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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Pagbabantay sa basura ng mga barko, hihigpitan ng DENR



July 7, 2021 @ 7:08 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang matiyak ang epektibong implementasyon ng Manila Bay rehabilitation program, nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na magkaroon ng mas mahigpit na pagbabantay at pag-uulat sa sewage discharge ng marine vessels.

Iminungkahi ito ni DENR Undersecretary at Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force Head Benny D. Antiporda sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) upang maiwasan ang polusyon mula sa sewage sa nakaraang pulong kasama ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), shipyard associations at marine vessel owners.

“In six years, a lot has changed already. Marine vessels have already increased in number and our population has grown. Maybe it would be better if we talk about the solution, which is coming up with a suited policy on how to control or stop the pollution in Manila Bay,” ani Antiporda sa PCG.

Sa press release, hiniling nito ang pangangailangan na magkaroon ng mas maayos na data monitoring at reporting ng “sewage from the source, treatment, collection, coordination with agencies, and disposal to sufficiently support the Manila Bay rehabilitation.”

“We cannot track the vessels if they discharge it within Manila Bay or outside the bay. Maybe we could come up with something that could safeguard the bay from discharges,” paliwanag ni Antiporda.

Kaugnay nito ayon kay PCG National Capital Region-Central Luzon Commodore Leovigildo Panopio, “the PCG takes the task of marine environmental protection seriously.”

Dagdag nito, kasalukuyang bumubuo ang ahensya ng mga programa at polisiya ukol sa pagpapatupad ng mga batas at regulasyon na layuning protektahan ang marine ecology.

Sinabi rin nito na may isinasagawang pag repaso ng mga Memorandum Circulars (MCs).

Samantala ayon naman kay Lieutenant Precious Omalsa, “there should be no discharges of sewage from the vessels in the Manila Bay region since it will not satisfy the ruling under the PCG MC 10-14.

Base sa ruling, ang mga barko na nagtatapon ng “comminuted” o disinfected/treated sewage ay kinakailangang may layong mahigit sa four nautical miles mula sa pinakamalapit na shoreline.



Samantala, ang mga barko naman na nagtatapon ng hindi “comminuted” o disinfected/treated na sewage ay kinakailangang may layong mahigit sa 12 nautical miles mula sa pinakamalapit na shoreline.

“Cleaning up the bay is not literally getting a pail of water and filtering it. It is more of stopping or minimizing the pollution, for the environment, for nature to heal itself. But sad to say, due to too much pollution, it cannot heal itself anymore,” ani pa ni Antiporda. Santi Celario



DENR taps PCG vs erring marine vessels

JUL 7, 2021, 5:05 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

An official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) cited the need for more vigilance against vessels illegally dumping waste into Manila Bay.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is calling for stricter rules in the monitoring and reporting of sewage discharge of marine vessels.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force Head Benny Antiporda suggested this to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to prevent pollution from sewage during a recent meeting along with the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), shipyard associations, and marine vessel owners.

"In six years, a lot has changed already. Marine vessels have already increased in number and our population has grown. Maybe it would be better if we talk about the solution, which is coming up with a suited policy on how to control or stop the pollution in Manila Bay," Antiporda told the PCG.

He suggested the need to have a more thorough data monitoring and reporting of sewage from the source, treatment, collection, coordination with agencies, and disposal to sufficiently support the Manila Bay rehabilitation.

"We cannot track the vessels if they discharge it within Manila Bay or outside the bay. Maybe we could come up with something that could safeguard the bay from discharges," Antiporda explained.

PCG National Capital Region-Central Luzon Commodore Leovigildo Panopio said "the PCG takes the task of marine environmental protection seriously."

He added the agency is currently formulating programs and policies concerning the enforcement of various laws and regulations aimed at the protection of the marine ecology.

He added that there is an ongoing review of their Memorandum Circulars (MCs).

PCG Lieutenant Precious Omalsa said that there should be no discharges of sewage from the vessels in the Manila Bay region since it will not satisfy the ruling under the PCG MC 10-14.

Under the ruling, ships discharging comminuted and disinfected/treated sewage should be at a "distance of more than four nautical miles from the nearest shoreline."



Meanwhile, ships discharging sewage that is not comminuted or disinfected/treated should be at a "distance of more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline."

Omalsa cited vessels that are four nautical miles from Metro Manila but are two or three nautical miles from Bataan, which means discharges are still within the Manila Bay region.

"Cleaning up the bay is not literally getting a pail of water and filtering it. It is more of stopping or minimizing the pollution, for the environment, for nature to heal itself. But sad to say, due to too much pollution, it cannot heal itself anymore," Antiporda added.

(SC)



Photo from Palawan Council for Sustainable Development shows pangolin, which is the world's most heavily trafficked mammal.

Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

DENR calls for tougher measure to protect Philippine wildlife

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - July 7, 2021 - 5:26pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources called on lawmakers to pass a measure that will give more teeth to the law that seeks to manage, protect, and conserve the country's wildlife resources and their habitats.

Environment officials believe the 20-year-old Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act is ripe for strengthening as it no longer deters perpetrators from engaging in illegal wildlife trade.

"We need to address the growing scale and sophistication of wildlife crimes and develop a more stringent legal framework to improve enforcement mechanisms and strengthen inter-agency cooperation against illegal wildlife trade," Benito De Leon, DENR undersecretary for enforcement, said in a briefing Wednesday.

The Philippines is an important source, transit and destination point for illegal wildlife trade. According to the Asian Development Bank, at least P50 billion is lost annually due to the illicit trade when ecological services and economic values are factored in.

Among the most traded species in the country are Palawan pangolin, Palawan hill mynah and Tokay gecko.

"Illegal wildlife trade is the fourth most lucrative criminal activity in the world—and we are at the epicenter of it," Undersecretary Edilberto Leonardo, officer in charge of the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau, said.

"We need a stronger, more effective and more modern law to address the problem of illegal wildlife trade in the country. DENR looks forward to the passage of the strengthened Wildlife Act into law," Leonardo added.

In the Senate, two bills have been filed to address gaps in wildlife conservation and protection, and to respond to the growing illegal wildlife trade crisis. Similar bills are pending in the House of Representatives.

Senate Bill 2078, filed by Senator Cynthia Villar, seeks to strengthen the wildlife conservation and protection mechanism in the country, amending RA 9147.



Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri filed Senate Bill 2079, a supporting bill to RA 9147, providing for a revised law.

What's new in the bills?

Under the proposed measures, the crime of wildlife trafficking is a distinct and separate offense. Penalty for wildlife trafficking ranges from 12 years and one day to 20 years, and a fine of P200,000 to P2 million.

There will be tougher penalties. For example, significant increase in maximum penalties for trading, possession and transport of wildlife from four years of imprisonment and/or a fine of P300,000 to eight years of imprisonment and/or a fine of P1 million will be implemented.

Leonardo said stiffer penalties will deter violations and criminal activities.

DENR, Department of Agriculture, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and Bangsamoro Government will be mandated to control and manage all invasive alien species. They will be also authorized to adjudicate cases of violations and administer penalties.

The proposed bills also seek to create positions for wildlife enforcement agents.



PH loses P50-B revenue to illegal wildlife trade but biggest concern is animal extinction

Published July 7, 2021, 1:37 PM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

The rampant online illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines has so far cost the national government P50 billion worth of revenues.

But more than the billions of money involved, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the biggest concern is that these illegal activities are now becoming the biggest driving forces of animal's extinction.



A Philippine pangolin captured in Balayan, Batangas is rescued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in July 2020. (Photo courtesy of the DENR Calabarzon / FILE PHOTO)

While there were already existing illegal trading of wildlife animals, DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement Benito de Leon said the operations shifted online since the start of pandemic and lockdown.

“The COVID-19 and the lockdown did not deter criminal activities in fact internet gave precedent access to new markets. Illegal wildlife trade [became] one of the biggest driving forces of extinction,” De Leon said during the pre-national environmental law enforcement (NELE) summit press conference.

De Leon bared that the wildlife law enforcement community also noted an increasing apprehension of syndicated making wildlife enlarge quantities with international connections globally.

DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Biodiversity Management Bureau Edilberto Leonardo said in the past 10 years, the department has confiscated at least 248 million pesos of wildlife specimens from 523 suspected law violators.

“What is concerning is that it is only estimated 10 percent of illegal wildlife trade is detected at na-coconfiscate ayon sa pagaaral (and confiscated, according to study). Sa record po natin sa Pilipinas it is estimated 50 billion pesos a year ito yung nawawala sa atin sa revenue in the past decade kasi nakakumpiska ang DENR ng mahigit kumulang sa 248 million pesos worth of wildlife specimen (In our record in the Philippines it is estimated that 50 billion pesos a year is what we are losing in revenue in the past decade because the DENR confiscated approximately 248 million pesos worth of wildlife specimens),” Leonardo said in the online conference.



Meanwhile, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda revealed that the most commonly illegal traded wildlife are pangolin, common myna, and tokay gecko.

Since 2010 to 2019, there were 3,143 pangolins, 1,492 common mynas, and 1,883 tokay geckos recovered from the illegal wildlife trading.

According to the Republic Act No. 9147 or the protection of wildlife resources and habitat, those who will be caught under illegal acts will be charged with a minimum of six years imprisonment or a fine of 100,000 pesos if inflicted or undertaken against species listed as critical.

Antiporda, DENR undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns, said they need to strengthen on information, education, and communication campaign among the local government units (LGUs) and the public regarding the illegal wildlife trading.



DENR-7 shuts down Cebu garbage transfer station

July 7, 2021 13 min read

CEBU CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 7 (Central Visayas) (DENR-7) on Wednesday shut down a garbage transfer station in the former sanitary landfill in Barangay Inayawan here for failure to dispose waste within 24 hours, and slapped the operator with PHP105,000 fine.

