21 JUNE 2021, Monday

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





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New DENR team to fight crimes against the environment

June 20, 2021 | 7:52 pm



DENR

THE ENVIRONMENT chief has ordered the creation of a transitional team that will focus on enforcing environment protection laws while the proposed legislation creating a new agency for that purpose is pending.

"Our department has many laws to implement, but we are lacking when it comes to enforcement," Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said in a statement on Sunday.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu recently signed an administrative order creating the Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS), which will serve as an interim body while Congress deliberated on the proposed Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) bill.

"While we are waiting for the passage of EPEB, our secretary has allowed to craft this order to install an enforcement service for the effective protection of our forests and other natural resources," Mr. Leones said.

The ELEPS will handle matters related to the Supreme Court's Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases involving enforcement or violations of environmental and natural resource laws.

This includes terrestrial, coastal, marine, aquatic resources, and aerial systems, among others.

The ELEPS is also in charge of developing "highly competent manpower" for existing enforcement units, including the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force, Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife, and other enforcement task groups.

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"Through ELEPS, enforcement officers will be able to conduct intelligence operations, issue notices of appearance for investigation, as well as implement Cease and Desist Orders, Closure Orders, and Notices of Violation, and DENR Enforcement Orders for in flagrante violations, among others," the DENR said.

The new DENR team will coordinate with the Justice department, police, military, National Bureau of Investigation, and other government-owned entities to combat environmental crimes. — Angelica Y. Yang



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Cimatu organizes DENR 'police' team vs environmental crimes

BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA JUNE 21, 2021 2 MINUTE READ

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ordered the creation of an "interim environmental law enforcement office" in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) while waiting for the enactment of a law establishing its own police-like bureau.

Cimatu signed an administrative order on June 10 during the DENR's 34th founding anniversary celebration establishing the Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (Eleps) that he hopes would "strengthen environmental law enforcement" in the country.

"We have a growing number of fallen environmental heroes. This is how serious we do our jobs here at DENR, but I hope and pray that no more lives will be lost because of defending our environment," said in a statement.

"Our Department has many laws to implement, but we are lacking when it comes to enforcement," DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said. "While we are waiting for the passage of the EPEB [Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau], our Secretary has allowed to craft this order to install an enforcement service for the effective protection of our forests and other natural resources."

Under the DENR administrative order, Eleps will cover "all environmental laws as enumerated in the Supreme Court Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases involving enforcement or violations of environmental and natural resources laws, rules and regulations," such as terrestrial laws, coastal, marine and aquatic resources laws, aerial law and other environment and natural resources laws.

Cimatu said he ordered the creation of the Eleps "as a defined authority that will promote effective and strong enforcement of environmental laws, establish coordinative mechanisms, utilize science and technology and develop highly competent manpower that will encompass existing enforcement units (e.g., the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force and the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife) and other enforcement task forces of the DENR.

With bigger scope and functions from the EPETF, enforcement units of DENR's regional offices, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau, Protected Area Management Office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices, and Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices will be under the operational control of ELEPS and its supervising officials.

The DENR's bureaus and attached agencies will also maintain close coordination with ELEPS in networking with national and international organizations that address environmental crimes.

The Eleps's lead team will be from DENR's Central Office to complement its daily operations.

Among its several functions, the Eleps has end-to-end duties' from the enforcement, stoppage of ongoing violations, arrest, management of confiscated items, investigation, the preparation for prosecution of environmental criminals until execution of decisions by the court.



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The Eleps will also coordinate with the Department of Justice, the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and government-owned and -controlled corporations to aid in the prevention and fight against environmental crimes, according to Cimatu.





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DENR creates interim unit for environmental laws

By <u>Elizabeth Marcelo</u>(Philstar.com) - June 21, 2021 - 12:00am



Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources inspect the dolomite beach sand along Manila Bay yesterday. Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has created an interim office as part of efforts to intensify the enforcement of environmental laws.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has signed an administrative order, creating the Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS).

The DENR said ELEPS would act as an interim unit while the agency is waiting for Congress to approve a proposed bill seeking the creation of an Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB).

"The department has many laws to implement, but we are lacking when it comes to enforcement. While we are waiting for the passage of the EPEB bill, Secretary Cimatu ordered the creation of ELEPs to protect our forests and other natural resources," Jonas Leones, DENR undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs, said.

Under the administrative order, ELEPS will cover the enforcement of environmental laws as enumerated in the Supreme Court rules of procedure for environmental cases such as terrestrial laws, coastal, marine and aquatic resources laws as well as aerial law.

The DENR said ELEPS would encompass the department's existing enforcement units, such as the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force, Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife and other enforcement task forces.

The DENR's bureaus and attached agencies will also maintain close coordination with ELEPS in networking with national and international organizations that address environmental crimes.



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"ELEPS has end-to-end duties, from the enforcement, stoppage of violations, arrests, management of confiscated items, investigation, preparation for prosecution of environmental criminals until execution of decisions by the court," the DENR said.

ELEPS is also tasked to coordinate with the Department of Justice, Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, National Bureau of Investigation and government-owned and controlled corporations to aid in the fight against environmental crimes.

Cimatu said the creation of ELEPS also aims to empower and protect the DENR's law enforcers.

"We have a growing number of fallen environmental heroes. This is how serious we do our jobs here in the DENR. I hope that no more lives will be lost because of defending our environment," Cimatu said.

Under the administrative order, ELEPS enforcers will be equipped with agency-issued firearms and protective equipment. They will also undergo capacity building training to effectively perform their duties.

"Through ELEPS, enforcement officers will be able to conduct intelligence operations, issue notices of appearance for investigation, as well as implement cease and desist orders, closure orders, notices of violation and DENR enforcement directives for in flagrante violations, among others," the DENR said.



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Manila Bay cleanup task force chief tells shipyard users he means business

Published June 20, 2021, 6:06 PM by Ellson Quismorio

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda has told shipyard users that he is bent on solving Manila Bay's water pollution problem, which the latter may be exacerbating.



(Photo from Undersecretary Benny Antiporda's Facebook)

This, as Antiporda held a meeting with members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the concerned stakeholders at DENR over the weekend to discuss the continuing cleanup of Manila Bay.

"Hindi po trabaho ng pamahalaan na linisin ang pinagkakakitaan ninyo. Pinatawag po namin kayo upang pag-usapan po natin ito (It is not the government's job to sanitize your livelihood. We called you here so that we can discuss this)," he said on Friday, June 18.

"We are here to determine the problem and provide solution to the problem," added Antiporda, who heads the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force (MBAPTF).

It was during a June 4 <u>inspection</u> at the Navotas fish port and Delpan, Manila when the DENR official noticed the draining of wastewater from the vessels docked at local shipyards into the bay. This wastewater comes from vessels that are being repaired at the shipyards.

"When it rains, the rust removed from the vessels will go directly to the ocean, thus [contaminating] the water," Antiporda said.

Also during the Friday meeting, the DENR presented to the attendees the result of the water sampling conducted by the agency's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) on June 4.



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Manila Bay cleanup task force chief tells shipyard users he means business

As per the findings, the water samples gathered from Navotas and Delpan did not comform with DENR Water Quality Guidelines values in terms of dissolved oxygen (DO) and fecal coliform, among other indicators water pollution.



(Photo from Undersecretary Benny Antiporda's Facebook)

"Less DO results in less oxygen an aquatic life can get. This will result to death of marine mammals, plants, and other aquatic organisms.

"High level of fecal coliform means the water has a disease-causing bacteria. Coliform bacteria grow in the digestive tracts of humans and other warm-blooded animals, and serve as indicators of fecal contamination and as marker for other possibly pathogenic microorganisms," the findings read.

Attendees to the meeting include representatives from the Manila Bay Sailors/Filipinas Yacht Inc., R

"It is time for us to change history when it comes to the environment. Most of the time it is the environment that is being sacrificed. With this administration, we mean business when it comes to protecting our environment," Antiporda told the stakeholders.



