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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

DENR shuts down sanitary landfill in Calamba City

July 29, 2020, 8:16 pm



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has shut down a sanitary landfill in Calamba City in Laguna province for the failure of its operator to comply with the terms and conditions of its environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

A cease and desist order (CDO) issued by the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) was served last July 24 on the 6.6-hectare sanitary landfill facility (SLF) operated by S.B. Hain Enterprises and General Services Inc. at Barangay Kay-Anlog.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said the CDO was issued against the SLF due to “numerous violations of the terms and conditions of its ECC granted by the EMB.”

“We cannot allow the landfill and its operator to continuously harm the environment. The Calamba SLF will remain closed until violations are corrected,” Antiporda said.

The CDO, signed by acting EMB Director William Cuñado, was based on the report submitted by a team of EMB inspectors that found the SLF to have violated nine out of 26 conditions in its ECC following an inspection of the facility last July 13.

The Calamba facility is operating as a Category 4 SLF, the highest category sanitary landfill and biggest in terms of capacity, allowing it to accommodate residual waste of less than or equal to 250 metric tons per day.

As such, it is permitted to put up to five units of landfill cells connected to a leachate collection and treatment pond.

However, the EMB discovered that the Calamba SLF did not install a working drainage and leachate treatment facility.

The EMB likewise noted the absence of a monitoring report of the SLF’s treated liquid waste to ensure its compliance with DENR effluent standards.

The agency said it also discovered that the landfill area was not lined with the required synthetic material called “high-density polyethylene,” which would have helped keep leachate from seeping through the soil and prevent groundwater contamination.

At the same time, the EMB observed that waste materials “were exposed and not covered,” a violation of the ECC’s Condition No. 22 which requires covering of at least six inches of soil “applied over the exposed waste at the end of each working day.”

The Calamba facility started as a Category 1 SLF with the issuance of its ECC on July 30, 2018, covering an area of 1.2 hectares at the same site but with a lower daily maximum waste input of 15 metric tons.

It was later upgraded to Category 4 with more stringent conditions in its new ECC issued on November 18, 2019. **(DENR PR)**

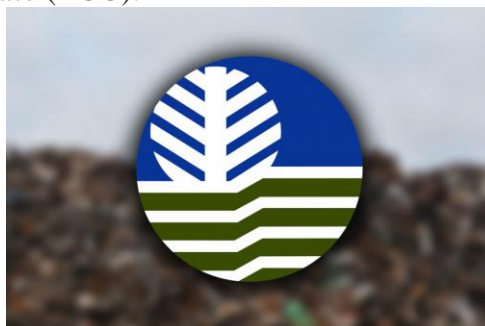
Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1110563>

DENR shuts down sanitary landfill in Calamba for ECC non-compliance

Published July 29, 2020, 10:12 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

A sanitary landfill in Calamba City in Laguna has been shut down by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) due to non-compliance with the terms and conditions of its environmental compliance certificate (ECC).



(MANILA BULLETIN)

A cease and desist order signed by DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Acting Director William Cuñado was served last July 24 on the 6.6-hectare sanitary landfill facility (SLF) operated by S.B. Hain Enterprises and General Services Inc. at Barangay Kay-Anlog. A team of EMB inspectors found the SLF violating nine out of 26 conditions in its ECC following an inspection of the facility last July 13.

The Calamba facility is operating as a Category 4 SLF, the highest category sanitary landfill and biggest in terms of capacity, allowing it to accommodate residual waste of less than or equal to 250 metric tons per day.

It is permitted to put up to five units of landfill cells connected to a leachate collection and treatment pond.

However, the EMB discovered that the Calamba SLF did not install a working drainage and leachate treatment facility.

The EMB also noted the absence of a monitoring report of the SLF's treated liquid waste to ensure its compliance with DENR effluent standards.

It also discovered that the landfill area was not lined with the required synthetic material called "high-density polyethylene," which would have helped keep leachate from seeping through the soil and prevent groundwater contamination.

Furthermore, the EMB observed that waste materials "were exposed and not covered," which is a clear violation of the ECC's Condition No. 22 that requires covering of at least six inches of soil "applied over the exposed waste at the end of each working day."

"We cannot allow the landfill and its operator to continuously harm the environment. The Calamba SLF will remain closed until violations are corrected," DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said.

The Calamba facility started as a Category 1 SLF with the issuance of its ECC on July 30, 2018, covering an area of 1.2 hectares at the same site but with a lower daily maximum waste input of 15 metric tons.

It was later upgraded to Category 4 with more stringent conditions in its new ECC issued on November 18, 2019.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/29/denr-shuts-down-sanitary-landfill-in-calamba-for-ecc-noncompliance/>

DENR closes sanitary landfill in Calamba over ‘numerous’ ECC violations

[INQUIRER.net](https://www.inquirer.net) / 01:54 PM July 29, 2020

MANILA, Philippines – A sanitary landfill (SLF) in Calamba Laguna was ordered closed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) over “numerous violations” of the terms and conditions of its environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

In a statement on Wednesday, the DENR said its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) issued a cease and desist order against the SLF, operated by S.B. Hain Enterprises and General Services Inc. after a facility inspection last July 13 found that it has violated nine out of 26 conditions in its ECC.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said the closure order was issued “due to numerous violations of the terms and conditions of its ECC granted by the EMB.”