Paquito Melicor Jr., officer in charge of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau EMB-7, sent a notice of violation coupled with cease and desist order to John Javier, owner of Docast Construction, a private garbage hauler hired by the Cebu City government to transport waste materials from the transfer station in Inayawan to the sanitary landfill in Barangay Binaliw, still in this city.

“On July 5, 2021, an inspection was conducted by our field personnel on your transfer station located in White Road, Inayawan, Cebu City. Based on the inspection report, it was found out that the wastes therein were stored beyond 24-hours already, in violation of section 25 of Republic Act 9003,” the notice read.

The provision of the law set the guidelines for transfer stations which required their operators to comply with the environment standards and guidelines and prohibited the storage of garbage beyond 24 hours.

The inspection team, according to the notice, observed that the wastes have already reached 10.8-meter high and essentially makes it an “open dumpsite”

Melicor said the stockpile of garbage “pose a danger to the lives and limbs of the employees and the waste pickers.”

He reminded Javier that open dumping is prohibited under the law.

The DENR-7 official directed Javier to immediately dispose of all the wastes remaining at the Inayawan transfer station by transporting them to the sanitary landfill.

The company was also ordered to stop accepting waste from the city.

In a resolution attached to the notice, Melicor also informed the company of its violation of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for failure to submit compliance monitoring reports and for operating a dumpsite by storing wastes beyond 24 hours.



There was no waste-water treatment facility installed in the transfer station, the resolution also read.

The agency also directed the company to install roofing to prevent direct exposure of wastes to rain and natural elements, as well as a wastewater treatment facility.

The decision to penalize Docast was recommended by DENR-EMB-Region 7 chief Lormelyn Claudio.

Docast's attention was called by the DENR-7 after a private landfill in Binaliw, ARN Central Waste Management Inc. refused to accept the garbage hauled by the former for allegedly failing to pay more than PHP18 million tipping fees.

In a media report, Javier denied that his firm has unpaid dues to ARN, saying he was even ready to settle things with the landfill operator.

ARN's legal counsel, lawyer Elias Espinoza, said the firm has not settled its obligations of PHP18.67 million. (PNA)



EMB 7 shuts down Inayawan transfer station

July 07, 2021

THE Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Central Visayas served on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, a cease and desist order against RMI Solid Waste Management and Hauling Services, effectively shutting down the Inayawan waste transfer station, where a 10.8-meter-high pile of trash has accumulated.

RMI, which operates the transfer station, was given 15 days to pay a fine of P105,000 for violating conditions 2 and 3 of its environmental compliance certificate (ECC), which was issued in 2017.

A cease and desist order was also served on Wednesday to Dicast Construction, directing it to stop accepting wastes and to immediately dispose of the trash it has collected at the sanitary landfill in Brgy. Binaliw, instead of bringing this to Inayawan.

All the barangays in Cebu City will also have to transport their garbage to the sanitary landfill in Brgy. Binaliw, said Department of Public Services (DPS) head John Jigo Dacua.

Dacua said he has instructed Cebu Environmental Sanitation and Enforcement Team (Ceset) head Grace Luardo to inform the barangays to dispose of their wastes directly in Binaliw.

A resolution signed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR 7) Regional Executive Director Paquito Melicor Jr. and EMB 7 Regional Director Lormelyn Claudio said RMI failed to submit compliance monitoring reports and secure the DENR hazardous waste generator's identification.

An ocular inspection at the Inayawan transfer station on July 5 also showed that the waste brought to the facility is stored there for more than 24 hours, essentially making the facility an open dumpsite.

This violates Section 25 of Republic Act 9003, which states that "no wastes shall be stored in such station beyond 24 hours."

The inspection also showed that RMI failed to install roofing as well as leachate and drainage control systems. No wastewater treatment facility has also been installed.

RMI was directed to install within 15 days roofing to prevent direct exposure of wastes to rain and natural elements, and wastewater treatment facility to treat leachate.

Within the same period, RMI must also secure a discharge permit and DENR hazardous waste generator's ID as well as dispose of all the wastes in a sanitary landfill.

Failure to comply with the order would warrant an additional fine of P50,000 per violation.

In a letter dated July 7 to Dicast general contractor John Javier, DENR 7 warned that legal action would be taken if Dicast fails to comply with the order.

Amid this development, Cebu City Administrator Floro Casas Jr. assured the public that the city will remain clean.



He said they will come up with specific plans to address this problem.

Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama described this as an “unfortunate” event.

He said the declaration of a state of emergency or state of calamity is “imminent.”

Rama said he will have the matter “seriously” discussed in Cebu City Council. (PAC, JLL)



Trash transfer station closed for environmental violations

By [Mitchelle L. Palaubsanon](#) (The Freeman) - July 8, 2021 - 12:00am



DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) served on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, a cease and desist order to the transfer station's operator, RMI Solid Waste Management and Hauling Services, as well as to the hauler of trash in Cebu City, Docast Construction.

CEBU, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-7 has stopped the operation of the trash transfer station in Barangay Inayawan, Cebu City owing to environmental violations.

DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) served on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, a cease and desist order to the transfer station's operator, RMI Solid Waste Management and Hauling Services, as well as to the hauler of trash in Cebu City, Docast Construction.

EMB also ordered Docast to move to a sanitary landfill all the trash it has brought to the transfer station.

The cease and desist orders were issued after inspection of the transfer station on July 5, 2021 showed that trash is left there for more than 24 hours, which violates Section 25 of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

EMB also noticed that the piles of garbage have reached approximately 10.8 meters, which pose danger to the lives of people in the area, particularly the waste pickers. The situation, EMB said, essentially makes the transfer station an open dumpsite.

RMI was fined P105,000 fine for failing to secure a DENR Hazardous Waste Generator's ID and Discharge Permit, for failing to submit Compliance Monitoring Report, and for failing to install a wastewater treatment facility.

Of this amount, P80,000 is the total fine for the eight times RMI failed to submit reports since 2017. Each instance incurred a fine of P10,000. The remaining P25,000 is the fine for failing to secure the ID and permit.

The firm has 15 days to pay the fine.

DENR also noted that violations were committed on October 27, 2020 when a Notice of Violation was issued against RMI.



During a technical conference on November 24, 2020, RMI committed to clear the remaining wastes at the transfer station and to install protective roofing/covering for the solid waste to avoid exposure to rain, among others.

During the July 5, 2021 inspection, however, the DENR technical personnel found out that RMI failed to fulfill its commitment when it still failed to install roofing, leachate and drainage control, and for allowing wastes to stay at the station for more than 24 hours.

The order dated July 7, 2021 signed by DENR-7 OIC Regional Executive Director Paquito Melicor, Jr. and EMB-7 Director Lormelyn Claudio states that RMI shall not accept trash at the station pending compliance to the order.

"Otherwise, this office will be constrained to impose the maximum fine of P50,000 per violation, among other legal sanctions," the order reads.

City Plan

At the Cebu City Hall, City Administrator Floro Casas, Jr. assured that the closure of the transfer station will not stop the city's garbage collection and disposal.

"Di kabalak-an. Dili gyud mahugaw, mobaho ang syudad just because of that order," he said yesterday.

John Jigo Dacua, head of the city's Department of Public Services, said the city will dispose of its garbage straight to the landfill in Barangay Binaliw for now.

"I already instructed Ma'am Grace Luardo to inform the barangays to dispose directly to the Binaliw landfill," Dacua said.

Luardo is the head of the City Environmental Sanitation and Enforcement Team (CESET). Dacua said Docast will also continue to collect trash from the source and ferry it to the landfill.

Councilor Joel Garganera earlier described the transfer station as a "dumpsite."

It was also reported that the stench from the garbage pileup has reached parts of neighboring Talisay City, which is one kilometer away.

Vice Mayor Michael Rama said the City Council will take the issue up in its next session.

Waste Pickers

Meanwhile, aside from disrupting the flow of garbage collection and disposal, the closure of the transfer station has also disrupted the livelihood of hundreds of waste pickers who rely on the station as their main source of income.

They could only express their disappointment verbally as they witnessed the service of the cease and desist order Wednesday.

"Asa na man lang mi ani para palit gatas sa akong anak og pagkaon sa akong pamilya?" one of them said. — Mary Ruth R. Malinao, JMO (FREEMAN)

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2021/07/08/2111020/trash-transfer-station-closed-environmental-violations/amp/>



CDN Digital

14h · 🌐



LOOK: The Environment and Management Bureau in Central Visayas has released a cease and desist order for the operators of the Inayawan Transfer Station for mismanaging the facility, which the EMB-7 said has become a dumpsite. | Photos courtesy of EMB-7



