

06 MARCH 2022, SUNDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Manila Bay swimmable by end of DU30 term

Published 6 hours ago on March 6, 2022 01:20 AM

By [Maria Romero](#) @tribunephl_mbr



Couple enjoying the fresh air and the afterglow of Manila Bay sunset near Mall of Asia. / PHOTOGRAPH BY ROY PELLOVELO FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is doubling its efforts to make Manila Bay Dolomite Beach “swimmable” before the end of the administration’s term in June.

DENR OIC Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said Saturday the government is eyeing to complete the second phase of the beach nourishment project within the second quarter.

“We are looking at completing the second phase of the beach nourishment project while further reducing fecal coliform levels to make the bay safe for swimming, boating, and other forms of contact recreation,” Sampulna said.

The DENR should reach the standard fecal coliform level of 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL) to allow recreational activities in the bay.

Despite having “no new budget” to purchase dolomite, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas Leones noted that Congress has allocated a budget for the Baywalk area’s continuous rehabilitation, such as the installation of public restrooms and other infrastructure development equipment.

He added that they are continuously monitoring the quality of water coming from major drainage outfalls discharging into Manila Bay, which has improved by 50 percent.

Data from the Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) showed that the Baywalk STP, which treats wastewater from Padre Faura, Remedios, and Estero de San Antonio de Abad outfalls, passed the fecal coliform standard for Class SB waters as of September 2021.

Meanwhile, MBCO Deputy Executive Director Jacob Meimban Jr. said that DENR and LLDA have so far inspected more than 6,200 establishments discharging waters to Manila Bay, and issued 1,440 notices of violation, five cease and desist orders and five ex-parte orders.

“As of December 2021, 6,246 establishments were inspected by DENR and LLDA,” Meimban said.

According to him, the Dolomite Beach will reopen soon, especially as the National Capital Region transitioned to the less restrictive Alert Level 1.

“We will abide by the recent developments (and construction) in the area. Of course, we are yet to complete the security measures to safeguard the safety of the public, so in due time, we will give updates on when we’ll open the beach,” he said.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/03/06/manila-bay-swimmable-by-end-of-du30-term/>



DENR eyes opening of Manila Bay Dolomite Beach in June

Published 18 hours ago on March 5, 2022 12:43 PM

By [Maria Romero](#) @tribunephil_mbr



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READ: DENR OIC Secretary Jim Sampulna says that the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach will open in June 2022.

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**DENR OIC Secretary
 Jim O. Sampulna**
on the rehabilitation of Manila Bay Dolomite Beach

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DENR releases Brahminy Kite, Rufous Night Heron in Zambo City

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. **March 5, 2022, 2:20 pm**



RUFOUS NIGHT HERON. Joan Lagunda, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Assistant Secretary for Operations-Western Mindanao, leads the release of a Brahminy Kite and a Rufous Night Heron, Friday (March 4, 2022) at the bird sanctuary of the Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology. The release of the wildlife was in line with the celebration of the 2022 World Wildlife Day. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-9)*

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has released back into the wild a Brahminy Kite and a Rufous Night Heron at the bird sanctuary of the Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST) in this city.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said Saturday that the release of the wildlife was in line with the celebration of the 2022 World Wildlife Day (WWD).

This year's celebration is anchored on the theme "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration."

Tan said the two wildlife species were released back into the wild following an assessment and evaluation by the Office of the City Veterinarian (OCVet) that showed they are already cleared for release.

Joan Lagunda, DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Western Mindanao, led the release Friday afternoon of the Brahminy Kite and Rufous Night Heron and lauded the continued and consistent efforts of the DENR regional office in wildlife protection and conservation.

"We cannot battle this alone. Our mission is to mobilize the citizenry in protecting our environment and natural resources. Let us enjoin further collaborations and partnerships in order to be successful," Lagunda said in a statement.

Tan said the Rufous Night Heron was turned over by the environment and natural resources (ENR) office of Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay.

The Brahminy Kite, meanwhile, was rescued by the personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Barangay Boalan, this city.



Officials and staff from the ZSCMST headed by Dr. Jaime Jalon, the Philippine Army Reserve Command led by Maj. Gen. Fernando Felipe, and DENR regional office personnel witnessed the release of the two wildlife back to their natural habitat.

The DENR said protecting birds helps maintain the sustainable population levels of their prey and predator species as well as provide food for scavengers and decomposers.

Many birds are also vital in plant reproduction, pollination, or seed dispersal.

Meanwhile, Tan advised the public to report sightings of wildlife injuries to their nearest CENRO or DENR office. **(PNA)**



ABS-CBN News
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Tatlong serpent eagle ang pinakawalan sa pagdiriwang ng World Wildlife Day sa Mt. Masaraga sa Ligao, Albay Huwebes. Ang naturang mga ibon ay tinurnover Department of Environment and Natural Resources, na ginamot bago tuluyang pakawalan.

Isang spinner dolphin naman na napadpad sa baybayin ng Fatima sa bayan ng Tabaco ang nasagip noong Pebrero 28. Tinatayang nasa 40 kilo ang timbang ng sugatang dolphin at may habang 5.2 talampakan. Pagagalingin muna ito bago pakawalan.

Dalawang Philippine tarsier naman ang nasagip sa Barangay Delucot, Godod, Zamboanga del Norte Miyerkoles. Agad ding pinakawalan ang mga ito nang malamang nasa mabuting kalagayan.

Samantala, sumalang sa surgery at rehabilitation ang Philippine eagle na si "Bangsa Bae" sa Philippine Eagle Center sa Davao City.

Ayon sa Philippine Eagle Foundation, tinamaan ng jolen gun ang agila habang nasa gubat. Nakitaan ito ng bali sa buto ng kanang pakpak.

Ang Philippine eagle ay itinuturing na critically endangered species na mayroon na lamang 400 pares sa kagubatan.

Isang Visayan wild cat naman ang nasagip sa Barangay Tabuc Norte, Panitan, Capiz Biyernes. Nai-turnover na ang endangered species sa mga awtoridad. (📷: Jonel Abrera; DENR Zamboanga Peninsula; Panitan PNP) | via Jose Carretero; Rolen Escaniel; Hernel Tocmo

BASAHIIN ang mga kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/patrol/tag/WILDLIFE>



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‘One Health approach needed to address bird flu’

The health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment are interlinked.

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MARCH 6, 2022



Chickens are being culled in a Central Luzon farm as part of efforts to contain the H5N6 avian flu outbreak in 2017.

The government’s Environment department is conducting regular monitoring on migratory bird aggregation sites in light of the reported large-scale outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds in several countries.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Offices and its Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) are conducting regular monitoring on migratory bird sites, including on the annual waterbird count, and on the abnormal wild bird mortalities.

This came as the Philippines reported last week confirmed its first outbreaks of HPAI type A subtype H5N1 that killed over 42,000 quails and ducks in four Central Luzon farms.

Meanwhile, in the United States avian influenza has been detected in a sixth commercial poultry flock in southern Indiana, state officials said on March 1, the Associated Press reported.

Three previous cases were found in Dubois County and two in Greene County. Cases have also been detected in Michigan, in a backyard flock and in a zoo.

Officials have begun euthanizing the 16,500 birds at the latest farm to prevent the spread of the disease.

Avian flu was also detected in New York and Iowa in February.

Influx of migratory birds cannot be prevented

The Philippines’ DENR-BMB Veterinarian Rizza Araceli F. Salinas said the influx of migratory birds cannot be prevented since their long journeys to escape the winter season are necessary for their survival.

As such, the BMB and some selected regional and field offices have been conducting disease surveillance among wild birds in aggregation sites.

“Thus far, all samples collected are negative of the avian influenza virus,” Salinas said.

According to Salinas, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) has published the Avian Influenza Protection Program Manual of Procedures, which serves as a reference for the conduct of active and passive surveillance on avian influenza.



“Though not directly related to avian influenza, [the] BMB issued a Technical Bulletin on Birding Guidelines to reduce negative impacts of recreational photography to wild birds and their habitats,” she said.

Moreover, she said that as a preventive measure, the DENR-BMB issues a public advisory at the onset of migration season and during outbreaks as notified by the DA-BAI. The advisory is then disseminated to concerned offices.

On the other hand, the local government units, she said, are enjoined to support Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Act, by protecting wild birds. It includes the prevention of hunting of wild and migratory birds.

International scientific task force convened

To recall, in response to recent large-scale outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) convened the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds.

The highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 HPAI virus, plus other subtypes, including H5N8, have caused multiple avian influenza outbreaks in the UK, the Netherlands, Israel and India, the task force said. It added that outbreaks of H5N1 have seriously affected migratory wild birds.

