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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Month of the Ocean 2021: DENR underscores role of science to prompt behavior change towards a healthy ocean

By DENR Published on May 17, 2021

QUEZON CITY, May 17 -- As the country celebrates the Month of the Ocean (MOO) in May, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu highlighted the role of ocean science as a key to spur relevant behavior change towards the marine environment.

With this year's theme, "The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want," the DENR takes inspiration from the banner message of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) that aims to "strengthen the international cooperation needed to develop the scientific research and innovative technologies that can connect ocean science with the needs of society."

"Through science, we learn about the biodiversity that thrives in our oceans, its functions, potentials, risks, and opportunities. The present state of the ocean, the threats to it, and its proper management are all governed by science," Cimatu said.

Cimatu, who is a staunch advocate of environmental behavior change, acknowledges the significance of a science-based approach to change people's mindsets for the ocean's protection and conservation.

"For many years now prior to this global health crisis, our oceans were already under threat. Human action that has resulted in climate change, marine pollution, and loss of marine species forces us to make behavior shifts to reverse the ocean's declining health," he explained.

The DENR chief noted that scientific knowledge will help understand all these consequences and establish policies to address their impacts.

"The ocean contributes to the air we breathe and the food we eat. It regulates the climate and weather, stores carbon, houses marine biodiversity and provides recreation. As our oceans are under threat now more than ever, it is crucial that we engage on the science of the ocean for us to rethink our ways and save our vibrant seas," he added.

Spearheading this year's MOO celebration, the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau's (DENR-BMB) Coastal and Marine Division (CMD) has lined up month-long activities and information campaigns to expand awareness on the critical role of scientific information for the protection and conservation of the ocean.

The DENR-BMB kicked off the MOO Online Ocean Jam in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Philippines and Communities Organized for Resource Allocation (CORA) on May 1.

The activity sought to raise conservation awareness through music with talks from speakers on the science and academe sector via Facebook live.

Every Friday, from May 14-28, CORA in partnership with DENR-BMB will host the CORA Ocean School. This aims to impart a deeper understanding on the relationship between the ocean and



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humans and inspire aspiring 'planeteers' to move towards protecting our seas. Registration is free at wearecora.org/ocean-school.

On May 19, CMD's Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Program (CMEMP) will showcase Motions for the Ocean, a show to be performed by DENR's regional offices dancing to CMEMP's theme song 'Agos ng Buhay' featuring the different flagship species across the regions.

On May 28, DENR-BMB will host Hands-on-ARMS (Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structure) Online Storytelling for Kids to teach the youth on the current scientific research on the ocean climate, ocean acidification, and marine biodiversity.

The Philippines' Month of the Ocean is celebrated annually in May by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 57 signed by then President Joseph Estrada in 1998.

The DENR and the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources spearhead the observance of MOO in collaboration with other sectors. (DENR)

DENR asks public to protect mangroves to save Manila Bay

By Carlo Lorenzo J. DatuPublished on May 17, 2021

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, May 17 (PIA) -- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) asked the public to protect mangrove forests in Central Luzon to help save Manila Bay and sustain the region's coastal resources.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. noted that sustaining a healthy mangrove ecosystem has been essential in preserving the natural habitat of marine and migratory bird species.

"Planting mangroves keeps our coastal zones and shorelines healthy. It prevents erosion and protects coastal communities from storm surges and strong waves," he explained.

Moreno furthered that mangrove forests were essential in reviving the quality of water bodies in Manila Bay areas in the region, since the complex root system of mangroves filter nitrates and phosphates that rivers and other tributaries carry to the greater portion of the Bay.



Since the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation program was launched in 2019, a total of 80 hectares of mangrove forests were established in Bataan, Bulacan and Pampanga planted with 174,400 mangrove species. (DENR)

DENR records show that since the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation program was launched in 2019, a total of 80 hectares of mangrove forests were established in Bataan, Bulacan and Pampanga planted with 174,400 mangrove species.



DENR asks public to protect mangroves to save Manila Bay

According to studies, mangrove forests provide a natural refuge and habitat to several wildlife, and serves as a natural defense against typhoons, sea level rise and tides.

Since 2011, DENR has established about 1,120 hectares of mangrove plantation in the region under various coastal and marine rehabilitation programs. (CLJD-PIA 3)



Navotas LGU, DENR at PCG Ilinisin ang Manila Bay

By [Doris Franche](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- May 18, 2021 - 12:00am



Sa Memorandum of Agreement na pinirmahan nina Navotas City Mayor Toby Tiangco kasama ang DENR at PCG, maglalagay ang DENR ng Water Quality Monitoring Equipment sa baybayin ng Brgy. Tanza 1, kung saan regular na imomonitor ang kalidad ng tubig ng Manila Bay.
The STAR/Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — Nakipagkasundo at nakiisa na rin ang Navotas City sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources at Philippine Coast Guard upang mapabuti ang kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay.

Sa Memorandum of Agreement na pinirmahan nina Navotas City Mayor Toby Tiangco kasama ang DENR at PCG, maglalagay ang DENR ng Water Quality Monitoring Equipment sa baybayin ng Brgy. Tanza 1, kung saan regular na imomonitor ang kalidad ng tubig ng Manila Bay.

Ang Navotas LGU at PCG naman ang titiyak sa seguridad at pagbabantay ng WQME upang maiwasan ang pagkasira nito.

Ikinatuwa naman ng alkalde ang nasabing pakikipagtulungan ng mga ahensya ng gobyerno at sinabing nanatiling isa sa prayoridad ang paglinis sa Manila Bay sa kabila ng nagpapatuloy na pandemya.

Umaasa rin si Tiangco na ang patuloy na pangangalaga sa Manila Bay ay magresulta sa ibayong pagbuti ng kalidad ng tubig kagaya ng dati na ginagamit ang Manila bay bilang pangisdaan, langyan at iba pa.

Magtatagal ang MOA ng sampung taon.

Matatandaang nitong Marso ay natanggap ng lungsod ng Navotas ang parangal na 2020 Most Compliant Local Government Unit sa paglilinis at pangangalaga ng Manila Bay.



- Headline
- Editorial
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Ganito Kasi 'Yan

BY **ANDY VERBE** | **3261** | **andver@met.com.ph**
E-mail address: 3261@met.com.ph

EILANG bahagi ng patuloy na pagsisikap namangyan ng solusyon ang polusyon sa Manila Bay, 161 mula sa 178 local government units (LGUs) sa walong probinsiya labing sa Manila Bay na ang sabigyan ng abedder-composer anti sa pagtatulungan ng ilang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Senator Cynthia A. Villar.

"Undoubtedly, her advocacy has been a big push for the DENR strides in overcome profound challenges particularly in getting LGUs to prioritize compliance with RA 9003 in their governance, especially in the Manila Bay area," ayon kay Cimatu.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny J. Antiporda, ang 161 units ng abedder-composer ay pormal nang nabigyan sa kanya-kanyang local governments.

"This is a huge help to LGUs to comply with the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. It is crucial in the support Senator Villar has been giving to us in the DENR," sabi ni Antiporda.

Dagdag dito, ang pagsisikap ni Villar "raises the call for effective solid waste management as a major concern in the country's discourse on governance both at the national and local level."

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda, ang determinasyon ng lahat ng makro ang magiging damilang upang magkaroon ng komproting facilities ang lahat ng LGUs na hindi lamang pagtatulon ng LGUs sa RA 9003 kundi ibigong sa Sa private Court Mandamus para sa Manila Bay Rehabilitation na ang mga lokal na pamahalaan ay itataguyod na ang mga hakbang upang maipon ang pagtatulon ng solid at liquid wastes sa katibigan ng Manila Bay.

Ang Manila sayon ay may mga pagtatulon sa Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija at Tarlac sa Central Luzon; Cavite, Rizal at Laguna sa CALABARZON; at ang 16 na lungsod at mga munisipalidad sa Metro Manila.

Sa 161 shredder-composer anti na naitataguyod, nakatanggap ang Laguna ng 30 Nueva Ecija, 20 Bataan, 24 Pampanga, 22 Cavite, 23 Rizal, 14 Antipona, 12 at Tarlac, 6.

oOo

FORMAL nang itinataguyod ang memorandum of agreement sa pagitan ng Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) at ng Bureau of Plant Industry ng Department of Agriculture (DA).

Kaugray to ng pagtataguyod malinggaya plantation sa New Bilibid Prison (NBP) sa Muntinlupa City kung saan magkakaroon ng partisipasyon ang inmates ng NBP.

Kasabay nito ang ground breaking ceremony sa ngayon ng itataguyod para sa pagproseso ng mga abedder-composer.

Ayon kay BuCor Spokesman Gabriel Chacig, ang mga malinggaya na iba-iba sa mababang mga lugar na gagawing powder at magkakaroon ng mga kagamitan sa pagproseso ng abedder-composer.

Patuloy ang mga magkakaroon sa DENR's operation deprived of liberty ang technical working group ng Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

Nitinaw din ni Chacig na gagawing mababang mga lugar na ang magkakaroon ng malinggaya products, ibigong pagtataguyod pa rin ang mga kababaihan sa pagtataguyod ng mga abedder-composer.

Dagdag pa nito, bukod sa makakataguyod ng mga malinggaya ang mga inmates sa NBP, manatilihin ang mga abedder-composer sa proyekto.

Aniya, awwatiko ito sa GICTA at floor conduct Thuc Allowas sa ng mga inmates at mababawaw ang katiling sitersiya.

Maaan na ang mga magkakaroon ng mga press sa katiling paglala ang skills na maaatman mula sa mababawaw ang katiling proyekto.

SINISIKAP BIGYAN NG SOLUSYON ANG POLUSYON SA MANILA BAY



- Headline
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Kadyot

RAWAT REPORT

MAY SUNDOT

ANG KAHALAGAHAN NG CH'I SA ATING TAGUMPAY AT PAG-UNLAD

Kadyot

RAWAT REPORT

MAY SUNDOT

12 LUNES MAYO 17 2021 TAON 6 BILANG 3240

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MAY 16, 2021

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GERMANY NAGKAMPE



SINISIKAP BIGYAN NG SOLUSYON ANG POLUSYON SA MANILA BAY

BITANG bilang ng pamilya mapagpipilian, masasabi rin, ng solusyon ang polusyon sa Manila Bay, 161 units sa 178 local government units (LGUs) sa walang prohibisyon kasalungat sa Manila Bay area ang nakikigayag ng alderman-coordinator ng DENR sa pagtatanggapan sa ibang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Senador Cynthia Villar. "Individually, local advocacy has been a big push for the DENR, studies to overcome profound challenges particularly in getting LGUs to proactively comply with RA 9003 in their governance especially in the Manila Bay area," ayon kay Cerezo. Ayon may DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units, Conrado Bano D. Antiporda, ang 161 units ng shrewder-cooperator ay normal nang nagbigay sa kanya-kanya ng local government.

"This is a huge help to LGUs to comply with the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. It is anchored on the support Senator Villar has been giving to us in the DENR," sabi ni Antiporda.

Dagdag rito, ang pag-sisikap ni Villar "raises the call for effective solid waste management as a major concern in the country's discourse on governance both at the

national and local level." Sabi pa ni Antiporda, ang discrimination ng lalaki sa makamagandang daluyan ay nagkaroon ng recycling facilities ang label ng LGUs sa RA 9003 kumbi magiging sa Sa-presyo Center Muntinlupa pa sa Manila Bay Rehabilitation sa ang lokal ng naturalization of waste sa mga bakbang opening malawak ang pagtatanggapan ng solid at liquid wastes sa kaulabanan sa Manila Bay.

Ang Manila Bay region ay kasalungat ng mga pagbabalik ng Bataan, Pangasinan, Batangas, Nueva Ecija at Tarlac sa Central Luzon; Cavite, Rizal at Laguna sa CALABARZON at ang 15 sa kumbi sa bang muntinlupa sa Metro Manila.

Sa 161 shrewder-cooperator units sa lokal na, nabibilang sa Lungsod ng 30; Nueva Ecija, 30; Bulacan, 24; Pangasinan, 22; Cavite, 23; Rizal, 14; Bataan, 12; at Tarlac, 6.

PORACAL nang ibigay ang memorandum of agreement sa pagtatag ng Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) at ng Bureau of Plant Industry at ng Department of Agriculture (DA).

Kasabay sa pagtatag ng maharap na plantation sa New Bilibid Prison (NBP) sa Muntinlupa City kung saan magtatag ang pagtatanggapan ang isang ag NBP.

Kasabay sa ang ground breaking ceremony kung saan magtatag ng pagtatanggapan ng mga daluyan ng matatagay.

Ayon kay BuCor Spokesperson Gabriel Chaclo, ang angmahalagay na baharutan sa pagtatag ng plantation sa pagtatag ng power at magtatag ng mga kagamitan sa pagtatanggapan ng essential of ang matatagay.

Pankalabang ang matatagay sa PFI sa mga na deprived of liberty, ang technical working group sa Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

Nilalaro din ni Chaclo sa bagram't maraming mga pamilya ang matatagay pagtatag, prayoridad sa im-ang Pilipinas sa pagtatanggapan ng.

Tayang sa nito, bakal sa makatagal ng mga matatagay ng ibang mga matatagay sa NBP, matatagay sa im-ang matatagay ng mga matatagay sa im-ang matatagay.

Ayon, matatagay ang matatagay sa im-ang matatagay ng mga matatagay sa im-ang matatagay.