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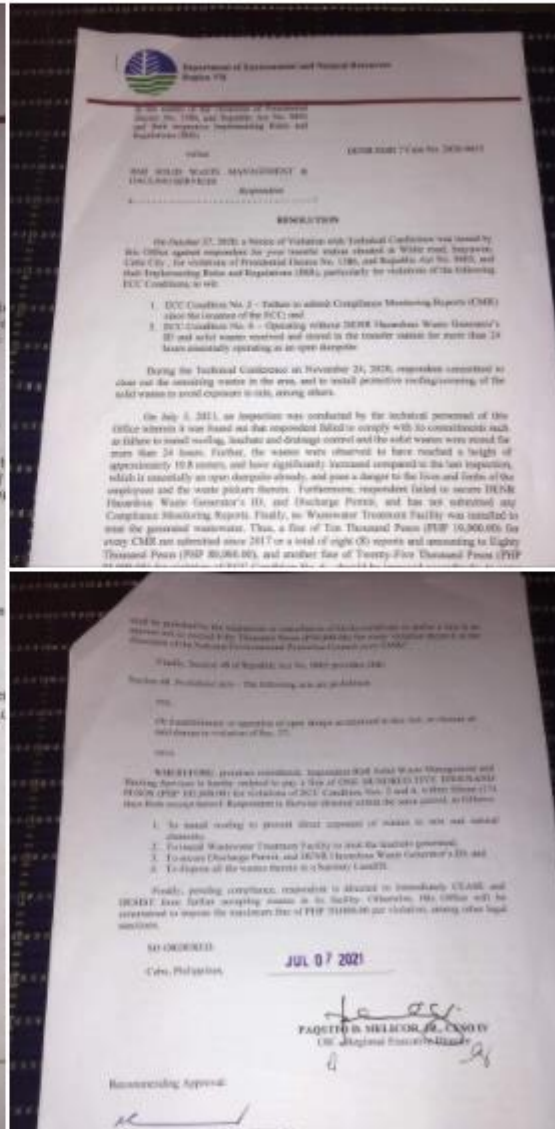
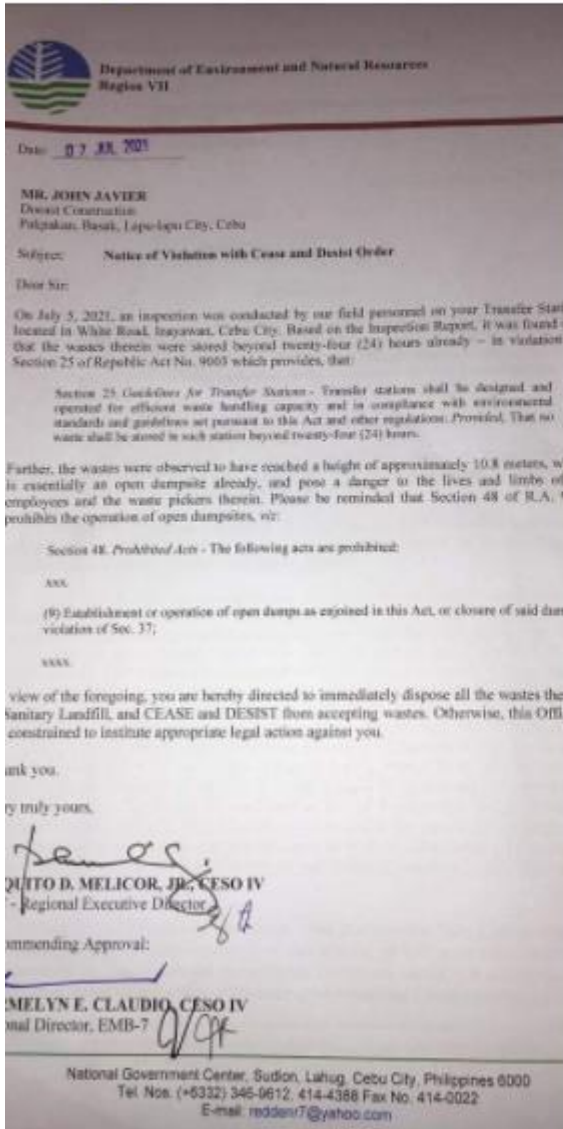


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CDN Digital 14h

LOOK: The copies of the cease and desist orders of the EMB-7 to the operators of the Inayawan Transfer Station issued on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, due to the mismanagement of the transfer station. The two companies are penalized P105,000 for their violations. | via Delta Letigio #CNDigital



3

1 Comment



CDN Digital 14h · 🌐

The order was issued on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, the operators were also penalized P105,000.
#CDNDigital

JULY 7, 2021

INAYAWAN TRANSFER STATION CLOSED

as cease and desist order issued to operators over environmental violations.

Source: EMB-7

CDN @cdndigital @cebudailynews

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DA, DENR boost 'Plant, Plant, Plant' program in Caraga

By Alexander Lopez July 7, 2021, 6:50 pm



ENSURING FOOD SECURITY. Regional executive director Nonito M. Tamayo (3rd from left) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Caraga received on Tuesday (July 6, 2021) the 690 pouches and five cans of assorted vegetable seeds from the Department of Agriculture. The seeds will be propagated and distributed to the different farmers' groups, individuals, and other stakeholders in the region. *(Photo courtesy of DA-13 Information Office)*

BUTUAN CITY – The partnership between the Department of Agriculture (DA-13) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-13) in Caraga to strengthen the "Plant, Plant, Plant" program of the government continues with the recent release of more vegetable seeds for propagation and dispersal to farmers and other stakeholders in the region.

In a statement on Wednesday, DA-13 said a total of 690 pouches and five cans of assorted vegetable seeds were handed over by the High-Value Crops Development Program of DA-13 to the DENR-13.

The seeds will be propagated at the 1,000 square meters modernized forest nursery of DENR-13 in Barangay Maharlika, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur.

The vegetable seeds were received by DENR-13 regional executive director Nonito M. Tamayo on Tuesday.

"When the seeds are propagated and ready for transplanting, these will be distributed to the different farmers' groups, institutions, other stakeholders, and individuals in the region," the DA-13 said.

The collaboration of the two agencies was forged in May 2020 during the height of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

The partnership aimed to help the government to secure food availability and sufficiency amid the pandemic.

The collaboration was under the Ahon Lahat Pagkain Sapat (ALPAS) Laban sa Covid-19 program of the DA.

Last year, a total of 27,465 vegetable seedlings were produced by the partnership of the two agencies which were distributed to the neighboring communities, farmers' groups, and walk-in clients of the nursery. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1146291>



DENR to protect riverbanks, relocate villagers from Vizcaya geohazard zones

posted July 07, 2021 at 06:48 pm

by [Ben Moses Ebreo](#)

Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will focus on the rehabilitation of riverbanks and the relocation of illegal settlers within geohazard areas as part of the national government's Build Back Better (BBB) initiative.

Forester Edgar Martin, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer, said they are now identifying areas prone to flash floods and landslides.

He said the towns of Bayombong, Aritao, Solano, Sta. Fe, and Bambang have been initially tagged for recovery and rehabilitation activities under the BBB initiative.

"We have started planting bamboos and other suitable tree species in the towns of Aritao, Dupax del Norte, and Bagabag to protect riverbanks from erosion," Martin said.

He said the BBB initiative also requires recovery of 20-meter easement areas that are prohibited for human settlement and land improvement.

Martin said this will involve surveying low-lying areas and acquiring equipment, initially for barangay Vista Alegre in Bayombong, Bambang and barangay Inengan in Dupax del Norte town.

"Illegal settlers living in these easement areas and geo-hazard areas will be relocated with the help of concerned local government units," he said.

Martin also identified the initial proposed relocation sites, such as a 10 hectare lot in barangay Banaan for illegal settlers in Bayombong town, the 2.1-hectare relocation site in barangay Boliwao for illegal settlers from barangay Runruno in Quezon town, and another in Dupax del Norte town.

He said they will watch the entry of illegal settlers to geohazard areas in barangay Runruno to prevent settlements in these areas.

"With the initiative of FCF Minerals Corporation and the LGU of Quezon, we have reduced the number of illegal settlers after 337 households there were already settled and eventually left their abode and returned back to Ifugao, Quirino and other neighboring provinces," Martin said.

He said filing of legal cases against the illegal settlers who refuse to leave the geohazard areas will be done to reduce if not totally eradicate the presence of illegal settlers in barangay Runruno in Quezon town.

"We do not want another disaster and tragedy to happen in barangay Runruno. That is why we should cooperate with each other. I hope that we can work this together for their own safety and protection," Martin said.



House panel OKs bill declaring part of PH Rise as protected area

By Filane Mikee Cervantes July 7, 2021, 6:16 pm



PNA file photo

MANILA – A measure seeking to declare a portion of Philippine Rise as a protected area has hurdled committee level at the House of Representatives.

During a hearing on Wednesday, the House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., approved the unnumbered substitute bill to House Bill 36, which would declare a portion of the Philippine Rise situated within the exclusive economic zone as a protected area, to be referred to as the “Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve.”

The bill states that it shall fall under the category of marine resource reserve under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

Muntinlupa City Rep. Ruffy Biazon, author of the bill, said the original proposal was to make the area a protected zone and the intention is to preserve the Philippine Rise and the Benham Bank.

“Upon consultation with our environment and natural resource experts and other stakeholders, we were enlightened that it would be best that we make it a marine reserve in order for us to be able to take advantage of the natural resources therein,” Biazon said.

The bill aims to ensure the protection and conservation of the globally significant economic, biological, sociocultural, educational, and scientific values of the Philippine Rise and the Benham Bank into perpetuity for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

The bill prohibits acts within the protected area, such as poaching, killing, destroying, disturbing of any wildlife; hunting or gathering of any wildlife; using any fishing or harvesting gear that is unsustainable or detrimental to marine life, among others. **(PNA)**



House panel OKs bill declaring portion of Benham Rise protected; solon hits partial coverage

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 07 2021 05:39 PM



This photo was taken during a marine expedition at Benham Rise on May 26, 2016. Branching corals contribute to the complexity of the reef. *Oceana Philippines/File*

MANILA — The House Committee on Natural Resources on Wednesday approved a substitute bill that establishes the "Philippine Rise Natural Park" in Isabela and declares it as a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act, but not without some lawmakers objecting to its limited coverage.

Deputy Speaker and Buhay Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza voted against the bill and questioned why its current version only covers a smaller portion of the Benham Rise compared to the one filed by Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon.

Atienza and panel chair Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga figured in a verbal scuffle, prompting the suspension of the virtual committee hearing.

