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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DAGDAG PONDO HINILING PARA MAPADALI ANG BICOL, CAGAYAN RIVER REHAB

August 29, 2021 Rannie Lao



ISINULONG ni Environment and Natural Resources Secretary at Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) chairperson Roy A. Cimatu na agad na matapos ang pagtatanggal ng sandbars sa Bicol River mula sa target na 2025 ay maging 2023 at sa Cagayan River na mula sa 2028 ay matapos ito ng 2025.

Ani Cimatu, upang mangyari ito, hiling nito sa Department of Budget and Management (DBM) ang karagdagang P1.45 billion at P3.2 billion bilang funding assistance para makabili ng bagong equipment sa dredging operations sa Bicol at Cagayan River Basins, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Napag-alamang bahagi ng panukalang pondo para sa Cagayan River dredging activity ay para sa restorasyon at pagpapalit ng 40 floodgates sa kahabaan ng Naga-Calabanga embankment na nagkakahalaga ng P64.1 million.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang mga nagawa ng TF BBB sa restoration ng river basins ng Cagayan, Bicol at Marikina ay nagpapatunay lamang na ang Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ay kayang tapusin ng mabilis ang proyekto at mas “cost-effective” sa halip na umarkila ng private contractors.

“This is really a big policy shift and I hope the next administration will continue this. They cannot afford not to continue this,” saad ni Cimatu.

“You can just imagine if we bid these out to contractors, baka wala pa sa kalahati nagagawa natin ngayon,” dagdag nito.

Sinabi pa ng DENR chief na siya ring namumuno sa Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction na habang kinakailangan ang priority funding para matugunan ang pandemic crisis, “priority should likewise be given to equally important efforts on climate change and disaster mitigation programs meant to assure the country of its food security and prevent, or at least minimize loss of precious infrastructures due to flooding.”

“If we invest now, the best option is to already have these pieces of equipment this year,” saad ni Cimatu kasabay ng pagsasabi na ang inisyatiba ng TF BBB “will go a long way in accelerating the recovery of the country from the social and economic disruptions from the global pandemic.”

Ang Cagayan River Dredging Plan ay binubuo ng walong yugto na inaasahang matatapos sa loob ng first quarter ng 2025 kung mayroong karagdagang equipment. Ito ay maaaring umabot ng 2028 kung limitado lamang sa paggamit ng existing fleet ng DPWH.



Samantala, ang Bicol River Dredging Plan ay inaasahang matatapos sa katapusan ng 2025 kung gagamitin ang kasalukuyang equipment ng DPWH ngunit ito ay mapapabilis ng dalawang taon kung maaaprubahan ang hiling na karagdagang gamit. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



Duterte to mining firms: Don't pollute rivers, displace IPs

Published August 28, 2021, 5:16 PM by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The national government will come after mining companies that end up “destroying the life of a river,” President Duterte said in a recent public briefing.



President Rodrigo Duterte (rightmost) listens to the presentation of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu (2nd from right) during the “Talk to the People” public briefing last Aug.26, 2021 (Malacañang photo)

“Kayong mga mining companies, kutkot kayo nang kutkot tapos ‘yung mga tailings ninyo bumababa doon sa tubig (You mining companies, you continue to tinker on mountains and the your tailings drip into the water), then it contaminates the rivers,” he said during the “Talk to the People” public briefing on late Thursday night, Aug. 26.

Duterte noted the adverse effects that mining-triggered river contamination would have on the local communities.

“Iyong mga tao — ‘yung mga indigenous tribes doon, mga IP [Indigenous Peoples] doon ‘yan sila kumukuha sa isda, sa ligo nila (The indigenous tribes there, the IP, they get fish and bathe in the river), and then the water becomes brown kagaya ng ‘yang nilinis mo (like what you cleaned up), then it becomes black.

“Eh saan mo ilagay ‘yung Pilipino ngayon? Iyong [mga katutubo]? Iyon ang problema — ‘yun ang sa inyo kasi kung medyo (Now, where would the place the Filipino? The natives? That the problem because) — you cross that line of destroying a river, the life of a river, then government will just have to come in and stop you,” Duterte said.

The majority of comments Duterte made during his latest public briefing delved into environmental issues, since he was feeding off from the presentation of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu before other Cabinet members.

The Chief Executive bared how he intends to handle careless mining firms.

“Madali lang man ho ‘yan para kay Roy pati sa akin (That’s easy for me and Roy). All I have to do is just to cancel your permit to operate. Ganoon lang ‘yan. Pero hindi namin ‘yan ginagawa unnecessarily (That’s how. But we don’t do that unnecessarily), unless it is in proportion of a disaster,” he said.

Duterte said he has already witnessed such ecological degeneration in Diwalwal, also known as Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley.

“Makikita ninyo ‘yan sa Diwalwal (That can be seen in Diwalwal). First, it was a clean water, long time ago when I — I used to accompany my father. Kaganda ng lugar na ‘yan, Diwalwal Diwalwal was a beautiful place). It was a paradise. Then the gold rush came, pumasok — pumasok ‘yung tao (the people came in). The river, from a clear white became brown, and itim na (now it’s black),” he recounted.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/28/duterte-to-mining-firms-dont-pollute-rivers-displace-ips/>



Pinoy-made edible straws seen as alternative to single-use plastic

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 28 2021 10:20 AM | Updated as of Aug 28 2021 01:16 PM

MANILA -- A company is targeting to reduce the use of single-use plastic in the Philippines, one step at a time.

PH Sustainable, founded by Adrian Mendoza, has been in talks with business owners as well as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and local government units to provide edible straws so Filipinos can gradually let go of single-use plastic products.

The straws are made of rice flour and tapioca starch, are able to withstand both hot and cold temperatures, and have a shelf life of two years.

They also come in different colors and sizes to match drinks such as milk teas and smoothies



PH Sustainable's edible straws. Photos courtesy of Adrian Mendoza

"Using them in drinks, they soften to almost like a 'boba' (tapioca pearls) consistency after some time," Mendoza said in an online interview with ABS-CBN News. "It's perfect for you to nibble on while enjoying your drink."

He added that their straws are smooth and have close to no aftertaste, compared to bamboo and paper straws.

Should PH Sustainable achieve success in rolling out edible straws to different parts of the country, the company hopes to expand its products to also include utensils, plates, and containers.

Mendoza believes that a simple step such as replacing plastic straws will have a huge impact on the environment.

"No matter how good we improve productivity, it cannot be materialized with a faulty ecosystem. For instance, the plastic wrappers and containers that litter our streets and clog drains in cities cause floods during a downpour. These floods would prevent people from going to work or destroy their houses, disrupting people's lives," he said.

"The existing problem is already huge, and if we continue manufacturing non-sustainable packaging, our waste problem will increase, and resources are wasted which will cause more imbalance in the ecosystem, affecting the productivity of the people," he added.

Below are excerpts from Mendoza's interview with ABS-CBN News:



Q: Can you first tell us something about yourself, and how your passion for the environment started?

"Truth be told, I am a graduate of computer science, but found myself in this field of providing sustainable packaging solutions for the Philippine industry. I had this friend who was a businesswoman. She, one day, was telling me about how the consumption of the plastic and non-recyclable packaging can be totally eliminated by sustainable packaging, and how it is being adopted on a global scale. I thought, 'Why not apply it in the Philippines since we use so much plastic packaging?'

"Observing everyday lives, it is impossible to continue living and being productive in an ecosystem that is damaged. The ecosystem is the backdrop or the setting where our lives happen and if it continues to deteriorate, people's lives will be disrupted."

Q: What is the story behind your project, PH Sustainable? Tell us more about your team, your objectives, and the steps you've taken to achieve them.

"PH Sustainable is one with the cause of the Philippines which is to eventually eliminate single-use plastic in the country, and also guide companies to slowly transition to this solution at an economical price. We acknowledge that business owners are cost-driven and we support all businesses to thrive alongside shifting to this solution. What sets us apart is the fact that sustainable solutions are not as expensive as you think. Our team values how our clients adjust to this solution. We take extra precaution to, as much as possible, replace existing market solutions, with real sustainable solutions, at their same price point or even at times, cheaper.

"At the moment, we can compare our price points to paper straws but with all the added points of longer durability in contact with liquid. And edible straws won't pose toxic hazards unlike paper straws when dissolved in your drink since some paper straws also have a plastic component. We are also very keen in user experience to help our customers make a more fun interactive way for their customers to enjoy their beverages."

Q: Your company is working on the premise of edible straws as an alternative to paper and plastic. What is used to create these straws? Why start with straws for your project?