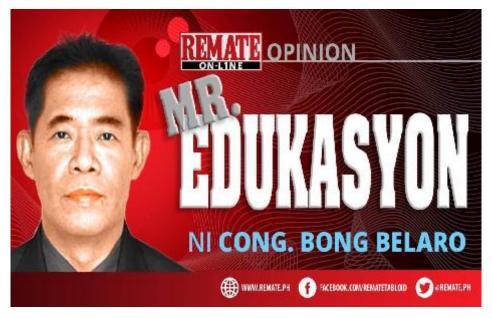


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PUSPUSANG TRABAHO SA MANILA BAY REHAB



June 20, 2021 @ 9:30 AM 21 hours ago

ISA na siguro sa talagang tatatak sa Pinoy pagdating sa mga programang maiiwan ng Duterte administration ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Yes! Tama kayo, ang kontrobersyal na inilagay na Dolomite sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard o mas kilala sa tawag na Baywalk na madalas noong bisitahin ng ating mga kababayan at pagtampisawan ng mga Manilenyo habang sandamakmak ang mga naglulutangang basura na pinabayaan ng mga nagdaang administrasyon.

Mabuti na lamang at may tunay na malasakit ang kasalukuyang rehimeng Duterte at unti-unti na po nating nakikita ang resulta at tunay na pagbabago na patuloy na pinupursige at pinaghihirapang maisaayos at mapaganda ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang ating Manila Bay.

Kamakailan lamang nang muling bisitahin nina DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, Usec. Benny Antiporda at iba pang opisyal ng gobyerno ang Manila Bay matapos ang isinagawang pagtatanim ng coconut trees malapit sa lugar.

Akalain n'yo nasa halos 80% na pong kumpleto ang phase 1ng beach nourishment project na ito at bukod pa rito, mula sa milyon-milyong fecal coliform bacteria (o bacteria na nakukuha sa dumi ng tao), ay bumaba na po ito sa 142 MPN/100ML, kung kaya't fit for fishing na po ang bahagi ng Manila Bay.

Tunay na kahanga-hanga ang mga ganitong proyekto at pinatunayan ng Duterte administration na may tunay na pagbabago.





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PUSPUSANG TRABAHO SA MANILA BAY REHAB

Kaya naman ang ating malugod na pagbati kina Sec. Cimatu at Usec Antiporda dahil sa unti-unting naisasakatuparan ang pagbabalik ng tunay na anyo ng Manila Bay.

Bukod pa riyan, malapit nang luminis ang tatlong estero na nagbubuga noon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay dahil sa pagtutok ng DENR sa mga pasaway na mga establishment na naglalabas ng maruming tubig noon sa Manila Bay.

Alam kong seryoso at maaasahan ang ating mga opisyal ng DENR kaya naman hindi nagkamali ang ating Pangulong Duterte sa pagpili ng kanyang mga iniluklok diyan sa Kagawaran ng Kalikasan kaya naman nagiging matagumpay ang mga proyekto nito para sa kapakanan ng Inang Kalikasan at ng ating mga anak.

Tulungan po natin ang ating pamahalaan sa pagpapanatili ng kalinisan sa ating mga komunidad, matuto po tayong mag-segregate ng mga basurang nabubulok at hindi nabubulok, disiplina lang po ang kailangan upang sama-sama natin mapag tagumpayan ay malinis na Pilipinas.

Para sa inyong mga komento o sumbong, maaari po kayong tumawag o mag-text sa ating 1-Ang Edukasyon Party-Iist Hotline: 0927.930.25.81 at makaka asa po kayo sa agarang tugon ng inyong mga mensahe.





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Tropical aura ibabalik! 60 puno ng niyog itatanim sa Baywalk

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jun 20, 2021





Bilang bahagi ng pagsisikap ng Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, nagtanim ang mga ito ng mga puno ng niyog na halos tatlo hanggang apat na metro ang taas sa tabi ng Baywalk.

Sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, na nanguna sa panimulang pagtatanim ng 10 coconut palms trees noong Miyerkoles, na target ang tinatayang 60 upang umakma sa proyekto sa beach nourishment ng DENR.

Aniya nagsagawa sila ng mga pagtatanim ng niyog bilang bahagi ng kanilang pagpapanumbalik at patuloy na rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay at layuning maibalik ang "tropical aura" sa Roxas Boulevard.

Batay sa assessment na isinagawa ng DENR field office sa National Capital Region (NCR), ang coconut palms ay dating nakatanim sa lugar ngunit pinutol dahil sobrang magulang na ang mga ito.





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Tropical aura ibabalik! 60 puno ng niyog itatanim sa Baywalk

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jun 20, 2021



Ang mga puno ng niyog o palm trees na ito ay idaragdag sa pagpapaganda ng lugar dahil bibigyan nila ang isang malinaw na tanawin ng isang tropical aura, tulad ng lugar na ito noong mga taong nakalipas, ani Cimatu.

Idinagdag pa ng DENR chief na hindi lamang nito pagagandahin ang baywalk na bahagi ng baybayin ng Manila Bay kundi magsisilbi rin itong buhay na paalala kung ano ang naibigay ng puno ng niyog sa pamumuhay ng mga tao.

Ang pagpapanatili ng proyekto ay susubaybayan ng DENR-NCR sa pakikipagtulungan ng Parks

Development Office ng Maynila. (Mina Navarro)



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DENE, LIONS GLUB INTL SANIB-PUWERSA SA 10KPUNONG ITATANIM

MAGKAKAROON ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng So katuwang sa reforestation program ng pamahalaan matapos mangako ang Lions Clubs International (LCI) Multiple District 301 Philippines ng pagtanim ng 10,000 puno sa buong bansa sa pagdiriwang ng ika-34 anibersaryo ng DENR kamakailan. The DENR wel-

The DENR welcomes the initiative of Lions Chibs International Multiple District 301 Philippines to help in the National Greening Program, a priority program of the government, which addresses deforestation and helps in climate change mingation and adaptation," sabi ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Ayon naman kay LCI Multiple District (MD) 301 Council Chairperson Dra. Elisa Valdez, sa ngalan ng pagtutulungan, ang kanilang organisasyon ay nangangakong magtanim ng 10,000 puno sa buong bansa bilang suporta sa National Greening Program ng DENR. Kimum-pirma rin ni Valdez ang pakikibahagi ng LCI MD 301 sa "coastal cleanup, outreach programs, and information, education and communication initiatives.

Ang commitment at partnership na pinagtibay sa memorandum of agreement (MOA) na pinirmahan nina Cimatu at Valdez sa ika-34 anibersaryo ng DENR ay naglalayong palakasin ang spirit of volunteerism and promote behavioral change towards environment protection."

Layon din nito na magtulungan sa "environmental activities aligned with DENR programs and encourage citizen participation such as the clean-up of esteros and rivers, the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the rescue of wildlife, and the education of the citizenry in care for the environment and natural resources, among others."

Ang partnership ay inisyatibo ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda, na governor ng LCI District 301-A2.

Bago pa ang MOA signing, ang DENR, sa pamamagitan ni Antiporda, ay nakikipagtulungan na sa mga LCI district sa iba't ibang gawain para sa kapaligiran tulad ng tree planting, Manila Bay at river clean-ups, at sa mga programa para sa persons with disabilities (PWDs) at sa iba pang stakeholders.

"The DENR is grateful to LCI Multiple District 301 for the spirit of volunteerism, imbibed among its members, that it will bring into the DENR and its stakeholders. This is much needed now more than any other time. We want to eliminate the culture of indifference among many Filipinos which relinquishes all environmental responsibility to the government alone," pahayag ni Antiporda.

BÉNEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.





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DENR lauds Chinese General Hospital

By Lea Devio June 21, 2021

THE Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) lauded the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (CGHMC) for its constant adherence and dedication to the country's environmental laws and regulations.

The department cited the hospital's consistent endeavor in complying with various directives to private institutions for cleaner surroundings in pursuance of the Environmental Management Bureau's memorandum circular 2020-28.

"This is a testament to our renewed commitment to help the environment in every way we can," CGHMC Senior Vice President for Operations and Administration Jameson Dy said in a statement.

"We have been supporting the DENR and its many top-notch projects over the years," he added.

CGHMC complied with the DENR requirements under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (Presidential Decree 1586), Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Act (Republic Act 6969), Clean Air Act (Republic Act 8749), the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act 9003), and Clean Water Act (Republic Act 9275).

