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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Ceremonial Signing for SGP-7 Project

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 Journal Online



Acting Environment Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (right) signs the project document, which is a binding document among the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the implementation and funding for the Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in the Philippines (SGP-7) with UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Selva Ramachandran during the launch of SGP-7 on April 8, 2022 at the [DENR](#) Central Office. The four-year project aims to build resilient landscapes and stronger economies for the [local communities involved to attain sustainable development](#) and over-all global environmental benefits.



DENR ensures sustainable management of raw materials for wood charcoal production under new administrative order

Published on: April 18, 2022

By DENR

QUEZON CITY -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an administrative order (AO) that marks a wide-ranging step to make the production and trade of wood charcoal sustainable and environmentally friendly while continuing to support the livelihood of Filipinos.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the AO responds to the urgent need for improved governance on wood-based fuel.

“It is seen to bring the wood charcoal sector into the formal economy and arrest degradation of forest lands due to illegal cutting of trees to supply increasing demand for wood charcoal brought about by the rising prices of liquefied petroleum gas and electricity,” he stressed.

In issuing DENR Administrative Order 2022-05, Sampulna said this primarily ensures that raw materials used in producing wood charcoal are derived from legal sources.

Under the directive, a charcoal producer is required to secure a Wood Charcoal Production Permit (WCPP) which has a three-year effectivity, renewable for the same period. The renewal application should be filed 60 days prior to the WCPP expiration.

The AO also allows for individual charcoal producers to organize themselves into cooperatives and be issued with the WCPP in the cooperative's name.

WCPP applications are to be filed with and approved by the nearest Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) or implementing Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) which has jurisdiction over the area.

Applicants must submit a notarized Wood Charcoal Supply Contract (WCSC) to be approved by the concerned CENRO/Implementing PENRO, which details the volume and types of raw materials to be supplied to a WCPP.

However, the AO limits the sources of the raw materials, “except all mangrove species,” to forest lands covered with DENR-issued cutting permits; tree plantations covered with DENR-issued tenurial instruments; Socialized and Industrial Forest Management Agreements; ancestral lands covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title with DENR-issued cutting permits; wood processing plants with DENR permits; private tree plantations covered by Certificate of Tree Plantation Ownership and Private Tree Plantation Registration; private/titled lands with valid DENR-issued cutting permits; and private yard wastes.



A key feature of the measure is to encourage interested wood charcoal production applicants and holders of tenure and/or wood raw materials and its derivatives to source their wood charcoal raw materials only from planted trees for fuelwood production; harvesting wastes (e.g. tops and branches); pruning and derivatives; processing wastes (e.g., wood wastes/trimmings from wood processing plants); and all other accumulated raw materials waste and residues generated.

The AO also requires traders or middlemen engaged in the selling of wood charcoal to secure a Wood Charcoal Transport Permit, which will only be effective per shipment from point to point and shall be accompanied by the original copies of the permit and Official Receipt/Sales Receipts/Acknowledgement Receipts.

However, the movement of wood charcoal within municipalities/cities “shall not be required of WCTP.”

It also calls for the use of improved and efficient charcoal kilns that minimizes the environmental impacts of charcoal production.

The Forest Management Bureau, in collaboration with the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau, and the Forest Products Research and Development Institute of the Department of Science and Technology will provide technical assistance in the setting up and simulation of such structure, within one year after the approval of the order. (DENR)



DENR, Pasig LGU partner to boost green spaces, climate resilience

By Stephanie Sevillano April 19, 2022, 5:26 pm



GREEN SPACES. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-National Capital Region Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan (seated, 2nd from right), Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto (seated, 2nd from left), and other key officials sign a memorandum of agreement on the "Climate Resilient and Localized Urban Greening Plan." The parties agreed to boost ideal green spaces in the city and plan efficient mitigation of the effects of climate change. (Photo courtesy: Pasig City Public Information Office)

MANILA – To further mitigate the effects of climate change, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has signed an agreement with the Pasig government under the Climate Resilient and Localized Urban Greening Plan (CRLUGP).

In a Facebook live stream on Monday, DENR-National Capital Region-Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan, Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto, and other key officials in the city underscored the need to actualize climate actions, in line with their week-long celebration of Earth Day 2022.

Caancan mentioned the extreme weather conditions being experienced in the country through the years, including devastating typhoons and drought, contributing to the seasonal decline of water supply particularly in Metro Manila and its neighboring provinces.

"Maliban kasi sa bagyo at tagtuyot, nahaharap tayo sa panganib ng ecosystem destruction, pagkamatay ng buhay-ilang at iba kabilang ang coral reefs, pagbaba ng ani ng palay, pag-akyat ng sea level, at patuloy na pagtaas ng pandaigdigang temperature (Besides typhoons and drought, we also face ecosystem destruction, the destruction of wildlife, even coral reefs, dropping rice production, rising sea levels, and the continuous warming of global temperature.)," she said.

She noted that the memorandum of agreement would help the city identify ideal locations to be turned into green spaces.

"Sa ilalim ng ating Climate Resilient and Localized Urban Greening Plan, handa pong magbigay ng seedlings, planting materials, at technical assistance ang aming tanggapan upang maitaas natin ang bilang ng green spaces sa lungsod ng Pasig (Under the Climate Resilient and Localized Urban Greening Plan, our office is ready to distribute seedlings, planting materials, and technical assistance to increase the number of green spaces in Pasig City.)," she added.



Moreover, Sotto recognized climate change as an actual problem and gave the department his full commitment to addressing its harmful effects.

“Minsan ito ‘yung isa sa mga bagay na minsan ayaw natin pag-usapan, o tingin natin ‘nako matagal pa ‘yan, may mga urgent pa tayong concern, may kailangan tayong gawin ngayon, pero ang totoo po niyan kung hindi po natin pagtutuunan ng pansin ito ay sooner rather than later, mabibigla na lang po tayo na ito na pala ang effect,” he said.

(Sometimes, this is one of the things we want to avoid discussing, or we think this may still be in the far future, and we still have other urgent concerns, or we need to do other things now, but the truth is, if we don’t address it now, maybe sooner rather than later, we will be caught by surprise, of its effects.) **(PNA)**



DENR rehabilitates 129K hectares of forest lands in C. Luzon

By Zorayda Tecson April 19, 2022, 8:21 pm



REFORESTATION. More than 129,000 hectares of denuded forest lands and watersheds in Central Luzon have been rehabilitated since the Enhanced National Greening Program in 2011, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon said on Tuesday (April 19, 2022). Paquito Moreno Jr., DENR-3 executive director, said the government's flagship reforestation program has continued to rehabilitate the region's degraded areas and reinforced its efforts to boost the survival of plantation sites. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-3)*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – More than 129,000 hectares of denuded forest lands and watersheds in Central Luzon have been rehabilitated since the Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP) started in 2011, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 3 (DENR-3) office here said Tuesday.

Paquito Moreno Jr., executive director of DENR-3, said the E-NGP in the region was strengthened to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change.

“Preserving our forest cover and making more of our forest landscapes intact is an important component of the government’s climate change mitigation program,” he said in a statement.

Moreno said the agency established more than 3,200 hectares of bamboo plantation in 2021 amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

This, he said, is in addition to the more than 14,000 hectares of bamboo plantations under NGP before the onset of the health crisis.

Moreno said partnership and collaboration with private firms were also strengthened to sustain these plantations, where more than 5,800 hectares of unfunded NGP areas have been adopted by different organizations.

He admitted that the task of ensuring the survival of planted trees needs more manpower and resources that the DENR cannot provide.

“This is where the private sector comes in by adopting established NGP plantations, where the company commits to continue the fight for a better tomorrow,” he said.

The DENR has also partnered with families in upland areas, peoples’ organizations, the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, and the Philippine Army in the region to monitor the development of plantations and facilitate quick response to forest fires and reported illegal forest activities in NGP areas.



Apart from its ecological value, the NGP has generated 154,055 jobs in the region for plantation maintenance and protection activities.

“We see more jobs being provided to local communities including our indigenous people, especially at a time like this, when the economy is still reeling from the effects of the pandemic,” Moreno said.

NGP aims to reforest 1.5 million hectares of denuded lands and watersheds in the country.

It was expanded until 2028 under Executive Order No. 193 to reforest and develop the remaining degraded forest areas nationwide. **(PNA)**



DENR enhances national greening program versus climate change

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

April 19, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the City of San Fernando has strengthened its Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP) to mitigate potential impacts of climate change by continuously rehabilitating denuded forestlands and preserving the region's forest cover.

Paquito Moreno Jr., executive director of the DENR in Central Luzon, reported that the government's flagship reforestation program has restored over 129,000 hectares of denuded forestlands and watersheds in Central Luzon since its implementation in 2011.

"Preserving our forest cover and making more of our forest landscapes intact is an important component of the government's climate change mitigation program," he said, adding that these efforts could reduce communities' vulnerability to climate shock, as forests could sequester greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Further, since bamboo is found to have been an effective instrument to curb greenhouse emission gases, Moreno reported that the DENR has established more than 3,200 hectares of bamboo plantation in 2021, which is in addition to the more than 14,000-hectare established bamboo plantations under NGP.

He said partnership and collaboration with private firms were also strengthened to sustain these plantations, where more than 5,800 hectares of unfunded NGP areas have already been adopted by different organizations.