“We cannot allow the landfill and its operator to continuously harm the environment,” Antiporda said. “The Calamba SLF will remain closed until violations are corrected,” he added.

The Calamba landfill is operating as a Category 4 SLF, which is the “highest category sanitary landfill and biggest in terms of capacity,” according to the DENR.

This means that it is allowed to accommodate residual waste of less than or equal to 250 metric tons per day and is permitted to put up to five units of landfill cells connected to a leachate collection and treatment pond.

But a team of EMB inspectors found that the operators failed to install working drainage and leachate treatment facility, the DENR said.

The team of inspectors also discovered that the landfill area was not lined with “high-density polyethylene,” a synthetic material required by the DENR to help keep leachate from seeping through soil preventing groundwater contamination.

Waste materials in the landfill were also reported to be “exposed and not covered,” which was a violation of the SLF’s ECC that states that at least six inches of soil are required to be “applied over the exposed waste at the end of each working day.”

The EMB team, likewise, noted that the Calamba SLF failed to present a monitoring report of the landfill’s treated liquid waste, which is required to ensure the facility’s compliance with DENR’s standards.

The Calamba SLF, located in Barangay Kay-Anlog, began its operations as a category one SLF in July 2018. It was later upgraded to a category four SLF in November 2019, according to the DENR. *Jim Mendoza*

Calamba landfill shut down

posted July 29, 2020 at 10:50 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has shut down a sanitary landfill in Calamba City, Laguna for failure of its operator to comply with the terms and conditions of its environmental compliance certificate.

The agency's Environmental Management Bureau recently served a cease-and-desist order on a 6.6-hectare sanitary landfill facility operated by S.B. Hain Enterprises and General Services Inc. in Barangay Kay-Anlog.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said the CDO was issued against the landfill due to "numerous violations of the terms and conditions of its ECC granted by the EMB."

We cannot allow the landfill and its operator to continuously harm the environment. The Calamba SLF will remain closed until violations are corrected," he said.

The order signed by acting EMB director William Cuñado was based on the report submitted by a team of EMB inspectors that found the landfill to have violated nine out of 26 conditions in its ECC following an inspection of the facility last July 13.

The Calamba facility is operating as a Category 4 SLF, the highest category sanitary landfill and biggest in terms of capacity, allowing it to accommodate residual waste of less than or equal to 250 metric tons

The Calamba facility started as a category 1 sanitary landfill facility with the issuance of its ECC on July 30, 2018, covering an area of 1.2 hectares at the same site but with a lower daily maximum waste input of 15 metric tons.

It was later upgraded to category 4 with more stringent conditions in its new ECC issued on Nov. 18, 2019.

Sanitary landfill sa Calamba pinadlak ng DENR



July 29, 2020 @ 3:46 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Dahil sa paglabag sa environmental law ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang sanitary landfill sa Calamba, Laguna matapos mabigo ang operator nito na mag-comply sa mga term at condition na nakasaad sa environmental compliance certificate (ECC) nito.

Inihain ng DENR-Environmental Management Bureau ang isang cease and desist order (CDO) noong Hulyo 24, sa 6.6 na ektarya ng sanitary landfill facility (SLF) na pinapatakbo ng S.B. Hain Enterprises and General Services, Inc., sa Barangay Kay-Anlog.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, ang CDO ay inisyu sa SLF bunsod ng maraming paglabag sa terms at conditions na nakasaad sa ECC nito na inisyu ng EMB.

“We cannot allow the landfill and its operator to continuously harm the environment. The Calamba SLF will remain closed until violations are corrected,” pagdiriin ni Antiporda.

Nabatid sa DENR ang CDO na nilagdaan ni Acting EMB Director Willam Cuñado ay alinsunod sa ulat na isinumite ng team ng EMB inspector kung saan ay natagpuan nila na ang SLF ay nagkaroon ng 9 na paglabag mula sa 26 na mga condition sa ECC nito matapos ang isinigawang inspeksyon sa pasilidad noong Hulyo 13.

Ang Calamba facility ay nag-o-operate bilang Category 4 SLF, ang pinakamataas na kategorya ng sanitary landfill at pinakamalaki ang kapasidad kung saan maaari itong makatanggap ng residual wastes na mababa o hanggang 250 metriko tonelada kada-araw.

Dahil dito, ito ay pinapayagang maglagay ng hanggang limang unit ng landfill cells na kokonekta sa leachate collection at treatment pond.

Subalit napag-alaman ng EMB na ang Calamba landfill ay hindi naglagay ng isang working drainage at leachate treatment facility.

Nadiskubre rin ng EMB ang kawalan ng monitoring report para sa treated liquid waste ng SLF na siyang magsisiguro ng compliance nito sa DENR effluent standards.

Nadiskubre rin ng EMB na wala ring lining ang landfill area ng kinakailangang synthetic material na tinatawag na “high density polyethylene”, na siyang makatutulong upang mapigilan ang katas na tumagas sa lupa at maagapan ang groundwater contamination.

