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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR nabs two wildlife traffickers in Bulacan, rescues endangered cockatoos

By DENR Published on May 19, 2021

QUEZON CITY, MAY 19 -- In a spate of wildlife enforcement operations in the past weeks, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has successfully arrested two individuals who were selling umbrella cockatoos online.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the arrest of the suspects is part of the department's renewed commitment to "conserve specific terrestrial and marine areas representative of the Philippine natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations" amid the pandemic.

"We will continue to apprehend these illegal wildlife traders whether we have a pandemic or not. This is what the DENR can always assure the public," Cimatu said.

He noted that illegal wildlife traders have become more brazen since the pandemic began, but assured that the DENR remains vigilant to protect the biodiversity.

DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) arrested Rendel Santos, 21, and Alvin Santos, 48, for illegal possession and selling of two (2) Umbrella cockatoos (*Cacatua alba*) at Barangay Pagala in Baliuag, Bulacan last May 2.

The DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Baliuag, Bulacan said the suspects were not issued a permit to transport the cockatoos.

The Umbrella cockatoo is listed under Appendix II of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which means that the species is not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled. It also includes so-called "look-alike species", i.e. species whose specimens in trade look like those of species listed for conservation reasons.

Criminal charges will be filed against the suspects for violating Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act of 2001.

Section 23 of RA 9147 states that 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 to collect for conservation breeding or propagation purposes.

Last April 28, the EPETF also arrested an individual in Sta. Mesa, Manila for illegally selling umbrella cockatoos and palm cockatoos online. (DENR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1075662>



Birdie iligal na binenta, 2 nalambat

By Abante Tonite — Last updated May 19, 2021

METRO



Naaresto ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang dalawang katao na iligal na nagbebenta online ng endangered na ibon.

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Kinilala ng DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) ang naaresto na sina Rendel Santos, 21 at Alvin Santos, 48 na pinosasan dahil sa illegal possession at pagbebenta ng dalawang umbrella cockatoo sa Barangay Pagala, Baliuag, Bulacan kamakailan.

Ayon kay Secretary Roy Cimatu, ang pagkakaaresto sa dalawang suspek ay bahagi ng pangako ng DENR na mapangalagaan ang “specific terrestrial and marine areas representative of the Philippine natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations” kahit nasa gitna ng pandemya.



Birdie iligal na binenta, 2 nalambat

By Abante Tonite — Last updated May 19, 2021

METRO

Ayon sa DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office sa Baliuag, Bulacan, hindi inisyuhan ng permit ang mga suspek para makapagbiyahe ng cockatoos.

Ang umbrella cockatoos ay nakalista sa Appendix II ng Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) na nangangahulugan na ang species na ito ay hindi nanganganib ng extinction ngunit maaaring magkaganoon kapag hindi malimitahan ang pagbebenta upang maprotektahan ang kanilang lahi.

Sasampahan ng kasong kriminal ang mga suspek para sa kasong paglabag sa Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act. (Riz Dominguez)

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/birdie-iligal-na-binenta-2-nalambat/>



[DENR partners with churches, NGOs for environmental protection campaign](#)

MAY 19, 2021, 9:50 AM



Santiago Celario
Writer

Non-government groups joined the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in pledging a commitment to be involved in the initiatives of the DENR in the protection, conservation and proper management of the country's environment and natural resources.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has signed partnership agreements with the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP), Dampay Christian Church, and ENR Vloggers to promote government programs aligned with environmental protection.

The DENR, through the Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS)-Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division, held the ENR Partners' Commitment Signing and Oath Taking led by Undersecretary Benny Antiporda via Zoom on May 17.

Antiporda, who is also the Supervising Undersecretary for SCIS and Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan, said the gathering is "a manifestation of your willingness to be staunch partners of DENR in cleaning up Manila Bay and rehabilitating the environment of our country."

"Through you, we hope to inspire and popularize the society-wide behavioral changes we need to rehabilitate and re-invigorate our environment," he added.

"The DENR alone cannot solve the problems of our environment. We need cooperation in this matter. Bayanihan is needed by all sectors of society. Coordination and cooperation are no longer only optional but indispensable," Antiporda added.



[DENR partners with churches, NGOs for environmental protection campaign](#)

"Together, let us all deliver in our commitment to continue caring for Mother Earth to make her sustainably and productively healthy," Antiporda said, as he also acknowledged the initiative of DENR's new partners.

Among those present at the signing include BSP secretary-general Engr. Rogelio S. Villa Jr., Dampay Christian Church Pastor Bronson Romero, and ENR Vlogger president Junriel Llander.

Also present were BSP executives from five pilot councils: Dr. Aldrin Corpin, BSP Las Piñas City Associate Council; Jermie Jose Trasga, BSP Manila Council; Cedric Dantes, BSP Valenzuela City Council; Roberto Anir, BSP Makati City Council; and Chester Hilario, BSP Bulacan Council, and 21 ENR vloggers.

In the Pledge of Commitment, the three groups "committed to be involved in the initiatives of the DENR in the protection, conservation and proper management of the country's environment and natural resources," and to "fully support environmental management as one of the immediate actions to help sustain Mother Earth."

They also pledged "to implement environmental actions under the ENR Partner's Commitment; to render assistance in advocating and influencing our household and the community in implementing proper waste management, planting trees, participating in clean up drives, promoting use of public transportation, refusing the use of single use plastics and other environment friendly activities."

(SC)

Tags: #DepartmentOfEnvironmentandNaturalResources, #partnerships, #BoyScoutsofthePhilippines, #DampayChristianChurch, #ENRVloggers



DENR, PCG, NAVOTAS INK MOA ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION



May 20, 2021 @ 12:15 AM 5 hours ago

THE Navotas City government has sealed an agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) for a partnership to improve the water quality in Manila Bay.

Mayor Toby Tiangco; DENR-National Capital Region Executive Director, Jacqueline Caancan; and DENR-Environmental Management Bureau-NCR Bureau Director and concurrent Regional Director, Engr. William Cuñado signed the agreement.

Also among the signatories were PCG-Coast Guard District, NCR-Central Luzon Commander, Commodore Charlie Rances and PCG-Maritime Safety Services Commander, Vice Admiral Eduardo Fabricante.

"We welcome this partnership with the DENR and the Coast Guard. Working together is always better than working alone. We are grateful that even with the pandemic, the program to clean and rehabilitate Manila Bay remains a priority," Mayor Tiangco said.

"We hope that through this initiative, we will soon realize our common goal of restoring the waters surrounding the city to a classification fit for fishing, swimming and other recreational water activities."

Under the MOA, the DENR-EMB-NCR will install a Water Quality Monitoring Equipment (WQME) with buoy near the coastline of Baranga. Tanza 1 to monitor the water quality of the bay.

The agency will also shoulder the cost of the monitoring equipment and installation, as well as the operating expenses of the station.

They will also hold orientation regarding the use and operation of the WQME and provide the trained personnel access to the station for real-time monitoring.



DENR, PCG, NAVOTAS INK MOA ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

Navotas, on one hand, will allow the installation of the water quality monitoring station and its accessories along the coastline of the barangay, as well as the continuous operation and maintenance of the site by the DENR-EMB-NCR personnel.

The city government will also provide assistance to ensure the security of the monitoring station.

Meanwhile, the PCG-MSSC will allow the entry of authorized representatives that will check and inspect the WQME.

They will also provide personnel to assist in the maintenance of the station, monitor the WQME buoy and immediately report if there is a change in location, prevent the unnecessary loss of the equipment in case of calamities, and provide other support and assistance when necessary.

They are also tasked to provide the work and financial plan for the logistical requirement stated in the agreement.

The PCG-CGDNCR-CL will provide manpower to assist in the real-time operation of the WQME, safeguard the buoy from unnecessary loss or damage caused by man or natural events, provide watercraft to rescue the buoy in case of any disaster, and assist in any way necessary to keep the monitoring station in good working condition.

Last March, Navotas received recognition as the 2020 Most Compliant Local Government Unit in the implementation of the Supreme Court continuing mandamus for the clean-up and preservation of Manila Bay.

Cong. JRT's jubilant over continued decline in COVID-19 cases

Congressman John Rey Tiangco couldn't hide his delight over reports from the OCTA Research Group about the continued decline in COVID-19 cases in the city for the past three weeks.

"Tatlong beses na pong bumabandera ang Navotas sa may pinakamababang average daily attack rate (ADAR) sa buong Metro Manila," he said.

"Ako'y taus-pusong nagpapasalamat sa ating mga katuwang sa pangangalaga ng kalusugan at kaligtasan ng ating lungsod at sa lahat ng Navoteñong nakikiisa sa mga polisiya't programa laban sa COVID-19," the Navotas lawmaker added.

Rep. Tiangco, who tested positive for COVID-19 but has since recovered, reminded the city folks to continue following the minimum health and safety protocols to protect themselves, their families and the community as a whole.

Navotas begins rollout of Pfizer vaccines

Mayor Toby Tiangco said the local has started inoculating registered residents and workers under the A2 and A3 priority group with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines.

The city received 1,170 vials, each containing six doses, from the first batch of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines secured by the national government.



DENR, PCG, NAVOTAS INK MOA ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

“To ensure we can provide the logistical requirements of these vaccines, the city government put up a cold room in Navotas Polytechnic College and procured a bio-refrigerator, single insulation transport cooler, and two ultra-low temperature freezers than can reach -86 degrees,” he said.

The refrigerator is used to safely keep vaccine diluents, while the freezers can store 23,400 to 35,100 vials of sensitive and extremely cold temperature-dependent vaccines.

As of May 16, 16,742 residents and workers received their first jabs while 3,715 individuals had completed their two doses. Of this number, 793 were frontliners, 939 senior citizens, and 1,983 persons with comorbidities.



DENR: Protect Central Luzon mangroves to save Manila Bay



By [Jerry Hernandez](#)

May 19, 2021

THE [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) is asking 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.](#) said sustaining a healthy mangrove ecosystem is 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 said.

Moreno added 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 filters nitrates and phosphates that rivers and other tributaries carry to the greater portion of the bay.

Numerous studies reveal that mangrove forests provide a natural refuge and habitat to wildlife and serve as a natural defense against typhoons, sea-level rise, and tides.

Since 2011, the DENR has established about 1,120 hectares of mangrove plantation in Region 3 under various coastal and marine rehabilitation programs.



Offshore firm seeks environmental clearance for P12-B seabed quarry project in Manila Bay



[BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MAY 20, 2021

3 MINUTE READ



An aerial view of the Cavite Peninsula (circa 1963-1966) in Manila Bay, Philippines with the U.S. Naval Station Sangley Point in the foreground and Cavite City behind the base. Bacoor Bay is the body of water at the leftmost center of the picture near the mainland and Cañacao Bay is to the left of the naval base.

Silverquest Mining Resources Inc. (SMRI), an offshore mining firm, is eyeing the massive extraction of sand and other quarry materials in the municipal waters of Ternate and Naic in Cavite.

The firm is currently in the process of securing its environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the P12-billion SMRI Government Seabed Quarry Project.

The project involves the dredging of mud, silt, sand and dredged materials from the seabed for the 318-hectare Manila Waterfront Project, a 5-year, P34.377-billion land reclamation and development project of the local government of Manila and Waterfront Manila Premier Development in Manila's South Harbor.

The document prepared by Prism Express Consulting Inc. in collaboration with Environment & Climate Change Advisers Inc. for the SMRI, which was submitted the DENR-EMB is part of mandatory requirements for such environmentally critical project under Environmental Impact Statement law.

The execution of dredging works could only be undertaken upon securing a Government Seabed Quarry Permit, or GSQP, from Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), but other major requisites are the ECC, Letters of No Objections or LONO from concerned government entities; and the



Offshore firm seeks environmental clearance for P12-B seabed quarry project in Manila Bay

approval of Design and Engineering Details (DED), which are typically undertaken after the ECC is secured.