The DENR has likewise partnered with families in upland areas, Peoples' Organizations, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, and Philippine Army in the region to monitor the development of plantations and facilitate quick response against forest fires and reported illegal forest activities in NGP areas.

Apart from its ecological value, the NGP, since its implementation in 2011, has generated 154,055 jobs in the region from its plantation maintenance and protection activities.

NGP aims to reforest 1.5 million hectares of denuded forestlands and watersheds in the country. It was expanded until 2028 under Executive Order 193 to reforest and develop the remaining degraded forest areas in the country.



Fuyot National Park rehabilitation begins

By [Vince Jacob Visaya](#) April 18, 2022



NATURE REFORMS Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cagayan Valley monitors the improvement of ecotourism facilities within the Fuyot Springs National Park in this city. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ILAGAN, Isabela: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has monitored the improvement of ecotourism facilities within the Fuyot Springs National Park (FSNP) in this city.

FSNP is a protected area co-managed by the DENR and the city government.

"With the construction of the elevated boardwalk, our tourists will have better access to the different attractions available in the park," Regional Executive Director Gwen-dolyn Bamba-lan said as she discussed with her technical staff the plan for the inauguration of the completed facility.

She added that the establishment of the P1.2 million-project located along a creek will serve as a trail going to the Pinzal Falls, one of the natural attractions in the park. Tourists rarely reached the waterfalls due to the impassable old trail, which was damaged by frequent flooding.

Also present during the monitoring activity were Conservation and Development Division Chief Enrique Pasion, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Federico Cauilan, Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Rolando Siggayo, Protected Area Superintendent Junee Amor Mijares, and other DENR and local government unit personnel.

As this developed, the DENR has also intensified forest protection activities in the Lent season through "Oplan Huli Week" with the theme "Handang Ugnayan Laban sa Ilegal na Gawain sa Kalikasan."

Bambalan said the operation, in coordination with the law enforcement agencies to address illegal environmental activities, is a regular activity of the agency.

"As perpetrators of illegal forest activities would take advantage while we observe the Lent, the DENR and our partner law enforcement agencies will monitor 24/7 the illegal transport of forest products," she said.

BGen. Romaldo Bayting of the Philippine National Police and Capt. Rigor Pamittan of the Philippine Army expressed full support for the operation and committed to the vigilant and active participation of uniformed personnel in the conduct of surveillance operations and monitoring activities.

In Cagayan Valley, there are 15 mobile checkpoints and 11 stationary forest products monitoring checkpoints.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/04/18/news/regions/fuyot-national-park-rehabilitation-begins/1840345>



Mining community in Palawan gets a P6.4-M air monitoring station

April 20, 2022



From left are Remmy Collado-Camo, Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) assistant vice president for Safety and Environment; Jose Bayani Baylon, NAC assistant vice president for Corporate Communications; Joe Arnil Salino, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Mimaropa director; Masahiro Kamiya, Coral Bay Nickel Corp. president; Rommel Ibuna, Graymont PH Inc. president; and Pablito Estorque, Environmental and Enforcement Division-EMB Mimaropa chief. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RIO Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTN), Coral Bay Nickel Corp. (CBNC) and Graymont (Philippines) Inc. (GPI) — the big three firms with operations based in the Rio Tuba Export Processing Zone — are partnering with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in subsidizing the procurement of a P6.4-million Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) to be established in the mining community of Bataraza in Southern Palawan.

Monitoring air quality, especially in a mining community, is crucial for an effective air quality management system in order to take necessary corrective actions to reduce air pollution and maintain the health of the air that people breathe.

DENR-EMB Mimaropa director Joe Amil Salino says, "The Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station is capable of monitoring particulate matter of 10 and 2.5-micron particle size. It will also be equipped with a data acquisition system and will display real-time results of air quality that will be visible to the public."

RTN, as a matter of policy, conducts monthly in-house air quality monitoring, but the CAAQMS will further strengthen the quality of the mining company's monitoring system to ensure that the environment and public health are protected from the dangers of air pollution.

Expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2022, the funding support and other relevant technical assistance for the CAAQMS in Rio Tuba, such as the procurement, maintenance and operational expenses, will be provided by RTN, CBNC and GPI.

The establishment of the state-of-the-art air monitoring stations in strategic locations across the country is a project of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), the line bureau of the DENR.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/04/20/public-square/mining-community-in-palawan-gets-a-p64-m-air-monitoring-station/1840559>



LOOK: Rare species of wild pig sighted at Mt. Apo

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Davao were ecstatic with the recent sighting of a Philippine warty pig (*Sus philippensis*) during their annual Lenten climb monitoring of Mt. Apo Natural Park.

According to DENR, the presence of the Philippine warty pig in the mountain indicates the "progressive natural recovery of the peak area."

Locally known as "baboy-ramo" or "baboy-ihalas," the said wild pigs are classified as vulnerable or considered to be facing a high risk of extinction due to habitat loss and hunting by locals who consider their meat a delicacy.

#MtApo #DENR #Baboyramo #Opinyon8News

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LOOK: Rare species of wild pig sighted at Mt. Apo



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Buwaya nahuli sa baybayin ng Surigao City

By **Bombo Radyo Butuan** -April 19, 2022 | 12:41 PM

BUTUAN CITY – Nakatak dang i-turn-over sa Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (SIPLAS) ang nahuling buwaya sa may Purok-2, Barangay Sabang, Surigao City sa lalawigan ng Surigao del Norte.

Sa eksklusibong panayam ng Bombo Radyo Butuan, inihayag ni Tubod, Surigao del Norte Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) Ruel Efren na nasa bayan ng Del Carmen sa nasabing probinsya ang tirahan ng mga saltwater crocodiles kung kaya't doon ito pakakawalan.

Nalaman naman na nasa mabuting kondisyon ang buwaya nang ito ay suriin ng veterinarian habang temporaryong nasa kostudiya ng Surigao Del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO).

Ayon kay Efren, ipinagbigay-alam na lamang sa kanilang tanggapan ang pagkakahuli ng buwaya ni Cerelo Minggulias pasado alas-5:30 nitong nakalipas na umaga ang buwaya na may haba na limang talampakan at tinatayang nasa edad na tatlong taon hanggang limang taong gulang na.



Gary V, Kitchie Nadal lead all performers in 'Earthday Jam 2022'

BYBMPLUS APRIL 18, 2022



Earthday Jam 2022 headliners Kitchie Nadal, Gary Valenciano and Lou Bonnevie

On April 22, 2022, Earthday Jam Foundation will be presenting EARTHDAY JAM 2022 in commemoration of the worldwide International Earth Day celebration along with 193 other countries. It is the longest-running, biggest, music tribute to the international Earthday in the history of the world marking its 22nd year in its mission to create greater awareness of environmental preservation using the powerful tool of music and entertainment. To make it safe and get all people from all over the world to witness it— EARTHDAY JAM 2022 will be streamed LIVE in Earthday Jam YouTube Channel starting at 8:30 PM ON APRIL 22,2022.

What makes this year different is that it will bring together OPM artists in one place to play and jam to indicate our awareness and reach out to more audiences. Live performances from OPM's best. Headlining and performing for the first time is Mr. Pure Energy Mr.Gary V. and Asia's songbird Regine Velasquez. Also featured are Gaia awardees Noel Cabangon, Reggae band guru Brownman Revival, OPM princess Kitchie Nadal (singing all the way from Madrid, Spain) with the all-girl band Rouge, versatile singer Nyoy Volante and our very own pop-rock icon Lou Bonnevie with her band and her guest rap artist from L.A. Awday. She will be singing a rock satirical song dubbed "People Don't Care" in keeping with the times.

The year's theme is "INVEST IN OUR PLANET" and various youth leaders will be supporting to share messages on various actions ordinary people can take based on the theme.

We will also be launching the first-ever nationwide short video/film competition on climate change dubbed "Sining-Likhasan" in cooperation with the Climate Change Service of the Department of Environment and Natural resources (DENR). This will be a 2-7 minuter narrative, art performance, or documentary form in cellphone and professional device categories. It will be judged by renowned filmmakers headed by Venice Festival award-winning director Erik Matti.

Subscribe NOW to our Earthday jam YouTube Channel and press the notification channel so as not to miss the longest-running, biggest, most important music tribute to the International Day celebration in the history of the world.

Special thanks to Quezon City Government, First Gen Corporation, Lifebank Foundation, Pagcor, Cleene, ABS-CBN Foundation and Business Mirror. For more announcements, like and regularly visit our FB: Earthday Jam Foundation and visit the official webpage at www.earthdayjamfoundation.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/04/18/gary-v-kitchie-nadal-lead-all-performers-in-earthday-jam-2022/>



NWRB MAY PANUKALANG MAGKAROON NG RAIN WATER HARVESTING PROGRAM



April 19, 2022 @ 2:16 PM 18 hours ago

IPINALALA ni Dr. Seville “Bill” David, Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na nakapaloob sa National Water Program (NWP) ng bansa ang pagbalangkas sa National Water Security Roadmap na kinabibilangan ng panukalang magkaroon ng rain water harvesting program. Layon nitong tugunan ang pag-iipon ng tubig-ulan na magagamit sa panahong limitado ang nakukuhang tubig mula sa mga pag-ulan.