Kasabay nito, naobserbahan din ng EMB na ang mga basura ay naka-expose at walang takip, isang paglabag sa Condition No. 22 ng ECC na nangangailangan ng hindi bababa sa 6 na pulgadang lupa ang kailangang itapon sa mga nakabuyangyang na basura sa pagtatapos ng bawat araw.

Nagsimula ang Calamba facility bilang Category 1 SLF nang naisyuhan ito ng ECC noong Hulyo 30, 2018, na sumasaklaw sa 1.2 ektarya at may kakayanang magproseso ng 15 metrikong tonelada ng basura kada araw.

Noong Nobyembre 18, 2019, ito ay naitaas sa Category 4 na mayroong mas mahigpit na mga kondisyon sa ECC nito. **Santi Celario**

91 exotic animals repatriated to Indonesia

Published July 29, 2020, 12:13 PM
by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

A total of 91 exotic animals rescued from poaching and illegal trading activities here were successfully repatriated to Indonesia on July 27.

Led by the Indonesian Consulate together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Davao Region (DENR-Region 11) and the Davao Crocodile Park and Zoo, the effort is considered the first in the region.



The 91 was part of the original 450 seized by the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Brgy. Dahican, Mati City in Davao Oriental April last year.

Authorities confirmed the confiscated wildlife, most of which were considered endangered under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), came from Indonesia.

Of the 450, 225 were eventually turned over to the Davao Crocodile Park and Zoo, while some died in transit.

In an inventory conducted last December 20 of the 125 that survived were found unfit for repatriation while 14 more died.

The 91 found fit for repatriation include a Greater Sulfur-crested Cockatoo, Palm Cockatoo, Black-capped Lory, Northern Cassowary, White-striped Wallaby, Blue-tongued skink and Rainer Gunther Monitor.

DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Eastern Mindanao and DENR-Davao Regional Executive Director Ruth Tawantawan, lauded the successful coordination between the DENR, Indonesian Consulate, and Davao Crocodile Park that eventually resulted in the repatriation of the animals.

“Rest assured that under Secretary Roy Cimatu’s watch, the DENR will always be on guard in curtailing wildlife trading. We are also hoping that there will be no more wildlife trading to also keep us safe from the risk of the possible accidental transmissions of diseases,” Tawantawan said in a statement posted on social media by the DENR-Davao Region.

Dicky Fabian, Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, said the animals will be placed in a wildlife sanctuary in Tasikoki Wildlife Rescue Centre in Bitung, Indonesia.

He added that as soon as the animals are deemed fit, they will eventually be freed into the wild.

DENR issues violation notice to AC Energy

By [Lenie Lectura](#)

July 30, 2020

AC Energy Philippines Inc. (ACEPH) has received from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Region 6 a notice of violation in relation to the oil spill incident in Iloilo City.

The notice was issued to Power Barge (PB) 102 owned by ACEPH. The company earlier reported that an explosion damaged PB102 which carried about 40,000 liters of bunker fuel. This led to an oil spill last July 3.

The power firm received the notice on Tuesday.

The DENR-EMB has forwarded the case to the Pollution Adjudication Board for determination of the impossible fines.

“The DENR-EMB Region 6 issued the Notice to the Company for possible violation of Section 27[a] of DENR Administrative Order 2005-10, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 [Republic Act 9275], in connection with the oil spill involving PB 102 which occurred on July 3,” ACEPH said.

Fines range from P10,000 to P200,000 per day from the time of the incident until full recovery of the discharged fuel for alleged violation of RA 9275; and P50,000 to P1,000,000 or imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than six years, or both, for alleged violation of Section 4 of Presidential Decree 979.

ACEPH, for its part, said that it is now actively working with the local government units (LGUs) to address the livelihood of those affected, spearhead community programs, and rehabilitate the marine and coastal ecosystems, including the fisheries and mangrove, as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, all 308 families are back home safely last July 18, with the evacuees having passed the reintegration parameters to ensure the safe return to their homes.

The parameters were developed and executed by a multistakeholder task force composed of the various barangays in Iloilo City, the Iloilo City government and its various offices, the Philippine Coast Guard, ACEPH and its consultant, AECOM Philippines, and clean-up contractor, Harbor Star Shipping Services Inc.

Also, collaboration and cooperation continue at the ongoing coastal clean-up operations.

The ACEPH team, along with AECOM Philippines, presented their action plans and spill assessment update.

“The outpouring of support from industry players, government agencies, other private sectors and volunteers has been truly inspiring. And while much work still needs to be done, ACEPH underpins its unwavering commitment to fulfill all responsibilities, and do everything in its power to fully address the environmental consequences of the accident,” it said.

“ACEPH will ensure that lessons learned here will be used as it emerges a stronger and safer energy platform, continuing to aid in the country’s energy security.”

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/07/30/denr-issues-violation-notice-to-ac-energy/>

MGB 12: Understanding geohazards during the COVID-19 pandemic

By Aida AgadPublished on July 29, 2020

KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato, July 29 (PIA) - SOCCSKSARGEN Mines and Geosciences Bureau regional director Engr. Felizardo A. Gacad, Jr., at a Press Conference on Tuesday, calls on everyone's support, understanding and active involvement in the nationwide observance of the 2020 National Disaster Resilience month.



