



World Environment Day: Disiplina, tamang sistema sa pagtatapon ng basura, packaging ng produkto hiling ng DENR

June 5, 2020 @ 6:04 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Kasabay ng World Environment Day ay iginiit ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na dapat magkaroon ng disiplina at tamang sistema ang mga business community na ayusin ang kanilang mga packaging product para mapangalagaan ang kalikasan.

Ayon kay Antiporda, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns, malaki ang magiging papel ng business community para sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan.

Sa interbyu ng DZBB, sinabi ni Antiporda na matagal na umano nilang iminumungkahi ang pagtatatag ng environmental fees para sa mga packaging ng mga ginagawang produkto.

Sinabi pa nito na magiging exempted lamang sa environmental fees ang isang kumpanya kung sakaling recyclable ang gagamitin nitong packaging materials.

“Kailangan lamang dito ay ang magkaroon ng disiplina, at ito ang nakikitang paraan sa kasalukuyan para matiyak na maililigtas ang susunod na henerasyon,” ayon pa kay Antiporda.

Ayon kay Antiporda, bagamat may kategorya na sa mga Local Government Unit ang paghihiwalay ng mga nabubulok sa hindi nabubulok na basura, dapat din umanong ipatupad ang bagong kategorya at paghihiwalay sa mga infectious garbage na lubhang masama sa kalusugan ng tao.

“Dapat rin magkaroon ng kategorya kung ang basura ay infectious garbage” ani Antiporda.

Dahil sa pandemya ay nagkaroon ng pagtaas ng bilang sa infectious garbage dahil sa mga ginagamit na face masks at iba pang medical supplies kung kaya’t nararapat na ihiwalay din ang pagtatapon nito bago kolektahin ng garbage collectors.

Hiniling niya rin sa publiko na ihiwalay ang mga ginagamit na disposable face mask o anumang hazardous material at impormahan ang mga garbage collector para maihiwalay din ng mga ito ang basura pagdating sa sanitary landfill. *Santi Celario*

Source: <https://remate.ph/world-environment-day-disiplina-tamang-sistema-sa-pagtatapon-ng-basura-packaging-ng-produkto-hiling-ng-denr/>

DENR acts on Masbate mayor's concern vs. coal

June 06, 2020

TITLE: power plant

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

DENR acts on Masbate mayor's concern vs. coal power plant

By Marita Moaje June 5, 2020, 5:38 pm



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – Masbate City Mayor Rowena Tuason on Friday expressed concerns over the operation of the coal-fired power plant owned by DMCI in their area that was immediately acted upon by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“Nung nag operate sila ng November, pakiramdam namin dito, may dumating na C130 (plane) sa sobrang lakas at ingay nung nag-start yung coal-fired power plant. Ilang araw simula nun may heavy smoke naman na in-emit nung coal-fired power plant na ito (When they operated in November, we felt like a C130 plane landed because of very strong noise from the coal-fired power plant. Several days after that, they started emitting heavy smoke),” Tuason said during the Network Briefing News program over Radyo Pilipinas as she relayed her concerns to DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

After the incident, she said that the locals started seeing oil spill coming from the plant located very near the Tugbo river.

Another fear of the residents, Tuason said, is that the water pollution that may be caused by the coal-fired power plant may eventually reach, damage, and eventually destroy their marine sanctuary, which is merely 1.6 kilometers away from the plant.

The Buntod reef marine sanctuary received the Best Marine Protected Area Award in 2019 and the city government is trying its best to really protect the area.

“Here comes now a coal-fired power plant that continuously emits substances at alam naman natin na kahit pasado siya sa Clean Air Act 'yung standards niya, (naglalabas) pa rin siya pakonti-konting smoke emissions (and even if we know that it is compliant with standards of the Clean Air Act, it still has smoke emissions from time to time),” said Tuason.

She explained that small emissions of the coal-fired power plant which occur on a daily basis will eventually accumulate and may pollute the air and sea and permanently damage the rich natural resources of the province.

“Para sa akin yung pwede nilang magawa dito sa aming environment lalo na yung sa gilid ng dagat, magiging irreversible ito pagdating ng araw (For me, the damage which they may cause the environment, especially to the seas, may become irreversible in the future),” said Tuason.

Tuason appealed to the DMCI to try to shift using renewable energy instead of coal.

Antiporda said that based on the initial investigation received by the DENR, the company conducted only a start-up test in November and that they used diesel that time and not coal.

DENR acts on Masbate mayor's concern vs. coal

June 06, 2020

TITLE: power plant

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

But upon receiving complaints, the department issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to DMCI, as it failed to inform the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of their activity.

Antiporda said a company must always comply with the standards of the Clean Air Act, but foremost in their priority is the safety and health of the people.

“But rest assured that this thing will not happen again and we will closely monitor *itong kanilang mga aksyon* especially on this power plant *kasi hindi ho natin maaaring payagan na dahil sa kuryente ay isasakripisyo po natin ang ating kalikasan* (We will not allow the activities of this power plant because we cannot sacrifice our natural resources in exchange for electricity generation). If ever we find out *na talagang merong* (that there is) health risk yan, *na talagang* blatant *'yung pag* violate *sa ating* Clean Air Act, immediately pinasasara po natin yan (and if they have blatantly violated the Clean Air Act, we will close them),” he said.

He added that the agency is conducting an in-depth investigation to determine if the company has committed other violations.

“*Huwag po kayong mag alala kasama ninyo ang DENR para ma proteksyunan natin at mapangalagaan ang ating kalikasan* (Do not worry because the DENR is here to protect and care for the environment),” said Antiporda. **(PNA)**

DENR to showcase 107 Protected Areas through Facebook Live

By [Jonathan L. Mavuga](#)

June 5, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), will showcase over 100 Protected Areas through a monthly online conference via Facebook Live starting June 22

The launching of the monthly 60-minute program, 12 episodes in all, dubbed “Protected Areas for a Protected Future” coincides with the second anniversary of the enactment of Republic Act 11038, or the Expanded-National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-Nipas) Act of 2018.

The online conference is in partnership with, and will be hosted by environmental advocate Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda.

Under E-Nipas, that amended RA 7586 the Nipas Act of 1992, the number of legislated Protected Areas increased from 13 to 107.

“All 107 Protected Areas will be showcased starting on June 22. There will be a two-minute to three-minute portion where the Protected Areas will be featured. There will be 12 Protected Areas per [monthly] episode,” said Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon, concurrent director of the DENR-BMB.

He said a live interaction hosted by Legarda will give a chance to the Protected Areas Superintendents and DENR regional executive directors with jurisdiction over the Protected Areas to discuss the importance of the area, and the various programs to protect and conserve the rich biodiversity in the area.

“We want to highlight our Protected Areas as a way of ensuring that our future is protected in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic,” Calderon said.

The DENR official underscored the need to protect and conserve the country’s rich biodiversity, which is one way of protecting and preserving human life against future pandemics.

The monthly conference, he said, will also showcase the people behind the scenes, the foresters and the staff of the Protected Area Management Office and the DENR’s partners who help protect the important areas set aside for conservation.

He said they decided to use Facebook to reach wider audiences, noting the popularity of the social-media platform among Filipinos, young and old alike.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/06/05/denr-to-showcase-107-protected-areas-through-facebook-live/>

Illegal loggers caught inside protected area

by [Meanne Rosales](#) [June 4, 2020](#) in [News](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Community ENR Office (DENR–CENRO) has caught illegal loggers inside the Bulabog-Putian National Park (BPNP), which is a protected area in the town of Dingle, Iloilo.

A criminal complaint was filed against the suspects named Donald L. Cordero, Kenneth L. Lazarito, Arlie L. Perra, and Erwin P. Gardoce in the town of Dingle, Iloilo on May 5, according to a [report](#). The suspects were caught cutting, gathering, and clearing trees inside the park with the use of an unregistered chainsaw (STIHL 070 with Serial No. 427821113).

Violators of Section 7 of the Chainsaw Act will be fined not less than Php 30,000 but not more than Php 50,000 for the unlawful use of chainsaw with a six to eight years imprisonment.

The violators are also facing a separate charge for illegal tree cutting for cutting a total of three round logs of Mahogany tree species equivalent to 1.87 cubic meter or 792.88 board feet.

“A permit for cutting trees must first be secured from a CENRO who has jurisdiction over the area where the trees that will be cut are planted,” the complaint states.

“No virus threat could deter our men on the ground from doing their job. After all, protecting our environment from such criminal offense is linked to the protection of our health. Due to misuse of our natural resources, the world is now facing one of the greatest health threat mankind had ever experienced in this lifetime,” DENR 6 regional executive director Francisco E. Milla Jr. said.

“While we grapple to defeat COVID-19, we should not forget and rest our guards against unscrupulous individuals that took advantage of the crisis by perpetrating their selfish desire to gain unwinding the protection of the environment,” he added. (DENR-6)



AngMinero

11 hrs · 🌐



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 9 (DENR-9) has released back into the wild a Philippine tarsier in Zamboanga del Norte province.

DENR-9 information officer Rosevirico Tan said the tarsier was rescued by Cheene Magbanua, of Barangay San Pedro, Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte, when she saw some children playing with the animal.

Tan added that earlier in April a mother and infant tarsier were also found and released. The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte managed the release of the tarsiers.



**DENR-9 FREES PH TARSIER IN
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE**



👍❤️😄 18

Sen. Villar scores need to protect wildlife habitats

By [Javier J. Ismael](#)

June 6, 2020

SEN. Cynthia Villar on Friday said the observance of World Environment Day takes on a new meaning amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, highlighting the interdependence of humans and the webs of life.

Since 1974, World Environment Day has been celebrated in over 100 countries around the world every June 5. This year's theme is "Biodiversity," which the United Nations says is urgent and timely amid the ongoing pandemic.

"We designate some areas in our country as protected areas because it is important for these places to remain untouched and unexploited. There's already a wealth of studies out there asserting that infectious diseases such as Ebola, HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), swine fever and avian flu originated from animals," Villar said.

The UN said human actions such as deforestation, encroachment on wildlife habitats and acceleration of climate change have pushed nature beyond its limit and claims that the emergence of Covid-19 "has underscored the fact that, when we destroy biodiversity, we destroy the system that supports human life."

Villar led legislative efforts to amend Republic Act 7586 or the "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act," which calls for the establishment and management of protected areas in the country. It was passed into law in 1992.

"The more natural habitats we protect, the lesser the loss in biodiversity and the better it is for wildlife. In turn, there are less chances or risks from zoonotic diseases (those that originate from animals and passed on to humans). Wildlife protection can stop another virus outbreak or even a pandemic. That is more than enough encouragement or incentive for us to do our part," said Villar.