UNDERMINING PH CLAIMS

According to Atienza, Biazon's bill was pushing for the whole Benham Rise to be declared a protected area in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) award.

The country's claim to Benham Rise, a 13-million-hectare area located east of Luzon island that is believed to be gas-rich, was approved by the United Nations in 2012.

However, the bill that Barzaga approved only covers a portion of it or about 350,000 hectares.

This, according to Atienza, would undermine the Philippines' territorial claim.

"Hindi ba pinahihina natin ang posisyon ng Pilipinas diyan? Pagdating ng araw na ang Tsina ay magke-claim na naman," Atienza told the media after the hearing.

(Aren't we weakening our position there? One day China will make another claim.)

"[They will say] 'but you have proclaimed, as protected by you, is only a 350,000-hectare area, we are not touching that but we are claiming the whole.' Ano sasabihin natin (what will we say)?" Atienza said.



Atienza said Barzaga has railroaded the procedure and that the committee ignored his questions.

But Barzaga explained during the hearing: "Parliamentary procedure ito, the rule of the majority prevails, no one person can compel us to follow his wish."

Barzaga also denied Atienza's claims, adding Congress may later on expand the scope of the bill once it becomes a law.

Atienza vowed to question the approved bill before the plenary.

The undersea plateau made headlines in 2017 after Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang confirmed that Chinese vessels recently passed through Benham Rise for "marine research," but insisted this was only in exercise of the principle of "freedom of navigation" and "right to innocent passage."

China and the Philippines have resolved disputes in another area, the West Philippine Sea. China has committed repeated incursions in the country's exclusive economic zone, asserting its sovereign rights over the larger South China Sea.

—With a report from Zandro Ochona, ABS-CBN News



GenSan steps up protection, conservation of mangrove forest

By Allen Estabillo July 7, 2021, 2:46 pm



PROTECTED. Photo shows the thriving mangroves at a portion of Barangay Tumbler in General Santos City that was designated by the local government as a special protection area. Protection measures have been implemented to protect the mangroves, corals, and seagrass beds at the site, the City Environment and Natural Resources Office said Wednesday (July 7, 2021). *(Photo grab from the Facebook page of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office)*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The city government has designated a mangrove forest in one of its coastal villages as a special protection area to properly secure the environment and ensure its preservation.

Allan Marcilla, head of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office, said Wednesday the move was aimed to protect the environs and resources within the mangrove forest in Barangay Tumbler from encroachment and poaching.

He said they installed delineation buoys and signages last week to properly inform and warn the public from going into the area.

The initiative was supported by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and other stakeholders.

The city government earlier closed down the site, popularly known to locals as Safi beach or mangroves, after it became a frequent destination for beachgoers from the city and even the neighboring localities.

Aside from beachgoers, it was declared off-limits to fishing activities and with the maritime police now patrolling the site, which is part of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape.

Video footage circulating online since last year showed the area, which was dubbed “secret beach” due to its secluded location with white sands emerging in some portions during low tide, teeming with people, and doing various activities.

Marcilla said it could potentially harm the mangroves, corals, and seagrass beds thriving at the site.

“If we allow people to go there, there’s a tendency that they would climb the mangroves and collect some organisms,” he said in a report.

The official said it is important to protect the mangroves as they serve as breeding places for 70 percent of the marine species and preserving them would help ensure that there would be fish and other resources available for future generations.



Mangroves could help protect the area from possible storm surges and tsunamis, and mitigate the impact of climate change as they absorb 30 percent more carbon dioxide than the terrestrial trees, he said.

Marcilla added they will continue to educate local stakeholders on the benefits as well as the need to protect and conserve the city's remaining mangrove forests.

"We hope people will understand and appreciate what we're doing and why we need to protect these resources," he said. **(PNA)**



TINGNAN: 95 baby pawikan pinakawalan sa Davao Oriental

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 07 2021 02:57 PM



Aabot sa 95 na mga baby pawikan ang pinakawalan nitong Martes ng Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) ng Manay, Davao Oriental. *Larawan mula sa Manay Municipal Information Office*

Aabot sa 95 na mga baby pawikan ang pinakawalan nitong Martes ng Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) at Municipal Agriculture Office sa baybayin ng San Francisco, Central, bayan ng Manay, Davao Oriental.

Ang mangingisdang si Roger Saut ang nakadiskubre sa mga pawikan hatchling.

Binigyan siya ng lokal na pamahalaan ng cash incentive.

Ayon sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Manay, ang mga namataang pawikan ay indikasyon ng masiglang ocean ecosystem.

"We are thankful to the fishermen, our partners and guardians of the environment in saving our marine wildlife species," ani Manay Mayor Japhet Quibo.

Pinuri rin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang lokal na pamahalaan dahil sa mabuting implementasyon ng kanilang Turtle Conservation Program.

Batay sa batas, itinuturing na endangered species ang mga green sea turtle.

— **Ulat ni Hernel Tocmo**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/07/21/tingnan-95-baby-pawikan-pinakawalan-sa-davao-oriental?fbclid=IwAR18HoKWIL3zXuXHC6czUy49QQOU6WumSUAKKRgJ1SLULbVyIjYZYIeW5jY>



BOC seizes 276 imported carnivorous plants in Pasay warehouse

By Ferdinand Patinio July 7, 2021, 4:20 pm



CARNIVOROUS PLANTS BUSTED. A box containing *Cephalotus* (Australian pitcher plant), is among the carnivorous plants busted by officers of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in a cargo warehouse in Pasay City on July 5, 2021. The collection and trade of carnivorous plants in the country are restricted under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. *(Photo courtesy of BOC)*

MANILA – Officers of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have seized 276 imported carnivorous plants worth PHP150,000 at a cargo warehouse in Pasay City earlier this week.

In a statement Wednesday, the BOC said the carnivorous plants identified as *Drosera* (sundew plant), *Nepenthes* (tropical pitcher plant), *Dionaea* (Venus flytrap), *Sarracenia* (trumpet pitcher plant), *Pinguicula* (butterworts), and *Cephalotus* (Australian pitcher plant) were discovered during the physical examination of 10 imported packages from the Netherlands on July 5.

Verification with the DENR revealed that the plants were unlawfully imported into the country without the required sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permit from the agency.

The BOC added that the intercepted packages were subsequently turned over to the DENR for rehabilitation and care pursuant to Section 11 of Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act) and Section 1147 of Republic Act 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) and Section 8 of Customs Administrative Order No. 10-2020.

Case records of the subject shipment will likewise be referred to the Bureau Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS), Legal Service of the BOC for further case build-up and prosecution for violation of Section 1401 of the CMTA.

Carnivorous plants have already been globally declared as critically endangered and are among the world's rarest and most endangered plants.

The collection and trade of these insect-eating plants are restricted under RA 9147. **(PNA)**



276 na halamang 'kumakain ng hayop' kinumpiska ng Customs matapos i-smuggle

(Philstar.com) - July 7, 2021 - 6:54pm



Litrato ng isang endangered "carnivorous plant" na nakumpiska ng BOC at DENR sa Paircargo Warehouse, Pasay City, ika-5 ng Hulyo, 2021
Bureau of Customs/Released

MANILA, Philippines — Nasabat ang nasa 276 halamang iligal na inangkat sa Pilipinas matapos ang ikinasang operasyon ng pinagsamang lakas ng Bureau of Customs-NAIA (BOC-NAIA) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) nitong Lunes.

Nabisto ang mga P150,000 halaga ng "carnivorous plants" sa Paircargo Warehouse, Pasay City matapos ang isinagawang physical examination ng 10 imported packages mula Netherlands, ayon sa ulat ng BOC, Miyerkules.

"Verification with the DENR revealed that the said plants were unlawfully imported into the country without the required Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance and CITES Permit from the said agency," [ayon sa BOC kanina](#).

Ilan sa mga nakuhang carnivorous plants ang:

- Drosera
- Nepenthes
- Dionaea
- Sarracenia
- Pinguicula
- Cephalotus

Endangered species

Labag sa Republic Act 9147 ang pangongolekta at pakikipagpalitan ng insect-eating plants. Kilala rin ang batas na 'yan bilang Philippine Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

"Carnivorous plants have already been globally declared as critically endangered and are among the world's rarest and most endangered plants," dagdag ng BOC.

Maliban sa paglabag sa RA 9147, magsasagawa na rin ng case build up dahil sa paglabag sa Section 1401 ng RA 10863 o Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

Itinurn over naman na ang mga naharang na packages sa DENR para sa rehabilitasyon at pag-aalaga.



Ang mga carnivorous plants ay kilala sa pagpatay nito ng mga hayop, gaya ng mga insekto, arthropods at protozoans para makakuha ng kinakailangang nutrients. Gayunpaman, kailangan pa rin nila maarawan para makakuha ng enerhiya gamit ang photosynthesis. —
James Relativo



Thursday, 8 July 2021
Daily Tribune

Smuggled carnivorous plants seized

The Bureau of Customs (BoC), with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), seized 276 pieces of illegally imported carnivorous plants that were shipped from The Netherlands.

The plants were discovered following a physical examination of 10 packages at the PairCargo Warehouse in Pasay City last 5 July 2021.

Upon verification with the DENR, the BoC Port of NAIA (Ninoy Aquino International Airport) revealed the plants were unlawfully imported without the required Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance and CITES Permit.

The carnivorous plants were later identified to include *Drosera* (sundew), *Nepenthes* (tropical pitcher plant), *Dionaea* (Venus flytrap), *Sarracenia* (trumpet pitcher), *Pinguicula* (butterwort) and *Cephalotus* (Australian pitcher plant), with an estimated value of P150,000.

Carnivorous plants have already been declared globally as being critically endangered and

are considered the rarest plants in the world.

