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DAY: WEDNESDAY

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

DENR clears 8.5-hectare 'Dead Forest' wetland of  
TITLE: illegal settlers

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# DENR clears 8.5-hectare 'Dead Forest' wetland of illegal settlers

Published July 28, 2020, 10:26 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

An 8.5-hectare wetland in Brgy. Manoc-manoc, Boracay Island was successfully cleaned and recovered from illegal settlements and structures on Tuesday, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



DENR / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN

Wetland No. 6, also known as "Dead Forest," used to be occupied by 31 families belonging to the Tumandok tribe.

DENR Director Natividad Bernardino, who serves as general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG), said the recovery of Wetland No. 6 is in compliance with Executive Order 53 that created the DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to reverse the degradation of the world-famous resort island.

Wetlands are considered to be one of the world's most biologically diverse ecosystems as they are home to a wide variety of plant and animal species.

They also help reduce soil erosion, retain sediments, absorb nutrients, store water to minimize the impacts of floods and droughts, and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

The restoration of Wetland No. 6 will be undertaken by the Lucio Tan-controlled water concessionaire Boracay Tubi System Inc., in accordance with the Boracay Action Plan being implemented by the BIARMG.

Bernardino also said that the planned rehabilitation of the wetland paved the way for the original settlers of the island to get their rightful share of Boracay lands.

"This is also a fulfillment of the policy directive of the President to distribute lands to the indigenous peoples and natives of Boracay," she said.

The 31 families were formally transferred to lands covered by certificates of land ownership awards issued to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform in March.

Timber from typhoon-felled trees have also been donated by the DENR for the construction of their houses. They will also be provided with water and sewerage facilities by the Boracay Island Water Company.

DENR Secretary and BIATF Chair Roy Cimatu had earlier said that of the nine Boracay wetlands identified for rehabilitation, five have been adopted by private companies for a period of three to five years as part of their corporate social responsibility programs.

DENR clears 8.5-hectare 'Dead Forest' wetland of

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Prior to rehabilitation, Boracay wetlands were contributing to the pollution of the island's waters and had posed threats to the health and safety of residents and tourists.

Wetland No. 4 located in Central Boracay was also successfully recovered by the DENR and converted into a linear park by the Aboitiz Group in 2019.

The one-hectare lagoon situated right across D'Mall, one of the busiest areas on the island, is now called Balabag Wetland Park. It has a plaza and perimeter boardwalk adorned with plants and trees.



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Boracay's Wetland No. 6, also known as Dead Forest, has been cleared of illegal settlers.

[Philstar.com/Rosette Adel, file](https://www.philstar.com/Rosette Adel, file)

## DENR clears Boracay wetland of illegal settlers

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 29, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Restoration work will start on an 8.5-hectare wetland in Barangay Manoc-Manoc on Boracay Island.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Boracay's Wetland No. 6, also known as Dead Forest, has been cleared of illegal settlers.

Natividad Bernardino, DENR director and general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG), said 31 families of the Tumandok tribe yesterday transferred to an area covered by the certificates of land ownership awarded to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform in March.

The DENR donated timber from trees felled by Typhoon Ursula for the construction of houses of the tribal community.

The restoration of the wetland will be undertaken by water concessionaire Boracay Tubi System Inc. in accordance with the action plan of the BIARMG.

DENR Secretary and Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force chairman Roy Cimatu had earlier said five of the nine Boracay wetlands identified for rehabilitation have been adopted by private companies for three to five years as part of their corporate social responsibility programs.

Last year, Wetland No. 4 was recovered and converted into a linear park by the Aboitiz Group.

A one-hectare lagoon across D'Mall, one of the busiest areas on the island, is now called Balabag Wetland Park.

# Boracay's 'Dead Forest' rehab to start soon – DENR

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

July 29, 2020

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday said restoration work would soon begin on Boracay's Wetland No. 6, also known as "Dead Forest," citing the agency's recovery of the area from illegal occupants.

The DENR, according to a statement, was able to clear the 8.5-hectare wetland located at Barangay Manoc-Manoc of illegal structures, whose occupants, including 31 families belonging to the Tumandok tribe, will be transferring to lands awarded to them by the government.

"That's hitting two birds with one stone," said DENR Director Natividad Bernardino, who serves as general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG).

Bernardino noted that the recovery of Wetland No. 6 is in compliance with Executive Order (EO) 53 issued by President Rodrigo Duterte in 2018 that created the DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to reverse the degradation of the world-famous resort island.

Based on the EO, the DENR is tasked to relocate and demolish all establishments and structures encroaching on forestlands, wetlands and other water bodies in Boracay.

Meanwhile, the planned rehabilitation of the wetland also paved the way for the original settlers of the island to get their rightful share of Boracay lands, according to Bernardino.

"This is also a fulfillment on the policy directive of the President to distribute lands to the indigenous peoples and natives of Boracay," he said.

A total of 31 Tumandok families have formally transferred to lands covered by certificates of land ownership award issued to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform last March, the DENR said.

The families, it added, will also be provided with water and sewerage facilities by the Boracay Island Water Company.

The restoration of Wetland No. 6 will be undertaken by the Lucio Tan-controlled water concessionaire Boracay Tubi System Inc., in accordance with the Boracay Action Plan being implemented by the BIARMG.

# DENR, private partner to rehab, revive Boracay's 'dead forest'

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

July 29, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its private sector partner, the Boracay Tubi System Inc., will soon begin rehabilitation activities on Boracay Island's Wetland No. 6, also known as "dead forest."

This, after the DENR successfully recovered from illegal occupants the 8.5-hectare wetland in Barangay Manoc-Manoc.

A total of 31 families, belonging to the Tumandok tribe, have started to transfer to their government-awarded land on the island. The tribesmen were issued last March individual certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

"That's hitting two birds with one stone," DENR Director Natividad Bernardino, who serves as general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG), said in a news statement.

The recovery of Wetland No. 6 is in compliance with Executive Order (EO) 53 that created the DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to reverse the degradation of the world-famous resort island.

In that EO issued by President Duterte in 2018, the DENR is tasked, among others, to relocate and demolish all establishments and structures encroaching on forestlands, wetlands, and other water bodies in Boracay.

At the same time, Bernardino said the planned rehabilitation of the wetland paved the way for the original settlers of the island to get their rightful share of Boracay lands.

"This is also a fulfillment on the policy directive of the President to distribute lands to the indigenous peoples and natives of Boracay," Bernardino said.

To help the Tumandoks rebuild their homes, the DENR donated timber from trees felled by Typhoon Ursula last December. These families will also be provided with water and sewerage facilities by the Boracay Island Water Co.

The restoration activities will be in accordance with the Boracay Action Plan being implemented by the BIARMG.

Environment Secretary and BIATF Chairman Roy A. Cimatu had earlier said that of the nine Boracay wetlands identified for rehabilitation, five have been adopted by private companies for a period of three to five years as part of their corporate social responsibility programs.

Wetlands are considered to be one of the world's most biologically diverse ecosystems as they are home to a wide variety of plant and animal species. They also help reduce soil erosion, retain sediments, absorb nutrients, store water to minimize the impacts of floods and droughts, and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

## DENR to restore ‘dead’ forest’ in Boracay

*posted* July 28, 2020 at 10:40 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

After the recovery of another encroached wetland in Aklan’s world famous Boracay Island from illegal occupants, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said it will soon start the restoration of the “dead forest.”

Natividad Bernardino, an agency director who serves as the general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group, said they were able to clear an 8.5-hectare wetland in Barangay Manoc-Manoc of illegal structures with 31 families from the Tumandok tribe occupying the place.

The displaced families were transferred to lands awarded to them by the government.

“That’s hitting two birds with one stone,” she said.

The recovery of wetland no. 6 is in compliance with Executive Order 53 that created the DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force to reverse the degradation of the world-famous resort island.