Matatagay ang matatagay ng mga matatagay sa im-ang matatagay ng mga matatagay sa im-ang matatagay.



CaPENRO kag DENR-EMB Region VI, nagpatigayon sang Ocular Inspection sa Waste Disposal Facility kag ginsara nga mga Dumpsites sang 11 ka mga LGUs

By [rmnroxas newsteam](#)
-May. 17, 2021 at 6:49pm



Roxas City, Capiz – Nagpatigayon sang Ocular Inspection sa mga Waste Disposal Facility kag ginsara nga dumpsites sang onse(11) ka mga local government units ang ang CaPENRO kag DENR-EMB Region VI.

Katuyoan sini nga ma-assess ang subong nga sitwasyon kag mamonitor ang rehabilitasyon sang mga ginsara nga dumpsites kag iban pa nga disposal facilities sa probinsya.

Ang grupo kaupod sang tagsa ka mga Environment and Natural Resources Office, ginsurvey ang area kag ginpreparar ang inspection report agud nga ma-dokumento ang progreso kag para mabuligan ang tagsa ka mga LGU nga malab-ot ang timeframe nga gin-set sang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau nga ma-rehabilitate ang napasara nga mga dumpsite.

Gin-evaluate man sang grupo ang pag-operate sang tagsa ka Material Recovery Facility(MRF). Kalakip sa ginbisitahan sang grupo amo ang napulo(10) ka napasara dumpsites sa:

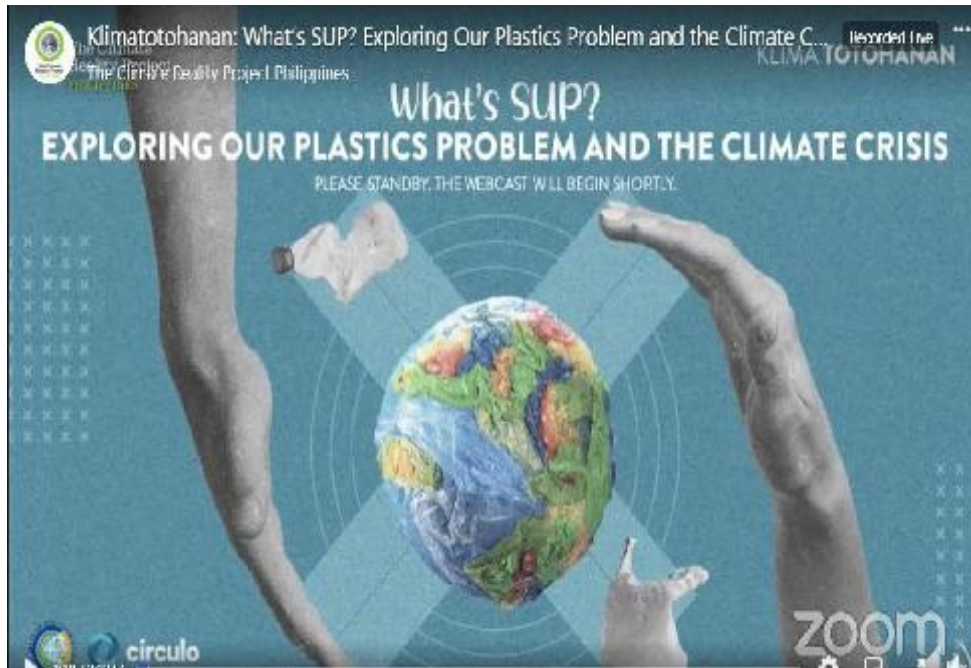
-Barangay Natividad, Pilar -Barangay Binuntucan, Pontevedra -Barangay Maninang, Sitio Bangkal, Sapián -Barangay Aglalana, Dumarao -Barangay San Miguel, Sitio Utod, Dumalag -Barangay San Jose, Roxas City -Barangay Nagba, Cuartero -Barangay Mianay, Ivisan -Barangay Agtambi, Dao -Barangay Cabugcabug, President Roxas kag ang Waste Disposal Facility sang banwa sang Sigma nga nahamtang sa Barangay Pagbunitan, Sitio Balugo.

(c) – CAPENRO

Source: <https://rmn.ph/capenro-kag-denr-emb-region-vi-nagpatigayon-sang-ocular-inspection-sa-waste-disposal-facility-kag-ginsara-nga-mga-dumpsites-sang-11-ka-mga-lgus/>

Advocates express support, reservations about proposed single-use plastics law

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on May 17, 2021



The Climate Ready Project Facebook Page screengrab

QUEZON CITY, May 17 (PIA) -- Climate and environmental advocates pushing for systemic changes to address the country's plastic pollution problem expressed support and reservations about House Bill No. 9147 or the Single-Use Plastics Regulation Bill, which was approved by the Committee on Ecology of the House of Representatives last March.

The comments were made during the 8th episode of the Klimatotohanan webcast series of The Climate Reality Project Philippines entitled, "What's SUP? Exploring our Plastics Problem and the Climate Crisis," which delved into the urgency of solving the plastics problem and the need for policies that will phase out single-use plastics in the country.

House Bill No. 9147 was approved at the Committee level after the conduct of several technical working group meetings and consultations with stakeholders and experts. It officially consolidated 38 bills and four resolutions seeking to phase out or regulate single-use plastics.

For Climate Reality Leader Janssen Calvelo, Network Organizer for Southeast Asia of the Break Free From Plastic Movement, the bill is a great start towards solving the plastic pollution crisis. "Recycling alone cannot solve this problem. We cannot recycle out of this problem," he said.

Calvelo, however, pointed out the need to improve the definition of single-use plastics in the current version of the bill.

"There should be a more encompassing definition of single-use plastics because we have seen in different situations where other companies or the plastic industry in other countries have leveraged on using this other definition of plastics," Calvelo said, referring to compostable plastics that are made out of biodegradable materials but are coated with plastics or even mixed with chemicals that make them difficult to decompose in a normal environment.

Advocates express support, reservations about proposed single-use plastics law

Atty. Gloria Estenzo Ramos, Vice President of Oceana Philippines, meanwhile, said she has reservations about the new single-use plastics bill.

Calling the new bill a surplusage, Ramos explained that the regulation and phase-out of single-use plastics are already covered by Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. "What is lacking here is the implementation. We don't need this [new] bill for the agencies to do their job because it's already in RA 9003," she said.

Republic Act No. 9003 mandates the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) to prepare, within one year from the effectivity of the law, the list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAPs) to be banned following a phase-out plan that will be developed in consultation with stakeholders.

However, 20 years since the law has passed, NSWMC has yet to develop a phase-out plan for NEAPs, which should include single-use plastics.

Ramos also shared that she is concerned about the new bill repealing Republic Act No. 9003, which includes a provision for citizen suits. "There is a recognition for the rights of citizens to hold accountable public officials, government agencies, private sector, or individuals who are not complying with the provisions of RA 9003."

Commenting on the current form of the bill, Climate Reality Leader Carlo Delantar, Co-Chair of the Global Shapers Climate Action Steering Committee at the World Economic Forum and Circular Economy Pioneer at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, pointed out the need to ensure a just transition for all sectors that will be affected by the bill.

"I believe we should look into incentivizing micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to be on par with extended producer responsibility schemes," Delantar said. "How do we not affect all these taho vendors or sari-sari stores that rely on single-use plastics? We need to create that long-term anti-disruption, especially when we're looking at the post-pandemic situation," he added.

Atty. Rio Catbagan, Chief of the Legal Services Division of the Climate Change Commission, a member agency of the House Technical Working Group on Single-Use Plastics, said that the economic implications of the phase-out have been discussed in Congress.

She noted that it is important to give affected MSMEs and laborers time to innovate and find ways on how they can shift and implement the transition. She added that the government could support through financial packages, workforce restructuring, and capacity building services.

The new single-use plastic bill is one of the many topics of discussion during the 8th episode of the Klimatotohanan webcast. To watch the episode in full, click [here](#). (PIA NCR)



Student leaders set up zero-waste community pantry inside school



BACOLOD. The zero-waste community pantry established by student leaders at the main entrance of the University of Negros Occidental - Recoletos in Bacolod City. (Contributed photo)

May 17, 2021

THE University Community Development Office (Ucdo) Juniors Club of the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos (UNO-R) in Bacolod City has established a zero-waste community pantry at the university's main entrance starting on Monday, May 17, 2021.

The pantry is open to the general public, especially to nearby communities.

It was named Caritas Community Pantry, signifying one of UNO-R core values -- love or caritas.

The concept is framed from the Maginhawa Community Pantry which aimed to address the "desperate need for sustenance" in this pandemic.

Due to limited resources, the pantry will serve on a "first-come-first-served" basis.

The pantry highlights the importance of #WalaUsik or zero-waste lifestyle inspired by the Zero-Waste Community Pantry that was set up by a group of young leaders of Saint Theresa Street, Peñafrañcia in Barangay Cupang, Antipolo City.

UNO-Rians took the necessary measures to ensure a minimal utilization of single-use plastic.



Student leaders set up zero-waste community pantry inside school

Second-year Civil Engineering student Cinderella Dellosa, who is the president of the Ucdco Juniors Club, said the goal of the pantry is not just to give out essential items.

"It also aims to encourage the use of recyclable bags and bottles and stop the use of single-use plastics as we celebrate the Oceans Month this May," she added.

Residents are also advised and encouraged to bring their own bags or bottles when they line up to get food items.

The project is consolidated by organizations amassing within the university and several external linkages.

The university, to date, is still accepting donations which can be dropped at the main entrance of the school. (PR)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1894933/Bacolod/Local-News/Student-leaders-set-up-zero-waste-community-pantry-inside-school>



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TAON: 8 EDISYON: 3761 LUNES ABRIL 26, 2021



Ganito Kasi 'Yan

ni ANDY VERDE

E-mail Address: andyverde@yahoo.com

SINISIGURO nitong si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na dadaan sa maging pag-aaral ang lahat ng nakabibing aplikasyon para sa pagmimina upang matiyak na hindi magiging masama ang epekto nito sa kapaligiran bagama't nagdesisyon na si Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na tunggali ang moratorium sa bagong mining operations.

"There is no automatic approval even if these mining applicants submit all the requirements," pa-

liwanag ni Cimatu bilang paglilinaw sa pag-isyu ni Pangulong Duterte ng Executive Order (EO) 130 na nagtatanggal sa ban ng bagong kasunduan sa pagmimina sa bansa.

Ang EO 130 na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte noong Abril 14 ay nag-aminenda sa Section 4 (Grant of Mineral Agreements Pending New Legislation) ng EO 79 na inisyu ni dating Pangulong Benigno Aquino III noong 2012.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang lahat ng nakabibing aplikasyon ay manapuhahan lamang matapos dumaan sa

MINING PERMIT DADAAN SA BUTAS NG KARAYOM

masusing pag-aaral at balidasyon ng Final Exploration Report, Mining Feasibility Studies, at iba pa.

Ang Final Exploration Report na pagbibayring ng MGB Central Office ay nagpapakita na ang mineral resources at reserves ay marami at masari itong umabot ng sumpung taong pagmimina o "commercial extraction life" para sa metallic minerals habang pitong taon naman para sa non-metallic.

Samantala, ang Mining Feasibility Study ay nagpapakita naman na ang halagang makukuba sa pagmimina ay kayang bayaran ang lahat ng gastusin sa mining operation kabilang na dito ang operating cost, administration overhead, milling cost kung sakaling may processing plant, environmental cost, social development cost at safety and health

cost. Bukod dito, sinabi pa ni Cimatu na ang kumpanya ay kinakailangang may financial capability na bayaran ang national at local taxes, royalties, local government fees, iba pang national government fees, interest at pambayad sa mga utang.

Ipinaliwanag pa ni Cimatu na kapag ang naging resulta ng feasibility studies ay nagpapakita ng "less than ideal returns" mula sa operasyon, ang aplikasyon ay hindi maaaprubahan.

"It is also possible that new requirements will come up based on the newly issued Order. The MGB-DENR-Department of Finance Working Group is set to convene to draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations of EO 130," aniya.

Bukod dito, kailangang patarayan ng aplikante na ang benepisyo ng makukuba sa mining operation, maging national interest, ay ligt sa pangunahing muna sa masamang epekto nito sa kapaligiran.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na maglalay na ang DENR ng karagdagang environmental measures upang matiyak na magkakaroon ng balanse sa pangangalaga sa kapaligiran at ng economic at social concerns ng mining industry.

Noong 2018 nang mag-isyu si Cimatu ng Administrative Order 2018-2019 na naglahan ng bagong environmental policies na magbibigay ng katiyakan sa pagpapantili ng environmental conditions sa lawat yugto ng mining operation at mabawasan at disturbed area ng mining project sa lahat ng oras.



Conservation org calls for action vs 'illegal activities' in Upper Marikina Watershed

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#)(Philstar.com)

- May 17, 2021 - 9:23pm



Photo taken on May 13, 2021 shows the burning of a patch of land in Upper Marikina Watershed.

MANILA, Philippines — A conservation organization in Rizal raised alarm over the clearings and illegal encroachments in the Upper Marikina Watershed as it called on authorities to take urgent action against the destructive activities happening inside the protected area.

Around 10 hectares of land have been affected by fires and clearings in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) since April, according to Billie Dumaliang, trustee and advocacy officer of Masungi Georeserve.

There has also been an increase in alleged encroachments and construction of resorts inside the watershed, she added.

