Robredo, lawmakers join climate advocates in Earth Day pledge

Equating taking care of the environment to “taking care of our loved ones, our children, and our homes,” Sen. Risa Hontiveros, Chair of the Philippine Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations, and Gender Equality, said she is pushing for a bill to ban the use of plastic straws and stirrers.

“It’s a small step towards eliminating single-use plastics in our establishments, pushing people to make sustainable and plastic-waste free decisions, Hontiveros noted.

Senator Joel Villanueva, Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical, and Vocational Education, said he has filed the Environmental Education in Senior High School Act to deepen the engagement of young people in environmental awareness and conservation.

“I am adding my voice to the ever-increasing outcry, particularly for public policies that serve to make positive change happen for the protection and well-being of our only home, Mother Earth, he said.

Senator Cynthia Villar, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, pledged to strongly push for the passage of the bill institutionalizing the Extended Producers Responsibility mechanism as part of the country’s solid waste management system and as a strategy to reduce the proliferation of single-use plastics that pollute the environment.

Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, meanwhile, conveyed that the House of Representatives is committed to set enabling policies that will accelerate the transition of the Philippines to “a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy, founded on sustainability, environmental protection, better risk governance, and climate justice.”

This commitment was supported by Representative Edgar M. Chatto who said that the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Climate Change which he chairs, has recently declared a climate and environmental emergency, ensuring enhanced and coherent climate actions in the Executive and Legislative Agenda of the government.

Chatto said that the declaration called on local governments to adopt a “no to coal” or “no to new coal” policy within their respective jurisdictions, among others.

Aside from the aforementioned government leaders, the “Pledge for a Better Earth, Better Reality” also featured pledges for the planet from climate and environmental advocates from organizations such as Solar Hope, Wavefarers, Salingsing Youth Organization, Greenpeace, Rotary Club, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources— Environment and Management Bureau.

Watch the full video [here](#).

To recall, the Climate Reality Project Philippines is a collaborative, diverse, and multi-disciplinary community of Pinoy Climate Reality Leaders innovating to find solutions to the climate crisis through skills-sharing, value-formation, and capacity-building activities; mobilization; and institutionalization of nation-building efforts towards an inclusive, empowered, and transformed Philippines. (PIA NCR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1072707>

PH Covid-19 recoveries up by 9,266

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz April 19, 2021, 5:46 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

MANILA – Another 9,266 patients have recovered from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), the Department of Health (DOH) reported on Monday.

This brings the country's recovery tally to 788,322 or 83.4 percent of a total of 945,745 Covid-19 infections.

The agency also reported 9,628 new infections, bringing the country's active Covid-19 cases to 141,375.

Out of the active cases, 96.9 percent have mild symptoms, followed by the asymptomatic at 1.5 percent, those with severe symptoms at 0.7 percent, those in critical condition at 0.5 percent, and those with moderate symptoms at 0.43 percent.

An additional 88 deaths were reported, raising the country's total Covid-19 casualties to 16,048.

The utilization rate of Covid-19 beds remains high in the National Capital Region (NCR) — with the region's 700 intensive care unit (ICU) beds at 84 percent occupancy, 3,800 isolation beds at 63 percent occupancy, 2,200 ward beds at 70 percent occupancy, and ventilators at 61 percent occupancy.

Meanwhile, 66 percent of 1,900 ICU beds, 49 percent of 13,600 isolation beds, 56 percent of 6,000 ward beds and 47 percent of 2,000 ventilators are currently in use nationwide. (PNA)



Covid-19 cases across globe up by over 809K Sunday

April 19, 2021, 2:05 pm



GENEVA – More than 809,000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus infection were registered worldwide in the past day, with the overall number exceeding 140.32 million, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in its daily bulletin on Sunday.

As of 15:35 Moscow time on April 18, as many as 140,322,903 novel coronavirus cases and 3,003,794 coronavirus-associated deaths were registered across the globe.

The number of confirmed cases grew by 809,004 in the past 24 hours and the number of fatalities increased by 11,481.

The WHO statistics is based on officially confirmed data from the countries.

Southeast Asia accounts for more than a third of the Covid-19 daily tally (272,989 cases).

Next are North and South America (254,847 cases) and Europe (203,134).

The biggest number of coronavirus cases was reported from the United States (31,250,635), India (14,788,109), Brazil (13,832,455), France (5,178,513), Russia (4,702,101), the United Kingdom (4,385,942), Turkey (4,212,645), Italy (3,857,443), Spain (3,396,685), Germany (3,142,262), Poland (2,688,025), and Argentina (2,658,628). (TASS)



SUPLAY NG BAKUNA HINO-HOARD, HINAHARANG, HEALTH PROTOCOL, QUARANTINE KAILANGAN



April 19, 2021 @ 10:00 AM 21 hours ago

LUMUHOD man tayo sa mga vaccine maker o tagagawa ng bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 at lalo na sa mga bansang kumokontrol sa mga vaccine maker, hindi tayo basta mapagbibigyan sa mga panahong ito.