DENR to start restoration of another recovered

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# DENR to start restoration of another recovered wetland in Boracay

By Marita Moaje July 28, 2020, 6:45 pm



**MANILA** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will soon start the restoration of wetland No. 6 also known as the “Dead Forest” in world-renowned Boracay after it has been recovered from its illegal occupants.

DENR Director Natividad Bernardino, who also serves as the general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG), said Monday the recovery of wetland No. 6 is very important to be able to restore the area the soonest possible time and restore its ecosystem.

She said the delay was caused by the families who were illegally occupying the area because they had to look for a place where they can relocate, based on the directives of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and of President Rodrigo Duterte.

“Instruction ni Sec. Cimatu is to find a land for them to be relocated, *gusto ng gobyerno social justice din. We don’t just demolish the houses of people here in Boracay, we also make sure na mabigyan sila ng relocation at ng lupa* (Sec. Cimatu instructed us to find a land for them to be relocated. The government also wants social justice. We don’t just demolish the houses of people in Boracay. We make sure as well that they are given land where they can relocate),” she said during an event in Boracay, which was also posted on the department’s social media accounts.

Bernardino said the occupants of wetland No. 6, the Tumandoks, are natives of Boracay, just like its indigenous people, the Ati.

She said Tumandoks, together with the Ati’s, were the very first ones who were given their own land titles in Boracay, following the instruction of Duterte.

“While we demolish the big commercial establishments, we have preferential treatment for the natives of Boracay. We are making sure *na meron silang malilipatan, merong mabibigay na assistance sa kanila* (that they have a place where they can relocate and that they will be given assistance),” she said.

She said at the right time the Department of Agrarian Reform came in to assist the Tumandoks in finding land where they can relocate while assuring that this land will be theirs.

The 8.5-hectare wetland No. 6 located at Barangay Manoc-Manoc has already been cleared of illegal structures.

The recovery of wetland No. 6, according to Bernardino, complies with Executive Order (EO) 53 that created the DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to restore Boracay Island to its original beauty.

EO 53, issued in 2018 when the Boracay rehabilitation started, tasks the DENR “to relocate and demolish all establishments and structures encroaching on forestlands, wetlands and other water bodies in Boracay”.

On Monday, the 31 Tumandok families occupying the “Dead Forest” formally transferred to lands covered by Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) awarded to them by DAR in March.



DENR to start restoration of another recovered

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Moreover, the DENR donated timber from trees felled by Typhoon Ursula last December for the construction of their houses while the Boracay Island Water Company will provide for the water and sewerage facilities.

Restoration of wetland No. 6 will be undertaken by the Lucio Tan-controlled water concessionaire Boracay Tubi System Inc., under the Boracay Action Plan.

To recall, Cimatu earlier said that of the nine Boracay wetlands which were identified for rehabilitation, five were adopted by private companies for a period of three to five years as part of their corporate social responsibility programs. **(PNA)**

Restorasyon sa nabawing wetland sa Bora, sinimulan

TITLE: na; Tribong nakatira, binigyan ng sariling lupa

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## Restorasyon sa nabawing wetland sa Bora, sinimulan na; Tribong nakatira, binigyan ng sariling lupa

July 28, 2020 @ 2:21 PM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Magsisimula na ang pagsasaayos sa Wetland No. 6 na kilala rin bilang “Dead Forest”, sa Boracay makaraan itong nabawi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) mula sa mga ilegal na umokopa rito.

Ayon sa DENR, naalis na ang illegal structures mula sa 8.5 ektaryang wetland sa Barangay Manoc-Manoc na pinaninirahan ng 31 pamilyang Tumandok tribe na binahagian naman ng kanilang sariling lupain ng pamahalaan para paglipatan.

“That’s hitting two birds with one stone,” sabi ni DENR Director Natividad Bernardino, na siya ring General Manager ng Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG).

Ayon kay Bernardino, ang recovery ng Wetland No. 6 ay alinsunod sa Executive Order (EO) 53 na bumuo sa Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) sa pamumuno ng DENR. Isa sa mga layunin ng task force ay mailigtas mula sa tuluyang pagkasira ang resort island na kilala sa buong mundo.

Sa nasabing EO na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte noong 2018, naatasan ang DENR na ilipat at gibain ang ilang establisimyento at istraktura na sumasakop sa mga forestland, wetland at iba pang water bodies sa Boracay.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi rin ni Bernardino na ang planong pagsasaayos o rehabilitasyon ng wetland ay nagbigay-daan din upang makuha ng mga original settler ng isla ang kanilang nararapat na bahagi ng lupain sa Boracay.

“This is also a fulfillment on the policy directive of the President to distribute lands to the indigenous peoples and natives of Boracay,” ayon kay Bernardino.

Magugunitang noong July 28, may kabuuang 31 pamilya ng mga Tumandok ang pormal nang inilipat sa mga lupaing sakop ng Certificates of Land Ownership Award or CLOAs na ipinamahagi ng Department of Agrarian Reform noong Marso.

Naglaan ang DENR ng mga kahoy mula sa mga punong natumba ng bagyong Ursula noong Disyembre upang magamit sa pagtatayo ng kanilang kabahayan. Ang mga pamilyang ito ay mabibiyayaan din ng water at sewerage facilities ng Boracay Island Water Company.

Ang pagsasaayos ng Wetland No. 6 ay pangangasiwaan ng Boracay Tubi System Inc., isang water concessionaire na pag-aari ni Lucio Tan, alinsunod sa Boracay Action Plan na ipinatutupad ng BIARMG.

Restorasyon sa nabawing wetland sa Bora, sinimulan

July 29, 2020

TITLE: na; Tribong nakatira, binigyan ng sariling lupa

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Nauna nang sinabi ni DENR Secretary at BIATF Chair Roy A. Cimatu na sa siyam na wetlands ng Boracay na natukoy para isaayos, lima na ang na-adopt ng mga pribadong kompanya sa loob ng tatlo hanggang limang taon bilang bahagi ng kanilang corporate social responsibility programs.

Ayon sa DENR ang wetlands ay itinuturing na world's most biologically diverse ecosystems dahil ang mga ito ay nagsisilbing tirahan ng iba't ibang plant at animal species.

Nakatutulong ang mga wetland na bawasan ang soil erosion, panatilihin ang sediments, sipsipin ang mga nutrients, mag-imbak ng tubig para mabawasan ang matinding epekto ng baha at tagtuyot at mag-mitigate sa mga epekto ng climate change.

Bago ang pagsasaayos ng mga wetland sa Boracay, ang mga ito ay nakadadagdag sa polusyon sa katubigan ng isla at nagdudulot ng banta sa kalusugan at kaligtasan ng mga naninirahan dito at ng mga turista.

Nu'ng nakaraang taon, matagumpay na nabawi ng DENR ang Wetland No. 4 sa Central Boracay na ginawa namang linear park ng Aboitiz Group.

Ang isang ektaryang lagoon sa tapat ng D'Mall, isa sa mga pinakaabalang lugar sa isla, ay tinatawag na ngayong Balabag Wetland Park. Ito ay may plaza at perimeter boardwalk at may mga halaman at puno. *Santi Celario*

# DENR to restore ‘Dead Forest’

July 28, 2020

By Cory Martinez

People's Tonight

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will soon start restoration on Boracay’s Wetland No. 6, also known as “Dead Forest,” after it successfully recovered the area from illegal occupants.

DENR Director Natividad Bernardino said the DENR was able to clear the 8.5-hectare wetland located in Barangay Manoc-Manoc of illegal structures, whose occupants—31 families belonging to the Tumandok tribe—will be transferring to lands awarded to them by the government.

“That’s hitting two birds with one stone,” said Bernardino, who serves as general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG).

Bernardino disclosed that the recovery of Wetland No. 6 is in compliance with Executive Order (EO) 53 that created the DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to reverse the degradation of the world-famous resort island.