The collection and trade of these insect-eating plants are restricted under Republic Act (RA) 9147, otherwise known as the Philippine Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

The intercepted packages have been turned over to the DENR for rehabilitation and care pursuant to Section 11 of RA 9147, Section 1147 of RA 10863, known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), and Section 8 of Customs Administrative Order 10-2020.

Aside from criminal prosecution against the personalities behind the smuggling attempt, case records of the shipment will be referred to the Bureau Action Team Against Smugglers and BoC legal service for further case buildup and prosecution for violation of Section 140I of the CMTA.

Carmelita M. Talusan, Port of NAIA district collector, said the Port of NAIA will continue to intensify border protection efforts against illegal wildlife trade. ANTHONY CHING



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTHONY CHING
FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

CUSTOMS agents and Environment personnel inspect the packages of carnivorous plants that were illegally imported into the country.



Endangered na mga halaman nasabat sa warehouse sa Pasay

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 07 2021 09:27 PM



Ang mga nasabat na carnivorous plants ay kabilang sa "critically endangered" na mga halaman, ayon sa DENR. Larawan mula sa Bureau of Customs

MAYNILA - Aabot sa 276 smuggled na carnivorous plants na itinuturing na "critically endangered" ang nasabat nitong linggo sa warehouse sa Pasay City.

Mula pa sa the Netherlands ang mga carnivorous plants na naipasok sa bansa nitong Lunes, ayon sa pahayag ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) na nakahuli sa kontrabando kasama ang mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Nagkakahalaga umano ang mga halaman ng P150,000.

Sa physical inspection, nadiskubre sa 10 packages ang iba't ibang uri ng mga halaman na wala umanong kaukulang sanitary at phytosanitary import clearance at permit mula sa DENR.

Kabilang sa mga halamang ito ay Drosera, Nepenthes, Dionaea, Sarracenia, Pinguicula, at Cephalotus.

Ayon sa DENR, ang naturang mga carnivorous plants ay idineklara nang mga critically endangered at kabilang sa mga rare at most endangered plants sa buong mundo.

Sa ilalim ng Philippine Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act o RA 9147, mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pangongolekta at pagbebenta ng mga insect-eating plants.

Sinabi ng BOC na bukod sa paglabag sa RA 9147, may paglabag din sa Customs Modernization and Tariff Act ang mga nagpasok nito sa bansa.

Hindi naman tinukoy ng BOC kung sino ang nagpadala nito at kung para kanino.

Sa ngayon, nasa pangangalaga na ng DENR ang nasabing mga carnivorous plants

-- **Ulat ni Johnson Manabat, ABS-CBN News**

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/07/21/smuggled-endangered-carnivorous-halaman-nasabat?fbclid=IwAR0PVieJQxF8aZh5lta-uN_0iFegvzhE2K8n4ZOutk-9BB7qCluLIIGjmKA



GMA News ✓
13h · 🌐

TINGNAN: 276 na illegally imported na carnivorous plants ang nasabat ng Bureau of Customs-NAIA at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Paicargo Warehouse, Pasay City noong Lunes, July 05, 2021.

Nadiskubre ang mga halaman sa kanilang 100% physical examination ng 10 imported packages mula sa Netherlands. Ayon sa DENR, ang mga carnivorous plants na ito na ilegal na inimport sa bansa ay walang Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance at CITES Permit mula sa kanilang ahensya.

Ipinagbabawal ang pangongolekta at pag-trade ng ganitong critically endangered na mga halaman sa ilalim ng RA No. 9147 o ang Philippine Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

👮: Bureau of Customs PH/FB

Bisitahin ang www.gmanews.tv para sa pinakabagong mga balita.





CIDG-7 warns those involved in illegal trade of endangered species: ‘We will come after you’

By: Pegeen Maisie Sararana - CDN Digital | July 07, 2021 - 05:10 PM



This preserved sea turtle is among the items confiscated by CIDG-7 from two individuals in Barangay Punta Engaño in Lapu-Lapu City last June 30, 2021.

CEBU CITY, Philippines — The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas (CIDG-7) said the recent confiscation of over P12 million worth of endangered species in Barangay Punta Engaño in Lapu-Lapu City serves as a warning to those still involved in the illegal trade of these species.

On June 30, 2021, the CIDG-7 confiscated giant clams and shells, sea turtles, shark teeth, and red corals from Emerson Arco, 58, and Bryan Arco, 31. These items were reportedly to be exported to other countries.

“Ito’y warning doon sa mga tao na gumagawa ng ganitong klase ng negosyo na alam naman natin na bawal. So ngayon pa lang, may nahuli na tayo. ‘Wag na kayong mag attempt na mag negosyo na alam naman natin na bawal. Kayo ay mahuhuli rin pagdating ng panahon,” said Police Colonel Ireneo Dalogdog, the chief of CIDG-7.

(This serves as a warning to those in this kind of business which we all know is illegal. We have already caught some doing this illegal act. So don’t attempt to get into a business that’s illegal because you will be caught when the time comes.)

The CIDG-7 already filed charges against the suspects for violation of Section 97 of Republic Act 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, Section 27 of Republic Act 9147 or The Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, and Section 2 of Fisheries Administrative Order No. 158.

As of this posting, these suspects are currently detained in CIDG-7 detention facility.

Dalogdog said they will continue their operation against these illegal activities as this is also one of CIDG-7’s mandate through their Simultaneous Anti-Criminality and Law Enforcement Operations (SACLEO).

“Kailangan natin i-preserve ito dahil kakaunti nalang ito tapos ginagawa pa nating negosyo. Mas lalong mamawalan tayo ng resources,” he said.

(We need to preserve these because they are endangered and yet we make it a business. This will further deplete our natural resources.)



Dalogdog said they intercepted this illegal activity on June 30, as they served a search warrant against these two individuals. The warrant was issued by Judge Jose Alfonso Gomos, the Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court Branch 54 in Lapu-Lapu City.

Based on their background check, the suspects allegedly buy these items for a cheaper price from a still unknown source and export these to other countries at a more expensive price. He said that shells were mostly purchased by hotels abroad as they reportedly use these for lamps.

Dalogdog said that they are now tracing what countries are actively purchasing these items. They are also working to determine the source of these items.

Dalogdog said that this is not the first time that they intercepted and arrested individuals engaged in this illegal activity. Last April, CIDG Negros Field Unit seized giant clams amounting to P200 million.

Dalogdog reminds the public that this kind of activity is prohibited in the country as we are serious in preserving our natural resources.

The seized items are still under the hold of CIDG-7. They are now coordinating with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to turn over seized items and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the three preserved sea turtles.

/bmjo



Illegal lumber from Sierra Madre seized in Quezon

By: [Delfin T. Mallari Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@dtmallarijrINO](#)

[Inquirer Southern Luzon](#) / 09:57 AM July 07, 2021

LUCENA CITY — Authorities seized illegally cut lumber from Sierra Madre mountain ranges in Real town in Quezon province shortly before midnight on Tuesday, police said.

The combined police and operatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) intercepted a van loaded with 46 pieces of freshly sawn “dalingdingan” lumber in Barangay Cawayan around 11:30 p.m.

Van passenger Marvin Valera was arrested but the driver of the vehicle managed to escape.

Police seized the illegal forest product measuring 380.30 board feet (0.89 cubic meter) and worth P15,212 in the underground market.

Charges will be filed against the suspect for violation of Presidential Decree 705, or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines as amended under the RA 7161, which prohibits the cutting of trees without a permit from the DENR.

The seized vehicle and forest products believed to have been illegally cut from the northern Quezon section of the Sierra Madre were brought to the DENR in the said town for disposition.

Last month, police also seized a truck loaded with [illegally cut coconut lumber in Tayabas City](#), following a tip from a citizen. The following week, another truckload of [coco lumber was seized during a checkpoint](#), this time in Buenavista town, also in Quezon.

EDV

ARTA Sec. Belgica reminds gov't workers to observe office hours, set up public assistance desks

July 7, 2021



Anti-Red Tape Authority Director-General Atty. Jeremiah Belgica (Photo Courtesy of Director General Jeremiah Belgica Facebook page)

Secretary Jeremiah Belgica, Director General of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), reminded government workers to observe proper office hours to give continued service to the public.

This, after Belgica learned that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) were implementing shortened office hours from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

He warned that government workers who will not work for a full eight hours may face administrative sanctions.

The ARTA Director General said agencies must avoid sending home clients as there are times when they come from as far as the provinces just to avail of the government's services.

“Yung mga pumapasok, dapat attended to during work hours,” he said. “Pag dumating sila (clients) ng working hours, kailangan ma-entertain sila ng office kahit five minutes palang nandoon.”

“Wala po talaga kaming ibang option but to implement this... kasi nasa batas po,” he added. “Kapag sinuri po ng Ombudsman o Civil Service, talagang sasabihin nila na dapat, hindi kayo aalis.”

But with the limitations brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, Belgica said agencies may set up provisions, such as online platforms, to provide continued assistance to clients.

“Magbigay na lang kayo ng provisions for the people... at least, mayroon kayong taong mag-aalalay sa kanila,” he said.

The ARTA chief also recommended the placing of additional copies of the Citizen's Charter in other areas of the office.

He said the Authority will continue to hold discussions with the DENR to help them streamline their systems and simplify their services.

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/arta-sec-belgica-reminds-govt-workers-to-observe-office-hours-set-up-public-assistance-desks1/>



Undated file photo shows the exterior of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' headquarters.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Facebook

Gov't offices reminded: Observe working hours, put up public assistance desks

(Philstar.com) - July 7, 2021 - 5:32pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Anti-Red Tape Authority on Wednesday reminded government workers to observe proper office hours and set up public assistance desks in their facilities to give continued service to the public.