Engr. Gacad said "medyo mahirap ang situwasyon natin ngayon, meron tayong hinaharap na pandemya, and the numbers are increasing, but aside from that, we are living in a world where we have threats and hazards around us. We understand the natural hazards, but we also have to understand that unwise human action can lead to higher risk, and can lead to more damage, death and destruction."

Amidst threats of natural calamities during the onset of the rainy season, the official sought the help of the media and the community, "Magtulungan tayo, makiisa tayo and let's all be safe not only from COVID 19, but also from the all these geohazards that we are experiencing right now."

The official also thanked the media community "for the collaboration in informing the public of the existing threats and possible remedies or actions that we may be able to take so that we will not be affected by these natural hazards that we have all over region 12."

"We have to work together, so that at the least we would be able to provide safety, not only for us, for members of our family but also for the members of our community," Engr. Gacad said.

With the aid of audio-visual presentations of different geologic hazards in the provinces of South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani, MGB 12 geologist Ariel Austin Acosta disclosed that based on their vulnerability risk assessment (VRA), the top five flood-prone areas in SOCCSKSARGEN are Norala in South Cotabato; Cotabato City; Palimbang, Lutayan and Lambayong in Sultan Kudarat province.

Topping the five landslide-prone areas in the region are Lake Sebu in South Cotabato; Malungon in Sarangani and Libungan, Arakan and Magpet in Cotabato province. (Aida C. Agad PIA 12)

Latest PH environment, natural resource technologies to be presented online

By Ma. Alaine AllaniguePublished on July 29, 2020

QUEZON CITY, July 29 (PIA) -- An online presentation of webinars and exhibit posters on various environment and natural resources (ENR) technologies is scheduled on the second week of August 2020.

According to Jonathan Alexander Galang, information officer of the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau-Toxic and Hazardous Wastes Research Development and Extension Center (ERDB-THWRDEC), this is in line with continuing ENR technology promotion amid with the new normal situation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Galang said the webinars will discuss topics such as phytoremediation schemes for polluted waterways, recommended pollutant-absorbent plant species, waste recycling and other related ENR technologies, and include capacity building activities and hands on training on clonal propagation and establishment of the floating garden phytoremediation technology.

"The activities will be conducted through Zoom/Google meet applications and to be facilitated by selected ERDB-THWRDEC staff headed by Ms. Nery A. Alba, Center Head," he said.

On the other hand, Galang said the online presentation of exhibit posters will showcase the process behind the adoption of the Floating Garden Phytoremediation Technology.

"Said activities are geared towards increasing awareness to the different ENR technologies and harnessing potential ENR technology adopters," he added.

"With the continuing risk on COVID-19 pandemic, mass gatherings are prohibited. Consequently, different social media applications are being utilized to ensure continuity of the activities for the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources," he furthered.

The ERDB-THWRDEC is an attached bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. (PIA NCR)

Mangrove planting activity in Bulacan launched

[Ramon Efren Lazaro](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 30, 2020 - 12:00am

HAGONOY, Bulacan, Philippines – A mangrove planting activity in a 10-hectare coastal area in Hagonoy has been launched.

Emelita Lingat, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Bulacan provincial officer, said they provided technical assistance for the project, with funding and materials from San Miguel Corp. (SMC) .

At least 25,000 mangrove seedlings will be planted on a 10-hectare area in Barangay Tibaguin. The DENR identified Hagonoy as one of the priority areas for mangrove-planting being one of the lowest-lying towns in Bulacan.

Hagonoy Mayor Raulito Manlapaz Sr. as well as DENR and SMC officials and volunteers led the planting of 8,000 mangrove seedlings in a three-hectare area on Tuesday. The next planting activity is scheduled in November.

SMC said at least 190,000 mangrove propagules would be planted in a 76-hectare area in Central Luzon.

“This project is a major component of our strategy to help solve flooding in Bulacan. Mangroves are essential to protect against flooding,” SMC president Ramon Ang said.

Ang also cited a P1-billion project to dredge and clean the Tullahan-Tinajeros River system, which started earlier this year.

Hagonoy is pilot site for flood control mangrove tree planting project

Published July 29, 2020, 5:17 PM

by [Freddie Velez](#)

HAGONOY, Bulacan— As part of measures to address perennial flooding in Bulacan, particularly in this town, Mayor Raulito Manlapaz, Sr. thanked San Miguel Corporation (SMC) for planting an initial 190,000 mangrove seedlings on over 76 hectares in the province, at no cost to the government.



(Photo courtesy of SMC media affairs)

Manlapaz led the planting on Tuesday (July 28) of 8,000 mangrove seedlings on parts of 10 hectares of the coastal area in Bgy. Tibaguin. The area is meant to be planted with a total of 25,000 mangrove seedlings, to help protect locals from floods brought by the heavy downfall of rain, tidal floods, and waters coming from the Pampanga river basin.

The mayor also thanked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for identifying Hagonoy as one of the priority areas for mangrove-planting. He said the next planting activity is scheduled in November and the entire planting is expected to be completed within the year.

He said once these thousands of mangrove seedlings grow, they will help address flooding and the rise of sea levels caused by the ill-effects of climate change and global warming, particularly in this low-lying town that perennially experiences floods every high tide.

