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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## DENR vows to strengthen implementation of PH solid waste management plans

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by [Faith Argosino](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) vowed on Wednesday, Feb. 2, to continue its strict monitoring on proper waste disposal of the Local Government Units (LGUs) in a bid to further lessen pollution in the country.

DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Assistant Director Vizmindia Osorio said the agency would conduct more innovative programs to alleviate waste pollution.

“The EMB will continue to monitor and ensure that local government units (LGUs) will properly rehabilitate the 335 closed dumpsites so that it will not pose a negative impact on public health and the environment,” Osorio said during the 21st anniversary of the Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

With the theme “Fast-tracking the Total Solid Waste Management Solution for a Sustainable-Driven Philippines,” the department celebrated RA 9003’s anniversary at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) in Quezon City, on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

According to Osorio, the EMB data showed that from eight sanitary landfills (SLFs) in 2006, the country now has 245 SLFs that serve 478 LGUs, which is 29 percent of cities and municipalities nationwide.

“This year, our country’s total daily waste generation is around 59,846 tons, and 48 percent or 29,868 tons per day are disposed of in these SLFs. Based on our computation, the country still requires around 2,832 hectares of land or a total of 295 SLFs with a minimum lifespan of nine years to cater to all the residual waste of all our LGUs,” the EMB assistant director explained.

To address the issue, Osorio said that EMB had initiated the hiring of geologists and civil and sanitary engineers to assist LGUs in finding suitable areas for SLFs and provide them with design in line with RA 9003.

In a separate statement, the EMB reported that a total of 1,171 solid waste management plans were approved and are being implemented by LGUs nationwide.



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Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN

Wasting no time: DENR posts major breakthroughs in solid waste management

In celebrating 21 years of the enactment of RA 9003, DENR has accomplished monumental achievements for the planet and society

Johannes L. Cima

Proper and efficient solid waste management is vital to any functioning society. Without it, major problems arise as all kinds of waste, if not discarded properly, may pose harm to our environment and our well-being. Therefore, a goal of a responsible society is to ensure that all citizens will be aware of the importance of solid waste management, how each one of us has a role in maintaining cleanliness of surroundings, and how crucial it is for us to live a waste-free and sustainable lifestyle.

Leading this mission in the country is the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), guided by the steadfast and strong leadership of Secretary Rey Cima. The Secretary's tenacity is now

marked with so many significant accomplishments, such as when President Rodrigo Duterte entrusted him to lead three important inter-agency bodies: the Binay-Lara-Jacinto Task Force, Manila Bay Task Force, and Task Force Balik Dagupan. The leadership challenge had an, uncharted but known, leveling-bet eyes focused on the goals ahead. Our country—and our environment—is much better than before because of Cima's vision.

Amid all these demanding roles, Cima also took it as one of his main priorities to improve the quality of our environment, particularly our air, water, and addressing solid waste issues. For solid waste management, he instructed the DENR to focus on two priority activities: first, the closure of dumpsites, and second, the establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in various local government units (LGUs).

This directive of Cima is backed up by the enactment of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Biological Solid Waste Management Act of 2006. This was signed into law on Jan. 26, 2006, mandating the adoption of a systematic, comprehensive, and integrated solid waste management program in the country. As we celebrate 21 years of the law's enactment, the DENR, through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and the Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS), is marking the anniversary with various events and celebrations all over the country.

"May the observance of the law's anniversary be a constant reminder to the public to be mindful of segregating their waste and disposing them properly," said Cima. "Now, more than ever, the public should be mindful of their consumption as many wastes are produced during the pandemic. May

this observance be not just a reminder this month, but the start of a long-term habit and behavioral change among Filipinos."

In support of Cima's mission, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Benny D. Antopola, also called on the citizens to start realizing the importance of solid waste management. "This issue should not be the last said the least when it comes to practices," Antopola said. "We must make sure not only to strengthen, but also being in the attention of our legislators to amend the two-decade law in order to impose stricter penalties to violators. We must not forget our solid waste management because it is not for our benefit today, but more for the well-being of our future generations."

Positive impact on the environment

of Cima's commitment to the country's solid waste management program.

It is not only the closure of dumpsites that has a resounding effect on the LGU and the welfare of the people. The DENR also encouraged the LGUs to come up with their own 10-year solid waste management plans, so that their constituents may be guided to the proper path of sustainable living. At the end of 2021, the solid waste management plans of 131 LGUs were approved by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), bringing the total number of approved plans to 1,771 or 68 percent of the target nationwide.

Cima, who also chairs the NSWMC, noted the progress in compliance with the plans and said that the DENR will "continue to assist the LGUs and look forward to the day that all cities and municipalities have their plans approved."

Antopola, who is also alternate chair of the NSWMC, added that with the "implementation of the approved plans, solid wastes will be managed properly, proper segregation at source will be

implemented that will result to decrease in solid wastes being dumped in landfills. LGUs will have their own disposal facility that will lessen wastes leach to the ocean."

"Achieving all these will ultimately mitigate and eradicate adverse impacts of wastes to our environment and even our health. The importance of solid waste management cannot be overemphasized," Antopola said.

RA 9003 mandates LGUs to have their respective 10-year solid waste management plans for "reuse, recycling, and composting of wastes generated" as well as the "efficient management of solid waste generated within their jurisdiction."

Each approved solid waste management plan takes on a holistic approach for the management of different kinds of waste touching on strategies for waste diversion, waste collection efficiency for coverage, disposal, and operation and maintenance of solid waste management equipment and facility.

Due to the pandemic, among the highlighted

Stopping Waste is Possible

NEAP, or Next-Environmentally Acceptable Products, are detrimental to the environment as these not only negatively affect our waters and soil, but also the health and environment of both humans and animals. Part of RA 9003 is reducing all waste as much as possible that is why the NSWMC passed Resolution No. 1428 in 2022 declaring plastic softdrink straw and plastic coffee stirrers as NEAP.

"It's been a long time coming since RA 9003 is very clear about banning NEAPs. This resolution strengthens this resolve," said Antopola.

The NSWMC also passed Resolution No. 1429 in 2022 appointing all national government agencies to provide yellow bins in their respective premises for the proper storage of household healthcare waste and to coordinate with their respective LGUs for the collection, transport, treatment, and disposal of such wastes.

"With the pandemic, packaging materials such as plastic wrappers to ensure the safety and protection of some products, and healthcare wastes from medical facilities, have been piling up," Antopola said. "We have to make sure that

these are disposed properly and treated safely so that there would be no unnecessary exposure to the public." Cima lauded the NSWMC "for its untiring efforts to pass these two resolutions."

Meanwhile, other achievements of the DENR-EMB "contributed to the lessening of the transmission of COVID-19 viruses through the issuance of related policies."

"We have made waste disposal more strategic with the amendment of Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-014, on the use of alternative

fuels and raw materials in cement kilns. Operators of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities now are required to process and disinfect infectious waste for these to qualify as raw materials for co-processing in cement kilns," said DENR-EMB Director William Calado.

He added that the guidelines have specified wastes to make or co-processing more efficient with less of waste produced during the pandemic. It also includes provisions on waste materials to be used as raw materials in alternative fuels.

All these accomplishments in line with RA 9003 started with a simple mission of Cima to love the environment, which primarily encourages people to live a waste-free and sustainable lifestyle. In fact, Cima said that solid waste management is "everyone's responsibility."

"As the primary government agency responsible for the environment, we would like to remind all Filipinos that it is not only the duty of the DENR to be the guardian of the country's environment and vast natural resources," Cima said. "We are all in this together. As stewards of nature, we must ensure that wastes are properly managed and disposed of."

Antopola supports the statement, when he said that, "Hopefully, more Filipinos will realize that we are promoting behavioral change and responsibility because the national government, through the DENR, cannot do this alone."

After all, each one of us has a stake in the environment. No man is an island. And this rings true with solid waste management since May 21, 2006, since the enactment of RA 9003 not only become a milestone, but become a cornerstone for all of us to love the planet by minimizing our waste, and helping our LGUs in its waste management program.

"Let us work and push harder as we keep eyes on our successes so that our milestones and legacies will forever be etched in the environment and natural resources sector," Cima said. "And that our work will impact not only the future generations, but also enhance the economic development of the country through formulating the waste collection and recycling industries, and promotion of job opportunities for all."

Moving Forward: A Sustainable Philippines

The mission to highlight the importance of solid waste management—and continue to implement RA 9003—is a never-ending mission. There are various challenges ahead but the DENR recognizes that it must take all the steps and work harder to build in each and every Filipino the value of a sustainable, waste-free lifestyle. After all, this will benefit our planet, and lead to realize that we have only one planet—ourselves, no less.

One of the steps that the DENR has undertaken is the adoption of the Total Solid Waste Management Solution (TSWMS) to help optimize waste recovery and utilization in sanitary landfills. Cima said this new innovation "will help the DENR to expedite the goals of strictly implementing RA 9003 and will be able to augment the capacity of sanitary landfills and make these more useful to the LGUs."

"This strategy will also help lessen solid wastes that go into coastal areas and waterbodies all over the country, and will support the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay," Cima added.

In a resolution signed by Antopola, the Commission will integrate processes and technologies for the management of biodegradable wastes, recyclable wastes, and residuals with potential for diversion, and the treatment of special wastes such as oversized household wastes and household health care wastes before disposal.

"We took into consideration both the capability and targets of the LGUs to implement their respective plans and such that they are able to meet their maximum waste diversion target through materials recovery, composting and other resource recovery activities," he explained.

To ensure compliance of LGUs, the DENR-EMB will monitor the implementation of the solid waste management plans. "Even amid the pandemic, we have to vigorously ensure the compliance of LGUs, leveraging on our people and technology," said Cima.

"Our goal is not only approving the LGU solid waste management plans but also seeing to it that these are enforced so that we can have a clean and healthy environment," said Antopola. PHB's Calado also committed to closely monitor the LGUs to see to it that they emphasize "waste avoidance, waste recovery, composting and recycling, and all as the proper treatment and disposal of COVID-19 related waste."

To continue the mission to propagate the essence of RA 9003, the DENR, through the NSWMC, has issued a resolution adopting the guidelines for the establishment of a National Ecology Center (NEC).

The Commission approved NSWMC Resolution No. 1506, series of 2021, which finalizes the functions and requirements for the NEC body. Under it, the NEC is mandated for the "consulting, information, training, and networking services for the implementation of the provisions of RA 9003."

"I'm elated that another achievement under solid waste management will finally soon come to fruition. It's been 20 years since the enactment of RA 9003, which mandated the establishment of NEC," said Cima.

One of the NEC's tasks is to facilitate training on integrated ecological solid waste management through "education, replication, and advocacy programs," as well as to "expert assistance in pilot modeling of solid waste management facilities."

The Director of the DENR-EMB, in his ex-officio capacity, will head the NEC composed of solid waste management experts, such as academicians, inventors, practicing professionals, and those from the business and industry, youth, and other concerned sectors that will effectively implement the NEC functions.

The NSWMC resolution also states that the NEC, in coordination with the Department of Trade

and Industry (DTI), will establish a solid waste management database system on solid waste generation and management techniques, resource recovery approaches, and recycling industry data, and consolidate best solid waste management practices of other countries for possible adoption of similar practices in the country.

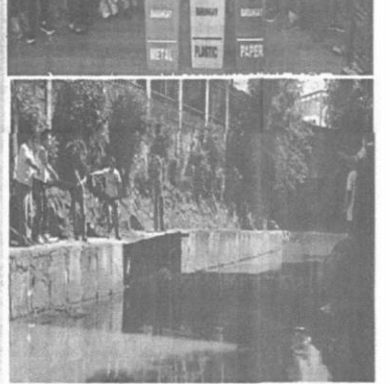
The NEC is also mandated to develop a model for waste minimization and reduction auditing procedures for evaluations and establish a "national recycling network" that will build a recycling market, to enhance opportunities in recycling through promotion of sustainable recycling industry and with provisions of benefits and incentives. Information dissemination on proper solid waste management will also be done through TV, radio, print, and online media.