Bahagi rin ng NWP ang water demand management kung saan binibigyang-pansin ang epekto sa tubig ng paglago ng populasyon at pag-unlad. Gaya ng nabanggit ni Dr. David hinggil sa mga nasa highly urbanized cities (HUC), kailangang maunawaan ng lahat na limitado ang suplay ng tubig at hindi ito laging makasusunod o makahahabol sa patuloy na pagtaas ng populasyon at sa mabilis na urbanisasyon. Dahil dito, gumagawa ang NWRB ng mga programang mapangangalagaan ang tamang paggamit ng tubig.

Tinanong ko rin si Dr. David kung hinihikayat ng NWRB ang paggamit ng tubig-dagat bilang water source, katulad sa ginagawa ng ilang kumpanya sa Cebu City. Para sa kanya, maituturing na alternatibong mapagkukunan ng tubig ang dagat at mayroon nang teknolohiya na makakapag-treat dito. Ngunit, kailangang pag-aralan itong mabuti dahil may kamahalan ang pag-develop nito. Malaking papel ang gagampanan dito ng siyensya na inaasahang makahahanap ng mas murang paraan sa pag-proseso ng tubig-dagat upang gawing potable.

Sa panayam ng inyong lingkod, binanggit ni Director David, “ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 195.07 kahapon (April 18, 2022), tumaas ng kaunti kung ikukumpara noong ika-4 ng Abril 2022, (6:00am) nasa 190.75 metro lamang, sana patuloy ang pag-ulan sa paligid ng Angat Dam kahit na paminsan-minsan sa panahon ng tag-init.

Sa huli, magkasamang paalala at pakiusap ang iniwan ni Dr. David para sa lahat – tumulong sa wastong paggamit ng tubig, lalo na ngayong panahon ng tag-init. Sa patuloy na pagtaas ng water demand, maging mas responsible sa paggamit nito upang hindi danasin ang kakulangan sa tubig.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/nwr-b-may-panukalang-magkaroon-ng-rain-water-harvesting-program/>



DOT: DILG to issue warning over capacity breach in Boracay



THIRD ANNE PERALTA-MALONZO

April 19, 2022

(UPDATED) THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will issue a warning to Malay, Aklan for supposedly exceeding the carrying capacity of Boracay Island during the Holy Week, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

Puyat said they have set a 19,000 carrying capacity limit in Boracay due to the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic but around 21,000 to 22,000 were recorded to have visited the island during the Holy Week.

"Nakausap ko na si (DILG) Secretary (Eduardo) Año at mag-i-issue na siya ng warning (I already talked to Secretary Año and he will issue a warning)," she said.

Aside from the DILG, the Department of Tourism (DOT) also urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to take appropriate measures on the matter.

In response, Malay acting Mayor Floribar Bautista said they expected voluminous visitors during the Holy Week but they no longer noticed that it has already exceeded the limit.

"Well i-explain namin 'yan. Normal naman 'yan kasi alam mo for almost two years kasi, ang Boracay talagang nahirapan. Walang halos bisita," he said.

(We will explain that, which is normal because for almost two years, Boracay has suffered due to lack of tourists.)

In a press conference, acting presidential spokesperson Martin Andanar said the Malacañang welcomes the continuous increase of both domestic and local tourists, which will help the industry recover following a two-year drought due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He reminded though that the pandemic is not over yet and that the public should continue to adhere to minimum public health standards, especially the wearing of face masks, frequent disinfection of hands, and avoiding mass gatherings to prevent Covid-19 case resurgence.

He also reminded the local government to implement protocols against Covid-19. **(SunStar Philippines)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1926751/manila/local-news/dot-dilg-to-issue-warning-over-capacity-breach-in-boracay>



Duterte hopes next admin will do better vs climate

By [Alexis Romero](#)(The Philippine Star) - April 20, 2022 - 12:00am



During a pre-recorded public address aired Monday night, President Rodrigo Duterte talked about the devastation of Tropical Storm Agaton in Leyte and Capiz and reported on government relief efforts in the affected areas.

MANILA, Philippines — President Duterte has expressed hope that the next administration will do better in addressing the effects of climate change as he reiterated that rich countries should compensate developing ones for the effects of their carbon emissions.

During a pre-recorded public address aired Monday night, Duterte talked about the devastation of Tropical Storm Agaton in Leyte and Capiz and reported on government relief efforts in the affected areas.

He admitted that he used to be a skeptic of climate change but is now a believer of the phenomenon.

The President said industrialized countries are the biggest contributors of carbon emissions and that poorer countries like the Philippines are affected by the effects of their activities.

“The requirement... is for (all of us) to reduce the carbon being put out in the air... The industrialized countries are spewing – they have the biggest factories,” Duterte said.

“The problem is the consequence is being suffered by all. Unfortunately, they cause the biggest pollution. We only contribute little because we only have a few factories,” he added.

Duterte noted that the Philippines is vulnerable to the effects of climate change because it is facing the Pacific Ocean and is visited by about 20 typhoons a year. “Why should we suffer?

The rich who are not hit by the destruction caused by the pollution, they should pay us for the damage or they should do something to equalize.

We sustain huge damage even if our contribution to climate change is small,” the President said.

Duterte warned that the next generation of Filipinos would face a problem if the issue is not addressed.

“Unless there is a radical change of the weather patterns, we would face difficulties here in the Philippines,” he said.

“I hope that the next administration would have a better preparation or whatever efforts that would contribute to, at least, remedy the situation... But with that, I leave it, I said, to the next administration and I know they are more capable of doing it than I am.”



In 2017, Duterte signed the historic Paris climate agreement that called for the reduction of carbon emissions that have been linked to natural disasters.

Crafted by members of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015, the Paris Agreement seeks to limit the increase in the global average temperature to “well below” two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Developed countries are required to provide financial aid to developing countries’ mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The Philippines has vowed a 75-percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 even if it is not a major emitter.



Rich nations must pay for climate damage: Duterte

By Azer Parrocha April 19, 2022, 1:19 am



CLIMATE CHANGE. A view of Kantagnos village in Baybay City after landslides and flooding due to Tropical Storm Agaton on April 11, 2022. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on Monday (April 19) said wealthy nations should compensate developing countries like the Philippines for the damage caused by climate change. *(Photo courtesy of Pobreng Biyahero)*

MANILA – Wealthy nations should compensate developing countries like the Philippines for the damage caused by climate change, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte said on Monday night.

In a prerecorded Talk to the People, Duterte said he is saddened by the loss of lives and destruction of properties caused by Tropical Storm Agaton.

He said the Philippines, which is hit by an average of 20 typhoons every year, is among the most at risk from the effects of the climate crisis.

“Yung resulta ng pollution ng ibang countries, tayo ang sumasalo. Pagdating sa damage, tayo rin ang pinaka kawawa (We bear the brunt of the result of pollution from other countries. When it comes to damages, we also suffer the most),” he said.

Duterte blamed rich countries anew for being responsible for climate change impacts, noting that they spewed more carbon from their factories, homes and cars compared to developing countries.

“Sila yung may pinaka maraming factory and in some industrialized places halos every kanto may factory (They have more factories and in some industrialized places, there are factories in almost every corner) Unfortunately sila yung (they are) biggest contributor ng carbon emissions dito sa mundong ito (in this world),” he said.

He added that these wealthy nations should compensate developing countries for failing to live up to their commitments under the climate change pact.

“Dapat ang mga mayaman na hindi tinatamaan ng destruction caused by itong pollution, bayaran nila tayo (The wealthy nations not affected by the destruction caused by pollution should pay us) for the damage,” he added.

Duterte said climate change will remain a problem “for the next generations to come” unless it is addressed.



However, since he will be stepping down from office in a few weeks, he expressed hope that his successor would do a better job in addressing climate change.

“I hope the next administration, *mas maganda ang ano nila* (they would do better) the preparation or whatever efforts that would contribute to at least remedy the situation. With that, I leave it to the next administration. *Alam ko mas makaya pa nila kaysa akin* (I know they can do a better job than me),” he said.

In March 2017, the Philippines ratified the Paris climate pact — a worldwide effort to achieve a below 2-degrees Celsius increase in global temperatures.

The Philippines, which accounts for less than 1 percent of the world’s emissions, has committed to reducing its emissions by 70 percent by 2030. **(PNA)**



Duterte: Industrialized countries should pay PH over climate change effects



LEYTE. This photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard shows a landslide area in Baybay City, Leyte province on April 11, 2022. President Rodrigo Duterte says industrialized countries should pay the countries affected by climate change, including the Philippines. (AP)

THIRD ANNE PERALTA-MALONZO

April 19, 2022

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said industrialized countries, which are the primary contributor of pollution in the world, should pay the countries affected by climate change, including the Philippines.

Duterte said while the Philippines contributes a little to the pollution, as compared to other rich countries, the greatest suffering due to climate change lands on the poor countries.

“The industrialized countries are spewing sila ‘yung mga pinakamaraming factory, and in some industrialized places, halos every kanto may factory. I would not want to mention the countries because kaibigan man natin lahat. But unfortunately, sila ‘yung biggest contributor ng carbon emissions dito sa mundong ito...Ang problema, the consequence is being suffered by all,” he said.

“Now, the Philippines is located in the tropical zone. Ang ating bayan is the window na galing Pacific. If there is a warming of climate there with the mixture of the cold and hot temperatures, ayan tinatamaan tayo. At tayo talaga ang nagbabayad nang malaki, parang ‘yung resulta ng mga pollution ng ibang countries tayo ang sumasalo. Pagdating sa damage, tayo rin ang pinakakawawa. Simply because we are situated dito nga, we are facing the Pacific Ocean,” he added.