“It is saddening that there is still impunity in the watershed. Of all places, it should be well-managed and well-protected from human exploitation, as defined by law,” Dumaliang, also a convener of the Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition, said in a message to Philstar.com Monday.

Protected watershed

The Upper Marikina Watershed is a protected area that forms the upper area of the drainage basin of the Marikina River. It covers areas in Antipolo City, Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo and Tanay in Rizal.

Proclamation 296 issued in 2011 declared the Marikina Watershed Reservation a protected area and renamed it to UMRBPL.

The proclamation placed the watershed “under the administrative jurisdiction and control of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and shall be administered in accordance with



Conservation org calls for action vs 'illegal activities' in Upper Marikina Watershed

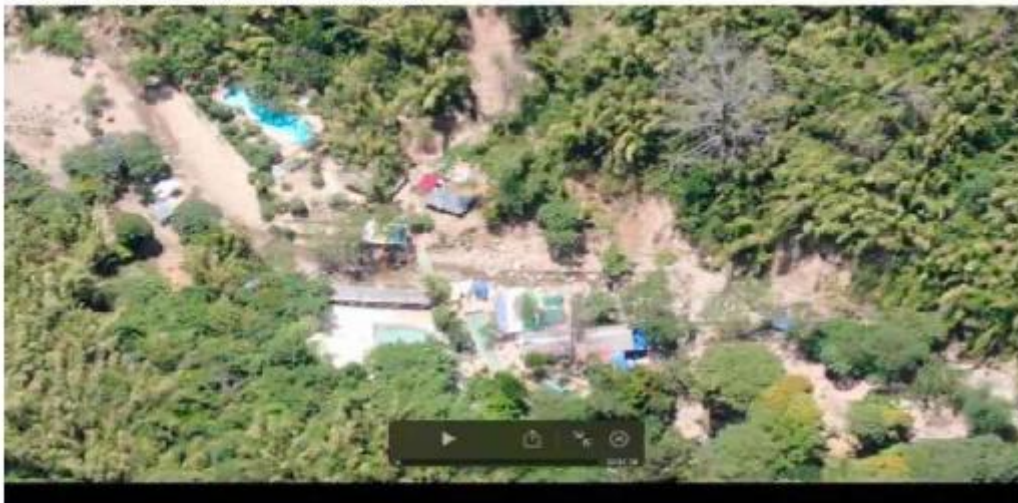
the provisions" of the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992 and its implementing rules and regulations.

Destroying or disturbing any plants or animals, squatting, mineral locating, constructing or maintaining any kind of structure, and damaging roads and trails are among the prohibited acts within protected areas.

"The watershed is inherently tied to our daily lives, regulating water flow and quality, serving as home to precious wildlife and trees, and shielding us from floods, landslides and extreme climate," Dumaliang said.

Gov't action

ANNEX A: GSB Resort Development



Handout photo showed what looked like resorts that were constructed in the watershed.
Billie Dumaliang, Handout



Conservation org calls for action vs 'illegal activities' in Upper Marikina Watershed

Dumaliang said the organization wrote a letter to the DENR-CALABARZON about the fire and the resort development, but it has yet to respond. They also reported illegal activities within the watershed to the local government and police.

The organization also called on the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer of Rizal to act on the encroachment of resorts and other personalities.

Dumaliang was told the PENRO officer was instructed to file cases against resort operators and other personalities. But she said they have yet to receive a response on their question "on why he is not issuing a cease and desist order and why they are not stopping the ongoing constructions on the ground."

Philstar.com has reached out to DENR-CALABARZON and PENRO Rizal for comment but they have yet to respond as of posting. The story will be updated once they send their response.

"We, citizens and the government's enforcers, cannot afford to turn a blind eye to these illegal activities, or else we are normalizing them," Dumaliang said.

"Actions towards real protection need to be consistent and not just when there is a public outcry such as the time of Typhoon Ulysses. We cannot and should not give up the watershed to violators and unscrupulous entities," she added.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/05/17/2098933/conservation-org-calls-action-vs-illegal-activities-upper-marikina-watershed/amp/>



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
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Ganito Kasi 'Yan

ni RANBY VERDE DENR/Environment

Facebook Address: <https://www.facebook.com/randy.verde>

BINALAHAN nitong si Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mga salamin na ginagamit na internet para sa illegal wildlife trading na pailaloy sa mga ministro ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"Mobility restrictions may cause some deterrence to our wildlife enforcers, but these shall not

stop them from implementing environmental laws to protect our national resources," sabi ni Cimatu.

No ang palatag si Cimatu ay mapus na maayos ang kanyang mga galing benje. Nais niya itong itataguyod bilang mga ilegal na pagpapalagan ng mga ilegal na pagpapalagan ng DENR's Environment Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF).

Nakamagpala sa mga operasyon ng PETA cockatoo (Proboscigerus imperator) mula sa pag-iingat ng mga species.

Si Sanchez ay senador ng mga operasyon ng DENR EPETF na nagbibigay ng ilegal na wildlife species sa online. Siya ay nagtutok sa ginawang carterism operation sa internet ng DENR EPETF sa publiko pag-iingat ng mga operasyon ng DENR EPETF at Manila Police District Station 5 at Manila District Anti-Cybercrime

Team na pinamunuan ni Major Reynaldo Salas.

Sa gitnang na operasyon karakulawala (kung gawalan) sa Sa. Mesa, Manila ay hindi nakapagpakita ng permits ni Sanchez tulad ng Certificate of Wildlife Form Permit at Local Transport Permit na nakapagpapalagan ng mga ilegal na pagpapalagan ng DENR.

Si Sanchez ay busasallin sa inquest proceedings sa Manila City Prosecutors Office at nakaharap sa kasing pag-iingat sa Ro-

public Act (RA) 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation Act of 2000.

Nakasad pa sa Section 23 ng RA 9147 na "collection of threatened wildlife including the by-products and derivatives, shall be allowed only for scientific, or breeding or propagation purposes, and provided that only the accredited individuals, business, research, educational, or scientific entities shall be allowed in collect for conservation breeding or propagation purposes."

INTERNET GAMIT SA ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADING



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

TUNGHAYAN: ANG UNANG BLOWJOB NG DALAGAN

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'TUMUHOG
PANGANGAI
PAGINA 1

BALDWIN, KUNTI
ENSAYO NG GILAS
PAGINA 12

TAON: 8 EDISYON: 3766 SABADO MAYO 1, 2021

P12.00
LANG SA
METRO



Ganito Kasi 'Yan

ni ANDY VIRDE

E-Mail Address: andyvirde2421@yahoo.com

NAGBABALA ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa labat-labot sa illegal trade ng wildlife species matapos malumpisika ng mga iskotidad ang tinatayang P160,000.00 halaga ng undocumented bearded dragon (Pogona vitticeps) sa binagawang checkpoint sa cababuan ng Quirino Avenue.

Manila kamicalawa. Sa pagtutuluagan ng DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) at Pandacan Police Station, nakumpisika ang 16 na juvenile bearded dragons mula sa isang meror de edad na ragtangkang dalhin ang mga ito sa Carlinar Market sa Pwexy City lulan ng motoriklo. Nabigo ang mesor de

KAMPANYA VS PAGPUPUSLIT NG WILDLIFE SPECIES

edad na magpacita ng permit mula sa DENR. Ayon kay EPETF Executive Director Nilo Tamoria, ang pagkakaserto sa mensor de edad ay binaga na ito ng pakikipagtulungan ng DENR sa law enforcement agencies upang maaresto ang labat ng illegal wildlife traders. Iginag-utos din ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa EPETF na paigtingin ang taniang kampanya laban sa mga illegal wildlife trader: lalo na ngayong panahon ng pande-nya. "We are aware that there are those in the ille-

gal wildlife trafficking taking advantage of the pandemic, which is why we are doubly vigilant," sabi pa ni Tamoria. Ang mga nakumpisikang reptiles ay dinala sa Biodiversity Management Bureau ng DENR para sa safekeeping sa kanilang Wildlife Rescue Center facility sa Quezon City. Ipinaliwanag pa ni Tamoria na ang pagbebenta ng captive-bred bearded dragon ay binabantayan. Maano ibong ibenta upang alagaan o bilang "pets" ngunit kinakailangan ang permit

mula sa DENR. Anya, ang pagbiyahe at pagbebenta ng wildlife nang walang kinakulang permiso at tanyag dokumento ay ipinagbabawal sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001. "Let us obey the regulatory processes required in trading wildlife species, especially those involving exotic species like the bearded dragon to protect the country's local wildlife species and ecosystems," saad pa ni Tamoria.

Magandang araw! Ang mga artikulo sa itaas ay mga artikulo ng mga manunulat sa Bagong Sagad. Ang mga artikulo sa itaas ay mga artikulo ng mga manunulat sa Bagong Sagad. Ang mga artikulo sa itaas ay mga artikulo ng mga manunulat sa Bagong Sagad.



Boracay Island 'CARPable' lots undergo govt revalidation



[BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MAY 18, 2021

2 MINUTE READ



In Photo: An almost-empty beachfront lies on the country's most famous beach resort island of Boracay.

Three government agencies are now conducting a revalidation of 12 lots on Boracay Island for subsequent acquisition and distribution to landless farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

"After the successful implementation of the first batch of landholdings that was turned over by DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] to DAR [Department of Agrarian Reform], the second batch of agricultural lands were again identified comprising of 12 lots for subsequent acquisition and distribution to identified agrarian reform beneficiaries [ARBs]. The said parcels of lands require revalidation pursuant to DENR-LMB [Land Management Bureau] Technical Bulletin No. 2019-001 entitled: "Procedures on the Validation, Segregation Survey and Turn-over of Identified Lots in the Island of Boracay Under Land Reform," DAR Western Visayas Regional Director Sheila B. Enciso said in a statement.

The revalidation involves ocular inspection and workshop that was recently held in Malay, Aklan.

The activity was in line with the pronouncement of President Duterte to transform Boracay Island as a "land reform area."

DENR earlier turned over in 2018 to the DAR the first batch of eight landholdings in Boracay covering a total land area of 7.9640 hectares situated in Manoc-Manoc, Boracay. Portions of the said landholdings were distributed to 44 members of Ati and Tumandok tribe under collective ownership.



Boracay Island 'CARPable' lots undergo govt revalidation

Aklan provincial agrarian reform program officer Ma. Teresa C. Valencia said that after the tactical brainstorming, workshop, and field revalidation, the participants identified the dominant land use based on previous reports and actual land utilization.

"We will establish baseline data of specific landholdings for CARP coverage and generate information and recommendations for turn-over of agricultural lands by DENR to DAR," Valencia said.

Earlier in 2019, President Duterte also signed Executive Order 75, which mandates the distribution of government-owned lands under the second phase of the agrarian reform program.

DAR Secretary John R. Castriciones said the order will pave the way for the distribution of government-owned agricultural lands that will be distributed under the CARP.

Participants in the Malay, Aklan workshop include representatives from DAR, DENR, DA, Task Force Agrarian Boracay Island, Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee, and other stakeholders involved in the project.



DAR, DA at DENR, nagsagawa ng field revalidation para sa ikalawang batch ng lupang isasailalim sa CARP sa Boracay Island

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)
-May. 17, 2021 at 2:20pm



Nagsagawa ng pagsusuri at ocular inspection ang Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Agriculture (DA) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang matukoy ang ikalawang batch ng mga lupain na maaaring isailalim sa Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) sa Boracay Island.

Sinabi ni DAR Western Visayas Regional Director Sheila Enciso na alinsunod na rin ito sa utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ilagay ang Boracay Island bilang isang 'land reform area.'

Magugunita na noong 2018 ay naglipat ang DENR sa unang batch ng walong parsela ng lupain sa Boracay na kinapapalooban ng 7.9640 ektarya sa Manoc-Manoc, Boracay. Ang bahagi ng nasabing lupain ay ipinagkaloob sa 44 na mga miyembro ng tribong Ati at Tumandok sa ilalim ng collective ownership.

Sa pangalawang batch, nasa labindalawang lote ang ipapamahagi sa mga matutukoy na agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Ang nasabing mga parsela ng lupa ay nangangailangan ng revalidation.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/dar-da-at-denr-nagsagawa-ng-field-revalidation-para-sa-ikalawang-batch-ng-lupang-isasailalim-sa-carp-sa-boracay-island/>



DAR, DA, DENR conduct field revalidation for second batch of lands to be covered under CARP in Boracay island

By DAR Published on May 17, 2021

QUEZON CITY, May 17 -- To identify possible landholdings that can be covered for the second batch under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in Boracay Island, the Departments of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Agriculture (DA), and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently conducted a revalidation, ocular inspection, and workshop held in Malay, Aklan.

DAR Western Visayas Regional Director Sheila B. Enciso said the activity is in line with the pronouncement of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to place Boracay Island as a 'land reform area'.

DENR earlier turned over in 2018 to the DAR the first batch of eight (8) landholdings in Boracay island covering a total land area of 7.9640 hectares situated in Manoc-Manoc, Boracay. Portions of the said landholdings were distributed to 44 members of Ati and Tumandok tribe under collective ownership.

"After the successful implementation of the first batch of landholdings that was turned over by DENR to DAR, the second batch of agricultural lands were again identified comprising of twelve (12) lots for subsequent acquisition and distribution to identified agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). The said parcels of lands require revalidation pursuant to DENR-LMB Technical Bulletin No. 2019-001 entitled: "Procedures on the Validation, Segregation Survey and Turn-over of Identified Lots in the Island of Boracay Under Land Reform," Enciso said.