The task force provided recommendations and guidance for authorities and managers of countries affected or at risk of avian influenza.

Wild birds, including globally threatened species, are victims of HPAI viruses causing avian influenza.

Affected sites also include areas of international relevance for conservation, such as protected wetlands.

The scientific group said authorities with responsibility for animal health should apply the “One Health” approaches for communicating and addressing avian influenza, the task force said. This means recognizing that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment are interlinked and acting with a coordinated and unified approach.

It is recommended that surveillance and biosecurity measures be reinforced to reduce spillover risk between poultry and wild birds.

Authorities need to fulfill their international obligations to avoid the culling of wild birds and damage to natural ecosystems, especially wetlands.

Dr. Ruth Cromie, coordinator of the scientific task force said: “Avian influenza represents a One Health issue threatening health across the board. The highly pathogenic viruses are still relatively new in wild birds and this winter’s high levels of mortality remind us of their vulnerability and that working to promote healthy wildlife benefits us all.”

H5N1 is currently the avian influenza lineage most found in Africa and Eurasia in both poultry and wild birds. It affects wildfowl, waders, gulls, cranes, grebes, herons, pelicans, game birds, corvids and raptors, and occasionally mammals, such as red fox, Eurasian otter, harbour and grey seal.

In terms of human health, the currently circulating H5N1 HPAI viruses do not seem to pose the same zoonotic risk—infectious disease that jump from animals to humans—as to the “original” Asian lineage H5N1 (clade 2.2 and their derivatives plus clade 2.3.4.4b H5N6 viruses currently in China), the task force said.



Considering people working on poultry culling operations, the risk can be considered moderate, it added.

Recommendations from scientific task force

General recommendations concerning different categories of animals affected include the following.

On wild birds: The task fore said there is no benefit in attempting to control the virus in wild birds through culling or habitat destruction.

All those with responsibilities for animal health are reminded of the advice of FAO and Office International des Epizooties, or the World Organisation for Animal Health, and international obligations under CMS, the Ramsar Convention, and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds to ensure that there is no consideration of killing of wild birds, spraying toxic products or negatively affecting wetland and other habitats as disease control measures.

On poultry: Responses to HPAI in poultry must follow OIE international standards, guidelines and recommendations on notifications, surveillance, diagnosis, trade, and control measures.

It added that biosecurity should include efforts to prevent the spread of infection from infected poultry holdings to wild birds.

It said that there is a need for reorganization of poultry production systems highly susceptible to avian influenza exposure in order to minimize the risk of virus introduction and further spread

On captive birds: There is no justification for any pre-emptive culling of zoological collections, it pointed out.

Image credits: [Wikipedia Commons](#)



Sea turtles hatch again in Misamis Oriental town

By: [Erwin M. Mascariñas](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:00 AM March 06, 2022



TO THE SEA | A hawksbill sea turtle hatchling crawls to the sea from a nest at Barangay Candiis in Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental province. The critically endangered reptiles have hatched in the town's coasts again after a yearlong break in 2021. (PHOTO BY ERWIN M. MASCARIÑAS)

MAGSAYSAY, Misamis Oriental, Philippines — After a yearlong break in 2021, hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), locally known as “pawikan,” are hatching again in this coastal town facing Gingoog Bay which is a known habitat of the critically endangered reptiles. In the first two months of the year, the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) based in Gingoog City recorded 450 hatchlings released to the sea. These were nested on the shores of Candiis, Damayuhan, and San Isidro villages.

“This is the largest recorded so far for the first quarter. Usually, we have them between October and November, then toward December. But those are the times when the weather is not good and usually the sudden change in the tide would flood the nests, killing any hope for the eggs to even hatch,” said Rolando Pagara, a community-based turtle conservationist. Given this good start for the local marine conservation effort in 2022, Pagara is excited to see how things turn out for the rest of the year. They expect another nest to hatch in April.

The [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) had delineated a 612-hectare coastal zone stretching Candiis, Damayuhan and San Isidro as critical habitat for hawksbill turtles in 2016, boosting initiatives to protect its population and nesting sites.



TAGGED Turtle conservationist Rolando Pagara (left) and Edanson Cañete of the environment office of Gingoog City place a tag on the right flipper of a green sea turtle rescued in Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental, last year. (PHOTO BY ERWIN M. MASCARIÑAS)

Conservation zone

The brain of sea turtles carry an imprint of the beach where they were hatched, hence had the unique ability to return to the same site to nest, repeating what could be an ancient ritual for their species.

The establishment of the conservation zone has contributed to helping grow the population of the turtles. The lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic has practically left the town's beaches to the turtles, increasing the number of hatchlings released to the sea in 2020.

In 2019, conservationists discovered that rising tides flooded the traditional nesting sites, spoiling the eggs. This prompted them to move the turtle eggs to spots that the tide can't disturb.

But it was still a puzzle for Pagara and other conservationists why there was not one hatchling produced last year.

Besides Magsaysay, other coasts in Misamis Oriental, many of which are becoming popular tourist destinations, were observed to also be nesting sites of the pawikan.

Cleramie Garcia, chief of protected area management and biodiversity conservation at Cenro Gingoog, said they had been monitoring reports throughout the province of marine turtle sightings and nesting sites.

The Cenro recorded 379 hatchlings released to the sea last year in Salay, a town facing Macajalar Bay.

Apart from hawksbill turtles, green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) also thrive in the province's coasts.



NEST PROTECTION Volunteer community-based conservationists in Barangay Candiis, Magsaysay town, erect a fence around a nesting site to protect hawksbill turtle eggs from dogs, and from being accidentally dug by beachgoers. (PHOTO BY ERWIN M. MASCARIÑAS)

Last year, the Cenro rescued three green sea turtles, one of which bore a tag from Sabah, Malaysia, that unfortunately died a day later, Garcia said, adding that they have increased awareness-raising activities in the communities so more people are enlisted to help protect these reptiles.

Pawikan conservation efforts are also bearing fruit in nearby Carmen town of Agusan del Norte, which is facing Butuan Bay.

On Feb. 28, the Cenro based in Nasipit town released 119 hatchlings of hawksbill turtles.

According to Joseph Leo Oconer of Cenro Nasipit, the hatchlings were found on Dec. 14 in the coastal village of Vinapor.



“We found out that this specific area is where the adult hawksbill turtle usually nests. In the same week in December 2021, we also released 44 hatchlings,” Oconer said.

In 2013, the DENR declared a 5,756-ha coastal zone of Carmen spanning the villages of Vinapor, Gosoon, San Agustin, Cahayagan and Tagcatong as critical habitat for marine turtles.

Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of the environment group Oceana, lauded the locals in Carmen and Magsaysay for keeping the turtle nesting sites in their communities.

She noted that this experience could be an exception as “due to the increase in unregulated coastal developments, several nesting sites of marine turtles are destroyed and eventually lost all over the Philippines.”

“We hope that people, together with the local governments and the DENR, will continue to work for the protection of the turtle habitats,” Ramos said.



DENR to poll bets: Spare trees of campaign posters

RONALD O. REYES

March 04, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Eastern Visayas has reminded candidates and their supporters to refrain from posting their campaign posters and streamers on trees.

“The candidates and their supporters should be mindful of the laws and policies regarding the prohibition of posting of election materials on trees,” said DENR Regional Director Tirso Parian Jr.

“With the various ecological and health benefits that the trees provide, let us help each other in conserving and sparing our trees from any untoward acts against it,” the official added.

Republic Act (RA) 3571, which prohibits the cutting, destroying, or injuring of planted or growing trees, flowering plants, and shrubs or plants of scenic value along public roads, in plazas, parks, school premises, or in any other public pleasure ground.

“Cutting or injuring trees by posting or nailing election materials are violations sanctioned by our laws not only this election period but in daily basis,” Parian added.

Section 3 of Presidential Decree 953 also punishes violators with imprisonment of six months to two years, or a fine of not less than P500 and not more than P5,000, or with both imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court.

The Commission on Elections, through RA 9006 or the Fair Election Act, may authorize political parties to erect common poster areas for their candidates in public places but in no instance shall it designate as poster areas any trees, plants, or shrubs along public roads, according to Parian. **(SunStarb Philippines)**



Algae sa Boracay beach, 'di toxic — BIARMG

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | March 5, 2022



Photo: Boracay Rehabilitation Continues

Hindi senyales na may mababang antas ng kalidad ng tubig ang pagkakaroon ng green algae sa baybaying isla ng Boracay dahil ito ay tinatawag lamang na natural phenomenon, ayon sa Boracay Interagency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG) ngayong Sabado.