Dy together with CGHMC Pollution Control Officer Emerson Vergara, was presented with certificates of recognition for their efforts.

"The hospital has consistently submitted self-monitoring and compliance monitoring reports to ensure the institution is strictly following the bureau's guidelines," CGHMC said in a statement.

The hospital's program includes No Idling, Solid and Hazardous/Infectious/Covid Waste Management, Agreement with ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan and Waste Minimization.

"We are continuously adapting to change for a more sustainable and systemized approach to our environmental applications towards the future," Dy said.

"This has become way beyond compliance but more importantly it's about protecting our environment while exercising our function as a health care institution," he added.





Gov't requests JICA to extend P5.87-B Forestland Management Project

June 21, 2021

The government has asked Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for an extension on the P5.87 billion Forestland Management Project (FMP) which was halted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, having successfully established 71,300 hectares of agroforestory plantation already.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) needs time to complete maintenance works for the protection of established plantations over the mandated three river basins of FMP.

Originally aimed to strengthen forest management in three critical river basins of the Philippines, FMP is about to end in 2022 after having helped the grassroots communities in the uplands.

Traditionally the poorest of all farmers due to their far distance from markets, the upland farmers of FMO, represented in 149 people's organizations (PO), have benefitted economically from FMP.

The POs have also become stronger protectors of the watersheds in the three critical river basins -Upper Magat and Cagayan River Basin (Quirino, Cordillera Administrative Region, Ifugao); Upper Pampanga River Basin (Nueva Ecija); and Jalaur River Basin (Iloilo).

"We have a pending request for an extension on one year to complete activities on maintenance and protection of established plantations, construction of agroforestry support facilities, and implementation of the sustainability action plan," said Marlon Atienza, FMP project manager.

"The request is made in view of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic starting the first quarter of Calendar Year 2020. The request was given approval by the ICC Cabinet Committee through ad referendum and endorsed to Department of Finance."

Atienza noted the achievements of FMP over its almost 10-year duration.

"Majority of the project's deliverables have already been completed - preparation of management plans, organization and strengthening of 149 POs, establishment of 71,300 hectares of tree and agroforestry plantations, organization of watershed management bodies."





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Gov't requests JICA to extend P5.87-B Forestland Management Project

"These deliverables are all indicators for measuring achievement of project objectives. However, we still have to make an assessment of the indicators (increase in forest cover, PO income and decrease in soil erosion)."

DENR is still completing several road and bridge projects even as it is supposedly in the last year of FMP implementation.

Contractors of the P72-million Reinforced Concrete Deck Girder (RCDG) bridge in the area of Alimit Langayan Banao (Ifugao) just held in the last week of May a "concrete pouring" ceremony for the bridge. It is a go signal for its construction.

Another FMP project that will benefit the Peoples Organization (PO) of Alimit Langayan Banao Farmers Organization (ALBAFO) is the 3.867 kilometer Brgy. Montabiong Access Road.

Worth P48 million, it is now undergoing construction. It will take 270 days to complete the access road.

"This road concreting will strengthen the connectivity between the Alimit West and Lagawe subwatersheds," said Atienza,

The Brgy. Montabiong Access Road just also started construction with a groundbreaking ceremony last June 3.

Aside from ALBAFO, the immediate beneficiary of this access road is the PO Iphodan Di Alah Ad Montabiong Inc. (IDAMI) and DENR-Ifugao Field Implementing Units.

FMP is funded by JICA through a P4.708 billion loan component.

The pineapple-agroforestry enterprise of ALBAFO is expected to benefit significantly from these infrastructure projects.





Gov't requests JICA to extend P5.87-B Forestland Management Project

With farmer-training from FMP, the upland dwellers have become more intensive growers of agroforestry products like timber (gmelina, mahogany and narra) and fruit trees (guyabano, cacao, mango).

They have expanded their farming and has reached new markets through FMP's marketing assistance and promotion.

The total project investment cost is estimated at P5.87 billion of which P1.162 billion is shouldered by the Philippine government.





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Biodiversity group: No record of invasive squirrels in Asean

BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA JUNE 21, 2021 3 MINUTE READ

WHILE concerned officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have confirmed the threat of the Finlayson's squirrel (Callosciurus finlaysonii) possibly now spreading in Luzon, the Asean Centre for the Biodiversity (ACB) said the global invasive alien species database shows no record of such problem, even in any of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

The ACB monitors report of invasive alien species in Asean and other parts of the world, it being a major driver of biodiversity loss.

The proliferation of Finlayson's squirrel, also called "Variable species," was recorded in Metro Manila as early as the year 2000. It is now considered an invasive alien species in Metro Manila and is spreading fast with a confirmed breeding population in Batangas.

Basically rodents, squirrels are prolific breeders and are able to adapt even to harsh environments. Finlayson's squirrel is a fruit-eating, tree-dwelling squirrel. There was a reported attack of this species at the Aguirre Farm in Batangas in November last year. The DENR said it also attacks birds' nests, hence, posing a serious threat to the native bird population.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim told the BusinessMirror that initial research conducted by a staff of the ACB revealed there is no invasive squirrel problem reported or recorded in the "Global Invasive Species Dabatase."

"This database recorded only two alien species of squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis), which were also recorded in the Internal Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List as introduced," Lim, a former DENR-BMB Director, said. The other species, she said, is the Tamias sibiricus, introduced mostly in Europe and South Africa from the US and some countries in East Asia.

Citing the IUCN Red List, Lim said there are 94 species of squirrels found in the Asean; 13 of which are threatened with extinction.

The total number of threatened squirrels, which include "near threatened," "vulnerable" and "endangered," is 23.

"This is from global record. This means this issue may be a concern for Philippines," she said. "But there is not enough official data to say that the same is being experienced in other Asean-member countries."

Lim, a licensed veterinarian, was director of the DENR-BMB from 2003 to 2005 and from 2006 to 2018.

It was during her stint as DENR-BMB that the DENR took notice of Finlayson's squirrel spreading in Metro Manila.

During her stint with the DENR-BMB, Lim said the agency conducted an inventory and validated the species if they were really non-native; thereby, finally identifying the then-mysterious squirrel species were seen hopping from tree to tree in gated villages in Makati and Alabang.





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Biodiversity group: No record of invasive squirrels in Asean

"That's how we confirmed that they were 'alien.' If they were Philippine species, the handling will be different," Lim said.

Even invasive alien species like squirrels are protected by environmental laws such as Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act), the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act and the Expanded Nipas Act. The latter provides protection to protected areas and national parks and the wildlife that thrives therein.

Lim said a better strategy is needed to be adopted that will involve more players to help in the control and eradication of the Finlayson's squirrel before they go out of Metro Manila and wreak havoc in our Protected Areas.

Unfortunately, she said, because of other priority concerns of the DENR-BMB, the program to prevent the invasive squirrel was not sustained.





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How do we finance nature conservation?

By: <u>Rodel D. Lasco</u> - <u>@inquirerdotnet</u> <u>Philippine Daily Inquirer</u> / 05:03 AM June 20, 2021

The value of natural ecosystems is being increasingly recognized, as evidenced by the justconcluded International Day of Biodiversity. Ecosystems provide tangible and intangible services that make human life on earth as we know it possible. A report of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (2016) estimated that Philippine biodiversity resources contribute more than P2.3 trillion in services to the nation. Globally, natural ecosystems generate \$125 trillion in global benefits a year, giving employment to 1.2 billion people, per the World Resources Institute.

Past ignorance and mismanagement have led to a catastrophic deterioration of much of the world's ecosystems. Scores of plants and animals are on the brink of extinction. Terrestrial and marine ecosystems have been modified to such a degree that threatens the capacity of planet Earth to support life. Scientists have linked the rise of disease epidemics like COVID-19 to the shrinking natural resource base.

The success of humanity in meeting the challenge posed by global environmental changes hinges largely on nature-based solutions (NbS). A report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) titled "State of Finance for Nature" (2021) argues that meeting the global climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation targets requires about \$4.1 trillion in financing for nature conservation by 2050. In contrast, the present level of investments in NbS amounts to only \$133 billion annually. This level is a measly 0.10 percent of global GDP, much of which comes from the public sector. The UNEP report further asserts that current spending must triple by 2030 and quadruple by 2050 if the financing gap is to be closed.