Kahit may pambili tayo, hindi nangangahulugan na meron tayong mabibili kahit saan.

Kung may mabili man tayo, hindi magiging sapat para maabot natin ang tinatawag na herd immunity o sapat na rami ng tao upang mapigilan ang hawaan sa virus.

Hindi naman natin maaasahan ang Covax facility ng World Health Organization dahil maging ito ay kakapurit ang nabibili.

Kaya pangunahing kalasag natin ngayon laban sa pandemya ang proteksyon ng batas at hindi ang bakuna.

'Yun bang === mga batas na nag-aatas sa ating lahat na sumunod sa umiiral na mga health protocol at mga quarantine na rin.

May bisa ang mga health protocol na 90 porsyento laban sa hawaan at malaking bagay na hindi tayo magkakahawaan habang wala pang bakuna ang higit na nakararami sa atin.

Ang mga katulad ng "stay at home" na laman ng mga quarantine ay napatunayan na ring mabisa sa paglaganap ng pandemya.

Ang mga health protocol at quarantine ay mabisa kahit pa sa mga bagong anyo ng COVID-19 na nakapasok na sa Pinas gaya ng UK variant, South African variant, Brazil variant at sarili nating Philippine variant.

SUPLAY NG BAKUNA HINO-HOARD, HINAHARANG, HEALTH PROTOCOL, QUARANTINE KAILANGAN

HARANGAN O HOARDING

Malinaw na malinaw na may mga bansang humaharang o humo-ward o nag-iimbak ng labis-labis na bakuna para sa kanilang sarili bago magkaroon ang iba.

Wala silang pakialam kung magkandahetot-hetot ang kalusugan hanggang sa magkandamatay-matay ang iba.

Basta ligtas sila sa pandemya habang nagkakasakit at namamatay ang iba, happy na sila.

Ang India na pinakamalaking tagagawa ng bakuna sa buong mundo ay tumigil na sa paglalabas ng bakuna para magamit ito laban sa grabeng pagsalakay ng salot sa kanila.

Araw-araw nang mahigit 200,000 hanggang 300,000 araw-araw ang may COVID-19 sa kanila at sa nakalipas na linggo at nakaipon na ito ng isang milyong biktima.

Mismong pamahalaang India na ang nagpatigil sa Serum Institute of India, pinakamalaking vaccine maker sa mundo, na magluwas at magbenta ng bakuna at sa halip, lahat ng gawa nito ay gagamitin sa loob ng nasabing bansa.

Mag-aangkat na rin ito ng mga bakuna nang walang trial-trial basta aprubado na sa ibang bansa gaya ng Pfizer at Moderna na gawang United States.

Ang US naman, pinagbawalan ang mga tagagawa ng Pfizer at Moderna na magluwas at magbenta ng bakuna sa iba hangga't hindi nababakunahan lahat ng dapat mabakunahan na 300 milyong mamamayan nito hanggang Hulyo.

At kung may uunahing bigyan ng US, walang iba kung ang Canada at Mexico na mga kapitbansa nito.

Pinagbawalan din ng European Community ang mga tagagawa ng bakuna sa kanila, kabilang na ang AstraZeneca/Oxford University na maglabas ng AstraZeneca at iba pang bakuna hangga't hindi nababakunahan din ang 450 milyong mamamayan nito.

Katwiran ng mga bansang US at EU, mga Bro, hindi baleng sobra ang bakuna nila lalo na ngayong may mga ibang anyo ng COVID-19 na nagpapahina sa bisa ng mga bakuna.

Mismong ang Pfizer na ang nagsasabi na kailangan ang booster shot o pangatlong bakuna at dapat kada anim na buwan o taon-taong may pagbabakuna laban sa virus.

Kaya naman, hinaharang o hino-ward ng US at EU ang mga bakuna, lalo't hanggang anim na buwan lang ang bisa ng mga ito at swertehan na kung umabot ito sa siyam na buwan.

Sa rekord ng WHO, anak ng tokwa, hawak ng nasabing mga bansa ang 87 porsyento ng isang bilyong nagagawa nang bakuna samantalang nasa .02 porsyento lang ang nakararating sa 92 bansa sa pamamagitan ng Covax.



SUPLAY NG BAKUNA HINO-HOARD, HINAHARANG, HEALTH PROTOCOL, QUARANTINE KAILANGAN

RUSSIA AT CHINA IBA

Iba naman ang nagaganap sa China at Russia.