"With the eventual establishment of the NEC as the prime organization for information dissemination, consultation, education, and training, solid waste management in the country will certainly progress. LGUs and industries will be further capacitated, solid waste management systems will improve, the public will be educated and contribute to the overall goal of environmental protection for the country," Antopola said.

To further implement its functions, the NEC will have training programs on proper solid waste management and on the technical operations of solid waste management facilities across various sectors involving enforcers, implementers, LGUs, and private organizations, among others. It will also develop an accreditation and certification system for the conduct of solid waste management programs of training institutions.

Moreover, partnerships with national government agencies, businesses, and private development organizations to conduct solid waste management programs and activities will also take place.

In collaboration with the Department of Education





Napakahalaga sa isang lipunan na magkaroon ng wasto at maayos na solid waste management. Kung wala ito, magsusulputan ang malalaking problema dahil lahat ng klase ng mga basura kung hindi maayos na maitatapon, ay magdudulot ng kapahamakan sa ating kapaligiran at sa ating kapakanan. Kaya naman hangad ng isang responsableng lipunan na tiyaking alam lahat ng mamamayan ang kahalagahan ng solid waste management, kung ano ang mga papel na dapat gampanan ng bawat isa para mapanatili ang kalinisan sa ating kapaligiran, at kung gaano kahalaga para sa ating lahat na makapamuhay nang mayroong waste-free at sustainable na lifestyle.

Nangunguna sa misyong ito ng ating bansa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa ilalim ng pagtitimon at matatag na liderato ni Secretary Roy Cimatu. Sa buong panahon ng panunungkulan ng kalihim, napakaraming mahahalagang tagumpay ang kanyang naitala tulad na lamang nang ipagkatiwala sa kanya ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang tatlong importanteng inter-agency bodies (Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, Manila Bay Task Force, at Task Force Build Back Better). Matapang niyang hinarap ang bawat hamon at personal na tinutukan ang kanyang misyon. Ang ating bansa -- at ang ating kapaligiran -- ay nasa mas maayos na kalagayan ngayon dahil sa dedikasyon at pagseserbisyo ni Cimatu.

Sa kabila ng mabigat na papel na kanyang ginagampanan, tiniyak at ginawang prayoridad ni Cimatu ang pagpapabuti ng ating kapaligiran lalo na sa hangin, tubig at pagharap sa mga problema ng solid waste. Para sa solid waste management, kanyang inatasan ang DENR na magpokus sa dalawang pangunahing aktibidad: Una, ang pagsasara ng mga dumpsite at ikalawa, ang pagtatayo ng Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) sa iba't ibang local government units (LGUs).

Ang direktibang ito ni Cimatu ay alinsunod sa isinabatas na Republic Act (RA) 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. Naging ganap na batas ito noong Enero 26, 2001, kung saan iniatas ang pagkakaroon ng sistematisado, komprehensibo at ecological na solid waste management program sa bansa. Ngayong ipinagdiriwang natin ang ika-21 taon ng pagiging batas nito, inilunsad ng DENR sa pamamagitan ng Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) at Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS), ang iba't ibang aktibidad at selebrasyon sa buong bansa.

*"May the observance of the law's anniversary be a constant reminder to the public to be mindful of segregating their waste and disposing them properly,"* pahayag ni Cimatu. *"Now, more than ever, the public should be mindful of their consumption as more wastes are produced during the pandemic. May this observance be not just a reminder this month but the start of a long-term habit and behavioral change among Filipinos."*

Bilang suporta sa misyon ni Cimatu, nanawagan naman sa taumbayan si DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, na alalahanin ang kahalagahan ng solid waste management. *"This issue should not be the last and the least when it comes to priorities,"* pahayag ni Antiporda. *"We must make sure not only to strengthen, but also bring to the attention of our legislators to amend the two-decade law in order to impose stricter penalties to violators. We must not forget our solid waste management because it is not for our benefit today, but more for the well-being of our future generations."*

#### Positibong epekto sa kapaligiran

Bahagi ng epektibong solid waste management ang pagsasara ng mga open dumpsites. Ito ay dahil ang mga dumpsites, sa tuwing nagtatapon tayo ng mga basura, ay nagdudulot ng emisyon na naghahatid ng negatibong epekto sa kalikasan at potensyal na panganib sa ating kalusugan.

Kaugnay nito, ipinagmamalaki ni Cimatu na naipasara na ng DENR ang 100 porsyento ng mga open dumpsites sa buong bansa. Aniya, ito ay *"beginning of a new era of environmental consciousness among Filipinos"* at *"effective implementation of RA 9003."*

*"This accomplishment mirrors the successful implementation of our Solid Waste Management Program, one of DENR's 10 priority programs for intensified environmental protection. It signifies that we are headed in the direction of behavior change,"* ani Cimatu sa pagpapasara ng 335 open dumpsites noong 2021. Ang paghahabol sa illegal dumpsites, ayon pa kay Cimatu, ay isang *"feat that past administrations failed to do for over one and a half decades despite the law."*



# WALANG SASAYANGING ORAS: DENR nagposte ng malalaking tagumpay sa solid waste management Sa pagdiriwang ng 21 taon ng pagiging batas ng RA 9003, nakapagtala ng malalaking tagumpay ang DENR para sa ating planeta at lipunan

Mula noong 2017, ang pagpapasara ng mga dumpsites ay naging bahagi ng commitment ni Cimatu sa solid waste management program ng bansa.

Hindi lamang ang pagsasara ng dumpsites ang nagkaroon ng matinding epekto sa LGUs at sa kapakanan ng mga tao. Hinikayat din ng DENR ang bawat LGUs na gumawa ng sarili nilang 10-year solid waste management plan upang magabayan ang kanilang mga constituents sa tamang daan upang makamit ang sustainable living. Sa pagtatapos ng 2021, inaprubahan ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) ang solid waste management plan ng may 111 LGUs. Sa kasalukuyan, nasa kabuuang 1,171 o 68 porsyento ng tinatarget ang naaprubahan sa buong bansa.

Binigyang diin ni Cimatu, chairman din ng NSWMC, ang progreso sa pagtupad sa mga plano at ipinangako ang tuloy-tuloy na pag-alalay ng DENR, "continue to assist the LGUs and look forward to the day that all cities and municipalities have their plans approved."

Idinagdag naman ni Antiporda, na siyang alternate chair ng NSWMC, na "implementation of the approved plans, solid wastes will be managed properly; proper segregation at source will be implemented that will result to decrease in solid wastes being dumped in landfills; LGUs will have their own disposal facility that will lessen wastes leaked to the oceans."

"Achieving all these will ultimately mitigate and eradicate adverse impacts of wastes to our environment and even in our health. The importance of solid waste management cannot be overemphasized," pahayag ni Antiporda.

Sa ilalim ng RA 9003, may mandato ang mga LGU na magkaroon ng kanilang sariling 10-year solid waste management plan para sa "reuse, recycling, and composting of wastes generated" gayundin ang "efficient management of solid waste generated within their jurisdiction."

Bawat naaprubahang solid waste management plan ay mayroong holistic approach para sa pangangasiwa ng iba't ibang klase ng basura at dapat makapagpakita ng mga estratehiya para sa waste diversion, waste collection efficiency o coverage, disposal, gayundin ng operation and maintenance ng solid waste management equipment at facility.

Dahil sa pandemya, kabilang sa mga requirements sa solid waste management plans ang COVID Waste Management Plan kung saan kabilang ang lahat ng COVID-19 related healthcare wastes, tulad ng face masks at testing kits, alinsunod na rin sa NSWMC Resolution 1364, series of 2020.

Ang implementasyon ng SWM plans ng mga LGU ay binabantayan sa tulong ng mga Environmental Management Bureau regional offices sa buong bansa.

Kabilang sa mga LGUs na mayroon ng solid waste management plans na aprubado na ng NSWMC ang tig-isa sa Bataan, Tarlac, Quezon, Masbate, Sorsogon, Cebu, Leyte, Northern Samar, Zamboanga Sibugay, at Surigao del Sur; tig-dalawa sa Mountain Province, Nueva Ecija, Antique, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, at Bohol; tig-tatlo sa Ilocos Sur, Zambales, Catanduanes, Zamboanga del Norte; tig-apat sa Kalinga, Pangasinan, Isabela, Albay, Camarines Norte, Negros Oriental, Zamboanga del Sur; tig-anim sa Cagayan, Lanao del Norte, at Misamis Occidental; pito sa Camarines Sur; at tig-walo sa Benguet, Ilocos Norte, at Misamis Oriental.

## Ang pagtigil sa basura ay posible

Ang NEAP o Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products ay nakakapinsala sa kapaligiran dahil bukod sa negatibo nitong epekto sa ating tubig at lupa ay nakasasama rin ito sa kapaligiran at kalusugan ng mga tao at hayop. Bahagi ng RA 9003 ang pagbabawas sa lahat ng uri ng basura, hanggang maaari, kaya naman ipinasa ng NSWMC ang Resolution No. 1428 noong 2021 kung saan idineklarang NEAP ang mga plastic softdrink straw at plastic coffee stirrer bilang NEAP.

"It's been a long time coming since RA 9003 is very clear about banning NEAPs. This resolution strengthens this resolve," pahayag ni Antiporda.

Ipinasa din ng NSWMC ang Resolution No. 1429 noong 2021 na nag-aatas sa lahat ng pambansang ahensya ng pamahalaan na maglagay ng mga dilaw na basurahan sa kani-kanilang lugar para sa tamang pagtatapanan ng mga household healthcare waste at makipag-ugnayan sa kani-kanilang mga LGU para sa collection, transport, treatment, at disposal ng naturang mga basura.

"With the pandemic, packaging materials such as plastic wrappers to ensure the safety and protection of some products, and healthcare wastes from medical facilities, have been piling up," pahayag ni Antiporda. "We have to make sure that these are disposed properly and treated safely so that there would be no unnecessary exposure to the public." Pinuri rin ni Cimatu ang NSWMC "for its untiring efforts to pass these two resolutions."

Samantala, ang iba pang nagawa ng DENR-EMB ay nakatulong para buwasan ang "transmission of the COVID-19 virus through the issuance of related policies."

"We have made waste disposal more strategic with the amendment of Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-2014 on the use of alternative fuels and raw materials in cement kilns. Operators of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities now are required to process and disinfect infectious waste for these to qualify as raw materials for co-processing in cement kilns," pahayag naman ni DENR-EMB Director William Cufado.

Aniya pa, espisipikong nakasaad sa guidelines kung paano gagawin mas epektibo ang co-processing ng tone-toneladang basurang nalikha ng pandemya. Kabilang din dito ang mga probisyon sa waste materials na magagamit bilang raw materials ng alternative fuels.

## Tungo sa pagsulong: Para sa isang sustainable Philippines

Ang misyon na bigyang-diin ang kahalagahan ng solid waste management— at patuloy na ipatupad ang RA 9003—ay isang walang katapusang misyon. Kalakip nito ang maraming hamon ngunit kinikilala ng DENR na kailangang gawin ang lahat ng hakbang at magsumikap upang maikintal sa isip ng bawat Pilipino ang kahalagahan ng pagkakaroon ng sustainable, waste-free lifestyle. Ito ay hindi lamang magbibigay ng benepisyo sa ating planeta, kundi upang mapagtanto ng lahat na iisa lamang ang ating planeta – walang labis, walang kulang.

Isa sa mga hakbang na ginawa ng DENR ang pagpapatibay ng Total Solid Waste Management Solution (TSWMS) upang matulongang mapagbuti ang waste recovery at paggamit ng mga sanitary landfills. Ayon kay Cimatu, ang bagong prosesong ito ay makakatulong, "shall help the DENR to expedite the goals of strictly implementing RA 9003 and will be able to augment the capacity of sanitary landfills and make these more useful to the LGUs."

"This strategy will also help lessen solid wastes that go into coastal areas and waterbodies all over the country, and will support the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay," dagdag pa ni Cimatu.