"These edible straws are mainly made out of rice flour and tapioca starch but you will find that our straws are more durable, visually appealing, smoother, and has close to no aftertaste. They are gluten-free and vegan as well... They have a shelf life of two years and can withstand liquid drinks, frappes, and milk tea with sinkers. We can also do some fun pastel colors and customized wraps for an added fun element.

"You may think straws are such a small aspect of take away but they are one of the most widely used. We also saw how the sea turtle had a straw inserted into its nose. The size of these straws harm wildlife... When these straws end up in the ocean, they break down into microplastics that are ingested by the marine life, poisoning the ecosystem. This also harms us as plastic microparticles end up being found in our food."


Q: You've been in talks with agencies and local government units for PH Sustainable. Can you share more about this?

"Yes, indeed I have. Specifically, with DENR, the meeting with Usec. (Benny) Antiporda, he mentioned how he loved the idea of replacing the current plastic straws because of how much plastic clogs the environment. During this meeting, Usec. mentioned about a plastic retrieval campaign wherein producers would need to retrieve an equivalent amount they regardless of brand just so that you are accountable for your production.




"However, this same plan would not be feasible for straws or stirrers that is why they released a memo to ban single use plastic straws and stirrers before the Congress has passed House Bill No. 9147. This campaign is not feasible because of how worthless a used plastic straw is compared to a used plastic bottle merely because of its weight. You would need to pick up about 100 pieces of straws just to hopefully match the weight of a plastic bottle. Our edible straws were endorsed by the Usec. himself as he posted the solution in his Facebook page and made endorsements to relevant offices such as DTI and DOST.

"Aside from DENR, we are also in contact with quite a few LGUs who are in the hopes of implementing the ban on single use plastics. The plan to partner with LGUs is to offer them an extra hand where they don't just go around banning plastic without an alternative because we must admit, we do not want our customers inconvenienced. Hopefully, with the Congress passing the house bill, more LGUs are soon to follow."




DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda
about a month ago






LOOK: Adrian Mendoza of PH Sustainable presented their proposed edible straw made out of rice to DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda. According to Mendoza, the straws can last up to two hours when left in drinks compared to paper straws that easily break down.

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), from which Antiporda is its alternate chair, has recommended that plastic softdrink straws and plastic coffee stirrers be banned as non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP).

#WasteNoMoreWasteNoTime



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda

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Q: Aside from straws, are there also plans to create edible utensils, plates, and other items?

"Plastic straws are just the start. In order to implement change, it has to be gradual so the market can slowly adjust to it. In the future, we are looking into the long-term plan of supplying the Philippines, and possibly the countries in Asia, with packaging and takeout containers that will totally eliminate plastic alongside replacing them with real sustainable solutions.

"One should also consider that paper is produced by cutting down trees. So then we start to ask, 'Is it really sustainable to cut down more trees?' Leading us to the next question of, 'Are paper straws really 'sustainable'?"



"Our target [is to make] edible utensils, plates, wrappers, and containers. There are so many plant-based and 'organic' material to explore out there that with the right research could replace the durability of plastic, break down in soil, and smoothly blend into the natural ecosystem. The goal here is to produce 'real' sustainable solutions for the long run."

Q: What are some other eco-friendly practices that you can suggest to our fellow Filipinos? How, in your opinion, can they save and protect the environment through their daily habits and choices?

"I truly believe there are two major groups here. First are the consumers. I just think that as people of today, let's start to ask the questions. 'How much plastic do I throw away every day? How does this impact my own life?' These questions will slowly lead one to see the big picture of how much damage each of us contributes to the world we live in. It starts with awareness, and then the change follows because you will find yourself reaching for the non-plastic solution should it be available.

"The next role comes with the business. From us, we allow business owners such as restaurants and shops to put sustainable options in the market for the people to choose to use. We do our part by really producing this solutions at price points that are acceptable by the market costs."



PAGPAPATUPAD NG BATAS KALIKASAN PINAHIHIGPITAN SA DENR

August 28, 2021 Rannie Lao



PINAYUHAN ni dating senadora at ngayo'y Lone District Antique Rep. Loren Legarda ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na higgitan ang implementasyon ng batas patungkol sa kalikasan.

Kabilang dito ang Free Water Act, ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 o ang Republic Act 9003 at ang maayos na sewerage system sa paligid ng Manila Bay.

Sa ginanap na weekly Report to the Nation forum ng National Press Club, ipinaliwanag ni Legarda na dapat patigilin ang pinanggagalingan ng mga dumi mula sa tao at mga hayop na sanhi ng pagsira sa tubig ng lawa.

Kailangan aniyang maglagay ng water treatment na sasala sa mga dumi sa Manila Bay upang maging malinis ang tubig at mapakinabangan ang mga nabubuhay na laman-dagat.

Sinabi pa nito na may pag-aaral na ang UP Marine Science Institute na nagtatakda ng pangangalaga sa lawa ng Maynila na sakop ng Region 3, Region 4A at National Capital Region (NCR).

Kasunod naman ng mga kontrobersiya sa ginagawang pagpapaganda ng Manila Bay, suportado pa rin ni Legarda ang proyekto. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



The old city and the sea

Published 1 day ago on August 28, 2021 12:40 AM

By [Francine M. Marquez](#)



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF HORIZON MANILA Horizon Manila seeks to rediscover and embrace the city's role as the heart and soul of the country.

Mention Manila and what comes to mind is the world-famous sunset by its surrounding bay.

But in the passage of time, the city had to reckon with overpopulation and the shortage of land for its residents. Thus, creating new properties in the form of reclamation has become a part of its strategy for growth and sustainability.

And though reclamation was part of the making of supercities like Hong Kong, Singapore, New York's Battery Park and Dubai's Palm Jumeirah to allow new infrastructures to be built, keeping coastlines and oceans clean is equally important for the city to become more resilient and for its residents to keep well and healthy.

Trash and pollution are to be eliminated as part of a city's survival as it moves forward beyond the pandemic.

A Philippine News Agency (PNA) report on 26 August said the administration will continue to beef up its efforts to clean up Manila Bay. Last year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) initiated beach nourishment efforts for the protection of coastal resources in Manila Bay and to prevent coastal flooding, erosion, and pollution.

PNA reported that an estimated cost of the entire Manila Bay rehabilitation project is P389 million, with P28 million allotted for the overlaying of the artificial white sand — known as dolomite — on a stretch of Manila Bay's shoreline.

Besides covering a portion of Manila Bay's beach front, DENR has also intensified its campaign to restore its water quality by conducting clean-ups of estuaries and setting up sewage treatment facilities.

President Duterte said the cleaning of estuaries is vital for the total restoration of Manila Bay, adding that it might take martial rule to fully realize the cleaning up of the city's famous coastline and surrounding sea bay.

Fluid, sustainable plans

In Manila, the exciting project called Horizon Manila: Manileño — by far the biggest reclamation effort in Manila — will put premium on the role of Manila Bay in the city's heritage as well as on its development. The mixed-use land project on 419-hectares of reclaimed line is a joint venture between the City of Manila and JBros Construction Corporation. The project's coverage is in a severely destroyed part of Manila Bay and with no aquatic life to speak of. Master planning this apparent City of Tomorrow is by WTA Architecture and Design Studio.



“The development seeks to rediscover and embrace the city’s role as the heart and soul of the country. With the vision to build 28 distinct communities, Horizon Manila aims to integrate the needs of our social and cultural heritages while adapting a sustainable lifestyle that emphasizes self-sufficiency, climatic adaptations and cultural resiliency,” said WTA on its website.

“This master plan is composed of three islands bisected by a four-kilometer long canal park that recalls the identity of the Tagalog (River) people who settled along the mouth of the Pasig River. Manila is composed of 16 distinct districts and 897 barangays (neighborhoods) which reflect the hyperlocal settlement patterns of its people. The history and culture of the city is defined by the character and variety of these settlements which together have created a vibrant mixture of people and places.”

Besides the reclamation, Horizon Manila will also address the city’s water scarcity in its development. Apart from filtration plants, Horizon Manila will be sourcing fresh water similar to Singapore’s rainwater harvest system and reverse osmosis for desalination of sea water. According to WTA, “Horizon Manila will have over 18 hectares of urban water that will act together with a pair of desalination plants and water collection and treatment facilities to provide over two million cubic meters of fresh water, enough to cover the water supply of its residents for 150 days.”

Lush green outdoor spaces and the development’s canal park and other water features will no doubt usher in a healthier and safer city in Horizon Manila. And hopefully, a cleaner Manila Bay that Filipinos will be glad to gaze at.