Duterte said these countries should pay the Philippines for the damage caused by their pollution, or at least do something to lessen or even equalize the damage.

Two weeks ago, the Philippines was battered by Tropical Depression Agaton, the first weather system to hit the country this year.

At least 172 individuals have been reported dead, while over a hundred others have remained missing due to the effects of Agaton, especially heavy rainfall that resulted in flooding and landslides particularly in Leyte province, where over a hundred of people were buried alive.



Thousands of families have been displaced, while some lost their homes and livelihood due to the _____ onslaught _____ of _____ Agaton.

Duterte, who visited Agaton-hit areas, vowed to provide assistance to the affected population.

“Sabi ko for as long as it is needed, we will be there for you,” he said. **(SunStar Philippines)**



Industrialized countries should pay for pollution damages – Duterte

April 19, 2022



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte talks to the people after holding a meeting with key government officials at the Malacañan Palace on April 18, 2022. RICHARD MADELO/ PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

By Veronica Corral

President Rodrigo Duterte urged countries with the biggest carbon emission contributions to pay for the damages experienced by tropical zone countries with low emission contributions, including the Philippines.

During the April 18 “Talk to the People,” the President highlighted the need to make industrialized countries accountable for the casualties in countries extremely suffering from the effects of climate change.

“[Dapat] ‘yung mga industrialized countries na hindi tinatamaan ng mga typhoons and calamities pero sila ‘yung pinakamalaki na contributor ng carbon emissions, eh magbayad sila,” he said.

“...’Yung resulta ng mga pollution ng ibang countries tayo ang sumasalo. Pagdating sa damage tayo rin ang pinakakawawa,” he added.

Duterte said the country’s carbon emissions only averages from “point zero something” while other industrialized countries are reaching double-digit numbers.

“Iyong damage natin mas malaki tapos maliit ang ating contribution doon sa climate change. Iyan ang isang problemang kaharapin ng Pilipinas for the next generations to come. Unless there is a radical change of the weather patterns, mahirapan tayo dito sa Pilipinas,” he said.

Aside from reducing carbon footprints, Duterte only hoped that the next administration will also enforce better efforts in mitigating the impact of climate change in the country.

Duterte’s statement came after his recent visit in Agaton-stricken Leyte on Good Friday and typhoon-hit Capiz on Black Saturday. To date, 175 individuals have been reported dead due to the tropical storm. – **ag**

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/industrialized-countries-should-pay-for-pollution-damages-duterte/>



Mayayamang Bansa pagbabayaran sa climate change - Duterte

[Malou Escudero](#) - Pang-masa April 20, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Dahil sa labis na naapektuhan ng climate change ang mga bansa tulad ng Pilipinas ay nais ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magbayad ang mga mayayamang bansa.

Ayon kay Duterte direkta ang tama ng climate change sa Pilipinas na nasa tropical zone at maituturing na “bintana” ng mga galing sa Pacific.

Sinabi ni Duterte na ang mga industrilized na bansa ang may pinakamaraming factory na nagdudulot ng maraming carbon emmissions sa mundo.

Sinabi pa ni Duterte, lampas lamang ng point zero ang carbon emission ng Pilipinas pero kabilang ito sa nakakaranas ng epekto ng climate change katulad ng mga malalakas na bagyo na dumadaan sa bansa at sinasalo ng Pilipinas ang polusyon na nanggagaling sa ibang bansa.

Dapat aniyang bayaran ng mayayamang bansa ang Pilipinas o gumawa sila ng paraan para maging “equalize” ang pinsalang dulot ng climate change.

Umaasa rin si Duterte na mas magiging maganda ang paghahanda ng susunod na administrasyon para malabanan ang pinsalang dulot ng climate change.



SBMA eyes Earth Day celebration

Published 4 hours ago on April 20, 2022 03:30 AM

By [Jonas Reyes](#)



Photo | SBMA

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) is set to conduct various activities during the Earth Day 2022 Celebration on 22 April as part of the agency's thrust to promote environmental protection.

SBMA chairperson and administrator Rolan Paulino said that the agency aims to conduct a cleanup activity within the vicinities of its office buildings, including the administration building 229, Building N. Naval Supply Depot, and other agency infrastructures.

He added that the agency would also conduct lectures on its employees regarding waste management or environmental protection in relation to each of the SBMA department's processes.

The official also stated that each employee should start practicing the five R — Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle — of waste management inside the facilities.

"We also conduct other activities that promote environmental protection and conservation," Paulino said.

Climate change will transform how we live, but there are reasons for optimism

Change in itself isn't necessarily bad if we take ownership of it. We've done some things right and will need to rapidly scale these efforts up.



Solar panels in a village on Sumba island, Indonesia. Image: [Asian Development Bank](#), [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

By Robert Lempert and Elisabeth Gilmore April 19, 2022

It's easy to feel pessimistic when scientists around the world are warning that climate change has advanced so far, it's now inevitable that societies will either [transform themselves or be transformed](#). But as [two of the authors](#) of a recent [international climate report](#), we also see reason for optimism.

The latest reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change discuss changes ahead, but they also describe how existing solutions can [reduce greenhouse gas emissions](#) and [help people adjust](#) to impacts of climate change that can't be avoided.

The problem is that these solutions aren't being deployed fast enough. In addition to [push-back from industries](#), people's [fear of change](#) has helped maintain the status quo.

To slow climate change and adapt to the damage already underway, the world will have to shift how it generates and uses energy, transports people and goods, designs buildings and grows food. That starts with embracing innovation and change.

Fear of change can lead to worsening change

From the industrial revolution to the rise of social media, societies have undergone fundamental changes in how people live and understand their place in the world.

Some transformations are widely regarded as bad, including many of those connected to climate change. For example, about half the world's coral reef [ecosystems have died](#) because of [increasing heat and acidity in the oceans](#). Island nations like Kiribati and coastal communities, including in Louisiana and Alaska, are [losing land into rising seas](#).

Other transformations have had both good and bad effects. The [industrial revolution](#) vastly raised standards of living for many people, but it spawned inequality, social disruption and environmental destruction.

People often resist transformation because their fear of losing what they have is more powerful than knowing they might gain something better. Wanting to retain things as they are – known as [status quo bias](#) – explains all sorts of individual decisions, from sticking with incumbent politicians to [not enrolling in retirement or health plans](#) even when the alternatives may be rationally better.

[People often resist transformation because their fear of losing what they have is more powerful than knowing they might gain something better.](#)



This effect may be even more pronounced for larger changes. In the past, delaying inevitable change has led to transformations that are unnecessarily harsh, such as the [collapse of some 13th-century civilisations](#) in what is now the U.S. Southwest. As more people [experience the harms of climate change first-hand](#), they may begin to realise that transformation is inevitable and embrace new solutions.

A mix of good and bad

The IPCC reports make clear that the future inevitably involves more and larger climate-related transformations. The question is what the mix of good and bad will be in those transformations.

If countries allow greenhouse gas emissions to continue at a high rate and communities adapt only incrementally to the resulting climate change, the transformations will be mostly forced and [mostly bad](#).

For example, a riverside town might raise its levees as spring flooding worsens. At some point, as the scale of flooding increases, such adaptation hits its limits. The levees necessary to hold back the water may become too expensive or so intrusive that they undermine any benefit of living near the river. The community may wither away.

The riverside community could also take a more deliberate and anticipatory approach to transformation. It might shift to higher ground, turn its riverfront into parkland while developing affordable housing for people who are displaced by the project, and collaborate with upstream communities to expand landscapes that capture floodwaters. Simultaneously, the community can shift to renewable energy and electrified transportation to help slow global warming.

Optimism resides in deliberate action

The IPCC reports include numerous examples that can help steer such positive transformation.

For example, renewable energy is now [generally less expensive than fossil fuels](#), so a shift to clean energy can often save money. Communities can also be redesigned to better survive natural hazards through [steps such as](#) maintaining natural wildfire breaks and building homes to be less susceptible to burning.

Land use and the [design of infrastructure](#), such as roads and bridges, can be based on forward-looking climate information. [Insurance pricing](#) and [corporate climate risk disclosures](#) can help the public recognise hazards in the products they buy and companies they support as investors.

No one group can enact these changes alone. Everyone must be involved, including [governments](#) that can [mandate and incentivise changes](#), businesses that often control decisions about greenhouse gas emissions, and citizens who can turn up the pressure on both.

Efforts to both [adapt to](#) and [mitigate climate change](#) have advanced substantially in the last five years, but [not fast enough](#) to prevent the transformations already underway.

Doing more to disrupt the status quo with proven solutions can help smooth these transformations and create a better future in the process.

Robert Lempert is a professor of policy analysis at Pardee RAND Graduate School. Elisabeth Gilmore is an associate professor of climate change, technology and policy at Carleton University.

This article was originally published on [The Conversation](#).

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/climate-change-will-transform-how-we-live-but-there-are-reasons-for-optimism/>



DILG: Almost 9,000 uniformed personnel deployed for 'Agaton' rescue operations

(Philstar.com) - April 19, 2022 - 1:39pm



Undated photo shows personnel of the Philippine National Police conducting Disaster Response Operational Procedures from Lemery Municipal Police Station, Iloilo Police Provincial Office, Police Regional Office 6 amid the onslaught of Tropical Cyclone Agaton.
Release / PNP PIO

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government said that 8,823 combined uniformed personnel were deployed and braved the onslaught of Typhoon Agaton in the Visayas region to assist in evacuation and search and rescue operations.