Sa isang statement, sinabi ng BIARMG na ang algae ay normal na dumarami sa tuwing dry season o tag-init. "This is non-toxic and should not be a cause for concern. In fact, the volume of algae has naturally subsided significantly in the past 2 weeks," pahayag ng BIARMG.

Paliwanag pa ng BIARMG, ang fecal coliform levels sa front beach ng isla ay nasa pagitan ng 8 hanggang 11 mpn (most probable number) kada 100 milliliters mula Enero hanggang Pebrero 2022. Anila, nakamit naman nito ang water quality standards para makapag-swimming na nasa 100 mpn kada 100 ml.

"The tourists are assured that Boracay's waters are clean and safe for swimming and BIARMG is steadfast in its mandate to provide accurate information to the public," sabi ni BIARMG general manager Martin Jose V. Despi.

Ayon sa Boracay city environment and natural resources office, inaasahan na magtatagal ang mga algae doon hanggang Abril o Mayo.

Boracay rehab group: Algae growth on beach not toxic, not reason for worry

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 05 2022 01:47 PM | Updated as of Mar 05 2022 04:29 PM

BORACAY—The Boracay Interagency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG) on Saturday said the presence of green algae along the island coast was a natural phenomenon and was not a sign of lower water quality levels.

In a statement, the BIARMG said the algae proliferate normally during the dry season.

"This is non-toxic and should not be a cause for concern. In fact, the volume of algae has naturally subsided significantly in the past 2 weeks," the BIARMG said.

It added that the fecal coliform levels in the island's front beach was between 8 to 11 mpn (most probable number) per 100 milliliters between January and February 2022. BIARMG said this met the water quality standards for swimming, which is at 100 mpn per 100 ml.



"The tourists are assured that Boracay's waters are clean and safe for swimming and BIARMG is steadfast in its mandate to provide accurate information to the public," said BIARMG general manager Martin Jose V. Despi.

The Boracay city environment and natural resources office) said the algae was expected to last until April or May. — **Report by Rolan Escaniel**



Protecting the critically endangered pangolin

BYBUSINESSMIRROR nMARCH 6, 2022



Harmless and shy, the pangolins are threatened by poaching, wildlife trafficking and habitat loss, among others.

Shy, slow-moving and mainly nocturnal. They live in forests and grasslands, finding tree hollows or digging deep burrows to sleep and rest in. And when threatened, they curl up into a ball, their tough and thick scales acting as armour to protect their soft bellies.

Meet the pangolin: a unique, prehistoric mammal that has been around for 80 million years. Today, their species are under constant threat from poaching and trafficking, but with governments, conservation groups, and individuals coming together, they may have a shot at survival, a feature story released by the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) said.

There are eight known species of pangolins spread across Asia and Africa. All are listed in the threatened tier of the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

In Southeast Asia, two pangolin species consider the region their home: the Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and the Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*).

Found in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, the Sunda pangolin covers the most geographic range in the region.

Pangolins found in the Philippines, particularly in Palawan Island, were previously thought to be *Manis javanica*, until recently recognised as a distinct species endemic only to the island.

Like their pangolin siblings across the world, the Sunda and Philippine pangolins have long snouts and tongues, which they use to eat ants and termites.

They are mostly covered in protective scales made of keratin, the same substance that makes up hair, fingernails and horn. The scales, unfortunately, are highly sought by poachers due to cultural beliefs that they possess medicinal properties.

Under threat

Both species found in the Asean region are considered critically endangered. Due to their elusive nature, these species are hard to find, so there is scant knowledge about their behaviours and few reliable population estimates.

“Every part of the pangolin has some value in trade: its meat consumed and its scales used in traditional medicine,” said Nosrat Ravichandran, ACB’s protected area specialist. “They are also threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, which causes them to be easily accessible to poachers.”

The name “pangolin” is derived from the Malay word “penggulung,” which means “roller.” Against poachers and hunters, this defence mechanism has unfortunately become the species’s vulnerability, as they become easy to pick up once they roll up into balls.



Stories of the pangolins published across the Internet, more often than not, are depressing stories that tell of their status as the world's most trafficked mammals.

At least 895,000 pangolins from Asia and Africa have been trafficked internationally from the beginning of the millennium up to 2020.

A study by international nongovernmental organization Traffic found that an estimated equivalent of 7,634 Philippine pangolins were documented to have been confiscated from illegal trade and trafficking between 2000 to 2019.

Besides the seizures, 2,870 frozen Sunda pangolins, weighing over 10 tons, were discovered in a vessel that ran aground in Tubbataha Reef in 2013.

Public awareness and citizen action

But growing appreciation about the plight of the wild animals, especially amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which has its roots in wildlife trafficking, can turn the tide on their plummeting population.

The Asean member states have different wildlife laws that seek to protect endangered animals, such as the pangolins, and conserve their habitats.

All Asean member states are also signatories to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which ensures the regulation of the trade of wild animals and plants.

Beyond government policies and regulation, citizen science and involvement are crucial in ensuring that these pangolins would continue living their shy and quiet lives in the wild for the next 80 million years.

To raise public awareness on biodiversity conservation, the ACB has launched a three-year campaign called #WeAreAseanBiodiversity.

“[The] regional campaign, which promotes sharing of inspiring biodiversity stories, can also be instrumental in building stronger partnerships between public and private sector to participate in conservation actions,” said ACB Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim.

Dr. Arvin Diesmos, director of ACB's Biodiversity Information Management unit, highlighted the campaign's crucial role in popularising science, laws, instruments, and statuses of the species and their habitats for many different sectors, especially among the youth.

Diesmos also emphasised the need for the public to know their right sources of information about biodiversity and the natural environment.

“The work of researchers, scientists, conservation biologists, and citizen scientists is more important now than ever before, especially in generating the right kind of scientific information, both technical and popular,” he said.

Lim said the ACB has been working with different sectors to protect and care for these shy and elusive creatures. Initiatives such as the Asean Heritage Parks Programme seek to support areas of high conservation importance that often host pangolins and other wildlife species.

“Keeping pangolins safe means not only protecting their populations in the wild but also the ecosystems that serve as their natural habitats. Integrated actions that include curbing poaching and wildlife trafficking, habitat protection, and improving the socio-economic conditions of the people living in and around pangolin range areas are encouraged,” Lim said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/03/06/protecting-the-critically-endangered-pangolin/>



PAWIKAN NANGITLOG SA DALAMPASIGAN

March 5, 2022 Admin



CAVITE-NAGULAT ang mga residente ng purok Isla Bonita ng bayan ng Rosario nang masaksihan nila ang pangangitlog ng isang pawikan kamakalawa ng gabi.

Lubhang namangha sa saya ang mga residente matapos masaksihan ang pangangitlog ng isang pawikan sa kanilang dalampasigan dakong alas-10 ng gabi.

Ayon kay purok lider Nestor Llanosa, hindi naman ito ang unang pawikan na nangitlog sa kanilang dalampasigan.

Subalit, ito ang unang pagkakataon na masaksihan ng mga residente ang aktuwal na pangangitlog ng isang pawikan.

Ayon pa kay Llanosa, ang pawikan ay pinangalanan niyang si "Putol" dahil sa putol ang kanang paa nito sa likuran.

Madalas din makita si "Putol" sa mga itinanim na artificial coral reefs sa karagatan.

Agad ipinaalam ang pangyayari sa Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO).

Naka-cordon na ang lugar na pinangitlogan ng pawikan at mahigpit na rin binabantayan ng grupo ng Bantay-Dagat.

Tinatayang nasa mahigit isang metro ang laki ng nasabing pawikan. **SID SAMANIEGO**



UNTV News and Rescue ✓

17h · 🌐



Natuklasan ng isang grupo sa Camarines Norte ang lawak ng pinasala sa coral areas kaya't agad silang umaksyon bilang mga boluntaryo sa pangangalaga nito.



YOUTUBE.COM

Pag-aalaga at pagtanim ng artificial corals, adbokasiya sa Camarines Norte

Natuklasan ng isang grupo sa Camarines Norte ang lawak ng pinasala sa coral areas kaya't agad silan...



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Sustainable Living For Everyone

by [Village Connect](#) a day ago



Today, living an eco-friendlier life has become much more manageable. With many simple yet effective ways to make our everyday lives more sustainable, and with many groups ready to help us take that first step toward a greener future, there is every reason to start today. Living a personal sustainable lifestyle can be impactful only if we do it together to preserve our planet for generations to come.

One of the best things to live sustainably is to reduce your carbon footprint. Many seemingly harmless daily activities can contribute to a higher carbon footprint or other greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere, leading to dramatic climate changes. An increased carbon footprint includes high electric consumption, driving our cars over short distances, and the excessive use of aerosols and air conditioners, to name a few. Try to identify and minimize these activities if you can, or look for more eco-friendly alternatives, if available.