The lady senator also supported a provision in Senate Bill 1564 or the "Bayanihan to Recover As One Act" mandating the implementation of proper management and segregation of waste, especially of hazardous materials coming from health facilities, communities and households in order to contain the Covid-19 and other diseases.

‘Destruction of wildlife habitats linked to spread of diseases’

TITLE :

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 06, 2020
DATE



“The fact that they are called protected areas should already warn people about their importance. They are the natural habitats of wildlife, which should not be damaged or destroyed, but protected instead, not only for the animals’ sake but for our sake as well,” Senator Cynthia Villar said.

‘Destruction of wildlife habitats linked to spread of diseases’

[Paolo Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 6, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Cynthia Villar called for stricter implementation of environmental laws especially in protected areas that serve as natural habitats for wildlife, including endangered animals that contribute significantly to biodiversity.

The chair of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources before the weekend warned that the continuous destruction of wildlife habitats and biodiversity losses contribute to the spread of infectious diseases.

“The fact that they are called protected areas should already warn people about their importance. They are the natural habitats of wildlife, which should not be damaged or destroyed, but protected instead, not only for the animals’ sake but for our sake as well,” she said.

She said the destruction of natural habitats has been linked to the spread of infectious diseases such as Ebola, human immunodeficiency virus, swine fever and avian flu.

More than two-thirds of these diseases originate in animals, and about 70 percent come from wild animals, or what is referred to as zoonotic diseases, she said.

Citing reports from the Wildlife Conservation Society, she said habitat loss forces animals to move to areas populated by people, who become exposed to the pathogens of animals that in turn spread viruses.

The group mentioned the Nipah virus outbreak in Malaysia in the late 1990s. Deforestation drove fruit bats to transfer from their natural habitat to trees in pig farms. The pigs came into contact with bat droppings and became infected. The pigs then infected farmers.

TITLE: 'Destruction of wildlife habitats linked to spread of diseases'

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 06, 2020
DATE

What makes the issue important, Villar said, is because the Philippines is one of the world's 17 megadiverse or biodiversity-rich countries, which host two-thirds of the Earth's biodiversity and contain about 70 to 80 percent of the world's plant and animal species.

"We need to not only create awareness about biological diversity, but to take action about its protection because any damage or loss will cost too much for a country such as ours. There is so much at stake and we become vulnerable to the adverse side effects if we do not commit to taking care of our environment," she said.

She said the Philippines is biodiversity-rich but is also among the world's biodiversity hotspots or those areas experiencing high rates of habitat loss.

Hotspots have lost around 86 percent of their original habitat and are also considered to be significantly threatened by extinction induced by climate change. Many areas in the country remain under-protected, which include wetlands, marine sanctuaries and tropical forests, she said.

Villar led legislative efforts to amend Republic Act 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992.

The law provides the legal framework for the establishment and management of protected areas in the country. NIPAS refers to the classification and administration of all designated protected areas to preserve genetic diversity and to maintain their natural conditions to the greatest extent possible. The Expanded NIPAS Act was passed in 2017 to include more areas.

"The more natural habitats we protect, the lesser the loss in biodiversity and the better it is for wildlife. In turn, there are less chances or risks from zoonotic diseases. Wildlife protection can stop another virus outbreak or even a pandemic. That is more than enough encouragement or incentive for us to do our part," she said.

The original NIPAS law covered 13 protected areas. The Expanded NIPAS Law facilitated the legislation of 94 more protected areas to bring the total to 107.

At least six of these are internationally recognized: the ASEAN Heritage Sites Mount Timpoong-Hibok-Hibok and Mount Iglit-Baco, Malaysia-Philippines Heritage Parks, Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area, Ramsar Sites Agusan Marsh, Las Piñas Paranaque Wetland Park and Olango Island.

CHR enjoins observance of World Environment Day

Published June 5, 2020, 11:58 AM

By *Czarina Nicole Ong Ki*

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) is enjoining all Filipinos to celebrate World Environment Day together with the United Nations (UN) this Friday in the hopes of raising awareness on environmental problems and create action for its protection and development.



(CHR / MANILA BULLETIN)

This year's theme is called "Celebrate Biodiversity." The Commission said that the goal is to instill among people a deeper appreciation and understanding of all varieties of life. These include the diverse species of plants, animals, and micro-organisms living as well as their ecosystem.

"With at least 40 percent of the world's economy and 80 percent of the needs of humanity derived from biological resources, there is a great need to bring awareness on what we can do to help conserve and protect Earth's biodiversity," the CHR said on Twitter.

Because of the continuous burning of fossil fuels and the release of toxic gases, the CHR lamented that human actions have brought about global warming, loss of wildlife habitat, and pollution. These things have severely impacted humanity and led to the collapse of food and health systems.

"Today, it is estimated that 75 percent of all emerging infectious diseases in humans are transmitted to people by animals," the CHR said. This fact could not be more relevant, given the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

With the threat of COVID-19 and the emerging infectious diseases, the CHR underscored the importance of conserving and preserving the world's biodiversity, especially since it is there where a considerable amount of medical research is based upon.

"Nature is sending us a message. Let us take care of our environment and biodiversity," the CHR said.



CHR hinikayat na makiisa ang publiko sa selebrasyon ng World Environment Day

June 5, 2020 @ 3:22 PM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Hinihikayat ng Commission on Human Rights (CHR) ang lahat ng Filipino na makiisa sa selebrasyon ng World Environment Day kasama ang United Nations (UN) ngayong Biyernes sa pag-asang isusulong nito ang kaalaman tungkol sa mga problema sa kapaligiran at makabuo ng aksyon upang mapangalagaan at mapabuti ito.

Ngayong taon, “Celebrate Biodiversity” ang tema ng selebrasyon. Ayon sa Komisyon, layunin nito na itatak sa isip ng mga ito ang malalim na pagkilala at pag-unawa sa lahat ng uri ng buhay. Kabilang dito ang malawak na species ng halaman, hayop, at micro-organisms na nabubuhay maging ang ecosystem ng mga ito.

“With at least 40 percent of the world’s economy and 80 percent of the needs of humanity derived from biological resources, there is a great need to bring awareness on what we can do to help conserve and protect Earth’s biodiversity,” ayon sa CHR sa Twitter.

Dahil sa patuloy na pagsusunog ng fossil fuels at paglalabas ng mapanganib na gas, sinabi ng CHR na nagdala ng global warming, pagkawala ng wildlife habitat at polusyon ang mga aksyon ng mga tao.

“Today, it is estimated that 75 percent of all emerging infectious diseases in humans are transmitted to people by animals,” ayon sa CHR.

“Nature is sending us a message. Let us take care of our environment and biodiversity,” ayon pa rito. **RNT/MM**

NegOcc marks 28th Provincial Environment Month

By Nanette Guadalquiver June 5, 2020, 8:17 pm



Photo from PEMO Negros Occidental Facebook account

BACOLOD CITY – Negros Occidental launched its 28th Provincial Environment Month on Friday, coinciding with the United Nations' (UN) observance of World Environment Day 2020.

The Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO), in partnership with local government units and various stakeholders, has adopted the UN theme “Time for Nature” for the month-long activities.

PEMO head Danilo Amisola said the theme calls on governments, non-government organizations, businesses, communities, and individuals to appreciate how all living things on earth are connected in the web of life and how everyone can act for nature.

“The message is clear, to care for humanity we must care for nature. The actions that we take today will define our future. Let us make positive choices and work for a greener and resilient environment,” Amisola said.

He also cited the call of former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan, stating that “if we are to go on living together on this earth, we must all be responsible for it.”

Pope Francis made a similar plea in his ecumenical Laudato Si wherein he encouraged everyone to “care for the earth as our common home.”

On Friday, the PEMO marked World Environment Day with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Fish Right USAID, and the Philippine Reef and Rain Forest Conservation Foundation, Inc. (PRRCFI).

Activities included the launch of environment expression competitions, including photography, spoken word poetry, and T-shirt design contests, on the PEMO Facebook account, as well as the live streaming of Fish Watch: Emerging Tools and Strategies in Fighting IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) Fishing in Philippine Waters, on BFAR Mainstreaming EAFM Facebook page, and Wild Guess: Interactive Game, on Danjungan Island Facebook account.

Also to be live-streamed on June 8 are the Battle of the Brain Corals, on Save Philippine Seas Facebook account, and Youth: Wavemakers of Ocean Conservation, on f/oceana.ph.

On June 10, the Buhay Ilang: A virtual tour of Negros Forest Park will be streamed live by the University of Saint La Salle Pre-Med Society.

A webinar series dubbed “Diversity Matters” will be seen on the live stream of the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (PhilBio) Facebook account from June 16 to 20.

On June 18, the Laudato Si: Power and Stewardship discussion will be spearheaded by Living Laudato Si Philippines.

On June 26, the culmination of the 28th Provincial Environment Month will be held in Hinoba-an with the launch of both the Local Conservation Areas under Good Governance Awards and the International Environment Research Summit 2021.

The Legacy Park in Mandayao Falls, La Castellana town will be launched on June 30. **(PNA)**

Antoinette Taus: Protecting the planet means saving lives

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 5, 2020 5:44:09 PM



United Nations Environment Programme Goodwill Ambassador Antoinette Taus

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 5) – Small choices that help reduce waste and preserve nature can go a long way – it could actually mean saving more lives from the dangers of climate change, actress and environmentalist Antoinette Taus said.

Taus spoke to CNN Philippines' Pinky Webb on World Environment Day as she hoped to inspire more people to be proactive in going green and battling climate change. For her, it doesn't take herculean effort – all one needs is to make little decisions each day.

Put together, these will spell a huge difference.

"Every single day, every action we take – whether it's turning off the lights or conserving water. We talk a lot about washing hands right now. When we wash our hands, we don't need to leave the faucet on," the former TGIS star told *The Source*.

"We cannot stress enough the importance of the fact that we protect nature not because of the planet, but lives are actually at stake," she added, stressing that the Philippines often bears the brunt when huge storms hit.

Other tips include avoiding single-use plastics like wrappers, disposable utensils, and shopping bags if possible. Labeling medical waste properly can also help in proper segregation and protect garbage collectors from possible exposure, simply by placing them in a labeled yellow container.

The 38-year-old actress has since been an advocate of sustainable living. While that may sound like a complicated concept, but Taus breaks it down to these questions: "When we purchase anything, let's do our research about the company that made the product. How was it made? Did it affect human lives? Did it cause abuse? Did it come from sources that were bad to the planet?"