In a statement sent to media, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said that the almost 9,000 men came from the Philippine National Police and Bureau of Fire Protection.

Combined damage wrought by Agaton to agriculture and infrastructure has reached P256.77 million, with Western Visayas reporting P142 million in damage to its crop area.

"Responding to the urgent need to assist our kababayans...even before the land-fall we had already positioned our firefighters and police to ensure the safety of our countrymen," Año said in mixed Filipino and English.

"They have cooperated with local governments in conducting evacuation and search and rescue operations."

Año said that in total, 5,230 firefighters made up of 404 Emergency Medical Services; and, 698 Search, Rescue and Retrieval personnel from the BFP were deployed in various local government units hit by the said typhoon.

He said 6,332 BFP personnel were positioned and were on stand-by in 14 landslide-prone areas of Regions VI, VIII and CARAGA with "the full force of the Fire Bureau deployed in Regions V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, CARAGA and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The BFP, Año added, also mobilized 1,010 firetrucks, 30 hazmat/rescue trucks, 28 ambulances, 11 watercrafts which were utilized to respond to evacuation and search and rescue operations.

"BFP is all hands on deck in addressing the challenges of its 'Agaton'. BFP has allocated these resources to respond to areas that have experienced heavy rainfall," he said.



The PNP for its part deployed a total of 2,491 police officers in high-risk and hard-hit areas in Regions VIII and CARAGA.

Of this number, Año said 2,434 were from the PNP Reactionary Standby Support Force; 48 police officers; four were deployed in evacuation centers; two in vacated areas; and, two in evacuated communities.

PNP resources such as the 2,314 SRR capabilities and equipment were likewise mobilized to assist and save typhoon victims.

DILG Undersecretary and Spokesperson Jonathan E. Malaya earlier said the Department and its attached agencies are ready to assist in the rescue and rehabilitation efforts and have activated Emergency Operation Centers to assist LGUs as 'Agaton' pounces on the Visayas region.

"Before Typhoon Agaton arrived, DILG had already activated our EOCs and we also have EOCs for the areas hit by the typhoon. We also issued warnings and advisory to all LGUs to intensify their disaster preparedness," Malaya said.

Typhoon Agaton, international name "Megi" made its landfall over Basey, Samar on April 11 and remained stationary until it weakened into a low pressure area.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Agaton has left 172 people dead and 110 others still missing as of its last situation report dated Monday, April 18.

In an interview with DZBB on Monday, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council spokesperson Mark Timbal said in Filipino: "We do not lose hope, no matter how bleak the situation there, we have trust in our search and rescue team."



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **ALL DENR OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**

FROM : The Director
Climate Change Service

SUBJECT : **CALL FOR DONATION FOR LANDSLIDE AND FLOOD VICTIMS
IN LEYTE**

DATE : 18 April 2022

Your kind assistance is humbly sought for Leyte which was recently hit by typhoon “Agaton,” causing severe flooding in many areas of the province and devastating landslides in Baybay City and Abuyog.

The relief aid will specifically benefit the residents of barangays Kantagnos, Bunga, Mailhi, Can-ipa in Baybay City and barangay Pilar in Abuyog (if road is already passable) and nearby flooded communities who are in dire need of the following:

- Drinking water
- Rice, canned goods, noodles
- Cooking utensils
- Blankets, Clothes
- Reusable sanitary pads
- Hygiene kits, soap
- Biscuits, cereals
- Milk, coffee, sugar, salt
- Toys (for children)

You may extend your much-needed help to the affected residents of Leyte through Mr. Rolando O Abad, Jr. of the Climate Change Service at 0961.7430.884. Mr. Abad is from Southern Leyte and together with his brother, friends and volunteers, they have organized a relief operation based in Baybay City.

He will be in Leyte from April 27-29 to personally deliver your donations and relief aid to the residents of said barangays. Gcash donations may also be sent thru Mr. Abad at 0961.7430.884.

Your kind consideration will be highly appreciated.


ELENIDA DR. BASUG

20 APRIL 2022, WEDNESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Mining community in Palawan gets a P6.4-M air monitoring station

RIO Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTN), Coral Bay Nickel Corp. (CBNC) and Graymont (Philippines) Inc. (GPI) — the big three firms with operations based in the Rio Tuba Export Processing Zone — are partnering with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in subsidizing the procurement of a P6.4-million Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) to be established in the mining community of Bataraza in Southern Palawan.

Monitoring air quality, especially in a mining community, is crucial for an effective air quality management system in order to take necessary corrective actions to reduce air pollution and maintain the health of the air that people breathe.

DENR-EMB Mimaropa director Joe

Amil Salino says, "The Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station is capable of monitoring particulate matter of 10 and 2.5-micron particle size. It will also be equipped with a data acquisition system and will display real-time results of air quality that will be visible to the public."

RTN, as a matter of policy, conducts monthly in-house air quality monitoring, but the CAAQMS will further strengthen the quality of the mining company's monitoring system to ensure that the environment and public health are protected from the dangers of air pollution.

Expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2022, the funding support and other relevant technical assistance for the CAAQMS in Rio Tuba, such as the procurement, maintenance



■ From left are Remmy Collado-Camo, Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) assistant vice president for Safety and Environment; Jose Bayani Baylon, NAC assistant vice president for Corporate Communications; Joe Arnil Salino, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Mimaropa director; Masahiro Kamiya, Coral Bay Nickel Corp. president; Rommel Ibuna, Graymont PH Inc. president; and Pablito Estorque, Environmental and Enforcement Division-EMB Mimaropa chief. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

and operational expenses, will be provided by RTN, CBNC and GPI.

The establishment of the state-of-the-art air monitoring stations in

strategic locations across the country is a project of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), the line bureau of the DENR.



Duterte hopes next admin will do better vs climate

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte has expressed hope that the next administration will do better in addressing the effects of climate change as he reiterated that rich countries should compensate developing ones for the effects of their carbon emissions.

During a pre-recorded public address aired Monday night, Duterte talked about the devastation of Tropical Storm Agaton in Leyte and Capiz and reported on government relief efforts in the affected areas.

He admitted that he used to be a skeptic of climate change but is now a believer of the phenomenon.

The President said industrialized countries are the biggest contributors of carbon emissions and that poorer countries like the Philippines are affected by the effects of their activities.

"The requirement... is for (all of us) to reduce the carbon being put out in the air... The industrialized countries are spewing - they have

the biggest factories," Duterte said.

"The problem is the consequence is being suffered by all. Unfortunately, they cause the biggest pollution. We only contribute little because we only have a few factories," he added.

Duterte noted that the Philippines is vulnerable to the effects of climate change because it is facing the Pacific Ocean and is visited by about 20 typhoons a year. "Why should we suffer?"

The rich who are not hit by the destruction caused by the pollution, they should pay us for the damage or they should do something to equalize.

"We sustain huge damage even if our contribution to climate change is small," the President said.

Duterte warned that the next generation of Filipinos would face a problem if the issue is not addressed.

"Unless there is a radical change of the weather patterns, we would face difficulties here in the Philippines," he said.



Rich nations must pay for too much carbon emissions — PRRD

By JOSEPH PEDRAJAS

President Duterte is demanding payment from rich, industrialized countries for the damage to the environment by leaving too much carbon emissions that worsen climate change.

In his public address on Monday night, April 18, Duterte said he does not want to name names of such countries "because they are our friends," although "unfortunately, they are the biggest contributor of carbon emissions in this world."

"Dapat ang mga mayaman na hindi tinatamaan ng destruction caused by itong pollution, bayaran nila tayo for the damage (The rich countries that are not affected by the destruction caused by pollution must pay us for the damage)," the President said.

Otherwise, they should "at least find a way to equalize" the damage.

The President lamented that while only industrialized countries hugely contribute to the Earth's carbon emissions, "the consequence is being suffered by all."

"Now, the Philippines is located in the tropical zone. Ang ating bayan is the window na galing Pacific (Our country is window to the Pacific). If

there is a warming of climate there with the mixture of the cold and hot temperatures, ayan tinatamaan tayo (we are affected)," Duterte said.

"At tayo talaga ang nagbabayad nang malaki, parang 'yung ano ng mga — 'yung resulta ng mga pollution ng ibang countries tayo ang sumasalo (We pay the price. We're suffering from the result of the pollution caused by other countries)," he added.

Duterte, who is leaving his post in June, hopes the next administration will make efforts that will "remedy the situation" as he expressed concern over climate change.

"I leave it...to the next administration na alam ko mas makaya pa nila kaysa akin (I know they can do better than me)," he said.

"But there has to be a... I really do not know what... Mine [action] is that 'yung mga industrialized countries na hindi tinatamaan ng mga typhoons and calamities pero sila 'yung pinakamalaki na contributor ng carbon emissions, eh magbayad sila. Kasi ang tama grabe ang sa atin (that are not affected by typhoons and calamities but are the biggest carbon emission contributors, they must pay. Because we are greatly affected)," he added.



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MAYAYAMANG BANSA PAGBABAYARIN SA CLIMATE CHANGE - PDU30

Dahil sa labis na naapektuhan ng climate change ang mga bansa tulad ng Pilipinas ay nais ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magbayad ang mga mayayamang bansa.