The quarry site is 42 kilometers away from the Manila Waterfront Project, which got its ECC from the DENR-EMB in 2018.

The proposed seabed quarry site has an area of 2,124.3581 hectares off the coast of Cavite in Manila Bay and has a deposit of some 2 billion cubic meters (cu. m.) of quarry materials.

The Manila Waterfront Project, which would require massive land reclamation and also referred to dump-and-fill, needs at least 60 million cu. m. of backfilling materials, according to the document.

"The primary aim or objective of the SMRI Seabed Quarry Project is to provide the suitable dredge fill materials to the planned Manila Waterfront City Reclamation project, which already secure ECC from EMB sometime July 18, 2018. Thus, the fill materials for reclamation must be composed of the same or similar materials as specified by reclamation design. It must be economical, environmentally safe, and expeditious to develop. The materials to be dredged are mostly made of mud, silt, sand and some rocky materials, which specifications are shown below," SMRI document stated.

According to the seabed quarry project proponent, the environmental effects of sand and gravel extraction may include physical effects such as the modification of sea bottom topography, the creation of turbidity plumes, substrate alteration, changes in the local wave and current patterns, which may reach near the coast and the distance is relatively close to Ternate or Naic.

The proponent also said that biological effects of dredging might include changes in the density, diversity, biomass, and community structure of the benthos or fish populations as a consequence of the physical effects on the quarry site.

A total of four sea vessels or ships will be used to dredge into the designated quarry area, which is devoid of coral cover.

According to SMRI, it would not be the first time that such area for seabed quarry was considered for the source of dredging materials in Manila Bay.

The firm said that a previous Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) done in 2007 has identified the San Nicolas Shoal (SNS) as a prime area for dredging.

Subsequently, a Government Seabed Quarry Permit was issued to the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) in August of 2008, which an Environmental Impact Statement Report noted the absence of major marine species in the area.

"It also indicated no coral cover in the area except for some 2 percent to 4 percent coral cover in the Municipality of Ternate; the rest of the SNS quarry area has no coral communities," it added.

According to the proponent, considering a yearly production rate of 8,932,000 cubic meters, the total dredging operations will take some six years and seven months and would yield about 60 million cubic meters of dredged materials.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/20/offshore-firm-seeks-environmental-clearance-for-p12-b-seabed-quarry-project-in-manila-bay/>



DENR turns over JICA-funded projects to upland dwellers



[BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MAY 20, 2021

2 MINUTE READ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 has recently turned over to concerned local government units in Nueva Vizcaya agroforestry support facilities worth P58.3 million.

During separate ceremonies, DENR Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan led the turnover and the signing of the tripartite memorandum of agreement for the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure support facilities.

These include the Buyasyas Irrigation Pipeline System in Brgy. Buyasyas, Kayapa town; and the Nantawakan Pathway in Barangay Nantawakan, Kasibu.

In Dupax del Sur, the local government and the people's organizations (POs) accepted the responsibilities in the operation and maintenance of the Abuang Hanging Bridge in Brgy. Banila and the Canabay Access Road with Reinforced Concrete Box Culvert Structure in Barangay Canabay.

Constructed under the Forestland Management Project (FMP), the agroforestry support facilities partly aims to boost the protection and maintenance of about 3,000 hectares of reforestation and agroforestry plantations developed by the people's organizations in the municipalities of Dupax del Sur, Kasibu and Kayapa.

A 10-year watershed rehabilitation project implemented by the DENR and funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under a loan agreement, the FMP provides infrastructure support facilities to upland dwellers depending on what the community needs the most.

"While we improve the forest condition of the province, we also uplift the life of the upland communities as their farm products will be easily transported to the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal or to the nearest market," Bambalan said.

The DENR Region 2's top official added that the facilities will provide easy access to basic necessities and social services to at least 13,000 residents.

Meanwhile, she appealed for the support of the village chiefs in forest protection and in the restoration of the Cagayan River.

Aside from the four newly turned over projects, DENR provincial chief Edgar Martin reported that 26 more agroforestry support facilities are expected be completed until next year.

"These projects will also support our plantation areas established under our National Greening Program," Martin said.

During the turnover ceremonies, the provincial and municipal local governments thanked the DENR and the JICA and vowed to support the watershed rehabilitation project.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/20/denr-turns-over-jica-funded-projects-to-upland-dwellers/>



Lifting of open-pit mining freeze being readied in draft IRR

May 19, 2021 | 8:37 pm



THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said the draft implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Executive Order (EO) No. 130 includes a repealing clause that would lift the open-pit mining ban implemented in 2017.

MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said during the first session of the two-day consultative meetings for the EO's IRR Wednesday that the repealing clause will lift the four-year ban on open pit mining.

The first session of the MGB's two-day consultative meetings involved mining companies.

"One of the administrative orders mentioned in the repealing clause of the draft IRR includes Department of Environment and Natural Resources Order (DAO) 2017-10 that was issued by the late former Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez," Mr. Moncano said.

"That DAO is covered by the repealing clause meaning that... the open pit mining ban will be lifted through this IRR," he added.

Ms. Lopez implemented the open pit mining ban in 2017, citing the adverse effects of the mining method on the environment.

The mining industry has continued to press for the restoration of open-pit mining, noting its efficiency and its acceptance as a mining practice worldwide.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines has said that the ban needs to go to allow the industry to achieve its full potential.

Anti-mining groups such as Alyansa Tigil Mina said the open-pit mining method creates permanent changes in the land and disturbs waterways and livelihoods.

On April 14, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed EO 130, which lifted the nine-year moratorium on new mineral agreements and authorized a review of current mining deals for potential renegotiation.



Lifting of open-pit mining freeze being readied in draft IRR

The MGB has said that some P21 billion in revenue can be generated by the 100 mining projects in the pipeline, adding that the potential funds will aid the economic recovery following the downturn caused by the pandemic.

Josephine V. Sescon, MGB Policy and Technical Working Group head, said during the meeting that the repealing clause of EO 130's draft IRR also covers Section 23-A of DAO 2010-21 that provides for the conversion of exploration permits to mineral agreements and other existing orders that are inconsistent with the EO.

Other features of the draft IRR include recommendations to declare as mineral reservations areas covered by mineral agreements, except for holders of mineral agreements (metallic) with mineral processing plants; the strict implementation of mine and environment safety rules including the use of technology; and research on acid mine drainage.

The MGB is set to hold the second session Thursday (May 20). It will involve representatives from the academe and non-government organizations.

In 2020, the MGB reported that the value of metallic mining output improved 1.13% to P132.21 billion, of which nickel ore and its by-products accounted for 51.8% or P68.48 billion; gold 36% or P47.60 billion; copper 11.25% or P14.88 billion; and silver, chromite, and iron P1.26 billion. — Revin Mikhael D. Ochave

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/lifting-of-open-pit-mining-freeze-being-readied-in-draft-irr/>



Government readies sale of mining assets

By [Czeriza Valencia](#) (Philstar.com)

-May 20, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The government is preparing to sell mining assets to raise more funds for pandemic-related expenses, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said yesterday.

President Duterte, in a public address Monday night, said the planned disposal of several state-owned assets may push through because of rising pandemic response needs and the threat of a wider contagion caused by new COVID-19 variants.

On top of the list of assets for disposal are large, idle mines initially identified by the Privatization and Management Office (PMO), an agency under the Department of Finance (DOF).

"As we mentioned several months ago, we are preparing to sell assets that are under the PMO. And essentially, those are certain large mines that are under the management of the PMO," Dominguez said in a briefing late Tuesday.

He said the DOF has been working with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the disposition of several mines including the Nonoc nickel project in Surigao del Norte and the Basay copper mine in Negros Oriental.

"And with the developments in copper prices internationally, the values of those assets have certainly increased. That will be one of the large sources of funds for our future deficit, if at all," said Dominguez.

He said the amount that can be raised from the disposition of such properties is still being determined.

On Tuesday, economic managers said around P170 billion would be needed to fund supplemental support to areas hit hardest in the pandemic-induced recession.

This would likely be funded by government savings, increasing the dividends remitted by state-run firms, and other revenue-neutral measures.

Given the increased revenue and disbursement program, the deficit program for this year was raised to 9.4 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Despite the enormous funding requirement still needed for pandemic response, Dominguez said the government intends to keep borrowings in check.

He said for this year, the country's debt in proportion to its economic output can still be expected to remain at under the internationally acceptable level of 60 percent.

The country entered 2020 with a historic low debt-to-GDP ratio of 39.6 percent, but this has risen to 54.5 percent due to unplanned spending and a reduction in revenues as lockdowns severely limited business activities.



Government readies sale of mining assets

Senators backed yesterday suggestions to sell government assets to raise funds for the COVID-19 pandemic response but asked Malacañang to make sure that properties which provide steady revenues be retained and ensure that something substantial would be left for future generations of Filipinos.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and Sen. Panfilo Lacson in separate statements called for an audit of assets held by government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) to determine which may be privatized or sold without harming public interest.

Drilon said some GOCCs themselves – like the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) – can be privatized with regular income accruing to government coffers.

“I support the sale of government assets, like the Muntinlupa New Bilibid Prisons, and privatization of PAGCOR and PCSO. We can review the GOCC list, and decide which one should be privatized,” Drilon said.

Lacson said due to the pandemic, there is need to consider extraordinary measures to allow the nation to survive.

“Proper and prudent steps must be taken in consideration of the country’s long-term survival, thus avoiding that future generations of Filipinos will be left with nothing.

He said there are a number of GOCCs with real estate and other assets but continue to receive subsidies from the national government annually “mainly because they are mismanaged - if not being used as cash cows by unscrupulous officials.” – Paolo Romero



Probe sought over reported resort construction, illegal activities in Marikina Watershed

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News
Posted at May 19 2021 07:20 PM



Photos from the Masungi Georeserve

MANILA - The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has urged the country's anti-illegal logging task force to investigate alleged resort expansions and unabated illegal activities in the protected Marikina Watershed, its spokesperson confirmed to ABS-CBN News on Wednesday.

Interior Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya, in an interview, said that he "already requested" the task force, led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to investigate reports submitted by the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

The nature reserve protects and maintains the watershed in Rizal, which is considered a "priority" area to protect in Luzon, according to the official.

Based on separate memoranda obtained by ABS-CBN News, Malaya said among those to be probed are the following:

- Alleged illegal "entry and incursions" in the Marikina Watershed
- Some resorts supposedly "fencing off the river" while expanding facilities "with new permanent accommodations," violating environmental laws

"It is going to be a joint task on the part of the DENR and the Philippine National Police (PNP)," Malaya said in an interview.

- [Environmentalist: Diminished Marikina Watershed's condition similar to 'Stage 4 cancer'](#)



Probe sought over reported resort construction, illegal activities in Marikina Watershed

"The PNP, for them to immediately stop the encroachment as well as the illegal clearing and cutting of trees being done in the area and for the DENR to investigate if there is legal basis for what they are doing so that we can file necessary charges for those who are responsible," he added.

ABS-CBN News reached out to Environment Undersecretary Ed Leonardo, the task force's executive director, to ask for his comments on the development, but his office said he was on a trip to Zamboanga.

Malaya, meanwhile, said the task force would also look into the resorts as the supposed encroachment and illegal cutting of trees there were apparently due to their expansion.

"Kailangan alamin natin (we need to know) what is the legal title of the resort to the location where they are located, and what is their legal basis to expand outside of their, kung mayroon man silang (if they have) legal title," he explained.

The said watershed in Rizal was granted protection under Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992. This means the area is "protected against destructive human exploitation."