In that EO issued by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in 2018, the DENR is tasked, among others, to relocate and demolish all establishments and structures encroaching on forestlands, wetlands and other water bodies in Boracay.

At the same time, Bernardino said the planned rehabilitation of the wetland paved the way for the original settlers of the island to get their rightful share of Boracay lands.

“This is also a fulfillment on the policy directive of the President to distribute lands to the indigenous peoples and natives of Boracay,” Bernardino added.

On July 28, a total of 31 Tumandok families formally transferred to lands covered by Certificates of Land Ownership Award or CLOAs issued to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform last March.

The DENR donated timber from trees felled by Typhoon Ursula last December for the construction of their houses. These families will also be provided with water and sewerage facilities by the Boracay Island Water Company.

The Lucio Tan-controlled water concessionaire Boracay Tubi System Inc. will undertake the restoration of Wetland No. 6, in accordance with the Boracay Action Plan being implemented by the BIARMG.

DENR Secretary and BIATF Chair Roy A. Cimatu had earlier said that of the nine Boracay wetlands identified for rehabilitation, five have been adopted by private companies for a period of three to five years as part of their corporate social responsibility programs.

Wetlands are considered to be one of the world’s most biologically diverse ecosystems as they are home to a wide variety of plant and animal species. They also help reduce soil erosion, retain sediments, absorb nutrients, store water to minimize the impacts of floods and droughts, and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Prior to rehabilitation, Boracay wetlands were contributing to pollution of the island’s waters and had been threats to health and safety of residents and tourists.

Last year, Wetland No. 4 located in Central Boracay was also successfully recovered by the DENR and converted into a linear park by the Aboitiz Group.

The one-hectare lagoon situated right across D’Mall, one of the busiest areas on the island, is now called Balabag Wetland Park. It has plaza and perimeter boardwalk, and is adorned with plants and trees.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/nation/denr-restore-dead-forest>

## Inangking `dead forest' sa Boracay nabawi ng DENR

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Jul 28, 2020

NEWS



Nabawi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ( DENR) mula sa mga ilegal na umuukopa nito ang wetland `dead forest' sa Boracay.

Ayon kay DENR Director Natividad Bernardino, na siya ring general manager ng Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG), magsisimula na ang pagsasaayos o restoration work sa Wetland No. 6, kilala bilang "dead forest."

Naalis na ng DENR ang mga illegal structures mula sa nasabing wetland na may sukat na 8.5 ektarya sa Barangay Manoc-Manoc. Ang mga nakatira dito na 31 pamilya na kabilang sa Tumandok tribe ay lilipat na sa mga lupaing ibinigay sa kanila ng pamahalaan.

"That's hitting two birds with one stone," sabi ni DENR Director Bernardino.

Ayon kay Bernardino, ang recovery ng Wetland No. 6 ay alinsunod sa Executive Order (EO) 53 na bumuo sa Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) sa pamumuno ng DENR. Isa sa mga layunin ng task force ay mai-reverse ang pagkasira ng resort island na kilala sa buong mundo.

Sa nasabing EO na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte noong 2018, naatasan ang DENR na ilipat at gibain ang mga establishments at istraktura na sumasakop sa mga forestlands, wetlands at iba pang water bodies sa Boracay.

Kasabay nito, sinabi din ni Bernardino na ang planong pagsasaayos sa wetland ay nagbigay-daan din upang makuha ng mga original settlers ng isla ang kanilang nararapat na bahagi ng lupain sa Boracay. (Riz Dominguez)



# DENR recovers encroached wetland in Boracay

Nony Basco, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 29 2020 01:08 AM



The “Dead Forest” at Barangay Manoc-manoc in Boracay Island was cleared by environment authorities on Tuesday. *DENR-6 handout photo*

BORACAY, Aklan—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has cleared the 8.5-hectare wetland number 6 located at Barangay Manoc-manoc, known as the “Dead Forest” of Boracay Island.

The DENR removed 32 families belonging to Tumandok tribe and transferred them Tuesday to a permanent relocation site that was awarded to them by the government.

Restoration work at the wetland will start soon, according to Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG) General Manager Natividad Bernardino.

The recovery of Wetland No.6 was in compliance with the Executive Order (EO) 53 which is the creation of the DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to save the world-famous island resort.

Under the said EO issued by President Rodrigo Duterte in 2018, the DENR is tasked to relocate and demolish establishments and structures encroaching on forestlands, wetlands, and other water bodies in Boracay Island.

Consequently, the planned rehabilitation of the wetlands will give chance to the original settlers of the island to get their rightful share of Boracay lands.

“This is also a fulfillment on the policy directive of the President to distribute lands to the indigenous people of Boracay,” Bernardino said.

The 31 Tumandok families were formally relocated to the lands covered by the Certificate of Land Ownership Awards or CLOAs issued to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform.

The DENR also provided them with timber from trees uprooted by Typhoon Ursula last December 2019 for the construction of their houses. Water and sewerage facilities will also be installed by Boracay Island Water Company.

The restoration of Wetland No. 6 will be undertaken by the Lucio Tan-controlled water concessionaire Boracay Tubi System Inc., in accordance with the Boracay Action Plan being implemented by the BIARMG.

Of the 9 Boracay wetlands identified for rehabilitation, five have been adopted by private companies for a period of three to five years as part of their corporate social responsibility programs.

Last year, Wetland No. 4 located in Central Boracay was also successfully recovered by the DENR and converted into a linear park by the Aboitiz Group. The one-hectare lagoon situated right across D’Mall, one of the busiest areas on the island, is now called Balabag Wetland Park. It has a plaza and perimeter boardwalk, and is adorned with plants and trees.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/29/20/denr-recovers-encroached-wetland-in-boracay>





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DENR nabawi ang isa pang wetland sa Boracay

Magsisimula na ang pagsasaayos o restoration work sa Wetland No. 6, na kilala rin bilang "Dead Forest", sa Boracay matapos itong matagumpay na nabawi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) mula sa mga iligal na umukopa dito.

Naalis na ng DENR ang mga illegal structures mula sa nasabing wetland na may sukat na 8.5 hektarya sa Barangay Manoc-Manoc. Ang mga nakatira dito —31 pamilya na kabilang sa Tumandok tribe—ay lilipat na sa mga lupaing ibinigay sa kanila ng pamahalaan.

"That's hitting two birds with one stone," sabi ni DENR Director Natividad Bernardino, na siya ring General Manager ng Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG).

Ayon kay Bernardino, ang recovery ng Wetland No. 6 ay alinsunod sa Executive Order (EO) 53 na bumuo sa Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) sa pamumuno ng DENR. Isa sa mga layunin ng task force ay mai-reverse ang pagkasira ng resort island na kilala sa buong mundo.

Sa nasabing EO na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte noong 2018, naatasan ang DENR na ilipat at gibain ang mga establishments at istraktura na sumasakop sa mga forestlands, wetlands at iba pang water bodies sa Boracay.

Kasabay nito, sinabi din ni Bernardino na ang planong pagsasaayos o rehabilitasyon ng wetland ay nagbigay-daan din upang makuha ng mga original settlers ng isla ang kanilang nararapat na bahagi ng lupain sa Boracay.

"This is also a fulfillment on the policy directive of the President to distribute lands to the indigenous peoples and natives of Boracay," ayon kay Bernardino.

Noong July 28, may kabuuang 31 pamilya ng mga Tumandok ang pormal nang inilipat sa mga lupaing sakop ng Certificates of Land Ownership Award or CLOAs na ipinamahagi ng Department of Agrarian Reform noong Marso.

Naglaan ang DENR ng mga kahoy mula sa mga punong natumba ng bagyong Ursula noong Disyembre upang magamit sa pagtatayo ng kanilang kabahayan. Ang mga pamilyang ito ay mabibiyayaan rin ng water at sewerage facilities ng Boracay Island Water Company.