You can also lower your carbon footprint by using energy efficiently. Use energy-efficient appliances, replace your old lighting fixtures with LED lights, and turn off energy-consuming items when not in use. Doing these eliminates energy waste in your home and helps you save more on utility expenses.

The 2020 Climate Transparency Report disclosed that the Philippines generated 1.18 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per capita in 2017. The country will need to reduce its emissions to below 132 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030 and below -198 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050. It is to meet the 1.5°C-compliant climate change mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement, of which the country is a signatory.



Together with the Plastic Credit Exchange, SM Cares helps gather empty, clean, and dry plastic waste at select SM Supermalls nationwide. Plastic waste may be dropped off every day from 10AM to 5PM.

Another way to make your lifestyle more sustainable is to correctly manage and segregate your garbage. Sort and separate your waste by type (e.g., paper/carton, plastic, glass, metal, electronics, etc.). It helps to find out more about your community's waste collection and management policies. You can even make extra cash if you dispose of your non-organic waste through the proper channels.

You can also minimize the waste you generate at home. There are many simple ways to do this. It includes reusing plastic bags, opting for eco-bags when shopping, and avoiding single-use items. By being mindful of our food consumption, we can also significantly reduce food waste and packaging.

The 2020 Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment report that the Philippines ranked third among the world contributors to plastic pollution, with 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste each year.



SM's Trash to Cash recycling market happens every first Friday and Saturday of the month from 10 AM to 2 PM across all SM Malls and select SDMC Malls nationwide.

As a responsible member of the community, SM has consistently implemented programs to inspire Filipinos to be more sustainable, educating them on the importance of sustainability and how to help protect the environment. It includes the long-running Green Film Festival, which features the free screening of environmental documentaries for students and other program partnerships that promote alternative options to plastic.

SM also has projects that directly engage its mall-goers, focusing on solid waste management. These are the monthly Trash to Cash recycling market and the collection of used lead-acid batteries (ULABs), the Electronic Waste Collection program, and the Plastic Waste Collection program held in partnership with the Plastic Credit Exchange. To date, SM Supermalls have collected more than 11,600 kg. of plastic waste, 2,000 kg. of electronic waste and 908,000 kg. of assorted recyclable waste.



Customers can drop off their electronic waste at bins in the Cyberzone and selected locations of SM Supermalls nationwide.



In addition, SM has been exploring renewable alternatives as its malls' energy source. For instance, in 2020, the company generated 9,620 MWh of energy from solar roof panels installed in ten different malls nationwide. The company has also completed solar panel retrofits in other malls. SM hopes to achieve its goal of having 50% of the energy it consumes being sourced from renewable sources by the end of this year.

"We have always been an advocate of sustainable living. Proof of this is the numerous environmental initiatives that the company has implemented. We build our malls with the environment and community in mind, and we make sure that our developments contribute to environmental protection," said Engr. Liza B. Silerio, SM Supermalls' Corporate Compliance Head.

"More importantly, we know that personal sustainability is key to achieving the green future that we want. We will continue to implement programs that encourage positive change within our community partners." Engr. Liza B. Silerio added.

SM Cares is the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of SM Prime Holdings, with programs to support communities, promote social inclusion and care for the environment. Its CSR advocacies include the Environment, Persons with Disabilities, Women & Breastfeeding Mothers, Children & Youth, Senior Citizens, and the Bike-Friendly SM Program.

To learn more about these programs, visit www.smsupermalls.com/smcares.

06 MARCH 2022, SUNDAY



NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROY PELLOVELO FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

COUPLE enjoying the fresh air and the afterglow of Manila Bay sunset near Mall of Asia.

Manila Bay swimmable by end of DU30 term

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is doubling its efforts to make Manila Bay Dolomite Beach "swimmable" before the end of the administration's term in June.

DENR OIC Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said Saturday the government is eyeing to complete the second phase of the beach nourishment project within the second quarter.

"We are looking at completing the second phase of the beach nourishment project while further reducing fecal coliform levels to make the bay safe for swimming, boating, and other forms of contact recreation,"

Sampulna said.

The DENR should reach the standard fecal coliform level of 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL) to allow recreational activities in the bay.

Despite having "no new budget" to purchase dolomite, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas Leones noted that Congress has allocated a budget for the Baywalk area's continuous rehabilitation, such as the installation of public restrooms and other infrastructure development equipment.

He added that they are

continuously monitoring the quality of water coming from major drainage outfalls discharging into Manila Bay, which has improved by 50 percent.

Data from the Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) showed that the Baywalk STP, which treats wastewater from Padre Faura, Remedios, and Estero de San Antonio de Abad outfalls, passed the fecal coliform standard for Class SB waters as of September 2021.

Meanwhile, MBCO Deputy Executive Director Jacob Meimban Jr. said that DENR and LLDA have so far inspected more than 6,200 establishments discharging waters to Manila Bay, and

issued 1,440 notices of violation, five cease and desist orders and five ex-parte orders.

"As of December 2021, 6,246 establishments were inspected by DENR and LLDA," Meimban said.

According to him, the Dolomite Beach will reopen soon, especially as the National Capital Region transitioned to the less restrictive Alert Level 1.

"We will abide by the recent developments (and construction) in the area. Of course, we are yet to complete the security measures to safeguard the safety of the public, so in due time, we will give updates on when we'll open the beach," he said. MARIA ROMERO



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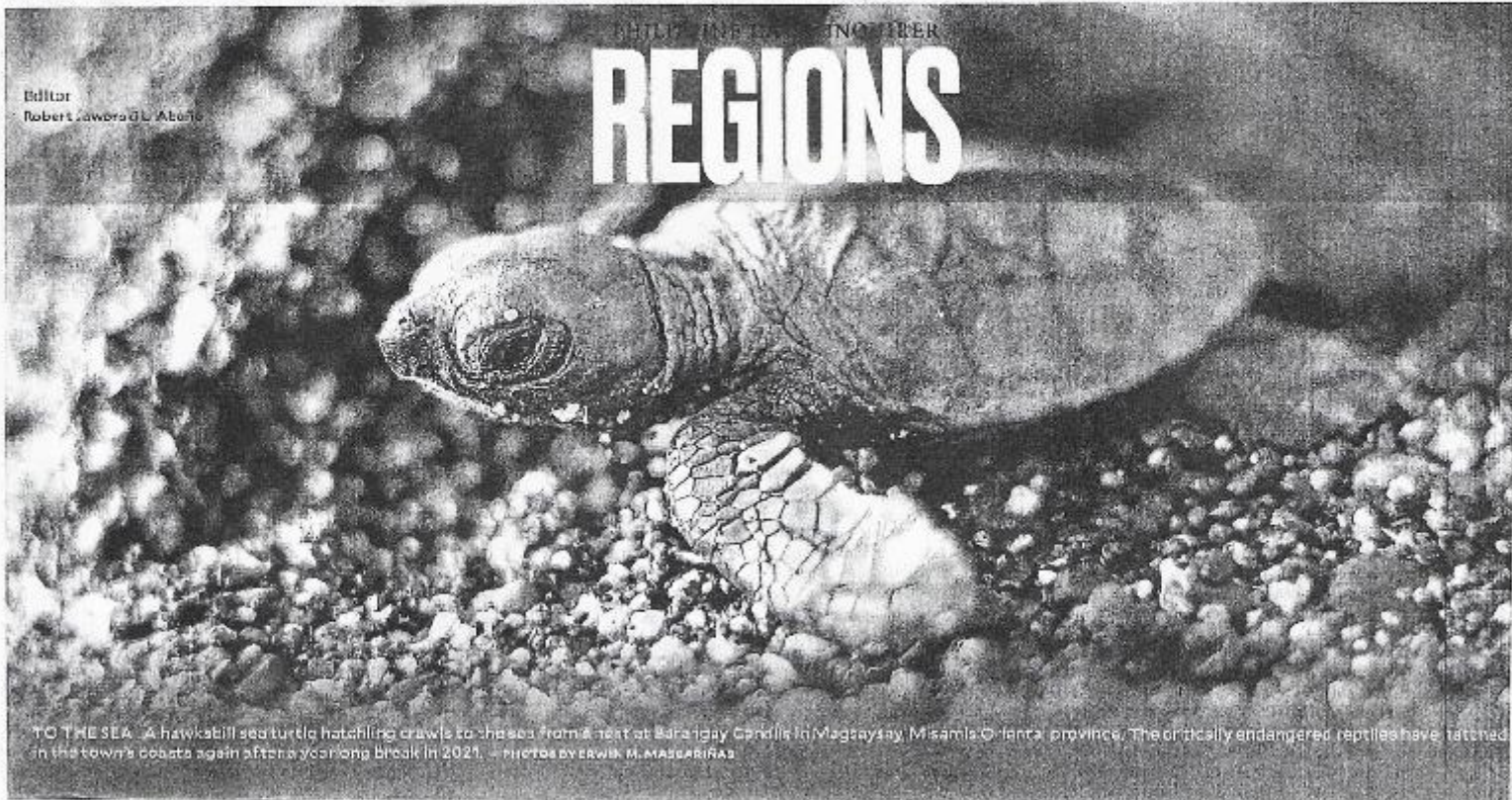
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REGIONS / A10

**SEA TURTLES HATCH
AGAIN IN MISAMIS
ORIENTAL TOWN**



REGIONS

Editor Robert Lawber @ RL_Abano

By Erwin M. Mascariñas @erwinmascariñas

MAGSAYSAY, MISAMIS ORIENTAL — Once a leading beach and tourism hub, Magsaysay is now a hot spot for hawksbill sea turtles.