EDITORIAL - In case you didn't know, it's World Environment Day

(The Freeman) - June 5, 2020 - 12:00am

Believe it or not, COVID-19 is good for the environment.

While it was bad for humans because it caused deaths as well as income losses, job losses, and untold misery for those who had to stay away from loved ones, it allowed nature to repair many areas around the world after many humans had to limit or even entirely abandon their destructive activities for fear of catching the virus.

Air and water quality became acceptable in many areas of the world where industries that caused heavy pollution were put to a halt. Wildlife and vegetation flourished in areas that were previously abused by human activity.

We should do our best to make sure the gains our environment was able to make during the pandemic will not be lost once the majority of us resume our usual human activities.

Because, as previously mentioned in our Earth Day editorial, there is another threat looming after this pandemic.

We aren't talking about multiples waves of COVID-19 or an entirely new virus. This time it's an environmental threat. Specifically, the threat of tons and tons of medical waste we threw away after we used them to fight against COVID-19.

It's easy to overlook today's occasion given our priorities. As most of us have been under quarantine restrictions for more than two months, most likely what's at the forefront of the mind of many of us is to catch up with work and business.

However, we should be warned that we abuse and ignore taking care of our environment to our own peril.

If there is anything that our frequent experience with floods teaches us, it's that our surroundings will always get back at us one day. We would do well not to return to our destructive ways.

Water district assures: Water supplied to Calamba not tainted with poliovirus

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 10:26 AM June 04, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Water supplied to households in Calamba City in Laguna, is not contaminated with poliovirus, the city's water district has assured city residents.

The Calamba Water District made the assurance after water samples taken from a creek in the city tested positive for the poliovirus.

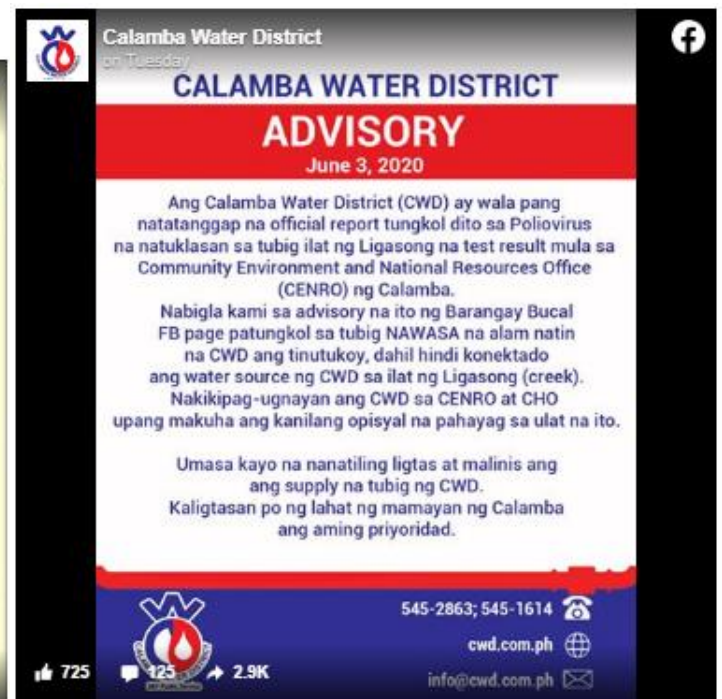
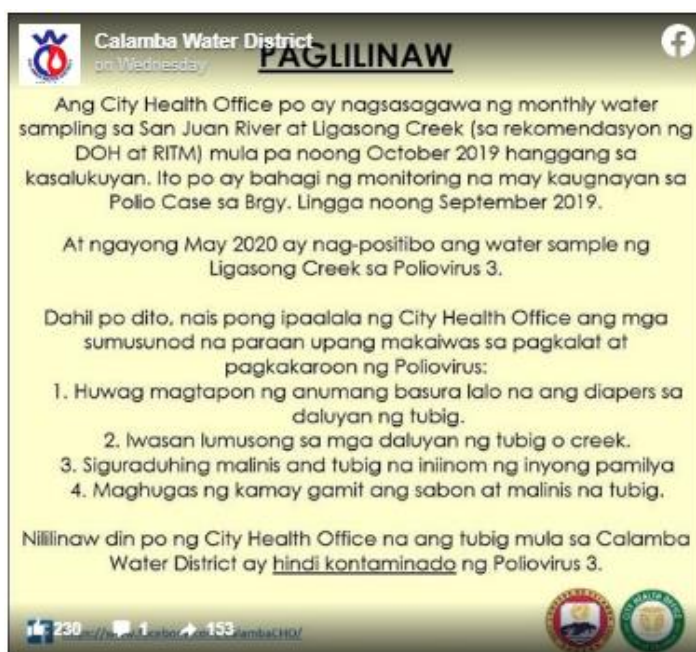
The city water district however clarified that the creek is not one of its sources for water being supplied to the city. It added that the city government has also yet to receive the official report on the reported poliovirus-positive creek.

“Nililinaw din po na ang tubig mula sa Calamba Water District ay hindi kontaminado ng Poliovirus 3,” the local government said in a Facebook post on Wednesday.

(We are clarifying that the water from Calamba Water District is not contaminated with poliovirus 3.)

“Umasa kayo na nanatiling ligtas at malinis ang supply na tubig ng CWD,” it added.
(Rest assured that the water supply remains clean and safe.)

It advised its residents to refrain from throwing garbage such as diapers in any water source, avoid going to creeks, and always maintain proper hygiene such as handwashing.





NBI arrests 8 in illegal quarrying operation in Tarlac City

Published June 5, 2020, 12:39 PM

By Jeffrey Damicog

Eight persons were arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for the illegal quarrying of vibro sand in Tarlac City.

NBI Officer-In-Charge Eric Distor identified those arrested as site manager Ernesto Torres; Reynaldo Balajadia, the owner of the lot where the vibro plant is located; and workers Rene Santiago, Joseph Acuna, Norman Ibasco, Jeovy Mojello, Raul Lazamana, and Ryan Santos.

The NBI's Environment Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) arrested them on Tuesday during operations against J2KAT Vibro Sand Trading which was engaged in illegal quarrying in Barangay Telabanca in Conception, Tarlac.

“They were arrested in an operation which stemmed from information that a quarry operation and processing of minerals in Brgy. Telabanca, Concepcion, Tarlac are operating without the necessary permit from the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board of the Province of Tarlac and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region III (DENR-MGB Region III),” the NBI said.

The NBI-EnCD filed before the Department of Justice (DOJ) charges against the eight and a certain Mark John Gopez, who remains at large, for violating Section 3 of the Republic Act 7942, the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

Distor said those arrested failed to present to NBI agents any permit issued by the Provincial Mining and Regulatory Board or the DENR-MGB Region III.

Agents also seized from the site heavy equipment and minerals worth P3.942 million.



8 binitbit ng NBI sa illegal quarrying

June 5, 2020 @ 2:45 PM 18 hours ago

Tarlac City – Arestado ng National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) ang walong indibidwal dahil sa illegal quarrying.

Kinilala ni NBI Officer-In-Charge (OIC) Eric B. Distor ang mga suspek na sina Rene Santiago, Joseph Acuna, Norman Ibasco, Jeovy Mojello, Raul Laxamana, Ernesto Torres, Reynaldo Balajadia at Ryan Santos.

Nag-ugat ang operasyon mula sa impormasyon na may nagaganap na quarry at nagpoproseso ng mineral sa Brgy. Telabanca, Concepcion, Tarlac kung saan nag-o-operate umano ng walang kaukulang permit mula sa Provincial Mining Regulatory Board ng Tarlac at Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region III (DENR-MGB Region III).

Isinagawa ang surveillance operation sa lugar kung saan natuklasan ang maraming trak na lumalabas pasok sa quarry site.

Naobserbahan din ang mga equipment na ginagamit sa illegal quarry at nang hingan ng quarry permit na inisyu ng Provincial Mining and Regulatory Board ay wala silang maipakita.

Nadiskubre rin ang resibo ng heavy equipment at mga mineral na kinumpiska ng NBI sa quarry sites na nagkakahalaga ng P3,942,000.00.

Sasampahan ng kasong paglabag sa R.A. No. 7942 (Philippine Mining Act of 1995) ang mga naaresto sa Office of the Prosecutor General, Department of Justice (DOJ), gayundin ang isa pang at large na si Mark John Gopez. **Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden**

NBI nabs 8 for illegal quarrying in Tarlac

By [John Eric Mendoza](#)

June 6, 2020

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Friday reported the arrest of eight individuals for illegal quarrying of vibro sand in Tarlac City.

The NBI-Environmental Crime Division raided J2KAT Vibro Sand Trading on Tuesday after authorities received information that a quarry operation is being conducted in Barangay Telabanca, Concepcion town without the necessary permit.

NBI officer in charge Eric Distor identified the suspects as Reynaldo Balajadia and Ernesto Torres, the owner and quarry site manager, respectively; Rene Santiago, truck driver; Joseph Acuna, Norman Ibasco and Jeovy Mojello, vibro plant operators; Raul Laxamana, vibro electrician; and Ryan Tiqui, backhoe operator.

Investigators said the operation manager of the quarry site, identified as Mark John Gopez, is at large.

Authorities required the suspects to show a quarry permit issued by the Provincial Mining and Regulatory Board, to no avail.

The raiders seized heavy equipment.

Materials found at the quarry site were valued at P3,942,000.

Prior to the suspects' arrest, the authorities had cased the quarry area, where they observed several trucks coming in and out of the quarry site.

Also seen were backhoes, stockpiles of vibro sand, and even mineral waste that indicated that quarrying was going on.

The suspects will be charged for violating Section 3 of Republic Act 7942 or the "Philippine Mining Act of 1995."

CCC: Preserve coastal, marine resources for goods, services

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

June 6, 2020

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is urging for the preservation of the country's coastal and marine resources to ensure the sustainable sources of goods and services amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

During "The Great Web: Covid-19, Climate Change and The Ocean" online forum, Climate Change Commissioner Noel Antonio Gaerlan said that the public should give preferential attention in reinforcing, observing, and developing coastal and marine activities to facilitate the conservation, rehabilitation, and sustainable management of the Philippine coastal and marine resources.

Gaerlan also highlighted the value of the coastal and marine resources in the field of medicine and in providing services for the health sector.

Dr. Doralyn Dalisay of University of San Agustin said that the marine environment is a very dynamic and fascinating ecosystem of diverse organisms that are continuously interacting with themselves and with their environment. These organisms are said to develop strategies to live, thrive and survive in the competitive environment.