Environment groups oppose Duterte's 'Martial Law power' for Manila Bay's rehab

Published August 28, 2021, 2:35 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Environment groups have denounced the recent pronouncement of President Duterte to impose a “[Martial Law power](#)” to rid the country of illegal reclamation of esteros or canals that became one of the factors in the pollution of the Manila Bay.

For Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment, the President’s plan would affect the 25 million Filipinos living near the Manila Bay—from Bataan to Cavite—in a sense that all homes and open subdivisions must be destroyed to ensure unhampered dredging of connected waterways.

Meanwhile, Nilad Metro Manila Environmental Network stressed that instead of resorting to a “worrisome” suggestion to implement Martial Law-like orders, the country’s chief executive should “consult scientists and environmentalists” for the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.



Thousand tons of wastes have been collected from tributaries of Manila Bay in Central Luzon as the DENR continues its clean up efforts. (DENR)

“We question the motive of dangling the imposition of Martial Law as a model to rehabilitate Manila Bay,” the group said in a statement.

“Indeed, the task is daunting but we believe this can be achieved without resorting to authoritarian measures. Mobilize community stakeholders and the bureaucracy without deploying the army,” it added.

On Thursday night, Aug. 26, Duterte believed that the illegal reclamation of esteros or canals in the country has become so bad that a “Martial Law power” would be needed to solve it.

According to the him, a form of special authority would be needed to dredge and clear the esteros—including those that have been reclaimed by subdivisions—in a way that there is zero interruption from litigation.

“Alam mo hindi na ako maging Presidente (I may not be the President anymore), but you need another Martial Law power for a President someday to do this thing. Yung wala nang TRO [temporary restraining order], basta yung mali, kung ano yung original sa mapa, yun ang sundin (There would be no more TROs, whatever is wrong, whatever is on the original map, that’s what will be followed). Then this country could find a relief,” he said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/28/environment-groups-oppose-dutertes-martial-law-power-for-manila-bays-rehab/>



Rody wants Boracay casinos built

We don't have money now and I will get money wherever I can get money. If it will be from gambling, so be it.

Published 1 day ago on August 28, 2021 01:30 AM

By **Jom Garner**



(File photo/AFP)

Making a U-turn from his earlier stand against casinos, President Rodrigo Duterte is now considering allowing gaming sites even in the world-famous Boracay Island for additional government revenue.

He is even ready to defend his change of heart.

“Now if you say, ‘Duterte, I thought you hated gambling. Now you want a gambling house in Boracay? You’re encouraging the tourists.’ Forgive me for the contradiction,” Duterte said during his second taped briefing aired on a government television channel.

“We don’t have money now and I will get money wherever I can get money. If it will be from gambling, so be it,” he added.

In 2018, Duterte made a clear stand against gambling in the Philippines after Nayong Pilipino Foundation Inc. (NPMF) granted a gaming franchise to the Macau-based Galaxy Entertainment Group and its local partner, AB Leisure Exponent Inc., to set up a base in the country.

That botched grant of a provisional license by NPMF to Hong Kong-listed Landing International Development Ltd. was worth \$1.5 billion.

In the same speech, Duterte claimed that one of the housing developments in Boracay is operated by the family of former Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio.

“You know the island of Boracay is a forestal land. (It) should not have residential houses there, but one of them is (owned by) the family of Justice Carpio,” he said.

“So, when I found out that there were many subdivisions built behind the beach, I called [Agrarian Reform Secretary] Castricones: ‘Go there and check,’” he added.

Duterte said he ordered the Agrarian Reform Secretary to declare the land as agricultural so he can distribute the land titles to its tillers.

Carpio, one of the president’s staunchest critics, has yet to comment on the president’s latest claim against him.

The retired justice, who has been in a series of word wars with the president particularly on the West Philippine Sea issue, formed a political coalition called 1Sambayan, which aims to form a single opposition ticket for the 2022 national elections.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/08/28/rody-wants-boracay-casinos-built/>

Palace: Duterte OKs operation of a casino in Boracay, wants health protocols followed

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 28 2021 06:18 PM | Updated as of Aug 28 2021 07:57 PM



President Rodrigo Duterte delivers a national address at the Malacañang Golf (Malago) Clubhouse in Malacañang Park, Manila on Aug. 26, 2021. *King Rodriguez, Presidential Photo/File*

MANILA—President Rodrigo Duterte has approved the operation of a casino in tourism hub Boracay, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in a statement Saturday.

Casinos did not operate on the island prior to the order, the statement added.

"This latest presidential pronouncement is part of the revenue-generating efforts of the government to augment funds for COVID-19 response," Roque said.

Roque said casino-goers must comply with health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic, and casinos in Boracay should also have safeguards that will keep minors out.

On Thursday, Duterte said he would allow a casino to built in Boracay to generate funds to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Patawarin na po ninyo ako for the contradiction," he said in a late night address. "Ngayon po wala tayong pera. Kung saan man tayo makakuha ng pera, kukunin ko. Kung diyan sa gambling, so be it."

(Forgive me for the contradiction. We don't have money now. Where we can get money, I will get it. If it will be from gambling, so be it.)

"Ngayon kung nagkamali ako, tama 'yan nagkamali ako. Kung wala akong isang salita diyan, tama 'yan, wala akong isang salita diyan. Pero kailangan ko ng pera para patakbuhan ang gobyerno kasi marami akong gagastusan."

(If I'm wrong, then I'm wrong. If I didn't keep my word, that's right I didn't. But I need money to run the government because I'm going to have a lot of expenses.)

— With reports from Jamaine Punzalan, ABS-CBN News and Reuters

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/28/21/palace-duterte-oks-operation-of-a-casino-in-boracay?fbclid=IwAR0TQIWveKq8jS1sVsdesYiAagcTo1H5k4gv4cdT97uZRA6-L5w1VZgnj-0>



Crested Serpent Eagle freed in Zambo Norte town



CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte, releases Crested Serpent Eagle back to its natural habitat Monday, August 23, in Libuton village, Manukan town. A photo handout shows the eagle stands on a tree trunk after the release. (SunStar Zamboanga)

August 27, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte, released earlier this week a recovered Crested Serpent Eagle.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said Friday, August 27, that the eagle was released back to its natural habitat on Monday, August 23, in Libuton village, Manukan town. Tan said the bird was turned over to Cenro-Manukan by Virgilio Usad, village chairperson of Don Jose Aguirre.

Tan said the eagle was recovered near the residence Jaymar Granada.

Upon assessment, the eagle weighed an estimated 150 grams and with a wingspan of 80 centimeters, according to Tan.

He said it was healthy and in good condition, qualifying it to be released back to its natural habitat.

The International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classifies the Crested Serpent Eagle as least concern.

The DENR reminded everyone not to handle any wildlife without proper training and gear, as it might be a carrier of bird flu and could be harmful to humans.

The DENR highly encouraged residents to report any find of wildlife in their community to the nearest Cenro. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**



Mining firms boost efforts to keep jobs amid pandemic

[Catherine Talavera](#) - The Philippine Star August 29, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Large-scale mining companies have been pulling all stops to keep their workers employed amid the pandemic as they implement resilient strategies aimed at prioritizing health and safety.

“While millions of jobs were lost last year across most sectors following the lockdowns put in place to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, employment in the Philippine mining industry remains largely unaffected,” the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said.

“This is due mainly to the resilience of the minerals development sector and the efforts of mining firms to keep their workers employed,” it said.

Data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) show that despite the pandemic, the country’s mining and quarrying sectors posted a slight increase in employment numbers to 184,000 from 182,000 employed in 2019.

In April this year, however, employment in mining and quarrying dropped by 7,000, which can be attributed to the temporary closure of some operations due to local government directives.

“Nevertheless, this figure is expected to improve particularly in the large-scale metallic sector with the resumption of OceanaGold Phils. Inc.’s Didipio Project operations following the renewal of its mining agreement with the government,” COMP said.

COMP said its members, which are composed primarily of the country’s largest metallic mines, have responded early to the pandemic, which enabled them to effectively mitigate the risks of infection within and around their mines.

Among these mining firms is Philex Mining Corp., which retained the employment of its nearly 1,900 employees at its Padcal mine operations in Tuba Benguet.

“I am grateful to this company for continuing to provide benefits for us employees. Despite this situation we are all facing, the company even gave us bonuses and salary increases,” said Mine Operations Group manager Benedict Gapongli.

The company also sustained the jobs in its corporate offices in Mandaluyong, where around 80 employees are posted.

Meanwhile, Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) was able to keep the jobs of around 200 staff and contractors amid the pandemic, as it immediately activated its crisis management and business continuity plans.

Part of this retained workforce is its nine employees under its mine environmental protection and enhancement team (MEPE).