DENR's Department Administrative Order 1993-22 also declared the area as a "Strict Nature Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary."

On Tuesday, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Rizal dispatched a team to the Marikina Watershed to check on the reported illegal activities there.

PENRO said earlier in the day that the team, composed of 2 to 3 people, has yet to return to their office, as the expedition could last longer.

- [READ: DENR office checking Marikina Watershed over reported resort construction, illegal clearings](#)

Masungi Georeserve trustee Billie Dumaliang had revealed to ABS-CBN News over the weekend that some 10 hectares of land are affected by supposed unabated fires and clearings in recent weeks, which could do irreversible damage in the watershed meant to prevent flooding in some parts of Metro Manila, especially Marikina City.

She also pointed out that the alleged expansion of resorts in the deeper parts of the forest started at the height of the pandemic.

The Upper Marikina Water Basin is in its last stages of "forest death" due to continued illegal activities, the conservationist had said.



Masungi Georeserve

8h · 🌐



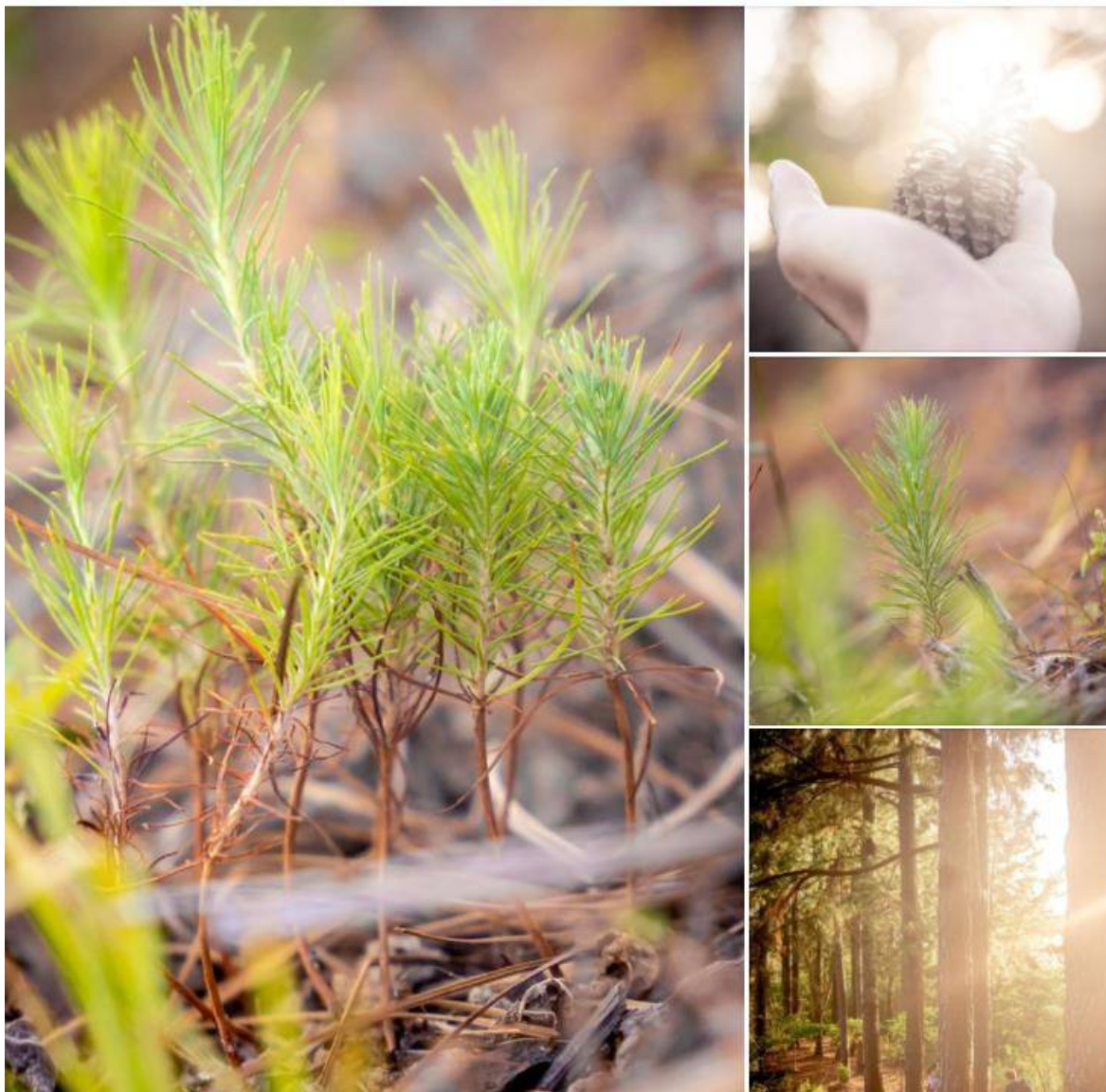
PROTECTING THE BABY PINES OF THE UPPER MARIKINA WATERSHED 🌲

Previously, pine cones that drop on the ground do not usually sprout due to the poor environment. Now, these baby pines are able to grow, thanks to the hard work of rangers assigned in parts of the watershed. These mature pines were planted way back through government programs, but only a few of them remain.

But all of this progress could go to waste. Recent reports of forest fires and illegal encroachment in the watershed pose a threat to all vegetation and trees, including these young saplings that just began their journey. It will take several years—perhaps even past our lifetimes—for this batch to grow into towering and majestic pine trees like their mothers.

Therefore, we continue to urge the thorough investigation of recent fires and other violations in the watershed. We received reports that there are familiar bad actors behind them so let us all remain vigilant of typical tactics which may be used.

[#SaveMasungi](#) [#RestoreTogether](#)





Boracay releases Olive ridley turtle back to the wild

Published May 19, 2021, 11:51 AM

by [Tara Yap](#)

ILOILO CITY – An Olive ridley turtle has been released back to the wild from the shores of world-famous Boracay Island in Malay town, Aklan province.

“The best way to conserve and protect our wildlife species, especially the sea turtles is to let them live in their natural habitat. Boracay Island is indeed a turtle haven prior to the recorded nesting and hatchlings release from the past years until now,” said Francisco Milla Jr., Western Visayas regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-6).

It was DENR-Boracay’s Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation (PAMBCU) and Coastal Unit that facilitated the release of the turtle that weighed less than three kilos.



BACK TO THE WILD An Olive ridley turtle is released back to its natural habitat in Boracay Island. (DENR-Boracay)

Based on the record of DENR-Boracay’s Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), the Olive ridley turtle was kept in the island for its hatchling stage and was given enough time to grow.

This particular Olive ridley turtle is the first from its specie to have nested and released from the Puka Beach of Boracay. In the past years, there were also Hawksbill sea turtles and Green sea turtles.

The releasing of the turtle is timely as the country is celebrating Ocean Month this May.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/19/boracay-releases-olive-ridley-turtle-back-to-the-wild/>



Aksyon Ko Online TV

17h · 🌐



TWO PHILIPPINE SCOPS OWLS, TURNED OVER IN IRIGA

LOOK: PLDT Telecommunications Company turned over two juvenile Philippine Scops Owls (*Otus megalotis*) at the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Iriga city.

So far this is under the care of Albay Park and Wildlife.

📷: DENR Bicol

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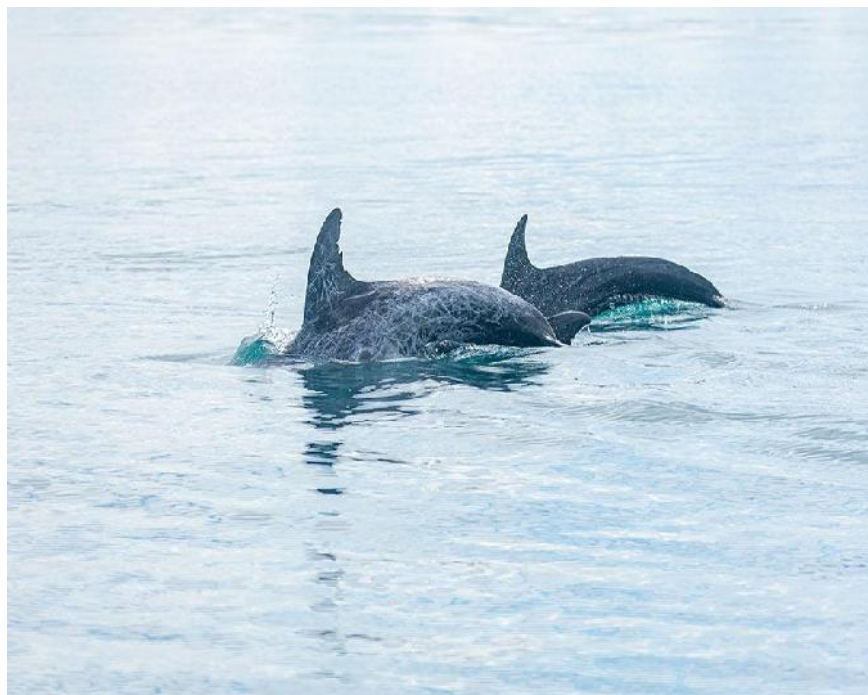




TINGNAN: Higit 200 dolphin namataan sa Sarangani Bay

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 19 2021 05:58 PM





TINGNAN: Higit 200 dolphin namataan sa Sarangani Bay



Higit 200 na dolphin ang namataan sa Sarangani Bay noong huling linggo. Kuha ng PAMO-SBPS Mahigit 200 dolphin ang nasulyapan sa Sarangani Bay sa isang marine mammal monitoring activity ng isang lokal na ecosystem management office.

Ayon sa DENR-Soccsksargen, nasa 200 na spinner dolphin at 16 na Risso's dolphins ang nakita ng Protected Management Office ng Sarangani Protected Seascape (PAMO-SBPS) sa Alabel, Sarangani sa isang monitoring activity noong Mayo 12 hanggang Mayo 13.

Kasama ng PAMO-SBPS ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 12, mga estudyante, at mga vlogger sa aktibidad na kaugnay sa selebrasyon ng "Month of the Ocean."

Nagsagawa din ng aktibidad ang PAMO-SBPS para sa proteksyon ng Sarangani Bay.

PRO 10 plants 1,180 mangrove seedlings

By PRO-10 Published on May 19, 2021



CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, May 19-- Police Regional Office (PRO)-10 through its Regional Community Affairs Development Division organized a Mangrove treeplanting in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)- 10 at the shorelines of Sitio Punta, Barangay Bonbon here last week.

This project aims to protect the shorelines from damaging storm, hurricane winds, waves, floods, and helps to prevent erosion along the coastal area.

It also seeks to increase the awareness level among the communities on the importance of caring for and preserving the environment as well as to foster strong and active participation of the PNP personnel and the communities in environment protection.

The activity was attended by 118 Regional Headquarters personnel assigned in Command Group, R1 to R9 and Regional Health Service Unit.

The personnel have planted 1,180 mangrove seedlings along the shorelines in strict adherence to health protocols to avoid the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases. (PRO10)



CENRO Santiago City leads clean up drive in rivers, creeks

By Merlito G. Edale, Jr. Published on May 19, 2021

CITY OF ILAGAN, Isabela, May 19 (PIA) - The City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) - Santiago City led a clean up activity in rivers, creeks and other waterways in support of World Ocean Day observance held in May 14, 2021.

CENRO - Santiago City head Mario De Guzman II said that the clean-up activity was made to ensure that water bodies are free from wastes.

"The river clean up drive is one of the regular activities of CENRO and part of the Water Quality Management Areas (WQMA) program of the Environmental Management Bureau," De Guzman said.

He said the activity aims to inform the public on the importance of having a quality and clean water bodies.