Ang pagsasaayos ng Wetland No. 6 ay pangangasiwaan ng Boracay Tubi System Inc., isang water concessionaire na pag-aari ni Lucio Tan, alinsunod sa Boracay Action Plan na ipinatutupad ng BIARMG.

Nauna nang sinabi ni DENR Secretary at BIATF Chair Roy A. Cimatu na sa siyam na wetlands ng Boracay na natukoy para isaayos, lima na ang na-adopt ng mga pribadong kumpanya sa loob ng tatlo hanggang limang taon bilang bahagi ng kanilang corporate social responsibility programs.

Ang mga wetlands ay itinuturing na world's most biologically diverse ecosystems dahil ang mga ito ay nagsisilbing tirahan ng iba-ibang plant at animal species. Nakatutulong ang mga wetlands na bawasan ang soil erosion, panatilihin ang sediments, sipsipin ang mga nutrients, mag-imbak ng tubig para mabawasan ang matinding epekto ng baha at tagtuyot, at mag-mitigate sa mga epekto ng climate change.

Bago ang pagsasaayos ng mga wetlands sa Boracay, ang mga ito ay nakakadagdag sa polusyon sa katubigan ng isla at nagdudulot ng banta sa kalusugan at kaligtasan ng mga naninirahan dito at ng mga turista.

Nung nakaraang taon, matagumpay na nabawi ng DENR ang Wetland No. 4 sa Central Boracay na ginawa namang linear park ng Aboitiz Group.

Ang isang ektaryang lagoon sa tapat ng D'Mall, isa sa mga pinaka-abalang lugar sa isla, ay tinatawag na ngayong Balabag Wetland Park. Ito ay may plaza at perimeter boardwalk, at may mga halaman at puno.

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# Cimatu OKs PBB relaunch

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital



A glimpse of the skysrise buildings at the Cebu Business Park in Cebu City. CDN Digital photo | Brian J. Ochoa

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the overseer of the Interagency Task Force (IATF) in Cebu, has approved the relaunch of the [Project Balik Buhay](#) (PBB) program in the tricities of Cebu, Mandaue, and Lapu-Lapu.

“I am encouraged by that (PBB) move, I support it. I (will) encourage that also to other government agencies. I opted to be here in this meeting with the business sector because this is really very necessary. The importance really is the indication of success here in Cebu City,” said Cimatu during a private meeting in Cebu City.

Cimatu noted a decrease in the positivity rate in Cebu City, from 30 percent out of 100 Cebuanos tested for Covid-19 last June, down to 11 percent in July, a good indicator of the government’s response in the fight against Covid-19.

The Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas (OPAV) defines Project Balik Buhay as the transition to the calibrated, scientific, evidence-based transition from modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) to general community quarantine (GCQ).

Unlike its first launch that the PBB focused on mass rapid testing of the constituents to get a bigger picture on how the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread in the three cities, the PBB will now focus on the private sector, by gradually re-opening the community, especially the businesses.

Retired Maj. Gen. Melquiades Feliciano, deputy Chief Implementor for IATF in Cebu, also expressed his support to the relaunch of the PBB.

He said that the end-product of this program is to have an agreement between the private sector and the local chief executives in implementing the PBB.

“There is no question that PBB is a good process and will work for all business establishments. The business sector has mentioned going through the process of having this plan being cascaded and disseminated to all the business establishments,” said Feliciano.

Edmun Liu, chairman of PBB for the private sector, promised the IATF that they will update their plan for a relaunch within the week.

Liu said they will tap health experts to ensure that they will present a thorough plan, which includes establishing workplace health standards and regular testing protocols for business establishments to adopt.

“PBB wanted to find a way to balance the lives and livelihood of the people, while not making it difficult for businesses to reopen. What we would have wanted sana during that time (June 1, Cebu City was under GCQ) was that for PBB to work, kailangan everybody would be willing to do our part, sana before reopening and going back to work, ma-implement yung health standards in the workplace, at saka ma-test yung employees, kahit man lang hindi 100 percent, and kahit even through rapid anti-body test lang, not the rt-PCR test because back then, we didn’t have enough machines,” Liu said.

He reiterated that it is the main responsibility of the businessmen or the owners/employers, to provide a safe environment in their businesses. /bmjjo

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/329851/cimatu-oks-pbb-relaunch>

IATF taps OPAV's private-sector program in efforts

TITLE: vs. Covid-19

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# IATF taps OPAV's private-sector program in efforts vs. Covid-19

By John Rey Saavedra July 28, 2020, 7:27 pm



**COLLABORATION.** Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (left), the overseer of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) in Cebu, has tapped the 'Project Balik Buhay' of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas headed by Secretary Michael Lloyd Dino. The PBB project will focus on the private sector's role in the re-opening of businesses and the implementation of a calibrated, scientific, and evidence-based transition from the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) to general community quarantine (GCQ). *(Photo courtesy of IATF)*

**CEBU CITY** – The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) is tapping the multi-sector program of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas (OPAV) in aligning private sector efforts to address the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) crisis in Cebu.

Environment Secretary and Cebu Covid-19 intervention overseer Roy Cimatu and Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Michael Lloyd Dino on Monday met with business leaders and mayors of Cebu to discuss the parameters in tapping the "Project Balik Buhay" (PBB) to gradually reopen the community.

In a statement on Tuesday, the OPAV said PBB will focus on the private sector's role in the re-opening of businesses and the implementation of a calibrated, scientific, and evidence-based transition from the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) to general community quarantine (GCQ) status.

"I am encouraged by that (PBB) move, I support it. I (will) encourage that also to other government agencies. I'm very happy naman (of course) to be of help really. Totoo yan ha na (That is really true that) I opted to be here in this meeting with the business sector because this is really very necessary. The importance really is the indication of success here in Cebu City," Cimatu was quoted as saying in the saying.

Melquiades Feliciano, IATF deputy chief implementer in Cebu, said the end-product of PBB would be to have an agreement between the private sector and the local chief executives in implementing the programs.

"There is no question that PBB is a good process and will work for all business establishments. The business sector has mentioned going through the process of having this plan being cascaded and disseminated to all the business establishments," he said as quoted in the OPAV statement.

PBB chairman for private sector Edmun Liu, for his part, said they will tap health experts in ensuring a thorough plan which includes establishing workplace health standards and regular testing protocols for business establishments to adopt.

He said the initial plan of PBB was to establish guidelines in reopening the economy gradually and safely.

"PBB wanted to find a way to balance the lives and livelihood of the people, while not making it difficult for businesses to reopen. What we would have wanted sana (after all) during that time (June 1, Cebu City was under GCQ) was that for PBB to work, kailangan (it's needed that) everybody would be willing to do our part, before reopening and going back to work, health standards (are imposed) in the workplace," Liu was quoted as saying.

Even if not 100 percent of the workforce will be tested, he said there must be testing using the rapid antibody test and not the RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) test.

Meanwhile, Cimatu said Cebuanos are now more compliant in observing the health protocols.

IATF taps OPAV's private-sector program in efforts

July 29, 2020

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The Environment chief also noted a decrease in the positivity rate in Cebu City, saying that 30 percent out of 100 Cebuanos tested for Covid-19 in June has “considerably dropped” from to 11 percent in July.

He described the decline as a good indicator of the government’s response in the fight against Covid-19.

Present during the meeting in Cebu City were Governor Gwendolyn Garcia, Mayor Edgardo Labella, Mayor Jonas Cortes of Mandaue City, Mayor Junard "Ahong" Chan of Lapu-Lapu City, Mayor Gerald Anthony Gullas of Talisay City and Mayor Elanito Peña of Minglanilla.