Kahit may pangangailangan din ang kanilang mga mamamayan, panay ang donasyon o benta ng mga ito ng kanilang mga bakuna, kasama ang Sinovac ng China at Sputnik V ng Russia.

Sa parte ng Pilipinas, nakabili na tayo ng isang milyong Sinovac, bukod sa natanggap nating 1M ding donasyon ng China.

Magkakaroon tayo ng Sinovac na 1-2 milyon kada buwan, depende sa order natin.

Ngayon naman, tapos na ang usapan sa pagitan mismo nina Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at Russia President Vladimir Putin ukol sa pagbili natin ng Sputnik V na 20 milyong doses sa loob ng apat na buwan mula sa mga araw na ito at napirmahan na ang kasunduan para sa unang 10M doses.

Kaugnay nito, tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang negosasyon ng Pinas ukol sa Pfizer, Moderna at Jansen (Johnson & Johnson) pero kung kailan magbenta ang mga ito at kung kailan papayag ang US, walang nakatitiyak.

Hindi naman natin maaasahan ang AstraZeneca lalo't pinupwersa ito ng EU na ibigay sa kanila lahat ng gawa ng United Kingdom at ng mga planta nito sa Europe ayon sa kontrata nila.

Kung meron mang ilalabas ang US at EU, nasa 4% lang bilang pangontra sa China at Russia na walang tigil sa pagdodonasyon at pagbebenta ng bakuna sa buong mundo.

Ayaw maagawan ng mga kaalyado ang US at EU, partikular sa negosyo at pulitika ngunit pinagdadamutan naman nila ang mga kaalyado nila, kasama na ang Pilipinas.

Totoo na nagbibigay ang US at EU ng salaping donasyon o pautang para pambili ng bakuna at para sa vaccination program subalit sila rin ang pumipigil o humaharang sa mga vaccine maker na magbenta sa iba, kasama ang Pinas.

Ang krisis nga sa paggawa ng bakuna sa India ay nauugat sa pagharang ng US sa hilaw na materyales, lalo na ang ADJUTANT na kailangan upang magkaroon ng bisa ang bakuna at mapalakas ang immune system na lumikha ng anti-bodies laban sa COVID-19.

Daan-daan nang vaccination center sa India ang isinara dahil sa kakapusan ng bakuna na nauugat sa nasabing panghaharang ng US at nataon pang nananalasa ang mabagsik na second wave ng pandemya roon.

Maging ang Brazil, na malapit na kaalyado at partner ng US sa mga giyera nito ay hindi rin binibigyan ng huli ng bakuna kahit na nasa 3,000-4,000 na ang namamatay roon araw-araw at malapit nang 14 milyon ang kabuuang bilang ng nagkakasakit at 1.2M ang aktibong kaso.

At nalantad pang hinaharang ng US ang pagbili ng Brazil ng Sputnik V at iniulat ito ng Washington Post.



SUPLAY NG BAKUNA HINO-HOARD, HINAHARANG, HEALTH PROTOCOL, QUARANTINE KAILANGAN

Gayunman, pinipilit ngayon ng Brazil na makakuha ng 10M dose na Sputnik V kahit hinaharang ito ng US.

MAG-HEALTH PROTOCOL TAYO

Kung ano-ano lang ang idinadakdak ng mga kritiko, lalo na ang mga namumulitika kaugnay ng halalang 2022, laban sa administrasyong Duterte ukol sa kakulangan o kawalan ng bakuna sa Pinas.

Kainutilan o kapalpakan umano ang lahat at pinagtatawanan pa ang paggigiit ng administrasyon na sumunod tayo sa mga health protocol at magpasensya sa mga pagpapairal ng mga quarantine.

At kung may bakuna, huwag maging “choosy” kundi unawaing pinakamabisa at epektibo ang bakunang available at hindi ang mga bakunang wala sa ating mga kamay.

Hanggang dito na lang umano ang administrasyon at ang mga ito ang isinusubo sa mga mamamayan para paniwalaan.

Ayaw nilang unawain ang nagaganap na mga panghaharang na mismong ikinaaalarma ng WHO at nagsasabing meron itong perang pambili ng bakuna ngunit walang mabili nito.

Ang WHO na inaasahan nating pagkukunan ng maraming bakuna hanggang ngayon ay nakapagdeliber lang ng 525,000 AstraZeneca.

Ngunit sa pagsisikap ng pamahalaang Duterte, nagkaroon na tayo ng 2M bakuna mula sa Sinovac at umaasa tayong sa madaling panahon ay darating na rin ang Sputnik V.