"Why is the marine ecosystem important to our discovery? As we all know, oceans occupy 71 percent of the Earth's surface, and hold 97 percent of the Earth's water and nearly 87 percent of life which is essentially unexplored and untouched life forms, and is a great source of undiscovered organisms, including microorganisms," said Dalisay.

Dr. Jonel Saludes, also from University of San Agustin, meanwhile, emphasized the importance of raising awareness and educating the public in implementing environmental policies.

"The country does not lack laws; we have a stockpile of laws to protect our biodiversity, whether that's on wildlife, marine resources, plants, natural products, and many more to protect biopiracy. In my opinion, what we lack is awareness among ourselves. What do we do to protect and implement those laws? I believe, educating our fellow Filipinos is the key to this, if not the lack of laws," Saludes said.

Ocean and marine conservation advocate Dr. Mudjekeewis Santos of the Department of Agriculture's National Fisheries Research and Development Institute also discussed the importance of fisheries in the Philippine economy and how climate change affects the livelihood of local fisherfolks.

He stressed that the Philippines is always ranked top 10 in terms of vulnerability to the impacts of climate change mainly because of the country's exposure to natural hazards, typhoons, flooding, and many more.

"Our systems are very sensitive right now, meaning there's a lot of pollution, degradation in our reef system, and our adaptive capacities are very low. Seventy percent of the communities in coastal areas, a lot of them are fisherfolks, are considered the poorest of the poor in our country," Santos said.

CCC: Preserve coastal, marine resources for goods,
services

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 06, 2020
DATE

He added that mobilizing protection and conservation efforts are necessary in order to maintain a healthy marine biodiversity that is resilient to climate change.

Santos also noted that while the country needs to address the Covid-19 pandemic, the public should not forget the big picture with the larger issues that the country needs to think about, related to climate change.

The said online forum on climate emergency and ocean conservation is a partnership between the CCC and RARE Philippines, with support from the Center for Chemical Biology and Biotechnology and CND3 of the University of San Agustin, and the Department of Agriculture – National Fisheries Research and Development Institute.

IATF-EID announces updated guidelines on GCQ, MGCQ areas

June 4, 2020



The Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) has laid out amended government guidelines amid the implementation of varying community quarantine in different areas.

Gatherings for religious and other purposes have been allowed under some conditions in areas under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ).

“[M]ovie screenings, concerts, sporting events, and other entertainment activities, religious services, and work conferences shall be allowed provided that participants shall be limited to 50% of the seating or venue capacity,” part of the guidelines read.

Based on IATF-EID Resolution No. 43, outdoor non-contact sports and exercises such as walking, jogging, running, biking, golf, swimming, tennis, badminton, equestrian, range shooting, and skateboarding have been allowed in areas under general community quarantine (GCQ).

Regarding movement of people for MGCQ areas, it “shall be limited to accessing essential goods and services, for work in the offices or industries permitted to operate hereunder, and for other activities permitted.”

The guidelines added that “limited face-to-face or in-person classes may be conducted in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) provided there is strict compliance with minimum public health standards, consultation with local government units, and compliance with guidelines set by the CHED.”

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque also disclosed a new policy where sidecars will now be allowed in national highways to help augment the lack of transportation in GCQ and MGCQ areas.

Meanwhile, select members of the IATF are in Davao City for a meeting with President Rodrigo R. Duterte this evening which is expected to be followed by a new public address of the President. – Report from Mela Lesmoras

Duterte can realign funds sans Bayanihan Law — Drilon

Published 12 hours ago on June 5, 2020 06:32 PM

By **Hananeel Bordey**



After Bayanihan To Heal As One Act expired on Friday, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said President Rodrigo Duterte can still realign funds for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) response.

In a statement, Drilon said that the Constitution and the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on the Disbursement Acceleration Program can provide "enough leeway" for the Chief Executive to realign the budget to act on a crisis and public emergency like COVID-19 pandemic.

This came after both Houses of Congress failed to pass a measure that will replace the Republic Act 11469 or the Bayanihan To Heal As One Act.

Instead of extending the Bayanihan To Heal As One, the upper chamber crafted Senate Bill 1564 which seeks to replace the Bayanihan Law and add more provisions to assist the critically-impacted sectors in the country.

Under Article VI Section 23 (2) of the Constitution, special laws or emergency measures like the Bayanihan Law "shall cease upon the next adjournment of Congress."

Malacañang did not certify SB 1564 as urgent and the bill was only passed on second reading on Wednesday night. The Constitution has a three readings requirement which should be done on separate days and without certification, the Senate cannot approve the bill on third reading.

But even without a new Bayanihan Law, Drilon noted that Article 6, Section 25 of the Constitution, Section 38 and 39 of the Revised Administrative Code and Section 66 of the 2020 General Appropriations Act authorizes Duterte to suspend the expenditure of appropriations, declare savings and realign it.

Savings within the Executive Branch can also be utilized and realigned to other items of existing appropriations or items that are included in the 2020 General Appropriations Act to fund COVID-19 response activities.

"The non-passage of the proposed Bayanihan to Recover as One Act should not prevent the President from continuing to implement programs, projects, and activities in Bayanihan to Heal as One Act that have corresponding appropriations in the General Appropriations Act," Drilon said.

"In view of the considerable effects of COVID-19 pandemic to the country and our fellow Filipinos, the President can exercise this power judiciously and in accordance with the Supreme Court decision on the use of savings to augment funds as provided in *Araullo v. Aquino*, (G.R. No. 209287, July 1, 2014)," he added.

Drilon also lamented over the non-passage of Senate Bill 1564 or the Bayanihan To Recover As One bill but despite its non-approval, Drilon urged the government to provide assistance to Filipinos who are greatly affected by the health crisis.

He said Duterte can just realign funds for the cash-for-work program and Labor Department's TUPAD or Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers to provide assistance to displaced workers and overseas Filipino workers.

Go urges fulfillment of Bayanihan deliverables

Published 12 hours ago on June 5, 2020 06:34 PM

By **TDT**



Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go urged the Executive department to ensure that the objectives and commitments under the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (Bayanihan 1) will be fulfilled.

In a statement, the senator – who is a member of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the implementation of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act – stressed that the benefits due to health workers and the public should be delivered in full.

Go's comments came after his privilege speech during the last Senate session wherein he lamented about the non-payment of the compensation for health workers who have died of or have been infected by COVID-19, as provided under said act.

"As the chair of the Senate Committee on Health and as a member of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the implementation of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, I call upon the concerned agencies to remedy this immediately and release the rightful compensation for our health workers who have died of or have been infected by COVID-19, as provided by law," said Go.

The senator explained that it is clear under the Bayanihan 1 law that health workers shall receive compensation once they are infected, hospitalized or expire due to the virus, adding that heads must roll on the issue of delayed compensation for medical frontliners.

Expressing his own frustration and disappointment over the delay, Go also recounted how he fought for the budget of the health department to ensure that its offices retain their funding.

The Senator also said that he fought for the restoration of the budget to pay for the salaries of health care workers to prevent their dismissal and advised the public to let the concerned agencies act on the matter and investigate the issue and it is up to President Rodrigo Duterte to decide.

To recall, the President has given the agencies involved until June 9 to release the checks representing compensation for deceased and sick health workers because of COVID-19 infection.

PNP orders simplification of travel pass

Published 13 hours ago on June 5, 2020 05:06 PM

By **Kristina Maralit**



To hasten the issuance of needed documents of Locally Stranded Individuals (LSI) and prevent backlogs, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Police General Archie Gamboa on Friday ordered all chiefs of police and station commanders to simplify the process of applying for travel authority.

Unlike before when the issuance of travel authority depends on the point of destination, Joint Task Force COVID Shield commander, PLt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar — acting on Gamboa's directive — said that the power to issue travel authority for travel in any part of the country is now delegated to the chiefs of police and station commanders.

“Our Chief PNP General Gamboa wants to simplify everything for those who really need to travel. He delegated the power to issue Travel Authority purposely to make it more accessible for all our kababayan in any part of the country,” Eleazar said Friday.

“So our kababayan can now go to the nearest police station in their localities to get a travel authority,” he added.

In securing a travel authority, Eleazar noted that a Medical Clearance Certificate from the City or Municipal Health Office has to be presented to the Help Desks of the nearest police stations.

The document, according to Eleazar, is essential in determining the health condition of those who would travel, particularly to determine if they are free of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The chiefs of Police or the station commanders — through their Help Desks — will then coordinate with the local government of destination of the applicants through the local police stations.

Once the coordination is completed, the travel authority will be issued to the applicants. Police personnel manning the Help Desk, in turn, would notify the applicant to pick up the hard copy of the travel authority, or send it via e-mail or any messaging apps like Messenger or Viber.

“The issuance of travel authority depends on the process of coordination between the police commanders of the point of origin and the LGU-destination,” according to Eleazar.

He, however, explained that Provincial directors, City directors, District directors in Metro Manila, and Regional directors can still issue a travel authority, as well as the director for operations of the PNP based at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

More than 57,000 travel authority have so far been issued for LSI and Indispensable Travels relating to medical and family emergencies based on the data of the JTF COVID Shield.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/05/pnp-orders-simplification-of-travel-pass/>

House OKs COVID-19 test for vulnerable

Published 1 day ago on June 5, 2020 12:33 AM

By **Keith A. Calayag**



Health workers collecting blood samples for PCR testing in Caloocan City. (From MOM Facebook)

The House of Representatives has approved on third and final reading House Bill 6865 which mandates the conduct of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 testing for vulnerable sectors of society.

A total of 240 lawmakers voted on the affirmative while one lawmaker voted in the negative on HB 6865 during the plenary session on Thursday.

The “vulnerable” members of society cover asymptomatic persons returning to work with co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, pregnancy, and old age.

The bill also covers health care workers, sales personnel, food handlers, factory workers, construction workers and bank and transfer fund facilities workers.

Persons entering the country from abroad, including foreign nationals, are also included in the measure.

The bill states that the testing subsidy shall not exceed P1,700 for government institutions and P1,800 for private institutions per vulnerable person tested.

The House of Representatives has also approved on third and final reading the bill that will allow President Rodrigo Duterte to move the class opening beyond August.

A total of 241 lawmakers voted for the approval of House Bill 6895 during the session on Thursday.

The bill, which is an adopted version of the Senate’s bill, gives the President authority to set a different date for the start of school year upon recommendation of the Department of Education when a state of emergency is declared.