Aklan provincial agrarian reform program officer Ma. Teresa C. Valencia said that after the tactical brainstorming, workshop, and field revalidation, the participants identified the dominant land use based on previous reports and actual land utilization.

"We will establish baseline data of specific landholdings for CARP coverage and generate information and recommendations for turn-over of agricultural lands by DENR to DAR," Valencia said.

Earlier in 2019, President Duterte also signed Executive Order 75, which mandates the distribution of government-owned lands under the second phase of the agrarian reform program.

DAR Secretary John R. Castriciones said the order will pave the way for the distribution of government-owned agricultural lands that will be distributed under the CARP.

Participants in the said workshop include representatives from DAR, DENR, DA, Task Force Agrarian Boracay Island, Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee, and other stakeholders involved in the project. (DAR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1075396>



Municipal fishing grounds under siege



[BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MAY 16, 2021

6 MINUTE READ



Fishermen in a municipal fishing ground

Using Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite, commercial fishing vessels were frequently detected in municipal waters in various parts of the Philippines.

The Karagatan Patrol, a Facebook page created by Oceana, a nongovernment international ocean conservation advocacy group, frequently reported “sightings” of commercial fishing vessels in these areas.



Fishermen mending nets



Municipal fishing grounds under siege

The mere presence of commercial fishing vessels in municipal waters is highly suspicious because Republic Act 8550 as amended by RA 10654, or the Amended Fisheries Code, declared these fishing grounds for the exclusive use of small fishermen

Municipal fishing grounds are the areas between the shorelines and 15 kilometers (km) toward the sea. They are for the exclusive use of small, mostly subsistence fishermen, who have limited capacity to fish in distant waters.

Sadly, these areas are already overfished.

Fish stocks are depleted in many of the country's so-called traditional fishing grounds due to overfishing. Even with a law that prohibits commercial fishing in these areas, small fishermen witness the rampant violation being committed by commercial fishing companies, hauling fish as they please.

Commercial fishing, exemption

In the Philippines, commercial fishing are classified either as small scale, or fishing with passive or active gear with fishing vessels of 3.1 gross tons up to 20 gross tons; medium scale, or fishing with gears and vessels of 20.1 gross tons up to 150 gross tons; and large-scale, or using gears and vessels of more than 150 gross tons.

Small and medium-scale commercial fishing may be allowed by concerned local government units (LGUs) that have jurisdiction in municipal fishing grounds between 10.1 km to 15 km from the shoreline, provided they are with the depths of at least 7 fathoms, or 12.8 meters deep, as certified by the appropriate agency.

Threat to municipal fishing

Considered a serious threat to municipal fishing grounds, allowing commercial fishing in these areas is about to get even worse.

A proposed measure—stiffly being opposed by 1,100 fisherfolk organizations, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), environmental groups and conservation advocates—will allow commercial fishing without the need for special permits from concerned LGUs.

Filed by Cebu Rep. Pablo John F. Garcia, House Bill 7583 seeks to allow commercial fishing between 8.1 km to 15 km inside the municipal fishing ground.

In his explanatory note, Garcia said amending the law that will include an exception ensures that the various economic gains brought about by fishing may be experienced by more LGUs, fishers and families nationwide.

"This pandemic has debilitated many industries and has left many workers destitute. All efforts must be exerted toward recovering from this crippling period of our nation's history," he said.

The fisherfolk groups from Aklan, Albay, Antique, Aurora province, Biliran, Bohol, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Camiguin, Capiz, Catanduanes, Cavite, Cebu, Eastern Samar, Guimaras,



Municipal fishing grounds under siege

Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Palawan, Samar, Siquijor, Southern Leyte, Surigao del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay believe the measure will surely impact on their livelihood.

Oceana is among those at the forefront of the nationwide campaign against the passage of the bill.

Danny Ocampo, senior campaign manager at Oceana, said fisherfolk organizations are coming together to fight against the passage of the bill.

"It is significant because it shows that the main sector that will be affected by this bill is opposing it. Fisherfolk are the second poorest of the poor in our country. This bill will further curtail their [exclusive] rights to municipal water resources," Ocampo explained.

Fragile ecosystem

Oceana, together with other civil society organizations (CSOs), including Rare and the NGOs for Fisheries Reform, said House Bill 7853—which seeks to amend Section 18 of Republic Act 8550, or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 as amended by RA 10654 of the Amended Fisheries Code—will affect the sustainability of the country's already fragile marine ecosystem.

Oceana Vice President Gloria Estenzo Ramos reiterated that municipal waters are important areas that are highly productive because they harbor important ecosystems and habitats, such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves.

"These provide shelter and reproduction areas for fishes and other marine organisms. It is important that they are healthy and resilient to the impacts of the climate crisis and to the health emergency we all face," she said in a statement issued on April 29.

Moreover, Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio, legal and policy director at Oceana, said the Philippine Constitution protects the preferential rights of subsistence fisherfolks to fish within municipal waters.

"This protection is also enshrined in the amended Fisheries Code. The Constitution also promotes the social justice principle that those who have 'less in life, must have more in law,'" Eisma-Osorio told the BusinessMirror via e-mail on April 28.

Increased fishing pressure

On April 28, Diovanie de Jesus, Campaign and Science Specialist at Oceana, said in a separate e-mail that allowing commercial fishing in municipal waters will increase fishing pressure in these areas.

"Though this may increase the commercial fishing production initially, eventually this is not sustainable because our waters are generally overfished already," she said.

According to de Jesus, small fisherfolk are at the losing end of the deal if the proposed measure is enacted.

"Because their [commercial fishing vessels] gears can catch more fish, they can have higher income at the expense of the small fisherfolks; and displace small fisherfolks, the tragedy of the commons," she said.



Municipal fishing grounds under siege

Threat to other marine wildlife

Commercial fishing in municipal waters, she said, is a threat to other marine wildlife species.

"These are called bycatch. They can be sea turtles, marine mammals like dolphins, whales, seabirds and other nontargeted fish like sharks and rays. Though smaller fisherfolk can have bycatch also, commercial fishers have the higher potential and magnitude for bycatch," she added.

What makes commercial fishing in municipal waters dangerous, de Jesus said, is the implications, such as inequality and displacement of small fisherfolks.

She explained that higher catch, which may lead or worsen overfishing, also leads to the higher magnitude for bycatch and higher potential for habitat destruction because of the nature of gears.

She added that commercial fishing use active gears, which are bigger and cover more areas, while other methods like trawl fishing may damage substrate.

Another Oceana marine scientist, Alvin Simon, agreed with de Jesus that allowing commercial fishing between 8.1 km to 15 km from the shoreline will increase fishing pressure.

"This may induce ecological collapse since overfishing tends to erode the food web which can lead to the loss of other important marine life, including those that are vulnerable, such as marine turtles, sharks, marine mammals and other megafauna," he said via e-mail on April 29.

Worse, he said commercial fishers can outcompete the small-scale fisherfolks since they have higher capacity to catch more fish in the municipal water.

Moreover, Simon said there is a possibility of a dispute arising in the community once commercial fishing is allowed in municipal fishing waters, "especially since small-scale fishers will be affected."

Still recovering

Marita Rodriguez, executive director of the NGOs for Fisheries Reform, told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on May 11, that allowing commercial fishing will adversely affect the livelihood of small fishermen.

Rodriguez said municipal fishing grounds have yet to fully recover from the impact of decades of destructive fishing methods.

"In the 1970s and 1980s, the policy of the government then is to extract [fishes]. But in the 1990s, together with other NGOs helping small fishermen, we learned about the problem of overfishing, the destruction of marine and coastal ecosystem, that's why RA 8550 was enacted to promote sustainability," she explained.

"Small fishermen can only fish near the shores because they do not have a big fishing boats to start with," she said.

Rodriguez added that small fishermen do not have the means unlike commercial fishing vessels to go out and fish in distant waters with the gasoline requirement, food and other provisions.



Municipal fishing grounds under siege

Important ecosystems, resources

Municipal waters are important areas that are highly productive because they harbor important ecosystems and habitats, such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves.

"These provide shelter and reproduction areas for fishes and other marine organisms. It is important that they are healthy and resilient to the impacts of the climate crisis and to the health emergency we all face," she said.

According to Ramos, sustainable fisheries supply will be in gross danger, especially now that the country is facing the Covid-19 pandemic and aggravated by low protein source from pork as a result of the Asian swine fever outbreak.

She said, "We need to protect our fishery resources now more than ever."

Images courtesy of Diovania de Jesus/Oceana and Oceana

Manila's mega Covid-19 vaccination site is a threat to urban forest and access to vaccines, activists say

The Philippine government is proposing a 10-hectare vaccine facility in an area that will allegedly require the cutting of about 500 trees. Proponents of the facility deny that any forest will be affected but activists are not convinced.



The Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF) property in Parañaque City, Philippines. The white tents make up an existing Covid-19 quarantine facility, considered the biggest in Metro Manila. It is surrounded by a lush forest, home to about 177 bird species, and lined on the side by a coastal forest and magrove plantations. Image: Nayong Pilipino Foundation

By [Hannah Alcosoba Fernandez](#)

May 17, 2021

Philippine authorities' efforts to ramp up the country's Covid-19 vaccination programme have come under fire after environmentalists criticised the planned construction of a mega-facility that will impact an urban forest in Parañaque City, Metro Manila.

The Philippines is rolling out its vaccination programme against Covid-19, with a target 70 million to receive the jab this year. The proposed vaccination centre to be constructed on the property of a non-profit organisation Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF) will [reportedly](#) accelerate inoculation by around 10,000 individuals daily.

The Philippines suffered a [surge in Covid cases in March](#) prompting the government to reinstate stricter measures. Daily cases this month have so far [averaged](#) around 6,700 in the country, which has the second-highest number of Covid-19 cases and deaths in Southeast Asia.

Manila's mega Covid-19 vaccination site is a threat to urban forest and access to vaccines, activists say

Last month, the country's pandemic task force [approved](#) the proposal for the mega facility's construction at the Nayong Pilipino. But construction has not started amid a standoff between the NPF and the taskforce.

The NPF, an autonomous government corporation that sits under the department of tourism, stated on 6 May that the building of the vaccination facility in its 10-hectare property will result to the felling of close to 500 trees that will "kill the existing ecosystem".

The foundation, which has legal obligations to turn the area into a cultural park, has also raised concerns about bringing people into close proximity to a quarantine facility, also located at the Nayong Pilipino.

Gregorio Bueta, professor of environment and natural resources law at the Ateneo de Manila University School of Law, said that although there is an urgent need to roll out vaccines, creating such a facility will affect the coastal forest with beach forest species in Parañaque, Las Piñas, and towards the outskirts of the capital with "irreversible" environmental impacts in the long run. Several parts of the reclaimed area have natural mangrove plantations which fight against storm surges and coastal erosion.

Carlito Galvez, Jr, who spearheads the National Task Force Against Covid-19, has [argued](#) that protecting 500 trees should not equate to protecting people's lives.

"This manipulates people into a false choice that pits people's health against nature," Greenpeace Southeast Asia-Philippines said on 12 May in a [joint statement](#) with 35 other green groups including Oceana Philippines International, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Mother Earth Foundation and Living Laudato Si' Philippines, among others.

Normally if you would have a project of this scale, it would undergo the environmental impact assessment. In this case, they don't have time to do it given the pandemic situation. It is lacking. That's why both sides [the NPF and the project proponents] have concerns.

Gregorio Bueta, professor of environment and natural resources, Ateneo de Manila University School of Law

No trees will be harmed—project proponents

The department of tourism has vowed that no trees will be harmed in the construction.

In a strongly worded statement, tourism secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat countered the claim of NPF executive director Lucille Karen Malilong-Isberto that about 500 ipil-ipil trees will be cut to make way for the vaccine facility. Isberto tendered her resignation from NPF amid the controversy.

"It should be noted that the head of the team of architects engaged for the design of the mega vaccination site, Architect Jun Palafox, is an environmental planner. Accordingly the environment is of paramount consideration in the architectural plans. The architectural team has made sure to build the temporary vaccination facility around existing grasslands and trees," Puyat's statement said.

Manila's mega Covid-19 vaccination site is a threat to urban forest and access to vaccines, activists say



The camp of Enrique Razon, chairman and president of International Container Terminal Services Inc (ICTSI) Foundation, which secured government approval to build the facility in the area, says that the proposed vaccination hub will be in reclaimed land and not an urban forest. Image: Katrina Razon Facebook page

Ports and gaming tycoon Enrique Razon who is chief executive officer of the International Container Terminal Services Inc (ICTSI) foundation, has secured government approval to build the facility in the area ahead of the June arrival of the Moderna vaccines it ordered along with the private sector and the government. He has [reiterated](#) that the proposed vaccination hub will be in reclaimed land and not an urban forest.

Environmental lawyer Bueta said that Razon and the government have not presented a thorough environmental impact assessment.

"Normally if you would have a project of this scale, it would undergo the environmental impact assessment. In this case, they don't have time to do it given the pandemic situation. It is lacking. That's why both sides [the NPF and the project proponents] have concerns," environmental lawyer, Bueta told Eco-Business who said an environmental assessment would show if the construction poses risks to the ecosystem and would outline steps to mitigate them.

Limits to accessibility will threaten vaccine equality

Green group Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) called the planned facility "a questionable mega-infrastructure project masquerading as a Covid solution". The network has urged the government and Razon's camp to demonstrate to the public the environmental impact assessment proving that no trees will be cut in the urban forest park.