During the clean up activity, employees from the CENRO Santiago City and some barangay officials joined during the activity at the stretch of Calao-Diadi-Delinquente river at barangay Centro East, Calao East, Calao West, Mabini, Buenavista and San Andres respectively.

Guzman called on all Santiaguenos to help the government maintain the cleanliness of rivers, creeks and other water bodies in the city to maintain the water quality of the rivers and creeks. (BME/MGE - PIA-2/Isabela)



Cenro ready to answer raps over controversial cutting of trees

[TERESA D. ELLERA](#)

May 20, 2021

THE Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, said they are ready to answer the allegations against them after they were also included in a complaint filed by a citizen anti-graft and corruption group over the controversial cutting of trees at the Old Bacolod Airport along Araneta Street in Bacolod City.

Engineer Joan Nathaniel Gerangaya, Cenro head, said the group that filed the complaint against them has every right to file the case and it would give way for him to answer the allegations.

Gerangaya said they were only doing their jobs based on the mandate given to them, although this is the first time that a complaint was filed against him over the issue of tree cutting to make way for the projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the first in the country since 2018.

Gerangaya further explained that in 2018, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu gave Cenro officers the power and authority to sign the tree cutting permits for projects of the DPWH, as long as the documents and requirements are met.

Before 2018, only the regional director of the DENR had such authority, however, they were blamed for several of the DPWH's delays in implementing their projects.

Gerangaya added that if they ignored the DPWH's request for tree cutting, they could have also been charged.

Dominador Villaluna Jr., president and founder of the Crusaders for Justice, filed a complaint for grave misconduct, gross ignorance of the law, grave abuse of authority, and violation of Republic Act 3571 (An Act to Prohibit the Cutting, Destroying or Injuring of Planted or Growing Trees, Flowering Plants and Shrubs or Plants of Scenic Value Along Public Roads, in Plazas, Parks, School Premises or in Any Other Public Pleasure Ground) and Presidential Decree 705 (Revised Forestry Code) against Gerangaya and Engineer Jaime Javellana, who is the district engineer of DPWH Bacolod.

The complaint stemmed from the controversial cutting of century-old trees here to give way to a "sidewalk project."

The move earned criticisms from environmental advocates and residents.

The growing criticism later led to the DENR calling off the planned cutting of trees along the old airport.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1895177>



Cops nab 10 small-scale miners



By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#)
May 19, 2021

SURVEILLANCE operations of the Western [Cagayan Maritime Police Station](#) in the coastal town of Claveria in Cagayan province led to the arrest of 10 illegal miners on Monday, [Police Regional Office 2 \(PRO2\)](#) said.

Lt. [Rhayan Turingan](#) of Claveria police station said the miners were arrested along the shoreline of Barangay (village) D'Leano in Claveria town in collaboration with the explosives ordnance disposal and canine (EOD K9) unit and the Claveria police station.

Turingan identified the arrested suspects as Edgene Caligan, Reylie Acob, [Noel Inocencio](#), [Joel Caligan Jr.](#), Rhayan Avanzado, [Oscar Avanzado](#), [Noel Avanzado](#) and [Clarence Magayano](#), all residents of Claveria town. The two other suspects — [Keith Reeve Julaquit](#) and a certain Dodong who is a minor — are both from Conner town in Apayao province.

Earlier, D'Leano village officials reported to the police the said illegal activity in their area which prompted the operatives to conduct a surveillance operation.

Police confiscated from the suspects a water pump set, two steel mallets, a handheld radio, two pieces of ordinary blasting cap, an ordinary five feet time fuse, around 50 grams of ammonium fuel oil, a liter of gasoline and four steel chisels.

Turingan said the suspects will undergo an inquest proceeding before the [Office of the Provincial Prosecutor](#) in Cagayan province for violation of [Republic Act 7076](#) or People's [Small-scale Mining Act](#) of 1991.

He said the minor was endorsed to the municipal social welfare and development officer of Claveria for the determination of discernment and appropriate disposition.

Claveria town including the rivers or beaches of Aparri, Buguey, Gonzaga, Camalaniugan, Sanchez Mira, Pamplona, Ballesteros, Abulug and Lal-lo in Cagayan province are rich in black sand minerals.



NBI arrests 3 persons for 'extorting' money from quarry operator in Iloilo

Published May 19, 2021, 11:12 AM

by [Jeffrey Damicog](#)



National Bureau of Investigation

Three persons who have been allegedly harassing and extorting money from a quarry operator in Iloilo have been arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation's Western Visayas Regional Office (NBI-WEVRO).

In a statement, NBI Officer-In-Charge Director Eric B. Distor identified those arrested during an entrapment operation in Barangay Lonoy in Calinog town last May 10 as Oliver Estrope, Mike Estrope and Nino Miranda.

After the arrest, Distor said the suspects were presented for inquest before the Iloilo Provincial Prosecutor's Office on charges of robbery and extortion under Article 294 of the Revised Penal Code (RPC).

The NBI said that the complainant, a grantee of a quarry permit by the Office of the Governor of Iloilo, said that "sometime in March 2021, subjects put up barricades of woods, planks, and branches on the roads where complainant's dump trucks and heavy equipment would pass."

"The three (3) subjects claimed that they are the legal owners of the bed and bank of the river where the dump trucks and heavy equipment passed-by and demanded P1,000 as fee for the 'right of way' for each truck to gain entry and P300 for every truckload of extracted material they will remove and carry from their quarry site," it said.

It also said that the suspects "threatened the complainant and his workers with physical violence and will create damage to complainant's quarry business should they refuse to give the demanded amount."



NBI arrests 3 persons for 'extorting' money from quarry operator in Iloilo

While the complainant decided to pay the three suspects from March 28 to April 26, the NBI said Oliver Estrope demanded P150,000 which the complainant allegedly did not pay since March 25, 2021.

It said the complainant sought the help of NBI-WEVRO which pointed out that "the claim of the subjects that they owned the far side of the river, the bed and the river bank is misplaced and has no sufficient basis in fact and in law."

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/19/nbi-arrests-3-persons-for-extorting-money-from-quarry-operator-in-iloilo/>



Face masks, face shields collected from Panigan-Tamugan River



Photo from Idis

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

May 19, 2021

A LOCAL environmental group is calling for a regulation of recreational activities within the Panigan-Tamugan River after several solid wastes were recovered, including several face masks and face shields, during a clean-up drive.

Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) Executive Director Mark Peñalver told SunStar Davao in a phone interview on Wednesday, May 19, that their group conducted the clean-up last week, along with the Bantay Bukid Volunteers.

Peñalver said Idis and Bantay Bukid Volunteers conduct a monthly clean-up drive. But for April this year, four clean-up drives were conducted wherein 25 kilos of different types of solid wastes were collected.

During an April 30 clean-up, 337 assorted pieces of waste were collected, 22 are medical-grade face masks.

"This is a regular of the Bantay Bukid, and they always noted nga ga-increase pud ang waste didto (there is an increase of waste in the area) because daghan tao nagaadto didto maligo, and ang basura nila wala nila gina-manage og tarong. Ginabilin nila kung asa sila naka-setup (of the influx of people who go there to swim and their wastes are not properly disposed of. They only throw it in the area where they have set up)," Peñalver said.



Face masks, face shields collected from Panigan-Tamugan River

He said majority of masks are made of long-lasting plastic materials that will not decay. As a result, it can have a variety of adverse effects on the environment and people.

He also said Bantay Bukid members are the ones collecting their garbage, which is not part of their job.

According to the volunteers, Peñalver said one of the reasons for the current increase of improperly disposed wastes in the area is the presence of various recreational activities within the Panigan-Tamugan.

He added that several people are doing their laundry and swimming in the river.

The Idis head said these activities are unregulated and unmonitored.

In addition, volunteers also saw built structures such as cottages in the area, which encourages the influx of people in the river as it is used for recreational activities along the riverbanks.

Climbers at Mount Tipolog, which is nearby Panigan-Tamugan, are also contributing to the generated wastes.

Peñalver said they were alarmed with the increase of people in the area, which is only few miles from the Davao City Bulk Water Supply Project (DCBWSP).

DCBWSP is a joint water project of Davao City Water District (DCWD) and Apo Agua Infraestructura Inc. that is expected to provide around 300 million liters of water to the consumers.

Panigan-Tamugan, the bulk water project's source, is a conservation area that must be protected.

"It is very disheartening to see nga daghan waste nakaabot sa ilaha (Panigan-Tamugan), which is dapat dili (that the wastes had already reached the river, which must not happen) considering it is a conservation area and must be protected sa iyang state sa pagkakaran (at its current state) because mag-abot ang panahon na mag-degrade siya, kita (there will come a time that when it will degrade) as human being would degrade along with nature," Peñalver said.

He said they already raised their concern at the Davao City Watershed Management Council last year, and they are lobbying that guidelines and regulations must be imposed along the river. This also includes other watershed areas.

He added that tourists must coordinate with barangays before they are allowed to enter.

The number of allowable tourists must also be regulated, he said.



Face masks, face shields collected from Panigan-Tamugan River

"Mas dako ang impact niya karon tungod aning Covid-19 case nato. So dapat i-regulate ang entry sa mga tao padulong didto kay wala ta kabalo nga outsiders ang mudala aning Covid[-19] sa ilahang community (This could also have an impact on our current Covid-19 case. The entry of people in the community must be regulated because outsiders might be the carrier of the virus)," Peñalver said.

He also said all items they will be bringing in the area must be duly accounted for.

Another measure they are suggesting is to temporarily close Tipolog to outside climbers for recreational purposes while the guidelines are still being crafted.

This prompted the 19th City Council Committee on Environment, led by Councilor Diosdado Mahipus Jr. to call on a committee hearing on Wednesday afternoon, May 19, to discuss among stakeholders the guidelines regulating recreational activities within the watershed areas in the city.

Meanwhile, Peñalver said they are currently coordinating with Apo Agua to ensure the water quality of the bulk water project to be distributed.

He also encouraged the public to properly segregate their waste, especially face masks.



Sustainable, Green PH Festivals in 45th episode of 'Stories for a Better Normal' series

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on May 19, 2021



CALOOCAN CITY, May 19 (PIA) -- National and local government officials, tourism officers, and artistic directors, will gather virtually to feature the celebration of Philippine festivals in safe and sustainable ways on the 45th episode of "Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Change Pathways," as part of the "Sustainable and Green Philippine Festivals" series.

The episode, hosted by three-term former Senator, now Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, will air on Thursday, 20 May 2021, 10 a.m. via Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/CCCPHL and www.facebook.com/iamlorenlegarda.

Joining the online conversation are resource persons including Assistant Secretary Verna Covar-Buenauceso of the Department of Tourism (DOT), Mayor Celso Olivier Dator of Lucban, Quezon, JC Cadio-Perlas, provincial tourism officer of Antique, and Rommel Flogen, artistic director of Iloilo's Dinagyang Festival, and Alphonso Tesoro, National Committee on Central Cultural Communities of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts to discuss Philippine festivals in the better normal and encourage communities to embed sustainable and green practices in observing various festivities through shifting to online events, avoiding wasteful consumption, promoting sustainable lifestyles, practicing recycling, banning the use of single-use plastics, and using eco-friendly materials, among others.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, countries, including the Philippines, have imposed lockdowns and quarantine restrictions to avoid the spread of the virus. Businesses and celebrations are mostly undertaken virtually, particularly meetings, gatherings, and festivals.



Sustainable, Green PH Festivals in 45th episode of 'Stories for a Better Normal' series

More than a year into the quarantine, Filipinos are continuously finding innovative means to celebrate, paving the way towards sustainable and greener festivities which gave birth to the collaboration between the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the DOT for an online program that allow Filipinos abroad to enjoy Philippine festivals "virtually" amid the pandemic.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, "Stories for a Better Normal" aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities by demonstrating ways in which a 'better normal' can be realized within our communities.