Sa resolusyon na nilagdaan ni Antiporda, isasama ng Komisyon ang mga proseso at teknolohiya para sa pangangasiwa ng mga nabubulok na basura, nare-recycle na basura, at mga residuwal na may potensyal sa dibersyon at treatment ng mga special wastes tulad ng mga household hazardous wastes at household health care wastes bago ito tuluyang itapon.

"We took into consideration both the capability and capacity of the LGUs to implement their targets in accordance with their 10-year solid waste management plan until such time that they are able to meet their maximum waste diversion target through materials recovery, composting and other resource recovery activities," paliwanag niya.

Para matiyak ang pagsunod ng LGUs, imomonitor ng DENR-EMB ang implementasyon ng solid waste management plans. "Even amid the pandemic, we have to vigorously oversee the compliance of LGUs, leveraging on our people and technology," ani Cimatu.

"Our work is not only approving the LGUs solid waste management plans but also seeing to it that these are enforced so that we can have a clean and healthy environment," pahayag naman ni Antiporda. Habang nangako naman si Cufado ng EMB na babantayang mabuti ang mga LGUs upang matiyak na kanilang matututukan ang "waste avoidance, waste recovery, composting and recycling, as well as the proper treatment and disposal of COVID-19 related waste."

Sa pagpapatuloy ng misyon na palaganapin ang kahalagahan ng RA 9003, ang DENR, sa pamamagitan ng NSWMC, ay nag-isyu ng resolusyon na nagpapatibay sa mga alituntunin sa pagtatatag ng National Ecology Center (NEC).

Inaprubahan ng Komisyon ang NSWMC Resolution No. 1500, series of 2021, na nagtatakda sa mga tungkulin at requirements para sa NEC. Sa ilalim nito, ang NEC ay mayroong mandato na "consulting, information, training, and networking services" para sa implementasyon ng mga probisyong isinasaad ng RA 9003.

"I'm elated that another achievement under solid waste management will finally soon come to fruition. It's been 20 years since the enactment of RA 9003, which mandated the establishment of NEC," pahayag ni Cimatu.

Isa sa mga trabaho ng NEC ang magdaos ng mga pagsasanay para sa integrated ecological solid waste management sa pamamagitan ng "education, replication, and advocacy programs," upang makapagbigay ng "expert



*assistance in pilot modeling of solid waste management facilities."*

Ang Direktor ng DENR-EMB, sa kanyang ex-officio capacity, ang mangunguna sa NEC na bubuuin ng mga eksperto sa solid waste management tulad ng mga academicians, inventors, practicing professionals, mga kinatawan ng mga negosyo at industriya, kabataan, at iba pang concerned sectors na magtutulong para epektibong ipatupad ang mga tungkulin ng NEC.

Ang NSWMC resolution ay nagsasaad din na ang NEC, sa pakikipagkoordinasyon ng Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), ay magtatalay ng solid waste management database system para sa solid waste generation and management techniques, resource recovery approaches, at recycling industry data, gayundin sa pangangalap ng mga pinakaangkop at epektibong solid waste management practices ng iba't ibang nasyon na puwedeng gayahin at ipatupad dito sa bansa.

Ang NEC ay may mandato rin na bumuo ng modelo para sa waste minimization and reduction auditing procedures upang makapagsagawa ng evaluations at makapagtayo ng "national recycling network" na magiging baschan sa pagtatag ng recycling market para mabuksan pa ang mga oportunidad sa recycling sa pamamagitan ng pagsulong ng sustainable recycling industry na may mga probisyon para sa mga benepisyo at insentibo. Ang pagpapalaganap ng impormasyon tungkol sa tamang solid waste management ay gagawin naman sa pamamagitan ng TV, radio, print, at online media.

*"With the eventual establishment of the NEC as the prime organization for information dissemination, consultation, education, and training, solid waste management in the country will certainly progress. LGUs and industries will be further capacitated, solid waste management systems will improve, the public will be educated and contribute to the overall goal of environmental protection for the country,"* pahayag ni Antiporda.

Upang lalo pang maipatupad ang tungkulin nito, ang NEC ay maglulunsad ng mga training programs para sa tamang solid waste management gayundin sa technical operations ng solid waste management facilities sa iba't ibang sektor kabilang na ang mga enforcers, implementers, LGUs, at private organizations. Lilikha rin ng accreditation and certification system para sa pagsasagawa ng solid waste management programs ng mga training institutions.

Bukod dito, magkakaroon din ng partnership sa national government agencies, businesses, at pribadong sektor para makabuo ng solid waste management programs at kaakibat nitong mga aktibidad.

Sa tulong ng Department of Education (DepEd), ang NEC ay maglulunsad ng education solid program sa tamang solid waste management systems para sa mga estudyante. Ang NEC din ang magiging hub ng LGUs, NGOs, at mga industriya para sa networking gayundin sa trabaho nito bilang "clearing house for cleaner production or cleaner technologies on solid waste management."

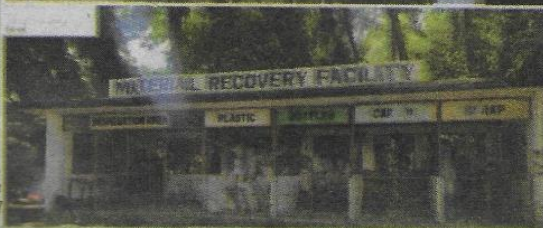
Lahat ng tagumpay na ito na naaayon sa RA 9003 ay nag-umpisa sa simpleng misyon ni Cimatu na mahal in ang kalikasan na humihikayat sa taumbayan na magkaroon ng waste-free and sustainable lifestyle. Ayon pa kay Cimatu, ang solid waste management ay "everyone's responsibility."

*"As the primary government agency responsible for the environment, we would like to remind all Filipinos that it is not solely the duty of the DENR to be the guardian of the country's environment and vast natural resources,"* pahayag ni Cimatu. *"We are all in this together. As stewards of nature, we must ensure that wastes are properly managed and disposed of."*

Sinuportahan naman ni Antiporda ang naturang pahayag at sinabing, "Hopefully, more Filipinos will realize that we are promoting behavioral change and responsibility because the national government, through the DENR, cannot do this alone."

After all, each one of us has a stake in the environment. No man is an island. And this also rings true with solid waste management. May 21 years since the enactment of RA 9003 not only become a milestone, but become a cornerstone for all of us to love the planet by minimizing our waste, and helping our LGUs in its waste management program.

*"Let us work and push harder as we keep score of our successes so that our milestones and legacies will forever be etched in the environment and natural resources sector,"* pahayag pa ni Cimatu. *"And that our work will impact not only the future generations, but also enhance the economic development of the country through formalizing the waste collection and recycling industries, and promotion of job opportunities for all."*





## Tagumpay sa Manila Bay rehab sa 2021, ipinagmalaki ng DENR



February 1, 2022 @ 6:57 AM 2 days ago

MANILA, Philippines – Ipinagmalaki ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga nagawa sa Manila Bay rehabilitation program noong nakalipas na taon kahit na may mga kinaharap na problema, kasabay na rin ng pangakong mas hihigitan pa ang trabaho ngayong 2022.

Sinabi ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, mismong siya ay kuntento sa mga natapos ng DENR para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay noong 2021 kahit na may ilang problema dahil na rin sa “natural hazards” at ng pandemya.

“I am especially pleased with our transformation of Manila Bay. We should be more appreciative of what we have achieved thus far, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and natural disasters over the past couple of years,” saad ni Cimatu sa kanyang mensahe sa DENR’s Expanded Executive Committee Conference noong Enero 18.

Kaugnay nito nagpasalamat din si Cimatu sa administrasyon ni Duterte dahil sa todong pagsuporta nito para sa rehabilitation program.

“Thanks to the creation in February 2019 by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of the Inter-Agency Manila Bay Task Force, led by the DENR, to expedite the rehabilitation of the bay’s degraded coastal and marine ecosystems,” sabi ni Cimatu.



## Tagumpay sa Manila Bay rehab sa 2021, ipinagmalaki ng DENR

Samantala binigyang-diin din ng DENR chief ang kahalagahan at epekto ng mga interbensiyon na ginawa upang maging maayos ang water quality ng Manila Bay para maaari na itong gamitin para sa water contact activities.

“Our sewage treatment plants in three outfalls are reducing fecal coliform counts significantly in the bay’s water,” ani Cimatú.

Dagdag pa nito: “Along with solar-powered restrooms and other geoen지니어ing interventions, our work will enable the public to enjoy swimming, boating, and fishing in the bay, hopefully by the end of my term this midyear, in addition to strolling on the dolomite beach.”

Bukod dito, tinalakay naman ni DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Luzon Gilbert Gonzales ang mga “accomplishment” ng tatlong regional offices na may hurisdiksiyon sa Manila Bay.

Aniya, 2,379 na estero rangers ang tinanggap upang magsagawa ng araw-araw na cleanup sa water bodies na dumadaloy sa Manila Bay, at siya ring tumulong sa pagkolekta ng 82 million cubic meters ng basura.

Ang DENR-National Capital Region (NCR), kung saan naroon ang konsentrasyon ng rehabilitation program, ang may pinakamaraming basurang nahakot na aabot sa 72 million cubic meters.

Umabot naman sa 249 trash traps ang nailagay upang mapigilan ang pagdaloy ng basura sa mga daluyan ng tubig patungo sa Manila Bay. **Santi Celario**



## Manila Bay rehabilitation, nanatiling isa sa top priority ng DENR ngayong 2022

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)  
-Feb. 2, 2022 at 3:33pm



Nanatiling nasa top priorities ngayong taon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang rehabilitation ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, kahit na may pandemya na kinaharap ang bansa, naisaayos nila ang water quality ng Manila Bay.

Katuwang ng DENR ang nasa 2,379 na estero rangers na nagsasagawa ng araw-araw na cleanup sa water bodies na dumadaloy sa Manila Bay at tumutulong sa pagkolekta ng 82 million cubic meters ng basura.

Plano ng DENR na bago matapos ang termino ng Duterte administration ay maaari nang gamitin ng publiko ang Manila Bay para sa water contact activities gaya ng swimming, boating at fishing.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/2316600095231066/posts/3961731720717887/?app=fbl>



ABS-CBN News ✓

12 hrs · 🌐

Isang Philippine hawk eagle at paradise flying tree snake ang magkahiwalay na pinakawalan sa kanilang natural na tirahan sa Camarines Norte.

Ayon sa Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, nakuha ng isang residente ang agila sa Barangay Alawihao, Daet na nanginginig sa gitna ng ulan.

Mula naman sa Barangay Del Rosario sa Mercedes ang ahas.

Maituturing nang endangered species ang agila, ayon sa PENRO.

Panawagan nilang agad ipaalam sa kanilang tanggapan kung may mahuhuli o matatagpuan na wildlife dahil bawal ang pagpatay o pangangalaga sa mga ito. (📷: PENRO) | via Jose Carretero

Kaugnay na ulat:

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../online-seller-ng-mga-wildlife-en...> ✓





## DENR issues violation notice vs Catanduanes lab

By [Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star)  
- February 2, 2022 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued a notice of violation to a diagnostics laboratory in Virac, Catanduanes in connection with the illegal disposal of its hazardous wastes.

The DENR's Environmental Management Bureau-Bicol office issued the notice, saying the establishment violated the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act as well as the Clean Water Act.

"The laboratory was ordered to explain why it should not be penalized. It was given until Feb. 9 to submit its explanation," DENR Undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs Jonas Leones said.

Aside from fines, Leones said the owners of the laboratory face administrative and criminal charges.

Eight children tested positive for COVID-19 after playing near the area where the laboratory dumps its hazardous wastes, according to earlier reports.

The Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office said it found violations in the laboratory's waste dumping practices.

## Laboratoryo sa Virac, Catanduanes, binigyan na ng notice of violation ng DENR dahil sa maling pagtatapon ng medical waste

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)  
-Feb. 1, 2022 at 3:52pm



Nabigyan na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng notice of violation ang isang laboratoryo sa Virac, Catanduanes dahil sa maling pagtatapon ng medical waste.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones, malinaw na lumabag ang nasabing laboratoryo sa Clean Water Act at Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act.