Manila's mega Covid-19 vaccination site is a threat to urban forest and access to vaccines, activists say

Kalikasan PNE says the proposed location counters advice from public health experts pushing for decentralised vaccination hubs that will increase accessibility.

"We believe it is not difficult and may even be more cost-effective to retrofit existing built environments like malls, golf courses, sports complexes, and the like for vaccination facilities," said Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan PNE.

"They should also be able to demonstrate that they have exhausted all alternative options that are more cost-efficient, less risky, and closer to the people that need vaccination," he said.

Greenpeace believes that the location of the centre will deepen "vaccine inequality" as it will marginalise people and groups who have limited access and mobility options to reach the centralised site.

"It would concentrate the vaccines and vaccine administration to one company [ICTSI] that controls one site that would need to be accessed by hundreds of thousands of people," it said.

"The Filipino people need an accessible, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and people-centred approach to the Covid-19 vaccination programme and not a business-oriented venture that will pose long-term threats to our health and safety."



Partners of the environment

posted May 17, 2021 at 10:20 pm
by [Manila Standard Lifestyle](#)

Two companies, makers of beloved brands, bare their efforts and strides toward their environmental and sustainability goals.

For the forest

During its recent virtually held Sustainability Summit anchored on the theme #ItsOurHome, Procter and Gamble (P&G) Philippines launched the Philippines Forests for Good program.



Consumer goods company Procter and Gamble (P&G) Philippines launches the Forests for Good program to help in the reforestation efforts in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

Designed to support the company's net zero emissions goal, Forests for Good aims to actively protect nature, beginning with 12 pilot programs in 12 months across its Asia Pacific, Middle East, and Africa (AMA) region, by planting trees that help improve local ecosystems. The Philippines is one of the pilot countries supporting this natural climate solution, helping forestation efforts in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

It has entrusted each employee with trees, planted on their behalf by farmers in the Sierra Madre mountain range. Employees can name their tree, virtually travel to see it up close, check on it and learn more about it as it grows, and learn more about the farmer who planted it.

According to the company, there are currently 5,000 trees and counting in the P&G Forest for Good in Sierra Madre.



Partners of the environment

P&G's climate goal is to achieve carbon neutrality by the end of the decade, cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at P&G sites globally by buying 100 percent renewable electricity and increasing energy efficiency.

Here at home, the company's Cabuyao plant is already using renewable electricity and has successfully cut more than 80 percent of its manufacturing GHG emissions ahead of the company's global target.



The P&G Cabuyao plant has successfully cut more than 80 percent of its manufacturing greenhouse gas emissions ahead of the company's global target.

Water conservation

P&G, maker of several toiletries and household brands among others, also announced the progress its making to achieve its global water goals. Its 2030 goal is to promote and support water conservation and protection for people and nature.

The P&G Cabuyao plant tracks its overall water consumption and recycles wastewater inside the plant. Aside from initiatives within its manufacturing plant, they are actively innovating on brands and products such as laundry brands Tide and Ariel to help reduce consumer in-home water use.

Reducing waste

Efforts in reducing and managing waste has been ongoing at P&G. According to Raffy Fajardo, president and general manager of P&G Philippines, "We will reduce the use of virgin plastic and start using alternative materials in our Philippines' product bundling activities as well as point-of-sale materials found inside stores."



Partners of the environment

The company reported that the virgin plastic overwrap packaging on Safeguard multi-packs had been replaced by 100 percent recycled paper carton material, reducing about 8,500 kilometers of plastic wasted every year (one thousand times the length of Boracay shoreline). Its new Herbal Essences bio:renew collection likewise uses post-consumer recycled material for its bottle packaging.



Coasters and napkin rings made with recycled plastic waste by design and production studio Plastics by Manila Automat.

Breathing new life to plastics

Mondelez Philippines – whose brands include popular snack food items Oreo cookies, Toblerone and Cadbury Dairy Milk chocolates, Eden cheese and sandwich spread, Tang powdered beverage, and more – supports recycling and reusing of packaging material in line with its goals toward zero waste to nature by 2030.

The snacks maker works with Plastics by Manila Automat and Green Antz Builders to help promote and strengthen the circular economy of plastics in the Philippines.

Plastics by Manila Automat is a collaborative design and production studio aimed at renewing the value of recycled plastic waste by encouraging people to become recyclers. Green Antz creates eco-bricks and construction materials made with recycled plastic.

The move to partner with organizations that recycle plastic waste that would otherwise end up in landfills is also an innovative way to change the public's perception that plastic is a problem. "Think of the circular economy of plastics and how recycling can indeed change a problem into an opportunity," said Joseph Fabul, country manager for corporate and government affairs of Mondelez Philippines.



Partners of the environment



The virgin plastic overwrap packaging on Safeguard multi-packs has been replaced by 100 percent recycled paper carton material, while part of the Herbal Essences bio:renew collection's packaging (below) is made with post-consumer recycled material.





Partners of the environment

"We want to contribute to a circular economy where packaging material is recycled or reused, while minimizing food waste and the overall environmental impact of packaging, including on climate change," he shared.

Fabul continued, "To help achieve this, we are working to find solutions to the shared problem of packaging waste – fixing broken processes, policies, and perception. These include making all our packaging recycle-ready and labelled with recycling information for consumers by 2025. We also committed to invest in waste management projects where we are present and ensure that by 2025, 5 percent of our plastic packaging is from recycled content."

Topics: [Sustainability Summit](#) , [#ItsOurHome](#) , [Procter and Gamble](#) , [P&G Philippines](#) , [Philippines Forests for Good](#)



Reconnecting with nature in Leyte's upland village

By Sarwell Meniano May 17, 2021, 5:33 pm



NATURE'S WONDER. The bamboo garden within the Tanguile Trail in upland Mahagnao village in Burauen, Leyte. The Tanguile Trail launched on Saturday (May 15, 2021) is named after the dipterocarp Tanguile trees dominant in the area, giving visitors the experience of what it is to "commune with nature and immerse in a forest atmosphere." (*PNA photo by Sarwell Meniano*)

BURAUEN, Leyte – Tired of hustle and bustle of the city? It's time to disconnect from your daily grind and reconnect with nature by exploring the forest of Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park (MVNP).

In a less than two-hour trek, you will get to see dozens of huge trees, rare small and giant ferns, wild flowers, insects, birds, different types of bamboo, and get a closer view of Malagsum Lake, the home of the endemic wild ducks.

The Tanguile Trail launched on Saturday (May 15) is named after the dipterocarp Tanguile trees dominant in the area, giving visitors the experience of what it is to "commune with nature and immerse in a forest atmosphere."

The trail brings the sense of relaxation through your five senses by seeing the forest surrounding, hearing the chirping birds and forest winds, touching the cold ground by walking barefoot, inhaling the wonder of blooms, and taste the sweetness of young melastoma plant pods.



Reconnecting with nature in Leyte's upland village

"You will notice that farmers in our village live longer since they go barefoot every time they visit their farms. Grounding in the forest has lots of health benefits. It is a therapeutic technique that electrically reconnects you to the earth," said tour guide Beverly Ampong, 43, as she asked the group to stop and remove footwear for a few minutes.

The entire trail offers the forest bathing experience or known as Shinrin-yoku, popularized in Japan to combat the death by stress phenomenon.

"It is called bathing because although you would not literally take a bath, you soak yourself in the forest atmosphere," said Ampong, a former village day care worker who has been trained in the past two years on forest tour guiding.

The trail ends at Malagsum Lake, one of three lakes of Mahagnao known for its green acidic water, a sanctuary to wild ducks of several species.

Near the lake thrives a type of Bermuda grass that only grows in soil soaked in acidic lake water.

The 500-meter trek avoids steep slopes, making it ideal for elderly, children, and others who are not inclined into extreme forest adventures.

Myrna Agustin, 39, the president of MVNP ecotourism association, said the newest tourism activity will bring economic opportunities to locals who were used to cultivate traditional crops.

"It took a lot of planning and preparation for us to launch this tour package. All the 34 members of our association have been actively involved to welcome visitors in our community," said Agustin, who returned to their village in 2010 after working as a saleslady, cashier, household worker, and lady guard in the National Capital Region.

The tour package costs PHP3,600 for a group of five. It includes leis, welcome drink, watching locals performing folk dance, guiding and interpretation, lunch, refreshment, and a view of the Mahagnao Lake.

The biggest lake in the village has a length of 15,590 meters and a surface area of about 16 hectares, ideal for boating, kayaking, and stand-up paddling.



Reconnecting with nature in Leyte's upland village

Discover the local cuisine through a buffet lunch of rice, native chicken cooked in coconut milk, local fish simmered in vinegar, fried local fish, fried dried fish, camote (sweet potato roll), fruits, and coconut juice.

The most noticed food in the dining table is the "lawot-lawot", a vegetable soup comprising 21 different vegetables –among them the harum (red amaranth), sida-sida (Philippine spinach), kulitis (wild spinach), and agitway (sunset hibiscus) --simmered in coconut milk.

"All our food(s) are produced in our community, presented in such a way that values the history, the culture, and the environment of our place," Agustin said.

Burauen town tourism officer Carmela Corazon Crebillo said the local government has been investing millions of pesos in the past few years to develop the ecotourism site despite disruptions caused by the current health crisis.

"The local government plans to build a bird hide in the vicinity of Lake Malagsum. This will give bird lovers the chance to observe the ducks from afar without disturbing them in their natural habitat. We will also build a reception area near Lake Mahagnao, and set up at the lake six floating pavilions where guests could relax and spend time with nature," Crebillo said.

Proclaimed as a national park in 1937, the site is endowed with different natural attractions –a lake, falls, multi-colored mud, virgin forests, and lagoon.

Mahagnao, located 860 meters above sea level, is 18 kms. away from the town center of Burauen.

The town in central Leyte is about 50 kms. from Tacloban City, the regional capital.

From Tacloban, where the airport is located, the site is one hour and 30 minutes by bus.

At the town center, visitors without a car can hire a motorcycle to get to Mahagnao, passing through seven villages. (PNA)



Climate change fuels need for community gene banks: expert

By Catherine Teves May 17, 2021, 6:57 pm



(Photo courtesy of Anadolu)

MANILA – An expert is recommending the establishment of community gene banks in remote farming areas nationwide.

Aside from helping preserve crop diversity for future farming, University of the Philippines-Los Banos professor Teresita Borromeo said the banks will enable farmers in those areas to more easily store and access genetic materials of crops they grow.

"It's best if they have gene banks where they have control over access to traditional varieties and farmer-bred varieties," she said in a recent online Farmers and Fisherfolks Congress.

Borromeo, the specialist in plant genetic resources conservation and management, said easy access to genetic materials of crops is important particularly during calamities so farmers can resume planting and growing these as soon as possible.

Being able to do so will help them bounce back from calamities and adapt to climate change, she added.

The Philippine agriculture and fisheries sector must adapt accordingly as climate consultant and weather specialist Lourdes Tibig noted Earth is warming so the climate is changing.

She said Earth's temperature rose by less than 1°C over the years but this warming's impacts on such sector are already intense.

Among the impacts she cited is an onslaught of increasingly strong tropical cyclones that adversely affected crop production in the country.



Climate change fuels need for community gene banks: expert

Warming of seas is reducing fisheries production, she continued.

"From now till 2100, temperature can rise by 4°C - how will agriculture and fisheries survive that?" she pointed out during the congress.

She said the world can no longer prevent climate change but may still try to decrease the rate of increase in Earth's temperature.

"If we can't reduce that rate to avoid 4°C, we won't run out of problems in production, fisheries and human health," she said.

Continuous accumulation of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere is increasingly trapping heat so Earth is warming, causing the climate to change.

Borromeo said climate change, pollution, invasive species and disease, over-exploitation of species as well as changes in land and sea use are threatening biodiversity including organisms in agriculture and fisheries.

There are already fewer sightings of several species including water chestnuts which used to be common in paddies, she noted.

"Some species are disappearing so there's no chance to know them," she added. (PNA)



Loren's 'Better Normal,' Greenpeace, and changing lifestyle to save earth

By [Wilson Lee Flores](#) (Philstar.com)
- May 18, 2021 - 12:00am



Congress Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda: Environment protection champion

Can we ordinary people be like the superheroes of our childhood comic books and help save our endangered planet? Appeals for responsible disposal of medical wastes (monthly global consumption of face masks alone totals 129 billion pieces!), nuclear wastewaters and action on the climate change crisis were expressed during an April 22 Earth Day forum held by Philippine Congress Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda and Greenpeace Southeast Asia executive director Naderev "Yeb" Saño through a Pandesal Forum at 82-year-old Kamuning Bakery Café in Quezon City.

Among the special guests who attended this celebration of Earth Day were top Filipino environmentalists and 2009 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee Atty. Antonio "Tony" Oposa, Philippine Climate Commission Commissioner Rachelle Anne Luna and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Atty. Ipat Luna.

During another recent Pandesal Forum with speakers Singapore Ambassador Gerard Ho Wei Hong and poet/professor Vim Nadera, the envoy spoke about his country's anti-COVID-19 efforts, wise independent foreign policy and support for the arts. Singapore is a "green city," one of the world's most environmentally sustainable nations.

Legarda urged world citizens to protect the environment and not simply accept the so-called "new normal" of this pandemic, but instead use this crisis as a chance to create a "better normal." Legarda urged the Philippines to pursue "sustainable and resilient recovery" by implementing environmental laws which she was principal sponsor or co-author of in the Senate, like the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Philippine Climate Change Act, Clean Air Act, Renewable Energy Act and others.