Manlapaz said the planting activity that started on Tuesday was the first phase of the project launched by SMC.

He also said the deepening of the Bulacan rivers as part of SMC's dredging plans is needed to fully solve the flooding problem. He added that the Bulacan rivers should be dredged simultaneously, because if only one river is dredged, it will not be enough to provide a solution and the efforts and funds will be wasted.

SMC President Ramon S. Ang said the mangrove project is part of a wide-ranging flood mitigation plan that includes the cleaning and dredging of the Tullahan-Tinajeros River system.

The company consulted with local and foreign experts on the Bulacan flooding problem as it embarked on its construction of the Manila International Airport in Bulacan town.

For the Tullahan River project, Ang said they decided to buy all the heavy equipment — dredging machines, barges, dump trucks — themselves and train their people to operate the machines.

“Solving flooding will go beyond the five-year period that we committed to clean-up Tullahan. It will need maintenance. All our efforts are for the long-term and will come at no cost to the government,” Ang said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/29/hagonoy-is-pilot-site-for-flood-control-mangrove-tree-planting-project/>

Mangrove-planting intended to ease flooding

This project is a major component of our strategy to help solve flooding in Bulacan once and for all. Mangroves are essential to protect against flooding.

Published 4 hours ago on July 30, 2020 02:22 AM

By [Trina Ibarle Orquiza](#)



Around 25,000 mangrove seedlings have been initially planted on 10 hectares of coastal area in Barangay Tibaguin, Hagonoy, Bulacan under the San Miguel Corporation's (SMC) mangrove-planting project to help ease flooding in Central Luzon's provinces.

The initial salvo is just the first of a total of 190,000 mangroves which are planned to be planted over 76 hectares in Bulacan and Central Luzon to create a natural barrier against flooding which perennially hounds the area.

"This project is a major component of our strategy to help solve flooding in Bulacan once and for all. Mangroves are essential to protect against flooding" SMC president Ramon S. Ang said. It was the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that identified Hagonoy as one of the priority areas for mangrove-planting, with its residents needing protection from floods brought about by the rainy season, as well as tidal floods and waters coming from the Pampanga basin.

SMC said that it had consulted both local and foreign experts on how to address Bulacan's flooding problem ahead of the construction of the country's newest and largest international gateway north of Metro Manila.

"It's all part of the airport development master plan. We will not be investing over P700 billion if flooding and environmental concerns are not addressed. This airport will not only be modern, sustainable, and game-changing for the economy and the people, it will also bring a lot of good for Bulacan, its local industries, and neighboring provinces — one of which is it will help solve flooding," Ang said.

He added that this was just the first of many areas where the trees will be planted as the flood mitigation strategy is part of a larger-scale effort, including the dredging and clean-up of the Tullahan-Tinajeros River system to prevent flood waters from draining into the Manila Bay.

Hagonoy Mayor Raulito Manlapaz Sr. led the planting of an initial 8,000 mangrove seedlings over an area of three hectares.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SMC

Just one of many A volunteer plants a mangrove seedling under San Miguel Corporation's mangrove-planting activity, which aims to plant a total of 190,000 mangrove seedlings over 76 hectares in Bulacan and other areas in Central Luzon to help address perennial flooding in the region.

SMC plants 25k mangroves in Bulacan

posted July 29, 2020 at 11:40 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

The San Miguel Corporation has started planting 25,000 mangroves on 10 hectares of coastal area in Hagonoy, Bulacan—the first of a total 190,000 mangroves to be planted over 76-hectares in Bulacan and Central Luzon. The initiative is part of a massive, wide-ranging plan to address perennial flooding in the province, ahead of construction of the country’s newest and largest international gateway just north of Metro Manila.

“This project is a major component of our strategy to help solve flooding in Bulacan once and for all. Mangroves are essential to protect against flooding” said SMC president Ramon S. Ang.

“This effort is part of our larger flood-mitigation strategy for Bulacan. The first is our P1-billion plan to dredge and clean-up the Tullahan-Tinajeros River system, which began earlier this year. This involves cleaning major river systems and tributaries that have been clogged up with garbage and sediment for so many decades, preventing flood waters from draining into the Manila Bay,” he added.

“But apart from cleaning and clearing major waterways, the planting of mangroves in strategic areas is also important, because it acts as the first line of defense against inundation for those living along the shorelines, whenever there are storms or strong tides. They are also key to maintaining the marine eco-system and water quality, as they are a natural habitat for marine species,” Ang said.

In Hagonoy, Ang said the plan is to plant 10 hectares of coastal area in Bgy. Tibaguin with 25,000 mangrove seedlings, in order to help protect locals from floods brought on by the rainy season, tidal floods, and waters coming from the Pampanga basin.

Hagonoy Mayor Raulito Manlapaz, Sr. led the planting of an initial 8,000 mangrove seedlings over an area of three hectares. The next planting activity is scheduled for November, and all 10 hectares are expected to be completed within the year.

Manlapaz was joined by regional officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), other national and local officials, representatives from San Miguel Corporation, and volunteers.