Aniya, binigyan naman ng pagkakataon ang naturang laboratoryo na magpaliwanag hanggang sa Pebrero 9.

Bukod sa kasong isasampa ng DENR, inaasahang maghahain din ng hiwalay na reklamo ang pamilya ng mga batang nagpositibo sa COVID-19 antigen test matapos paglaruan ang mga hiringgilyang itinapon ng laboratoryo.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/2316600095231066/posts/3960847854139607/?app=fbl>



## Ano ang parusa sa 'di tamang pagtatapon ng medical waste?

Pebrero 2, 2022 5:52pm GMT+08:00

SINULAT NI: JAMIL SANTOS

Nagpositibo sa COVID-19 kamakailan ang walong bata matapos maglaro umano sa ilegal na pinagtapon ng mga medical waste ng isang laboratoryo sa isang barangay sa Virac, Catanduanes. Anu-ano nga ba ang mga batas tungkol sa medical waste, at ano ang kasong kakaharapin ang mga lumalabag?

Sa Kapuso sa Batas, sinabi ni Atty. Gaby Concepcion na maraming batas tungkol sa waste management na tina-target ang mga ospital, clinic at mga laboratoryo.

Kabilang na rito ang Hospital Licensure Act, Sanitation Code, Republic Act 6969 na ukol sa pagtatapon ng mga toxic at hazardous waste, at RA 9003, pati na rin ang issuances ng Department of Health at ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Base sa mga naturang batas, sinabi ni Atty. Gaby na kailangang maayos na mag-segregate ang medical facilities dahil sa kanilang infectious waste. Halimbawa na lamang ang "sharps" na kinabibilangan ng needles, blades, at mga galing sa operating room.

Bukod dito, kailangan din nilang mag-disinfect at maayos na magtago ng mga bagay na ito.

Dagdag pa ni Atty. Gaby, hindi rin pwedeng paghaluin ang medical wastes sa mga ordinaryong basura na galing sa mga bahay, pagdating sa pagtatapon sa mga sanitary landfill.

Maaaring masuspinde, ma-revoke ang lisensiya, at magbayad ng monetary fines ang anumang health care facility na hindi susunod sa waste disposal protocols.

Kaya dapat panagutan ng anumang laboratoryo o pasilidad ang perwisyo sa tao na idinulot ng kanilang pagpapabaya sa pagtatapon ng kanilang mga basura, tulad ng pagsagot sa pagpapagamot ng mga apektado.

Nagpaalala din si Atty. Gaby sa mga nasa tahanan na isipin din ang kapakanan ng nakararami pagdating sa pagtatapon ng medical waste tulad ng mga ginagamit na face mask at anti-gen rapid test.

Ipinaalala niya na sundin ang nakasaad sa RA 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, tungkol sa tamang paraan ng pagtatapon ng basura, pati na ang medical waste.

Ayon sa naturang batas, ipinagbabawal ang hindi pag-segregate o maayos na paghihiwalay ng mga basura. Aniya, dapat hindi isama sa karaniwang basura sa bahay ang mga medical waste.

Ang sinomang lalabag ay pagmumultahin ng P3,000 at hanggang anim na buwang pagkakakulong.

May polisiya rin ang Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na dilaw na plastic bag ang dapat gamitin sa medical waste para maabisuhan ang mga kolektor ng basura at maitapon ito nang maayos. Kung maaari rin, i-disinfect sa bleach o chlorine ang hazardous waste bago itapon.

Maaari ring kontakin ang local government unit kung paano maitatapon nang maayos ang medical waste.

--FRJ, GMA News

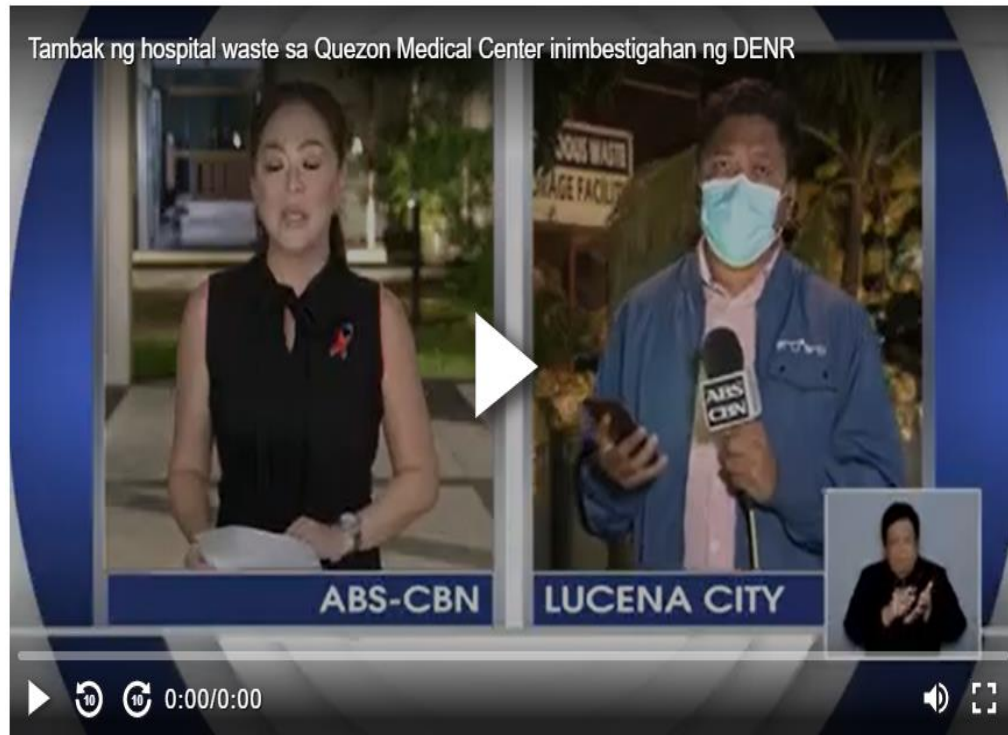
Source: <https://www.facebook.com/116724526976/posts/10160729360861977/>



## Tambak ng hospital waste sa Quezon Medical Center inimestigahan ng DENR

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Feb 02 2022 07:19 PM



Watch more on [iWantTFC](#)

Dumating na ang mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau sa Quezon Medical Center para mag-imestiga kaugnay sa tone-toneladang hazardous medical waste na nakatambak sa compound ng ospital. **Nagpa-Patrol, Dennis Datu. TV Patrol, Miyerkoles, 2 Pebrero 2022**



## Hazardous wastes sa labas ng ospital sa Lucena, malabundok na ang taas

ni [Jasmin Joy Evangelista](#) | February 2, 2022



Inirereklamo ang malabundok na taas ng nakatambak na hazardous hospital waste na nasa compound ng Quezon Medical Center sa Lucena City.

Sa sobrang dami raw ng basurang naipon ay hindi na kinaya ng storage facility ng ospital kung kaya't umapaw ito at kumakatas na.

Dahil dito ay naaamoy na ng mga residente malapit dito ang sangsang nito lalo na kapag umuulan.

Ayon sa pamunuan ng ospital na pinapatakbo ng provincial government ng Quezon, nagkaroon sila ng problema sa pagdami ng basura mula noong huling bahagi ng 2021.

Nasa 200 kilos kada araw lamang ang kayang iproseso ng kanilang treater na integrated sterilizer and shredder machine ngunit dumoble umano ang volume ng mga hazardous waste na naiipon ng ospital.



## Hazardous wastes sa labas ng ospital sa Lucena, malabundok na ang taas

Dagdag pa umano ang problema sa pangongolekta ng kanilang contractor matapos magkaproblema sa budget ang provincial government.

Mapapabilis sana ang pagproseso ng mga hazardous waste pero hindi pa magamit ang makina na dumating sa ospital.

Tiniyak naman ng pamunuan ng ospital na gumagawa sila ng paraan para mawala ang mga basura.





## DOH warns labs against improper disposal of medical waste

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

Published February 2, 2022 6:29pm

The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday warned laboratories, hospitals, and local government units against improper disposal of medical waste amid the coronavirus pandemic.

This was after at least [eight kids in Catanduanes](#) tested positive for COVID-19 after playing near the area where a diagnostics laboratory dumps its hazardous wastes.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire stressed that there are laws and policies regarding such violations.

“We’re not going to tolerate this kind of irresponsible behavior kasi maaari po ito makasakit or it can cause harm to our other citizens within or nearby their area,” Vergeire said in a media briefing.

(We’re not going to tolerate this kind of irresponsible behavior because this may hurt or cause harm to our other citizens.)

“So pinapaalalahanan po natin ang laboratories, ang ating mga ospital, ang ating local governments, please dispose of your medical waste properly kasi pag hindi natin ginawa 'yan, maaari pang kumalat ang ibang sakit sa ating bansa.”

(So we are reminding our laboratories, our hospitals, and local governments, please dispose of your waste properly, because if not other sicknesses may spread in the country.)

The Health official, however, clarified there is very little possibility that the children got the COVID-19 virus from the syringes.

Vergeire stressed that vaccines are composed of live virus.

“So kung saka-sakaling merong makapagtapon ng hiringilya at nahawakan ng ibang tao katulad ng mga batang 'yan, 'yung posibilidad na mahawa sila ay napakaliit,” she said.

(So if there were syringes thrown there and they were touched by people, such as these children, the possibility that they would get infected is very little.)—AOL, GMA News



## Get rid of medical wastes properly, DOH tells labs, hospitals

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora February 2, 2022, 5:44 pm



Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire (Screengrab from DOH briefing)

**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday told laboratories and hospitals to dispose of their medical wastes properly amid reports that seven children caught coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) after playing with garbage dumped by a diagnostic center in Catanduanes.

"Unang una gusto nating paalalahanan ang lahat ng mga laboratoryo at facilities na may mga batas na sumasaklaw sa ganitong violations at polisiya (First of all, we want to remind laboratories and facilities that there are laws that cover this kind of violation as well as policies) to guide you on what you're supposed to do regarding these medical wastes," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a media briefing.

An Inquirer report on Monday revealed that a village in the province's capital town Virac had found on January 24 garbage containing over 1,900 syringes and 2,000 blood sample tubes for Covid-19 tests and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) test kits, some of which were scattered on the shoreline.

"We are not going to tolerate this kind of irresponsible behavior," she added.

Globally, the World Health Organization said tons of medical waste from the Covid-19 response expose the urgent need to improve health care waste management practices in countries.

In the Philippines, Vergeire said DOH continues to closely coordinate with other agencies, including health care facilities and local governments in providing guidelines on the disposal of Covid-19 wastes.

She said facilities are required to have a proper waste management system or else they cannot operate. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1166910>



## To reduce plastic waste leakage, LGUs and port authorities should agree on plastic bans

February 1, 2022 | 5:19 pm



PHILSTAR

Local governments and port authorities should align on plastic bans to reduce the amount of plastic leaking into the ocean, [according to a solid waste management study by World Wildlife Fund for Nature \(WWF\) Philippines.](#)

*Clean Ports, Clean Oceans: Improving Port Waste Management in the Philippines* is a three-year partnership project funded by the Norwegian-based Grieg Foundation that aims to identify and test out scalable waste management solutions for ports to adopt.

Implementing these solutions will be difficult in cities that do not have a single-use plastics ban, said Czarina Constantino-Panopio, project manager of the baseline study on port waste management.

Ms. Panopio noted that a number of local government units do not have regulations that complement [Philippine Port Authority \(PPA\) MC no. 11-2021](#), which bans the use of unnecessary single-use plastic products in all PPA ports, facilities, and offices.

“What happens when passengers go out the port and the city [the port is in] doesn’t ban any kind of plastic?” she asked at a Jan. 28 event detailing the study. “There needs to be an alignment. It’s challenging to ban plastic in a port if the city the port is in doesn’t have [a ban].”