The private sector was also represented by Regional Development Council (RDC) 7 Chairman Kenneth Cobonpue, who is also the co-chair for PBB, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) president Felix Taguiam and Mandaue Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) president Steven Yu, among others. **(PNA)**



# Puyat lauds Duterte's call for creation of Boracay Development Authority

Published July 28, 2020, 5:35 PM

by [Hanah Tabios](#)

President Rodrigo Duterte's urgent call to pass a law creating a Boracay Island Development Authority is a solid declaration of the government's commitment to sustainable and responsible tourism, said Department of Tourism (DOT) chief Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.



Tourism chief Bernadette-Romulo Puyat  
(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Puyat made the comment after the President called on Congress to pass a law creating the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) to oversee the island's environmental sustainability in his 5<sup>th</sup> State of the Nation Address (SONA).

"We have seen the remarkable reemergence of the Island back to its former glory. I want this sustained. I ask Congress to enact a law creating — importante ito — the Boracay Island [Development] Authority or BIDA. We need it," Duterte said in his SONA on Monday.

It was Representative Claudine Diana Bautista of DUMPLER PTDA party-list who filed House Bill No. 6285 last February proposing the BIDA national office, which will serve as an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"Boracay Island's 6-month closure at the height of the tourist season that started in May 2018 gave unparalleled attention and priority to the welfare of tourists, business stakeholders, and host communities from the ill effects of over tourism and environmental destruction," Puyat said, noting that the rehabilitation also poured unprecedented investment in infrastructure such as roads, sewerage, drainage, and solid waste management systems.

"The success of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) undoubtedly needs to be sustained and its gains can be continued with the management framework presented by a legislated and institutionalized Boracay Island Authority. Such framework embraces the tried and tested collaborative inter-agency approach of the BIATF employed in the management of Boracay that is a rare gem in Philippine tourism truly worth sustaining," she added.

The tourism chief also emphasized that the tourism department had actively contributed to the position of the BIATF in relation to Senate Bill No. 17 or the Act Creating the Boracay Development Authority authored by Senator Franklin Drilon, which remains pending in the Senate.

She said beyond Boracay, the department believes a similar arrangement must also be considered in managing other tourism areas in the Philippines.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/28/puyat-lauds-dutertes-call-for-creation-of-boracay-development-authority/>

## Boracay stakeholders suportado ang BIDA creation



July 28, 2020 @ 2:14 PM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Suportado ng mga stakeholder ang pagbubuo sa Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) na binanggit ni President Rodrigo Duterte sa kanyang ikalimang State of the Nation Address (SONA).

Sa kabila nito, welcome kay Acting Mayor Frolibar Bautista ng Malay ang naturang proposal.

“As long as there is no encroachment in the function of the LGU (local government unit), then there is no problem,” aniya sa isang panayam.

Gayundin ay ikinatuwa ito ni Natividad Bernardino, general manager ng Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG).

Aniya, ang BIDA ay proposal ng Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF).

Paliwanag ni Bautista, ang draft ng kalatas ay iprinisinta sa kanila noon pang nakaraang buwan.

“It is good because their budget is included in the General Appropriations Act, so it is a big support to the development of the island. The LGU has limited resources,” lahad pa ni Bautista.

“BIDA once it becomes a law will be the permanent body that will oversee and ensure the sustainability of all the rehabilitation efforts that we’ve started in Boracay,” panig naman ni Bernardino.

Umaasa rin si Bernardino na maisababatas ang BIDA bago pa magwakas ang termino ng task force sa susunod na taon.

Sa ngayon ay sinusubukan ng task force na kumpletuhin ang rehabilitasyon ng isla na ngayon ay nasa 70 hanggang 80 porsyento na. **RNT/FGDC**



DENR inks partnership with NGO to reduce Manila

July 29, 2020

TITLE: Bay wastes

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# DENR inks partnership with NGO to reduce Manila Bay wastes

Published July 28, 2020, 1:11 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) has partnered with a non-government organization to provide a means where people can monetize plastic waste, which will help reduce wastes that end up in the Manila Bay.



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed on Monday led by DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caanacan and Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx) founder Nanette Medved-Po for the establishment of “Aling Tindera” waste-to-cash centers.

The “Aling Tindera” project is based on the concept of “plastic offsetting” or providing a mechanism that allows businesses to take action in stopping plastic waste from polluting waterways and ending up in nature.

PCEx will provide community partners with purposefully designed 20-foot containers, one manual baler, and starting capital.

The “Aling Tindera” container will serve as an aggregation hub where any member of the community may sell post-consumer plastic by the kilogram, giving everyone an incentive not only to depollute their environment, but also to make extra income.

Meanwhile, a manual baler will be used to press together collected plastics into blocks for easier storage and transport.

Once the container is full, offset partners through PCEx will purchase the lot from the partner-communities and ensure that these are processed using environmentally sound technologies.

Under the MOU, the DENR-NCR and PCEx will establish a network of community-based partners all over Metro Manila for the waste-to-cash program.

The “Aling Tindera” community partners will serve as collection points for post-consumer plastic waste and center for aggregating, storing, and efficient transport of the waste to partner processing facilities.



DENR inks partnership with NGO to reduce Manila

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The program is expected to provide community partners with income opportunities for women micro-entrepreneurs and city residents, a more organized informal sector of waste collectors and, more importantly, help in the cleanup, rehabilitation, and preservation of Manila Bay.

Caancan expressed her gratitude to PCEx for choosing the DENR-NCR as its partner in the implementation of the program, assuring that the regional office will do its best to realize the intent of the MOU.

Medved-Po said they were excited when they learned about the multi-stakeholder program of the government to clean Manila Bay, explaining that the program greatly aligns with their organization's goal of cleaning up plastic wastes that end up in the ocean.

She added that not only do they get to clean up the environment, but "we get to help women micro-entrepreneurs in the process as well, and get to teach the next generation of environmentally-conscious Filipinos."

# DENR-NCR partners with PCEX for the establishment of Aling Tindera Waste-to-Cash centers

By Ma. Allaine P. Allanigue Published on July 28, 2020

QUEZON CITY, July 28 (PIA) – The Department of Environment & Natural Resources -National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) entered into an agreement with The Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx) on Monday, 27 July 2020, with the two parties signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the establishment of Aling Tindera Waste-to-Cash centers.

DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caancan and PCEx founder Nanette Medved-Po signed the agreement via teleconferencing app, with other DENR-NCR officials and employees led by EMB-NCR Regional Director Atty. Domingo M. Clemente, Jr. and PCEx as witnesses.

Under the MOU, the regional office and PCEx will work together in setting up a network of community-based partners all over Metro Manila for the Aling Tindera Waste-to-Cash program.

Under the program, the Aling Tindera community partners will serve as collection points for post-consumer plastic waste and center for aggregating, storing and efficient transport of the waste to partner processing facilities.

The program is expected to provide community partners with income opportunities for women micro-entrepreneurs and city residents, a more organized informal sector of waste collectors and, more importantly, help in the cleanup, rehabilitation, and preservation of Manila Bay.

Speaking before the signing of the MOU, RED Caancan expressed her gratitude to PCEx for choosing the regional office as its partner in the implementation of the program. She assured PCEx that DENR National Capital Region would do its best to realize the “intent of the MOU”.

For her part, Medved-Po said PCEx was excited when they learned about the multi-stakeholder program of the government to clean Manila Bay, explaining that the program greatly aligns with their organization’s goal of “cleaning up ocean plastic”.

With the partnership, Medved-Po adds, DENR and PCEx “not only do we get to clean up our environment, but we get to help women micro-entrepreneurs in the process as well, and get to teach the next generation of environmentally-conscious Filipinos.”

The Aling Tindera project is based on the concept of “plastic offsetting”, or providing a mechanism that allows businesses to take action in stopping plastic waste from polluting our waterways and ending up in nature.