With their jobs secured, the team aims to produce up to 120,000 seedlings this year that SMI will then grow, propagate, plant, or distribute to community members in Tampakan, South Cotabato.

For its part, Benguet Corp. managed to secure the jobs of 1,433 employees in the company’s head office and various projects.

Aside from securing employment, mining firms also intensified its efforts to prioritize the health and safety of its workforce.



An example of this is Carmen Copper Corp.'s Trace, Test and Treat strategy, where the company's emergency responders and medical teams meticulously traced contacts people exposed to persons positive with COVID-19 and provided regular testing.

Similarly, Berong Nickel Corp. also strictly enforced health and safety protocols in its site, while Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. provided workers with the necessary personal protective equipment, vitamin C especially for the frontliners, as well as conducted massive testing for all the mine site employees.



Combating ocean plastic pollution

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA AUGUST 29, 2021



Plastic waste

Ocean plastic pollution has reached an alarming level that environmental groups have started a global brand audit, targeting manufacturers whose products' packaging materials end up in rivers and oceans.

The clamor is to hold the manufacturers accountable for their plastic packaging materials, particularly single-use plastics, which scientists say end up not only polluting the oceans.

As plastics are non-biodegradable, the longer they stay in the oceans, they become deadlier when they breakdown into smaller pieces and become microplastics and become part of the food chain, contaminating food and eventually threatening human health and survival.

Mismanaged plastic

The "World Bank Group 2021 Market Study for the Philippines: Plastics Circularity Opportunities and Barriers. East Asia and Pacific Region Marine Plastics Series" revealed that mismanaged plastic waste has growing economic and environmental consequences.

The study says that \$80 billion to \$120 billion worth of plastic packaging is lost from the global economy each year due to lack of recycling and suboptimal value creation where recycling exists.

The study revealed that globally, between 4.8 million to 12.7 million tons of plastic leak into the oceans each year with Asia contributing over 80 percent.

"The Philippines is the third-largest contributor with an estimated 0.75 million metric tons of mismanaged plastic entering the ocean every year," the study said.

The World Bank Group also revealed that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, is finalizing the National Plan of Action for Marine Litter.

Ban 'problematic' plastic

Last month, environmental groups have filed a petition in Congress seeking to immediately regulate, if not ban, the "problematic single-use plastic packaging and products" in the Philippines.

The groups are the Break Free From Plastic, EcoWaste Coalition, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Greenpeace Philippines, Health Care Without Harm Asia, Mother Earth Foundation, Oceana Philippines International, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice.

Project Mariknows, War on Waste Negros Oriental, Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines, Sea and Terrestrial Environment Protectors, Freedom from Debt Coalition Cebu, Sanlakas Cebu, Kabataan Party-list, Panalipdan Youth Davao, Philippine Earth Justice Center, and 350.org Pilipinas



More than 57,000 individuals signed the petition which the proponents said “reflect on the citizens’ clamor for the passage of a comprehensive law banning single-use plastics.”

The groups are calling for an immediate timeline for the phasing out of single-use plastic products consistent with Republic Act (RA) 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001, and RA 8749, or Clean Air Act.

They said it should focus on sustainable systems and reusability of products, and mandate producers to cut-back on the use of single-use plastic.

Different perspective

One organization, however, is looking at the ocean plastic pollution problem from a different perspective.

The Save Philippine Seas (SPS), a movement that help protect the country’s coastal and marine resources, is embarking on a nationwide campaign to help change the negative perception on plastic, and focus on the issue of poor solid waste management.

Together with snacks company Mondelez Philippines, SPS aims to shed light on the issues around solid waste management and advocating for accountability from all relevant stakeholders.

“In the case of marine plastic pollution, we see the reasons behind it are improper waste management and unsustainable consumption patterns,” said SPS Executive Director Ana Oposa said in a statement announcing the partnership with Mondelez Philippines.

“Simply put, plastics are not being disposed of and collected properly, leading them to end up in nature. When they are collected, they are not recycled enough, which leads them to stay in landfills and end up in bodies of water too. Lastly, we need to treat plastic as a resource... Plastic can and should be re-used to reduce the production of virgin plastic, reduce the waste in our landfills, and eliminate the plastics in our environment,” Oposa said.

SPS developed a white paper on the issue surrounding the plastic problem and the poor solid waste management in the country. It urged to promote plastic circularity and educate various stakeholders, including consumers and policymakers, on the complex issue at hand.

A complex issue

Interviewed by the BusinessMirror via Zoom on August 19, Oposa, also known as SPS’s “Chief Mermaid,” said that plastic is a complex issue. There are a lot of problems.

“A lot of packaging we use right now are not recyclable and not being collected,” she said, even if there’s a law, RA 9003, that was passed 21 years ago.

“We need to work to ensure that the law is implemented,” according to Oposa, adding that even among nongovernment organizations the education and knowledge on solid waste management remain wanting.

“Even me, when I buy a product, where will I throw this [packaging], especially if they are [made of] mixed materials?” she asked.

She said that a lot of the products and materials that enter the Philippines come from Western countries like the United States.

“So we really want to create more materials that we can relate to and specific to the Philippine audience,” she said.

Plastic ban a bane?

SPS’s white paper on Promoting Plastic Circularity in the Philippines casts doubt on the wisdom of banning plastic which several local government units have adapted.

According to SPS, banning a material without sustainable alternatives can bring a different set of problems.



She cited that the use of paper is more resource-intensive than disposable bags, and would require more land use from growing trees, water and more carbon dioxide emissions.

SPS cited a study by Denmark's Ministry of Environment and Food that found that a paper bag must be reused 43 times and an organic cotton bag 20,000 times to be equal or less than the per-use environment impact of a disposable plastic bag.

Fundamental shift

The white paper requires a fundamental shift in production and consumption—from a linear economy to a circular economy that will require behavioral change.

SPS said it is committed to embark on an inclusive education campaign that promotes behavioral change, in, among others, waste segregation and recyclability of different material types.

The document talked about implementing the garbage law, which is anchored on segregation at source, and no-segregation, no-collection policy, which will hopefully enable better compliance of the provisions of the law.

Moreover, the paper underscored the need to strengthen the recycling industry in the Philippines.

Recycle-ready packaging

According to Joseph R. Fabul, Mondelez Philippines country manager, said the company aims to make recycle-ready all of the company's packaging materials by 2025.

"Right now, we are 94 percent recycle-ready," he said.

According to Fabul, plastic per se is not bad. "It only becomes bad if it is not recyclable and if it is not being collected, recycled, or processed. That is what we are trying to avoid. We are avoiding this bad plastic going to the sea," he said.

He said the company is investing in infrastructure, he said, because there are consumer plastic waste that are already collected, but still end up in water bodies.

Information dissemination

Mondelez, a member of the Philippine Alliance for Recycling Materials Sustainability, boasts of a plan for the campaign's success.

"We have a target of zero waste to nature by 2030. So by 2030, no waste will end up in our oceans and nature. Throughout this timeline, we plan to execute several key interventions, and one is through education," Fabul said.

He said that with the help of SPS, infographics will be circulated internally, and then through social media.

"So the kids can easily learn from it. It is attractive for the kids—the good habit of recycling and knowledge that this plastic waste can end up in our oceans... Social media is such a powerful tool and the slides are designed for social media, such as Instagram," he said.

According to Fabul, the company has earlier planned to print the materials for distribution, but this move was made difficult by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, he said the policy paper is for a wide range of audience, including members of Congress and other government agencies.

"This is also to disseminate information about the real problem," he said.

Image courtesy of BFFP/Ecowaste Coalition

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/08/29/combating-ocean-plastic-pollution/>



River cleanup initiative

[HIDDEN AGENDA](#) - [Mary Ann LL. Reyes](#) - The Philippine Star August 29, 2021 | 12:00am
Always the innovator, San Miguel Corp. (SMC) president Ramon Ang this time wants to solve another perennial problem, especially that of Metro Manila and Bulacan, which is flooding.

SMC recently launched its P2-billion Pasig River cleanup and rehabilitation project, which is the largest and most extensive rehabilitation effort for this historic, but biologically dead body of water.

The project is part of the much larger goal of SMC to clean up all the major river systems in Metro Manila and Bulacan to allow water to flow freely into the Manila Bay.

The Pasig River cleanup project is being undertaken at no cost to the government, with SMC supplying all the equipment and manpower needed. However, this effort cannot be accomplished by the private sector alone. And so the government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, will formulate the dredging plan while a number of local government units will ensure smooth implementation of the project and enact ordinances to help maintain the river's cleanliness.