The study covers three types of waste: vessel-generated waste, port-generated waste, and community-generated waste. It aims to cut in half the plastic waste leakage in Manila North Port, the Port of Batangas, and the Port of Cagayan de Oro.



## To reduce plastic waste leakage, LGUs and port authorities should agree on plastic bans

Not all ports have their own material recovery facility (MRF), the study found. Some that have an MRF use it more as a waste receptacle rather than a facility where the segregation and utilization of waste is done. Not all barangays have functioning MRFs either.

A majority of port- and vessel-generated waste (61% and 67%, respectively) are recyclable, the study also found. Only 4% of these are recovered.

“We don’t want to condemn any port authority with this data. We see this as an opportunity to improve the current collection and management system,” said Ms. Panopio.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

[Clean Ports, Clean Oceans offers the following recommendations](#): stricter implementation and review of existing laws and policies; improved coordination among stakeholders; and better data management. It also calls for the monitoring and utilizing of plastic wastes, the installation of functional MRFs, and the carrying out of education campaigns towards sustainable waste management.

Ms. Panopio added that data management is already being covered by port management offices (PMOs), but at a voluntary level.

The PPA has around 10 memoranda and/or orders pertaining to solid waste management. [PPA AO no. 08-2018](#), ensures the continuity of SRFs, a system used for receiving waste, in ports under PPA’s jurisdiction. Another, [PPA AO 05-2018](#), provides the legal basis and enforcement of PPA’s programs towards a green and resilient port strategy.

The Philippines has a total of 552 ports — 271 of which are private — that are managed by 25 PMOs.

Partnership is crucial for sustainability, said Gry Larsen, leader of sustainability and public affairs of the Grieg Group of Companies, which established the Grieg Foundation.

“One challenge of plastic pollution is the lack of data about plastic waste,” she said. “Therefore, this study is a crucial step.” — **Patricia B. Mirasol**



## Senate passes bill placing plastic wastes under producers' responsibility



BYBMPLUS

FEBRUARY 2, 2022



Sen. Cynthia Villar

A bill that would mandate large companies to adopt and implement policies for the proper management of plastic packaging wastes has been approved by the Senate Monday, January 31, 2022.

Senators, voting 22-0-0, passed on third and final reading Senate Bill No. (SBN) 2425, which seeks to institutionalize the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and in effect amend Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Senator Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, said the bill was crafted in response to the clamor for the regulation of single-use plastics and its production, importation and disposal by industries.

“It is not a solution in itself, but it is a move in the right direction, I believe. We need to rescue our country from being a marine litter culprit and demonstrate that a developing country can and will make this work,” Villar said following the measure’s third reading approval.

Through the EPR, obliged companies “have the responsibility for the proper and effective recovery, treatment, recycling or disposal of their products after they have been sold and used by consumers” to reduce packaging waste generation and improve the recyclability and reusability of packaging wastes.



## Senate passes bill placing plastic wastes under producers' responsibility

Obligated companies would include producers, manufacturers and importers of consumer goods using plastic packaging. They shall be responsible for making financial contributions to support the collection, recovery, transportation, processing, recycling and disposal of their plastic packaging wastes.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) would not be required to have EPR programs, the bill stated.

SBN 2425 sets targets until 2030 for the compliance of the required companies to "improve their performance over time".

Producers, distributor, retailers implementing EPR programs would also be eligible to tax incentives.

On the other hand, fines ranging from P5 million to P20 million were proposed as penalties for failure to comply with the mandated EPR, as well as failure to meet the targets imposed by the bill.

"It is a sad reality that the Philippines is not in a good place when it comes to plastic wastes. The Philippines is the world's third largest source of plastic waste leaking into the ocean and we have yet to improve our ranking. We hope to contribute in solving this through this legislation," Villar said.

"The EPR bill is not meant to put additional burden to the companies who are plastic packaging wastes generators, but rather it is an acknowledgment and a call for help that plastic waste problem will not be solved without their invaluable cooperation," she pointed out.

Aside from Villar, co-authors of the measure were Sens. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, Pia Cayetano, Sonny Angara, Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Joel Villanueva, Nancy Binay, Manny Pacquiao, Risa Hontiveros, Lito Lapid, and Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri.

Sens. Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa, Win Gatchalian, Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, Richard Gordon, Panfilo Lacson, Imee Marcos, Grace Poe, Francis Tolentino also voted for the passage of SBN 2425.

Villar likewise thanked Senate President Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto, and Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon for their amendments and supporting the bill's approval.



## Plastic-to-rice exchange program launched



By [Frederick Silverio](#)

February 3, 2022

**ANGELES CITY:** The government of Angeles City in Pampanga kicked off its plastic-to-rice exchange project at [Barangay Mining](#) on Monday, January 31.

A total of 198 kilograms of recyclable plastic items were turned over by residents in exchange for 198 kilograms of rice on Monday.

Dubbed as "Walang Plastikan: Plastik Palit Bigas" project, Mayor [Carmelo Lazatin Jr.](#) said the city government is collecting recyclable plastics materials from Angeleño households in exchange for rice.

The redemption trucks will go to the 33 villages via schedule to implement the project efficiently.

"One kilo of plastic is equivalent to one kilo of rice. For now, there is one truck which does the daily rounds, but eventually, we will deploy two trucks," said Lazatin.

According to the mayor, the redemption truck went to Barangay Tabun on Tuesday, February 1 and will go to Barangay Capaya on Wednesday, February 2.

The project is being supervised by Lazatin's Chief Adviser [IC Calaguas](#).

The plastics collected will then be sold to companies that recycle plastics for hollow blocks and cement, Lazatin said.

Alexis Almero, a teenager from Purok 7, collected plastic items long before the project was launched. On Monday, he surprised his mother by bringing home 10 kilograms of rice.

"My mom had no idea I had been collecting plastic so that I could join the project of the city and exchange them for rice. My mom will surely be happy with the 10 kilos of rice I will bring home," Almero said.

Redentor Lingat of Purok 5 also commended the program, saying it is beneficial, especially to those who are struggling to put food on the table. Lingat received seven kilograms of rice from the plastic bottles he had collected.

"When I heard of the project, I immediately went to exchange my collected plastics for rice. Instead of throwing them away, I cleaned them, had them exchanged and I was able to put food on the table," Lingat said.



## Isko OK to continue ‘responsible’ dolomite extraction for Manila Bay

By GISELLE OMBAY, GMA News

Published February 2, 2022 5:54pm

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno on Wednesday said he would support the extraction of minerals to further improve the shorelines of Manila Bay as long as environmental rules are observed.

During Super Radyo dzBB's "Ikaw Na Ba? The Presidential Interviews," Moreno explained that localities that are rich in minerals have the right to prosper and make the lives of their residents better.

However, getting minerals from them should not be at the expense of negligence and abuse, he emphasized.

“Ang pag-e-extract ng minerals, rules must be observed, regulations must be followed. May mga pamamaraan [there are ways] on how to extract minerals whether it is mining or for better purposes as long as nobody is violating the Environmental Protection Act,” he said.

Manila Bay’s artificial dolomite beach has white sand made from crushed dolomite boulders shipped from Cebu province. It was part of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ (DENR) P389-million beach nourishment project.

DENR - Environment Management Bureau director William Cuñado in September 2020 said that a [certificate](#) of "non-coverage for environmental impact assessment" was issued for the Manila Bay project.

The said certificate states that the project is not covered by the Philippine Environmental Impact System and thus not required to secure an environmental compliance certificate prior to the commencement of activities.

The DENR said “the project likewise passed the required environmental impact assessment.”

“Kung tama, nasa pamamaraang tama, sumusunod sa tama, at mga alituntunin ay tama, oh eh ba’t naman natin hindi susuportahan na umangat, umasenso, umunlad ‘yung buhay ng isang locality na ‘yon at tsaka ng kaniyang mamamayan?,” Moreno said.

(If it is right, done in the right way, following what is right, and the rules are right, then why should we not support the advancement and development of the locality and the lives of its people?)

He said he hoped that the gains for such projects would benefit the particular province involved.

“That’s what matters most to me—protection to the environment and economic growth para do’n sa mamamayan na ‘yon [for the locals],” he added.

Environmentalists and fishers’ groups earlier [criticized](#) the project, calling it an artificial rehabilitation and a waste of money.

### West Philippine Sea

Moreover, Moreno said that he would protect the country’s right to the West Philippine Sea through technical and physical efforts.





## Isko OK to continue ‘responsible’ dolomite extraction for Manila Bay

First, he stressed that he will insist on The Hague ruling in favor of the Philippines in July 2016 when it junked China's nine-dash claim over the South China Sea.

“We will continue and convince others multilaterally na ‘yung kasama natin bansa, ka-miyembro nating bansa, na tulungan tayong mapatupad nang tama in favor of the Philippines ‘yung decision sa Hague [for other countries to help us implement The Hague ruling in favor of the Philippines,” he said.

Moreno added that if he wins the May 9 polls, he will appoint a navy man as secretary of the Department of National Defense.

“Imbis na bumili ako ng kanyon, ng bala, para iputok ko sa kapwa ko Pilipino, ‘yung ipambibili ko doon, ipambibili ko na lang ng barko pandagat na tutulong pa in any given tragedy or challenges,” he said.

(Instead of buying bullets to shoot my fellow Filipinos, I will just buy a ship that will help in any given tragedy or challenges.)

It could be recalled that the Chinese Coast Guard in November 2021 [blocked](#) and water cannoned two Philippine supply boats on a resupply mission to Ayungin Shoal.

China also [demanded](#) the Philippines to remove its grounded vessel BRP Sierra Madre at the Ayungin Shoal a day after Filipino boats reached the grounded Navy ship to complete their resupply mission.

### Communication and internet

Moreno also said that if elected president, his administration will build a “national fiber optic backbone” to boost the country’s communication capability especially during times of natural calamities such as typhoons.

He said that this will connect the country’s islands and provide more reliable interconnectivity that is also needed for economic growth and enable the Philippines to catch up with the modern world.

“We will build our communication backbone, from the tip in the north and south, all the way, Luzon Visayas, Mindanao, via fiber optics,” Moreno said.

Besides building a national fiber backbone, Moreno also plans to acquire a satellite internet access provided by Elon Musk’s Starlink which is now being used by some 14 countries in the world.

“I hope someday that Elon Musk will be successful in deploying the low orbiter internet LAN or communication. So far, nagiging matagumpay ‘yung low orbit satellite internet connectivity na ginagawa ni Elon Musk sa Estados Unidos [has been successful in the United States] and I hope someday our country can acquire such facility,” he added.—LDF, GMA News



**Masungi Georeserve**

9 hrs · 🌐

**MASUNGI DIALOGUES WITH THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE**

February 2, 2022, Baras, Rizal – Top officials of the Philippine National Police led by PMGen. Valeriano de Leon, Director for Operations, visited the Masungi Georeserve for a site visit and discussions towards the protection of the environment and its defenders.

“We have had a lot of challenges with the PNP through the years; as I emphasized in the meeting, we are more concerned about the future and that we become allies in the fight for climate and environmental justice,” Atty. Tony La Viña, environment advocate, human rights lawyer, and advisor to the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, said.

“We hope this will be a new era for the relationship between environmental defenders and the police in Masungi,” Billie Dumaliang, trustee at Masungi Georeserve Foundation said.

“We are pleased with the commitment of the PNP through PMGen. De Leon to investigate and crack down on criminality and recent attacks against environmental defenders inside the protected and conserved areas. These crimes as well as disinformation campaigns are led by notorious illegal occupants, land grabbers, and proponents of illegal structures such as resorts and swimming pools inside the Masungi Wildlife Sanctuary and Upper Marikina Watershed,” she added.

In the dialogue, a park ranger passionately narrated to the participants the recent threats made to her by violent and disgruntled violators. “Sinasabi po sa aming mga rangers, pupulutin nalang kami sa kangkungan kung hindi kami aalis at titigil sa pagprotekta ng lugar.”