This online discussion is organized in partnership between the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda and the Climate Change Commission, with support from the Department of Education, Philippine Information Agency, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, The Climate Reality Project-Philippines and Mother Earth Foundation. (PIA NCR)



Environmental advocates concerned over global waste trade

Jasmin Romero, ABS-CBN News
Posted at May 19 2021 09:21 PM



Greenpeace Malaysia has been conducting a field investigation on the broken system of recycling and how it impacts Malaysian society. The findings were shocking: a new 'dump site' of plastic waste from more than 19 countries -- most of them are developed countries. Nandakumar S. Haridas, Greenpeace

MANILA - Environmental advocates in Asia on Wednesday expressed concern on the status of global waste trade in the region, saying bad practices are still being observed despite the introduction of some reforms.

Speaking in a virtual press briefing, Mageswari Sangaralingam of Consumers Association of Penang said plastic waste imports in Malaysia increased from 333,500 tons in 2019, to 478,092 tons in 2020, despite the waste import ban.

"Although the Malaysian government said there is a ban on import waste, in reality, they were issuing a proof permits for imports of plastic waste," she said.

Recycling plants or factories also continue to proliferate, she said. "This is a cause for concern, because burning off plastics will emit toxic gases, including those that can cause cancer."

Ray Yeung, Green Earth's campaign and communications manager in Hong Kong, said that while the island-city may not be a "dumping ground" of waste imports after China banned it in 2017, "it has been a major free port for the exporting of plastic waste in Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand", thereby violating "environmental justice".

As a result, other countries particularly in Southeast Asia have become alternate dumping grounds.



Environmental advocates concerned over global waste trade

"In 2020, Hong Kong re-exports 100,000 tons of plastic wastes equivalent to 5,000 containers in Southeast [Asia] countries, including Malaysia," said Yeung.

To improve the situation around the world, environmentalists called for data transparency through community and media involvement to push governments to beef up their roles on plastic waste trade.

20 companies behind more than half of global plastic waste, report says

By [Clyde Hughes](#)



Tuesday's report said single-use plastics "account for the majority of plastic thrown away the world over: more than 130 million metric tons in 2019. File Photo by Pixabay/meinerestrampe

May 18 (UPI) -- According to an analysis Tuesday, a group of 20 companies are responsible for producing more than half of the world's single-use plastic waste that's helped accelerate the climate crisis and global pollution.

The [Plastics Waste Makers](#) index, created by the nonprofit Minderoo Foundation, said the companies produce a range of products, like face masks that have become mandatory during the COVID-19 pandemic, plastic shopping bags, water bottles and other items that are polluting oceans.

Tuesday's report said single-use plastics "account for the majority of plastic thrown away the world over: more than 130 million metric tons in 2019 -- almost all of which is burned, buried in landfill, or discarded directly into the environment."

"Of all the plastics, they are the most likely to end up in our ocean, where they account for almost all visible pollution, in the range of five to 13 million metric tons each year," the [report states](#).

RELATED [New technology turns plastic trash into jet fuel](#)

U.S.-based ExxonMobil and Dow and Chinese oil and gas company Sinopec are the ones producing the most single-use plastics. The study says those three companies alone account for 16% of all single-use plastic waste.

Other top producers of single-use plastics, according to the index, are Indorama Ventures, Saudi Aramco, PetroChina, LyondellBasell, Reliance Industries, Braskem and Alpek SA de CV.



20 companies behind more than half of global plastic waste, report says

Also on the list are Phillips 66 (No. 23), Chevron (27), Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation (31), Shell (51) and Petronas (83).

RELATED [Microbes could help remove microplastics from the environment](#)

"Of approximately 300 polymer producers operating globally, a small fraction holds the fate of the world's plastics crisis in their hands," it says.

"Their choice to continue to produce virgin polymers, rather than recycled polymers, will have massive repercussions on how much waste is collected, is managed and leaks into the environment."

The report also blames investors and banks like the VanguardGroup, BlackRock and Capital Group for enabling companies by holding more than \$300 billion in shares in their parent companies.

RELATED [New 'biodegradable' plastics actually degrade](#)

Tuesday's analysis calls for governments and world leaders to create policies encouraging the use of recyclable plastics, identify financial supporters of single-use plastic creators and seek laws that would penalize those who don't mitigate the waste.

[upi.com/7096784](https://www.upi.com/7096784)



Plastic waste can now be turned into jet fuel in one hour

By [Howard Hardee](#)

May 17, 2021



A worker fuels a passenger jet at Boston Logan International Airport. Scientists have found a new way to quickly convert plastic into jet fuel. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)

Scientists have found a new way to convert the world's most popular plastic, polyethylene, into jet fuel and other liquid hydrocarbon products, introducing a new process that is more energy-efficient than existing methods and takes about an hour to complete.

In a [study](#) published Monday in *Chem Catalysis*, researchers outlined the process, which combined the transition metal ruthenium, utilized here as part of a catalyst, with the commonly used solvent hexane to break down polyethylene — the most commonly produced polymer, primarily used in packaging and plastic containers, such as bottles — into ingredients for jet fuel.

The process proved highly efficient, converting up to 90% of plastic into liquid fuel and lubricants. "We're quite excited that it could produce a broad spectrum of products," said Hongfei Lin, an associate professor at Washington State University, in Pullman, and the study's corresponding author, in an interview with *The Academic Times*.

"We found a synergy between the solvent and the catalyst that creates a very nice combination that has lots of control knobs so that we can tune the reaction conditions and optimize the whole process," he said. "For example, if you want to maximize the production yield of jet fuel, we can do that. And if the market has a higher demand for diesel fuel, we can also do that, and we [can] turn [it] into lubricants as well."

With plastic pollution now constituting one of the world's most urgent environmental crises, researchers across the planet are developing innovative strategies to divert plastic products from landfills and oceans or [convert them](#) into more biodegradable materials. The standard way to chemically recycle plastic is a process known as pyrolysis, or using elevated temperatures to break down the material and convert it into fuel or new plastic products. This method has been used for



Plastic waste can now be turned into jet fuel in one hour

decades and has increasingly been investigated as a scalable technology by some of the world's largest chemical companies, according to the study's authors.

Pyrolysis could also convert plastic waste into fuel within an hour, given enough heat, Lin said, but pyrolysis generally requires temperatures exceeding 400 degrees Celsius, versus a range of 200 to 220 degrees Celsius for the new system he and his team have developed. "We almost cut the temperature in half," he said. "The lower temperature implies that we'd input less external energy into this conversion system, and that means we could have better energy efficiency. ... To achieve faster kinetics at a much lower temperature, that is a very challenging chemical engineering problem."

The researchers were surprised by the speed and efficiency of the new process, Lin said: "This is something unexpected. We looked into the literature, and lots of people reported that they had a similar process but had to spend almost 24 hours to get meaningful conversions of similar products — even at higher temperatures."

Turning waste [plastic into fuel](#) isn't a new concept. For example, researchers at Purdue University [devised a method](#) to convert the commonly used plastic polypropylene into oil. And Lin has a track record of developing innovative ways to produce jet fuel; in a previous [paper](#), he and his colleagues demonstrated that jet fuel could be synthesized from terpenoids, a class of organic chemicals found in mint, pine, gumweed, eucalyptus and other plants.

But the new approach is especially promising not only because of the process's speed and low temperature but also because the mechanisms involved could be applied to different types of plastics. "The underlying principles can be used for expanding research for other types of polymers, not just polyethylene," Lin said.

A patent application for the new process of converting plastic waste into jet fuel is pending with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, according to Rabindra Nanda, with the Office of Commercialization at Washington State University. Beyond securing approval for that patent, there's also the matter of scaling-up the technology and overcoming the logistics of introducing it in manufacturing and recycling facilities, Lin said.

"It's not a task for a chemical engineer, how to effectively connect with those waste plastics and transport them to the processing facilities," he added. "The biggest problem with chemical recycling of plastic, especially in the United States, is that we don't have a very efficient connection system. We have trash bins in residential [areas], and recyclables are mixed with all sorts of other stuff."

Lin's research team is developing another catalytic process that breaks down polymers within mixed plastic waste, which could help reduce the enormous cost of sorting recyclables. "We want to develop a sequential catalytic process that could handle commingled plastics so we do not need to physically separate those plastics; we can go in on the molecular level and break down those polymers," he said. "We have some premier data showing this sequential conversion process is feasible."

The study, "Deconstruction of high-density polyethylene into liquid hydrocarbon fuels and lubricants by hydrogenolysis over Ru catalyst," published May 17 in Chem Catalysis, was authored by Chuhua Jia, Shaoqu Xie, Wanli Zhang and Hongfei Lin, Washington State University; Nadia N. Intan, University of Washington; Janani Sampath, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; and Jim Pfaendtner, University of Washington and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Source: <https://academictimes.com/plastic-waste-can-now-be-turned-into-jet-fuel-in-one-hour>



Climate activists fanning climate hysteria again; climate realists push back



By [Yen Makabenta](#)
May 20, 2021

First word

IN the throes of the coronavirus pandemic, we can see with greater clarity that Covid-19 has been most devastating in fraying our links with people we hold dear, like close relations and friends. The virus steals into our lives unawares, and then in a flash we discover to our shock that someone has been taken ill or taken away, and then is cremated in such a hurry (by law) that we barely get a chance to visit or to mourn.

The virus has equally been detrimental to our occupations, stealing time away from research and study.

Some subjects that used to be on the top shelf of concerns have been relegated to the background for a more propitious time. But then to my surprise, these issues that seemed asleep during the pandemic are turning out to be still very much alive and kicking.

Such is the case with the once ubiquitous issue of climate change or global warming, which readers will remember had been a frequent subject of this column prior to the pandemic.

[Sound of silence](#)

I am a sceptic on climate change. I do not worship in the church of global warming, as Charles Krauthammer once described the movement. I consider the big alarm about climate catastrophe a travesty. I monitored for over a year the climate debate and corresponded with scientists who wrote on the issue. For years, climate realists in the science community dared so-called consensus scientists of climate change to a debate on climate science. No one took up the challenge.



Climate activists fanning climate hysteria again; climate realists push back



My past work on the subject commands attention again because there is today a serious effort to revive the climate movement and climate hysteria.

VOTT: 'Developing countries' need to take lead in climate action | Jan 30, 2021

00:21/04:45

It looked for a while as though the pandemic had permanently scuttled the climate agenda of the [United Nations](#) by canceling the planned climate conferences in 2020.

One reason for the new talk of a revival of the climate agenda is the accession this year of Joe Biden to the US presidency. After Biden entered the White House, he created a position that had never existed before in US history — “climate envoy.” Biden elevated climate policy to a level of unprecedented importance in US administration. He appointed a former senator and presidential candidate John Kerry as climate envoy, and then quickly announced a plan to rescind Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw the US from the Paris climate agreement.

[US to aid PH in addressing climate crisis](#)

Climate change and global catastrophe

In turn climate sceptics and realists have sprung to action and are pushing back hard.

Dr. [Steven Koonin](#), a physicist who served as chief scientist in the US Department of Energy during the Barack Obama administration, recently declared that the public has been misled about what science actually says about climate change.



Climate activists fanning climate hysteria again; climate realists push back

According to Koonin, authoritative assessments of the United Nations [International Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) — the central scientific body for world climate research — provide no basis for the widely propagated notion that climate change is leading to a global catastrophe. The results published by the IPCC and the official US [National Climate Assessment](#) suggest even that global warming will have only minor effects on the world economy.

Koonin has documented these and other claims in a just-published book, *Unsettled — What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, and Why It Matters*.