In the Philippines, the government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, remains the chief financier of natural ecosystems management and conservation. The DENR seeks to reverse decades of overexploitation through initiatives like the National Greening Program and the integrated coastal resources management program. Despite the valiant efforts of the men and women in national government, their efforts are not enough.

Local government units must be capacitated and encouraged to invest in natural resources management since they are at the vanguard of grassroots development. There is a lot of truth to the observation that nothing happens in a town or city without the knowledge of local officials. An expanding cadre of enlightened local officials who see that development can proceed while preserving the natural life support systems is needed.

Civil society groups also play a critical role in nature conservation in the country. They are quick to embrace cutting-edge ideas and can be vocal advocates. Then we have the private sector, the sleeping giant whose potential investment is immense. There are signs that this sector is beginning to wake up, realizing that addressing such issues as biodiversity conservation and climate change is the right thing to do.





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How do we finance nature conservation?

Finally, and most critically, we have local and indigenous communities composed of millions of our people who live inside or in close proximity with natural ecosystems. They are the de facto managers of a large swath of uplands and coastal zones. Given the right policy and incentives, they can invest time and energy in sustainably managing fragile ecosystems.

Ultimately, financing nature conservation is everyone's concern.





Headline Editorial Column Opinion Feature Article

2 ILLEGAL LOGGERS TIKLO SA TROPA NI COL. CARDIÑO

7 hours ago jake



"WHAT you do to your environment is what you do to humanity," Ito ang pahayag ni Zambales Provincial Director P/Col. Romano V. Cardiño matapos muling makadakip ang kanyang mga tauhan ng dalawang illegal loggers sa bayan ng San Marcelino sa nasabing lalawigan.

Ayon kay Col. Cardiño, nahuli ang mga suspek sa anti-illegal logging operation sa Zambales.

Kinilala ang mga nadakip na sina Hermi Mendoza Rafanan, helper, ng Brgy. Isidro, San Marcelino, Zambales, at Bryle Manzano Abad, operator, naninirahan sa Purok 2, Brgy. Looc, Castillejos, Zambales.

Mahigit P30,000 halaga ng lumber ang nakumpiska mula sa mga suspek.

Ayon kay P/Col. Cardiño, nadakip ang mga suspek sa operasyon kasama ang DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Olongapo sa Barangay San Isidro sa bayan ng San Marcelino.

Ayon kina P/Maj. Janine R. Piga ng San Marcelino, Zambales PNP, at Manny Villa ng DENR CENRO Olongapo City, pinaniniwalaang galing sa gubat ng San Marcelino ang pinutol na mga kahoy at walang naipakitang permit ang mga suspek kaya inaresto ang mga ito.

Magugunitang dalawang hinihinalang illegal loggers ang nadakip ng mga pulis sa pangunguna ni P/Capt. Richard E. Asis, sa Brgy. Tubo-Tubo South sa bayan ng Sta. Cruz noong Biyernes.

Natuklasan ng mga awtoridad ang ilegal na pinutol na mga kahoy habang lulan ng isang jeepney.

Nahuli sa nasabing insidente ang mga suspek na sina Christian Nilo Mon ng Sta. Cruz, Zambales at Erwin Apino Casupanan, ng Sitio Mapalad, Brgy. Lucapon South, Sta. Cruz, Zambales.

Nakumpiska sa mga suspek ang 22 piraso ng lumber na mahigit P13,800 ang halaga. (JESSE KABEL)





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2 timbog sa endangered forest product

By <u>Ludy Bermudo</u>(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 20, 2021 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni NBI Officer-in-Charge Eric B. Distor na dinakip ng mga tauhan ng NBI-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD), ang mga suspek na sina Nathaniel Avelino at Mark Gil Espino sa Quezon City. STAR/File

MANILA, Philippines — Arestado ang dalawang lalaki sa isinagawang entrapment operation ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) matapos magbenta ng endangered forest product na Agarwood.

Sinabi ni NBI Officer-in-Charge Eric B. Distor na dinakip ng mga tauhan ng NBI-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD), ang mga suspek na sina Nathaniel Avelino at Mark Gil Espino sa Quezon City.

Nag-ugat ang impormasyon nang makatanggap ng tip ang NBI-EnCD hinggil sa ilegal na gawain ng isang grupo na sangkot sa pagbebenta ng Agarwood at isang alyas Jerry na tinukoy na may presyong P150,000.00 kada kilo ng nasabing forest product.

Matapos ang beripikasyon ay nakipagtransaksiyon ang NBI sa grupo at isang Mark ang nakausap para sa 17 kilo ng Agarwood.

Matapos magkaabutan ng marked money ay doon na dinakip ang mga suspect.

Nakapiit na sa NBI detention facility ang dalawa na may kinakaharap na reklamong paglabag sa Section 77 ng Presidential Decree 705 o Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines ,(as amended) at Section 27(e) at (f) of Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act).





NBI arrests 2 for illegal sale of rare Agarwood

<u>June 20, 2021</u>2 min read

MANILA — In line with the relentless campaign of the government against environmental crimes, operatives of National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) arrested two individuals in Quezon City on June 15, 2021 for illegal sale of Agarwood, an endangered forest product.

NBI Officer-In-Charge (OIC) Director Eric B. Distor identified the Subjects as NATHANIEL y NEPOMUNCENO and MARK GIL ESPINO y VILLARIN.

Distor said Subjects were arrested in an entrapment operation which stemmed from an information received by the NBI-EnCD regarding a group of individuals who are engaged in the selling and possession of an endangered forest product known as Agarwood. Several months after, an informant revealed that a certain "Jerry" was in possession of Agarwood and was selling the same for P150,000 per kilo.

NBI-EnCD operatives then conducted verification through meeting and transacting with "Jerry" and his two companions. A certain "Mark", one of Jerry's companions made a final arrangement to sell 17 kilograms of 1Agarwood for P115,000 or a total of P1,955,000 to the poseur-buyer on June 15, 2021.

Therefore, on the aforesaid date, NBI-EnCD operatives, together with the personnel from Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (DENR-ELEPS) and DENR-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) conducted the entrapment operation resulting in the arrest of MARK GIL ESPINO and NATHANIEL AVELINO who were caught in the act of selling and in possession of Agarwood without permit to possess and transport the same.

Seized from Subjects were 17.75 kgs of Agarwood, weighing scale, Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge and Mitsubishi Adventure with plate number DCP 3396.

On June 16, 2021, Subjects were presented for inquest proceedings before the Office of City Prosecutor of Quezon City for violation of Section 77 of PD 705 otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines as amended, and Section 27(e) and (f) of RA 9147 otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. (Kiara Lauren Ibanez/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/AI/MTVN)

Source: <u>https://www.facebook.com/2165747740135352/posts/4211780402198732/?app=fbl</u>



1,000 tree seedlings planted in Angeles City watershed

By Zorayda Tecson June 20, 2021, 12:37 pm



TREE PLANTING. At least 1,000 seedlings of various fruits and non-bearing fruits were planted on Saturday (June 19, 2021) at the Angeles City W atershed in Barangay Sapangbato. This is part of the city government's campaign on the preservation of the environment. (*Photo by City Government of Angeles*)

ANGELES CITY, Pampanga – At least 1,000 seedlings of various fruits and non-bearing fruits were planted on Saturday at the watershed in Barangay Sapangbato here as part of the city government's environment preservation campaign.

Dubbed as "*Bayanihan sa Tubig-Kanlungan*," the tree planting activity is a rehabilitation project for the Angeles City Watershed conducted in partnership with Abacan River Angeles Watershed Advocacy Council Inc. (ARAW-ACI).

Mayor Carmelo Lazatin Jr. said the city government remains committed to pushing programs for the protection and preservation of the environment.

"Sa abot po ng ating makakaya, gagawin natin ang lahat upang maisaayos at maproteksyunan ang ating watershed. (To the best of our abilities, we will do all to organize and protect our watershed)," Lazatin added.