This, after ARTA Director-General Jeremiah Belgica claimed that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau was implementing shortened office hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In a statement sent to reporters, Belgica warned that government workers who will not work for a full eight hours may face administrative sanctions.

The ARTA chief urged government agencies to avoid sending home clients as some may have come from the provinces just to avail of the government's services.

"Anyone who comes in should be attended to during work hours. If clients come in during working hours, they should be entertained by the office even if they've been there for five minutes," he said in mixed Filipino and English.

"We have no option to implement this because it's in the law. If the [Office of the Ombudsman] or the Civil Service [Commission] look into it, they'll really say you shouldn't leave."

However, [CSC Memorandum Circular No. 18-2020](#) says that "agencies may adopt work shifting/flexible working hours appropriate/applicable to their mandate/functions regardless of community quarantine classification their agency is located."

It also says that agency heads should give workers adequate support mechanisms including "reduced working hours, as authorized by the President."

But [Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 3, s. 2016](#) also enjoins "all government officials and employees to strictly observe and comply with the required work hours."

Online platforms encouraged

Citing the limitations brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, Belgica said agencies may set up provisions, such as online platforms, to provide continued assistance to clients.



“Just give provisions for the people... at least you should have people who are assisting them,” he said.

The ARTA chief also recommended the placing of additional copies of the Citizen’s Charter in other areas of the office.

He said the Authority will continue to hold discussions with the DENR to help them streamline their systems and simplify their services.



Mining industry seeks policy changes

July 8, 2021 | 12:35 am



A view of nickel ore stockpiles at a mine in Sta Cruz, Zambales, Feb. 7, 2017. — REUTERS/ERIK DE CASTRO

THE MINING INDUSTRY is pushing for key policy changes that will boost the sector's growth and help the economy recover faster from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Eulalio B. Austin, Jr., Philex Mining Corp. president and chief executive officer, said the government should harmonize all national laws and local government units' (LGU) ordinances on mining.

"While the national law allows mining, there are LGUs that issue resolutions saying no to mining in their respective areas," Mr. Austin said during a BusinessWorld Insights forum on Wednesday.

The Philex Mining official said there is a need to lift the foreign ownership restrictions on mining under the 1987 Constitution. Foreign investors are only allowed to own up to 40% of the capital of mining firms operating in the Philippines.

"Because we are opening big capital projects, the provision is needed so that more investors would come in the country," Mr. Austin said.

Mr. Austin announced in a recent stockholders' meeting that Philex Mining is seeking investors for its Silangan copper and gold project in Surigao del Norte, which requires a \$758-million capital investment.

The Silangan project is seen as one of the big-ticket mining projects that can help the Philippine economy's recovery, after Malacañang lifted the ban on new mineral agreements in April.

Mr. Austin also said there is a need to develop the downstream mining industry.

"There is a need to develop the downstream industries of copper so that we could maximize or create value on the copper that we will be mining in the future," he said.

Dante R. Bravo, Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc. president, said the government should also consider providing "stable" incentives for major mining projects.



“We have to be open in giving incentives to big investments. The incentive has to be stable and cannot be changed midway since it is going to affect the viability of the project,” Mr. Bravo said during the same forum.

“I think the current tax regime is almost prohibitive to the industry. We are already heavily taxed. If there are more taxes to be imposed, it would attract less investments into the country,” he added.

The mining industry has to pay various fees, taxes and royalties imposed by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Bureau of Internal Revenue, LGUs and other government agencies. The MGB recently proposed imposing royalties on miners operating outside designated mineral reservation areas. At present, only those operating within mineral reservations currently pay mineral royalties of 5%.

Meanwhile, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) Executive Director Ronald S. Recidoro, said the Philippines should extract its mineral resources “responsibly.”

“If the minerals stay underground, it has very little value. It is better if we extract it responsibly and use the benefits and revenues of mining to move our economy forward,” Mr. Recidoro said.

“It is really up to us now to have that conviction and political will to do the same. Our mineral wealth will go to waste if we do not use it,” he added.

Based on an MGB report, the value of metallic mineral output rose 14.1% to P28.91 billion during the first quarter as a result of higher metal prices.

The mining sector contributed P102.3 billion, equivalent to 0.6% of gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2020.

Philex Mining is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and PLDT, Inc. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has interest in BusinessWorld through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — R.M.D.Ochave

Corporates lead e-zero waste initiative

Published 4 hours ago on July 8, 2021 02:30 AM

By [TDI](#) @tribunephil



Telco giant Globe spearheads an E-Waste Zero program to promote the responsible disposal and recycling of electronic waste.

The initiative provides a mechanism to donate old and non-working electronic devices for repurposing.

According to Globe, the program responds to the reckless dumping of old gadgets for newer and more advanced models. However, such behavior harms the environment and public health.

“Recognizing just how irresponsible and unsystematic disposal of e-waste can potentially impact the environment and our lives, we endeavored to proactively find and create more viable solutions that will curb the adverse effects of e-waste,” said Yoly Crisanto, Globe chief sustainability officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.

To broaden our knowledge on e-waste, what they are and why we must be mindful in discarding them, here are the answers to some frequently asked questions:

1) What is e-waste?
The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) define e-waste as any old, non-working, and end-of-life device, covering all Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and its components.

Among the more familiar items under this category are old mobile phones, broken chargers, laptops, desktops and other electronic gadgets.

It may also include small and large household appliances and consumer, lighting, sports, medical, monitoring and control equipment.

2) Just how big is the e-waste problem at present?
It is estimated that more than 50 million metric tons of e-waste are produced worldwide every year.

The UNEP estimates that only 20 percent are recycled out of this number, and 80 percent end up in landfills, posing threats to both the environment and human health. In the Philippines, DENR-EMB also considers e-waste as one of the fastest-growing waste streams.

3) Aren't these recycled by those engaged in the junkyard business and are a source of livelihood for the informal sector?
This is where the danger lies. E-waste is made up of different materials that are toxic and hazardous, making the process of recycling risky.



While the informal sector may benefit from this, their methods of dismantling and recycling are not aligned with approved government and health standards.

In fact, the UN Environment Program cited in their 2019 report that “informal and rudimentary recycling methods, as well as uncontrolled disposal, are responsible for large releases of hazardous chemicals in many developing countries, impacting human health and the environment locally.

Women and children, as well as those living in the vicinity of recycling sites, remain among the most vulnerable groups.” Hence, programs that help transition the informal sector to a formal one are beneficial to local communities’ environment, health and livelihood.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/08/corporates-lead-e-zero-waste-initiative/?_cf_chl_jschl_tk_=48cecc9e4ced3c24a0d24f49dc756c4b1dbef8b3-1625697927-0-AZJ3WC4V1zokI6VDVG_t8uXbizRoEVWYDtPhaqP3SEJD1BW8p_HHX47EOPgrLA4hgV4ctMI5-ey2C3MzzdUJ5T1vXkw4QoDMiPGeY7OwWCWxRFue5ctw0h368Ei268R-bHKQ04LwMOjH2Eh-gbLxvdQZRuo-2fLWwfNfTUWIGkWARfz_ubBGjeUt-ohV7bkFPZeoORcB74uSu19TcdbnzDupDQVKLQxSDcFeCP2TaMbJWBgxX1SgC_dcokJ_CxOt1DiWh5wjLT6287r3LKWf0roJmqTEv0Rfa3VQbriPXBUol3x564Cd_rW-9X34gj5JG7dwI1SX-M807NvvVExyaeWnRv9Eg0OAytVPdk6SkDk2wB_Q54rN3cimyR2Ubfj5BNIHIwAGXePWmPr3keMfVg7jMOBv9x-4iA_dSKWgM0sD6Yui4X1KW8s1p0S7SuanvN81TR6Pp-jHsR3PS9Y5pbm8mUFNm9HnzVnwlUeD8k



Tone-toneladang isda nangamatay sa lawa ng Taal

By [Angie dela Cruz](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 8, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Tone-toneladang isda na ang patuloy na nangangamatay sa Taal Lake mula nang itaas sa Alert Level 3 ang estado ng Bulkang Taal sa Batangas.

Sa report ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 4-A, nasa 108 metriko tonelada na ang naitalang dami ng namatay na bangus at tilapya mula noong nakaraang linggo. Katumbas nito sa halagang P8,999,250.

Sabi ng BFAR Calabarzon na nasa 22.5 metric tons ng bangus na nagkakahalaga ng P480,000 ang nasira sa anim na fish cages na may tatlong buwan nang inaalagaan at isang fish cage na sana ay aanihin na at may hala-gang P1,062,500.

Sa tilapya naman, nasa 86.5 metric tons na ang namamatay na may halagang P7,356,750 para sa 11 fish cages na nakatakda na sanang anihin din.

Bubusisiin ng BFAR kung may kaugnayan sa estado ng Bulkang Taal ang naranasang fish kill sa lawa nitong mga nakaraang araw.



5 'bursts' recorded at Taal Volcano

By [Arlie O. Calalo](#) July 8, 2021



AT least five short-lived phreatomagmatic (combination of magma and water) eruptions occurred at the main crater of the Taal Volcano on Wednesday, according to the [Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology](#) (Phivolcs).

The fifth burst took place at 11:56 a.m., lasting for less than a minute and generating a 200-meter dark gray plume from the volcano's main crater, according to Phivolcs chief [Renato Solidum Jr.](#)

Solidum said the first explosion happened at 5:18 a.m. and lasted for a minute. It generated a grayish plume that rose 300 meters before drifting southeast.

Another 300-meter-high plume was recorded and lasted for seven minutes at 8:47 a.m., Solidum said.

Solidum said there were two other phreatomagmatic events at 9:15 a.m. and 9:26 a.m. that lasted for two and five minutes, respectively.