[Junk EDCA, the product of Yellows' sinophobia](#)

Koonin contends that climate change isn't clearly creating the environmental catastrophe that many fear.

He says the public has been misled about what science actually tells us about ongoing climate change. Key facts are missing from media coverage and even from summaries provided to decision-makers, he says.

Anyone can see from the temperature records themselves that the global temperature went down from 1940 to 1970, even as CO₂ and other greenhouse gases kept accumulating. So, there were other things going on, in particular natural influences and internal variability of the system.

This brings up front the question of the accuracy and reliability of the climate models. People put forward a lot of qualitative arguments, especially in the public domain, which make the scenario of an onrushing climate apocalypse sound plausible. Those qualitative arguments don't mean much unless they are backed up by credible quantitative estimates.

It makes a difference whether one is talking about a temperature rise of half a degree Celsius or of 1.5 C, or a sea-level rise of a few centimeters vs one of several meters toward the end of the century. But to distinguish between such outcomes, there is really nothing to go on except observational evidence and the forecasting ability or inability of these mathematical models. So, it seems like the decision-making is crucially dependent on what the models say.

Koonin observes in his book: "I would agree if we would say with confidence that the warming was going to be, say, four degrees by the end of the century and if we had fair confidence in that, then we would have a very different discussion about risk values, costs and so on, than what we have currently, which is that the models really are very uncertain.

"Now everybody keeps saying, yeah, but you don't need certainty. I would argue, however, that you do need some level of certainty if you're going to start making trillion-dollar decisions, And right now the models are all over the place and they are getting more so with each new generation of models."

A 'red team' review of climate science

Dr. [Jonathan Tennenbaum](#), mathematician, linguist and editor from the University of California, started on May 9 a five-part series on climate science in the [Asia Times](#). It includes among others, an interview of Steven Koonin and a review of his book.



Climate activists fanning climate hysteria again; climate realists push back

In the exclusive interview for Asia Times, Koonin explained the background of the book as well as some of the unresolved issues of climate science. Tennenbaum wrote:

“There is an urgent need to carry out a rigorous critique of the scientific validity of the assessments and recommendations of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the four yearly US National Climate Assessment (NCA).

“Dr. Koonin’s new book is a must-read for anyone concerned about the increasingly radical measures nations are being pressured to adopt in response to the so-called climate crisis. Are these measures really justified from a scientific standpoint? Does the supposed menace of a human-caused climate apocalypse correspond to reality?

“Koonin has been calling for the appointment of a so-called ‘red team’ — an independent group of qualified scientists — to carry out a rigorous critique of the scientific validity of the assessments and recommendations of the IPCC and the US National Climate Assessment (NCA).

“According to the latest NCA assessment, the global average temperature increase by the year 2100 for scenario RCP8.5 is projected to lie in the range 2.5-4.7 C. Applying the relevant correlation table from the NCA-cited 2017 study, “‘Estimating economic damage from climate change in the [United States](#),’ I came up with an estimated loss to ‘the US economy of between 2 to 5 percent of GDP in ‘direct economic damages’ due to the effects of global warming.

“Not tomorrow, but 80 years from now, in 2100. However one might twist and turn, this can hardly be regarded as a disaster of apocalyptic proportions. ”

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World's largest iceberg breaks off from Antarctica



By [Ivana Kottasová](#), CNN
Updated 1719 GMT (0119 HKT) May 19, 2021



An enormous iceberg has calved from the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf, lying in the Weddell Sea, in Antarctica.

(CNN)The world's largest iceberg has calved from Antarctica over the past few days, a giant floating piece of ice close to 80 times the size of Manhattan.

The iceberg broke off the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica's Weddell Sea, the European Space Agency (ESA) said Wednesday.

The iceberg is shaped like a giant ironing board, measuring around 170 kilometers (105 miles) in length and 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) in width. That makes it slightly larger than the Spanish island of Majorca, ESA said.

Iceberg calving is part of the natural cycle, with huge chunks of ice breaking off the ice shelf at regular intervals. Scientists aren't attributing this particular break-off to climate change, and instead believe it's part of the natural cycle of iceberg calving in the region.

Once it melts, the new iceberg will not lead to a sea level rise, because it was part of a floating ice shelf -- just like a melting ice cube doesn't increase the level of the drink in your glass.

That makes icebergs like this different from glaciers or [ice sheets](#), which are found on land, and which do raise global sea levels when they break off into the ocean and melt. If Antarctica's entire ice sheet were to melt, it could [raise sea levels by nearly 190 feet](#).



World's largest iceberg breaks off from Antarctica

ESA said the iceberg was first spotted by Keith Makinson, a polar oceanographer with the British Antarctic Survey last week and confirmed from the US National Ice Center using ESA's Copernicus Sentinel-1 imagery.

The huge chunk of ice is now officially known as the A-76. The name might sound a bit boring for the world's largest iceberg, but it is based on science. ESA said icebergs are traditionally named from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally sighted, then a sequential number, then, if the iceberg breaks, a sequential letter.



KAMPANYAHAN, SIRAAAN AT INTERES NG PINOY SA HALALANG 2022



May 19, 2021 @ 10:11 AM 19 hours ago

LIMANG buwan na lang, andiyan na ang pagsasampa ng kandidatura ng mga nagnanais na manungkulan sa bagong administrasyong pambansa at lokal.

Pupunta sila sa mga opisina ng Commission on Elections sa Oktubre 2021 para ihayag sa publiko ang kanilang layon ng paglilingkod at pagprotekta sa sambayanan o kanilang nasasakupan.

Gagawin ito ng mga kandidatong Pangulo, Pangalawang Pangulo, senador, kongresman, gobernador, mayor, bokal at konsehal.

NAG-AAWAY-AWAY NA

Kung napapansin ninyo, mga Bro, ilang buwan na ring kumikilos ang mga politiko.

Ilang buwan na ang nakararaan, may pagbubuo na ng mga partido, paglipat mula sa partido patungo sa ibang partido o pagbabalimbing, pagpapalipad-hangin ng mga posisyon na gustong kamtin, pagpapalid-hangin ng palitan ng mga pwesto at iba pa.

Pero pinakamatindi ang pinasimulan nilang mga pag-aaway-away.

May mga sumisilip ng mga pagkakamali ng iba at kahit maliit, pinalalaki.

May mga mabubuti namang gawa na pilit na inilalarawang masama.

May mga sariling maling gawa namang pilit na isinisisi sa iba.

Sa Senado ngayon, nagsimula na silang maaaring makipag-away sa Comelec sa mungkahi ng huli na amyendahan ng batas na Republic Act 7166 o Synchronized Election Law, partikular ang parte nito na Section 13.



KAMPANYAHAN, SIRAAN AT INTERES NG PINOY SA HALALANG 2022

Sa seksyong 13 na ito, nais ng Comelec na magkaroon ng minimum na gastusin ng bawat kandidato o partido.

Sabi ng Comelec, dapat nasa P50 ang gastusin ng kandidatong President at Vice President para sa bawat rehistradong botante, P30 naman para sa partido.

Resulta? Anak ng tokwa, nasa P3 bilyon ang gagastusin ng kandidatong Pangulo at Bise Pangulo.

Dito magkakaroon ng away ang mga may pera at walang perang kandidato.

Dito rin magkakaroon ng away ang mga botante na gustong magpabayad at hindi magpabayad sa pagboto.

PAKIKIALAM NG MGA DAYUHAN

Gusto man natin o hindi, may mga dayuhang makikialam o nakikialam na rito.

Sa pambansang pulitika, ang pakikialam ng mga dayuhan ang isa sa mga dapat na bantayan dahil may kapangyarihan ang mga ito na kontrolin ang pagpasok ng sinoman sa Malakanyang bilang Pangulo.

Maaaring daanin ng mga dayuhan ang pagpili at pagluluklok ng lider ng bansa sa Malakanyang sa halalang darating o maaaring sa ibang mga paraan.

Ang ibang mga paraan ay naranasan na natin sa nagdaang mga EDSA revolt kung tawagin.

Kung mapapansin ninyo, mga Bro, naririyang away sa West Philippine Sea na higit na laro ng mga dayuhan kaysa laro natin bilang isang independiyenteng bansa.

Pinipilit ni Pang. Duterte na maging neutral sa away sa pagkontrol sa karagatan ng WPS ngunit nag-aagawan ang China at United States at mga kaalyado nito at pilit na isinasangkot ang Pilipinas at mga namumuno rito bilang kakampi o kaaway.

At sangkap dito ang mga nagsisiraang propaganda at pagtatayo ng kanya-kanyang pwersa militar na hindi kayang tapatan ng Pinas para mapanatili nito ang pagiging neutral sa agawan ng mga makapangyarihang bansa sa karagatan at mga kayamanan at negosyong dumadaloy rito.

PUMILI NG NARARAPAT

Kung tayo ang tatanungin, gusto nating maging neutral at kaibigan ng Pilipinas ang lahat ng dayuhang bansa.

At gagamitin ang pagiging neutral at kaibigan bilang sandata at paraan sa pagsusulong ng mga interes na higit kapaki-pakinabang sa buong bayan.

At may mga nakikialam o walang nakikialam na dayuhan, sa halalang darating lalo na, nais nating makita ang mga Filipino na magluklok ng mga lider mula Malakanyang hanggang sa mga munisipyo na tunay na maglilingkod at poprotekta sa bayan, kasama ang mga Filipino sa ibang bansa, mula sa pandarambong, korapsyon, droga, krimen, kapabayaang sa tungkulin at impluwensya ng mga dayuhan.



KAMPANYAHAN, SIRAAN AT INTERES NG PINOY SA HALALANG 2022

At ngayon nga lang na may malawakang problema tayo sa kalusugan at ekonomiya sa pandemyang dulot ng coronavirus disease-19, higit na kailangan natin ang pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan kaysa pagsisiraan at pagkawatak-watak.

Ang pagpili ng nagsusulong ng tunay na kapakinabangan ng buong bansa sa darating na halalan ang dapat gawin sa darating na halalan.

Sana hindi manaig ang mga kandidatong walang iniisip kundi pagbabawiin ang kanilang mga gastos sa halalan na sasabayan ng pagkakaroon ng mga nakaw na yaman na ikinahihirap ng higit na nakararaming Pinoy sa matagal nang panahon.

Sana hindi manaig ang mga nagsusulong ng mga krimen, droga at kapabayaang maging sa mga Filipino sa labas ng bansa.

Sana hindi manaig ang mga tiklop ang tuhod sa impluwensya o dikta ng mga dayuhan sa ating bansa at gawing neutral at mapagkaibigan ito para sa higit na kapakinabangan ng lahat ng Pinoy.



Satellite technology to protect PH's maritime territory- Esperon

Published May 19, 2021, 3:23 PM
by [Martin Sadongdong](#)

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. underscored Wednesday, May 19, the importance of utilizing advancements in science and technology (S&T) such as the satellite technology to preserve the country's maritime domain.



National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. attends the virtual signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Science and Technology for the implementation of the Synthetic Aperture Radar and Automatic Identification System (SAR with AIS) project on May 19, 2021. (Screenshot from DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute Zoom video)

This, as Esperon and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato dela Pena signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the implementation of the Synthetic Aperture Radar and Automatic Identification System for Innovative Terrestrial Monitoring and Maritime Surveillance (SAR with AIS) project.

First incepted in June 2018, the SAR with AIS project equipped researchers with access to data tasking and sharing capabilities of the NovaSAR-1 satellite to enhance the terrestrial and maritime monitoring around the country.

The NovaSAR-1 is a small S-Band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite which was launched into a 580-kilomtere sun-synchornous orbit in September 2018. The earth-observation SAR satellite has multiple features conducive to the country's atmospheric and climactic conditions.