Those who participated in the one-day tree planting include volunteer employees of the city hall as well as local officials.

Part also of the project are private sectors, namely Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), Clark International Airport Corporation, Converge ICT Solutions, De La Salle Alumni, Pampanga Press Club, Kapanalig Angeles Inc., Philippine Academy of Family Physicians, Soliman EC, MRDL Enterprises, ROMAC Group, WIDUS Foundation, Holy Angel University, Angeles City Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, ACCERT Pampanga, Hotels and Restaurants Association in Pampanga, Toyota Marquee, K*aunlaran sa Kabundakan Kooperatiba*, at ARAW-ACI Youth.





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1,000 tree seedlings planted in Angeles City watershed

Lazatin said his office is continuously coordinating with BCDA through Clark International Airport Corp. vice president Irish Calaguas to entrust the stewardship of the 560-hectare watershed to the city government.

In principle, Lazatin said BCDA officials have agreed to it and promised them that the city will protect the area.

" Para ito sa mga anak natin at sa mga susunod pang henerasyon. (This is for our children and to the next generations)," he said.

Last January, Lazatin asked the BCDA to entrust to the city the management of its 560-hectare land in Barangay Sapangbato so it can be transformed into a protected forest park and watershed.

The land is part of the military reservation area covered by the Bases Conversion law and under the authority of BCDA.

Meanwhile, City Environment and Natural Resources officer-in-charge Archimedes Lazatin said the series of tree planting activities will be done until August this year, citing this as long-term sustainable advocacy of the city government.

He said the monitoring for the planted trees will be regular as experts foresee a water shortage in 2030.

"As Mayor Lazatin said, we should secure the future generation by investing in long-term solutions," the CENRO head said.

Last March 19 this year, 113 female City Hall employees and volunteers planted 600 trees at the Angeles Watershed. (PNA)



Tree planting conducted in Angeles City watershed

Maharlika TV

<u>June 20, 2021</u>3 min read



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Source: https://www.facebook.com/2165747740135352/posts/4211775632199209/?app=fbl





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Soldiers plant 1.2K trees



Published 5 hours ago on June 21, 2021 02:30 AM By <u>Jonas Reyes</u>



TARLAC CITY — A total of 1,280 trees were planted here on Sunday by the 3rd Mechanized Battalion, Armor Division, Philippine Army as they celebrate the 45th Founding Anniversary of the Armor (Pambato) Division.

Lieutenant Colonel Eugene Henry Z. Cabusao, commanding officer of 3rd Mechanized Battalion disclosed that the tree planting activity was conducted in five different locations which include Sitio Pugo, Barangay Burgos, San Jose, Tarlac; Barangay Balete, Tarlac City; Sitio Bulacan, Barangay Sta. Juliana, Capas; Maamot Resettlement, Brgy. Maamot, San Jose; and Barangay Sabang, Sta. Cruz in the province of Zambales.

Meantime, at least 300 residents of Sitio Bunglo, Barangay Pinagrealan, Candelaria, Zambales benefited from the Expanded Caravan and Medical Mission conducted by the local government unit of Candelaria in collaboration with the Community Support Program (CSP) teams of the 33rd Mechanized Infantry Company, 3rd Mechanized Infantry Battalion, Armor Division, Philippine Army.

Cabusao said that the caravan distributed food packs to 250 individuals while 50 availed free haircuts and 78 senior citizens were checked-up and given free medicines.



Villar wants 5 more included in protected areas

By Paolo Romero (Philstar.com)

- June 21, 2021 - 12:00am



Trekkers enjoy the summit of Mt. Pulag in this undated file photo. The mountain is among five biodiverse areas Sen. Cynthia Villar wants placed under government protection.

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Cynthia Villar has sought the inclusion of five biodiverse but threatened areas to be placed under protection of the National Integrated Protected Areas System or NIPAS law.

Villar, who chairs the Senate environment and natural resources committee, said that under the NIPAS Act, it is the policy of the state "to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas."

The NIPAS was established under Republic Act 7586, as amended by RA 11038 or the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018.

There are 107 protected areas in the country that have been so declared through legislation.

Villar pointed out that the system encompasses ecologically rich, unique and biologically important areas that are habitats of threatened species of plants and animals, biographic zones and related ecosystem, whether terrestrial wetland or marine.

The Constitution mandates the state to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. In line with safeguarding a healthful ecology, the Constitution likewise provides that Congress shall determine the national parks, which shall be conserved and may not be increased nor diminished except by law, she said.

However, she noted that based on records and suitability assessments by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau, there are still numerous sites in the country that need to be placed under a "protected area" status.





Villar wants 5 more included in protected areas

Villar filed five separate bills seeking to place some areas under the NIPAS, including Senate Bill 2276 declaring a parcel of land at Naga and Kabasalan in Zamboanga Sibugay a protected landscape to be called Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape.

The initial assessment by Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region IX and the local government of Zamboanga Sibugay in 2006 showed that its biological, physical and cultural resources are at risk and may face severe damage if current economic destructive activities would be unabated, she said.

She also filed SB 2277 declaring two parcels of land within the Sicogon Island of Carles town in Iloilo a wildlife sanctuary to be called Sicogon Island Wildlife Sanctuary. The area's interesting biodiversity calls for a need to declare the 282.867 hectares remaining forestland of the island a protected area.

Also filed was SB 2278 declaring a parcel of lot in Balbalan, Kalinga, a protected landscape to be called Banao Protected Landscape. Dubbed as the "green heart" of the Cordillera, the park known as the Balbasang-Babalan National Park has a rich biodiverse landscape of the Cordillera mountain region with some of the most intact pine forests with endemic flora and fauna.

SB 2279 seeks to declare a parcel of land in the municipalities of Gregorio del Pilar, Quirino, Sigay, Cervantes and Suyo, Ilocos Sur a protected landscape. The Tirad Pass National Park in Ilocos Sur is the only remaining mossy forest in the region, showcasing a rich terrestrial ecosystem.

Villar also filed SB 2280 declaring a parcel of land in Kabayan, Bokod and Buguias, all in Benguet; Tinoci, Ifugao and Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya, a protected landscape to ensure the protection of the Mt. Pulag National Park, which is the highest peak in Luzon and second highest mountain in the Philippines.

Its wildlife include threatened mammals such as the Philippine brown deer, Northern Luzon giant cloud rat and the Luzon pygmy fruit bat.

Source: <u>https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/21/2106979/villar-wants-5-more-included-protected-areas/amp/</u>



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Villar pushes for more protected areas under NIPAS

Maharlika

<u>June 20, 2021</u>3 min read By Ernie Reyes

MANILA — Senator Cynthia A. Villar has filed five separate bills to include additional protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) to ensure their management, protection and funding.

Villar, chairperson of the Senate environment and natural resources commitee, said the NIPAS Act declared it is the policy of the State "to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas."

The system, Villar said, shall encompass ecologically rich, unique and biologically important areas that are habitats of threatened species of plants and animals, biographic zones, and related ecosystem, whether terrestrial, wetland, or marine.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

In line with safeguarding a healthful ecology, the Constitution likewise provides that Congress shall determine the national parks, which shall be conserved and may not be increased nor diminished except by law.

At present, Villar related there are 107 protected areas in the country that has been so declared through legislation.

However, based on the records and suitability assessments by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau, Villar pointed out there are still numerous sites in the country which necessitate 'protected area' status.

The bills filed by Villar for additional protected areas are the following:

-SB No. 2276 declaring a parcel of land in Naga and Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay a protected landscape to be called Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape. The initial assessment by DENR Region IX and Zamboanga Sibugay LGU in 2006 showed

that its biological, physical, and cultural resources are at risk and may face severe damage if current economic destructive activities will be unabated.

-SB No. 2277 declaring 2 parcels of land within Sicogon Island, Carles, Iloilo, a wildlife sanctuary to be called Sicogon Island Wildlife Sanctuary. Its interesting biodiversity calls a need to declare the 282.867 hectares remaining forest land of the island a protected area.