Over the next five years, SMC will spend P2 billion to extract silt and solid waste from the riverbed that has restricted the flow of water, prevented bigger vessels from navigating it, and has rendered the 25-kilometer river shallow and prone to overflowing. The company plans to take out 600,000 metric tons of waste per year from Pasig River, which has been declared biologically dead since the 1990s.

Pasig River will, in the future, be able to carry and channel a higher volume of floodwater coming from the Marikina and San Juan Rivers out to the Manila Bay.

Last year, SMC went full blast with the P1 billion clean-up of the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River system. For the past year, SMC has been dredging and taking garbage out of the river's Malabon and Navotas section where the river drains out into Manila Bay. About 11.5 kilometers has so far been covered, with a total of 272,000 metric tons of waste removed.

SMC is not stopping there. The company is working with the DENR to get its project to clean up tributaries belonging to the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System started, a project that will greatly reduce flooding throughout Bulacan. Again, at no expense to government.

Growing Phl market

While it has been an extremely difficult situation for many businesses here and abroad, there are a number which continue to survive and even manage to grow amidst the pandemic.

One such company is Daikin Philippines which, despite the COVID-19 outbreak, continues to experience steady growth in sales every year.

In an exclusive interview, Daikin president Takayoshi Miki revealed that this feat was accomplished by accelerating the implementation of strategies covering key areas in order to adapt to the changing conditions. The company continues to target further growth by turning challenges into opportunities,

He pointed out that Daikin Philippines is committed to achieving growth in its business and has proven its stability through the worst of times. Their business, he said, has been steadily growing year on year due to both traditional and digital initiatives. "Our first half performance for this fiscal year resulted to positive growth compared to last year as action plans are continuously implemented every month in order to properly act in this very fluid business environment. Operational and sales results are also regularly monitored to ensure that we are on pace with set targets," he said.



Daikin, he said, has made big strides in terms of gaining market share. It is currently leading the wall-mounted and light commercial air-conditioning segment in the Philippines, and is positioned as the market leader in every country, he said.

According to Takayoshi, Daikin is leading the Philippine airconditioning industry in adopting next generation technology to meet international standards, explaining that this is achieved through accelerated growth by empowering people through their innovative technology, product line-ups, and by creating a consumer-oriented marketing.

Takayoshi explained that most of their aircon inverter models have air purifying features, such as the enzyme blue filter that eliminates harmful particles such as bacteria and viruses in the circulating air.

But aside from air purification by filtration, he said that Daikin has developed a one-of-a-kind advanced air purification technology called “streamer technology,” and based on testing results conducted in Japan, this breakthrough technology has an inactivating effect against coronaviruses.

He said that they have their air purifier line up that comes with this streamer technology in four models, but in the near future, Daikin plans to equip their high-end room air conditioners with this technology.

Even with the cutting-edge technologies, Takayoshi emphasized that their products are reasonably priced and very competitive with models catering to different consumers, from those that require only the basic features and are price conscious, to the most discerning customer who requires the most advanced technologies in a unit.

He likewise stressed that Daikin’s thrust is to promote energy efficient products through the widespread use of inverter technology, which gives up to 60 percent real energy savings in less than two years usage compared with window-type ones. Daikin has its latest entry the skyair inverter lineup such as ceiling cassette that is suitable for the light commercial market or SMEs that offer an ROI within 14 months, he said.

The company, he said, is also at the forefront in terms of environmental conservation by promoting the use of inverters and airconditioners that have R32 refrigerants, which has zero depletion effect on the ozone layer. In addition, Daikin’s operations achieved a 76 percent reduction in green gas emissions, exceeding its target of 70 percent for the fiscal year ending 2021.

For comments, e-mail at mareyes@philstarmedia.com



SMC to start 80-hectare mangrove plantation in Paombong, Bulacan

 BY BUSINESSMIRROR AUGUST 29, 2021



Volunteers from San Miguel Corporation (SMC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) plant 6,000 mangrove propagules recently at the 24.5-hectare Bulacan Mangrove Ecopark jointly maintained by the company and the local government of Bulacan. SMC is also growing mangroves in the towns of Hagonoy and Obando and is working with the local government of Paombong, DENR, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to establish the 80-hectare San Miguel-Paombong Mangrove Plantation & Sanctuary in Paombong, Bulacan.

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is looking to start a mangrove plantation on an 80-hectare site in Paombong, Bulacan as part of its nationwide reforestation initiatives that includes expanding the Bulacan Mangrove Ecopark at Barangay Taliptip where SMC is set to build the New Manila International Airport project.

The initiative also includes the planting of 7 million trees in at least seven provinces nationwide.

The company is in the initial stages of developing the first 20 hectares of what will be the San Miguel-Paombong Mangrove Plantation & Sanctuary near the coastline of Barangay Masukol.

It will be undertaken together with the local government unit (LGU) of Paombong, headed by Mayor Maryanne Marcos, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

“Our team is in the process of putting together the development plan for the mangrove plantation, and after submitting this to the Paombong LGU, we hope to immediately proceed with the signing of the memorandum of agreement [MOA]. We thank the local government of Paombong for agreeing to host this mangrove plantation site and sanctuary that will be the biggest in Bulacan. It will also be a key component of improved sustainability and flood mitigation efforts for the province,” SMC President Ramon S. Ang said.

“We initially identified 20 hectares for this project and we are carefully studying the site in consultation with a mangrove expert to ensure that we will address potential challenges and ensure the mangroves’ long-term growth, so they can benefit both current and future generations,” he added.

With an estimated 2,500 mangrove propagules to be planted per hectare, the San Miguel-Paombong Plantation & Sanctuary can host as many as 200,000 mangrove trees. This is more than the 190,000 mangroves that the company initially targeted last year at the start of its mangrove planting activities in Bulacan.



Next month, Ang said, SMC employee volunteers are also set to plant 10,000 mangroves at the Bulakan Mangrove Ecopark. The Bulakan Mangrove Ecopark, a 24.5-hectare mangrove area located at Sitio Wawang Capiz in Barangay Taliptip, is jointly maintained by the local government of Bulakan and SMC.

The planting activity will bring to 16,000 the new mangroves being grown by SMC at the Bulakan Ecopark site. This is in addition to 13,000 already in place in the coastal areas of Hagonoy and Obando.

“Planting is just the first step. Making sure that these mangroves grow to adulthood is the bigger challenge and will involve the community, especially those that will benefit from it. In combination with our upcoming river dredging and cleanup projects in Bulacan and further emphasis on proper waste disposal, we can both safeguard the marine environment and address flooding in the province,” Ang said.

“We are confident that we can get this done with the help of local and national government partners. We will also be drawing from the experience of our various SMC businesses that have implemented similar major sustainability initiatives nationwide,” he said.

Ang cited as example the project of its power unit, SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. (SMCGP), to plant 7 million upland trees and mangroves over 4,000 hectares of land in at least seven provinces.

Since the project started in 2019, SMCGP’s volunteers, along with some 24 local farmer and fisherfolk organizations, have already planted, and are caring for a total of 3,027,302 seedlings and propagules as of August 15 this year.

This project covers Zambales, Davao Occidental, Bataan, Negros Occidental, Pangasinan, Albay, Quezon, and Bulacan.

Ang said that the fisherfolk and farmers’ organizations helped in identifying indigenous tree varieties for planting and are nurturing the young trees to ensure high survival rates at 89 and 91 percent for upland trees and mangrove propagules, respectively.

Upland plantation varieties are Narra, Molave, White Lauan, Palosapis, Agoho, Batino, Igang, and Malabayabas, while mangrove varieties include Bakawan Babae, Bakawan Lalaki, Bungalon, and Api-Api.

Meanwhile, San Miguel Brewery Inc. has planted an estimated 1 million trees under the Trees Brew Life program for the last 10 years in areas that include Bacolod City, Tagoloan City in Misamis Oriental, Sta. Rosa in Laguna, and Mandaue City.

Company volunteers from Ginebra San Miguel Inc., together with community stakeholders, are taking care of 40,000 full grown trees across 12 hectares of land in Bago City, Negros Occidental, where its Distileria Bago Inc. is also undertaking a 2-hectare expansion of the forest.

Petron Corporation also eyes to plant at least 50,000 seedlings as part of its proposed 10-year biodiversity conservation efforts for the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape.

In support of the government’s National Greening Program, Petron has planted over 1 million trees and mangroves nationwide since 2000, The company has also adopted a total of 30 hectares of mangrove reforestation areas in Tacloban City, Leyte and Roxas City, Capiz under its Puno ng Buhay program.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/08/29/smc-to-start-80-hectare-mangrove-plantation-in-paombong-bulacan/>



SMC interested in developing 80-hectare Bulacan mangrove

[Catherine Talavera](#) - The Philippine Star August 29, 2021 | 12:00am



In a statement, SMC said the San Miguel-Paombong Mangrove Plantation and Sanctuary project includes the expansion of the Bulakan Mangrove Ecopark in Brgy. Taliptip where the New Manila International Airport project is set to rise and the planting of seven million trees in at least seven provinces nationwide.