This only showed the Batangas volcano was still manifesting seismic unrest in which magma extruding from its main crater could drive an explosive eruption, Solidum said.

In the past 24 hours, the Taal Volcano Network recorded 55 volcanic earthquakes, including an explosion-type earthquake, 44 low frequency volcanic earthquakes, five volcanic tremor events having durations of two to five minutes, five hybrid earthquakes and low-level background tremor.

The Phivolcs official said the volcano continues to emit high levels of volcanic sulfur dioxide or SO₂ gas emissions and steam-rich plumes that rose 1,500 meters before drifting southwest.

On July 6, some 7, 560 tons of SO₂ gas were emitted by the volcano which remains under Alert Level 3, he said.

Solidum said the entire Taal Volcano Island is a permanent danger zone and entry into the island as well as into the high-risk villages of the towns of Agoncillo and Laurel must be prohibited due to the hazards of pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami should strong eruptions occur.

"All activities on Taal Lake should not be allowed at this time and communities around the Taal Lake shores are advised to remain vigilant and take precautionary measures against possible airborne ash and vog," he said.



Solidum said lowering the alert status of the volcano depends on the decline of monitored parameters.

"Based on parameters monitored, there is no downtrend yet. Stand down procedure or lowering of alert status being followed is two weeks of continuous downtrends," he said.

"With the continued high emission of SO₂ gas and recording of volcanic earthquakes, there remains the possibility of another eruption though it would not be as explosive as last year's eruption of Taal Volcano," Solidum said.

08 JULY 2021, THURSDAY



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Mahigit 1.45 milyong COVID-19 cases naitala na sa Pilipinas

(Philstar.com) - July 7, 2021 - 4:00pm



Overseas Filipino workers wait in line for their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the Manila Prince Hotel as part of the local government's vaccine roll out program in Manila on Thursday, July 1, 2021. Some individuals started lining up as early as 9 p.m. on Wednesday night (June 30, 2021) as the local government announced that they will not entertain walk-ins and only pre-registered OFWs will be allowed to get the vaccine.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 4,289 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Miyerkules, kung kaya nasa 1,450,110 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **lahat ng kaso:** 1,450,110
- **nagpapagaling pa:** 47,519, o 3.3% ng *total infections*
- **bagong recover:** 6,399, dahilan para maging 1,377,132, na *lahat ng gumagaling*
- **kamamatay lang:** 164, na siyang nag-aakyat sa *total local death toll sa 25,459*

Anong bago ngayong araw?

- Ngayong araw naitala ang pinakamababang bilang ng active COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas (47,519) sa nakaraang 42 araw. Huling mas mababa ang datos niyan noong ika-26 ng Mayo.
- Pormal nang nag-request ang Sinovac Biotech para payagan nang maiturok ang kanilang COVID-19 vaccine (CoronaVac) para sa mga batang edad tatlo hanggang 17, ayon sa Food and Drug Administration. Tinatayang mailalabas ang desisyon dito ngayong Hulyo.
- Batay sa mga datos ng COVID-19 vaccinations sa Metro Manila, posibleng maging "Delta variant resilient" na raw ang rehiyon sa loob ng ilang buwan, pagtataya ng OCTA Research ngayong araw. Aniya, nasa 20-70% na raw kasi ang natuturuan ng isang dose pataas laban sa virus kada local government unit.



- Sa kabila niyan, sinabi ni Dr. Cynthia Saloma, executive director ng Philippine Genome Center (PGC), na "mahirap pang sabihin" kung magiging Delta resilient agad-agad ang National Capital Region. Gayunpaman, mahalagang tuloy-tuloy lang daw ang pagpapabakuna ng populasyon ngayon.
- Hindi pa naman matiyak ngayon ng PGC ang effectivity ng COVID-19 vaccines laban sa panibagong "Lambda variant" lalo na't kakaonti pa lang ang datos. Ayon sa mga hindi pa published na artikulo, lumalabas na posibleng may "increased transmissibility" din ito kumpara sa karaniwan. Maaaring may "immune evasion" din daw ito, bagay na naglalagay ng pangamba sa epekto nito sa mga bakuna.
- Ayon naman kay Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire kanina, bagama't pwede nang gumamit ng vaccination cards para payagan ang interzonal travel, may kapangyarihan pa rin ang mga local government units na mag-require ng COVID-19 tests bago pumasok sa kanilang lugar kung gugustuhin, alinsunod sa IATF Resolution 101.
- Umabot na sa 183.93 milyong ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng World Health Organization. Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 3.98 milyong katao.

—James Relativo at may mga ulat mula kay Xave Gregorio



3 milyong single-dose vaccine idinonate ng Amerika

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 8, 2021 - 12:00am



"Inaasahan din natin iyong donasyon ng Amerika, mayroon din tayong mga 3 million na Johnson & Johnson na single dosage po iyan. So that is good for 3 million individuals na wala na pong second dose," ani Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque.
AFP/Justin Tallis

MANILA, Philippines — Tatlong milyong single-dose na bakuna ng Johnson & Johnson ang inaasahang ta-tanggapin ng Pilipinas mula sa Amerika.

Ayon kay Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, ang bakunang darating ay para sa 3 milyong indibiduwal dahil wala na itong second dose.

"Inaasahan din natin iyong donasyon ng Amerika, mayroon din tayong mga 3 million na Johnson & Johnson na single dosage po iyan. So that is good for 3 million individuals na wala na pong second dose," ani Roque.

Tiniyak anya sa kanya ng Amerika na darating ang bakuna bagaman at walang eksaktong petsa.

Dumaan din aniya sa COVAX facility ang bakuna dahil founder din nito ang Amerika.

Sabi pa ni Roque mismong taga US Embassy ang nagparating sa kanya ng impormasyon sa selebrasyon na ginawa noong Hulyo 1.

Samantala, idinagdag din ni Roque na ngayong Hulyo magsisimulang dumating ang 14 milyong doses ng bakuna na inorder sa Pfizer.

Bukod pa aniya ito sa tiyak na darating ngayong araw na 1.1 milyong doses ng AstraZeneca na donasyon naman ng Japan at 170,000 doses na Gamaleya Sputnik V.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/07/08/2110992/3-milyong-single-dose-vaccine-idinonate-ng-amerika/amp/>



PEKENG BAKUNA NA, PEKENG PAGBABAKUNA PA



July 7, 2021 @ 2:42 PM 15 hours ago

KUNG ano-ano na lang ang mga raket na ginagawa ngayon para pagkakitaan ang coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19.

Nitong huli, libo-libo ang binakunahan sa India na may bayad ngunit peke pala ang laman ng bakuna.

Nauna rito, sa mahal kong Pinas, nagkaroon din ng bentahan ng mga bakuna at vaccine slot.

Noong kasagsagan ng pandemya, anak ng tokwa, ang isang karton ng surgical face mask na P40-P50, naging P500 hanggang P800 habang umabot naman sa nasa P1,000 ang isang pirasong N95 mask mula sa nasa P50-70, gayundin ang alkohol na tumaas sa P1,200 mula sa P200 kada galon.

May mga peke ring swab test results na umaabot sa P5,000-P6,000 bawat isa.

MGA DOKTOR SANGKOT MISMO

Maraming doktor mismo ang inaresto lalo na sa Mumbai, India dahil sa pagtatayo ng mga vaccination center, pagbabakuna ng maalat na tubig lamang, pamimigay ng pekeng vaccine certificate, iringilya at vials o sisidlan ng bakuna.

At ang lalakas ng loob ang mga ito dahil ginagamit nila ang mga ospital mismo bilang mga vaccination center.

Naging kasabwat ng mga doktor ang ilang vaccinator at tagagawa ng mga pekeng vaccine certificate, iringilya at vials at inaresto at sinampahan na ng mga kasong cheating, attempts at culpable homicide, criminal conspiracy at iba pa.

NAGING MILYONARYO

Hindi libre ang mga pagbabakuna kundi may bayad kaya sa ilang linggo lamang na operasyon ng sindikato na binubuo ng mahigit 14 katao, kumita na sila ng P1.4 milyon mula sa 2,500 na ininiksyunan nila.

Kasama na nila sa kulungan ang mga naaresto sa hoarding o pagtatago at pag-o-overprice na rin ng mga oxygen at oxygen tank nitong kasagsagan ng second wave na gawa ng Delta variant.

Nakialam na rin mismo ang mga hukom sa India at nagbantang hahatulan nila ng kamatayan ang mga switik sa oxygen/



Hahatulan din kaya ng kamatayan ang mga hinayupak na gumagawa ng mga pekeng bakuna at iba pang peke na naglagay ng buhay ng libo-libo sa panganib?

BAKUNANG FOR SALE SA PINAS

Libre lahat ang bakuna sa Pinas at bigay ito ng pambansang pamahalaan, mga local government unit at pribadong kompanya.

Ang rason, lahat ng bakuna kontra-COVID-19 ay nasa antas o uri pa lang na pang-emergency use at nangangahulugang hindi pa basta maituturok ng kung sino-sino at kung kani-kanino at lalong hindi pwedeng ibenta sa madla.

Ang mga kompanyang Amerikano na gumagawa ng Pfizer, Moderna at Johnson and Johnson ay nag-aaplay na ng lisensya para maging komersyal o pwede nang ibenta sa publiko ang mga ito ngunit hindi pa pumapayag ang pamahalaang Amerika.

Pero sa pagkuha ng ating pamahalaan sa mga manufacturer o pabrika, binibili ito, maliban lang ang mga bigay ng Covax facility ng World Health Organization at mga donasyon ng ibang bansa.

Ngayon naman, sa kabila ng pagbabawal ng pagbenta nito, hayun at may nabuking na “for sale” na mahigit 300 doses ng bakunang may tatak na Sinovac.