In the first two months of the year, the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) based in Magsaysay City recorded 40 hatchlings released to the sea.

This is the largest recorded so far for the last quarter. Usually, we have them between October and November, this time in December, this time are the times when the weather is not good and usually the sudden change in the tide would cause the eggs to hatch.

Even the good news for the local marine conservation effort in 2023, Magsaysay is excited to see how many hatchlings for the first of the year. They expect another nest to hatch in April.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has declared a 10-hectare coastal zone stretching from the community and San Isidro as critical habitat for hawksbill turtles to seek, bearing incentives to reverse its population and restore nest.

Coastal zone

The birth of sea turtles carry on through the years where they were hatched, hence had the unique ability to return to the same area to mate, spawning what could be an ancient ritual for their species.

The establishment of the conservation zone has contributed to reducing the population of sea turtles. The lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the number of hatchlings released to the sea in 2023.

In 2023, conservationists observed that Magsaysay Island has the most distant nesting sites, spotting the eggs. This prompted them to move the turtle eggs to spots that the tide can't reach.

SEA TURTLES HATCH AGAIN IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL TOWN



PHOTO BY ERWIN M. MASCARIÑAS. In the conservationist Roberto Pagara (left) and Ederson Caliente (right) of the environment office of Magsaysay City, a group of the staff helped in releasing a turtle hatched in Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental last year.

But it was still a puzzle for Pagara and other conservationists why there was not one hatchling produced last year.

Besides Magsaysay, other coastal areas in Misamis Oriental, many of which are becoming popular tourist destinations, were observed to have nesting sites at the beach.

Ceramin Garcia, chief of protection and enforcement, biodiversity conservation of CENRO Magsaysay, said they had been monitoring reports throughout the province of marine turtle sightings and nesting sites.



MAGSAYSAY, MISAMIS ORIENTAL



hatched in the sea last year in Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental.

Other than hawksbill turtles, green sea turtles (Chelonia mydas) also thrive in the province's coastal.

Last year, the CENRO received three green sea turtles, one of which hatched in Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental. It is currently kept in a safe, controlled environment where it has been receiving medical attention and is being monitored by the CENRO.

Protection and enforcement efforts are also being carried out in nearby coastal areas of Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental, which is facing tourism boom.

On Feb. 28, the CENRO based in Magsaysay released 10 hatchlings of hawksbill turtles.

According to Joseph Leo Peralta, chief of CENRO Magsaysay, the hatchlings were found on Jan. 24 in the coastal village of Magsaysay.

"We found out that this specific area was a nesting site for hawksbill turtles last year, we also found out that there were no hatchlings," Peralta said.

In 2023, the DENR declared a 10-hectare coastal zone stretching from the villages of Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental, San Isidro, Caluyanan and Magsaysay as critical habitat for marine turtles.

Chief Executive Officer, vice president of the conservation group Oceanic, headed the local community and Magsaysay in keeping the turtle nesting sites in their communities.

She noted that this conservation effort is not just for the increase in the population of sea turtles, but also for the protection of the marine ecosystem, several nesting sites at Magsaysay are destroyed and eventually lost to the Magsaysay.

"We hope that people, together with the local governments and the DENR will continue to work for the protection of the turtle habitats," he said.

NEST PROTECTION While the community-based conservation effort is ongoing, Magsaysay DENR will continue to monitor nesting sites to protect hawksbill turtle eggs from dogs and from being accidentally dug by beachgoers.



'One Health approach needed to address bird flu'

The health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment are interlinked.

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

THE government's Environment department is conducting regular monitoring on migratory bird aggregation sites in light of the reported large-scale outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds in several countries.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Offices and its Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) are conducting regular monitoring on migratory bird sites, including on the annual water-bird count, and on the abnormal wild bird mortalities.

This came as the Philippines reported last week confirmed its first outbreaks of HPAI type A subtype H5N1 that killed over 42,000 quails and ducks in four Central Luzon farms.

Meanwhile, in the United States avian influenza has been detected in a sixth commercial poultry flock in southern Indiana, state officials said on March 1, the Associated Press reported.

Three previous cases were found in Dubois County and two in Greene County. Cases have also been detected in Michigan, in a backyard flock and in a zoo.

Officials have begun euthanizing the 16,500 birds at the latest farm to prevent the spread of the disease.

Avian flu was also detected in New York and Iowa in February.

Influx of migratory birds cannot be prevented

THE Philippines' DENR-BMB Veterinarian Rizza Araceli F. Salinas said the influx of migratory birds cannot be prevented since their long journeys to escape the winter season are necessary for their survival.

As such, the BMB and some selected regional and field offices have been conducting disease surveillance among wild birds in aggregation sites.

"Thus far, all samples collected are negative of the avian influenza virus," Salinas said.

According to Salinas, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) has published the Avian Influenza Protection Program Manual of Procedures, which serves as a reference for the conduct of active and passive surveillance on avian influenza.

"Though not directly related to

avian influenza, [the] BMB issued a Technical Bulletin on Birding Guidelines to reduce negative impacts of recreational photography to wild birds and their habitats," she said.

Moreover, she said that as a preventive measure, the DENR-BMB issues a public advisory at the onset of migration season and during outbreaks as notified by the DA-BAI. The advisory is then disseminated to concerned offices.

On the other hand, the local government units, she said, are enjoined to support Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Act, by protecting wild birds. It includes the prevention of hunting of wild and migratory birds.

Intl scientific task force convened

TO recall, in response to recent large-scale outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds, the Secretariat of the Convention on

the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) convened the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds.

The highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 HPAI virus, plus other subtypes, including H5N8, have caused multiple avian influenza outbreaks in the UK, the Netherlands, Israel and India, the task force said. It added that outbreaks of H5N1 have seriously affected migratory wild birds.

The task force provided recommendations and guidance for authorities and managers of countries affected or at risk of avian influenza.

Wild birds, including globally threatened species, are victims of HPAI viruses causing avian influenza.

Affected sites also include areas of international relevance for conservation, such as protected wetlands.



CHICKENS are being culled in a Central Luzon farm as part of efforts to contain the H5N6 avian flu outbreak in 2017. WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

The scientific group said authorities with responsibility for animal health should apply the "One Health" approaches for communicating and addressing avian influenza, the task force said. This means recognizing that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment are interlinked and acting with a coordinated and unified approach.

It is recommended that surveillance and biosecurity measures be reinforced to reduce spillover risk between poultry and wild birds.

Authorities need to fulfill their international obligations to avoid the culling of wild birds and damage to natural ecosystems, especially wetlands.

Dr. Ruth Cremie, coordinator of the scientific task force said: "Avian influenza represents a One Health issue threatening health across the board. The highly pathogenic viruses are still relatively new in wild birds and this winter's high levels of mortality remind us of their vulnerability and that working to promote healthy wildlife benefits us all."

H5N1 is currently the avian influenza lineage most found in Africa and Eurasia in both poultry and wild birds. It affects wild fowl, waders, gulls, cranes, grebes, herons, pelicans, game birds, corvids and raptors, and occasionally mammals, such as red fox, Eurasian otter, harbour and grey seal.

In terms of human health, the currently circulating H5N1 HPAI viruses do not seem to pose the same zoonotic risk—infectious disease that jump from animals to humans—as to the "original" Asian lineage H5N1 (clade 2.2 and their derivatives) plus clade 2.3.4.4b H5N6 viruses currently in China), the task force said.

Considering people working on poultry culling operations, the risk can be considered moderate, it added.

Recommendations from scientific task force

GENERAL recommendations concerning different categories of animals affected include the following.

On wild birds: The task force said there is no benefit in attempting to control the virus in wild birds through culling or habitat destruction.