MANILA, Philippines — Diversified conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is eyeing to develop an 80-hectare mangrove plantation in Paombong, Bulacan in line with its reforestation initiatives.

In a statement, SMC said the San Miguel-Paombong Mangrove Plantation and Sanctuary project includes the expansion of the Bulakan Mangrove Ecopark in Brgy. Taliptip – where the New Manila International Airport project is set to rise – and the planting of seven million trees in at least seven provinces nationwide.

The company is in the initial stages of developing the first 20 hectares of the mangrove project, which is located near the coastline of Barangay Masukol.

“We initially identified 20 hectares for this project and we are carefully studying the site in consultation with a mangrove expert to ensure that we will address potential challenges and ensure the mangroves’ long-term growth, so they can benefit both current and future generations,” said SMC president RAmon S. Ang.

SMC said an estimated 2,500 mangrove propagules would be planted per hectare, which can host as many as 200,000 mangrove trees.

“This is more than the 190,000 mangroves that the company initially targeted last year at the start of its mangrove planting activities in Bulacan,” SMC said

Meanwhile, Ang said SMC employee volunteers are set to plant 10,000 mangroves at the Bulakan Mangrove Ecopark next month.

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The planting activity will bring to 16,000 the new mangroves being grown by SMC at the Bulakan Ecopark site. This is in addition to 13,000 already in place in the coastal areas of Hagonoy and Obando.



“Planting is just the first step. Making sure that these mangroves grow to adulthood is the bigger challenge and will involve the community, especially those that will benefit from it. In combination with our upcoming river dredging and cleanup projects in Bulacan and further emphasis on proper waste disposal, we can both safeguard the marine environment and address flooding in the province,”Ang said.

SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. (SMCGP), the company’s power unit, earlier launched a project targeting to plant seven million upland trees and mangroves over 4,000 hectares of land in at least seven provinces.

Since the project started in 2019, SMCGP’s volunteers, along with some 24 local farmer and fisherfolk organizations, have already planted, and are caring for a total of 3,027,302 seedlings and propagules as of Aug. 15 this year. This project covers Zambales, Davao Occidental, Bataan, Negros Occidental, Pangasinan, Albay, Quezon, and Bulacan.

San Miguel Brewery, Inc. has also planted an estimated one million trees under the Trees Brew Life program for the last 10 years, in areas that include Bacolod City, Tagoloan City in Misamis Oriental, Sta. Rosa in Laguna, and Mandaue City.

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Petron Corp. also aims to plant at least 50,000 seedlings as part of its proposed 10-year biodiversity conservation efforts for the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape.

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The company has also adopted a total of 30 hectares of mangrove reforestation areas in Tacloban City, Leyte and Roxas City, Capiz under its Puno ng Buhay program.



CCC holds 10th NPTE forum

Published on: August 29, 2021

By CCC

Fosters role of science on the work in climate action

MANILA -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) successfully convened the 10th National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) Forum last Tuesday, 24 August 2021 through Zoom and aired on Facebook Live.

With the theme, “Climate Action Onwards - Next Steps for Philippines' Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation,” this year’s NPTE Forum discussed the needed work ahead and capacity and knowledge to proceed with the work in climate action.

Department of Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III, Chairperson-designate of the CCC and Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda welcomed the participants and viewers and set the tone on the urgent need to take part in climate action.

“The nation relies on workable ideas on how we can reduce the climate risks locally and globally. I urge everyone to reimagine our world, and be creative, ambitious, and innovative in their plans of action. This is a battle we cannot afford to lose,” said Sec. Dominguez.

“The work ahead is undeniably difficult, but I take comfort in knowing that the environmental movement is fast-growing here and around the world. We have more tools, we have unlimited platforms we could rely on, wider and deeper than we did decades ago when we started doing this work. We could harness all these to address a problem that is being felt more and more acutely by more and more of our people, who are more and more willing to act with urgency and resolve,” said Deputy Speaker Legarda.

The NPTE, led by current Chair Dr. Carlos Primo C. David, and members Ms. Lourdes V. Tibig, Dr. Fernando P. Siringan, Dr. Rosa T. Perez, Dr. Felino P. Lansigan, and Dr. Leoncio A. Amadore, delivered the main presentations.

“On sea-level rise, increasing sea surface temperatures, and ocean acidification, I am vetting for the need for local baselines – it should be a must for all coastal municipalities. And if we have local baselines, we need policy frameworks to better address these issues,” recommended by Ms. Tibig as she discussed slow onset climate events and the required response.



“The Philippines ought to treat sea level rise as a clear and present danger. Sadly, we have yet to formulate policies that will direct the development in the coastal zone that takes sea level rise into account,” said Dr. Siringan as he tackled the impacts of sea-level rise in the country.

“We continue our work in El Nino drought prediction and hopefully this will become a useful tool for our country. This now has to be translated into policy and, therefore, action in the future. This has been done for us to be better prepared in a future that is made less certain because of climate change,” said Dr. David during his presentation on El Niño-linked droughts.

To safeguard projects against maladaptation, Dr. Perez stressed that “[C]limate and disaster risks and socio-economic factors of vulnerabilities have to be considered when developing projects. Evaluation of risk should not only be about climate, but also the other risks present in that area, which include geophysical risks.”

Enumerating the challenges and opportunities in risk transfer mechanism as a climate adaptation strategy, Dr. Lansingan highlighted the importance of research and development (R&D). “We need to support some R&D initiatives. This involves the promotion of a more objective, attractive, and affordable agri-insurance products, particularly in the most vulnerable areas. There is a need to establish institutional support, policy environment, and research and development on Research-Technology Management (RTM). We need the financial support to conduct R&D. This undertaking also involves the collaboration among various stakeholders including PCIC, NGAs, LGUs, NGOs/POs, RDIs, etc., on the Weather Index-Based Crop Insurance (WIBI) formulation and implementation and for roll out in those critical areas,” he said.

On the formulation of the mitigation component of the country’s Nationally Determined Contributions, Dr. Amadore recommended that the country “come up with 2020 GHG inventory, which should be consistent with our past inventories (2000 and 2010) and it really needs careful study. A multi-sectoral working group should be able to do that, and there are various applications of GHG inventory other than the Nationally Determined Contribution,” said Dr. Amadore.

Piloted in 2017, the NPTE Forum series encourage knowledge exchange and cultivate discussion between experts, relevant stakeholders and the public on climate change-related issues, policies, and practices from the international and national levels cascaded down to the local level.

The forum has tackled climate change adaptation and mitigation issues, featuring various adaptation strategies enhancing resilience, relevant sectors, and communities that are vulnerable to climate change, key areas for climate change mitigation, with all of these having a common theme that intends to inform the people of climate change and the needed climate action.

For more information on the previous NPTE Fora, visit the official website of the Climate Change Commission at <https://climate.gov.ph/our-story/our-experts/national-panel-of-technical-experts-forum>. (CCC)



Join the sustainable mobility revolution!

Published on: August 29, 2021 By CCC

MANILA -- The 59th episode of “Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Change Pathways” featured the continuing efforts of local government units and national government agencies to promote and advance sustainable urban mobility revolution in the country, especially in Metro Manila.

The online conversation conceptualized and hosted by three-term Senator, now Deputy Speaker and Antique Representative Loren Legarda featured guests including Mayor Joy Belmonte of Quezon City; Robert Anthony Siy III, Transport Head from Pasig City; Brian Geli, Information Officer from San Juan City; Atty. Odilon Luis Pasaraba, Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); Eldon Joshua Dionisio, Senior Transportation Development Officer from the Department of Transportation (DOTr); Michael Salalima, Head Executive Assistant from the Office of the Chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA); and Aldrin Pelicano, Founder of MNL Moves. Red Constantino, Executive Director of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) joined the program as co-host.

“Sinimulan natin ang mobility discussions early last year and it's taking only a few months, a year to produce a revolution that's underway, kasi ang mode natin ay tulong-tulong. Huwag kalimutan ang bayanihan, huwag kalimutang mangarap. Pero ang pangarap ay hindi mangyayari kung hindi natin ito inasikaso, at ‘pag hindi tayo nakialam,” said Constantino.

The local government units of Quezon City, Pasig City, and San Juan City presented their strategies in providing the great majority of the population has access to active mobility and non-motorized mainstream modes of transportation that are not only safe and functional, but also efficient and environmentally-sustainable.