Habang wala o kulang na kulang tayo ng bakuna, mga Bro, istrikto tayong sumunod sa mga patakarang pagsusuot ng mask at face shield, social distancing, pag-iwas sa mga sarado at matataong lugar, huwag lumabas ng bahay nang hindi kailangan at sumunod din sa mga patakaran sa mga quarantine na pinaiiral.

Isa pa, totoo na malaganap ang paghihirap at gutom ngayon dahil sa mga pinaiiral na quarantine.

Subalit ibang usapin ang ating pagkakasakit at kamatayan sa COVID-19.

Dapat nating isipin na mas matitiis natin ang paghihirap at gutom kaysa magkasakit at ma-home quarantine, maospital at mamatay.

Marami namang paraan para malabanan natin ang gutom at paghihirap.

Naririyang ang pagsusumikap ng pamahalaan na magbigay ng ayuda, kahit maliit, kasama na ang mga pagpapautang ng puhunan, pamimigay ng binhi ng mga pananim, pagbubukas at pagpapatuloy ng mga pagawaing bayan na pambansa at lokal, pagpapahintulot ng mga pangangalakal ng mga essential na bagay at serbisyo.



SUPLAY NG BAKUNA HINO-HOARD, HINAHARANG, HEALTH PROTOCOL, QUARANTINE KAILANGAN

Nariryan din ang mga Bayanihan Spirit gaya ng pagbubukas ng mga pantry na may libreng pamimigay ng mga batayang pangangailangan mula sa pagkain at iba pa.

Nariyan din ang mga libreng serbisyo ng mga non-government organization gaya ng Lions Clubs International, Rotary Clubs International at iba pa.

Tara, mga Bro, higit na magtulungan kaysa magsiraan kahit pa mabilis na lumalapit ang halalang 2022 na isang hindi maiiwasang sangkap ang paninira at pamba-bash sa isa't isa.



Magat to release water April 20 as precaution to 'Bising' rains

By Catherine Teves April 19, 2021, 2:52 pm



Magat Dam spillway (Photo courtesy of NIA-MARIIS)

MANILA – The Magat Dam in Northern Luzon is scheduled to release water from the reservoir again beginning around 6 a.m. on Tuesday.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Edgar dela Cruz said the spilling operation is in anticipation of rains Magat may receive from Typhoon Bising (international name Surigae) that is forecast to be already over waters east of Northern Luzon this week.

"It's a precaution against possible rise of Magat water to the normal high water level of this dam," he said on Monday.

He said Magat's water rises easily since this small dam receives a lot of runoff from rain over its large basin.

"Even light rainfall causes Magat's water level to already react," he said.

Dela Cruz said spilling is necessary to keep Magat's water from rising to and beyond the normal high.

He said such water level rise will already endanger Magat's structure.

The PAGASA reported that Magat's 6 a.m. water level on Monday was at 190.42 meters, just 2.58 meters below the normal high.



Magat to release water April 20 as precaution to 'Bising' rains

The Magat Dam will open its Gate 4 at a height of one meter on Tuesday to spill water at a rate of 200 cubic meters per second, according to the notice covering the planned spilling operation.

He, however, said people in Magat Dam's downstream communities must avoid being in the river while spilling operation is in progress.

They can be carried away by the river's current, he added.

According to the PAGASA, Magat Dam's latest spilling operation was conducted from March 25 to 27 this year due to surge in the northeast monsoon or "amihan".

In its 5 a.m. severe weather bulletin on Monday, PAGASA said Typhoon Bising is located some 250 kilometers east-northeast of Virac, Catanduanes as of 4 a.m.

"Bising" was moving north-northwestwards at 10 kilometers per hour, packing maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometer per hour (kph) near its center and gustiness of up to 240 kph.

PAGASA expects "Bising" to be 510 km east of Baler municipality in Northern Luzon's Aurora province on Tuesday morning.

By Wednesday morning, Bising may already be about 430 km east of Tuguegarao City in Northern Luzon's Cagayan province. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1137223>



'Bising' hovers over Bicol Region, Visayas

By Ma. Cristina Arayata April 19, 2021, 8:26 pm



IMPASSABLE. The Virac-Bato Road portion is impassable on Monday (April 19,2021) due to a landslide. Clearing operation teams were immediately dispatched, according to Catanduanes Gov. Joseph Cua. *(Photo courtesy of Catanduanes Provincial Office)*

MANILA – Typhoon Bising (Surigae) has maintained its strength and continued to dump rains in the Bicol Region and some areas in the Visayas, the state weather bureau reported on Monday afternoon.

In its 5 p.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Bising is bringing moderate to heavy, with at times intense, rains over the Bicol Region, Northern Samar, Samar, Eastern Samar, Biliran, and the northern portion of Leyte.

The typhoon packs maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometer per hour (kph) near the center, and gustiness of up to 240 kph.