All those with responsibilities for animal health are reminded of the advice of FAO and Office International des Epizooties, or the World Organization for Animal Health, and international obligations under CMS, the Ramsar Convention, and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds to ensure that there is no consideration of killing of wild birds, spraying toxic products or negatively affecting wetland and other habitats as disease control measures.

On poultry: Responses to HPAI in poultry must follow OIE international standards, guidelines and recommendations on notifications, surveillance, diagnosis, trade, and control measures.

It added that biosecurity should include efforts to prevent the spread of infection from infected poultry holdings to wild birds.

It said that there is a need for re-organization of poultry production systems highly susceptible to avian influenza exposure in order to minimize the risk of virus introduction and further spread.

On captive birds: There is no justification for any pre-emptive culling of zoological collections, it pointed out.

Protecting the critically endangered pangolin

SHY, slow moving and mainly nocturnal. They live in forests and grasslands, finding tree hollows or digging deep burrows to sleep and rest in. And when threatened, they curl up into a ball, their tough and thick scales acting as armour to protect their soft bellies.

Meet the pangolin, a unique, prehistoric mammal that has been around for 80 million years. Today, their species are under constant threat from poaching and trafficking, but with governments, conservation groups, and individuals coming together, they may have a shot at survival, a feature story released by the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) said.

There are eight known species of pangolins spread across Asia and Africa. All are listed in the threatened tier of the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

In Southeast Asia, two pangolin species consider the region their home: the Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and the Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*).

Found in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, the Sunda pangolin covers the most geographic range in the region.

Pangolins found in the Philippines, particularly in Palawan Island, were previously thought to be *Manis javanica*, until recently recognised as a distinct species endemic only to the island.

Like their pangolin siblings across the world, the Sunda and Philippine pangolins have long snouts and tongues, which they use to eat ants and termites.

They are mostly covered in protective scales made of keratin, the same substance that makes up hair, finger nails and horn. The scales, unfortunately, are highly sought by poachers due to cultural beliefs that they possess medicinal properties.



HARMLESS and shy, the pangolins are threatened by poaching, wildlife trafficking and habitat loss, among others. PHOTO BY GREG THOMAS

Under threat

BOTH species found in the Asean region are considered critically endangered. Due to their elusive nature, these species are hard to find, so there is scant knowledge about their behaviours and few reliable population estimates.

"Every part of the pangolin has some value in trade: its meat consumed and its scales used in traditional medicine," said Neevat Ravichandran, ACB's protected area specialist. "They are also threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, which causes them to be easily accessible to poachers."

The name 'pangolin' is derived from the Malay word 'penggulung,' which means 'roller.' Against poachers and hunters, this defence mechanism has unfortunately become the species's vulnerability, as they become easy to pick up once they roll up into balls.

Stories of the pangolins published across the Internet, more often than not, are depressing stories that tell of their status as the world's most trafficked mammals.

At least 895,000 pangolins from Asia and Africa have been trafficked internationally from the beginning of the millennium up to 2020.

A study by international non-

governmental organization Traffic found that an estimated equivalent of 7,634 Philippine pangolins were documented to have been confiscated from illegal trade and trafficking between 2000 to 2019.

Besides the seizures, 2,870 frozen Sunda pangolins, weighing over 10 tons, were discovered in a vessel that ran aground in Tubbataha Reef in 2013.

Public awareness and citizen action

But growing appreciation about the plight of the wild animals, especially amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which has its roots in wildlife trafficking, can turn the tide on their plummeting population.

The Asean member states have different wildlife laws that seek to protect endangered animals, such as the pangolins, and conserve their habitats.

All Asean member states are also signatories to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which ensures the regulation of the trade of wild animals and plants.

Beyond government policies and regulation, citizen science and involvement are crucial in ensuring that these

pangolins would continue living their shy and quiet lives in the wild for the next 80 million years.

To raise public awareness on biodiversity conservation, the ACB has launched a three-year campaign called #WeAreAseanBiodiversity.

"[The] regional campaign, which promotes sharing of inspiring biodiversity stories, can also be instrumental in building stronger partnerships between public and private sector to participate in conservation actions," said ACB Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim.

Dr. Arvin Diesmos, director of ACB's Biodiversity Information Management unit, highlighted the campaign's crucial role in popularising science, uses, instruments, and statuses of the species and their habitats for many different sectors, especially among the youth.

Diesmos also emphasised the need for the public to know their right sources of information about biodiversity and the natural environment.

"The work of researchers, scientists, conservation biologists, and citizen scientists is more important now than ever before, especially in generating the right kind of scientific information, both technical and popular," he said.

Lim said the ACB has been working with different sectors to protect and care for these shy and elusive creatures. Initiatives such as the Asean Heritage Parks Programme seek to support areas of high conservation importance that often host pangolins and other wildlife species.

"Keeping pangolins safe means not only protecting their populations in the wild but also the ecosystems that serve as their natural habitats. Integrated actions that include curbing poaching and wildlife trafficking, habitat protection, and improving the socio-economic conditions of the people living in and around pangolin range areas are encouraged," Lim said.



BSP slates construction of Clark City complex



Architects' perspective of the proposed BSP Clark City Complex

By LEE C. CHIPONCIAN

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is expected to start construction of its new BSP Complex in New Clark City in Capas, Tarlac possibly by end 2022.

The BSP has recently signed the contract with winning bidder Aidea Inc. for the architectural and engineering design services of the complex.

BSP Governor Benjamin E. Diokno on Thursday, March 3, said the new BSP complex will occupy 30 hectares, of which 21.32 hectares will be developed by Aidea.

"The design will be finished in 5-6 months and then we will contract out construction which will probably take around two years," said Diokno in a press chat.

The New Clark City home for the BSP's printing, minting and other activity is bigger than its current six-hectare Security Plant Complex (SPC) in Quezon City.

"The covered area is designated for the construction of an office building,

the BSP Museum, an academic building, a sports complex, data and command centers, and commercial stalls," said Diokno. "With the signing of the agreement, we move one step closer toward building this inclusive, green, smart, and modern facility," he added.

Diokno also described the new complex as a "global benchmark for a smart, green, and modern facility, promoting environmental sustainability and efficiency."

The BSP will build a new plant complex for the production and distribution of currency, and the printing of "secure products" such as the national identification card and land title certificates.

The BSP broke ground on this project in September 2019 and at the time, before the pandemic happened, the BSP was planning to start construction in the first quarter of 2020 and to complete the complex project after three years.

The Tarlac printing facility once

operational is intended to have the full capacity to print all of the country's banknotes requirement, currently at five billion pieces in all six denominations, including the 20-piso which will be phased out eventually to give way to its coin version.

At the moment, the SPC in East Avenue-Quezon City can print up to three billion banknote pieces per year and the rest are outsourced to foreign printers.



Romblon tribal group receives land titles

After waiting for six years, members of the Ali tribe in Romblon were recently awarded land titles by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

DAR Secretary Bernie Cruz led the distribution of certificates of land ownership award, covering 67,341.1 hectares 1 in Barangays Pandan and Magsaysay in Sta. Fe town.

Cruz said the land, which was previously owned by Domingo Realty Inc., was subject-

ed to compulsory acquisition.

"The agency's support to the ARBs (agrarian reform beneficiaries) under CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program) does not end in the distribution of land. It will continue to provide support services to help boost their economic lives," he said.

Cruz said the DAR's thrust is consistent with the government's directive to fast-track the distribution of land under CARP.

Meanwhile, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) launched shelter projects for members of the Higaonon tribes in Northern Mindanao and Caraga.

DHSUD Secretary Eduardo del Rosario led the signing of a memorandum of agreement and groundbreaking ceremonies for five housing projects.

The housing construction and land development projects are in line with the depart-

ment's mandate of providing Filipino families, especially the underserved, including indigenous peoples, access to decent, sustainable, resilient and affordable housing.

Up to 250 housing units will be constructed in Barangay Kibanban in Balingasag town and Minalwang in Claveria, Misamis Oriental; Kamagong in Nasipit and Bokbokan in Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte, and Sinakungan in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur.

- Rhodina Villanueva



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF UN

CLIMATE change is impacting Tunisia's coastal zones affecting both humans and marine biodiversity.

UNEP combats

pollution, restores ozone

The planet was already showing signs of bucking under the weight of humanity

For 50 years, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has offered the world a way forward "based on a vision for a better, healthier Earth built on the pillars of international cooperation," Secretary-General António Guterres told a landmark special session on Thursday, commemorating the agency's golden anniversary.

"The planet was already showing signs of buckling under the weight of humanity" back in 1972 when the agency was founded, he explained to the event in Nairobi via video message.