Under the project, PCEx will provide community partners with purposefully designed 20-foot container, one manual baler, and starting capital. The Aling Tindera container will serve as an aggregation hub where any member of the community may sell post-consumer plastic by the kilogram, giving everyone an incentive not only to depollute their environment, but make extra income.

The manual baler, on the other hand, does the compacting of the collected plastics into blocks for easier storage and transport. Once the container is full, offset partners through PCEx purchase the lot from her and ensure that these are processed using environmentally sound technologies. (DENR-NCR/PIA-NCR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1048753>

## Land use

posted July 29, 2020 at 12:00 am

by [Lito Banayo](#)

**"The landlords, the rentiers, the housing magnates in mostly the Lower House, have not passed such important legislation."**

The President's State of the Nation Address, delivered at the Batasan with just a few in physical attendance, once again asked Congress to pass a National Land Use Act.

We heard that last year, and the year before last. We've seen the bill calling for a national land use policy filed as early as 1990, by Sen. Orlando Mercado, and re-filed in every Congress since then. When Orly finished two terms in the Senate, Sen. Gregorio Honasan kept filing the same bill from one Congress to the next. Now he too has graduated, and is already DICT secretary.

Still, the landlords, the rentiers, the housing magnates in mostly the Lower House, have not passed such important legislation. And because of this, land use and land classification in the country is left to the tender discretionary mercies of bureaucrats in connivance with local government officials, real estate speculators, and landowners. Zoning regulations are helter-skelter.

President Duterte vowed to protect the environment from further degradation, yet central to the protection of the environment, even to ensuring food security for generations yet to come, is a cogent land use policy.

Anyone who has been to Vietnam, particularly the cities and provinces beside the Mekong River, the country's rice granary and agriculturally most productive area, will notice how well the government has managed land utilization. Even in the commercial capital of Ho Chi Minh, one will notice that buildings are allotted very little land footprints. There are hotels, three-star at that, with no more than a five meter wide frontage. They go vertical, and very little land is used. And yet even within the jurisdiction of what was formerly Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam before the unification and the defeat of the Americans, one sees vegetable patches and even rice fields.

Driving northwards, you realize that government, which of course is socialist, has carefully delineated land use, giving primacy to agricultural production. Vietnam is about 33 million hectares in one long, contiguous whole, much like our Luzon. The Philippines, with a relatively smaller land area of 30 million hectares, is divided into several islands. Our population is larger at 108 million compared to theirs, which is 97 million.

But Vietnam exports rice, coffee, and a variety of fruits all over the world, among the top three exporters of such agricultural crops. The Philippines exports bananas and pineapple, imports rice, coffee, and fruits.

Here in Taiwan, marvel at how they make use of a very small area of land, only 3.6 million hectares, about the size of Regions 1, 3 and CAR put together, and very mountainous at that. Yet the small land area supports the food needs of 23 million inhabitants, and they export fruits and vegetables, fish and shellfish, even orchids, to the world. And agriculture, by the way, is only 5% of their GDP. To top all that, they have very strict environmental laws and regulations that have kept their mountains, rural and urban areas as green as can be.

We hope and pray that before the president's term ends on June 30, 2022, that national land use policy becomes law. We keep our fingers crossed.

It would be a great legacy for President Duterte, where Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and Benigno Aquino III failed to move Congress to act.

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Still on the issue of land use, the 5th SONA called for the establishment of a Boracay Island Development Authority. It will be recalled that the president ordered the closure of the touristic jewel for six months in 2018, an unprecedented act, precisely because of continuing environmental degradation, particularly of the waters surrounding the white sand beaches of the small island.

The carrying capacity of the island has been far exceeded by the number of tourists, foreign and local, flocking to it at almost all seasons of the year. The Philippine Tourism Authority under Presidents Ramos and Estrada put up freshwater supply and wastewater treatment facilities in the island to safeguard its pristine waters. Local government authorities and even the DENR however allowed unbridled building establishments without proper zoning and land use restrictions. Worse, they even failed to ensure that all establishments would connect their septic tanks to the wastewater facility. Images on television of how big hotels drained their detritus straight into hidden pipes shallowly hidden beneath the white sand were so shocking.

When I was at the helm of the PTA in President Estrada's abbreviated term, I discussed with Aklan's perpetual governor, Joben Miraflores, the problems brought about by the local government of Malay, Aklan of which Boracay was part.

I mentioned the need for a stronger national government supervision of the island to protect it from helter-skelter "development" far beyond its carrying capacity. Gov. Joeben and I had already looked at mainland beachfront sites in Ibjay and Nabas which could be developed as medium-cost substitutes so as to prevent over-crowding.

Even as we commend the multi-agency Task Force Boracay headed by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, for what it has done to rehabilitate the island, the idea of a Boracay Island Development Authority to virtually remove its supervision from local authorities, similar to Subic Bay or Clark, is definitely needed for the medium to long-term.

Again, hopefully it becomes true within the president's time.



## 30 toneladang basura pinamana ng LSI sa Rizal stadium

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Jul 28, 2020

NEWS



Umabot sa may 30 toneladang basura ang nakolekta ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila na iniwan sa Rizal Baseball Stadium ng mahigit 4,000 Locally Stranded Individuals (LSI).

Nagbigay umano ng direktiba si Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso na tiyakin na magiging malinis ang stadium na inokupa ng libu-libong LSI.

Ayon kay Kenneth Amurao, hepe ng Manila City -Department of Public Service, naipon umano ang basura nang magsimulang magkanlong sa stadium ang mga LSU na nag-aantay na makauwi sa kani-kanilang lalawigan simula noong Hulyo 24.

Nalaman na may 2-araw umanong nilinis ng DPS ang stadium simula nitong Lunes at kahapon.

Nabatid na umabot sa 17 tonelada ng basura ang nakuha nitong Lunes habang 13 tonelada naman ang nahakot na basura kahapon mula alas 8 hanggang alas 10 ng umaga. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



# Senate OKs Bayanihan 2

Published 17 hours ago  
on July 28, 2020 03:30 PM  
By [Hananeel Bordey](#)



VOTING 22-1 with zero abstention, the Senate has approved on third and final reading the Bayanihan 2 which gives the government more flexibility to respond against COVID-19 pandemic and help the most-affected sectors recover from the adverse impact of the health crisis.

The vote came just a day after President Rodrigo Duterte urged Congress during his fifth State of the Nation Address, to immediately act on the bill amid continued threats of the coronavirus pandemic.

All senators except Francis Pangilinan voted in favor of Senate Bill 1564 which seeks to extend the provisions under Republic Act 11469 or the Bayanihan To Heal as One Act which expired last June.

“With Bayanihan 2, the government would be assured of sufficient funding for the ramped-up testing for COVID-19 and for contact tracing. It will also ensure that our valiant health workers who contract or succumb to the disease will continuously receive financial support,” Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sonny Angara said in a statement.

“The new law will also allow the government to continue providing assistance to Filipino businesses and workers impacted by the pandemic, including our OFWs who were either repatriated or whose deployments were suspended,” the bill’s main sponsor and author added.

Senate Bill 1564 allows the government to spend P140 billion for 64 COVID-19 Response and Recovery Intervention which should be implemented by Duterte and the Executive Department to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The said figure was agreed upon by the senators and the members of Duterte’s economic team.

Aside from the provisions of Bayanihan 1, SB 1564 includes new provisions like the conduct of testing in priority areas which were identified by the Department of Interior and Local Government and adopt a testing protocol. Contact tracing will also be spearheaded by the Barangay Health Workers and parent-leaders of the Department of Social Welfare and Development organizations.

The P140 billion stand-by funds will be spent on the following:

- P10 billion for procurement of COVID-19 testing equipment and necessary materials to enhance DOH’s capacity to address the pandemic.
- P15 billion for the emergency subsidy to workers from critically-impacted sectors and industries including the cash-for-work program and the DOLE’s TUPAD program.