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Villar pushes for more protected areas under NIPAS

-SB No. 2278 declaring a parcel of lot in Balbalan, Kalinga, a protected landscape to be called Banao Protected Landscape. Dubbed as the "green heart" of the Cordillera, the park, known as the Balbasang-Babalan National Park, is rich biodiversity and the landscape of the Cordillera mountain region with some of the most intact pine forests and rich endemic flora and fauna.

-Senate Bill No. 2279 declaring a parcel of land in the municipalities of Gregorio del Pilar, Quirino, Sigay, Cervantes, and Suyo, Ilocos Sur a protected landscape. The Tirad Pass Narional Park in Ilocos Sur is the only remaining mosh forest in the region, showcasing a rich terrestrial ecosystem.

-Senate Bill No. 2280 declaring a parcel of land in Kabayan, Bokod and Buguias, all in Benguet; Tinoci, Ifugao and Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya, a protected landscape. Mt. Pulag National Park is the highest peak in Luzon and the second-highest mountain in the Philippines. Its wildlife includes threatened mammals such as the Philippine Brown Deed, Northern Luzon Giant Coud Ratthe Luzon Pygmy Fruits bar.

NIPAS was established by virtue of RA No. 7586, as amended by RA No. 11038, known as the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018. (AI/MTVN)



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Masungi Georeserve

ENCROACHMENTS IN PROTECTED AREAS & FOREST LAND: HOW DO THEY HAPPEN?

Here are some tactics we've observed on the field!

1 Land Trafficking - Illicit buying and selling of forest land, which is not alienable or disposable

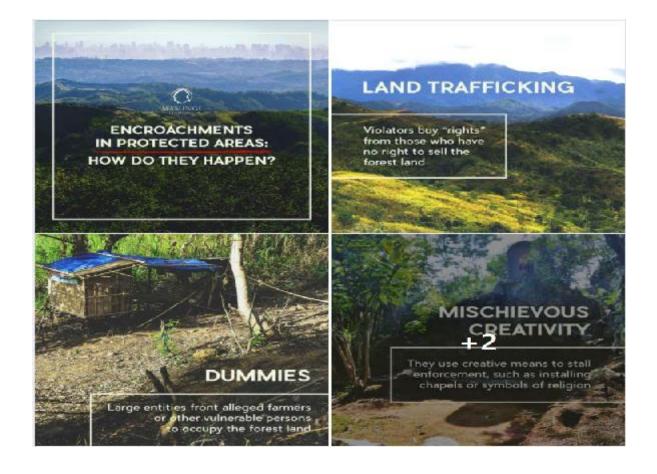
MASUNGI

Dummies - Installing or co-opting other people or groups to occupy forest land on behalf of larger entities

S Creative Mischief - One example is putting symbols of faith or religion, such as chapels, in an effort to stall enforcement and generate pity

Impunity Evading the law through various means.

How can we prevent them? Only strict enforcement and regulation of all activities in protected areas will stop unabated encroachments. This needs to happen hand in hand with government, civil society organizations, communities, and the private sector. #SaveOurWatershed #ReforestNow



Source: <u>https://www.facebook.com/1591599464459612/posts/3125683917717818/?app=fbl</u>





ICTSI partners with River Recycle for Pasig River project

June 21, 2021



The Pasig River PHOTO COURTESY OF HIVEMINER

THE International Container Terminals Services Inc. (ICTSI) Foundation has signed a partnership agreement with Finnish nongovernment organization RiverRecycle to pioneer a financially sustainable river-waste-collection system for the Pasig River in the Philippines' capital city of Manila.

ICTSI Foundation is providing \$1-million funding for RiverRecycle's implementation of the project, which complements existing efforts to revive one of the country's main waterways.

"Supporting this project with RiverRecycle is part of our commitment to environmental conservation and the welfare of our host communities along the Pasig River and the port area. We are very optimistic about the potential environmental impact of this endeavor," explained Christian R. Gonzalez, ICTSI Foundation president.

The project has two components, the first of which is the collection of plastic waste from the river using a device designed by RiverRecycle to capture between 70 and 200 tons of waste daily. The collected plastic waste will be converted into oil before being converted back into plastic.

The second component is the implementation of an awareness campaign to empower local communities to adopt more responsible waste management behaviors - a key step to reduce and eventually, eliminate plastic pollution.

The plastic waste collection project perfectly aligns with ongoing waste management initiatives under the Parola Solid Waste Management Project, which the ICTSI Foundation implements in coordination with and assistance from the city of Manila and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The project is also expected to reduce the number of water hyacinths.

Source: <u>https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/06/21/public-square/ictsi-partners-with-riverrecycle-for-pasig-river-project/1804053</u>



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No single-use plastics now a law



SunStar DAVAO

Monday, June 21, 2021

File photo

RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT June 20, 2021

DAVAO City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio has already signed the ordinance banning the use of single-use plastics in the city, an environmental group said.

Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) Executive Director Mark Peñalver said during the Facebook live interview with SunStar Davao's The Talking Heads on Friday, June 18, that this was disclosed by officials from the City Mayor's Office.

The ordinance, known as the "No to Single-Use Plastics Ordinance of 2021," was enacted on March 2. It aims to regulate the sale, distribution, and use of single-use plastics in the city.

The ordinance also aims to implement waste reduction plans, programs, and practices within the city and "to enhance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

Among the provision states that single-use plastics such as drinking cups, ice cream cups, condiments or gravy containers, cup lids, stirrers, cutleries, straws, meal boxes, pastry or cake boxes, egg containers or clamshells, balloon sticks, and hand gloves are no longer allowed to be sold, used, or distributed for free without a special permit to distribute and/or use single-use plastic products.



Monday, June 21, 2021

June 21, 2021

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No single-use plastics now a law

"Special permit to sell" will be issued by the City Mayor's Office and upon showing that there are no commercially available alternatives.

Idis earlier lauded its passage, which had long been lobbied.

It can be recalled that Duterte-Carpio certified the passage of the ordinance as urgent weeks before it was passed.

Months after its passage, Peñalver said it is too early to assess its implementation on the ground.

"I think it's too early to assess the implementation of the 'No to Single-Use Plastics Ordinance' right now. However, we are hopeful that this ordinance will really help in the reduction of our waste or plastic generation in the city," he said.

The Idis head also hoped that the business sector and the general public would be compliant in the implementation of the ordinance.

Peñalver also said it is also too early to lobby for an amendment in the ordinance.

Sustainable Davao Movement (SDM), wherein Idis is one of the members, lobbied for the inclusion of sando bags, labo bags, and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles in the single-use plastics to be banned or regulated.

SDM is a network of environmental multi-sectoral organizations, women and youth groups, and individuals who promote and advocate for sustainable living in the city.

The movement raised concerns regarding the ordinance. Among them is the ordinance's title "regulating the sale, distribution, and use of single-use plastics" in the city. It also proposed to rename the ordinance from "No Plastics Ordinance" to "Plastics-free ordinance."

"Consider using 'free' to emphasize that it is the dependence on single-use plastics that we are addressing such that existing alternatives will be the mainstream product/packaging," SDM said in a position paper.

The group called for the inclusion of sando bags, labo bags, and PET bottles in the single-use plastics to be banned or regulated.



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No single-use plastics now a law

SDM is also calling on to amend the special permit. It said the P10,000 per year permit fee is "too inconsequential to deter single-use plastic production." Instead, it suggested the permit be on a per-item basis.

The group also pushed for the inclusion of incentives for establishments and institutions that will transition to plastics-free operations and declare their own single-use plastic-free policy. Incentives include waiving fees related to registration/permit fees and promotion of the enterprise in social media and other promotional materials/events of the city.

Peñalver said some of their concern is also being lobbied for a separate ordinance.

For now, he said they are going to look into its implementation.

"Let's give this ordinance a chance to be implemented. Kasi nga (Because) during the implementation, dito natin makikita ang mga (we can see the) loopholes ng isang (of a certain) ordinance or policy. By then, we can come up with specific proposals as to the amendment of the ordinance," he said.

Prior to the ordinance taking effect, he said some establishments have already started using alternatives, including the usage of paper straws, stainless straws, and bamboo straws as an alternative to plastic straws.