“We have core values for active transport and sustainable mobility program: It must be comprehensive, climate-smart, equitable, convenient, and accessible. Within this program, we have the bicycle lane network or our QC bike lanes; we have improved pathways or GORA lane in order to promote walkability and pedestrianization; we have electric transport; and we have an integrated and planned city bus system which is free for everyone who would like to ride our bus – not just Quezon City residents, but also everyone who does business or is in Quezon City during the time when they need to ride our transport system,” said Mayor Belmonte.

“The Pasig Transport Office develops and operates transportation solutions that aim to improve the mobility and promote sustainable forms of transportation throughout the city. It delivers the sustainable transportation agenda of the City of Pasig for walking, cycling, and mass public transport,” said Siy.

“Last year, we started with zero bike lanes. But on June 3, 2020, World Bike Day, we committed to provide safe and very practical bike lanes not just to San Juaneños, but to everyone who crosses our city. From 0 to 5 during our mobility awards, to now 8.8 kilometers of bike lanes.



San Juan City is very small, we're just about 5.94 square kilometers wide, so medyo maikli at maliit lang ang aming bike lanes. However, we are committed to provide a healthier and more sustainable mobility for everyone in Metro Manila, especially San Juanesños," said Geli.

Pelicano shared the results of the volunteer pedestrian and bicycle count, also known as Metro Manila Counts.

"Now, more than ever, the MMDA, with the help of LGUs, need to make counting a permanent part of their programming. When they count, when they get the number of people cycling, they can easily just create further investment. Ito ang objective ng Metro Manila Counts, to spark conversation to push for policy and infrastructure improvements," said Pelicano.

Representatives from the national government agencies shared their insights and expressed support on the presented strategies in establishing bicycle masterplans.

"We are happy to report that a total of 457 Local Government Units (LGUs) out of the base line 1059 LGUs or 43% have already designated specific units, offices, or personnel dedicated for the implementation of active transport initiatives in their respective areas of jurisdiction. This is a huge leap in the right direction because it provides the LGUs the necessary institutional capacity to support and promote active transport in the years to come," said Atty. Pasaraba.

"DOTr will be more than willing to support these movements and initiatives. We would like to recognize that the movement to promote active transportation embedded in our whole transportation system is a whole government and society approach. Very helpful ang initiatives ng LGUs, particularly the establishment of bike lane networks. It really complements the intercity bike lane network built by the DPWH, together with DOTr, through the Bayanihan 2 Law. It provides last-mile connectivity and accessibility sa ating bike commuters to and from their homes," said Dionisio.

"Sa amin po sa MMDA, and together with the other government agencies - DOTr, DPWH, and DILG, it is a whole government approach and what we are doing right now is we fully support the different initiatives of local government units in terms of having their own bike lane network in the inner roads of their locality," said Salalima.

Last year, Legarda urged the members of the Metro Manila Council and national government agencies concerned to declare cycling as an essential mode of transportation and to provide dedicated and protected bike lanes to link the cities in Metro Manila.

To further promote sustainable urban mobility in Metro Manila, Legarda urges the guest LGUs and NGAs to plant native trees in the provided green spaces in the cities.

"Part of our advocacy should not just be protected [and] permanent bike lanes, , but [also] the green spaces suitable to the cities, to Metro Manila, and to the Philippines. Huwag magtanim ng mga imported species, ng mga exotic na mahirap i-maintain, dapat ay 'yung mga punong mabubuhay sa matinding dumi ng hangin at tindi ng ulan," said Legarda.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, "Stories for a Better Normal" aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities by demonstrating ways in which a 'better normal' can be realized within our communities.

Agency, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, The Climate Reality Project-Philippines and Mother Earth Foundation. (ccc)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2021/08/29/ccc-holds-10th-npte-forum>



Invasive alien fishes cause the extinction of native fishes

BY GREGG YAN / BEST ALTERNATIVES AUGUST 29, 2021



Cream dory or pangasius, which are native to Indochina, are among the most sought-after fish in the Marikina River. Adults can easily breach 20 pounds in weight.

After the recent monsoon rains, dozens of people were trying their luck at fishing in Marikina River. When heavy rains wash over the mountains of the Sierra Madre, the water push the fishes from the floating farms of Laguna Lake that make many escape and swim down the Marikina and Pasig Rivers.

This is the best time to fish, so people flock to the rivers. One used a sudsud, a V-framed scissor net usually used in coastal areas to catch bottom dwellers. Others used fishing rods to pull out knifefish and cream dory, some as heavy as 20 pounds!

Twenty years ago, the Marikina River still had bottom-dwelling gobies called biya, spear-shaped halfbeaks called kasuswit, climbing perch called martiniko, which can briefly crawl on land to reach the next muddy pool, colorful gouramis and a host of other fish.

Invasive fishes

Today, invasive fishes have taken over the river. Hailing mostly from Africa, South America and Indochina, they have successfully adapted to Philippine waterways—which is bad news for our native fish.

After the recent monsoon rains, local fishers caught black chin tilapia (called Gloria or Arroyo because like the former President, the fish have little moles on their faces), Nile tilapia, African catfish, janitor fish, pangasius or cream dory, plus smaller fishes like guppies and mollies which eat mosquito larvae.

These fishes are not native to the Philippines. The only native fish caught that day were several kanduli, brackish water catfish usually caught in Manila Bay.

Native fishes disappearing

The Philippines' native fishes are slowly disappearing—which seems to be the norm and not the exception for many of the rivers and lakes.

Even protected biodiversity bastions like Taal Lake with its unique freshwater sardines called tawilis and trevally called maliputo, have not been spared from the introduction of exotics, which are imported for two reasons.

The first, of course, is for food. The pressing need to feed the increasing number of the population has given rise to tilapia farms all over the archipelago. So successful are tilapia at colonizing waterways that most Filipinos now think the ubiquitous fish is native to the country.



Newcomers to the country's aquaculture industry include pangasius, a giant catfish from Indochina, which are marketed as «cream dory» to make the bland fish sound a bit more delicious.

The aquarium trade is the second entry point for invasive fish. It is best exemplified by the janitor fish, which is becoming more common in the country's rivers. Many of the fish are sold when they are young, cute and still colorful.

As the fish mature, they lose their bright color and grow larger than most fish keepers think. Unwilling to kill the grown fish, aquarists sometimes release them in local waterways—not knowing that the fish which come from similar climates as the Philippines can survive and even breed in the country's waters.

The country's rivers and lakes are now host to giant knifefish and snakeheads from Indochina, janitor fish from the meandering rivers of the Amazon, plus territorial cichlids from Africa.

Proven disastrous in Africa

What can happen if the invasive fishes continue to swim amok in the country's rivers?

In East Africa's Lake Victoria, the introduction of Nile perch has proven disastrous. In an attempt to "boost fisheries productivity," the predatory fish was introduced to the lake in the 1950s.

Growing over six feet long, it soon preyed on over 100 other fish species, practically wiping out 60 percent of the lake's native cichlids in what may be the largest vertebrate extinction of the 20th century.

As you read this, thousands of brightly colored cichlids (one species alone is worth P2,000 apiece, compared to Nile perch which sells for P200 per kilogram) are being eaten hourly.

15 fish species in Lake Lanao declared extinct

The Philippines has already experienced a similar phenomenon, with at least 15 fish species declared extinct in Lake Lanao.

"This is not the first time we are witnessing the impacts of invasive alien species, which eat or outcompete native species," said Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim, executive director for the Asean Centre for Biodiversity, an intergovernmental body which protects and conserves Asean's biological diversity.

"While the introduction of invasive alien species like tilapia or pangasius may be perceived as valuable for livelihoods, food production or pest control, science-based assessments should be undertaken to determine if it leads to adverse impacts on the environment and biodiversity," Lim said.

"We should ensure that this will not bring more harm in the long run. The extinction of native and edible fish species affects nutrition, food security and dietary diversity. This leads to numerous local, national and regional implications," she added.

According to the Asean Biodiversity Outlook 2, Asean member states have identified 112 invasive alien species affecting forests, agriculture and aquatic ecosystems.

"Given that we have all these introduced species already being considered as economically important and are being used in aquaculture, it is imperative that we focus our research and technology development on the breeding, propagation and culture of our native species like ayungin, tawilis, maliputo, igat and native hito, both for conservation and sustainable aquaculture," explained Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia, a geneticist from Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Aquaculture Department (Seafdec/AQD), an international body which promotes sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia.



Benefits of farming native fishes

Best Alternatives, a nongovernment organization based in the Philippines, and VB Consultancy, a research firm based in Europe, are working to highlight the dangers of farming invasive species.