- P17 billion for assistance to displaced workers and employees.
- P50 billion for infusion of capital to government financial institutions
- P17 billion for cash subsidy and interest-free loans from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council and government financial institutions.
- P17 billion for the Department of Transportation's programs which aims to assist the businesses in the transportation sector and development of accessible sidewalks and protected bike lanes.
- P10 billion for the Department of Tourism's assistance to critically-impacted businesses
- P3 billion for assistance to state universities and colleges for their development of smart campuses.
- P1 billion for additional scholarship funds for the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority's work scholarship training programs.

# NCR COVID-19 critical care capacity now in 'danger level' – DoH

July 29, 2020 | Filed under: Headlines, News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

BY ANALOU DE VERA



The Department of Health (DoH) on Tuesday appealed again to the public to follow the health protocols as the overall utilization of hospital beds dedicated for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in the country is now already in the “warning zone”.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that there are 16,388 beds for COVID-19 patients both in public and private hospitals in the country. Of the figure, 52.3 percent are currently being utilized.

“Ano ang ibig sabihin nito? Nationally, malapit nang ma-overwhelm ang health system natin,

mapapagod ang ating mga doktor, nars, at mga nag-alaaga sa atin sa ospital,” said Vergeire during a press briefing on Tuesday afternoon.

“Kaya naman nakikiusap kami sa inyo na sumunod sa minimum health standards at kung hindi naman importante, manatili muna sa bahay,” she added.

The National Capital Region’s (NCR) critical care capacity is now in the danger level as more than 70 percent of hospitals’ facilities for COVID-19 are currently being used.

“Ang rehiyon po ng NCR ay nasa danger zone with an occupancy rate of 82.2 percent,” said Vergeire.

Meanwhile, the Cordillera Administrative Region as well as the regions of Ilocos, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, and Davao region are now in the “warning zone,” said Vergeire.

One solution to address this problem is the “One Hospital Command System” that aims to strengthen the referral system in the different hospitals.

“Through the One Hospital Command System, inaayos po natin ang referral system for both public and private para masiguro na hindi napupuno ang mga ospital. Through this system, pinaigting din po natin ang coordination ng mga ospital sa mga TTMF (temporary treatment and monitoring facilities) upang mailipat po natin ang mga kasong hindi na nangangailangan ng higher level of care,” said Vergeire.

The Health official also announced that the country’s confirmed COVID-19 cases is now at 83,673 as 1,678 new infections were recorded. The total number of active cases currently stands at 55,109.

Vergeire also reported that four more patients have died, bringing the death toll to 1,947. The recoveries jumped to 26,617 after 173 new patients got well. (Analou de Vera)

# GAMOT LABAN SA COVID-19, PINAPAKYAW NA NG MAYAYAMANG BANSA



July 28, 2020 @ 11:25 AM 22 hours ago

May gamot nang panlaban sa coronavirus disease-19 at ngayon pa lang, pinapakyaw na ng mayayamang bansa gaya ng Britanya.

Lumalabas na ang kauna-unahang gamot ay nagawa na mismo sa Britanya at umorder na ang pamahalaang Britanya ng 30 milyong tableta o kapsula at 70 milyon pa sa mga susunod na araw.

Naging matagumpay na rin ang ikalawang clinical trial kina American President Donald Trump at nasimulan na ng bansang ito ang ikatlong clinical trial na libo-libong tao ang kailangan para mapainom o mainiksyunan ng ibang gamot na gawa naman mismo sa kanila, may COVID-19 man o wala.

Sa pamamagitan ng libo-libong volunteer sa ikatlong clinical trial, malalaman na kung mararanasan nila ang naranasan ng iilang tao na gumaling sa sakit at hindi nagkaroon ng iba pang sakit o delikadong side effect.

At ang masakit, papakyawin din ng pamahalaang Amerika ang gamot at uunahin din muna nitong bigyan ng gamot ang mga Amerikano bago ang iba.

Sa kalagayang ito, lumalabas na sa hirap ng mahal kong Pinas, hindi nito kayang makipag-agawan sa bilihan ng gamot o bakuna.

## USAPANG DIGONG DUTERTE AT XIN PING

Kahapon sa ikalima niyang State of the Nation Address, muling binanggit ni Pangulong Rodrigo 'Digong' Duterte ang pag-uusap nila ni China President Xi Jinping ukol sa gamot laban sa COVID-19.

Napagkasunduan ng dalawa na kung sakaling magkakaroon ang China ng gamot, Pilipinas ang isa sa mga mauunang bansa na babahaginan ng China.

Ang China ay nakikipag-partner sa pamahalaang Britanya para sa pagdiskubre ng gamot at may mga kompanyang Tsino at Briton na kasama rito.

Iba pa ang mga kompanya sa loob ng China na gumagawa rin ng gamot at anomang araw ay mag-aanunsyo na rin ng nadiskubreng bakuna.

Nagte-testing na rin ang mga kompanyang Tsino sa ilang bansa sa Latin America lalo't naging matagumpay na ang bakuna ng mga ito na tinesting sa mga kasapi ng People's Liberation Army.

Sa bisa ng kasunduan, hindi na tayo mahihirapang makipag-agawan sa bilihan ng gamot laban sa COVID-19 na tiyak na sobra ang mahal at maging dagdag na pahirap sa ating pamahalaan at sa atin na magbabayad ng buwis para pambili ng gamot.



## PAGKAKAIBANG MALAKI

Sa usapang Digong at Jinping, kitang-kita ang malaking diperensya ng mga interes ng mga bansa.

Habang ang ibang bansa ay pansariling interes ang inuuna, sa nasabing usapan na magkakaroon agad ang Pinas ng bahagi ng bakuna, ay sa pagitan ng mga nagkaiintidihang magkapitbansa.

May problema man sa ilang isla ng Pilipinas na hawak ng Tsina ngayon, may iba namang usapin na napagkakasunduan at kabilang na rito ang gamot o bakuna sa COVID-19 na malayong mas malaking problema kaysa agawan ng ilang isla sa karagatan.

Alalahanin, hindi lang naman ang Pilipinas ang may problema sa pagkakaroon ng mga isla na inagaw ng ibang bansa.

Halimbawa ang isang isla ng Guantanamo na 15 kilometro lang ang layo sa dalampasigan ng Cuba.

Inagaw ng mga Kano ang isla mula sa mga Kastila at napilit nila ang Cuba na ipaupa sa kanila ito sa pamamagitan ng tratado at ngayon, kampo militar na ito na tortyuran ng mga Kano sa nadarakip nilang mga “terorista” sa paningin nila.

Hawak din ng Britain ang malaking isla ng Falklands na pag-aari ng Argentina at ang totoo, nagkaroon na ng giyera sa pagitan ng Britain at Argentina ngunit nadurog ang pwersa militar ng Argentina.

## PANTAY NA PAKIKIPAGRELASYON

Ang pag-asang magkaroon ng gamot mula sa China na kakaiba ang trato mula sa ibang bansa ay bunga ng pagdiriin ni Pang. Digong ng pantay na pakikipagrelasyon ng Pilipinas sa ibang bansa.

Maraming kailangan ang Pilipinas upang umunlad ngunit ang mga mayayamang bansa na “tumululong” at partner natin ay higit na nagsamantala sa atin kaysa tumulong.

Halimbawa ang Bataan Nuclear Plant sa Bataan na ang tunay na halaga ay \$600 milyon lamang ay ibinenta sa atin sa halagang \$2.2 bilyon ng mga Amerikano at dito pa sa Pilipinas gustong testingin noon ang planta dahil wala pa umanong testing ito sa Amerika kung gagana o sasabog.

Nabaon tayo sa utang dito na lumaki nang lumaki ang interes at inobliga tayong bayaran muna ito bago gumastos ang pamahalaan mula sa pambansang badyet para sa mga mamamayang Filipino.