Drought threatens to become the next pandemic

By Inter Press Service June 21, 2021

BHUBANESWAR, India: "Drought is on the verge of becoming the next pandemic, and there is no vaccine to cure it."

"Drought has directly affected 1.5 billion people so far this century, and this number will grow dramatically unless the world gets better at managing this risk," said Mami Mizutori, the United Nations Secretary-General's special representative for disaster risk reduction (UNDRR). Mizutori was speaking before the launch of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction's (GAR) Special Report on Drought 2021, released on June 17.

Climate change, overuse and conversion for agriculture, cities and infrastructure, which also drive drought and desertification, have already degraded one fifth of the planet's land area.

This damage harms the livelihoods of almost half the planet's population. As of 2018, 170 countries were affected by desertification, land degradation and drought according to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Desertification and Drought Day is celebrated every June 17 by UN member-nations. The 2021 theme calls for investing in activities that protect and restore natural ecosystems to boost the recovery from Covid-19 for communities, countries and economies worldwide.

In India's Eastern Ghats indigenous communities direct a perennial hill stream under the rural employment program to run through the middle of their village helping them access household water needs at their doorstep. Downstream water is collected in a pond for farm irrigation and bathing cattle. IPS PHOTO

In India's Eastern Ghats indigenous communities direct a perennial hill stream under the rural employment program to run through the middle of their village helping them access household water needs at their doorstep. Downstream water is collected in a pond for farm irrigation and bathing cattle. IPS PHOTO

"A land-centered approach to Covid-19 recovery can change the world," said Ibrahim Thiaw. executive secretary of the Bonn-based UNCCD "So far, the world's largest economies have already spent \$16 trillion in post-Covid recovery efforts. Investing a fifth of that amount, collectively, per year, could shift the world's economies to a sustainability trajectory. Within a decade, the global economy could create close to 400 million new green jobs, generating over \$10 trillion in annual business value," he said.

Scale of land degradation

Since 2015, when only three countries had comprehensive, effective drought-response plans, today 73 countries are working with the Desertification Convention developing a policy to ensure drought is survivable, not a disaster. At the start of the 2021-2030 UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, over 115 countries have pledged to restore one billion hectares of degrading land by 2030 at a cost of \$1.67 trillion.

While this is progress, it is clearly not enough. As of 2018, a total of 70 countries are affected by drought regularly, costing lives, while 170 countries were affected by either desertification, land degradation or drought or both.



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Drought threatens to become the next pandemic

A report by PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, released early June, draws a stark picture if current land-use policies are not changed. Between 2015 and 2050 without land restoration measures, and combined with farming intensification, soil productivity is projected to go down on 12 percent of the global land area.

To meet growing food demand, cropland expansion by about 20 percent or 300 million hectares of land would be cleared by 2050 at the expense of natural ecosystems. As a result, global biodiversity would decline six percent with 32 gigatons of carbon released to the atmosphere and marked decline in soil health and its ability to hold water would lead to increased drought and floods.

Drought deaths

In a country of 1.4 billion, 70 percent of India's rural households still depend primarily on agriculture for their livelihood, 8 out of 10 farmers are small and marginal and with 60 percent of cropland depending on monsoon for irrigation, drought can kill, quite literally.

Abinash Mohanty, researcher-author of a 2020 study mapping India's extreme climate hotspots, told IPS "more than 68 percent of the Indian districts are currently drought hotspots." The study, from Delhi-based research non-profit Council on Energy, Environment and Water, finds the Indian subcontinent has witnessed more than 478 extreme events since 1970 whose frequency has accelerated after 2005.

Post-2005 period, 79 districts in India witnessed extreme drought events year-on-year affecting over 140 million people. With microclimatic zones shifting across various regions due to global warming, drought events are becoming more intense, some parts of India which were historically otherwise, are increasingly drought-prone, even flood-prone areas are becoming drought-prone, Mohanty's study finds.

A summer of extreme heatwaves followed by a deficient monsoon is turning out deadly droughts as in 2018.

As drought's stranglehold creeps over more and more land in India, agricultural uncertainties are claiming rural livelihoods and lives.

Crops fail year after year and rural farmers make desperate bids to dig deeper borewells and take on untenable debts in hope that one good crop could salvage it all. These skyrocketing farm costs and their inability to pay off debts have forced many farmers, sharecroppers and daily-wage farm laborers in India to take their own life over this last decade.

In 2019, as many as 10,281 persons involved in the farming sector (5,957 farmers and 4,324 agricultural laborers) have committed suicide, accounting for 7.4 percent of total suicides according the government's National Crime Records Bureau.

Activists say this is a huge underestimation. A majority of the 32,559 daily wage earners' suicides are none other than migrant rural farm workers driven out to urban centers. Social stigma forces families to not reveal suicides, and on the other hand local governments declare suicides as deaths for health, spurious liquor or other reasons.



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Drought threatens to become the next pandemic

Political will

More than five billion hectares of land around the world can be restored with a combination of restoration and protection - an improvement in land management.

"These are not utopian scenarios," Thiaw said, "it is fully within our abilities to reach this most ambitious scenario. But it takes determination among the world's leaders to do so."

Speaking at the GAR 2021 pre-launch hybrid media briefing, Mizutori, the head of Geneva-based UNDRR, told journalists: "Science tells us the prevention cost for drought or any other disaster is much lower than reacting after. Putting extra dollar in resilience by governments is not happening because politicians see their policies more in the short span of their election cycles."

"And there is no glory in prevention. When successful in preventing a hazard becoming a disaster, you really can't show it," she said. "Which is why we (UNDRR) are now saying, for complex disaster like drought we need a comprehensive governance system, (firm) rules and regulations."

When India went into a complete lockdown in March 2020, a mass reverse migration of an estimated 23 million migrant laborers (this estimation varies widely) returned to their rural homes, they were immediately employed under the rural job guarantee program. From March 2020 till March 2021, 3.44 billion person-days of work was generated, 44 percent higher than the corresponding period pre-pandemic. A good chunk of this mass labor was employed in building rural water conservation and irrigation infrastructure.

That such community-built drought adaptation assets are effective, is established by a country-wide 2021 study by Delhi-based non-profit research organization Center for Science and Environment. As per government records, over the last 15 years, more than 30 million water conservation-related ecological assets have been created totalling some 50 water structures in every Indian village. Calculations show these structures have potentially conserved roughly 29,000 million cubic meters of water in this period and have the potential to irrigate some 19 million hectares, the study says. Maintenance of half of these water structures has been neglected however, cutting utility long-term.

"Droughts are among the most complex and severe climate-related hazards encountered, with wideranging and cascading impacts across societies, ecosystems and economies," Mizutori said.

"Droughts are disasters but they do not have to be devastating," she said.

21 JUNE 2021, Monday

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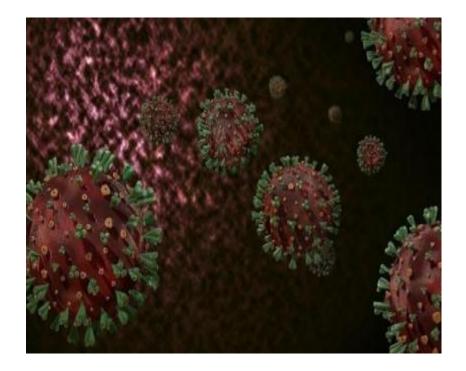


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7.6K new Covid-19 recoveries bring down active cases to 57,679

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor June 20, 2021, 5:10 pm



MANILA – The nation's total number of recovered coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases has climbed to 1,277,715 after 7,652 new recoveries were reported on Sunday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) said recoveries account for 94 percent of the total case count which has reached 1,359,015 since the start of the pandemic last year.

The agency also reported 5,803 new cases, bringing the total number of active cases to 57,679.

About 91.9 percent of these active cases are mild, 2.7 percent are asymptomatic, 1.3 percent are critical, 1.8 percent are severe, and 1.29 percent are moderate.

Some 84 new deaths were also reported, pushing the country's total number of Covid-19 fatalities to 23,621.

According to DOH data on June 18, about 13.2 percent of 48,073 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"There were eight duplicates that have been removed from the total case count, and of these, six were recovered cases. Moreover, 115 cases previously reported to be recoveries have been validated to be active cases, and 59 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," the DOH said.