Ayon kay Duterte direkta ang tama ng climate change sa Pilipinas na nasa tropical zone at

maituturing na "bintana" ng mga galing sa Pacific.

Sinabi ni Duterte na ang mga industrialized na bansa ang may pinakamaraming factory na nagdudulot ng maraming carbon emissions sa mundo.

Sinabi pa ni Duterte, lampas lamang ng point

zero ang carbon emission ng Pilipinas pero kabilang ito sa nakakaranas ng epekto ng climate change katulad ng mga malalakas na bagyo na dumadaan sa bansa at sinasalo ng Pilipinas ang polusyon na nanggagaling sa ibang bansa.

Dapat aniyang bayaran ng mayayamang bansa ang

Pilipinas o gumawa sila ng paraan para maging "equalize" ang pinsalang dulot ng climate change.

Umaasa rin si Duterte na mas magiging maganda ang paghahanda ng susunod na administrasyon para malabanan ang pinsalang dulot ng climate change. *-Malou Escudero-*



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The Manila Times

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Editorial

Duterte raises the bar for successor on the environment

ON Monday, in what was perhaps a surprising moment of candor, President Rodrigo Duterte expressed the hope that his successor "will do a better job" addressing climate change and its effects on the country. We hope that successor recognizes this for the challenge that it is because Duterte's environmental legacy is,

in our view, better than that self-effacing statement makes it appear.

Duterte expressed his thoughts after returning from an aerial inspection tour of some areas in the Visayas ravaged by the recent Typhoon "Agaton." The increasing frequency and strength of tropical storms is just one outcome of the heating Earth's atmosphere by greenhouse gas emissions, and this may have been on the President's mind when he made his comments.

Whatever President Duterte feels are his shortcomings in addressing the impacts of the global climate emergency, however, his record on the environment, despite valid criticisms in some areas, has been generally a good one. We can highlight several examples, most of which did not attract much public attention, or attracted attention for the wrong reasons.

Early in his term, the President ordered the near-complete shutdown of popular tourist destination Boracay Island in order to carry out environmental rehabilitation, a move that was widely criticized for its immediate impact on the local economy. What was lost in the controversy, however, was the profoundly positive outcomes in terms of fixing the island's inadequate sanitation infrastructure and irresponsible management.

Boracay now is a cleaner, more sustainable place that will support a productive local economy for many more years than it would have if left alone.

Likewise, the rehabilitation of Manila Bay and waterways that flow into it, a long-term effort that is still far from being completed, has achieved remarkable results after being all but ignored by the previous two administrations. Water quality has improved and solid waste pollution has been greatly reduced; one can find numerous posts on social media from recent months taking note of the return of birds and fish to the bay and tributaries such as the Pasig River that were not long ago considered "dead."

Whatever President Duterte feels are his shortcomings in addressing the impacts of the global climate emergency, however, his record on the environment, despite valid criticisms in some areas, has been generally a good one.

Much of the public attention to the bay rehabilitation effort, however, was focused on the installation of the controversial "dolomite beach" along Manila's bayfront, and most of that attention was critical. The beach may not have been necessary or advisable, and the government's response to public criticism of it probably could have been handled better, but the controversy was a case of overlooking the forest for a single tree; in the end, the beach was just one relatively minor, cosmetic component of a much larger initiative.

Finally, in a more recent example that almost completely escaped public attention, the President ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to halt all applications for reclamation projects, and "leave it to the next administration." This may seem like a formality given the brief time remaining in Duterte's term, but it is actually quite significant — because of the change-over at the end of June, any pending applications for reclamation projects are now effectively back to square one, and subject to the perspective (or whims, as the case may be) of a new administration.

Of course, environmental management has not been perfect under Duterte, and there have been some areas in which not much at all has been accomplished, such as reducing vehicle emissions, or as the recent typhoon has demonstrated, climate adaptation in small communities. Yet on balance, we believe Duterte is leaving environmental management in better shape for his successor than what he inherited from his predecessor. His acknowledgement that more needs to be done, that his successor needs to "do a better job," is both a challenge and a worthwhile piece of advice for the next president.

As we noted in an earlier editorial, environmental policy has not received the attention it should have from the candidates vying for the presidency, at least until very recently. President Duterte's recent comments should be a reminder that it is a priority, and one that will only become even more critical as time goes on.



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HOLY WEEK ARRIVALS

AKLAN EXECS: NO CLEAR RULE TO LIMIT BORACAY TOURISTS

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—Local governments governing Boracay gave conflicting data on tourist arrivals on the resort island in Malay, Aklan, last week after the Department of Tourism (DOT) said a surge in visitors breached the government-set carrying capacity.

But local officials also pointed out that there was no clear guidelines or rules on how to control or limit tourists in Boracay when arrivals breach the daily limit.

"We cannot just tell resorts to stop accepting tourists. And do we distribute the allowable number of tourists among hotels and resorts? How do we do that?" Acting Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista told the Inquirer in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

The DOT, in a statement on Monday, said the island's daily carrying capacity, pegged at 19,215, was breached during the Holy Week.

"The [DOT] has apprised both the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the breach in carrying capacity. We continue our coordination with them, especially the DILG, which has jurisdiction over the [local governments], to address this concern and prevent similar incidents from happening in the future," the DOT said.

Data from the Malay municipal tourism office showed that 12,266 visitors arrived on April 14, Maundy Thursday, with the total number of tourists that day reaching 21,252, including those who arrived earlier and had not left the island.

But Aklan provincial administrator Selwyn Ibarreta, who also supervises the prov-

ince's tourist validating team, said the total number of tourists on April 14 and April 15 were 10,921 and 11,140, respectively, which were within the island's carrying capacity.

He said the much higher figures of the municipal government was due to the absence or exclusion of data on tourists who left the island from April 9 to April 11.

Martin Jose Despi, general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group, said the carrying capacity was also breached on April 15, Good Friday, with tourists reaching more than 22,000, based on data of the municipal government.

Peak

Arrivals last week were considered the highest in two years before the COVID-19 pandemic restricted travel. Bautista said Holy Week was traditionally a peak period for tourism in Boracay.

The provincial government, he said, processes applications of tourists for entry into the island and issues quick response (QR) codes.

Boracay's carrying capacity of 19,215 tourists at any given time was set by the DENR and other agencies as the government closed the island from April 26 to Oct. 25, 2018, to pave the way for its environmental rehabilitation.

The average daily tourist arrivals should be around 6,405 to avoid exceeding the island's carrying capacity, according to government agencies. Before its closure in 2018, the island's population, including tourists, was 70,781 per day.

Ibarreta said there was no existing mechanism or policy that would stop or limit the entry of tourists when the carrying capacity was reached. INQ



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LOCAL OFFICIALS SA BORACAY PINAKAKASTIGO

NAGPASAKLOLO na ang Department of Tourism (DOT) sa government authorities matapos mabigo ang Boracay local government na kontrolin ang bilang ng mga turista.

Lumampas na kasi ang bilang sa kapasidad na itinakda sa Boracay sa panahon ng Semana Santa.

Sa isang kalatas, sinabi ng DOT na ipinagbigay-alam nito kapwa sa Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang

nasabing paglabag ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Boracay.

"We continue our coordination with them, especially the DILG which has jurisdiction over the LGU (local government unit), to address this concern and prevent similar incidents from happening in the future," ayon sa DOT.

Umabot umano sa 21,252 ang bilang ng mga turista na dumating sa Boracay noong Abril 14 at 22,519 naman noong Abril 15— lagpas sa 19,215 carrying capacity ng isla.



SBMA eyes Earth Day celebration

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT – The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) is set to conduct various activities during the Earth Day 2022 Celebration on 22 April as part of the agency's thrust to promote environmental protection.

SBMA chairperson and administrator Rolen Paulino said that the agency aims to conduct a cleanup activity within the vicinities of its office buildings, including the administration building 229, Building N. Naval Supply Depot, and other agency infrastructures.

He added that the agency would also conduct lectures on its employees regarding waste management or environmental protection in relation to each of the SBMA department's processes.

The official also stated that each employee should start practicing the five R – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle – of waste management inside the facilities.

"We also conduct other activities that promote environmental protection and conservation," Paulino said. JONAS REYES



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Regional Updates

US donates additional P17.5 million to support ecosystem and community recovery post-Odette

THE UNITED States government has donated an additional P17.5 million to support recovery efforts for the ecosystem and communities in areas heavily affected by typhoon Odette, internationally known as Rai, which struck southern and central parts of the Philippines in mid-December.

"This additional assistance will support local organizations in assessing the extent of damage to

ecosystems and wildlife habitats, enhancing their resilience and recovery, and provide assistance to farmers, fisherfolk, and indigenous peoples whose livelihoods were destroyed by the typhoon," the US Embassy in Manila said in a statement on Tuesday.

American government aid for Odette response and recovery now totals P1.1 billion, it said.

Seven civil society organizations in Siargao Island, Dinagat Islands, Palawan, Cebu, Bohol, Southern Leyte, and mainland Caraga will be given P2.5 million each to implement projects to mitigate long-term damage and environment risks.

The goal is to rehabilitate coastal and terrestrial ecosystems, support disaster risk reduction and manage-

ment initiatives, rebuild livelihoods through biodiversity-friendly enterprises, and provide incentives for local communities helping with the rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, China has donated over P10 million to provide assistance to those affected by tropical storm Agaton, internationally known as Megi, which hit the country last week.