The bill seeks to amend Section 3 of the Republic Act No. 7797 which mandates the opening of the classes between the first Monday of June but not later than August.

p: wjg

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/05/house-oks-covid-19-test-for-vulnerable/>

Duterte reviewing restated water concessions

Published 6 hours ago on June 6, 2020 12:05 AM

By **Francis Wakefield**



Government lawyers on Friday competed proposed new contracts with the water concessionaires that President Duterte vowed to review and sign so long as Manila Water and Maynilad return ostensibly onerous charges imposed for years on consumers.

In addressing the issue over state-owned television station PTV-4, Duterte said he is even willing to accept a staggered payment of supposedly excess charges levied in part for the construction of water treatment facilities that were never built the past 20 years.

“The papers are here with me now. Starting (today) I will review the contracts proposed by the government panel to the Ayala and Pangilinan consortiums. I am okay with it as long as the peoples’ money is returned, even on installment basis,” the President said in a mix of Filipino.

He acknowledged having moderated his views on the subject since the allegedly onerous water contracts first hugged the headlines late last year so long as the concessionaires “return the money to the people.”

The alternative to contract terms disadvantageous to the government and its people will compel him to “proceed to the next phase which is really the filing of cases,” he said.

“I am willing to forget. Just give us a contract that is fair and return the money to the people,” he adamantly insisted.

Duterte used strong words in local language and owned up to using expletives on reports that Maynilad and Manila Water allegedly overcharged consumers beginning 1997 and never constructed water treatment facilities despite allegedly repeated commitments to build them.

“I apologize,” he reiterated.

President Duterte in May also apologized for using strong words against Manila Water which is a subsidiary of Ayala Corporation and against Maynilad controlled by Metro Pacific Investments Corp. led managed by Manny Pangilinan.

“I apologize for the hurting words. (I hope) you (the Ayalas and Pangilinan) can find it in your heart to forgive me because if you do not, I will ask God,” he said over PTV-4.

Duterte likewise thanked the Ayalas and Pangilinan for helping government deal with the pandemic with the generous fund and equipment donations.

“I’d like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping us provide the necessities of the moment. I promise you I’ll be nice and if you want to see me, we can talk. I have expended all my anger because of the COVID ... the COVID humbled me,” Duterte said.

He also committed to be reasonable when the government and the water concessionaires meet to sign the restated contracts: “So maybe there will be legal issues but we can talk. I am ready to talk and I’ll be reasonable.”

The Manila Water concession is managed by the Ayala Group of Companies led by its board vice chairman, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, board member Fernando Zobel de Ayala, and its president, Jose Rene Gregory Almendras.

Maynilad is controlled by MPIC and DMCI Holdings Inc. MPIC’s top officials include board chairman Manny Pangilinan, president Jose Ma. Lim and executive vice president and chief finance officer, David Nicol.

Isidro Consunji is board chairman and president of DMCI. Herbert Consunji is EVP and CFO.

Duterte had said Manila Water and Maynilad officials should face plunder and syndicated estafa charges for allegedly abusive behavior, particularly for charging top rates for lousy service.

Reports indicate Manila Water owns P128 billion in assets and only P70 billion in liabilities. Manila Water and Maynilad consistently reported net income averaging more or less P7 billion the past several years but had been scored for their refusal to build water treatment facilities in their respective concession areas.

The water firms also allegedly failed to deliver sewage service to the people and failed to stop environmental degradation caused by their operation and collected fees for services they did not provide.

A renegotiation of the water contracts, the President said, will not extinguish criminal liability because criminal acts have been committed.

Review water deals—Duterte

posted June 06, 2020 at 12:30 am

by [Vito Barcelo](#)

President Rodrigo Duterte says he is “okay” with signing water concession agreements with Manila Water Co. and Maynilad Water Services as long as they return the money they owe their customers. He made the statement during a Cabinet meeting in Davao city Thursday night, saying he would review the recommendations on the water concession agreements of both groups.

“Starting tomorrow—I think the papers are with me now—I will review the contracts proposed by the government panel to the Ayala and Pangilinan consortiums,” Duterte said.

“I’m good so long as the people’s money is returned, even in installments. But you have to make some amends.”

Duterte, meanwhile, warned government officials, including his Cabinet, against people dropping his name for any project or transaction, saying they should just turn them away.

“If your business is legal, why would you use my name?”

Duterte said he needed to be calm because, “whether I like it or not, water is very important in our lives.

“So I have to be okay with that, but the money taken from the people has to be paid back—whether in installments over a period of years.

“Just give us a contract that is fair and return the money of the people.”

Manila Water is a subsidiary of Ayala Corp., while Pangilinan’s Metro Pacific Investments Corp. owns a controlling stake in Maynilad.

Duterte had ordered the crafting of new concession deals with the two water companies after describing the current agreements with them as “disadvantageous” to Filipinos.

He said should the water firms reject the new contracts without the “onerous” provisions, the government would take over the distribution of water.

Duterte last year warned he would take the two water concessionaires to court for their allegedly onerous agreements with the government.

His tiff with Ayala and Pangilinan began after the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Singapore, in separate rulings, compelled the Philippines to pay P7.39 billion and P3.4 billion, respectively, to Manila Water and Maynilad for the supposed losses and damage suffered by the two firms.

But Ayala and Pangilinan have since expressed readiness to cooperate with the government.

Duterte to water firms: Deal OK but refund people

By [Catherine S. Valente, TMT](#)

June 6, 2020

President Rodrigo Duterte said he was “okay” with giving water concession contracts to Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. if they “pay back” the money to the people.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte holds a meeting with members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) at the Matina Enclaves in Davao City on June 4, 2020. ROBINSON NIÑAL JR./PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

In his public address aired Friday morning, Duterte added he would review the new contracts proposed by the government with the two water firms this weekend and was willing to let bygones be bygones.

“Okey na lang ako. But ‘yung mga nawala sa tao, kung ano ‘yung nawala sa kanila (I’m fine now. But what was taken from the people, whatever that is), that has to be paid back, whether in installments over a period of years, but you have to return the money to the people,” Duterte said.

Manila Water is a subsidiary of Ayala Corp. while Metro Pacific Investments Corp. of businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan owns a controlling stake in Maynilad Water.

Duterte earlier ordered to craft new concession deals with the two water companies after labeling the current agreements as “disadvantageous” to the Filipinos.

Should the water firms reject the new contracts without the “onerous” provisions, the President said he would nationalize the distribution of water services.

The President has repeatedly railed against Pangilinan and the Ayala family for their water concessionaires’ “onerous” contracts with the government, tagging the businessmen as the “big fish” in corruption.

He had also threatened to sue the water concessionaires and former government officials for economic plunder, following the tribunal’s ruling demanding the Philippines to pay P7.39 billion to Manila Water.

The Ayala-owned firm brought the government to court for refusing rate hikes from 2013 to 2017, citing its concession deal that pushes the state to “indemnify” the utility firm against any losses that could result from regulatory actions.

But last month, Duterte apologized to the Ayalas and Pangilinan for his previous “hurting words,” and has reiterated this again for cursing them repeatedly in his latest remarks.

“I was very, of course, very adamant and said a few cuss words, to which I apologize for.

Sa galit ko ‘yun. Eh, ilang taon naloko ang tao (It’s because I was angry that the people were duped),” Duterte said.

“I’m willing to forget it. Just give us a contract that is fair and also return the money of the people,” he added.

PRRD asks 2 water firms to pay people back

June 5, 2020



President Rodrigo Duterte expressed readiness to let the issue on contract of water concessionaires pass, but insisted the excess charges collected from the public in the past years must be returned.

In his latest public address, the Chief Executive said he will study the new contracts filed by Maynilad and Manila Water.

He also apologized for the harsh words he had against the companies. "Nagkalma ako kasi (I calmed down because) whether I like it or not, water is very important in our lives)," President Duterte said.

"So okay na lang ako, but 'yung nawala sa tao, kung ano ang nawala sa kanila (I am fine, but what has been lost by the people), that has to be paid back whether (through) installment over a period of years, but you have to return the money to the people," he added.

The Chief Executive also reminded that if the government and private companies disagree on the outcome of the situation, they may resort to filing of cases.

Source: https://ptvnews.ph/prrd-asks-2-water-firms-to-pay-people-back/?fbclid=IwAR0X39ci8Adpg2fgIIFy1B6jxD3rEP7LzbAskpiN2_OAvNujzeuWHhiMpoU



PINOY ANG MAGPAPASYA, HINDI UNHRC O ICC SA DRUG WAR

June 5, 2020 @ 12:40 PM 19 hours ago

Nag-iingay ang United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) ukol sa umano’y “near impunity” na giyera sa droga ng pamahalaang Duterte.

Nagbunyi naman kaagad ang mga lokal at internasyonal na grupo na nagsusulong umano ng karapatang pantao ng mga napapatay sa giyera.

Lalo na’t kakambal ito ng sabi nila’y pagbubukas umano ng International Criminal Court (ICC) ng imbestigasyon sa sumbong ng mga taga-human rights na walang habas umanong pamamaslang sa mga suspek sa droga ng mga pwersa ng pamahalaan.

Napansin lang natin, magkaiba ang sinasabi ng mga kritiko ng pamahalaang Duterte na nagsasabing “with impunity” ang mga pagpatay sa sinasabi ng UNCHR ng “near impunity.”

May duda ang UNCHR sa mga sinasabi ng mga kritiko at hindi ito lubos na kumbinsido na “with impunity” o purong walang habas ang mga pagpatay sa giyera.

KANYA-KANYANG PANSARILING INTERES

Kung papansinin natin, mga Bro, klaro ang mga grupo ng mga kritiko na nagsusulong ng human rights kuno.

Meron diyang mga politiko na nakakulong dahil sa klarong pagkakasangkot at paggamit ng kanilang kapangyarihan sa gobyerno sa droga at nasaksihan ito ng lahat sa isinagawang imbestigasyon ng Kongreso ukol sa droga.

May napatay ring mga politiko gaya ng mga mayor, vice mayor, konsehal, kapitan at iba pa na alam ng lahat sa kanilang mga lugar na pasimuno ng mabangis na pagpapalaganap ng droga at mga pamilya ng mga politikong ito ang umiiyak para umano sa kanilang karapatang pantao.

May mga druglord ding napatay, iba pa ang kanilang mga tauhan, sa mga engkwentro at pamilya rin nila ang umiiyak para umano sa human rights ng mga druglord, tulak at kasabwat nilang mga politiko, pulis at iba pa.

Hindi mabilang ang dami ng patay sa droga sa kamay ng mga politiko at druglord at mga tauhan nila para lang mapalaganap nila ang droga para magkaroon ng limpak-limpak na salapi.