It was the DENR that identified Hagonoy as one of the priority areas for mangrove-planting. “Hagonoy is one of the lowest-lying towns in Bulacan that perennially experience floods. But this is just the first of many areas. We are working with the DENR, who is helping us identify critical areas. The goal is to cover 76 hectares of coastal area all over Central Luzon, and plant a total of 190,000 mangrove saplings,” Ang said.

Prior to the mangrove planting and start of the Tullahan River rehabilitation and cleanup—which is also a key component of government’s major effort to clean up the Manila Bay—SMC said that it had consulted both local and foreign experts on how to address Bulacan’s flooding problem.

This, even before it begins actual work on the new Manila international Airport project, to be built in Bulakan, Bulacan.

“It’s all part of the airport development master plan. We will not be investing over P700 billion if flooding and environmental concerns are not addressed. This airport will not only be modern, sustainable, and game-changing for the economy and the people, it will also bring a lot of good for Bulacan, its local industries, and neighboring provinces--one of which is it will help solve flooding,” he said.

“There is no one solution to flooding. It is a combination of solutions, and is a continuous process. That is why for the Tullahan River project, we decided to just buy all the heavy equipment—dredging machines, barges, dump trucks--and train our people to operate the machines themselves. Solving flooding will go beyond the five-year period that we committed to clean-up Tullahan. It will need maintenance. All our efforts are for the long-term and will come at no cost to government,” Ang said.

Ang added: “Despite the coming of the COVID-19 pandemic, we said that we will continue all our major infrastructure and expansion projects. I’m proud to say that our commitment to the people of Bulacan to help solve their flooding problem, also continues.”

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/329990>

SMC begins massive mangrove planting in Bulacan

July 29, 2020, 8:17 pm



MANGROVE PLANTING. San Miguel Corporation (SMC) has started its initiative to plant a total of 190,000 mangrove seedlings over 76 hectares in Bulacan province and other areas in Central Luzon to help address perennial flooding. The first phase of the project was launched Tuesday (July 28, 2020) in Hagonoy, Bulacan, where 25,000 mangrove seedlings were to be planted in 10 hectares within the year. *(Photo courtesy of SMC)*

MANILA – San Miguel Corporation (SMC) has started planting 25,000 mangroves on 10 hectares of coastal area in Hagonoy, Bulacan --the first in the target 190,000 mangroves to be planted over 76 hectares in Bulacan and Central Luzon.

The initiative is part of a massive, wide-ranging plan to address perennial flooding in the province, ahead of construction of the country's newest and largest international gateway just north of Metro Manila.

"This project is a major component of our strategy to help solve flooding in Bulacan once and for all. Mangroves are essential to protect against flooding," SMC president Ramon Ang said in a statement Wednesday.

Ang said the effort is part of the company's larger flood-mitigation strategy for Bulacan, the first is the PHP1-billion plan to dredge and clean-up the Tullahan-Tinajeros River system which began earlier this year.

"But apart from cleaning and clearing major waterways, the planting of mangroves in strategic areas is also important because it acts as the first line of defense against inundation for those living along the shorelines, whenever there are storms or strong tides. They are also key to maintaining the marine eco-system and water quality, as they are a natural habitat for marine species," he added.

In Hagonoy, Ang said the plan is to plant 10 hectares of coastal area in Bgy. Tibaguin with 25,000 mangrove seedlings to help protect locals from floods brought by the rainy season, tidal floods, and waters coming from the Pampanga basin.

Hagonoy Mayor Raulito Manlapaz Sr. led the planting of an initial 8,000 mangrove seedlings over an area of three hectares.

The next planting activity is scheduled for November, and all 10 hectares are expected to be completed within the year.

Manlapaz was joined by regional officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), other national and local officials, representatives from San Miguel Corporation, and volunteers.

It was the DENR that identified Hagonoy as one of the priority areas for mangrove-planting.

"Hagonoy is one of the lowest-lying towns in Bulacan that perennially experience floods. But this is just the first of many areas. We are working with the DENR, who is helping us identify critical areas. The goal is to cover 76 hectares of coastal area all over Central Luzon, and plant a total of 190,000 mangrove saplings," Ang said. **(PR)**

'Makilala Hiraya' released back to wild in Mount Apo

Published July 29, 2020, 11:58 AM

by [Malu Cadelina Manar](#)

KIDAPAWAN CITY – Environment and local government officials released to the wild on Tuesday a three-year-old eagle, which was rescued by farmers in June this year.



The eagle, which officials named “Makilala Hiraya”, is now back in its natural habitat in Mount Apo after personnel from the Philippine Eagle Foundation in Davao City completed its treatment.

The name “Makilala Hiraya” was derived from the place where it was rescued.

On June 8, three farmers identified as Artemio Henilo, Joefrey Booc, and Joel Arumbo, all residents of Purok-3A, Barangay Batasan in Makilala, saw the injured eagle fall from a tree.

“It can’t stand straight because of the wounds it sustained from the attack of at least 20 crows,” they added.

The Makilala municipal government initiated the turn over of the wounded eagle to the Philippine Eagle Foundation for treatment.

The foundation, after it completed Hiraya’s treatment, returned the eagle to the Makilala government. On July 28, at around 10 a.m., officials from PEF, Energy Development Corporation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 12, Makilala local officials, and officials from Barangay Batasan, released Hiraya back to its natural habitat.