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation also thanks PNP Chief Gen. Dionardo Carlos for this fruitful dialogue and we look forward to the renewed commitment of the PNP for the environment and the future of the Filipino people.

###

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Philippine National Police  
Police Regional Office 4A  
Rizal Police Provincial Office





## Despite crackdown, 'demand keeps China' on wildlife smuggling map

Holly Chik, South China Morning Post

Posted at Feb 02 2022 02:27 PM | Updated as of Feb 02 2022 02:39 PM

China will continue to be a major destination for the global illegal wildlife trade because of its demand for wildlife products, particularly for traditional Chinese medicine, according to The Hague-based Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC).

"Whilst continued pressure on the trafficking networks is essential, demand reduction and education are also very important," a spokeswoman for the non-profit foundation said.

The WJC said demand persisted in China despite a crackdown on the trade, including introducing a total ban on elephant ivory sales in late 2017.

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The commission also said the South Korea-China shipping route should be flagged as "high risk" for wildlife trafficking.

It found that South Korea "appears to be increasingly popular among wildlife smuggling networks as a transit location", where 26 seizures of shipments destined for China have been recorded since 2013, involving more than 23 tonnes of ivory and 10 tonnes of pangolin scales.

### China's ivory ban at risk from legal trade in woolly mammoth tusks

Pangolin scales have been used in Chinese medicine for centuries but their efficacy has never been scientifically proven. In 2020, references to pangolins and their body parts were removed from an official Chinese compendium of drugs.

Ivory carving is an ancient art in China and finely worked pieces, whether elaborate depictions of traditional Buddhist scenes or more simple seals and chopsticks, are prized by collectors.

The WJC said effective and intelligence-led law enforcement efforts in China had led to changes in the global trafficking landscape, with Vietnamese criminal networks replacing or competing with Chinese traffickers in African countries.

In December 2020, the "biggest ivory smuggling racket" in China ended with 17 people jailed, including two ringleaders for life.

The group smuggled at least 20 tonnes of elephant ivory from Nigeria to China under the cover of a timber business between 2013 and 2019, taking advantage of free ports in Asia and bribing a customs officer, according to a WJC report.

The report said two sons of a family from the Chinese eastern coastal province of Fujian opened a timber shop in 2011 in a market in Dongguan, the biggest timber trading centre in southern China.

The shop did very little business and the pair appeared to have little understanding of the timber trade, the report said, citing other timber traders in the market. But the younger son was soon driving a new luxury car and bought a flat near the market.



## Despite crackdown, 'demand keeps China' on wildlife smuggling map

The family, identified by the surname Chen, also started building a seven-storey ancestral house in their hometown in 2012, described by the authorities as "extravagantly decorated", according to the report.

The WJC said "the Chen (group) used their established timber business in Nigeria as a cover to smuggle ivory, and wooden crates and timber planks as the concealment method".

The first seizure by Chinese customs took place in 2013 when officers at a Dongguan port inspected a shipment from Nigeria via Hong Kong that was declared as rosewood timber.

They uncovered almost 2,000 pieces of ivory and two rhino horns concealed inside custom-made wooden crates hidden in containers behind tight stacks of heavy timber planks.

"This was likely a favoured concealment method not only because of the Chens' existing timber business, but also due to timber planks being heavy and cumbersome to move so they could potentially act as a deterrent to customs officers from fully unloading a container during an inspection," the WJC said.

### China bans trade, eating of wild animals in battle against coronavirus

The authorities identified the owners of the shipment as Chen and his two sons. But the trio fled to Malaysia the next day and evaded arrest.

From Malaysia, the family continued their smuggling business with new partners and fake passports with which the youngest son entered China 21 times between 2015 and 2019.

The group also shifted to "a more costly but secure route", taking shipments via South Korea and adding stops along the way to reduce their risk of being detected, the report said.

"The Chen (group) used longer, more expensive shipping routes with multiple transit points, to re-export shipments with 'new' bills of lading and obscure the originating port in Africa," the report said.

"They also took advantage of the fact that transshipment hubs do not have the capacity to inspect every container by sending shipments to Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea."

After investigators found that one of the sons had been using a false identity to return to the country, they also discovered that he often travelled to the eastern province of Anhui despite having no business or family ties there.

They later tracked down a cable factory there that stored two ivory shipments totalling nearly 16 tonnes that had been transported from Nigeria to China via Singapore and South Korea in 2017 and 2018.

But in 2018 the group struggled to sell their ivory after the trade ban in China came into effect.



## Despite crackdown, 'demand keeps China' on wildlife smuggling map

"The ivory shipment of February 2018 was stranded for more than a year in storage as it had become too difficult to sell due to the government's strict ivory crackdown," the report said.

### One of the biggest problems in the fight against illegal wildlife trade

The WJC said their analysis of Chinese court documents showed more criminals being convicted because of investigations conducted on or through the Chinese chat app WeChat. Some traffickers have turned to other apps to avoid detection.

Authorities found that the son often drove to the airport and stayed for a few hours but there were no records of him flying. Big data analysis of the flight and passenger records showed the times he stayed at the airport matched the arrival and departure time of a Malaysian businessman, revealing their illegal partnership.

A Chinese customs officer who aided clearance of the illegal cargo was among those convicted of colluding to import 25 batches of products for the businessman.

The officer confessed to initially charging 200,000 yuan (US\$31,400) per container but gradually doubled the bribes.

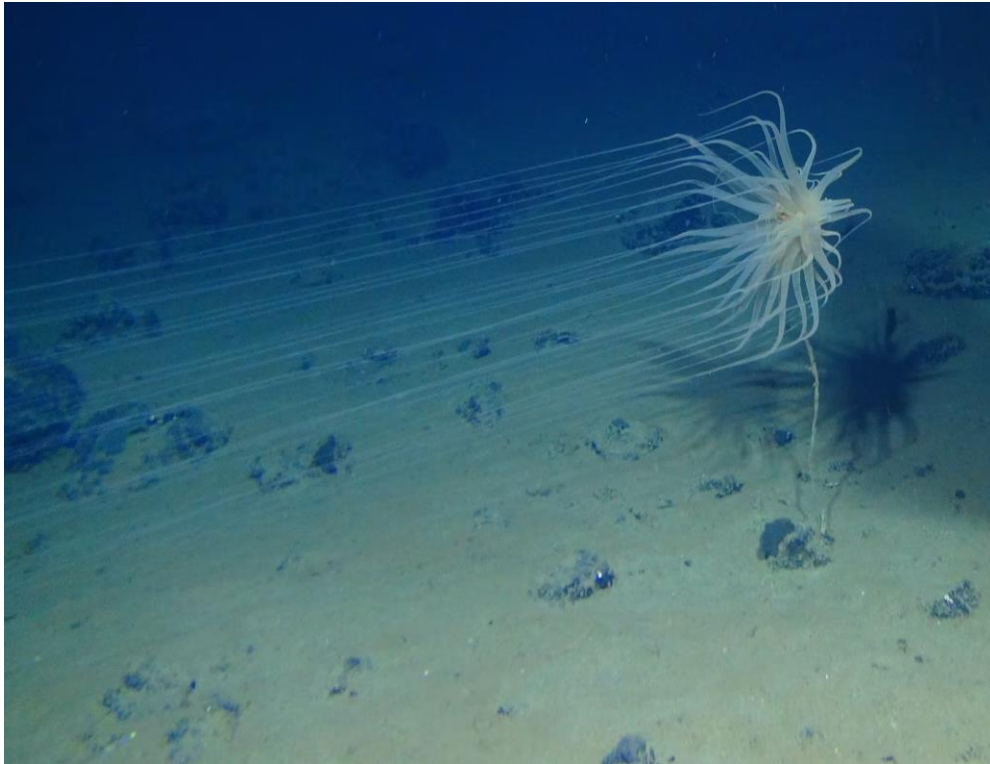
Four months after the son was arrested while dining at a restaurant in China in November 2018, police arrested 20 members along the supply chain and seized about 2,750 pieces of ivory weighing 7.5 tonnes at the cable factory in Anhui.

"The case certainly identifies the resilience of organised crime groups to absorb losses and prosper even after law enforcement interventions. Criminal networks are often resourceful and where demand exists, a supply chain is often formed or adapted to feed it," a WJC spokeswoman said.

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## Deep ocean carbon drawdown not an easy climate fix

The deep ocean can be used for carbon dioxide removal from our atmosphere. Here are the opportunities, risks and constraints.



Relicanthus sp.—a new species from a new order of Cnidaria collected at 4,100 meters in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCZ) that lives on sponge stalks attached to nodules. Image courtesy of Craig Smith and Diva Amon, [ABYSSLINE Project/NOAA](#).



By [Phil Williamson](#)  
5 minute read Feb. 2, 2022

The ocean and climate are inextricably linked. More than [90 per cent of the extra heat from global warming](#) has gone into the deep blue sea, with associated climate-driven changes [reducing the productivity of fisheries](#) and threatening [more than 600 million people](#) through sea-level rise. Yet the ocean offers opportunities: it could also be a source of solutions [rather than just a victim of climate change](#).



## Deep ocean carbon drawdown not an easy climate fix

One possibility is increasing the ocean's uptake of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and storing it in the deep. Doing so on a large scale would help deliver the net zero goal of the [Paris Climate Change Agreement](#). But considerations beyond just the financial commitments of research and development, costed at [US\\$2.5 billion](#), will need to be taken into account.

Either biology or chemistry could be used to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to store it in the ocean. The most straightforward approach is a '[nature-based solution](#)', restoring the natural functions and processes already provided by our environment. Protecting marine ecosystems by ending overfishing and other conservation actions can reinstate the role of top predators in marine food webs, particularly those of the deep ocean — found in depths beyond 200 metres. The resulting increase in the abundance of larger organisms, such as fish and whales would transfer organic carbon from surface waters to deeper layers through [faeces and deadfall, slowing the return of that carbon to the atmosphere](#).

The need to end overfishing through improved ocean protection is internationally recognised by [UN Sustainable Development Goal 14](#), and associated targets of the [Convention for Biological Diversity](#) (CBD) and the [World Parks Congress](#). The main problem in using this approach for climate mitigation is that the additional carbon removed from the atmosphere on a long-term basis is [likely to be relatively small](#). The removal also cannot be easily attributable to any single country. Whilst ocean ecosystem restoration is undoubtedly worthwhile for the many non-climatic benefits it can provide, signatories of the Paris Climate Change Agreement are required to [communicate their emission reduction strategies and quantify their national contributions](#).

In theory, much greater CO<sub>2</sub> drawdown is possible if the growth of marine phytoplankton (microscopic floating algae) can be increased by ocean fertilisation, for parts of the ocean where dissolved nutrients in seawater are in short supply. Directly adding relatively small amounts of biologically-available iron, or larger amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus, would stimulate phytoplankton blooms, converting inorganic carbon dioxide to plant biomass. Pumping up nutrient- rich water from the deep using underwater pipes, referred to as artificial upwelling, could also be used to achieve the same effect.

These ideas were [first suggested in the early 1990s](#), and have been investigated by [patch-scale field experiments](#) and modelling studies, however, [many key issues remain unresolved](#). These include: whether fisheries might benefit or suffer if ocean productivity is increased in this way; whether there might be other damaging side effects; for example, reducing productivity elsewhere, potentially many [thousands of kilometres away](#) (linked by ocean circulation patterns) and the uncertain rate of return of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere over the next 50-100 years.

Concerns that there might be damaging side effects resulted in a [non-binding moratorium on ocean fertilisation](#) in 2008, followed by [more detailed regulation](#) of marine geoengineering — defined as “deliberate intervention in the marine environment to manipulate natural processes including to counteract anthropogenic climate change and/or its impacts, and that has the potential to result in deleterious effects, especially where those effects may be widespread, long-lasting or severe.”





## Deep ocean carbon drawdown not an easy climate fix

Marine geoengineering is now limited to strictly-controlled research under the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, referred to as the London Convention and London Protocol (LC/LP). There are also [further restrictions in the Southern Ocean](#), where iron additions would potentially have greatest climatic effectiveness [under various agreements](#).