It was last seen 500 kilometers east of Infanta, Quezon, slowly moving north northwestward.

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) No. 2 remained hoisted over Catanduanes, the eastern portion of Camarines Sur (Siruma, Tinambac, Lagonoy, Garchitorena, Caramoan, Goa, Tigaon, San Jose, Presentacion, Sagnay, Buhi), the eastern portion of Albay (Tiwi, Malinao, Tabaco City, Malilipot, Santo Domingo, Bacacay, Rapu-Rapu, Legazpi City, Manito), and the eastern and central portions of Sorsogon (Castilla, Sorsogon City, Prieto Diaz, Gubat, Barcelona, Casiguran, Juban, Magallanes, Bulan, Bulusan, Irosin, Santa Magdalena, Matnog), Northern Samar, the northern portion of Samar (Santo Nino, Almagro, Tagapul-An, Calbayog City, Santa Margarita, Gandara, Matuguinao, San Jose de Buan, San Jorge, Tarangnan, Pagsanghan, Catbalogan City, Paranas, Jiabong, Motiong, Hinabangan, San Sebastian), and the northern portion of Eastern Samar (San Julian, Sulat, Taft, Can-Avid, Dolores, Maslog, Oras, San Policarpo, Arteche, Jipapad).

'Bising' hovers over Bicol Region, Visayas

TCWS No. 1 was hoisted over the eastern portion of Cagayan (Lal-Lo, Gattaran, Alcala, Baggao, Amulung, Solana, Iguig, Tuguegarao City, Enrile, Peñablanca, Camalaniugan, Aparri, Buguey, Santa Teresita, Gonzaga, Santa Ana), Isabel, Quirino, the northern and central portions of Aurora (Baler, Dipaculao, Dinalungan, Casiguran, Dilasag), the eastern portion of Quezon (Calauag, Guinayangan, Tagkawayan, Buenavista, San Narciso, San Andres) including Polillo Islands, Camarines Norte, the rest of Camarines Sur, the rest of Albay, the rest of Sorsogon, and Masbate including Burias and Ticao Islands, the rest of Samar, the rest of Eastern Samar, Biliran, Leyte, and the northern portion of Cebu (Tabogon, Borbon, San Remigio, Bogo City, Medellin, Daanbantayan) including Bantayan and Camotes Islands.

In the next 24 hours, the northeasterly wind flow enhanced by 'Bising' will also bring strong breeze to near gale conditions with higher gusts over most of northern Luzon, Aurora, and the rest of Quezon province that are not under TCWS.

Very rough to very high seas will be experienced over the eastern seaboard of Luzon, and rough to very high seas still prevail over the northern and eastern seaboards of Eastern Visayas. Sea travel is risky for all types of seacraft.

Rough to very rough seas remain over the northern and western seaboards of northern Luzon, and the eastern seaboard of Caraga.

Rough seas also continue over the remaining seaboards of localities where TCWS are in effect and the eastern seaboard of Davao Oriental. Sea travel is risky for small seacraft, PAGASA said.

Moderate to rough seas continue over the western seaboard of Central Luzon. PAGASA advised mariners of small seacraft not to venture out over these waters. (PNA)



Task force verifying reported drilling activities of China in South China Sea

Published April 19, 2021, 3:42 PM

by [Martin Sadongdong](#)

Advocate group: Speak as one country vs. 'incursion'

The National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) is looking into reports that China has begun deep-sea drilling in the South China Sea to obtain sedimentary rocks from the seabed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF

West Philippine Sea (PNA file photo)

This developed as calls for the Duterte administration to stand up against China's repeated intrusion have been growing.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., chairman of the NTF-WPS, said they have yet to receive a report about China's drilling activities which is reportedly being done within the country's 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

"Wala pa akong report niyan (I have no report about that), not in our area that I know," he told the Manila Bulletin on Monday, April 19.

However, Esperon vowed that the NTF-WPS "will verify" the reported drilling activities of China.

China's state news agency, Xinhua, bared that Chinese scientists have completed a deep-sea drilling project last April 3 in the waters of South China Sea. China has been claiming almost all of the South China Sea.

Xinhua said that an independently-developed drilling system called "Sea Bull II" obtained sediment core with a length of 231 meters from the seabed 2,060 meters under the sea.

However, the state news agency did not specify where the drilling activity took place. There are overlapping maritime claims among China, Philippines, Brunei, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam in the South China Sea.



Task force verifying reported drilling activities of China in South China Sea

Esperon's remarks came just as a group of Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) graduates from the University of the Philippines (UP) urged the government to "speak as one country" against the apparent incursion of China in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), a part of South China Sea that is located within the country's EEZ.

In a statement, the UP Vanguard Inc. expressed "grave concern" over the continued presence of several Chinese vessels at the Julian Felipe Reef.