"In the following decades, UNEP and its partners would work with Member States to combat air pollution, restore the ozone layer, protect the world's seas, promote a green and inclusive economy and raise the alarm about biodiversity loss and climate change."

Guterres lauded UNEP as illustrating that multilateralism works and can deliver solutions for people and the planet.

UNEP's science, policy work, coordination and advocacy has helped to right environmental wrongs around the world and raise awareness of the critical role that the environment plays in sustainable

development.

"That work has never been more important," attested the UN chief.

Pointing to climate disruption, biodiversity and habitat loss, and pollution and waste that threatens societies and life on Earth, he observed that "humanity continues to wage a suicidal war against nature."

To address this, the top UN Official set out four targets, beginning with the need to protect the most vulnerable, "who now number in the billions."

"We need scaled up international cooperation to provide the financial and technical assistance that vulnerable countries and communities need for greater resilience," he said, urging donors and multilateral development banks to "more than double the share for climate adaptation to at least 50 percent of climate finance by 2024."

Secondly, the UN chief underscored that the world must cut global emissions by 45 percent this decade to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

"This means no new coal. And no coal finance," he spelled out.

During the UN climate conference (COP26) in Glasgow last year, Guterres was heartened by South Africa's announcement of a renewable energy partnership.

He urged all countries that have pledged



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to get out of coal and that need technological and financial support to undertake equivalent coalitions.

"Coal needs to be phased out in OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries by 2030 and by 2040 everywhere else," he argued, adding that "every sector in every country needs to decarbonize this decade, especially the energy and transportation sectors."

Halting the "extinction crisis," with an "ambitious and actionable post-2020 biodiversity framework to put us on a path of living in harmony with nature," was the Secretary-General's third point.

And his fourth was to "drastically" reduce chemical, plastic and solid waste pollution.

"That means tackling the drivers of environmental degradation, especially poverty and unsustainable consumption and production," the top UN official said.

While encouraged by the UN Environment Assembly's moves to establish an intergovernmental committee that would negotiate a legally binding global agreement on plastic pollution, he upheld that financial and accounting systems must also be transformed to reflect the true cost of economic activities, including their impact on nature and the environment.

'More caring' relationship with nature sought

By damaging the natural world, we threaten our own well-being

Everyone must commit to preserving the Earth's "invaluable and irreplaceable wildlife," the UN chief said in his message for World Wildlife Day.

"Each year... we celebrate the beauty and wonder of our planet's wild plants and animals," reminded Secretary-General António Guterres, describing the day as an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and "to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that their conservation provides to people."

Beyond a moral duty to sustain the Earth, Guterres reminded that "humanity depends on the essential products and services that nature provides, from food and fresh water to pollution control and carbon storage."

"By damaging the natural world, we threaten our own well-being," he added.

Today, all around the world, wildlife is in peril as a quarter of species face extinction — in large part, because we have destroyed nearly half of the ecosystems in which they live.

"We must act now to reverse this trend," underscored the UN chief. "Animals and plants that live in the wild have an intrinsic value and contribute to the ecological, genetic, social,

economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic aspects of human well-being and to sustainable development."

And everyone must recognize the "urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species," he said.

Noting their "wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts," Guterres drew attention to Sustainable Development Goal 15, which focuses on halting biodiversity loss.

"Let us remind ourselves of our duty to preserve and sustainably use the vast variety of life on the planet. Let us push for a more caring, thoughtful and sustainable relationship with nature," he said.

This year's day also highlights the importance of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which was kicked off last year and runs until 2030.

Ecosystems are only healthy when their component species thrive.

If just one keystone species disappears, an entire ecosystem can start to decline and die, which is why actions to protect individual species must go hand-in-hand with restoring entire ecosystems.



PENGUINS frolic on a beach in Antarctica.



New species show Myanmar's bio riches

PARIS, France: At least 100 new species — from monkeys to mussels — were found in Myanmar in a decade, according to conservationists who said discoveries during the country's fleeting period of openness revealed "astonishing biodiversity."

Beginning in 2010 with the identification of the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey, a small black primate known as the "sneezing monkey," researchers have made an "incredible sequence of discoveries," wildlife group Fauna and Flora International (FFI) said.

Over 10 years, during which Myanmar's generals eased their stranglehold on power, scientists from all over the world made a beeline to the country to explore rainforests, delve into cave systems, wade through

rivers and pick their way across majestic karst rock formations.

"Myanmar harbors biological riches that most countries can only dream of. Its remaining tracts of forest are home to some of the most spectacular wildlife in mainland Southeast Asia," FFI said in a statement.

But the organization raised fears over a "barrage of threats," including illegal logging, hunting, agriculture, infrastructure development and quarrying.

FFI had tallied up the list of 100 new species early last year. But before they could celebrate, the Myanmar army seized power in a February 2021 coup.

With field operations already suspended because of the coronavirus

pandemic, FFI's Acting Country Manager Ngwe Lwin said the team was focusing on existing conservation programs with Myanmar partner Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association.

According to Ngwe Lwin, a decade of openness had afforded researchers a rare chance to travel into remote areas of the country, some of which had been heavily restricted and conflict-torn.

But that does not mean the discoveries came easily.

In 2010, Ngwe Lwin and his colleagues traveled to the forests of northern Kachin state, near the border with China, looking for a new monkey species.

Local people had seen the mon-

keys and said they were easy to track, particularly in the rain because their upturned noses collect water, causing them to sneeze. They told the conservation team to head through the dense forest to a spot near their village.

After days of fruitless searching, they were presented with a single dead monkey that local hunters had accidentally captured in an iron trap meant for black bears.

FFI said it was crucial to involve local communities in preservation efforts. It added that many people in the country were dependent on natural resources for survival.

Other species found in the last decade include a cave-dwelling crab, a carnivorous snail and 17 species of freshwater mussels.

AFP



Dahil lamang sa sigarilyo, dalawang araw bago naspula ang sinasabing forest fire sa Brgy. Ambuklao, Bukod, Benguet noong Huwebes.

Sa ulat ng Bukod Fire Department (BFD), kumalat ang nasaibing sunog sa tulong sitio at aabot sa 200 hektarya ng gubat ang naapekman.

Sinabi ng BFD na sigarilyo ang nakikita nilang sanhi ng sunog

Gubat sa Benguet 2 araw nilamon ng apoy

dahil mayroon mga construction worker sa lugar.

Bunsod nito ay posible sampahan ng reklamo ang mga sangkot sa paugyayan, ayon sa mga kaga-

wad ng pamatay-sunog.

Nabatid na naging pahirapan din ang pag-apula sa sunog dahil sa malakas na hangin at mainit na panahon. (Allan Bergonia)



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WB inspects NCR flood control project

Using 'Ecosavers' passbooks, the residents earned points for recyclable materials they turned in

BY ALVIN MURCIA
@tribunephil_obs

World Bank (WB) representatives have joined an inspection of ongoing activities under the Metro Manila Flood Management Project (MMFMP) which the financial body is bankrolling.

Together with officials of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the WB team visited the Vitas Pumping Station in Tondo, Manila where they were shown the use of solid waste granulator and brickmaking.

The technology converts solid waste to reusable by-products like bricks, hollow blocks, concrete barriers and bio-waste compost materials.

The inspection team then proceeded to Pateros to witness the collection of wastes and their processing at the Mobile Materials Recovery Facility in Barangay Sto. Rosario Kanluran.

Residents were shown trading their recyclables with commodities like grocery items. Using "Ecosavers" passbooks, the

residents earned points for recyclable materials they turned in.

The point system is used to determine what items may be redeemed by residents.

MMDA chairperson Romando Artes and the agency's general manager and deputy chairman, Frisco San Juan, met with MMFMP project proponents led by Assistant Secretary Jose Campo.

Lead irrigation engineer Joop Stoutjesdijk was in the WB team that conducted the inspection.

"Amid the continuous increase of wastes generated in the metropolis, the MMDA shall continue pursuing initiatives and technologies that improve solid waste management in the metropolis," Artes said.

"We are committed to working together with the concerned agencies to achieve a Metro Manila that is more resilient to floods," he added.

The MMFMP is Phase 1 of the implementation of the Metro Manila Flood Management Masterplan aimed at reducing community vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience against floods.



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Flood management project, tinututukan ng MMDA

Nagsagawa na ng field inspection kahapon ang Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) kasama ang mga kinatawan mula sa World Bank kung saan pinag-usapan ang status update sa isinasagawang proyekto na sinimulan ng MMDA sa ilalim ng Metro Manila Flood Management Project (MMFMP).