The large-scale [cultivation of seaweed \(macroalgae\)](#) is another biological option for ocean-based climate mitigation. Seaweed photosynthesis would remove carbon dioxide from seawater, followed by managed long-term storage of carbon fixed in its biomass. This approach would be most efficiently carried out in shallow waters, scaling-up the cultivation and harvesting procedures of existing seaweed farms, widely used for food production in China, South Korea and Japan.

Cultivation in deeper water has also been proposed, but requires a very large area (of around 10 million square kilometre or more than 40 per cent of global shelf seas) for climatically-significant carbon removal. Deliberate sinking of the harvested seaweed to the deep ocean seafloor would then provide carbon storage.

Large scale open-ocean seaweed cultivation and its sinking could have substantive climate mitigation potential, according to a [modelling study, currently under review](#). Since the seaweed would be physically moved to the seafloor (for example, by baling-up and adding ballast), there would also be much greater management control and less uncertainty than nutrient-based ocean fertilisation. Yet there would also be adverse environmental impacts and climatically-important feedback effects, both in the water column, as a result of seaweed cultivation, and on the seafloor, as a result of storage.

In the upper ocean, shading and nutrient competition would decrease the natural productivity of phytoplankton (reducing their own CO<sub>2</sub> removal), and increase the abundance of marine calcifiers, such as molluscs and other seaweed grazers (releasing CO<sub>2</sub>). At the seafloor, the seaweed would directly smother other organisms living there; its decomposition would also reduce oxygen levels over larger areas, affecting many more deep-sea organisms. Although the LC/LP regulation does not cover seaweed cultivation *per se*, it would fall under ocean disposal by deliberately counteracting anthropogenic climate change.

Chemistry-only methods for ocean climate mitigation focus on '[ocean alkalinity enhancement](#)', primarily by adding large amounts of [finely-ground silicate](#) or [calcium compounds](#) to the open ocean or coastal waters, to convert CO<sub>2</sub> dissolved in seawater to bicarbonate and carbonate ions.

This process could, [in theory](#), be very effective in removing carbon from the atmosphere. However, the extra amount entering the ocean would be hard to measure reliably with naturally variable water chemistry and air-sea exchanges of CO<sub>2</sub>. In addition, "the costs, logistics, and environmental footprints of mining, industrial transformation, pulverising, and transporting minerals require careful consideration", as noted by the United States' [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine \(NASEM\)](#).



## Deep ocean carbon drawdown not an easy climate fix

Adding alkaline compounds to the ocean could be beneficial for marine communities, by counteracting ocean acidification as a result of the extra CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and ocean, added by human activities. But adding alkalinity would also have other effects, depending on the specific elemental compositions of the minerals used. For example, high silica would cause significant changes to phytoplankton species composition and productivity, with the strongest effects closest to where alkalinity increases are made.

The governance of ocean alkalinity enhancement is also likely to be problematic, constrained by LC/LP regulation and strongly opposed by [NGOs that reject climate interventions](#) considered to interfere with nature. Whilst mineral dissolution in the ocean is undoubtedly [a natural process](#), there is a [much wider debate](#) on where the boundary between natural solutions to climate change (generally regarded as acceptable) and technological solutions (widely rejected) should lie. From a purely scientific perspective, the distinction is arbitrary.

The ocean does have immense potential for [delivering renewable energy](#). Yet, the deep ocean seems likely to provide, at best, only a very limited solution to climate change through carbon removal. Whilst some approaches can be considered low regret (or no regret) — because of the wide range of benefits they are expected to provide — most remain at the conceptual stage, being too risky, uncertain or contentious to include in current policy actions.

*Phil Williamson is an Honorary Reader from the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia, UK.*



## Climate change prompts UK crops to flower early



By [Agence France-Presse](#)

February 3, 2022

**PARIS:** Global warming is causing plants in the UK to burst into flower around a month earlier, with potentially profound consequences for crops and wildlife, according to research Wednesday that used nature observations going back to the 1700s.

Trees, herbs and other flowering plants have shifted seasonal rhythms as temperatures have increased, according to the study led by the [University of Cambridge](#).

The results are "truly alarming" because of the ecological threats posed by early flowering, said [Ulf Buntgen](#), a professor from [Cambridge's Department of Geography](#), who led the research published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

Crops can be killed off if they blossom early and are then lashed by a late frost, but researchers said the bigger threat was to wildlife.

This is because insects and birds have evolved to synchronize their own development stages with the plants they rely on. When they are no longer in phase, the result is an "ecological mismatch."

"A certain plant flowers, it attracts a particular type of insect, which attracts a particular type of bird, and so on," Buntgen said in a press release from the university.

"But if one component responds faster than the others, there's a risk that they'll be out of synch, which can lead species to collapse if they can't adapt quickly enough."

To track the changes in flowering patterns, researchers used a database known as Nature's Calendar, which has entries by scientists, naturalists, amateur and professional gardeners, as well as organizations such as the [Royal Meteorological Society](#), going back more than 200 years.

Looking at more than 400,000 observations of 406 trees, shrubs, herbs and climbing plants across swathes of [Britain](#), they found that the average first flowering date from 1987 to 2019 is 30 days earlier than the average first flowering date from 1753 to 1986.

The changes seen in recent decades coincide with accelerating impacts of human-caused climate change, especially higher temperatures.



## DAR to distribute private agriculture land to farmers in Bicol



[BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is gearing up to distribute 101,377 hectares of agricultural land to landless farmers in the Bicol region in its bid to achieve a zero-backlog target in terms of land distribution balance starting this year.

The 101,377 hectares of agricultural land represents 77.11 percent of the 442,895 hectares of the total “CARP scope” of the region leaving a balance of 101,377 hectares, the second-largest nationwide. Topping the list are Regions 6 and 12.

So far the DAR has distributed a total of 341,518 hectares of agricultural land throughout the Bicol region in the last 49 years, which include land transfer program that dates back in 1972, and the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) which was implemented beginning 1988.

DAR Bicol Regional Director Rodrigo O. Realubit reported that about 150,083 Emancipation Patents (EPS) and Certificates of Landownership Award (CLOAs) were issued to 198,917 Bicolano farmers. He credited the persistent efforts of the DAR to provide security of land tenure to landless farmers despite the difficulties in implementing the CARP.

By province, Camarines Sur came on top, with 125,654 hectares awarded to 74,125 agrarian reform beneficiaries. It was followed by Masbate with 70,652 hectares and 34,146 farmer-beneficiaries; Albay with 56,381 hectares and 39,367 farmer-beneficiaries; Camarines Norte with 38,198 hectares and 17,844 farmer-beneficiaries; and Sorsogon with 33,421 and 21,265 farmer-beneficiaries.

Catanduanes has already completed all its distributable agricultural lands of 14,666 hectares with 10,919 farmer-beneficiaries benefiting from its land distribution program.

Realubit said that since the remaining area available for distribution are mostly privately owned and more contentious, the coming years will continue to be incredibly difficult for the department, adding that more than 47,557 hectares and 17,238 hectares of the total balance are classified as “problematic” and “untitled properties,” respectively, thereby delaying their coverage under CARP.

Private lands also include those covered by the operation land transfer program, landed estates, and lands foreclosed by government financing institutions.

He said “these areas are still under protests or litigation and lack documents and can be touched only by DAR upon resolution of the case and or completion of supporting records.”

According to the DAR official, problematic landholdings may raise questions about ownership or the legality of coverage.

Realubit said only 504 hectares of government-owned land remained untouched. Most of it had been distributed in the past decades. They are located in Albay, Camarines Sur, Masbate, and Sorsogon provinces.

He said over the course of 49 years, a total of 351 agrarian reform beneficiary organizations have been organized regionwide to enable farmer-members to continue gaining access to a convergence of support services from various agrarian reform implementing agencies, donor communities, local



## **DAR to distribute private agriculture land to farmers in Bicol**

government units, and non-government organizations. These support services include skills and livelihood training programs, access to credit, health, technology transfer, irrigation, multi-purpose buildings, food processing centers with tools and instruments, and farm machinery.

He said DAR, through CARP, financed quite a lot of farm-to-market road and bridge construction projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways; credit programs of the Land Bank of the Philippines; skills training of the Department of Trade and Industry; irrigation projects of the National Irrigation Administration; and agri-production training and livestock distribution of the Department of Agriculture.



## House approves creation of Siargao Island dev't body

By Filane Mikee Cervantes February 2, 2022, 5:26 pm



Magpupungko Rock Formation in Siargao Island (Photo courtesy of Radyo Pilipinas Butuan)

**MANILA** – The House of Representatives on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved on final reading a measure creating the Siargao Islands Development Authority (SIDA) to promote the sustainable development of the island.

With 224 affirmative votes, the chamber passed on third reading House Bill 10683 creating a government-owned corporation to be known as SIDA, which shall exercise jurisdiction over the entirety of Siargao Island and its surrounding islets.

The SIDA shall be mandated to develop Siargao Islands into a self-sustaining, industrial, commercial, financial, and investment center to generate employment opportunities.

The proposed body shall also promote productive local and foreign investments, while strictly prioritizing the protection and preservation of its natural resources and biodiversity.

Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez, author of the measure, said the economic potential of Siargao is unquestionable.

"This bill seeks to spur further growth by reclassifying and converting the land from the shorelines of the main island of Siargao, and three kilometers inwards, into commercial, residential, and tourist areas," Alvarez said.

The bill creates a SIDA governing board composed of 16 members composed of representatives of the affected local government units (LGUs), the Department of Tourism, Department of Agriculture, and the private sector.

It provides that the SIDA shall have an authorized capital of PHP200 million to be subscribed in full by the national government, and its operating expenses included in the annual General Appropriations Act. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/u66903>

03 FEBRUARY 2022, Thursday



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## DOH logs 7,661 new COVID-19 infections; active cases at 160,297

(Philstar.com)

- February 2, 2022 - 4:44pm



Lanterns marking the Lunar New Year are displayed at a mall in Binondo, Manila where the city's Chinatown is located as seen on Jan. 27, 2022.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Wednesday reported 7,661 additional COVID-19 infections, pushing the country's caseload to 3,577,298.

Wednesday's tally brought the number of active cases to 160,297, of which 93% had mild illness.

According to DOH, 76% of the newly-reported cases occurred from January 20 to February 2. The regions with the highest number of additional infections during that period were Western Visayas (896), Metro Manila (873), and Calabarzon (694).

The country's death toll rose by 43 to 54,097, while recoveries increased by 23,392 to 3,362,904.

The DOH said that 24.8% of 40,453 samples on January 31 tested positive for COVID-19, way above the threshold set by the World Health Organization.

Two testing laboratories did not submit data to the agency.

### Back to 'moderate risk'

- The risk level of the Philippines for COVID-19 returned to [moderate](#) after a record-breaking surge in cases fueled by the hyper-contagious Omicron variant.
- OCTA Research said it has observed a [downtrend trend](#) in the number of COVID-19 cases in several cities in Visayas.
- Senator Richard Gordon said he hopes to get majority of the upper chamber to [support the partial report detailing the blue ribbon committee's investigation](#) into the government's pandemic spending.

— Gaea Katreena Cabico

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/02/02/2158098/doh-logs-7661-new-covid-19-infections-active-cases-160297/amp/>



## New Covid-19 infections drop to 7.6K

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz February 2, 2022, 5:00 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday reported 7,661 new coronavirus infections nationwide, another drop in the number of cases from Tuesday’s 9,493.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH said active cases have further dropped to 160,297 from Tuesday’s 176,053.

Of these active cases, 149,829 have mild symptoms, followed by the asymptomatic at 5,575, those with moderate symptoms at 3,056, those with severe symptoms at 1,521, and those in critical condition at 316.

It reported 23,392 new recoveries, a slight reduction from Tuesday’s 24,210, and recorded 43 new deaths, lower than Tuesday’s 51.

Based on the latest data on Covid-19 testing, there were 40,453 persons tested for Covid-19 on Monday, with 24.8 percent found positive for the disease.