"We wish all those affected could overcome the difficulties and rebuild their homes at an early date," Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Huang Xilian said in a Facebook post on Monday.

The Philippines, which sits within the typhoon belt in the western Pacific Ocean, gets an average of 20 storms every year.—
Alyssa Nicole O. Tan



NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

Several injured in shooting at Bukidnon IP protest attended by presidential bet Ka Leody

AT LEAST five people were injured after gunshots were fired at a protest of an indigenous peoples community against alleged land-grabbing in Quezon, Bukidnon on Tuesday, which was attended by labor leader and presidential candidate Leodegario "Ka Leody" de Guzman.

"Thank you for those who were concerned, Roy Cabonegro, David D'Angelo, and I are safe," Mr. de Guzman said in Filipino on Twitter, referring to two senatorial candidates from his party who were also at the site.

"An organizer of farmers and a leader of the Manobo-Pulangiyon tribe beside me were hit," he added.

The protest action by the Manobo-Pulangiyon IP community was against the alleged land grabbing of their ancestral land, according to a Facebook post by Mr. De Guzman's party, the Partido Lakas ng Masa.

The IP community claims to have been forced to leave their ancestral domain of about 900 hectares by a large corporation linked to the incumbent mayor of Quezon, said Mr. de Guzman's media team in a Viber message.

The municipal government of Quezon has yet to respond to a query on the response of Mayor Pablo M. Lorenzo III, who is running for reelection.

"Those responsible did not fire warning shots, but directly fired at us which lasted

for about 15 minutes," Mr. de Guzman told a press briefing on Tuesday via Zoom.

"Land grabbers look at our indigenous peoples as pigs who can be shot."

Election Watchdog Kontra Daya, in a tweet, also condemned the incident as an "apparent case of election-related violence" and urged the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to conduct an investigation.

Commissioner George Erwin M. Garcia said via Viber, "This is a cowardly act that should be condemned by peace-loving Filipinos. If this is an election-related incident, count the Comelec in to use all our powers to get to the bottom of this and hold accountable the culprits and face the full force of the law."

Presidential Spokesperson Jose Martin M. Andanar, in a statement on Tuesday, called on local authorities to investigate and prosecute those behind what he described as a "dastardly act." — **John Victor D. Ordoñez**



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Five hurt as gunmen fire shots at 'Ka' Leody's group in Bukidnon

BY RENE ACOSTA [@reneacostaBM](#)
& SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA [@sam_medenilla](#)

AT least five persons were reported wounded while presidential candidate and labor leader Ka Leody de Guzman escaped unscathed after his group was fired upon by still unknown gunmen while holding a meeting with members of the Manobo tribe in Quezon, Bukidnon, on Tuesday.

The incident, which the Philippine National Police (PNP) said is still being investigated, was confirmed both by de Guzman in tweets and by his party, the Partido Lakas ng Masa, in a news statement.

De Guzman said he and his group, which included two Partido Lakas ng Masa senatorial candidates Roy Cabonegro and David D'Angelo, were holding a meeting with Manobo-Pulangiyon tribe at Barangay Butong in Quezon when several shots were heard.

While the left-leaning presidential candidate, who is running on a pro-poor agenda, was not hurt along with his party's two senatorial bets, the person beside him along with another individual were hit and were

rushed to the hospital.

De Guzman identified two of the individuals beside him who sustained a gunshot wounds as Nanie Abela, a farmer's group organizer. The other victim, he said was a leader of the Manobo-Pulangiyon tribe.

"*Ang tinamaan ay ang nasa tabi ko, si Nanie Abela, na organizer ng mga magsasaka sa Mindanao. Casualty rin ang isang lider ng tribong Manobo-Pulangiyon,*" he said in a tweet.

The site of the meeting between de Guzman's group and the Manobo tribe forms part of ancestral land of the Manobos.

"*Salamat sa mga nag-alala. Akopo at sila kasamang Roy Cabonegro at David D'Angelo ay ligtas,*" de Guzman said.

De Guzman's political party said in a statement that several others were also injured.

The PNP through its Public Information Office chief, Brig. Roderick Augustus Balba, said they were still gathering the complete details of the incident.

Dastardly act—Palace

MALACANANG on Tuesday called for the immediate investigation on the shooting incident during the campaign sortie of presidential Ka Leody de Guzman in Bukidnon last Tuesday.

In a brief statement, Acting Presidential spokesman Martin Andanar condemned the incident, which injured at least 5 people.

"We urge the local authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and prosecute those behind this dastardly act," Andanar said.

"Violence has no place in any civilized society and we condemn the incident in Bukidnon where gunshots were allegedly fired against the camp of Ka Leody de Guzman," he added.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec), for its part, expressed concern over the incident and is also now looking into it.

"If this is an election-related incident, count the Comelec in to use all our powers to get to the bottom of this and hold accountable the culprits and face the full force of the law," Comelec Commissioner George M. Garcia said.

While the probe is ongoing, Comelec Chairman Saidamen B. Pangarungan said they are ready to provide additional security detail to De Guzman and all the other presidential and vice presidential candidates upon their request.

Land grabbing issue

AT a virtual press conference, De Guzman noted the incident may have involved the complaint of the Manobo-Pulangiyon tribe on the alleged land-grabbing in their ancestral domain.

But he did not rule out if he was a target in the said attack since his companion, who was sitting near him was hit during the incident.

De Guzman's group called on authorities to safeguard the members of the tribes, which it claimed may still be at risk from further attacks.

Labor groups also condemned the incident, which endangered the lives of de Guzman, who is also a labor leader, and the indigenous people (IP).

"The authorities need to speedily investigate this incident without fear or favor and bring those responsible to the bar of justice," Federation of Free Workers (FFW) President Sonny Matula said.

The Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at mga Progresibong Manggagawa (Sentro) also called for a swift investigation into the incident, including the alleged land grabbing in the ancestral land of the Manobo tribe.


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Malacañang slams Bukidnon 'attack'

Malacañang slammed groups allegedly behind the gunshots fired against the camp of presidential candidate and labor leader Leody de Guzman and the Manobo-Pulangiyon leaders during their meeting in Bukidnon on Tuesday.

Acting Palace spokesperson Secretary

Turn to page A6

Malacañang slams Bukidnon 'attack'

From page 1

Martin Andanar denounced what he described as a "dastardly act," which injured at least two people.

"Violence has no place in any civilized society and we condemn the incident in Bukidnon where gunshots were allegedly fired against the camp of *Ka* Leody de Guzman," he said through a statement sent to the media.

"We urge the local authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and prosecute those behind this dastardly act," he added.

Ka Leody, who was in Bukidnon to hold a dialogue with the Manobo-Pulangiyon tribe, announced in a Twitter post that two were wounded, including Nanie Abela, an organizer of farm workers. The other who was allegedly shot was a leader of the Manobo-Pulangiyon tribe who was not identified.

He assured his supporters that he was safe, along with his senatorial bets Roy Cabonero and David D'angelo, who both accompanied him on his trip. *Ka* Leody also called for peace in Mindanao and respect for the rights of indigenous groups.

"We know we are fighting the rich and powerful in this battle. However, it's still different when we're directly attacked. The lives of the other people are of no value to them," he said.

His party, socialist coalition Partido Lakas ng masa, said the Manobo-Pulangiyon tribe were reclaiming their ancestral lands.

Close to a thousand members of the indigenous group were purportedly driven away and have been living in Quezon town since 2017.

MJ BLANCAFLOR AND GAB HUMILDE VILLEGAS



KASONG SMUGGLING KONTRA 2 IMPORTER

DALAWA pang kumpanya ang sinampahan ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) ng kasong smuggling sa Department of Justice (DOJ) kaugnay ng mga kargamentong ipinasok sa Cagayan de Oro at Subic nito lamang nakalipas na anim na buwan.

Sa kalatas ng BOC, unang kinasuhan ng Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS) ang UHE Trading na nagtangkang magpuslit sa bansa ng 900 master cases ng sigarilyo sa Port of Cagayan de Oro nitong Enero 18, 2022.

Bukod sa kasong kriminal, kabilang rin sa asuntong kina-kaharap ng UHE Trading ang paglabag sa Republic Act No. 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act), Customs Memorandum Order No. 20-2006, RA 10963 (Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion) Law at mga direktibang in-labas ng National Tobacco Administration (NTA) noong 2004 at 2005.

Kasong administratibo naman ang inihain laban sa customs broker na nangasiwa sa proseso ng mga dokumentong kalakip ng bulilyasong kontrabando.

Sa tala ng BOC, aabot sa P32 milyon ang halaga ng mga nasabat na kargamento.

Hindi rin pinalusot ng kawanihan ang Jack Electronic Metal Inc. kaugnay ng P79,000 halaga ng mga kontrabandong ayon sa BOC ay pasok sa kategoryang "toxic" at posibleng magdulot ng pinsala sa kalusugan ng



BABALA SA MATIGAS ANG MUKHA. Malaki man o maliit ang halaga ng kargamento, siguradong patong-patong na kaso ang isasampa ng Bureau of Customs laban sa mga negosyanteng matigas ang ulo.

tao o balanse sa kalikasan.

Sa imbestigasyon ng Port of Subic, Setyembre ng nakaraang taon nang dumating ang kontrabandong inangkat mula sa Estados Unidos. Lumalabas rin sa pagsisiyasat bukod sa walang import permit, iba pa ang idineklara ng naturang kumpanya sa aktuwal na laman ng kargamento.