MILITANTE, DAYUHANG BATAS AT SIMBAHAN

Dahil kulang sila sa pansin o KSP, mayroon ding mga grupong militante na sumasakay na lamang sa bawat isyu, kabilang na ang droga, upang maisulong lang nila ang kanilang nalipasan na ng panahong agenda na sila ang maghari sa gobyerno at wala nang iba pa.

May mga grupo ring nagsusulong ng paniniwalang ligal ang droga gaya ng makikita sa ibang bansa gaya ng Amerika at Europa kaya hindi dapat umanong iwasiwas ang giyera laban sa mga sangkot dito.

Kasama rito ang ilang lokal at dayuhang tagapagtaguyod ng karapatang pantao kahit alam nilang sira-sira ang buhay ng mga adik, tulak at pamilya ng mga ito gaya ng mga Amerikanong artista na kumikitil ng sarili nilang buhay dahil sa pagkalulong sa droga.

May mga simbahan ding walang ginagawa laban sa mga pang-aabuso at patayan sa droga at dinaraan lang lahat sa walang habas na pagpapatawad na nagbunga ng walang habas ding pang-aabuso sa droga at patayan.

INTERES NG BAYAN AT PAMAHALAANG DUTERTE

May interes din ang higit na nakararami at pamahalaang Duterte.

Ang interes ng nakararami at pamahalaang Duterte ay ganap na pagkadurog o pagtigil ng droga na pinagmumulan ng matinding karahasan at korapsyon.

Alam ng lahat na bago dumating ang pamahalaang Duterte, nasa 70 porsyento ng krimeng rape, pagpatay, pagnanakaw at iba pa ang konektado sa droga at korapsyon.

Kasama na rito ang mga krimen ng mga iskalawag na pulis, politiko at mga tauhan o kasabwat nila.

Mabilis na bumaba ang krimen dahil sa tuloy-tuloy na giyera na nagpahina sa gulugod ng mga sangkot sa droga at kasamang humina rin ang pagkakasangkot ng mga politiko, pulis at iba pa pa rito.

Nagbunga ang giyera sa droga ng pakiramdam ng higit na nakararami na mas payapa na ang kanilang buhay at higit na ligtas na sila sa mga krimen sa loob at labas ng kanilang mga tahanan kumpara noong wala pang drug war sa buong bansa.

Naging kapuna-puna rin ang pagsali ng higit na nakararami sa giyera kumpara noon na hindi nila alam kung kaninong awtoridad sila magsusumbong upang masawata ang droga at krimen na nagaganap sa kanilang mga tahanan at komunidad dahil sa pagkakasangkot dito ng maraming awtoridad.

Nakatulong ito nang husto laban sa korapsyon na naging kakambal ng rin ng droga sa maraming pagkakataon.

SAMBAYANAN VS UNHRC, ICC

Sa kabuuan, sa paniniwala ng ating Uzi, mga Bro, mahaharap sa hindi magandang pagtingin ng higit na nakararami ang anomang pakikialam ng mga dayuhan at mga kakosa nilang human rights sa giyera sa droga.

Kung iisipin, sinakyan na ang sumbat na “walang habas na pagpatay” ng mga kritikong politiko, iskalawag at korap, simbahan, human rights group at mga dayuhan nilang mga kapanalig upang itumba ang pamahalaang Duterte at kunin ang suporta ng higit na nakararaming Filipino.

Subalit hindi nakinig ang higit na nakararami at isa sa mga palatandaan dito ang kawalan ng nanalong senador na manok nila sa nakaraang halalan at kakarampot na nanalo sa hanay ng mga kongresman.

Pinoy ang magpapasya, hindi UNHRC o ICC sa
TITLE: drug war

PAGE 1/ 3/3

June 06, 2020
DATE

Wala ring gaanong sumasama sa mga rally mula sa higit na nakararami sa mga okasyon ng Araw ng Paggawa, Araw ni Andres Bonifacio na idolo ng mga obrero at maging sa mga pagdiriwang para sa mga Edsa Revolution kung tawagin na “pinaghaharian” at sinasakyan ng mga halo-halong kritiko ng pamahalaang Duterte, kahit ang simbahan pa ang manguna.

At tahimik man, higit na nakararami ang tumatango sa mga kamatayan na sinasapit ng mga sangkot sa droga, lalo na ang mga walang habas na pumapatay, nangre-rape, kumikidnap, kumakarnap, umaakyat bahay, nanghoholdap, nanununog ng bahay at iba pa.

Walang halaga sa marami sa mga ito kung kaninong kamay namamatay ang mga sangkot sa droga at ang mahalaga ay kailangang mabawasan o madurog ang krimen at droga.

Ang buong katotohanang ito ang kakaharapin ng sinomang taga-human rights, maging ang UNHRC o ICC, sa anomang aksyon nila sa pamahalaang Duterte na gumagawa ng paraan para malutas ang problema sa droga na totoo namang naging salot sa lipunang Filipino.

AboitizPower honors 'Pangarap' on Philippine eagle week

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

June 6, 2020

A NATIONAL treasure and one of the world's largest avian predator, named "Pangarap," is receiving honors as the country celebrates Philippine Eagle Week this June from a renewable energy firm that also recognizes the many efforts to preserve the critically endangered species.

Pangarap, who serves as a beacon of hope for the conservation of the Philippine bird of prey, was adopted and sponsored by Aboitiz Power Corp. (AboitizPower) for the past 10 years. She is one of the few females left of her species eligible for breeding, now through artificial insemination.

Pangarap is the Tagalog word for dreams and aspirations.

Through AboitizPower's adoption and sponsorship amounting to about P1.5 million over the past decade, Pangarap was able to receive necessary medication and care, as well as proper dieting and preparation for breeding under the care of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in Davao.

On February 24, Pangarap celebrated her 21st hatchday where AboitizPower in partnership with PEF held a hatchday event for over 50 students and guests to witness and learn about the majestic species housed at the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Barangay Malagos, Davao City.

"We are so thankful to Pangarap's ninongs and ninangs (sponsors) from AboitizPower for their support over the past 10 years, and for making these kinds of experiences for the kids of our neighboring communities possible," Carla Salvacion, education administrator for PEF, said.

Salvacion said Pangarap is currently healthy and safe at the PEC. "Sprig offering is set to commence in the coming month to begin stimulating Pangarap and other mal-imprint eagles to prepare them for the incoming breeding season in July."

Sprig offering is done by the PEF team to simulate a courtship ritual among eagles, which is especially important for mal-imprint eagles who need to establish a rapport with the animal keepers to prepare for insemination.

She said the PEF breeding team is committed to improving the productivity of the male mal-imprints.

"The PEF hopes that in time, the center's female eagles, including Pangarap, can all undergo successful conjugal artificial insemination and lay the foundation for a new generation of majestic raptors," Salvacion said.

Emmanuel Rubio, AboitizPower president and chief executive officer, said their support for PEF is a testament to AboitizPower's commitment to conserving biodiversity and wildlife.

"At AboitizPower, we strive to live by our core value of responsibility—responsibility to our customers, responsibility to our communities and responsibility to our environment," Rubio said.

AboitizPower honors 'Pangarap' on Philippine eagle

June 06, 2020

TITLE: week

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

During this Philippine Eagle Week, officials of both AboitizPower and PEF said they recognize the challenges that the Philippines' national bird faces.

AboitizPower said there is a need for a wider understanding of the conservation efforts needed to preserve the jewel of the archipelago in order for it to thrive for generations to come.

AboitizPower is a major producer of Cleanergy, its brand for clean and renewable energy with several hydroelectric, geothermal and solar power generation facilities in the country.

Manufacture of non-environmentally acceptable packaging materials

By [Persida Acosta](#)

June 6, 2020

Dear PAO,

I am a factory worker in a manufacturing company. My supervisor has informed me that some of our products are not environmentally acceptable packaging materials but that I have to be silent about these. What law does my employer violate?

Wesminton

Dear Wesminton,

For your information, the law that addresses your situation is Section 48 (12) of Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the “Ecological and Solid Waste Management Act of 2000,” which reads:

“Section 48. Prohibited Acts – The following acts are prohibited:

“xxx

“(10) The manufacture, distribution or use of non-environmentally acceptable packaging materials;”

Relatedly, the same law provides a penalty for violation of the same, viz:

“Section 49. Fines and Penalties –

“(e) Any person who violates Sec. 48, pars. (12) and (13) shall, upon conviction, be punished with a fine not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than thirty (30) days but not more than three (3) years, or both;”

It is clear from the cited provisions that the manufacture, distribution or use of non-environmentally acceptable packaging materials are illegal and may subject the offender to a penalty of fine or imprisonment, depending upon the discretion of the Court. In your situation, your company, which is manufacturing non-environmentally acceptable packaging materials, can be penalized accordingly for their action.

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. Please be reminded that this advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

Editor’s note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney’s Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to dearpao@manilatimes.net

Magnitude 5.1 quake jolts Occidental Mindoro

By Ma. Cristina Arayata June 5, 2020, 11:08 pm



Image grabbed from Phivolcs' website.

MANILA — A magnitude 5.1 quake jolted Occidental Mindoro on Friday night, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported.

The tectonic quake struck 19 kilometers east of the municipality of Calintaan at 9:37 p.m.

It had a depth of 15 kilometers.

Intensity 4 was felt in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, and intensity 2 in Malay, Aklan.

The following intensities were also reported: Intensity 4 in Roxas, and San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; intensity 3 in Malay, Aklan; intensity 2 in Malinao, Aklan, Pandan, and Sebaste, Antique, and intensity 1 in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro; Culasi, Antique; Lopez, and Mauban, Quezon.

Reported intensity is the traditional way of knowing the intensity based on reports of people who felt the earthquake, Phivolcs director Renato Solidum Jr. earlier said.

He added that Phivolcs deployed around 100 instruments or intensity meter to measure the ground acceleration, and what is being measured is called the instrumental intensity.

Meanwhile, Phivolcs said aftershocks are possible from the magnitude 5.1 quake, although damages are not expected. **(PNA)**

An aspiration: Formal UN recognition of the right to a healthy environment

By [Amado S. Tolentino, JR.](#)

June 6, 2020

REPORTS around the world reveal continued suffering and loss of lives of environmental or nature defenders with nearly 40 percent coming from indigenous communities. They suffer from the adverse health impacts of pollution, forced relocation due to sea level rise or natural disasters exacerbated by climate change or assassination for standing up for the land and ecosystems on which their lives/communities depend.