On June 18, two laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System (CDRS).

The DOH said six non-reporting laboratories contribute on average 0.14 percent of samples tested, and 0.13 percent of positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.



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7.6K new Covid-19 recoveries bring down active cases to 57,679

To date, 57 percent of 3,500 intensive care unit beds, 47 percent of 19,100 isolation beds, 46 percent of 12,500 ward beds, and 36 percent of 2,700 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 43 percent of 1,200 intensive care unit beds, 38 percent of 4,800 isolation beds, 32 percent of 3,600 ward beds, and 32 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region. *(PNA)*





DOH logs 5,803 more COVID-19 cases

(Philstar.com) - June 20, 2021 - 4:01pm



This June 16, 2021 photo shows individuals in face mask and face shield at an escalator of a mall in San Mateo, Rizal.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Health authorities on Sunday said 5,803 more individuals contracted the COVID-19, bringing the country's overall count to 1,359,015.

Today's development saw active cases down by 1,760 from June 19's 59,439. The Department of Health said two laboratories did not submit screening results.

Active cases: 57,679 or 4.2% of the total

Recoveries: 7,652, bringing the number to 1,277,715

Deaths: 84, or now 23,621 in total

What's new today?

The Duterte administration said it has signed a supply deal with <u>Pfizer</u> for 40 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, with the delivery seen by August.

Vaccine doses administered have reached over <u>eight million</u>, per inoculation czar Carlito Galvez Jr. Some 2.09 million are now fully vaccinated, while 5.95 million got their first dose.





DOH logs 5,803 more COVID-19 cases

An Oxfam Philippines survey found that Filipino women still do more <u>care work</u> than men during the ongoing health crisis, or 13 hours against eight hours for men.

Urban poor residents of San Dionisio in <u>Parañaque</u> were evicted from their homes after it was demolished. A non-profit group said it was to give way to the C-5 Southlink Expressway Project by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The pandemic task force was urged to fast-track the formulation of <u>standard</u> quarantine protocols for fully vaccinated Filipinos for economic recovery.

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EDITORIAL - Resistant to the rules, not the virus

(The Freeman) - June 21, 2021 - 12:00am



Cebu City seems to have achieved another nefarious record during this pandemic; we again have over 500 active COVID-19 cases, the most number of infections for the past 44 days.

However, even as the cases rise, authorities are still noting more and more incidents of quarantine protocol violations, prompting the Emergency Operations Center to order all establishments selling food and drinks to assign personnel to monitor their customers' compliance with the minimum health standards.

Can we never leave this roller-coaster of rising and falling COVID-19 numbers? Will there be no end to this vicious cycle of strict compliance with the rules and then letting our guard down again?

We can only conclude that the numbers are rising again because many people have become careless about observing quarantine protocols. In case people have forgotten, the virus doesn't seek out victims on its own the way mosquitoes seek out warm bodies; it is passed on from one person to another.

It can only be transmitted from one person to another if the carrier or receiver was in a public space, wasn't observing physical distancing or other rules, or wasn't wearing personal protective equipment or wearing it improperly.

And now more and more people are calling for the rule requiring face shields to be worn in public to be scrapped.

For now, despite the numbers mentioned above, the city isn't in any semblance of a crisis. The city's positivity rate of 4.08% is still within the World Health Organization's threshold of 5%. As for the availability of beds for COVID-19 patients, we are also in the clear at 20.4% occupancy.

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EDITORIAL - Resistant to the rules, not the virus

However, like we said in previous editorials tackling the never-ending rise and fall of numbers, all this can change in the blink of an eye. Just like that the situation can become a crisis.

Let's hope the most stubborn among us, the most resistant to the rules that have been found to prevent COVID-19 transmission, realize the errors of their ways before it's too late.

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Brazil hits 500K Covid-19 deaths amid nationwide protests

Republic of the Philippines PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

June 20, 2021, 7:01 pm



COVID-19 DEATHS. Bodies of Covid-19 victims are buried by officials of the Vila Formosa cemetery in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on June 19, 2021. Brazil already has almost 500,000 Covid-19 deaths and shows no signs of a slowdown in the contagion. (*Marcello Zambrana - Anadolu Agency*)

SAO PAULO – Brazil reached a grim milestone of half a million Covid-19 deaths on Saturday, the heath minister announced.

Marcelo Queiroga said on Twitter that he "works tirelessly to vaccinate all Brazilians in the shortest time possible". He also expressed solidarity with the families.

Another government official, Communications Minister Fabio Faria, lashed out at the press, criticizing the fact that "politicians, artists and journalists" lament the number.

"You will never see them celebrate the 86 million [vaccine] doses given or the 18 million [Brazilians] cured," he wrote. According to him, these people "root for the virus."

While the Senate is investigating the government's management of the Covid-19 pandemic, thousands of people are participating in mass demonstrations against right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro, calling for him to be impeached, the acceleration of vaccination drive, and emergency economic aid.

They bring together left-wing political parties and social movements, raising criticism for putting the population at risk by enabling the increase in the spread of Covid-19.

The country of over 213 million people has administered at least 85.39 million vaccine doses, according to Our World in Data, a tracking website.

According to local health departments, only 15 percent of the target population is completely immunized with both doses, while 38 percent took only the first shot.

The number of Covid-19 cases is nearly 18 million. (Anadolu)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1144304

21 JUNE 2021, Monday

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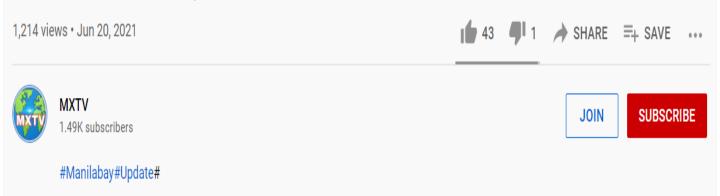
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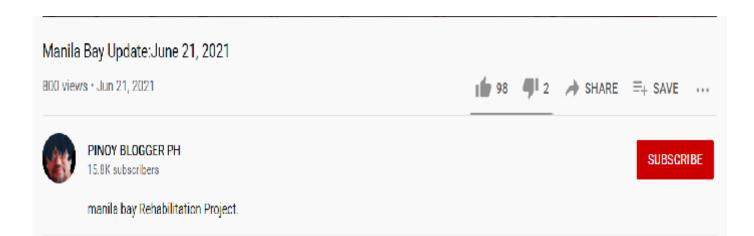


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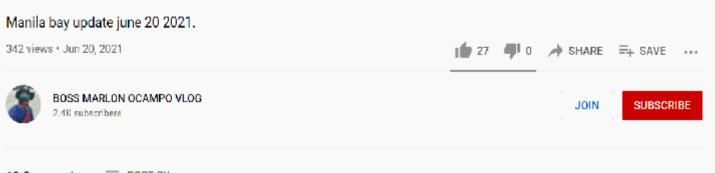
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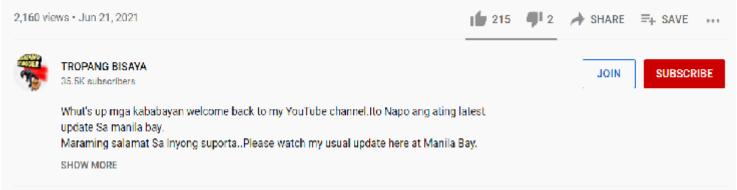
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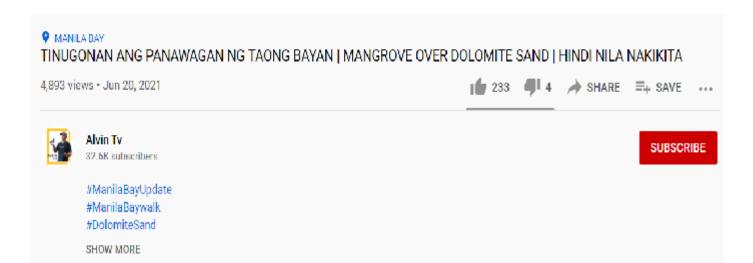


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