Patung-patong na asunto kabilang ang paglabag sa RA 10863, RA 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990), DENR Adminis-

trative Order 2013-22 at ang Revised Penal Code ang inihain laban sa Jack Electronic Metal Inc.

Nahaharap naman sa kasong administratibo ang customs broker na nag-asikaso ng bulilyasong kargamento.

Mula Enero, may kabuuang 22 kasong kriminal na ang inihain ng BOC sa 65 indibidwal at licensed customs broker sa DOJ at Professional Regulations Commission.

(JOEL AMONGO)

TIKARAN NA. Higit na malakas na nuwera

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH Covid-19 cases continue to drop

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor **April 19, 2022, 3:34 pm**



MANILA – The number of new Covid-19 cases continues to decline nationwide with an average daily case of 224 for the week of April 12 to 18, a health official said Tuesday.

The recent average is 17 percent lower than last week's 271, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in an online media forum.

The country's total tally of new cases for the same week is 1,571.

"Sa kasalukuyang bilang ng ating (In our current number of our) active cases, 18,672 [for] the asymptomatic or has mild symptoms while the number of severe and critical cases has gone down to 1,251. The positivity rate remains at 1.6 percent," Vergeire said.

The intensive care unit utilization and total beds utilization nationwide remain at low risk.

As of April 17, the ICU utilization rate is 16 percent while the healthcare utilization rate is 17 percent.

The country has a total of 2,842 ICU beds – 450 are occupied while 2,392 are vacant.

"Patotoo po ito ng ang ating mga bakuna ay ligtas at epektibo laban sa malubhang sintomas ng Covid-19 kaya naman po magpabakuna na tayong lahat at magpa-booster na sa lalong madaling panahon parang maging protektado na sa virus (This is a testimony of our vaccines' safety and effectiveness against the severe symptoms of Covid-19 so let's all get vaccinated and get our boosters the soonest possible time to be protected against the virus)," Vergeire said. **(PNA)**



Cases may hit 500K next month – DOH

By **Gerard Naval** -April 20, 2022

Public warned anew against ignoring health protocols

ACTIVE coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in the Philippines could reach up to half a million by the middle of May if Filipinos become more complacent and continue to ignore minimum public health standards (MPHS).

Data from the Department of Health (DOH) shows that as of April 18, there are 19,923 active cases nationwide.

In a virtual press briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said their updated case projections place the numbers at 500,000 from the 300,000 last week.

“We are informing the public that if we continue not to observe MPHS, our updated projection shows active cases may reach 500,000 in the entire country,” said Vergeire.

“The projection include the assumption that if individuals or communities will have reduced compliance with MPHS of about 30 to 50 percent, this kind of increase in cases will happen,” she said.

Vergeire said they are issuing the statement as they have been observing an increasing complacency among the public.

This, she said, is especially evident in the numerous campaign activities happening nationwide as well as in areas frequented by local and foreign tourists.

“During these past weeks, we have observed that there is growing complacency in terms of avoiding crowds, in terms of physical distancing requirements,” said the health official.

“It began when campaign activities started. There was no more physical distancing. Then, this past Holy Week, we can see there were parties where there is crowding and lack of wearing of face masks,” added Vergeire.

Asked if the projected surge in cases may result to the return of stricter protocols, she said it should no longer reach that point.

“If only we just follow protocols, we don’t need to be restrictive. We should only need to enforce and closely monitor,” said Vergeire.

Last week, the DOH said there is a possibility that cases may rise to as high as 300,000 by middle of next month if compliance with the health protocols continues to decline.

POSITIVE GROWTH RATES

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said Monday night there was a gradual rise in COVID-19 cases in 14 areas under Alert Level 1.

Duque, during the weekly “Talk to the People” briefing with President Duterte, said that based on their monitoring during the April 12 to 18 week, the top three regions with the highest number of recorded cases were the National Capital Region (NCR) with 606 cases, Calabarzon (Region IV-A) with 226 cases, and Central Luzon (Region III) with 181 cases.

The three areas with the highest number of new cases during the same period were Cavite with 101 cases, Manila City with 92 cases and Quezon City with 82 cases.

Duque said the national positivity rate as of April 17 is at 1.6 percent.



He said the number of new cases also went down to 1,571 during the April 12 to 18 period or an average of 224 cases daily from the 1,902 cases from the previous week.

Vergeire said the 14 areas, which are all under Alert Level 1, are in Mimaropa, Central Luzon, Davao Region, Caraga, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera Administrative Region, and Eastern Visayas.

“We saw positive one-week growth rates, such as from 0 to 2 or from 0 to 3. But it doesn’t mean that increases are significant,” she said.

Vergeire said the positive one-week growth rates in the 14 areas are “not significant yet as it has not yet affected the bed utilization for COVID-19.”

GRANULAR LOCKDOWN

Despite the reported increase in cases in several areas, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said there are no more areas under granular lockdown nationwide during the April 10 to April 16 period.

In the same briefing, Año said the local government units in the six areas which were locked down during the previous week have already lifted their mobility restrictions.

Año said authorities on the ground will continue to strictly enforce minimum public health standards to sustain the feat.

“Mr. President, from April 10 to April 16, for the first time, we have not recorded any area under granular lockdown nationwide. Last week, we had six areas under granular lockdown. Now, we have none,” said Año.

“In line with this, we are going to remain aggressive in implementing minimum public health standards,” Año also said, referring to protocols on wearing face mask and observance of physical distancing.

Over the past couple of years, police and local government personnel, in coordination with health officials, have been placing areas with known COVID-19 cases under granular lockdown to prevent the spread of the virus.

ALERT LEVEL 1

National Task Force against COVID-19 chief implementer Carlito Galvez Jr. in the same event, said “almost all areas” in the country are already categorized as “minimal risk with no significant area under granular lockdown” despite the recent loosening of border controls and the presence of super-spreader events such as the Lenten season and Ramadan, and the political events and campaign rallies.

Galvez said three of the 17 regions, namely the NCR, Ilocos and Central Luzon are under Alert Level 1, along with 36 of the 39 major cities in the country.

Only the cities of General Santos, Cotabato and Isabela are not under alert level 1.

Galvez said 39 of the 81 provinces and 393 of the 1,205 municipalities are also under Alert Level 1.

He said many of the places that are still not under Level 1 will graduate to the lower alert level as soon as they meet the full vaccination requirement of 70 percent of their population, and full vaccination of 80 percent of their senior citizens.

BARMM Minister of Interior and Local Government Naguib Sinarimbo, during the Laging Handa public briefing yesterday, said they are concerned about a possible surge of COVID-19 in the region especially with their low vaccination rate of around 34 percent.



Sinarimbo, however, said that while they have a low vaccination rate, they have only recorded 1,760 cases, of which only five are active.

He said they intend to increase their vaccination rate through a more aggressive campaign to remind the people that while there are low COVID cases in their region compared to other areas in the country, getting fully vaccinated and getting booster shots are still important.

He said they intend to vaccinate 215,776 people during the special vaccination days in the provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur and Marawi City on May 5 to 7; in Basilan and Sulu on May 11 to 13; and Tawi-Tawi from May 16 to 30.

Galvez, on Monday, said of the 3.516 million target population in BARMM, 1.2 million or 34.15 percent have received their first dose; 959,301 or 27.28 percent are fully vaccinated, and 80,254 or 2.28 percent have received booster shots.

VIOLATORS

Año, a key member of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, also reported a decrease in the number of individuals accosted nationwide for not wearing face mask and for not observing physical distancing.

He said 28,622 individuals were caught not wearing face mask from April 10 to 16, down by 15.69 percent from the previous week.

Año said 3,002 individuals were accosted for not observing physical distancing during the same period, down by 47.12 percent.

Año said 13 were accosted for violating the protocol on mass gathering, up by 62.5 percent.

“We will continue to enforce minimum public health standards to ensure there will be no transmission of COVID-19,” Año said. – ***With Jocelyn Montemayor and Victor Reyes***



PH now 'low' risk in US CDC travel warning list

April 19, 2022, 6:52 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – The Philippines is now considered “low” risk under the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (US CDC) new system for travel risk assessment, based on declining Covid-19 cases.

As of April 18, the US CDC data showed that in Southeast Asia, only the Philippines and Myanmar are under "Level 1: Covid-19 Low".

For a destination to be placed under this level, it must have [49 or fewer new cases per 100,000 residents over the past 28 days](#).

The US CDC system has placed nations into these categories:

- Level 3: High risk for Covid-19
- Level 2: Moderate risk for Covid-19
- Level 1: Low risk for Covid-19
- Unknown: Not enough data to assess risk

European nations Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom and other popular travel spots like Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, South Korea, and Thailand are categorized as high risk or Level 3.

Covid-19 cases in the Philippines are on the decline, recording a daily average of only 224 for the week April 12 to 18, or 17 percent lower than the preceding week's 271.

The total tally of new cases for the same week is 1,571.

The Philippines has vaccinated against the coronavirus more than 70 percent of its target population.

Latest data from the National Task Force Against Covid-19 likewise showed that the Philippines has administered 144,781,087 doses of coronavirus vaccines, with 66,979,873 Filipinos already with the full primary series.

The [US CDC issues travel health notices](#) to alert travelers and other audiences to health threats around the world and advice on how to protect themselves. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1172488>

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
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
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