Its SAR capabilities enable it to acquire earth observation data through cloud cover and detect marine structures such as marine vessels and aquaculture systems.



Satellite technology to protect PH's maritime territory- Esperon

Meanwhile, the AIR receiver payload allows the satellite to collect ship information across the country's 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

According to Esperon, the partnership between the National Security Council and the Department of Science and Technology will help the government to conduct an all-day imaging and ship detection in the West Philippine Sea, Kalayaan municipality in Palawan, and the Philippine Rise.

"With this project, we have accelerated our interest in outer space especially when applied right to our maritime domain. We can now capture data that would go beyond scientific research and can be used for many purposes including national security," said Esperon, who is also the chairman of the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS).

This could be crucial as the task force recently monitored the return of at least 287 Chinese maritime militia vessels in the WPS.

"We have been monitoring the presence of Chinese vessels within our maritime domain since 2016 but this is primarily done [through] our maritime patrols and sovereignty patrols," Esperon said, adding that it was "difficult" for them to guard the entire 200-kilometer EEZ with the limited intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) equipment they have.

"With the arrival of this project, NovaSAR, and of course with the contribution of other allies, we have improved our awareness of our maritime domain.

I hope with the improvements in the granularity and in training of our personnel both in DOST and involved agencies, we will be able to optimize the products or outputs from NovaSAR itself," he added.

Aside from data monitoring, Esperon noted that the satellite technology will also help the government in monitoring the resources that are in the WPS, Kalayaan, and Philippine Rise.

"We want the NovaSAR to not only focus on the ships but other things as well, other resources that are connected to the environment," he said.

"Perhaps we could expand on that because WPS and Philippine Rise is just about six to seven times the area of our land area and if you would expand agriculture into that area, you can just imagine the possibilities and potentials especially in our fisheries which we always want to call blue economy," he said.

"That makes again back to our motto 'Bringing science to benefit our people.' If science has to serve us, it should serve even the lowliest even the fisherfolk and the farmers," he concluded.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/19/satellite-technology-to-protect-phs-maritime-territory-esperon/>

20 MAY 2021, Tuesday



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COVID-19

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Researchers say NCR still COVID-19 epicenter in PH

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 19 2021 10:19 PM

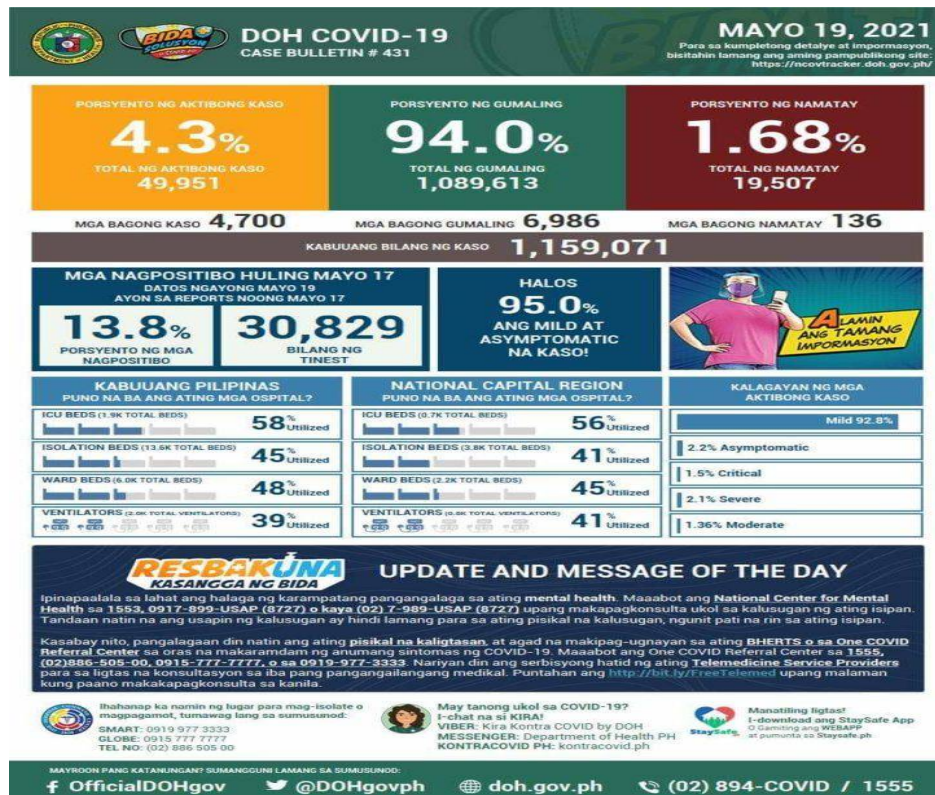
Local researchers recommend that Metro Manila still be given vaccine priority as the country's COVID-19 epicenter, even as other Philippine regions record a spike in coronavirus cases. - The World Tonight, ANC, May 19, 2021

Read More: [ANC The World Tonight coronavirus COVID-19 Metro Manila COVID-19 epicenter COVID-19 surge](#)



BREAKING: 4,700 panibagong COVID-19 cases, naitala sa Pilipinas

By Angellie Jordan May 19, 2021 - 04:03 PM



Mahigit 4,000 ang panibagong napaulat na kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas. Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Miyerkules (May 19), pumalo na sa 1,159,071 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabi kasing bilang, 49,951 o 4.3 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 4,700 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

92.8 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 2.2 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 1.36 porsyento ang moderate; 2.1 porsyento ang severe habang 1.5 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 136 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 19,507 o 1.68 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 6,986 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 1,089,613 o 94.0 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/292335/breaking-4700-panibagong-covid-19-cases-naitala-sa-pilipinas#ixzz6vLqazugQ>

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Coronavirus cases in the Philippines climb to 1,159,071

(Philstar.com)

- May 19, 2021 - 4:00pm



Senior citizens wait to be inoculated with Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines at Mandaluyong's mega vaccination site next to the city hall on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Wednesday recorded 4,700 additional COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of infections in the country to 1,159,071.

- Active cases: 49,951 or 4.3% of the total
- Recoveries: 6,986, pushing total to 1,089,613
- Deaths: 136, bringing total to 19,507

What's new today?

- The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. has failed to reimburse hospitals for a "huge amount" of COVID-19 claims, "causing severe financial distress," the Philippine Hospital Association [told](#) senators during a hearing.
- The two children of peasant leader Joseph Canlas, whom authorities detained and who later died of COVID-19, [filed](#) reckless imprudence resulting in homicide raps against police and jail officers over their supposed neglect that led to their father's death
- Provincial and regional directors of the national police have been [directed](#) to coordinate with the Department of Health in identifying police camps to be used as inoculation sites for the government's national vaccination program.



Coronavirus cases in the Philippines climb to 1,159,071

- High-level recommendations will be made for the pandemic task force to [increase](#) to 30% capacity the number of people allowed at church gatherings in areas under general community quarantine (GCQ), Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said yesterday.

— Bella Perez-Rubio with a report from Xave Gregorio

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/05/19/2099360/coronavirus-cases-philippines-climb-1159071/amp/>

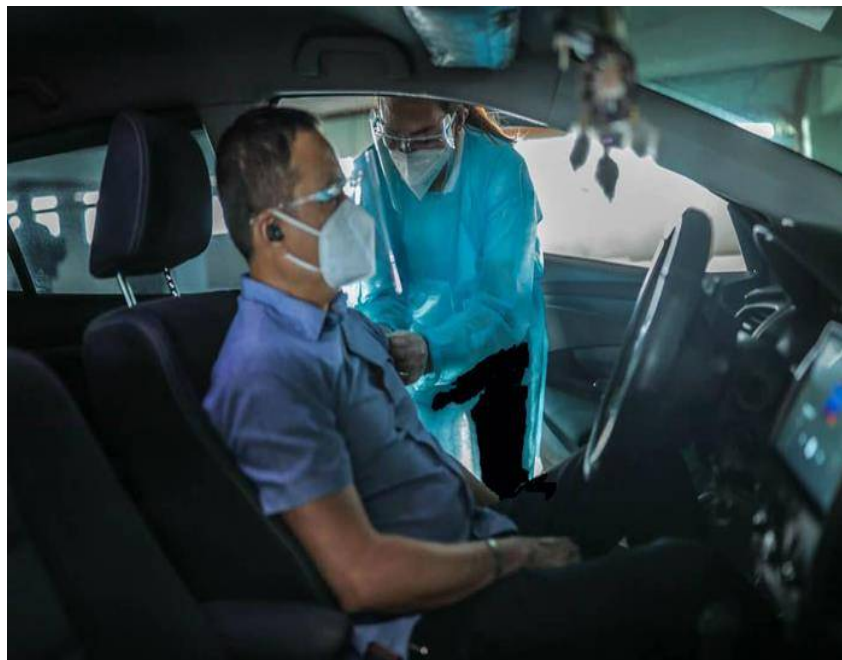


Cases spike in urban centers

DOH also notes rising infections in 10 regions, but OCTA still not alarmed

posted May 20, 2021 at 02:00 am
by [Willie Casas](#)

Some urban centers outside Metro Manila are experiencing a significant rise in COVID-19 cases, a research group tracking the pandemic said Wednesday.



DRIVE-THRU JAB. A nurse gets ready to inject a coronavirus vaccine to a driver, one of as many as 110 people belonging to the A1 to A3 priority group from Barangay Pasong Putik who were vaccinated in the drive-thru vaccination at the SM Fairview carpark on Wednesday. The drive-thru vaccination site aims to make vaccination safer and more convenient for QCitizens. QC PIO Photo

“Significant increases in new cases were observed in Cagayan de Oro, Davao City, and Iloilo City,” the OCTA Research Group said in its latest report.

Iloilo had 58 new cases, up 99 percent from last week, while Cagayan de Oro and Davao posted a weekly increase of 52 percent and 36 percent, respectively, OCTA said.

Zamboanga City still recorded the highest number of new infections over the past week with 158 cases, representing a 4 percent rise.

OCTA, on the other hand, has said the increases outside Metro Manila, while significant, were not yet alarming and still supported allocating the bulk of vaccines to the National Capital Region, which it considers the epicenter of the pandemic.

For the period May 11 to 17, Metro Manila’s average daily attack rate (ADAR) was 9.91 per 100,000 people.



Cases spike in urban centers

"Most LGUs (local government units) within the NCR bubble (National Capital Region, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, and Cavite) are on a downward trend in new cases," the OCTA group said.

The reproduction number, which refers to the number of people that a person with COVID-19 can infect, was 0.80 nationwide and 0.54 in Metro Manila.

The current seven-day average of new cases in the Philippines is 5,834. This was 11 percent lower than the previous week, OCTA said.

Earlier this week, President Rodrigo Duterte warned he might impose a stricter lockdown should COVID-19 infections surge again, and if people continue to violate health protocols, adding that the country must prepare for the worst.

The Department of Health (DOH) said Wednesday that 10 regions experiencing a rise in COVID-19 cases will be allocated more COVID-19 vaccines.

Local authorities and the national government are working to address the COVID-19 situation in the 10 areas, especially in Region 9, Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje said.

The DOH flagged Zamboanga Peninsula and nine other regions due to an increase in COVID-19 cases.

DOH data showed that the occupancy rate of intensive care unit, isolation, and ward beds in Region 9 had breached the high-risk category at 75 percent.

It also logged a 49 percent case growth rate and attack rate of 6.10 cases per 100,000 population.

"Part of our strategy is to give them additional vaccines to their regular allocation," Cabotaje said in an online briefing.

"Secretary Carli to Galvez and Secretary Vince Dizon are flying there to oversee what needs to be done, what needs to be strengthened in the response of local health workers and the local government," she said in Filipino.