Loren's 'Better Normal,' Greenpeace, and changing lifestyle to save earth



Singapore Ambassador Gerard Ho Wei Hong

Known for leading activists on a 2015 walk of 1,500 kilometers from Rome to Paris to dramatize his call to action during that year's climate change global summit, now Greenpeace Southeast Asia executive director Naderev "Yeb" Saño raised environmental issues affecting the safety and rights of Filipino communities due to the Japan nuclear wastewater controversy.

Saño said: "At the very least, this decision to discharge 1.23 million tons of contaminated water from the Fukushima (nuclear) plant completely disregards human rights and international maritime law. This completely ignores the human rights and interests of the people in Fukushima, wider Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. Japan is known to have a much higher capacity, and more robust risk management systems, monitoring systems, enforcement capacity and technology. Despite this, the Fukushima disaster will always be a testament to the fact that nuclear energy, as it is right now, is dangerous."

On the ecological challenge of medical waste due to the global pandemic, Saño said a study shows that if the global population continues the daily use of disposable and non-biodegradable face masks, "the pandemic could result in a monthly global consumption of 129 billion face masks," He added, "International experts have been very clear that reusable masks can offer us the same level of protection, especially for non-medical use. We should find the best possible reusable PPE and use that to avoid further damage to the environment."

Oposa, one of the country's leading environmental champions, echoed Saño's statement, noting at the Pandesal Forum that radioactive waste must be simply addressed as "poisonous," declaring: "It is purely illegal. It is marine pollution from land-based sources. I challenge those in government to do something about it because that is something that is not just illegal, but very dangerous to the country. We have to take action. The time for talk is over."



Loren's 'Better Normal,' Greenpeace, and changing lifestyle to save earth



Yeb Sano, executive director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

I agree with Loren Legarda, Yeb Seño, Tony Oposa and others. We should act now and help save the environment and our earth. Here are some personal acts I believe we can do:

Support climate issues. Use social media and other ways to express support for environmental causes of Loren Legarda, the medical waste and Japan nuclear waste water advocacies of Greenpeace, the conservation efforts of World Wildlife Fund, etc.

Unplug, conserve energy. Unplug gadgets, computers, TVs and other electronics when not in use. Change to energy-efficient lights. Redesign our homes and offices to reduce use of appliances.

Segregate our wastes. According to the legislation sponsored by Legarda, we can help our garbage disposal people by segregating and recycling some wastes properly.

Eat healthy with less meat. Eating less meat isn't just good for our health and less cholesterol, it helps lessen global warming. We need not become vegetarian or vegan, just lessen meat eating gradually to be a "flexitarian" (casual or occasional vegetarian). Buy organic, local foods. Help grow foods in our backyards, townhouses or condo balconies. Lessen food waste. Senator Cynthia Villar is right: stop unhealthy, unlimited rice consumption!

Change commuting ways. Go carpooling, lessen use of cars. Ride bikes and lobby for bike lanes. Walk more. Retire old and inefficient vehicles, plan trips to lessen many unnecessary car rides. For car owners, keep tires properly inflated to save gas and tune up vehicles to boost kilometers per gallon of fuel from four percent to 40 percent.



Loren's 'Better Normal,' Greenpeace, and changing lifestyle to save earth

Plant trees. More tree planting will help stop climate change, because trees help absorb and sink the carbon that would otherwise contribute to global heating.

Simplify your lifestyle, consume less. Pandemic lockdown should remind us to simplify our lifestyles by consuming less to lower emissions which heat up and endanger our earth. Covet fewer possessions, spend more time with family and friends, commune more with nature. Buy less, recycle and repair more, fix and upcycle, repurpose and compost more for a safer, sustainable and cleaner earth.



Gov't reduces tariff for rice imports to offset climate change impact

Published May 17, 2021, 4:08 PM

by [Genalyn Kabiling](#)

The government wanted to shore up the country's supply of rice given the threat posed by climate change when it reduced import tariffs on the staple food.



(Manila Bulletin file photo by Keith Bacongco)

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque defended the President Duterte's decision to lower the tariff rates on rice imports for a year, citing that climate change could have adverse consequences on the country's farmlands.

Under Executive Order No. 135, the President reduced the tariff rate for rice imports within the minimum access volume or within quota to 35 percent, from 40 percent. Rice imports outside the quota, on the other hand, will be charged 50 percent tariff rate for a period of one year.

"Sinisiguro lang natin na sapat ang ating magiging supply ng bigas kasi siguro sa lahat ng ating kinakain, we can afford tayong magkulang sa ilan pero hindi pupuwede sa bigas at nakita naman ninyo na napakatindi nitong panahon ng tag-init na ito so hindi natin alam kung ano epekto dito sa ating na pananim na palay pero im sure may epekto iyan (We just want to make sure we will have sufficient rice supply because we can afford to lack in some, but not rice. We have seen the very warm weather. I don't know the extent of the impact on rice plantation but I'm sure there's an effect)," Roque said during a televised press briefing Monday, May 17.

Besides, Roque said the year-long reduction in import tariffs on rice was minimal.

"Kung papansin ninyo naman, from 40 naging 35 so maliit lang naman ang taripa na binaba. Hindi ganoon kalaki so ito just to ensure itong adverse consequences ng climate change ay hindi magdudulot ng kakulangan sa supply ng bigas (If you've noticed, from 40 percent, it was reduced to 35 percent so the tariff cut is small. It's not that huge so it's just to ensure the adverse consequences of climate change will not cause any shortage in the rice supply)," he said.



Gov't reduces tariff for rice imports to offset climate change impact

The Palace earlier announced the President approved the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) [to lower the tariff rates on imported rice to ensure food security and protect consumers](#). The tariff adjustment was made to diversify the country's market sources, augment rice supply, maintain prices affordable, and reduce pressures on inflation, the Palace said.

In EO 135, the President justified the decision to lower rice import tariffs mainly to boost supply and keep prices stable. Despite an increase in total rice stock, the order noted that the estimated local production may still fall short of the demand that necessitated importation.

The order also said there has been a continuous increase in the price of rice from other countries, especially those imported from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

It also mentioned that the present global economic situation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other factors affecting the country's traditional sources of imported rice, have caused "uncertainty in the steady supply of rice."

"Considering the increase in global rice prices and the uncertainties relative to the supply of rice, there is an urgent need to temporarily reduce the Most Favoured Nation tariff rates on rice, to diversify the country's market sources, augment rice supply, maintain affordable prices, and reduce inflationary pressures, all for the purpose of ensuring food security in the country and protecting consumers," the order read.

The executive order, signed on May 15, takes effect 15 days after publication in the Official Gazette or newspaper. It will be effective for one year from such date.

Farmers' groups earlier opposed the temporary tariff cut on rice imports, insisting that allowing the entry of cheaper imports was ill-timed and not reasonable.



Unesco wants environment education curriculum by 2025

By [Pia Lee-Brago](#) (Philstar.com)

- May 18, 2021 - 12:00am



The organization is working with its 193 member-states to support curriculum reform and track progress to ensure everyone acquires the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to introduce positive change and protect planet Earth in the future.

[Philstar.com/Irish Lising](#), file

MANILA, Philippines — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has urged countries to make environmental education a core curriculum component by 2025.

The organization is working with its 193 member-states to support curriculum reform and track progress to ensure everyone acquires the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to introduce positive change and protect planet Earth in the future.

“UNESCO has therefore set a new target: to make environmental education a core curriculum component in all countries by 2025,” it said in a statement.

The World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, which takes place online from Berlin, Germany from May 17 to 19, brings together some 2,500 participants, including 81 education ministers and leading players committed to the transformation of education to address climate crisis, biodiversity loss and other sustainable development challenges.

The conference aims to create strategies for the integration of education for sustainable development into every level of education and training, in line with a new framework.

Over three days, sessions focus on optimal ways to harness education to address interconnected global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, green and circular economies,



Unesco wants environment education curriculum by 2025

technological advancement and building resilient relationships with the planet through education.

UNESCO is looking at ways to reinforce the capacity of educators, empower youth and take local actions through education for sustainable development.

It urged all country participants to commit to the Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development that will outline a range of policies encompassing teaching, learning, professional training and civic engagement.

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohamed are among the participants in the conference.

Human rights

Meanwhile, the Philippines provided the United Nations with funding to assist countries in implementing human rights recommendations, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

The DFA said the Philippines' modest voluntary contribution is "walking the talk."

At the 38th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group held from May 3 to 14, Philippine permanent representative to the UN in Geneva Ambassador Evan Garcia stressed the need to step up efforts and strengthen measures to further protect human rights, especially of vulnerable groups.

Garcia said the Philippines had provided the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights this year with "a modest voluntary contribution to support concrete technical cooperation programs at country level, as well as assist requesting states with the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Universal Periodic Review."

Among the recommendations made by the Philippines during the 38th Session are those relating to strengthening of measures against gender-based violence, human trafficking, promoting gender mainstreaming, human rights education and training, advancement of the human rights of vulnerable sectors and encouraging the ratification of treaties and conventions such as on migrant and domestic workers.

The countries reviewed in the session were Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Palau, Paraguay, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands and Somalia.

The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted in October a resolution on technical assistance and capacity building to improve the human rights situation in the Philippines.

It asked the Office of the High Commissioner to provide support for the Philippines in its continued fulfillment of its international human rights obligations and commitments.



Unesco wants environment education curriculum by 2025

The Philippines came under scrutiny when the UN Human Rights Council convened in Geneva in June.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet presented a report on the Philippines, describing widespread abuses against drug suspects, political activists, indigenous peoples and journalists in the country.



UK plastic waste being dumped and burned in Turkey, says Greenpeace

By Kathryn Snowdon
BBC News
Published
11 hours ago



IMAGE COPYRIGHT CANER OZKAN/GREENPEACE

UK plastic waste is being exported to Turkey and then illegally dumped and burned, according to a [report](#).

Greenpeace said about 40% - or 210,000 tonnes - of the UK's plastic waste exports were sent to Turkey last year.

But rather than being recycled, investigators saw some of it dumped by roads, in fields and in waterways.

The UK is a "global leader in tackling plastic pollution", the government said - after Greenpeace called for it to "take control" of the problem.

Greenpeace's report warned Turkey was becoming Europe's "largest plastic waste dump".

The charity said it had investigated 10 sites across southern Turkey and found plastic bags and packaging from UK supermarkets and retailers at all of them.

Packaging for a coronavirus antigen test was also found, indicating the waste was less than a year old, the report said.

- [Where the UK's recycling really goes](#)

The UK generates more plastic waste per person than any other country apart from the US, the report added.

Turkey, Malaysia and Poland received the largest amounts of plastic waste exports from the UK in 2020.



UK plastic waste being dumped and burned in Turkey, says Greenpeace

Last year, the dumping of plastic waste in Turkey was [the subject of a BBC investigation](#).

Correspondent Angus Crawford sorted through piles of plastic bags, bottles and packaging left by the roadside.

media captionThe UK sends more plastic waste to Turkey than to any other country, but not all of it gets recycled

'Waste dump'

Turkey received nearly 40% of the UK's plastic waste exports in 2020 - an increase by a factor of 18 since 2016, when 12,000 tonnes were sent.

European Union member states also sent 20 times more plastic waste to Turkey last year compared to 2016.

Nihan Temiz Atas, biodiversity projects lead from Greenpeace Mediterranean, based in Turkey, said: "Around 241 truckloads of plastic waste come to Turkey every day from across Europe and it overwhelms us.

"As far as we can see from the data and the field, we continue to be Europe's largest plastic waste dump."

Nina Schrank, senior plastics campaigner at Greenpeace UK, said the crux of the problem was overproduction, and urged the government to ban plastic waste exports and reduce single-use plastic by 50% by 2025.

The UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said: "We are clear that the UK should handle more of its waste at home, and that's why we are committed to banning the export of plastic waste to non-OECD countries and clamping down on illegal waste exports - including to countries such as Turkey - through tougher controls.

"The UK is a global leader in tackling plastic pollution and our proposals for extended producer responsibility for packaging, a plastic packaging tax and mandatory electronic waste tracking will boost recycling rates, reduce waste and cut crime."

Many wealthy countries send recyclable waste overseas as it is financially cheap, reduces domestic landfill and can help areas achieve recycling targets.

Last year, Malaysia's environment minister said the government had sent back 150 shipping containers of illegally imported plastic waste to their country of origin - 42 of which belonged to the UK.

Yeo Bee Yin said the move was to ensure the South East Asia nation did not become ["the garbage dump of the world"](#).

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6.6K more survive Covid-19; active cases down to 54K

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor May 17, 2021, 5:12 pm



MANILA – The country's recovery tally from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) climbed to 1,076,428 after health authorities reported 6,602 new survivors on Monday.

The latest data from the Department of Health (DOH) showed a 93.6-percent recovery rate from a total of 1,149,925 Covid-19 cases since the pandemic started last year.

The DOH also logged 5,979 new infections, bringing the total number of active cases to 54,235.

Of the active cases, about 93.3 percent are mild, 2.0 percent are asymptomatic, 2.0 percent are severe, 1.25 are moderate, and 1.4 percent are in critical condition.

An additional 72 deaths pushed the death toll to 19,262 or 1.68 percent of total cases.

Data submitted on May 15 likewise showed that 13.1 percent of 45,210 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"Some 17 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, 11 were recovered cases and one is death. Moreover, 31 cases that were previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation," the DOH said.