Rescued Philippine eagle released back into Mount Apo

Published July 29, 2020 12:37pm

By [MALU CADELINA MANAR](#)

KIDAPAWAN CITY —Environment and local government officials on Tuesday released into the wild the three-year-old Philippine eagle that farmers had rescued in June this year.

“Makilala Hiraya” is now back to its habitat in the Mount Apo area after personnel from the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in Davao City completed the treatment of the wounded bird.

Environment officials derived the eagle’s name “Makilala Hiraya” from the place where it was rescued.

On June 8, farmers Artemio Henilo, Joefrey Booc, and Joel Arumbo –residents of Purok-3A, Barangay Batasan in Makilala –saw the injured eagle fell from the tree.

“It can’t stand straight because of the wounds it sustained from the attack of at least 20 crows,” the farmers were quoted as saying.

Then, the Makilala LGU brought the wounded eagle to the PEF for treatment.

After completing Hiraya’s treatment, the PEF returned the eagle to the Makilala LGU.

On July 28, at about 10 a.m., and in celebration of the World Nature Foundation Day, officials from PEF, Energy Development Corporation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 12, Makilala LGU officials, and officials from Barangay Batasan, [released Hiraya back to its natural habitat](#). —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/748973/rescued-philippine-eagle-released-back-into-mount-apo/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1PH7doFlvBcwQUn_jsBomoUI0PS_N4C9w7iX_rwYe2oD6OsNrAzn1XfcY

'Bagong Manila Zoo' groundbreaks

By Susan G. De Leon Published on July 29, 2020

CALOOCAN CITY, July 29 (PIA) – The City Government of Manila's efforts to revive and redevelop the 5-hectare Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden, fondly called as the Manila Zoo and has begun.

On Saturday, July 25, Manila Mayor Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso led the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the 'Bagong Manila Zoo'



Manila Mayor Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso on Saturday, July 25, leads the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the 'Bagong Manila Zoo'. (Photo credit: Manila PIO)

Domagoso said the redevelopment and rehabilitation of the Manila Zoo is part of his administration's agenda to stimulate the city's economy in the long term.

The infrastructure project, worth P1,736,400,000, will cover 51,000 square meters of the recreation facility. The Manila Department of Engineering and Public Works said the target duration for the completion is 19 months.

The Manila Zoo was closed to the public under the previous administration after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) tagged the facility as a "major pollutant of Manila Bay."

According to the DENR, the zoo was dumping untreated sewage into Estero de San Antonio Abad. The facility does not currently have a sewage treatment plant.

Under the redevelopment plan, the city government will build a sewage treatment plant, a materials recovery facility and a new veterinary hospital.

It will also include the construction of new habitats for animals, gardens, public toilets, a museum, a restaurant and a new parking area, among others.

With these plans, the mayor hopes to build a zoo he said is "similar and competitive to Singapore Zoo."

"You are going to witness this, we are going to build in the near future the best zoo in Asia," Domagoso said during his speech at the groundbreaking ceremony.

"I am happy that we are not only going to build a zoo, a clean zoo, but a healthier zoo for our animals. I want the best for you, mga Batang Maynila," he said.

Manila Zoo was first opened on July 25, 1959 during the time of then Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson. It was considered as the oldest zoo in the Philippines and in Asia. (PIO Manila/PIA-NCR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1048900>

Pampanga egg farm inatake ng bird flu



July 29, 2020 @ 2:30 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Kinumpirma ng Department of Agriculture sa pamamagitan ng Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) na may bird flu sa isang egg farm sa San Luis, Pampanga.

Sa pahayag ng DA-BAI, na-detect ang highly-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) strain, o ang A(H5N6) sa naturang farm.

“Using the ‘one health approach,’ the DA-BAI — in tandem with the DA Central Luzon regional field office (DA-RFO3), provincial veterinary office (PVO) of Pampanga, and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of San Luis —quickly implemented integrated disease control measures to arrest the spread of A(H5N6),” lahad ng DA-BAI.

Agad namang umaksyon ang grupo mula sa DA-BAI, DA-RFO3, PVO Pampanga at San Luis MLGU upang magsagawa ng disease surveillance at culling process para mapigil ang pagkalat nito.

“The team humanely culled a total of 38,701 head of layers and disposed off them properly, employing the protocols under the Avian Influenza Protection Program of the Philippine Government,” paliwanag ni DA-BAI Director Ronnie Domingo.

“Initial field investigation showed the presence in San Luis of migratory birds, which has been associated with bird flu outbreaks in many countries, including the Philippines,” dagdag pa nito.

Samantala, iginiit ni Domingo na natukoy ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang 117 important bird areas (IBA) sa bansa.

Hinikayat naman ng DA-BAI ang lahat ng poultry raisers sa Central Luzon at maging ang nasa traditional IBAs na protektahan ang kanilang mga taniman laban sa pagpasok ng migratory birds at agad iulat kung may unusual poultry mortalities. RNT/FGDC

Abaca-based masks cut plastic waste

By [BusinessMirror](#)

July 30, 2020



Abaca fiber grading

FIBER from a relative of the banana tree could replace plastic in millions of face masks and hospital gowns the world is making to fight the coronavirus.