The Philippines logged 4,700 new COVID-19 cases Wednesday, bringing the total to 1,159,071, as seven laboratories failed to submit their data on time, the DOH said.

The DOH reported 136 new fatalities, bringing the total COVID-19 death toll to 19,507.

The DOH reported 6,986 newly recovered people, bringing the total recoveries to 1,089,613.

That left 49,951 active cases, of which 92.8 percent were mild, 2.2 percent were asymptomatic, 1.5 percent were critical, 2.1 percent were severe, and 1.36 percent were moderate.

Nationwide, the DOH reported 58 percent of ICU beds, 45 percent of isolation beds, 48 percent of ward beds, and 39 percent of ventilators, were in use.

In Metro Manila, the DOH reported 56 percent of ICU beds, 41 percent of isolation beds, 45 percent of ward beds, and 41 percent of ventilators were in use.



Cases spike in urban centers

The DOH said the Philippines hopes to achieve herd immunity against COVID-19 in Metro Manila and eight other areas by November this year.

The department plans to inoculate at least 108,000 people a day in the National Capital Region (NCR), Batangas, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, Rizal, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao as more shots arrive, Cabotaje told state television PTV4.

The Philippines remains dependent on the global supply of COVID-19 vaccines, but the DOH is optimistic as more vaccines are expected to arrive in the second half of the year, she said.

"We will receive about 10 million to 11 million doses in June, July, [and] August so more or less that will be steady," she said.

Since March, the country's vaccination program has been limited to health frontliners, senior citizens, and persons with co-morbidities due to the low supply of vaccines.

The government is hoping to open the inoculation program to workers in essential industries and indigent people in the National Capital Region and nearby provinces, Cabotaje said.

"We will concentrate the vaccination in geographical areas where there is a surge in cases," she said.

Cabotaje said the government is also closely monitoring some areas in the Visayas and Mindanao that have been reporting an increase in fresh COVID-19 cases.

Also on Wednesday, Public Works Secretary Mark Villar said his department has spent P56.2 billion for the construction of modular hospitals and quarantine facilities with about 25,000 beds across the country so far, with a plan to increase this to 27,000 by next month.

"In terms of quarantine facilities, there is a significant improvement from last month, but nevertheless we still continue to aggressively build so that we have a sufficient buffer in case there is another surge," he told the ANC news channel.



Duterte admin busy addressing Covid-19 pandemic: Panelo

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos May 19, 2021, 5:08 pm



TALK TO THE PEOPLE. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte presides over a meeting with the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) core members prior to his talk to the people at the Malago Clubhouse in Malacañang Park, Manila on May 13, 2021. Duterte meets with the ATF-EID twice a week to get updated on government's Covid-19 response. *(Presidential photo by Richard Madelo)*

MANILA – The administration of President Rodrigo Duterte is implementing several programs to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo said on Wednesday.

“Ang gobyerno may mga programa ng pagtulong (The government has various programs to help [Filipinos amid the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic]),” Panelo said in his commentary show “Counterpoint”.

Panelo issued the statement, as he expressed dismay that the opposition, led by Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo, instead is busy criticizing the Duterte government without proposing viable options, over its supposed failure to address the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Marami kasing reklamo na wala raw ginagawa. Parang sila lang ang may ginagawa. Kagaya ng kaibigan nating si VP Leni. Hindi raw nagbibigay ng kooperasyon ang gobyerno (They have so many complaints about the government's supposed inaction. They, including VP Leni, think they are the only ones who are making an effort. They are claiming the government is not cooperating),” he said.

Last month, Robredo said the government must admit the lapses in its pandemic response efforts if it wants to effectively address the health crisis.

Duterte on May 13 slammed the members of the opposition for raising “nonsense” issues instead of helping the government in its ongoing fight against Covid-19.



Duterte admin busy addressing Covid-19 pandemic: Panelo

Work on your own

Panelo told Robredo to work on her own rather than criticize the government in its way of handling the pandemic.

"Puwede mo namang gawin iyan on your own kasi ang gobyerno, meron na silang programa (You can do it on your own because the government has its own programs [against Covid-19])," he said.

Panelo gave the advice, as he lectured Robredo that her office's pandemic response is different from the programs being implemented by the government to fight Covid-19.

"Kaibigang Leni, kapatid, mahal na kaibigan, alam mo, kasi nga gani to 'yun, yung ginagawa mo bilang personal na pagtulong mo, iba yun doon sa programa ng gobyerno (Leni, you know, your way of helping others is personal. That's different from the government's program)," he said.

With the discovery of new Covid-19 variants that are more contagious, Duterte has repeatedly assured the public that the government is exhausting all efforts to stop the further transmission of the coronavirus in the country.

The Philippines on Wednesday reported 4,700 new Covid-19 infections, bringing the total case count to 1,159,071.

There are 49,951 active Covid-19 cases, 1,089,613 recoveries, and 19,507 deaths. (PNA)

Active COVID-19 cases drop to 49,000

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 19, 2021 3:48:36 PM



The country's active COVID-19 cases or people currently sick dropped to 49,951 - the lowest in over two months - excluding data from seven laboratories, the Department of Health reported on Wednesday. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 19) — The country's active COVID-19 cases or people currently sick dropped to 49,951 - the lowest in over two months - excluding data from seven laboratories, the Department of Health reported on Wednesday.

It's the lowest since March 14, when there were more than 48,000 patients still battling the disease.

At least 92.8% of the active cases have mild symptoms, 2.2% have no symptoms, 2.1% have severe symptoms, 1.5% are in critical condition, and 1.36% are moderate.

The DOH case bulletin said the active case count is equivalent to 4.3% of the total number of infections. The nationwide tally is now 1,159,071 with 4,700 new cases.

The death toll also jumped to 19,507 or 1.68% of the case total after 136 more people lost their lives to the disease. The DOH said 88 of the new fatalities were previously reported as survivors.

Meanwhile, 6,986 more patients recovered, raising the number of survivors to 1,089,613 - which is 94% of the COVID-19 total. The Health Department said it deleted 17 duplicates, including ten recoveries and one death.

The OCTA research team [sounded the alarm on the rising number of cases](#) in Cagayan De Oro, Davao City, and Iloilo City. Cagayan de Oro saw a 52% increase in cases the past week after 94 more people caught the virus. Davao City registered a 36% jump with 61 more infections, while Iloilo City recorded the steepest rise at 99% with 58 more virus-hit residents.



Active COVID-19 cases drop to 49,000

The highest number of new cases outside the National Capital Region was still seen in Zamboanga City with 158, OCTA's report showed. Meanwhile, the areas within NCR Plus (Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal, Bulacan) continue to see a downward trend.

Among Filipinos abroad, four more cases were detected, as well as 17 new survivors, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported.

The updated tally of infections is at 18,633 in 94 countries, with 11,392 recoveries, while the death toll stayed at 1,163. There are also 6,078 people undergoing treatment.

20 MAY 2021, Thursday



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MANILA BAY TODAY | LATEST AERIAL VIEW | DRONE SHOTS
 1,146 views • May 20, 2021

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Isang mapagpalang araw sa inyo mga idol kung kababayan sa muli ito ung pinakabago nating aerial view sa manila bay, at kasama na dito ang pag update ko sa mga kaganapan dito sa manila bay.

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Manila bay update may 19 2021

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MANILA BAY UPDATE | DOLOMITE SAND TODAY | LIVE

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Magandang araw mga idol kung kababayan sa muli samahan ninyo ako sa aking pag update ngayong araw dito sa manila bay, kung saan yung ating pinakahihintay ay malapit na mga kababayan..

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 MANILA BAY

MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY MAY 18, 2021 | GANITO PALA ANG WATER QUALITY SA MANILA BAYWALK

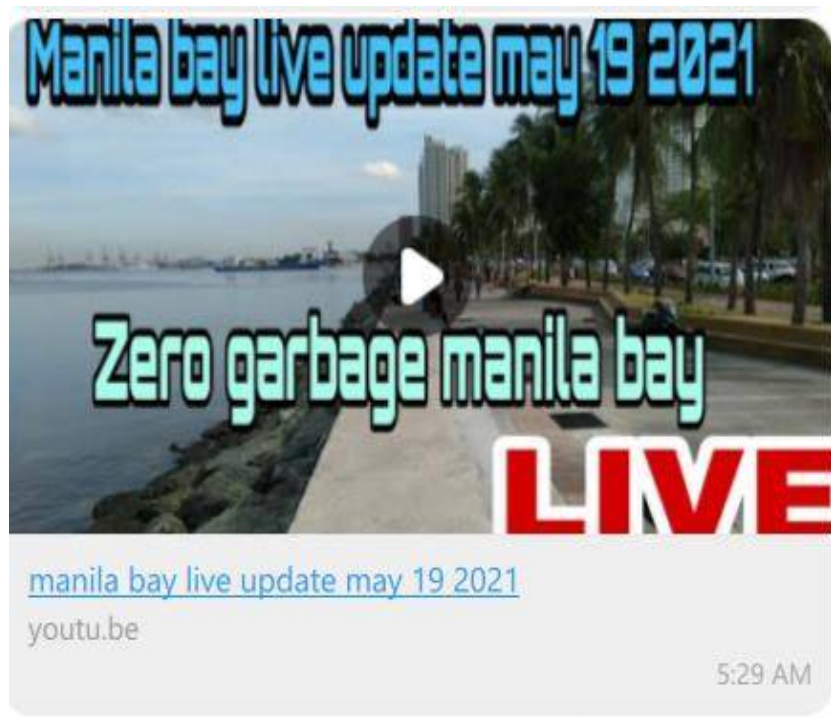
3,510 views • May 19, 2021

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 **Alvin Tv**
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Mga kabayan samahan niyo ako sa ating panibagong update sa Manila Baywalk ngayong araw. ating alamin kung ano naba ang status ng water quality.

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#manilabayupdate #savemanilabay #dolomitesand
GANITO NA NGAYON | MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY 05-19-2021

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 **Kuya Sam** [👤 👤]
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Please click this link:

Source: https://youtu.be/_Ws39jAgK58

MANILA BAY

MILYONG TAHONG!!! NAGLIPANA! PATI BABAE MAPAPASISID DITO! DILAWAN TALUNAN!

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ALAMIN ANG BUHAY MANILA BAY MARINE LIFE!!



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Banyerang Isda Nalambat sa Manila bay
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Manila bay update today May 19,2021

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#BeachNourishment #DolomiteWhiteSand #Savemanilabay

MANILA BAY UPDATE MAY 19,2021 NAKAKAIYAK NA PAGBABAGO DATI BASURA ANG HINUHUKAY NGAYON MGA ISDA NA!

294 views • May 19, 2021

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PHILIPPINES
AKWARYUM or MANILA BAY? DAPAT MONG MAPANOOD ITO!
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MR. ED LLANDER
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wow! SOBRANG GANDA NA | MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY 05-19-2021

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SUPER DUPER GANDA NA | MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY 05-19-2021

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MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY

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WALANG PHASE 2 at 3 ? PHASE 1 Beach Front Panalo sa Ganda! May 19, 2021

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MANILA BAY

HETO NA! REQUEST NYO Minarkahan Na! Manila Bay Update | May 19, 2021

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MANILA

NAKU POW NAGLUNDAGAN NAGTALUNAN HINDI NA MAPIGILAN MANILA BAY

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MANILA BAYWALK
MANILA BAY UPDATE,KATAPUSAN NA NG MGA BASHER!DOLOMITE SAND SA MAY REMEDIOS MALAPIT NA! Miz July
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#Savemanilabay #Battleformanilabay #Manilabayupdate

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#Buildbuildbuildprogram




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#EagleNews
Balingasag PNP, nagsagawa ng tree planting
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