All laboratories were operational on May 15 while five laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

"Based on the data in the last 14 days, the five non-reporting laboratories contribute on average, 0.7 percent of samples tested and one percent of positive individuals," the DOH said.

Currently, 58 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds, 43 percent of 13,600 isolation beds, 48 percent of 6,000 ward beds, and 39 percent of 2,000 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 56 percent of 700 intensive care unit beds, 41 percent of 3,800 isolation beds, 46 percent of 2,200 ward beds, and 42 percent of 800 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region.



6.6K more survive Covid-19; active cases down to 54K

The public is reminded to stay at home and to observe minimum health standards when going out.

The DOH urged those experiencing Covid-19 symptoms to immediately isolate and contact their Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams. (PNA)



Nearly 6,000 new COVID-19 cases push PH total closer to 1.15 million

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 17, 2021 4:22:32 PM

Updated May 17, 2021 5:09:00 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 17) — The Department of Health on Monday reported 5,979 more people nationwide caught the coronavirus, as the overall case count neared the 1.15-million mark.

The country's COVID-19 tally now stands at 1,149,925, of which 54,235 or 4.7% are active cases.

Of the currently ill patients, figures show 93.3% experience mild symptoms, 2% have no symptoms, 1.4% are critical cases, 2% are severe cases, and 1.25% are moderate cases.

The DOH also reported that 6,602 more patients have gotten well, raising the number of recoveries to 1,076,428. This makes up 93.6% of all those infected.

Seventy-two more died, however, bringing the death toll to 19,262, which is 1.68% of the case tally.

The newly confirmed fatalities include 31 previously tagged as recoveries, the DOH noted.

The department also clarified the case update does not yet include five testing laboratories which failed to submit their reports on May 15. Based on data from the past two weeks, the DOH said these five contribute around 0.7% of samples tested and 1.0% of positive individuals.

It added that it removed 17 duplicate entries after final validation, including 11 survivors and one fatality.

Among Filipinos abroad, cases reached 18,618 with 11 more confirmed by the Department of Foreign Affairs. Recoveries rose to 11,374 with five added, while deaths remained at 1,162.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/5/17/PH-covid-cases-update.html>



NCR daily Covid-19 cases down to less than 1.5K: OCTA

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor May 17, 2021, 4:52 pm



(PNA file photo by Avito Dalan)

MANILA – The average daily number of new cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) in the National Capital Region (NCR) has decreased by 27 percent, based on the latest monitoring report by OCTA Research.

In its report released on Monday, OCTA Research said the new cases in the region dropped to 1,479 per day from May 10 to 16.

Over the same period, NCR's reproduction number is 0.57 while its positivity rate decreased to 11 percent.

Meanwhile, the average daily attack rate (ADAR) in NCR is 10.71 per 100,000 population.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), an ADAR above 10 is high risk while an ADAR below 10 is moderate risk.

The healthcare utilization rate (HCUR) in the NCR is 45 percent while the intensive care unit occupancy is 57 percent.

According to the DOH, a utilization rate of less than 60 percent is safe.

Following the DOH guidelines, 14 local government units are considered safe in terms of HCUR. These include Navotas, Malabon, Manila, Taguig, Caloocan, Pasay, Muntinlupa, Paranaque, Marikina, Las Pinas, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Pateros, and San Juan.

Meanwhile, there are seven LGUs under moderate risk classification per DOH guidelines. These include Navotas, Malabon, Manila, Taguig, Caloocan, Pasay, and Muntinlupa. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1140525>



Covid-19 cases across globe up by over 658K in past day: WHO

May 17, 2021, 1:52 pm



GENEVA – More than 658,000 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus infection were registered worldwide in the past day, with the overall number of such cases exceeding 162.17 million, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in its daily bulletin on Sunday.

As of 16:02 Moscow time on May 16, as many as 162,177,376 novel coronavirus cases and 3,364,178 coronavirus-associated deaths were registered across the globe.

The number of confirmed cases grew by 658,585 in the past 24 hours and the number of fatalities increased by 12,034.

The WHO statistics is based on officially confirmed data from the countries.

Southeast Asia accounts for more than a half of the Covid-19 daily tally (327,745 cases). Next are North and South America (211,264) and Europe (76,828).

The biggest number of coronavirus cases was reported from the United States (32,574,504), India (24,684,077), Brazil (15,519,525), France (5,769,839), Turkey (5,106,862), Russia (4,940,245), the United Kingdom (4,448,855), Italy (4,153,374), Spain (3,598,452), Germany (3,593,434), Argentina (3,269,466), and Colombia (3,084,460).

The biggest number of fatalities was reported from the United States (579,664), Brazil (432,628), India (270,284), Mexico (220,159), the United Kingdom (127,675), Italy (124,063), Russia (115,871), France (106,778), Germany (86,096), Colombia (80,250), Spain (79,281), and Iran (76,633). (TASS)



MAGPABAKUNA NA BAGO DUMATING ANG TAG-ULAN AT TAGBAGYO



May 14, 2021 @ 10:26 AM 4 days ago

HABANG may pagkakataon, pagdating ng mga bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19, dapat na iturok kaagad.

Lalo na ang dalawang milyong AstraZeneca na may expiry date na Hunyo at Hulyo 2021.

Nasa 1.5 milyong doses ang mag-expire sa Hunyo habang sa Hulyo naman ang 500,000 doses.

Pero dapat ang mabilis na pagtuturok ay hindi lang para mahabol ang paggamit ng bakuna dahil sa expiration ng mga ito.

Mukhang dumarating na ang tag-ulan at tagbagyo.

Sa araw nga lang na ito, naging bagyo ang low pressure area at pinangalanang Crising at nananalasa ngayon ang mga ulan at hanging nasa signal numbers 1 at 2 sa Mindanao at Kabisayaan.

KAMALASANG DALA NG TAG-ULAN, TAGBAGYO

Maituturing na kamalasan ang parating ng tag-ulan at tagbagyo kaugnay ng pagbabakuna laban sa pandemya.

Bakit?

Alam naman nating iba na ang panahon ngayon dahil sa sinasabing climate change.

Kapag umulan ngayon o bumagyo, grabeng kasiraan o kamalasan ang inaabot natin.

Kapag umulan, siyam-siyam 'yan na lumilikha ng mga grabeng pagbaha.



MAGPABAKUNA NA BAGO DUMATING ANG TAG-ULAN AT TAGBAGYO

Kapag bumagyo, may baha na, nasisira pa ang mga gusali.

Paano kung ang mga vaccination site ay bahain o sisirain ng malalakas na bagyo?

Dagdag pa, paano ang mga umaabot sa dalawa-tatlong linggo na brownout at blackout na likha ng paglubog sa baha at pagtama ng malalakas na bagyo sa mga linya planta ng kuryente?

Baka masira ang mga bakuna na nakaimbak sa mga freezer dahil sa kawalan ng kuryente.

PARAMI NANG PARAMI ANG MGA BAKUNA

Lumalabas na parami nang parami ang mga bakunang dumarating.

Pare-parehong dumarating ang mga bakunang galing sa China, Russia, United States at Europa.

Ang Sinovac na gawang China, may order tayo na ilang milyon at may limang milyon nang nakarating.

Ang Sinopharm, inaaprubahan na rin ng Food and Drug Administration at maaaring madeliber ito sa mga susunod na linggo o buwan.

Ang Sputnik V ng Russia, may dumating nang dalawang bulto at darating pa ang iba.

Ang AstraZeneca, may 2.5 milyon nang dumating.

At sa mga buwan ng Hunyo at Hulyo, maaaring milyo na rin ang darating na gawa ng mga gawang US na Pfizer at Moderna.

Magkakaroon ng malalaking bulto ng bakuna na manggagaling sa US, kasama na ang bahagi ng AstraZeneca na stock nila at nasa 50 milyong dose.

Paano tayo makapagbabakuna nang maayos kung naririyang na ang mga ulan at bagyo?

IWASANG MAGING CHOOSY O PICKY

Paliwanag mismo ni Makati Mayor Abby Binay, may mga picky o choosy dahil nasanay tayo na piliin ang mga gawang Kano gaya ng Pfizer, Moderna at Johnson and Johnson.

Pero diin mismo ni Mayor Binay, pare-parehong epektibo ang mga bakuna laban sa COVID-19 kaya kung ano ang darating na bakuna, sunggaban na natin o magpabakuna na tayo.

Hindi nga lang maiwasan naman talaga ang magiging choosy o picky kung may problema sa mga bakuna gaya ng AstraZeneca na itinigil na ang paggamit nito sa Denmark at Norway dahil sa nililikha nitong blood clot at pagkasira ng mga nerve ng tao.

Gayunman, katwiran ng iba, higit na lamang ang benepisyo sa AstraZeneca kaysa depekto nito o mas marami ang naliligtas sa pagkakaospital at kamatayan sa bakunang ito kumpara sa hindi bakunado nito.

Ang Sinovac naman na noong una ay sinasabing kalahati lang ang epekto nito sa clinical trial sa Brazil, ay nagbago na ang rekord.



MAGPABAKUNA NA BAGO DUMATING ANG TAG-ULAN AT TAGBAGYO

Mismong ang Indonesia ang nagsasabing ang mga naka-second dose na sa Sinovac na mahigit 25,000 health worker sa Jakarta ay 100 porsyento nang naliligtas sa kamatayan at mahigit 90% nang naliligtas sa pagkakaospital.

Mahigit ding 90% ang hindi nahahawaan.

At ang nasa 50,000 katao sa isang bayan sa Brazil na tinuruan ng Sinovac, paunti na nang paunti ang namamatay at nagkakasakit sa mga ito.

Pangatlo ang Brazil mula sa US at India na may pinakamaraming nagkakasakit at namamatay sa COVID-19.

Kaya tama si Mayor Binay at kasama siya sa mga nagsasabing lahat ng mga bakuna ay epektibo laban sa pandemya kaya iwasan ang magiging choosy o picky.

Aanhin mo pa nga ang bakuna kung nabalda o na-cremate ka na sa COVID-19?

MAGPAREHISTRO, PUMILA NA

Sa ngayon, ginagamit ang internet sa pagpaparehistro sa mga may internet na lugar.

Sa ibang mga lugar na walang internet, pinupuntahan ang mga mamamayan ng mga taong barangay at health worker para anyayahang magparehistro.

Marami naman ang pagkakataon na hindi nakararating sa bakunahan o vaccination site ang mga nakarehistro.

Kaya pinapayagan ng mga health worker at mga awtoridad ang ilang mamamayan na pumila rin sa bakunahan.

Sila ang paggagamitan ng mga bakunang nabuksan na maaaring masira kung hindi magamit sa mga oras o araw ng pagbabakuna.

HINDI NA MAGAGAWA SA TAG-BAHA AT TAGBAGYO

Hindi na madaling magparehistro sa vaccination program at magpabakuna mismo sa tag-ulan at tagbagyo.

Kapag nasira ang linya ng internet dahil sa mga sama ng panahon, sira na rin ang pagpaparehistro.

Kapag nagkaroon ng mga baha o sinira ng bagyo ang mga vaccination site, problema na rin ang pagpapabakuna.

Ang pagbiyahe ng mga suplay ng bakuna at mga taong nagdadala nito ay hindi na rin tiyak dahil maaaring malala ang trapik sa mga kalsada, pier at paliparan.

Lalo na kung masira ang mga kalsada, pier, tulay, paliparan at lagi nang binabaha at binabagyo ang mga karagatan at kailugan.



MAGPABAKUNA NA BAGO DUMATING ANG TAG-ULAN AT TAGBAGYO

Isa pa, paano kung masira ang mga nakaimbak na bakuna dahil sira o hindi gagana ang mga imbakan gaya ng mga freezer dahil sa kawalan ng kuryente?

Maaring hindi ka na mababakunahan ng first dose o lalong hindi ka mabibigyan ng second dose.

Kailangan kasi ang second dose para maging ganap ang proteksyon natin laban sa COVID-19.

‘Yun bang === may sapat na tayong anti-bodies sa katawan na likha ng kumpletong dose ng bakuna laban sa pandemya at sandata natin laban sa pagkakaospital at kamatayan.

Kaya naman, magpabakuna na kaagad kapag naririyang na ang bakuna at kasali na tayo sa mga dapat na mabakunahan.

O magpabakuna na tayo habang maaga o may pagkakataon bago darating mga salot na dala ng tag-ulan at tagbagyo.

Lahat para makabalik na tayo sa normal na pamumuhay, malaya sa sakit at pandemya, makapaghanapbuhay nang matino, mapag-aral sa iskul ang mga bata at iba pa.

Panlaban natin ang bakuna hindi lang sa sakit o COVID-19 kundi sa kalungkutan at kawalan ng saysay sa buhay, kagutuman, kabobohan ng mga bata at iba pa.



Long working hours are a killer, WHO study shows

By [Reuters](#)

- May 17, 2021 - 2:23 PM



A worker arrives at his office in the Canary Wharf business district in London February 26, 2014. (Reuters/File Photo)

GENEVA — Working long hours is killing hundreds of thousands of people a year in a worsening trend that may accelerate further due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization said on Monday.

In the first global study of the loss of life associated with longer working hours, the paper in the journal *Environment International* showed that 745,000 people died from stroke and heart disease associated with long working hours in 2016.

That was an increase of nearly 30% from 2000.

“Working 55 hours or more per week is a serious health hazard,” said Maria Neira, director of the WHO’s Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health.

“What we want to do with this information is promote more action, more protection of workers,” she said.