Over 240 Chinese maritime militia vessels, military, and coast guard ships were dispersed in the entire WPS — including at Julian Felipe Reef — and parts of Kalayaan Island Group as of April 11, according to the NTF-WPS.

"The situation at the Julian Felipe Reef brings to mind the same reasoning used by China in occupying and eventually fortifying Mischief Reef. It lacked the sincerity of its promise and words that the Philippine government then relied on. It lacked honor," said Guido Alfredo Delgado, national commander of the UP Vanguard.

He was referring to China's apparent militarization of the Mischief (Panganiban) Reef, located in the Spratly Islands or Kalayaan Island Group, which reportedly started in 2014.

Delgado said that the UP Vanguard is backing the calls of Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. for the immediate withdrawal of the vessels from the Julian Felipe Reef before it suffers the same fate as the Mischief Reef.

"Two high officials have spoken loud. But we must speak as one country," Delgado said.

"We, therefore, call on the government to continue its resolve and walk the talk. We cannot just make noise. Rather, we must make China accountable and exhaust all peaceful means available to ensure that the 2012 PCA [Permanent Court of Arbitration] decision in our favor is respected and enforced," he stressed, referring to the landmark ruling that rejected China's mythical nine-dash line claims in the South China Sea in favor of the Philippines.

"It is not only our duty to speak out, but it is also our honor to stand for and defend our country!" he concluded.



Microplastics Spiralling in the Air around the Globe

by  [Village Connect](#) a day ago



Our plastic pollution problem has become so bad that microplastics are now embedded in the regular cycles of the atmosphere, circulating around the planet like oxygen or water, according to a new study.

Plastic particles sent up into the air from ocean spray and road surfaces travel across continents and reaching the most remote spots on Earth, according to a mix of sampling and modeling done by researchers.

Much of this plastic appears to have been circulating through our ecosystems for a long time – highlighting just how much of a massive clean-up operation we've got on our hands if we're to reverse the plastic tide.

"We found a lot of legacy plastic pollution everywhere we looked," says geological scientist Janice Brahney from Utah State University. "It travels in the atmosphere and it deposits all over the world."



Microplastics Spiralling in the Air around the Globe



Microplastic particles in atmospheric dust. (Janice Brahney)

"This plastic is not new from this year. It's from what we've already dumped into the environment over several decades."

Between December 2017 and January 2019, researchers collected 313 samples of airborne microplastics from 11 different sites across the western US. They found that 84 percent of the plastic particles came from road dust, 11 percent originated from sea spray, 5 percent came from agricultural soil, and 0.4 percent was put down to population sources.

In other words, this is mainly plastic that has been ground down on roads or whipped up from garbage patches in the ocean. Microplastic pollution isn't just concentrated around urban areas – it's getting everywhere, carried on the wind.

The findings were then plugged into a computer model to try and figure out what the worldwide pattern of atmospheric plastics might look like. Time spent in the air for the particles could range

from an hour to almost a week, the team deduced – long enough for the plastic to travel the continents.

While the remote wilderness of Antarctica isn't exporting any airborne microplastics, it's very likely to be importing them, the model showed – and it's a similar story across the planet. Microplastics are accumulating just about everywhere scientists look, including national parks, with the highest concentrations estimated to be over the oceans.

"Using our best estimate of plastic sources and modeled transport pathways, most continents are net importers of microplastics from the marine environment," says Natalie Mahowald from Cornell University. "This underscores the cumulative role of legacy pollution in the atmospheric burden of plastic."



April 20, 2021

Date

3 of 3

Page

- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

Microplastics Spiralling in the Air around the Globe

While the modeling part of the study uses some guesses and estimations to map out airborne microplastics on a global scale, there's little doubt that these polluting particles are very much blowing in the wind.

To date, nearly 10 billion metric tons of plastic have been produced globally since the early 1900s, and it's estimated that between 12-18 percent of it isn't accounted for by landfills, recycling, or incinerating.

The team behind this latest study is calling for more research into where all of this plastic ends up and how it might be distributed worldwide – affecting ecosystems, wildlife, the food chain, and ultimately our health.

"We did the modeling to find out the sources, not knowing what the sources might be," says Mahowald. "It's amazing that this much plastic is in the atmosphere at that level, and unfortunately accumulating in the oceans and on land and just recirculating and moving everywhere, including remote places."

By: DAVID NIELD, Science Alert

Source: <https://www.villageconnect.com.ph/microplastics-spiralling-in-the-air-around-the-globe/6829>



April 20, 2021

Date

Page

- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

Southeast Asia to establish its own framework for green investments, but natural gas remains a feature

By [Gillian Parker](#)
April 19, 2021

Southeast Asia is establishing a green finance rulebook to bring greater accountability to sustainable investments. Balancing the needs of countries that have different ambitions to cut carbon emissions will be a major test.