When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which laid the foundation for the United Nations, was adopted more than 70 years ago, there was little awareness that effective enjoyment of human rights depends on a clean, safe and healthy environment. Despite a number of international human rights treaties, which recognize specific aspects of the environment (e.g., right to information, awareness and education on environmental matters or the importance of environmental conditions to the exercise of the right to health) the matter of the right to a healthy environment was never formally recognized by the UN.

Such is the situation now despite the fact that more than a hundred countries have recognized the right to a healthy environment in their Constitution. Furthermore, it is even said that more than three-quarters of the world's states have recognized the people's right to a healthy environment in judicial decisions, national policies and legislations. The UN still has not.

Why global recognition?

For one, it is useless to try to protect the environment without at the same time protecting human rights, meaning, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of movement, to mention a few. In short, human rights and the right to a healthy environment are intertwined. Efforts to protect human rights should go hand in hand with protecting the environment because they are inextricably linked to each other.

This is best illustrated by the sad state of environmental human rights defenders — journalists, indigenous peoples, NGO representatives, government environmental law officers, etc. They are oftentimes attacked, persecuted and silenced. Their freedom of expression and freedom of assembly particularly in climate change, forestry, mining, fisheries and wildlife-related conferences are curtailed. The absence of such a global recognition weakens the entire human rights movement leaving a vacuum in the protection regime.

Actually, the purpose of such global recognition is not to create a “new” right. It is an acknowledgment that a healthy environment is a prerequisite for the enjoyment of human rights. It is an affirmation that the protection of the right to a healthy environment is equally as important as the protection of human rights. Most important of all, such recognition would contribute to strengthening legal remedies for those whose rights are undermined by reckless corporate behavior and interests.

Actions within the UN

As early as 2018, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment formally proposed that the UN General Assembly recognize the right to a healthy and sustainable environment which could be achieved via a UN General Assembly Resolution and through the ongoing negotiations initiated by the French for their proposed Global Pact for the Environment.

As part of his report, Professor John Knox, the former UN Special Rapporteur referred to above, outlined 16 “Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment” that lays out states’ duties under human rights law as they pertain to a healthy environment. The State responsibility relevant to nature or environmental defenders is spelled out in Principle 4, which says, “States shall provide a safe and enabling environment in which individuals, groups and organs of society that work on human rights or environmental issues can operate free from threats, harassment, intimidation or violence.”

The proposed Global Pact for the Environment, on the other hand, is an effort toward recognition of a “third generation of human rights,” building on the UN’s two existing international human rights covenants on civil and political rights and on economic, social and cultural rights adopted in 1966.

The proposed pact’s Article 1 states: “Every person has the right to live in an ecologically sound environment adequate for their health, well-being, dignity, culture and fulfillment.” Article 2 goes on to say, “Every State or international institution, every person, natural or legal, public or private, has the duty to take care of the environment....”

Corollary is the matter of climate change as an issue that impacts a number of human rights, which has been acknowledged at the international level for over a decade now. This resulted in numerous reports and resolutions from the UN Human Rights Council, the inclusion of human rights in the Preamble to the 2015 Paris Agreement (on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions), the inclusion of climate change as a related issue in General Comment 36 on the ‘Right to Life,’ and more recently a report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment vis-à-vis the ‘Right to a Safe Climate.’

United Nations Environment Program

Among UN agencies, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) based in Nairobi, Kenya is mandated to lead the UN System in the development and implementation of environmental rule of law. Promoting greater protection for nature or environmental defenders is a necessary activity in support of this mandate. A 2019 UN Human Rights Council resolution explicitly welcomed a UNEP policy on environmental defenders as a positive example and encouraged other UN entities to do the same.

In early 2020, a “Call to Action for Human Rights” was issued by the UN secretary-general. It calls on the UN to “increase United Nations support to member states at field level for the protection of the mechanisms for human rights defenders and environmental activists, particularly young people, women and girls.” Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding between UNEP and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights commits both organizations to work towards, inter alia, promoting greater protection of environmental defenders.

UNEP is now in the process of finalizing its “Policy for the Protection of Environmental Defenders.” Specifically, it outlines UNEP’s mechanism in monitoring, vetting, verifying and responding to alleged violations of the rights of environmental defenders and will be carried out in coordination with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

After years of research on the intersection between human rights and environmental concerns, the call now is for a UN resolution formally connecting the two. Thus, the aspiration to enshrine the right to a healthy environment as a human right.

Ethiopia scales up tree-planting drive

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

June 6, 2020

BUEE: Braving a heavy downpour, hundreds of farmers spent a full day planting 20,000 acacia seedlings on a barren hillside outside the town of Buee in southern Ethiopia last year. They were responding to a call last July from Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who wanted his countrymen to plant 200 million trees in a single day, shattering the world record. But while the farmers had “great expectations,” they say that nearly a year later — as Ethiopia gears up to celebrate World Environment Day on Friday — the results in Buee are a disappointment.

AFP



EDITORIAL - Celebrate biodiversity

(The Philippine Star) - June 6, 2020 - 12:00am

World Environment Day is being marked this year as much of the planet continues to grapple with the coronavirus disease 2019, which has infected over 6.72 million people and killed 393,535 as of yesterday afternoon. While nearly half of the cases recovered, the infections and deaths are expected to continue rising in the absence of a cure or vaccine against COVID-19.

On the special day dedicated to the celebration of biodiversity, environmental advocates are pointing out that the COVID-19 virus is widely believed to have jumped to humans from wildlife – most likely from bats. There is a raging debate on whether the virus came from a wildlife market in the Chinese city of Wuhan, or from a laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in the same city. But there seems to be general agreement that the COVID-causing SARS-coronavirus-2 came from wildlife.

Those behind events marking World Environment Day 2020 on June 5 point out that the COVID pandemic is nature sending humanity a message. There are currently about one million species facing extinction. Experts fear that in the next decade, one in every four species would disappear from the planet.

Biodiversity is the foundation for supporting life and affects all aspects of human health. When these webs of life are altered, damaged or destroyed, it can have negative consequences on human life. Coral reefs, for example, serve as spawning and breeding grounds for marine life and play a critical role in global food security. Yet about half of the world's coral reef cover has disappeared in the past 150 years. In the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is seeing the consequences of human encroachment on wildlife.

World Environment Day has been marked annually since 1974. While global awareness of the need to protect the environment has increased significantly since then, the efforts are not enough. Global warming has become an existential threat especially for coastal communities. More killer coronaviruses could emerge from wildlife in the near future.

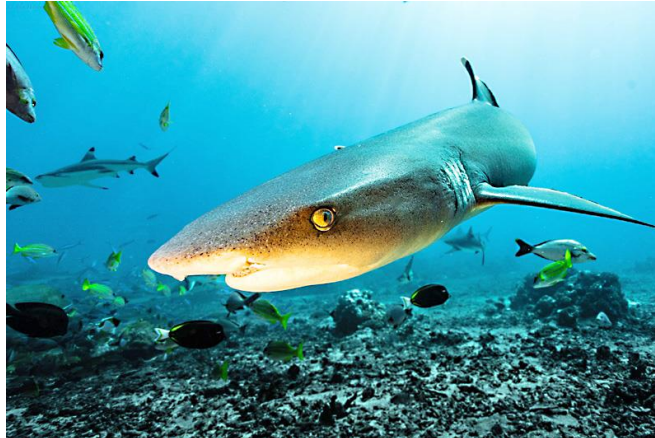
It's time to build back better – for both people and planet. On World Environment Day, the United Nations stresses: "To care for ourselves, we must care for nature."

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/06/06/2018935/editorial-celebrate-biodiversity>

Saving the ocean one turtle at a time

Published 8 hours ago on June 6, 2020 01:30 AM

By **Pauline Songco**



WHITETIP sharks are commonly found in Indo-Pacific coral reefs.

Simeulue and Bangkaru's chain of pristine deep-sea islands are some of the last refuges and nesting sites of the world's critically endangered turtles and bird species. The only island in Indonesia where Green Turtles nest every night of the year, Bangkaru has also become an important nesting site for Leatherback and Hawksbill Turtles.

Unfortunately, the poaching of sea turtle eggs is a culturally ingrained practice in the country, with the eggs being considered a local delicacy. Turtle egg poachers sometimes took as many as 1,500 eggs a night. But due to the involvement of the EcosystemImpact foundation, poaching has been reduced to zero since 2016.

In Southeast Asia, the global hotspot of marine biodiversity, over 80 percent of coral reefs are considered as endangered. That inspired EcosystemImpact to start a small community-based project, which aims to protect and restore Simeulue's coral reefs in 2019. Six fishers and divers were selected and trained to understand the importance of reefs from a conservation perspective. They are now in the process of building coral nurseries at five locations across Simeulue and its outer islands.



JELLYFISHES bring color to the underwater world.

EcosystemImpact Foundation, along with other collective organizations, aims to further keep these islands sustainable where businesses, people and nature thrive alongside each other. Cosmetics retailer, LUSH, therefore supports the goals of these collective organizations by sourcing its certified raw virgin coconut oil directly from aluan, which are abundant mostly in the Aceh region of Indonesia.

Alongside producing the quality coconut oil and coral reef conservation, these organizations are also dedicated to protecting endangered ecosystems while providing a sustainable source of funds for sea turtle conservation programs.



Many Green Sea Turtles are found in Bangkaru Island in Indonesia.
PHOTOGRAPH
COURTESY OF LUSH

India probes elephant fed with firecracker

Published 1 day ago on June 5, 2020 03:56 AM

By **Agence France-Presse**



NEW DELHI, India — India pledged to investigate Thursday the death of a pregnant elephant that ate explosives-filled fruit, as cricket and Bollywood stars joined a chorus of outrage over the incident.

The elephant died in agony last week in the southern state of Kerala, the latest casualty in a growing conflict in South Asia between large animals and humans as ever more forest is lost to urban expansion.

Footage of the animal standing in a river for hours with its badly injured mouth and trunk in the water as it slowly weakened went viral, triggering horror and even calls for the culprits to be executed.

India's cricket captain Virat Kohli said on social media he was "appalled" while Bollywood megastar Akshay Kumar tweeted that the incident was "heartbreaking, inhumane and unacceptable".

"Maybe animals are less wild and humans less human," Kumar said, calling for "strict action" against the culprits.

Even Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus of Tata, one of India's biggest conglomerates, chimed in, calling the killing "no different than acts of meditated murder against other humans... Justice needs to prevail."

India's environment and forest minister Prakash Javadekar promised action.