The joint study, produced by the WHO and the International Labor Organization, showed that most victims (72%) were men and were middle-aged or older. Often, the deaths occurred much later in life, sometimes decades later, than the shifts worked.

It also showed that people living in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific region — a WHO-defined region which includes China, Japan and Australia — were the most affected.

Overall, the study – drawing on data from 194 countries – said that working 55 hours or more a week is associated with a 35% higher risk of stroke and a 17% higher risk of dying from ischemic heart disease compared with a 35-40 hour working week.



Long working hours are a killer, WHO study shows

The study covered the period 2000-2016, and so did not include the COVID-19 pandemic, but WHO officials said the surge in remote working and the global economic slowdown resulting from the coronavirus emergency may have increased the risks.

“The pandemic is accelerating developments that could feed the trend towards increased working time,” the WHO said, estimating that at least 9% of people work long hours.

WHO staff, including its chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, say they have been working long hours during the pandemic and Neira said the U.N. agency would seek to improve its policy in light of the study.

Capping hours would be beneficial for employers since that has been shown to increase worker productivity, WHO technical officer Frank Pega said.

“It’s really a smart choice not to increase long working hours in an economic crisis.” — Reporting by Emma Farge Editing by Gareth Jones

18 MAY 2021, Tuesday



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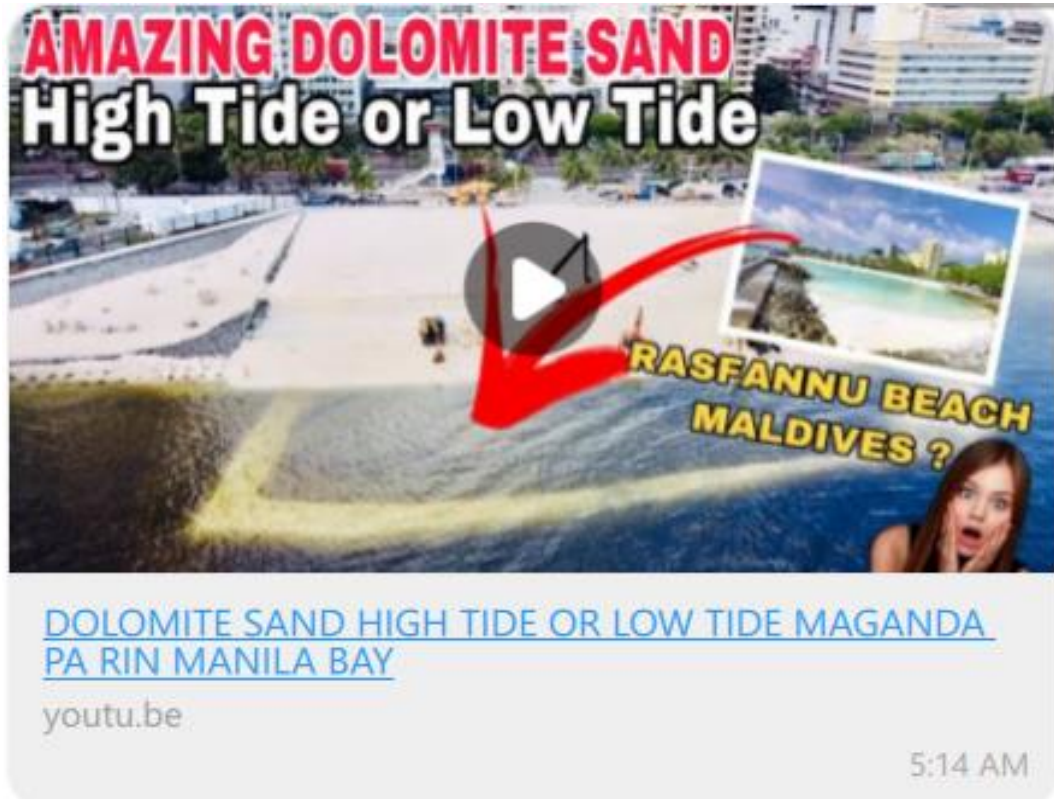
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

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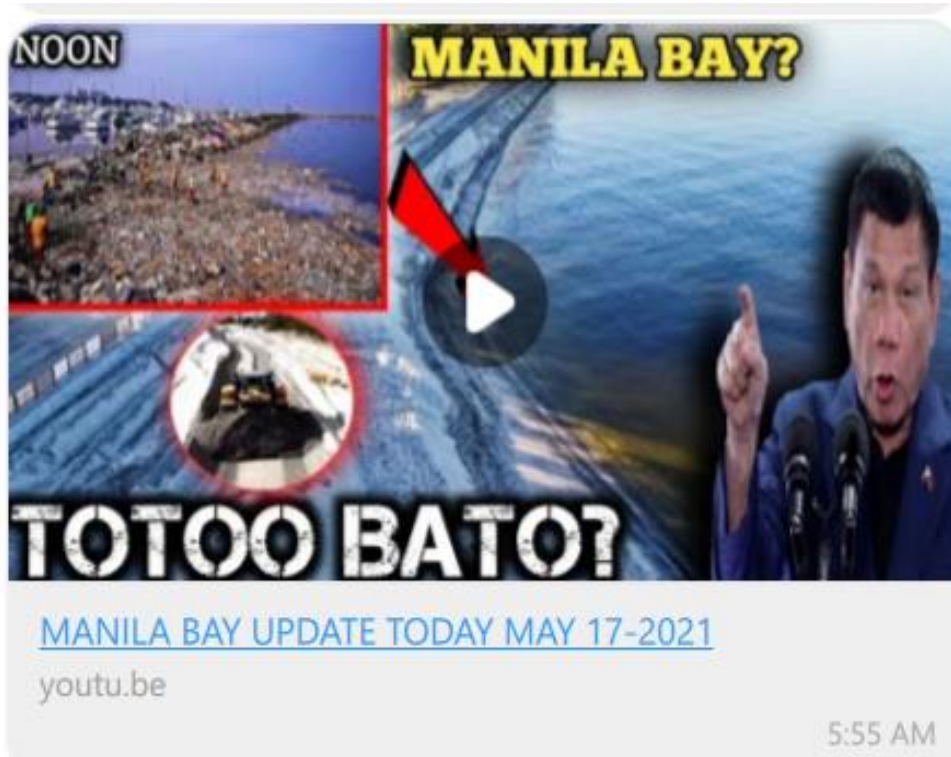
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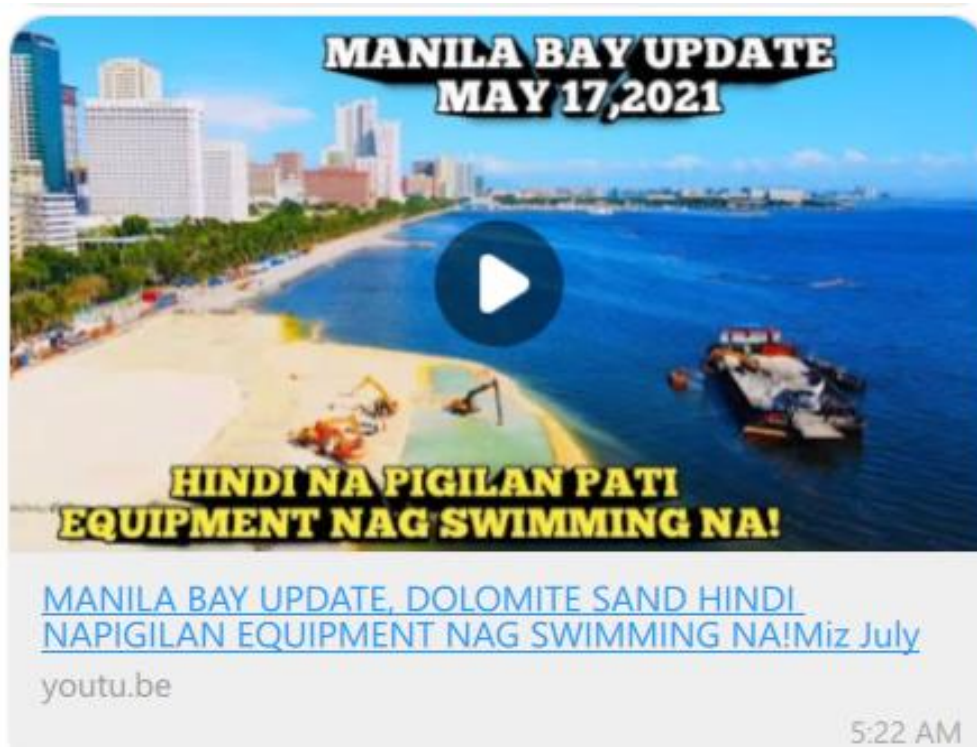


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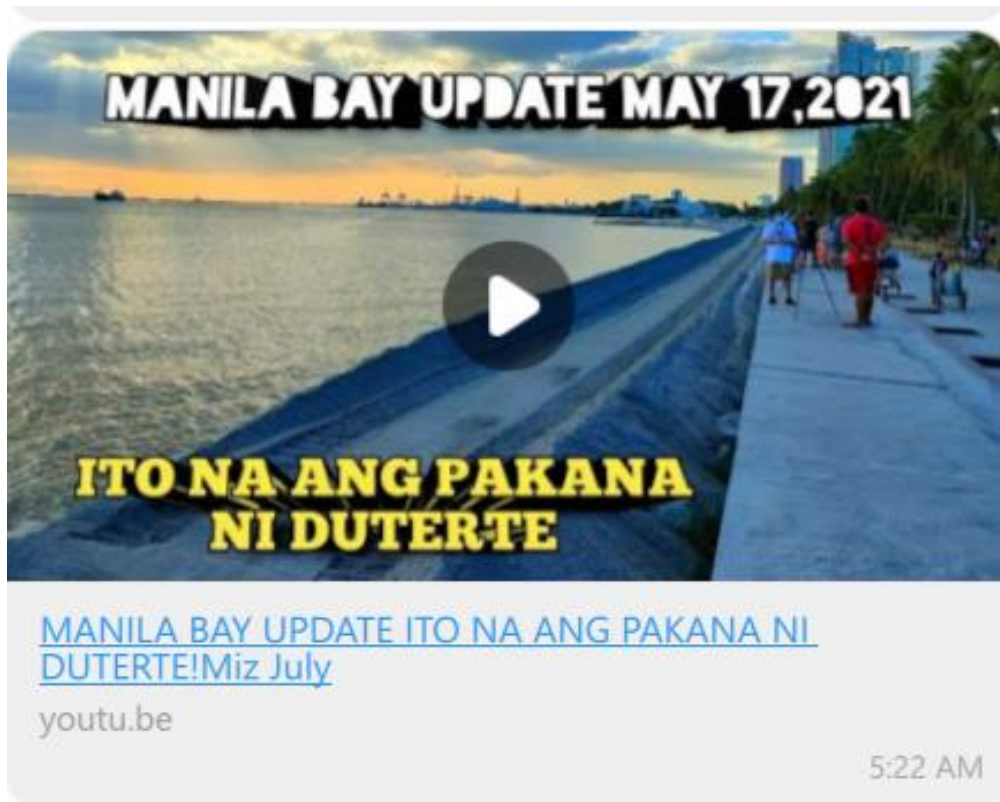
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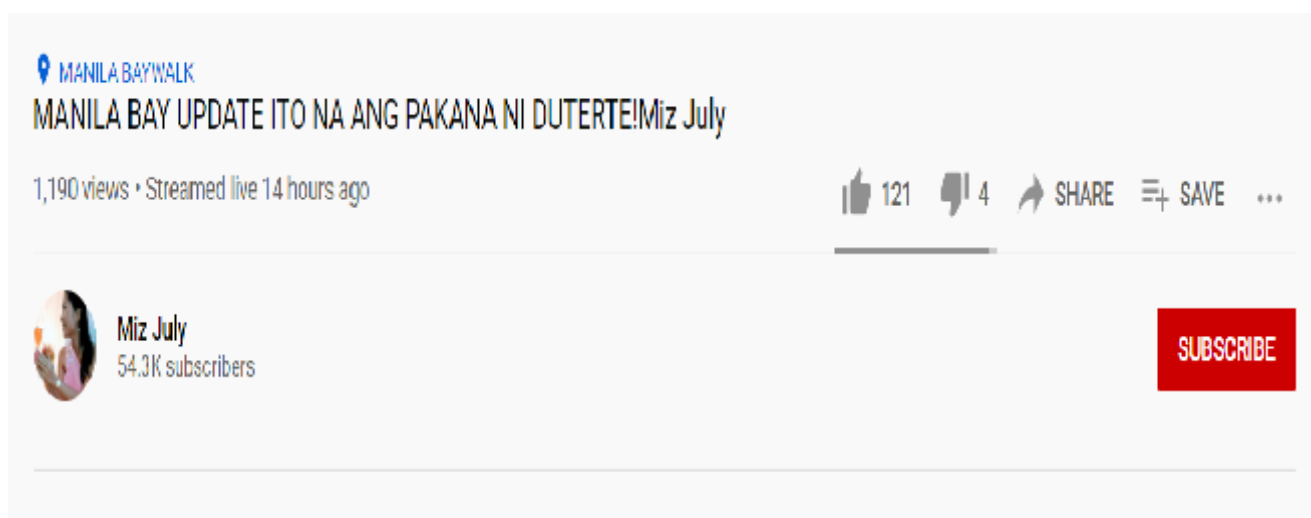
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