Instead of farming potentially invasive foreign fish, the two groups are working to convince governments and private institutions to farm native species instead.

“In addition to conserving genetic diversity, farming native fish has many benefits,” explained Jonah van Beijnen, head of VB Consultancy.

“They are often best suited to local climates, giving them better chances of surviving adverse weather effects like storms or droughts,” van Beijnen added. “Local species can better resist both disease and parasites. Lastly, they are typically in demand and fetch better prices than invasive fish.”

Institutions like Seafdec/AQD, Department of Agriculture (DA)-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, DA-National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, and the University of the Philippines are already doing studies on the rearing and farming of ayungin, tawilis, maliputo and other native fish.

This is a vital step in protecting and sustainably managing the populations of native fishes still thriving in the country’s rivers and lakes, and initiating their return in Marikina River.

Image courtesy of Gregg Yan



Government to ban single-use plastic cutlery

By Nick Eardley BBC political correspondent
Published 14 hours ago



The government has announced plans to ban single-use plastic cutlery, plates and polystyrene cups in England as part of what it calls a "war on plastic".

Ministers said the move would help to reduce litter and cut the amount of plastic waste in oceans.

A consultation on the policy will launch in the autumn - although the government has not ruled out including other items in the ban.

But environmental activists said more urgent and wider action was needed.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland already have plans to ban single-use plastic cutlery, and the European Union brought in a similar ban in July - putting ministers in England under pressure to take similar action.

On average, each person in England uses 18 single-use plastic plates and 37 single-use plastic items of cutlery every year, according to government figures.

Ministers are also hoping to introduce measures **under its Environment Bill** to tackle plastic pollution - such as a deposit return scheme on plastic bottles to encourage recycling and a plastic packaging tax - but this new plan would be an additional tool.

The Environment Bill is going through Parliament and is not yet law.

A consultation on the **deposit return scheme proposal for England, Wales and Northern Ireland** finished in June.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said everyone had "seen the damage that plastic does to our environment" and it was right to "put in place measures that will tackle the plastic carelessly strewn across our parks and green spaces and washed up on beaches".

He added: "We have made progress to turn the tide on plastic, banning the supply of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds, while our carrier bag charge has cut sales by 95% in the main supermarkets.

"These plans will help us stamp out the unnecessary use of plastics that wreak havoc with our natural environment."



'Tip of the iceberg'

But the ban may take over a year to become law, with legislation needing to go through Parliament, and it is understood it could be April 2023 before it comes into force.

Campaigners have urged the government to move quickly.

Jo Morley, from the campaign group City to Sea, told the BBC she welcomed the news but it was "just the tip of the iceberg".

She added: "We need the government to go much, much, much further, we are facing a plastics crisis and we need to turn off the tap.

"We are really facing an environmental crisis, our oceans are full of plastic, and they're killing marine life, they are damaging our eco-systems and they are actually threatening human health."

Kierra Box from Friends of the Earth echoed the concerns.

She said: "We need government to take an overall approach to say that what we are going to do is bring an end to all plastic pollution, and what we're going to do is drastically reduce the amount of all single-use products, not just a fork followed by a spoon followed by a cup."

29 AUGUST 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Philippines logs record-high 19,441 new COVID-19 cases

Philstar.com August 28, 2021 | 4:00pm



Shoppers stay at the assigned dining area inside a mall in Antipolo City on Aug. 24, 2021.
The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Saturday reported 19,441 COVID-19 infections—the highest daily rise since the pandemic began—as the country battles a fresh surge driven by the highly contagious Delta variant.

This brought the country's total caseload to 1,935,700.

- Active cases: 142,679 or 7.4% of the total
- Recoveries: 19,191 or, bringing total to 1,760,013
- Deaths: 167, raising toll to 33,008

In its latest bulletin, the DOH reported a positivity rate of 27.5% out of 71,620 tests.

Metro Manila stays in MECQ

- Metro Manila and 15 other areas will remain under [modified enhanced community quarantine](#) from September 1 to 7.
- A study published in the Lancet suggested that the Delta variant of COVID-19 [doubles the risk of hospitalization](#) compared to the Alpha variant.
- The Philippines will continue to use the COVID-19 vaccine developed by [Moderna](#), the DOH said after Japan suspended the use of jab due to reported contamination.
- Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said [he will resign](#) after he clears his names and addresses the findings of state auditors.



OCTA expresses concern over spike in NCR's COVID-19 positivity rate

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Aug 28, 2021 8:22:47 PM



OCTA research fellow Guido David said the COVID-19 numbers may not meet the group's projections if the positivity rate - or the percentage of tested people with positive results - in Metro Manila continues to spike. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 28) — OCTA research fellow Guido David said the COVID-19 numbers may not meet the group's projections if the positivity rate - or the percentage of tested people with positive results - in Metro Manila continues to spike.

"Honestly, I am starting to get really concerned," David said in a tweet. "The positivity rate has suddenly spiked after being stable for sometime."

He showed a photo of the positivity rates in the National Capital Region across August with the most recent record - and also the highest - on August 26 at over 25%.



Dr. Guido David
@iamguidodavid



Honestly, I am starting to get really concerned. The positivity rate has suddenly spiked after being stable for sometime. I hope I am wrong but I think the R in NCR is about to increase again. [@dzbb](#) [@allangatus](#) [@wengsalvacion](#) [@onenewsph](#) [@cnnphilippines](#) [@dzhnews](#) [@smnews](#)



Date	Positivity Rate (%)
8/1/21	13
8/2/21	12
8/3/21	14
8/4/21	16
8/5/21	17
8/6/21	18
8/7/21	17
8/8/21	20
8/9/21	22
8/10/21	23
8/11/21	20
8/12/21	20
8/13/21	21
8/14/21	20
8/15/21	22
8/16/21	23
8/17/21	24
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8/20/21	22
8/21/21	23
8/22/21	21
8/23/21	21
8/24/21	23
8/25/21	24
8/26/21	26

6:01 PM · Aug 28, 2021 (i)

♡ 210
💬 36
↗ Share this Tweet

Tweet your reply



"I hope I am wrong but I think the R in NCR is about to increase again," he added, referring to the reproduction number.

The Department of Health also [reported the highest nationwide positivity rate](#) on record at 27.5% based on 71,620 tests logged on August 26. Apart from this, the country on Saturday also tallied a new record for the highest number of cases reported in a day with 19,441.

A positivity rate is at critical level if it is above 20%, which means testing efforts are inadequate. This is according to US nonprofit Covid Act Now, which OCTA uses as basis for its projections. Covid Act Now says an area has adequate testing if its positivity rate is below 3%.

The World Health Organization set the standard positivity rate to below 5% to indicate that an area has controlled the infection.

"If the spike in positivity rate does not continue, then we could still be on track for our original projections," David said. "Otherwise, this will last longer than we thought, or hoped for."

David also noted 5,085 new cases in Metro Manila and a reproduction number of 1.47, which he said does not yet indicate an increase. But according to Covid Act Now's metric, the number is still at the critical level of above 1.4, which means cases are increasing exponentially.

Just a few days ago, OCTA [reported lower growth and reproduction rates](#) in NCR, and even projected a drop in cases [by next month](#).

The news comes as national officials also announced that Metro Manila will remain under modified enhanced community quarantine [until September 7](#).



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19

CASE BULLETIN # 532

AGOSTO 28, 2021

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: <https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

7.4%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
142,679

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

90.9%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
1,760,013

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.71%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
33,008

MGA BAGONG KASO **19,441**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **19,191**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **167**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **1,935,700**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 26
DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 28
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 26

27.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

71,620

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
97.3%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS) **74%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.5K TOTAL BEDS) **63%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.6K TOTAL BEDS) **70%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **55%** Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS) **73%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS) **62%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS) **73%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **61%** Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 95.5%

1.8% Asymptomatic

0.6% Critical

1.1% Severe

0.99% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Bilang proteksyon ng ating mga minamahal sa buhay, ipagpatuloy natin ang ating mahigpit na pagsunod sa ating **Minimum Public Health Standards**. Nananatiling ito ang pinakamabisang paraan upang iwasan ang pagkakahawa sa COVID-19. Sa mga nakakaramdam ng siotmas, agad na tawagan ang inyong **BHERTS**, o ang **one COVID Referral Center** sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, nariyan din ang mga hotline ng ating mga pasilidad. Puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVID PH: [kontracovid.ph](https://www.kontracovid.ph/)



Manatiling ligtas!
I-download ang StaySafe App
O Gamiting ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://www.staysafe.ph/)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

29 AUGUST 2021, SUNDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

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MANILA BAY

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
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