To date, the 3,800 beds at intensive care units (ICU) in the whole country are at 46 percent occupancy; 20,800 isolation beds at 44 percent occupancy; 15,600 ward beds at 45 percent occupancy; and 25 percent of 3,100 ventilators are currently in use.

In the National Capital Region, the 1,300 ICU beds are at 40 percent occupancy; 4,700 isolation beds at 34 percent occupancy; 4,300 ward beds at 36 percent occupancy; and 24 percent of 1,000 ventilators are in use. *(PNA)*

## PH now at moderate risk for COVID-19

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Feb 2, 2022 3:00:26 PM



The country is now at moderate risk for COVID-19 given negative infection growth rates, a Health official said on Wednesday, even as health care capacity is at low risk. (FILE PHOTO)

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, February 2)** — The country is now at moderate risk for COVID-19 given negative infection growth rates, a Health official said on Wednesday, even as health care capacity is at low risk.

“The Philippines is now at moderate-risk case classification, dati nasa high at critical risk tayo, pero ngayon moderate na lang [we were at [high risk and critical risk](#) before but now we are at moderate risk],” said Vergeire in a media forum. “We showed a negative one-week and two-week growth rate.”

She said the average daily attack rate – or the ratio of confirmed infections in a certain area per number of population – is still high, but is now at 19.43 per 100,000 people

Meanwhile, Vergeire said the health care capacity for intensive care units and bed utilization is at low risk.

“So tayo ay talagang nagmomove na towards nitong decline na 'to so tuloy-tuloy po tayo,” added Vergeire.

[Translation: So we are really moving towards a decline, so let’s continue this downtrend.]

The news comes a few days after the government [downgraded restrictions](#) in Metro Manila and seven provinces to Alert Level 2.

Source: <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/2/2/PH-moderate-risk-2022.html>



# Palace: Alert level system should stay

BY MJ BLANCAFLOR

*@tribunephil\_MJB*

Government officials and health experts have rejected the proposal to forgo the Covid-19 alert level system by

the second quarter of the year.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, the vice-chairperson of the national pandemic task force, said the alert level system which serves as the

**Turn to page A2**



## Palace: Alert level system should stay

**From page 1**

basis of restrictions among Philippine regions cannot be scrapped yet.

“It is not yet time to do away with the alert level system,” he said in an interview with ANC on Wednesday, adding that experts are wary of treating Covid-19 as an “endemic.”

“Of course, they’re optimistic that we’re now on our way to seeing Covid like the flu,” Nograles said. “But we have to wait for what the health experts will tell us.”

The Palace official also questioned the timing of scrapping the alert level system, noting that restrictions may be needed again should experts detect another Covid-19 variant of concern.

The government is still scrambling to boost the state’s inoculation efforts in other regions, he added.

Department of Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, who is also the spokesperson of the agency, said the government would “carefully” study the proposal to downgrade the Philippines to Alert Level 1 and to scrap the alert level system afterward.

“We will study this carefully, so we can ensure we have adequate safeguards before easing up to Alert Level 1,” Vergeire told reporters.

For health reform advocate Anthony Leachon, who used to be an adviser of

the national pandemic task force, the country’s Covid-19 alert level system should remain since it provides the basis of measures that should be taken by the government against the pandemic.

“It is premature to lift the scheme, especially amid the threat of Omicron,” he told *Daily Tribune* in a phone interview. “Metrics should be kept, so we know if we are succeeding or failing.

Vince Dizon, the deputy chief implementer of the national task force against Covid-19, meanwhile said the transition plan on lifting the alert level system should be ready by the end of February.

“We are confident that the number of new Covid-19 cases recorded will continue to decrease, and the steps we have recently made are headed in that direction,” he said in a virtual forum, referring to the lifting of the alert level system.

“We have to bring it to the level last year before Omicron when there are below 1,000 or even less than 500 Covid-19 cases per day,” he added.

Dizon said senior citizens and those with comorbidities, who are at most at risk of getting Covid-19, should complete their vaccination as soon as possible.

“We really have to convince them to take the jab because it is the only way out of this,” he said.

Presidential Adviser on Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion first

floated the idea of scrapping the alert level system, citing high vaccination rates among major cities.

At present, Philippine regions and cities have been placed under varying alert levels, which would be effective until 15 February.



SHOPPERS this many are likely to be seen anew further from the present Alert Level 2.



## WHO chief warns of 'very worrying increase' in Covid-19 deaths

February 2, 2022, 1:41 pm



WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (*Anadolu file photo*)

**GENEVA** – There is a “very worrying increase” in Covid-19 deaths around the world and preventing transmission of the virus is still paramount, the head of the World Health Organization said on Tuesday.

Addressing a webinar, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said last Sunday marked two years since a public health emergency of international concern – the highest level of alarm under international law – was declared over the spread of Covid-19.

At the time, there were fewer than 100 cases and no deaths reported outside China, he said.

“Two years later, more than 370 million cases have been reported and more than 5.6 million deaths – and we know these numbers are an underestimate,” Tedros said.

He said “almost 90 million cases have been reported to WHO – more than were reported in the whole of 2020” since Omicron was first identified just 10 weeks ago.

“We are now starting to see a very worrying increase in deaths in most regions of the world,” Tedros said.

Maria van Kerkhove, the WHO’s technical lead, said over 22 million cases were reported to the WHO in the past seven days, driven mainly by Omicron.

**Still need to prevent transmission**

“We’re concerned that a narrative has taken hold in some countries that because of vaccines, and because of omicron’s high transmissibility and lower severity, preventing transmission is no longer possible and no longer necessary,” Tedros said.

He warned that “nothing could be further from the truth,” as more transmission means more deaths.



## WHO chief warns of 'very worrying increase' in Covid-19 deaths

The WHO is not calling for any country to return to the “so-called lockdowns,” but is urging all countries to offer protection using every tool, not vaccines alone, he added.

“It’s premature for any country to either surrender or declare victory,” Tedros said. “This virus is dangerous, and it continues to evolve before our very eyes. WHO is currently tracking four sub-lineages of the Omicron variant of concern, including BA.2.”

The WHO wants countries to continue testing, surveillance and sequencing because the virus will continue to evolve, he explained.

“We can’t fight this virus if we don’t know what it’s doing,” said Tedros, adding that the world “must continue to work to ensure all people have access to vaccines.”

Vaccines may also need to evolve as variants of the virus could continue to escape neutralizing antibodies induced by vaccines against prior strains, he said.

In addition, the reservoir of beta coronaviruses is significant, and new crossovers to humans are likely, Tedros added. (*Anadolu*)



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 690

## PEBRERO 2, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 4.5%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
160,297

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 94.0%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
3,362,904

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.51%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
54,097

MGA BAGONG KASO **7,661**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **23,392**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **43**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,577,298**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 31

DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 2  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 31

# 24.8%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 40,453

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS

# 96.9%

ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!

**B**AWAL  
WALANG  
FACE MASK

KABUANG PILIPINAS  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA  
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **46%** Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **40%** Utilized

5,575 Asymptomatic

ISOLATION BEDS (20.8K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **44%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **34%** Utilized

149,829 Mild

WARD BEDS (15.6K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **45%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.3K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **36%** Utilized

3,056 Moderate

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
 **25%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
 **24%** Utilized

1,521 Severe

316 Critical

### DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access  
here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

[bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines](https://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines)

### DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777  
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

[bit.ly/OHCCHotline](https://bit.ly/OHCCHotline)

### DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

[bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine](https://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine)

SeeYouDoc  
seeyoudoc.com  
SeeYouDoc

Telimed and Medgate  
medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

HealthNow  
healthnow.ph/  
help@healthnow.ph  
HealthNow

KonsultaMD  
konsulta.md  
KonsultaMD

MedCheck  
medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD  
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph  
TelAventusMD

CloudPx  
cloudpx.ph/



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App  
o gamitin ang WEBAPP  
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?  
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)  
225-655-779 (for other users)



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

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH  
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH  
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

[doh.gov.ph](https://doh.gov.ph)

[\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:(02)894-COVID)



03 FEBRUARY 2022, Thursday



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Dentr | Fast tracking the total solid waste management

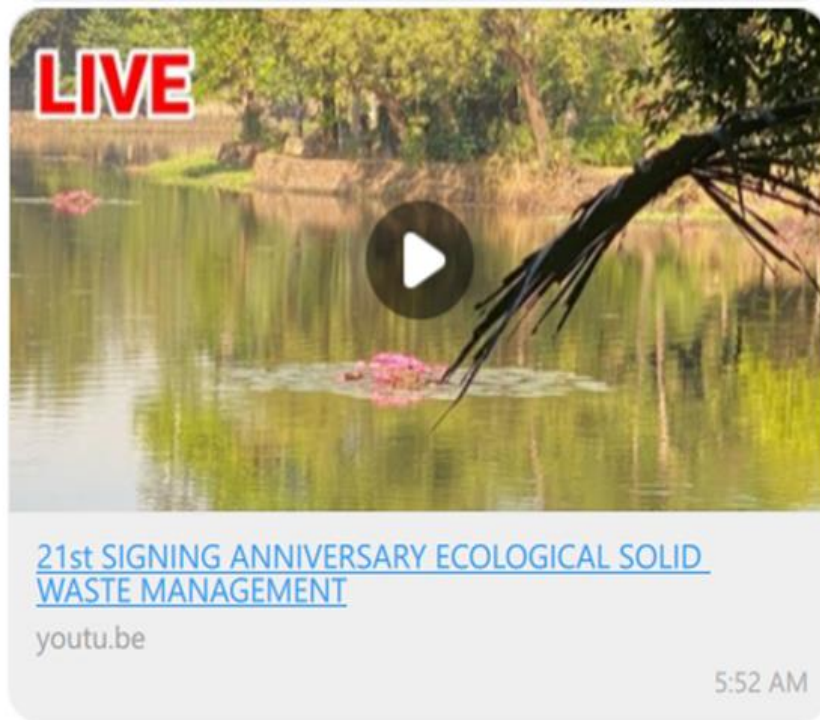
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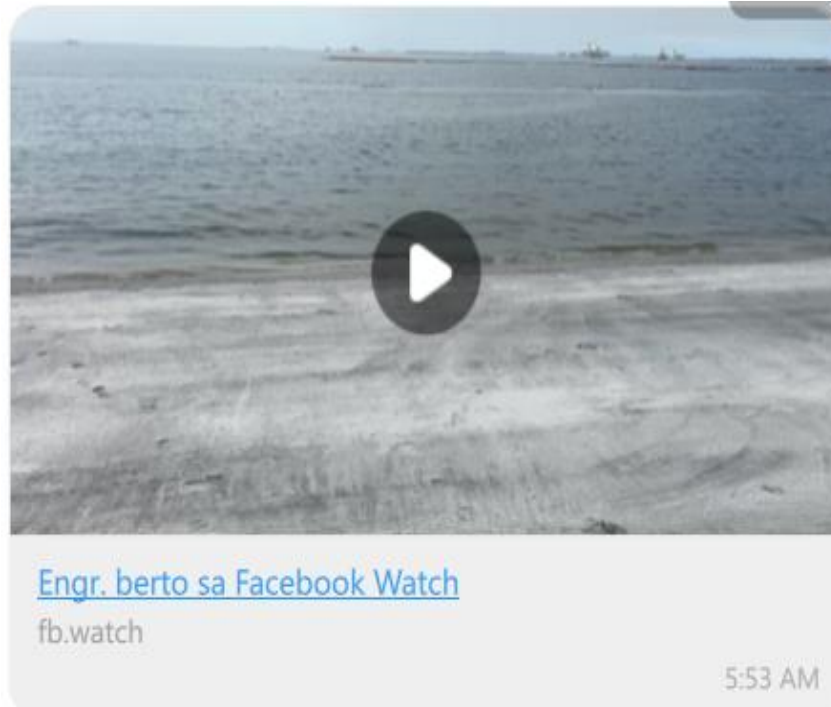
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