Sinimulan ang inspeksiyon sa Vitas Pumping Station sa Tondo, sa Maynila kung

saan ipinakita ang pagproseso gamit ang Solid Waste Granulator at Brick Making Facility, ang teknolohiya na nagko-convert sa mga basura para sa reusable by-products na eco-bricks, eco-hollow blocks, eco-concrete barriers, at bio-waste compost materials.

Sinundan ito ng pagdalaw sa Barangay Sto. Rosario Kanluran, Pateros, kung saan naman sinaksihan ang Market and Collection Day

para sa Mobile Materials Recovery Facility (MMRF) Activity na tinawag na "Recyclable Mo, Palit Grocery Ko".

Ayon kay MMDA Chairman Atty. Romando Artes at MMDA General Manager at Deputy Chairman Frisco San Juan Jr. sa mga tagapagtaguyod ng proyekto ng MMFMP sa pangunguna ni Assistant General Manager for Planning at MMFMP Overall Project Manager Asec. Jose Campo kasama ang mga kinatawan mula sa Project Management Office, Solid Waste Management Office, Flood Control and Sewerage Management at mga partner ng World Bank na kinsakatawan ng Lead Irrigation Engineer nito na si Joop Stoutjesdijk upang talakayin ang mga update sa proyekto.

Ang Phase 1 sa Metro Manila Flood Management Masterplan ay joint venture ng MMDA at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) sa ilalim ng financial grant ng World Bank Group - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at ng Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). (Ludy Bermudo)



SM Prime: 10 SM Supermalls powered by solar energy

By RIZAL RAOUF REYES

SM Prime Holdings Inc., a division of the SM Group of Companies, has invested heavily in energy efficiency programs that harness most of natural sunlight, through solar energy panels and energy-efficient LED lighting systems as part of its policy in pushing sustainability in operations.

In an e-mail interview, SM Prime told the BusinessMirror that solar energy provides power to 10 SM Supermalls, enabling the company to reduce energy consumption by 28 percent, and carbon emissions by 31 percent.

Riding on these initiatives, SM Prime said it will continue its transition to clean energy. Besides investing in energy-efficient programs, he added that the company is broadening its renewable energy investments.

"By the end of 2022, 50 percent of our energy will come from renewable energy sources, making our malls more than just places for leisure and life, but spaces where energy is conserved and generated," the company explained.

Moreover, SM Prime has joined 2,500 organizations worldwide in supporting the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and its goal of creating a more resilient financial system through better climate risk disclosures.

"Through this, it hopes to continue to drive its business to adopt more sustainability initiatives related to climate change," SM Prime said.

The company also urged thousands of companies and organizations around the globe in delivering innovative and sustainable lifestyle cities.

Led by its Chairman of the Executive Committee, Hans T. Sy, who re-

mains one of the board members and co-chairman of Arise (Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies) Philippines, a local network of the Global Arise network, led by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), SM Prime said it will remain driven toward a resilient company that can withstand the test of time leading to a sustainable future.

Through SM Cares, SM Prime has been conducting the monthly Trash to Cash as an avenue for the community, including its properties' tenants, to participate in solid waste management.

Trash to Cash is held every first Friday and Saturday of the month from 10A a.m. to 2 p.m. across all SM Supermalls and select SMDC malls nationwide.

To date, more than 900,000 kilograms of assorted waste have been collected through Trash to Cash.

SM Cares also partnered with the Trust International Paper Corp. to cover collection, transport and recycling waste paper.

The waste paper collected from various offices are documents that satisfy legal and fiscal use in accordance with SM Prime's Records Information Management System.

SM Prime said it will further commit to the continuous monitoring of accredited service providers in the safe and responsible transport, treatment, storage and disposal or processing of the properties' generated hazardous waste, compliant to Department of Environment and Natural Resources' implementing rules and regulations.

"All our initiatives are aligned with SM Prime's environmental strategy of developing, designing, and building integrated lifestyle cities with sustainability and resiliency considerations in mind," it said.

06 MARCH 2022, SUNDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH posts 941 new cases, 1,784 recoveries

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **March 5, 2022, 7:24 pm**



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday posted 941 new coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases, another three-digit single-day tally indicating a sustained decrease in the country's Covid-19 infections.

The active cases currently stand at 49,374, lower than the 50,230 cases from the previous day, partly due to the 1,784 additional recoveries the DOH has logged.

At least 416 of those undergoing treatment are asymptomatic, 44,586 are mild, 2,736 are moderate, 1,344 are severe, and 292 are critical.

Meanwhile, DOH recorded 109 new fatalities, raising the Covid-19 death toll to 56,879.

The Philippines has so far logged 3,666,678 confirmed Covid-19 cases since the pandemic began, with 97.1 percent or 3,560,425 have recovered.

The positivity rate is pegged at 3.8 percent, based on the 26,737 individuals tested for SARS-CoV-2 on March 3.

Meanwhile, the occupancy rate of the 3,800 intensive care unit (ICU) beds dedicated for Covid-19 patients is at 42 percent.

Some 40 percent of the 20,900 isolation beds and 39 percent of the 15,500 ward beds are also occupied nationwide.

In Metro Manila, at least 36 percent of the 1,300 ICU beds are being utilized, including 31 percent of the 4,600 isolation beds and 20 percent of 4,300 ward beds. **(PNA)**



Level 1 areas adhering to minimum safety standards

By Lade Jean Kabagani [March 5, 2022, 5:44 pm](#)



WATER FUN. Pandemic aside, life is back to normal for these children at a resort in Dasmariñas City, Cavite on Saturday (March 5, 2022). Cavite and Laguna are the only provinces in the Calabarzon Region that is under Alert Level 1, with lesser restrictions and 100-percent capacity in outdoor establishments. *(PNA photo by Gil Calinga)*

MANILA – There were no reports of major violations of minimum public health protocols in the National Capital Region and 38 other areas under Alert Level 1 since its implementation on March 1.

National Vaccination Operations Center and Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje on Saturday thanked local government units (LGUs) for imposing stringent health measures to ensure that Covid-19 cases will not spike anew.

"*Sa kabuuan, nasusunod naman ang ating minimum public health protocols (As a whole the minimum public health protocols are being followed),*" Cabotaje said at the Laging Handa public briefing. "*Pag-iibayuhin lang ng ating mga centers of health development ang ating pagmonitor lalung-lalo na sa (The centers of health development should intensify the monitoring of areas under) Alert Level 1.*"

She also reminded on health and safety measures during campaign sorties.

When conducting mass gatherings indoors, Cabotaje said organizers should make sure there is proper ventilation and participants are wearing masks.

She likewise encouraged the unvaccinated to avail of Covid-19 jabs.

"Vaccination is just one armament. We still need to follow the public minimum health standard, proper masking, and safe physical distancing," she said.

Businesses, public transportation, and government agencies in areas that were downgraded to Alert Level 1 can operate at full capacity at least until March 15.

The Philippines has so far administered 145,849,882 doses of Covid-19 vaccines nationwide.

A total of 63,681,927 Filipinos are already fully vaccinated, including 10,476,652 with booster doses.



Among the pediatric age groups, 8.5 million or 74 percent aged 12 to 17 are fully vaccinated while 862,000 aged 5 to 11 have been administered with at least one dose.

The daily vaccination coverage slightly slowed down to 300,000 doses, thus recalibrated strategies are being coordinated with LGUs, Cabotaje added.

The latest vaccine deliveries are both Pfizer brands -- 804,000 doses for the 5-11 age group on Thursday and 11,700 doses for adults on Friday night. **(PNA)**



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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 721

MARSO 5, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

1.3%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
49,374

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.1%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,560,425

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.55%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
56,879

MGA BAGONG KASO **941**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,784**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **109**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,666,678**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING MARSO 3

DATOS NGAYONG MARSO 5
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG MARSO 3

3.8%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

26,737

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS

91.1%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

BAWAL
WALANG MASK
AT FACE SHIELD

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)
 25% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.5K TOTAL BEDS)
 22% Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.0K TOTAL BEDS)
 14% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
 12% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
 25% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
 21% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)
 24% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
 15% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

416 Asymptomatic

44,586 Mild

2,736 Moderate

1,344 Severe

292 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
✉ seeyoudoc.com
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KonsultaMD
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CloudPx
✉ cloudpx.ph/

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

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

TelAventusMD
✉ TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
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HealthNow
📞 healthnow.ph/
✉ help@healthnow.ph
📱 HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

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



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

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



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

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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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

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[02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:02894COVID)

06 MARCH 2022, SUNDAY



NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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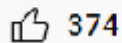
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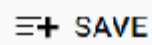
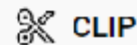
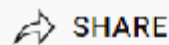
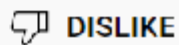
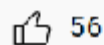
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