Could the financial sector become an ally in Asia's ambition to achieve sustainable development? Image: [Erwin Soo](#), [CC BY-NC 2.0](#) via Flickr

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which makes policy frameworks for a region of 650 million people, is expected to be influenced by what is happening in Europe, where a deadlock over natural gas inclusion is testing its own taxonomy plans.

ASEAN, a block of 10 member states in Southeast Asia, says its classification system for investors will also have to address the region's specific needs, including the fact that it is still heavily reliant on coal.

It plans to introduce a set of categories and definitions to identify environmentally sustainable economic activities and investment opportunities with a progress report on the framework's development expected by the end of this year.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/southeast-asia-to-establish-its-own-framework-for-green-investments-but-natural-gas-remains-a-feature/>

20 APRIL 2021, Tuesday



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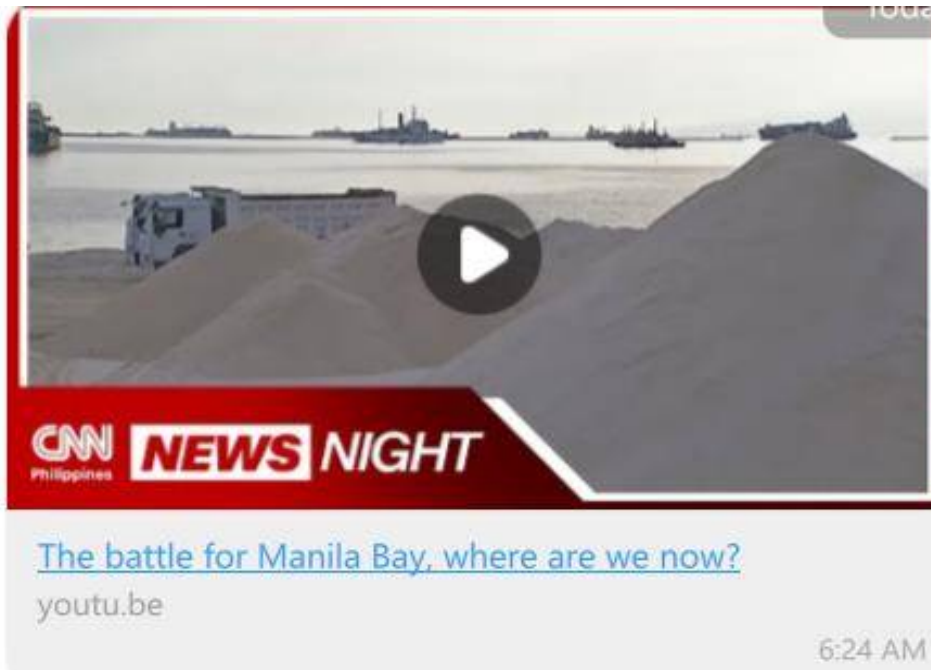
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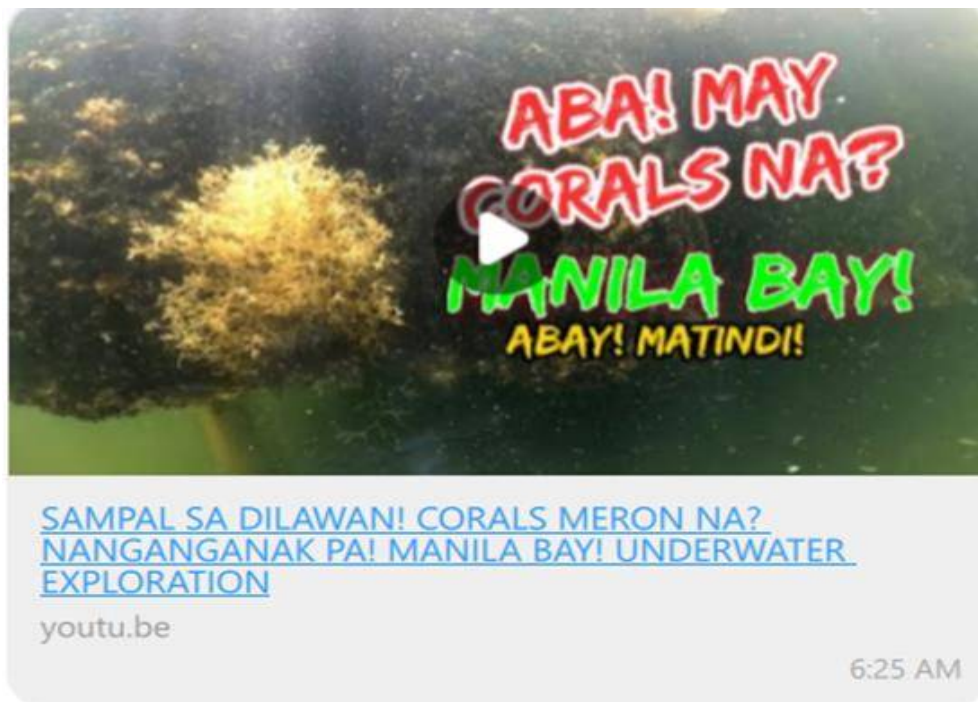
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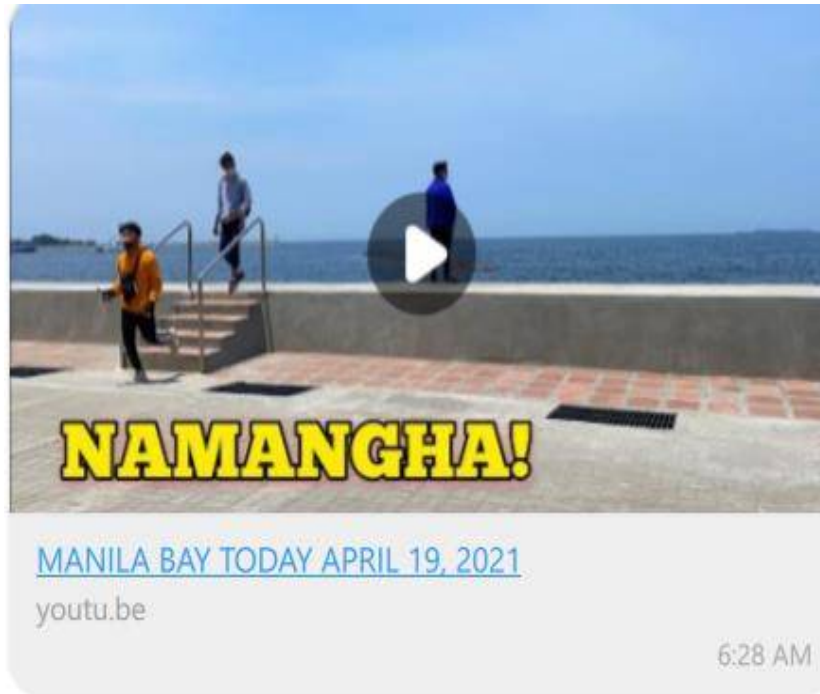
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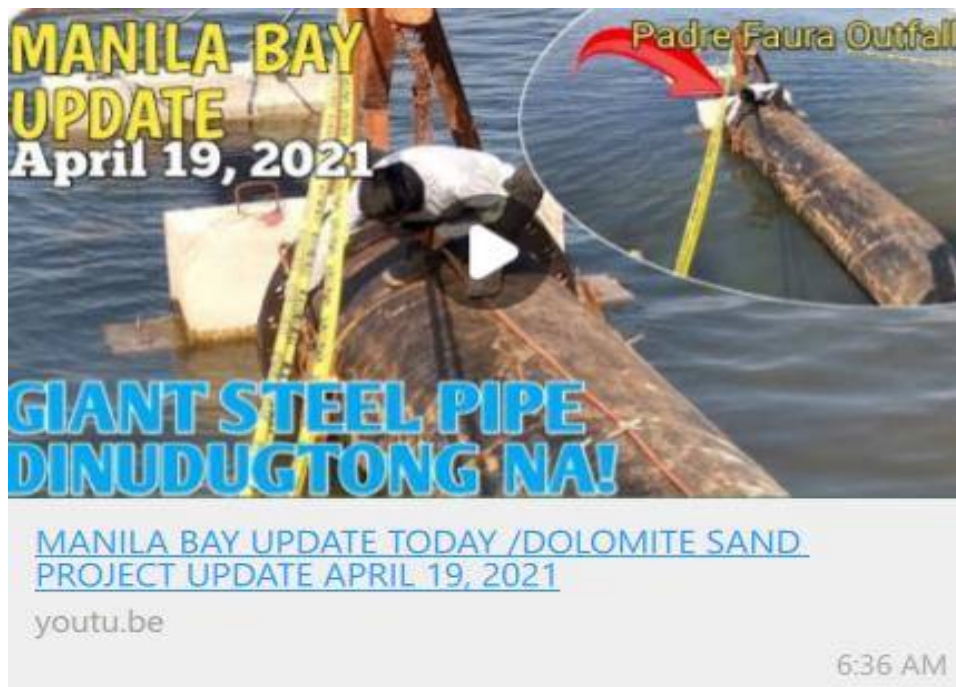
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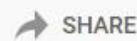


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