"Central Government has taken a very serious note of the killing of an elephant in Mallapuram, #Kerala," Javadekar said on Twitter.

"We will not leave any stone unturned to investigate properly and nab the culprit(s). This is not an Indian culture to feed fire crackers and kill," the minister added.

The killing of the animal, which police were still investigating, was however likely not driven by callousness and cruelty.

Poor villagers in India, Sri Lanka and elsewhere often use firecracker or explosive-filled pineapples — which act like pressure-activated landmines — to protect their fields and homes from wild animals.

A similar incident was reported last month in a nearby district in Kerala where a female elephant was found with serious mouth injuries.

About 2,361 people were killed in attacks by elephants between 2014 and 2019, according to data recorded by the Indian government.

In the same period about 510 elephants died, including 333 from electrocution and around another 100 from poaching and poisoning, the figures stated.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/05/india-probes-elephant-fed-with-firecracker/>

Indian elephant dies after eating fruit packed with firecracker, police investigating

Published June 6, 2020 3:50am

KOCHI, India - A pregnant elephant died in India apparently after eating some fruit containing a firecracker that exploded in her mouth, prompting a criminal investigation into suspected cruelty toward animals, forestry officials said on Wednesday.

The incident drew outrage on social media after a forestry officer, Mohan Krishnan, posted an emotional apology to the elephant on May 30 in which he said the animal died from eating a pineapple or another fruit stuffed with a firecracker.

Forestry officials said the incident happened on May 23 in the Palakkad district of Kerala state in southern India, near farmland where locals sometimes scatter fruit spiked with firecrackers to discourage animals from damaging crops.

"We only know that the injury (to the elephant) was caused by some explosive substance," forestry official Sunil Kumar said. The perpetrators, he said, could face animal cruelty charges that could bring fines or even a jail term.

India has the world's largest population of the Asiatic elephant but they are classified as an endangered species. Incidents of human-animal conflict are not uncommon as elephants often stray into human settlements hunting for food.

The pregnant elephant had wandered out of the local Silent Valley National Park in search of food when the incident occurred, forestry officials said.

They later found the elephant trying to cool herself in a stream but as locals tried to heave it out of the water to take it to a treatment center, the animal collapsed and died.

"Sorry sister," Krishnan, who witnessed the elephant's death, wrote in a Facebook post. "With her mouth and tongue destroyed in the explosion, she paced around hungry without being able to eat. She must have been more worried about the health of the child inside her than about her own hunger." -- **Reuters**

Monkeys, ferrets offer needed clues in COVID-19 vaccine race

Associated Press / 06:38 PM June 05, 2020



A rhesus macaque monkey grooms another on Cayo Santiago, known as Monkey Island, off the eastern coast of Puerto Rico. Since 1938, the 37-acre island has served as a research colony where the monkeys, originally from India, are studied. Image: AP/Brennan Linsley

The global race for a COVID-19 vaccine boils down to some critical questions: How much must the shots rev up someone's immune system to really work? And could revving it the wrong way cause harm?

Even as companies recruit tens of thousands of people for larger vaccine studies this summer, behind the scenes scientists still are testing ferrets, monkeys and other animals in hopes of clues to those basic questions — steps that in a pre-pandemic era would have been finished first.

“We are in essence doing a great experiment,” said Ralph Baric, a coronavirus expert at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, whose lab is testing several vaccine candidates in animals.

The speed-up is necessary to try to stop a virus that has triggered a pandemic, killing more than 360,000 worldwide and shuttering economies. But “there's no question there is more risk in the current strategy than what has ever been done before,” Baric said.

The animal testing lets scientists see how the body reacts to vaccines in ways studies in people never can, said Kate Broderick, research chief at Inovio Pharmaceuticals.

With animals, “we're able to perform autopsies and look specifically at their lung tissue and get a really deep dive in looking at how their lungs have reacted,” Broderick said.

She's awaiting results from mice, ferrets and monkeys that are being exposed to the coronavirus after receiving Inovio's vaccine. Since no species perfectly mimic human infection, testing a trio broadens the look at safety.

And there's some good news on the safety front as the first animal data from various research teams starts to trickle out. So far, there are no signs of a worrisome side effect called disease enhancement, which Dr. Anthony Fauci of the United States National Institutes of Health calls reassuring.

Enhancement is just what the name implies: Very rarely, a vaccine doesn't stimulate the immune system in quite the right way, producing antibodies that not only can't fully block infection but that make any resulting disease worse.

That first happened in the 1960s with the failure of a vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus, RSV, an infection dangerous to young children. More recently, it has complicated efforts at vaccines against mosquito-spread dengue fever.

And some attempted vaccines for SARS, a cousin of COVID-19, seemed to cause enhancement in animal testing.

Fast forward to the pandemic. Three recently reported studies in monkeys tested different COVID-19 vaccine approaches, including shots made by Oxford University and China's Sinovac. The studies were small, but none of the monkeys showed evidence of immune-enhanced disease when scientists later dripped the coronavirus directly into the animals' noses or windpipes.

Some of the best evidence so far that a vaccine might work also comes from those monkey studies. Oxford and Sinovac created very different types of COVID-19 vaccines, and in separate studies, each team recently reported that vaccinated monkeys were protected from pneumonia while monkeys given a dummy shot got sick.

But protection against severe disease is just a first step. Could a vaccine also stop the virus's spread? The Oxford study raises some doubt.

Those researchers found as much virus lingering in the vaccinated monkeys' noses as in the unvaccinated. Even though the experiment exposed monkeys to high levels of the coronavirus, it raised troubling questions.

The type of vaccine — how it targets the “spike” protein that coats the coronavirus — may make a difference. Researchers at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston designed six different vaccine prototypes. Some only partially protected monkeys — but one fully protected eight monkeys from any sign of the virus, said Dr. Dan Barouch, who is working with Johnson & Johnson on yet another COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

In monkeys, the new coronavirus lodges in the lungs but seldom makes them super sick. Ferrets — the preferred animal for flu vaccine development — may help tell if potential COVID-19 vaccines might stop the viral spread.

“Ferrets develop a fever. They also cough and sneeze,” infecting each other much like people do, said vaccine researcher Alyson Kelvin of Canada's Dalhousie University.

And while COVID-19 is a huge risk to the elderly, vaccines often don't rev up an older person's immune system as well as a younger person's. So Kelvin also is studying older ferrets.

Some vaccine makers are reporting promising immune reactions in the first people given the experimental shots, including production of “neutralizing” antibodies, a kind that latches onto the virus and blocks it from infecting cells. But there's a hitch.

Said Inovio's Broderick: “Let me be honest. We're still not clear at all on what those correlates of protection are” — meaning what mix of immune reactions, and how much, are needed.

Monkeys, ferrets offer needed clues in COVID-19

June 06, 2020

TITLE: vaccine race

PAGE 1/ 3/3

DATE

Some clues come from the blood of COVID-19 survivors, although “there’s a huge variation” in immune reactions between the severely and mildly ill, Broderick added.

Still, if vaccinated animals that produce the same neutralizing antibody levels as certain COVID-19 survivors are protected — and people given test doses likewise produce the same amount — “that is great comfort that your vaccine approach actually may work,” said Kathrin Jansen, head of Pfizer Inc.’s vaccine research.

But ultimately the real proof won’t come before huge studies of whether vaccinated people get sick less often than the unvaccinated. **IB**

Invading the habitat

Darko Vojinovic, AP

Posted at Jun 05 2020 10:11 PM



A white heron stands between dumped plastic bottles and waste on the bank of the river Sava on World Environment Day, in Belgrade, Serbia on Friday. World Environment Day, marked annually on June 5 since 1974, aims to raise awareness and encourage protection of the environment with this year's theme of biodiversity.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/multimedia/photo/06/05/20/invading-the-habitat?fbclid=IwAR1uV_dcl2p5hPrmQsLHMFkh1MTG0o0odGDSjKLg1Okiu2-BCu4vh7nNkI



Mudslide in Arctic Norway sweeps houses into the sea

Published June 6, 2020, 12:07 AM

By Reuters

A powerful mudslide in Arctic Norway swept eight houses and the piece of land on which they stood into the sea, where they sank into swirling waters, footage posted on social media showed.

Nobody was hurt when the houses, near the town of Alta in northern Norway, were uprooted in the 650-metre (710 yards) long mudslide on Wednesday.

“It appears no humans were in the area when it happened,” local police officer Torfinn Halvari told Norwegian news agency NTB.

A one-year-old elkhound called Raija was rescued from the mudslide by a military rescue helicopter and reunited with its owners, footage showed.

“The dog was swept into the sea but managed to swim ashore and survived,” said Halvari.

Argentine paleontologists discover small carnivorous dinosaur

Published June 5, 2020, 9:18 AM

By *Agence France-Presse*

Fossilized remains of a new species of dinosaur that lived 90 million years ago have been discovered in Patagonia, Argentine paleontologists announced on Thursday.



The fossilized jaw of an *Overoraptor chimentoi*, a new species of dinosaur discovered in Argentine Patagonia. (AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

The winged dinosaur had legs similar to the velociraptor and experts believe it may hold the key to revealing information about the evolution of birds.

The fossil remains, which measure less than a meter and a half in length, were discovered at a dig in the province of Rio Negro in Argentine Patagonia, around 1,100 kilometers (685 miles) from Buenos Aires, the scientific dissemination agency from the La Matanza university said.

It is a new species of carnivorous Paraves theropod that has been named *Overoraptor chimentoi*, explained Matias Motta, a researcher from the Argentine natural sciences museum.

It is related to another species found more than 10,000 kilometers away in Madagascar.

The first remains were discovered in 2013, with more fossils found in a second dig in 2018.

“This animal had a very sharp claw on its index toe, which certainly was used to attack prey, and it had a long and graceful leg, which indicates it was a running animal,” said Motta, the main author of the study published in *The Science of Nature* magazine.

“It was certainly fast, agile and, like all its relatives, it would have been carnivorous.”

Researchers were surprised to find that while its legs were similar to the “raptor” family of dinosaurs, its upper limbs were very long and robust, similar to modern birds.

The second dig uncovered many bones, including an almost complete foot, tail vertebrae and parts of a wing, said paleontologist Federico Brisson Egli.

Previous discoveries in Patagonia of dinosaurs with bird-like features belonged to the *Unenlagia* genus of dromaeosaurid theropods, which were agile and walked on their hind legs.

“Contrary to what we originally assumed, the *Overoraptor* is not part of the *Unenlagia* family, but from another group including a Madagascar species called *Rahonavis*,” said paleontologist Fernando Novas.