Hindi natin inaalis ang pag-angkin sa nasabing mga isla ngunit alalahaning bahagi lang ang mga ito ng sinasabing exclusive economic zone na pwede nating pangisdaan at pagkunan ng ibang yaman ngunit hindi pormal na teritoryo ng bansa.

Sinasabi nga ni Pang. Digong, ibang usapan na kung sasakop ang Tsina anomang pormal na teritoryo ng mahal kong Pinas at ipaglalaman na niya ito nang todo.

# Caraga residents awakened by 5.8-magnitude earthquake

Published July 28, 2020, 7:53 AM

by [Mike Crismundo](#)

**BUTUAN CITY** – Residents in Northeastern Mindanao or Caraga region were roused from their sleep by powerful 5.8-magnitude earthquake early Tuesday morning, July 28.

The tremor, which struck at 1:32 a.m., reportedly awakened some residents, who rushed out to the streets or open spaces to seek safety.

The dawn temblor was felt in all the five provinces and six cities in Caraga region and other neighboring areas in Mindanao.

As of 7 a.m. Tuesday, the different provincial disaster risk reduction and management councils (PDRRMCs) in various provinces and cities have yet to report any damage or injury because of the earthquake.

The regional office of the Caraga Office of Civil Defense (OCD) was still awaiting reports from the different PDRRMCs in the region.

In its bulletin, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the 5.8-magnitude quake was registered at 1:32 a.m., with the epicenter plotted 21 kilometers (kms) southeast of Bayabas town, Surigao del Sur province.

The tremor had a depth of 40 kms, Phivolcs said.

Intensity IV was registered in the town proper of Bayabas, Bislig City, in the municipalities of Cagwait, Hinatuan, and City of Tandag, all of Surigao del Sur and Butuan city and Intensity III was also recorded in the City of Surigao, Surigao del Norte; City of Gingoog, Magsaysay, and Medina, Misamis Oriental while Intensity II in Balingasag, Jasaan, Salay, Tagoloan, and Villanueva, Misamis Oriental; and City of Cagayan de Oro and Intensity I in Mambajao, Camiguin.

In its Instrumental Intensities, Phivolcs also reported that Intensity III was registered in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur; City of Gingoog, Misamis Oriental and Intensity II – City of Surigao, Surigao del Norte; City of Cagayan de Oro; Palo, Leyte; Alabel, and Malungon, Sarangani while Intensity I in the City of Kidapawan, Cotabato; City of Koronadal, and Tupi, South Cotabato.

The earthquake was tectonic in origin and the state agency was not expecting damage. But the agency was expecting aftershocks.

No tsunami alert was raised by the Phivolcs.

The Surigao del Sur PDRRMC there reported no damage or injury.

However, Surigao del Sur Gov. Alexander Pimentel immediately mobilized its rescue teams of the PDRRMC to check the status of the residents, particularly those in coastal areas.



Estimated 3 billion animals affected by Australia

July 29, 2020

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# Estimated 3 billion animals affected by Australia bushfires: study

Published July 28, 2020, 2:35 PM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

Nearly three billion animals were killed or displaced by Australia's unprecedented 2019-20 wildfires in "one of the worst wildlife disasters in modern history", according to a report released Tuesday.



A kangaroo jumps in a field amidst smoke from a bushfire in Snowy Valley on the outskirts of Cooma in January (AFP Photo/SAEED KHAN)

The study by scientists from several Australian universities said the wildlife hit included 143 million mammals, 2.46 billion reptiles, 180 million birds and 51 million frogs.

While the report did not say how many animals died because of the fires, the prospects for those that escaped the flames "were probably not great" due to a lack of food, shelter and protection from predators, said Chris Dickman, one of its authors.

The fires ravaged more than 115,000 square kilometres (44,000 square miles) of drought-stricken bushland and forest across Australia in late 2019 and early 2020, killing more than 30 people and destroying thousands of homes.

It was the broadest and most prolonged bushfire season in modern Australian history, with scientists attributing the severity of the crisis to the impacts of climate change.

An earlier study in January estimated the fires had killed a billion animals in the hardest-hit eastern states of New South Wales and Victoria. But the survey released Tuesday was the first to cover fire zones across the continent, said lead scientist Lily van Eeden of the University of Sydney.

Results from the survey were still being processed, with a final report due to be released late next month, but the authors said the number of three billion animals affected was unlikely to change.

"The interim findings are shocking," said Dermot O'Gorman, CEO of the Australian branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature, which commissioned the report.



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“It’s hard to think of another event anywhere in the world in living memory that has killed or displaced that many animals,” he said.

“This ranks as one of the worst wildlife disasters in modern history.”

The plight of Australia’s popular koalas during the fires garnered international media attention, with thousands of the tree-dwelling marsupials believed to have perished.

But a government report early this year cited 100 other threatened native plant and animal species that had lost more than half their habitat to the blazes, raising the prospect of far greater losses.

Scientists say global warming is lengthening Australia’s summers and making them increasingly dangerous, with shorter winters making it more difficult to carry out bushfire prevention work.

The report released Tuesday was drawn up by scientists from the University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, University of Newcastle, Charles Sturt University and conservation group BirdLife Australia.

# Plastic waste in oceans will triple by 2040, researchers say

Researchers estimate 29 million metric tons of plastic pollution will enter the ocean each year by 2040, up from 11 million

By [Chris Ciaccia](#) | [Fox News](#)

Plastic waste in the oceans is expected to triple by the year 2040, more than tripling compared to current levels unless drastic measures are taken, according to a new study.

The research, which comes from The Pew Charitable Trusts and SYSTEMIQ, found that 29 million metric tons of plastic [pollution](#) will enter the ocean each year, up from 11 million metric tons, or 110 pounds of plastic per every meter of coastline around the world.

The experts also found that the coronavirus pandemic has added to the problem as "single-use plastic consumption has increased during the pandemic, according to the International Solid Waste Association," according to a [statement](#) accompanying the study.



Plastic waste on shore. (NOAA) (NOAA)

## PLASTIC POLLUTION IN WORLDS' OCEANS COULD HAVE \$2.5 TRILLION IMPACT, STUDY SAYS

The study has been published in the journal [Science](#).

Despite the bleak outlook, which could eventually total 600 million tons, or the equivalent of 3 million blue whales, the researchers offered solutions that could cut the volume entering the oceans by "more than 80 percent."

The solutions include reducing plastics with alternatives, designing packaging for recycling and expanding waste collection in middle- and low-income countries. Boosting recycling and reducing plastic waste exports were also mentioned.



Plastic pollution in ocean. (aryfahmed / Adobe Stock)

"There's no single solution to ocean plastic pollution, but through rapid and concerted action we can break the plastic wave," Tom Dillon, Pew's vice president for environment, said in the statement. "As this report shows, we can invest in a future of reduced waste, better health outcomes, greater job creation, and a cleaner and more resilient environment for both people and nature."

### **UN REPORT ON WORLD'S OCEANS IS DAMNING: 'WE'RE ALL IN BIG TROUBLE'**

These changes could have significant economic impacts, saving \$70 billion for governments by 2040, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to plastics by 25 percent and creating an additional 700,000 jobs.

"Our results indicate that the plastic crisis is solvable. It took a generation to create this challenge; this report shows we can solve it in one generation," said Martin Stuchtey, SYSTEMIQ's founder and managing partner added. "We have today all the solutions required to stem plastic flows by more than 80 percent. What we now need is the industry and government resolve to do so."

A study published in April 2019 [found](#) that plastic pollution in the world's oceans could have a \$2.5 trillion impact, disrupting "almost all marine ecosystem services," suffocating every industry it touches.

Additional research, published in May 2019, [found](#) plastic [pollution](#) in [oceans](#) may be suffocating the planet – by harming the tiny microorganisms "thought to be responsible for up to 10 percent of ... total global oxygen production."