PEKE O GENUINE

Hanggang ngayon, nag-iimbestiga pa ang National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Health, Food and Drug Administration at pamahalaan ni Mayor Isko Moreno sa iskam na “vaccine for sale.”

Sa unang pagsisiyasat ng mga awtoridad, natagpuang peke ang mga bar code at madaling malusaw kapag nabasa kumpara sa mga genuine na kailangan mong kuskusin nang husto para matanggal.

Ang mga batch number na nakatatak sa mga bulto ng dumarating na mga bakuna, partikular ang Sinovac, ay hindi rin tugma sa nakumpiskang mga bakuna.

PARUSAHAN SILA SA DELIKADO, NAKASISIRANG KRIMEN

Dahil walang katiyakan ang mga bakunang nasakote, delikado ang mga ito.

Bukod sa delikado sa kalusugan at buhay ang bakuna, sinisira rin ng pinaggagawa ng isang medical technologist at isang nars ng ospital na nagbenta ng nasabing bakuna sa isang Tsino ang programang pagbabakuna

Nandiyan na nga ang malaking porsyento ng mga Filipino na hesitancy o ayaw magpabakuna, lalong pinalala ng mga kriminal ito.

Isa pa, nagkakandarapa na nga ang pamahalaang nasyunal, mga LGU at pribadong kompanya sa pagbili at pagkuha dahil pinag-aagawan ang mga bakuna sa liit ng suplay sa buong mundo, nagnanakaw pa sila para lang ibenta.

Ang dapat sa mga ganitong kriminal ay parusahan nang matindi at hindi hanggang 10 taon lang na mabibilanggo, ayon sa tadhana ng batas sa FDA.

Magpiyansa lang ang mga iyan at baka magtago pa at hindi maparusahan.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring



Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Trumpet/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.



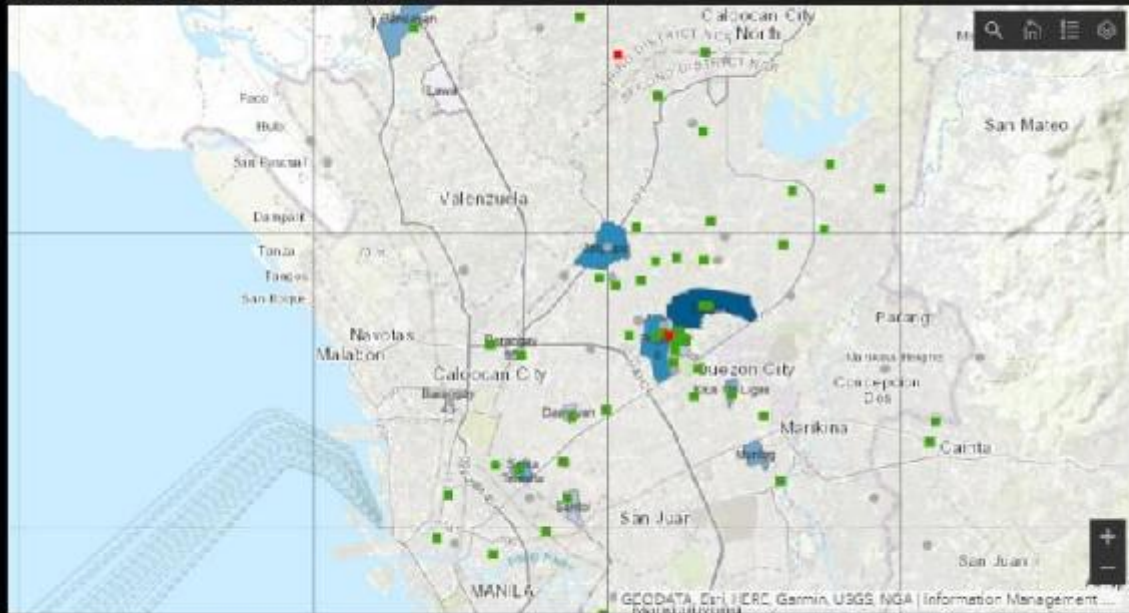
% COVID-19 Confirmed Cases in DENR-CO



Daily Confirmed Cases

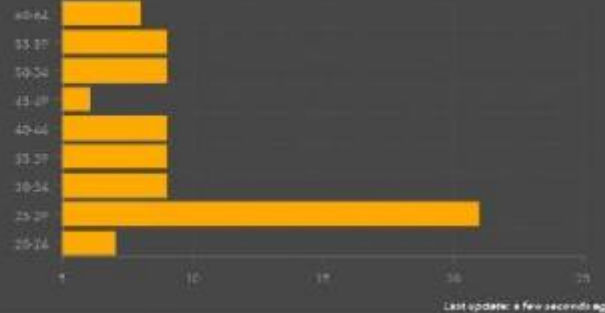


Residence of affected personnel

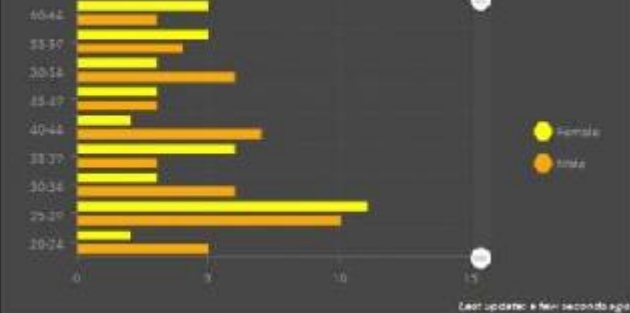


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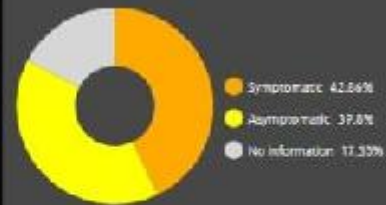
Age Group



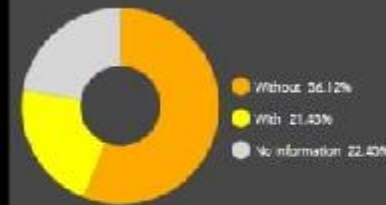
Age Group by Sex



Health Status



Comorbidity



Sex



IPINAKITA NG ISRAEL KUNG PAANO RUMESBAKUNA!



80% ADULTS AY BAKUNADO NA:

- Ang mga kaso ng COVID-19 ay bumaba hanggang 15 na lang kada araw!
- 100% balik operasyon na ang mga negosyo
- Nagbukas na rin ang mga eskwelahan
- Hindi na kailangang magsuot ng mask!



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VACCINES FOR A PROTECTED PAKISTAN!

Pakistan has done more than 10 million jobs of COVID-19 vaccines.



WHAT HAPPENED?

- Less number of deaths
- Less people turning in a positive swab result

SOURCE: <https://apnews.com/article/africa-singapore-coronavirus-pandemic-business-health-fa55fca65cc3a1d12cd6c5cc964fd74>



THE PHILIPPINES CAN DO THIS TOO!
Get your COVID-19 shot now and be part of the **BIDA BAKUNATION!**



BELGIUM CHOSE TO GET VACCINATED, AND THEY ARE REAPING THE REWARDS!



- NO MORE LOCKDOWNS
- REOPENED CINEMAS
- REOPENED RESTAURANTS AND BARS



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Get your COVID-19 shot now and be part of the **BIDA BAKUNATION!**



SCOTLAND SHOWS VACCINATION IS THE WAY TO GO!



**With more than 3 million people
vaccinated, ICU cases dropped!**

SOURCE: <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/lifestyle/health-wellbeing/2275303/covid-19-scotland-zero-icu-admissions-among-fully-vaccinated-data-shows/>



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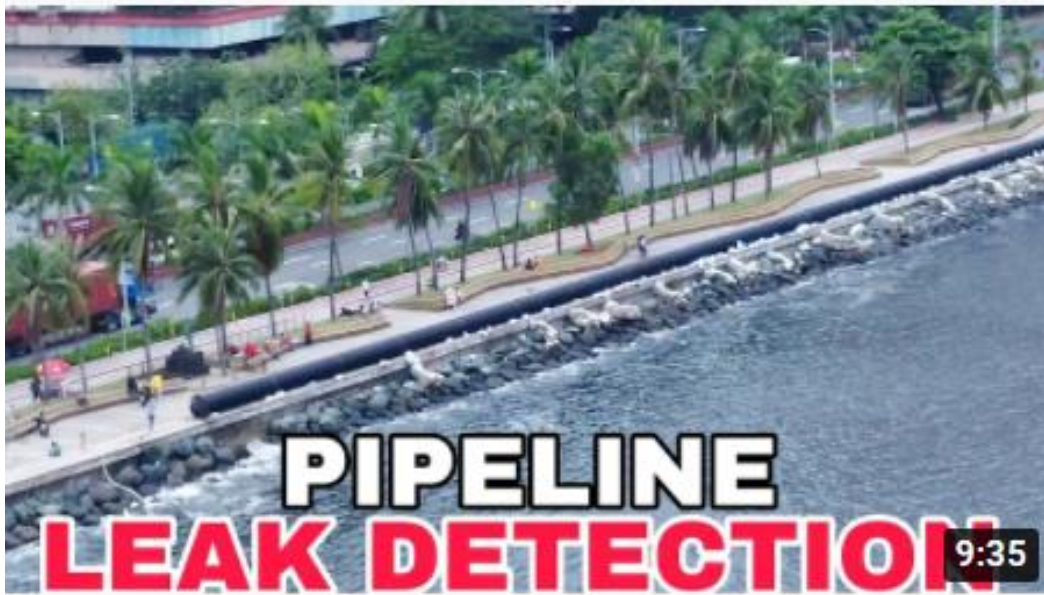
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