Abaca—a fiber from the Philippines used in teabags and banknotes—is as durable as polyester but will decompose within two months, said Philippine fiber agency head Kennedy Costales. “With this pandemic, if we all buy masks made of synthetic fiber, they will pile up in dumpsites because they take so long to decompose,” he said.

Global efforts to ban single-use plastics have retreated as nations prioritized hygiene over the environment for packaging and medical supplies, creating a bright spot for chemical companies such as LyondellBasell Industries NV and Trinseo SA. Sales of disposable face masks are set to rise more than 200-fold worldwide this year to \$166 billion, according to a United Nations trade article, citing consultancy Grand View Research.

Companies have been reluctant to replace plastic with biodegradable alternatives because of concern about cost and whether the new materials are sufficiently strong and effective for medical use.

A preliminary study by the Philippine Department of Science and Technology showed abaca paper to be more water resistant than a commercial N-95 mask, and to have pore sizes within the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommended range to filter hazardous particles.

Costales said abaca demand could grow “exponentially” this year, with 10 percent of production going to medical uses, compared with less than 1 percent in 2019.

“Abaca fiber is rapidly gaining popularity as governments and manufacturers all around the world scamper to produce more reusable and safe medical garments for healthcare professionals,” said Pratik Gurnani, senior consultant at Future Market Insights.

In demand

The Philippines is the world's largest producer, supplying 85 percent of the fiber in 2017, according to the latest data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Global production is projected to be worth \$100 million this year, Gurnani said.

The fiber, stripped from the trunks of the abaca tree, was used for saltwater-resistant ship ropes and Manila envelopes in the 19th century. Up to 30 percent of Japan's banknotes are made of it and abaca yarn has been used in Mercedes-Benz cars.

Even though the plant fiber is more expensive to produce than plastic alternatives, manufacturers of protective health gear from China, India and Vietnam have placed new orders for the fiber over the past months, prompting Philippine fiber factories to double their output, said abaca exporter Firat Kabasakalli.

"People see this pandemic lasting for some time, so even small companies are trying to make protective equipment, which require our fiber," said Kabasakalli, general manager of Dragon Vision Trading. "We are getting a lot of inquiries from new clients abroad."

Missed opportunity

One company in southern Philippines which makes greeting cards and paper from the fiber for export to the US and Europe has shifted to making masks.

"The awareness of consumers now is higher when it comes to taking care of the environment," said Neil Francis Rafisura, general manager of Salay Handmade Products Industries Inc. "There are people who will pay a premium for environmentally friendly products."

Abaca production can't keep up with demand, according to Costales. While he estimates growers will increase output to 74,000 metric tons this year, that's not enough to meet even last year's supply deficit of about 125,000 tons, he said. Part of the reason is that farmers in the Philippines lack government subsidies to raise output.

"Abaca is like precious gold for the Philippines, but it's been often overlooked because the government prioritizes crops that feed people," Costales said. "This is a missed opportunity for us." *Bloomberg*

Image Credits: [Dragon Vision Trading](#)



This undated photo shows a bioreactor, which processes biodegradable waste into compost.
Department of Science and Technology-9

Zamboanga del Norte towns upgrade waste management programs with DOST help

(Philstar.com) - July 28, 2020 - 2:45pm

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines — Three towns in Zamboanga del Norte province have upgraded their solid waste management programs through assistance from the Department of Science and Technology.

The DOST partnered with the local governments of Katipunan, Leon Postigo, and Tampilisan municipalities through the agency's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP).

Martin Wee, DOST regional director, said the P5.5 million in assistance helped the towns acquire new equipment like a bioreactor, plastic 'densifier', and shredder developed by DOST's Industrial Technology Development Institute.

The bioreactor converts biodegradable waste into organic compost that can be used as soil conditioner for urban gardening or farming. The plastic densifier, on the other hand, processes non-biodegradable waste such as plastic, cellophane and styrofoam into usable flower pots and decorative blocks.

The equipment has helped other towns in Zamboanga del Norte reduce their solid waste.

Engineer John Fuerzas, municipal environment and natural resources officer of Sergio Osmeña, said their waste material recovery program has helped lessen the town's trash.

"Instead of just dumping the waste materials, we are able to convert them into compost and distribute it to farmers," Fuerzas said.

The Sergio Osmeña waste material recovery facility is currently producing 100 bags of compost monthly. These are distributed to farmers and flower growers and used in the LGU's gardening program.

Engineer Roger Ladera of Polanco town said they regularly distribute compost to some 200 farmers in their municipality. Each farmer gets 150 kilos of compost.

The waste management programs of Sergio Osmeña and Polanco were funded in 2019 and 2018, respectively.

The DOST in Region 9, through the Provincial Science and Technology Center in Zamboanga del Norte, has assisted nine local government units in the province with funding assistance of more than P15 million. — **The STAR/Roel Pareño**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/07/28/2031225/zamboanga-del-norte-towns-upgrade-waste-management-programs-dost-help>

PH deadliest country in Asia, 2nd deadliest in the

July 30, 2020

TITLE: world, for land rights defenders - report

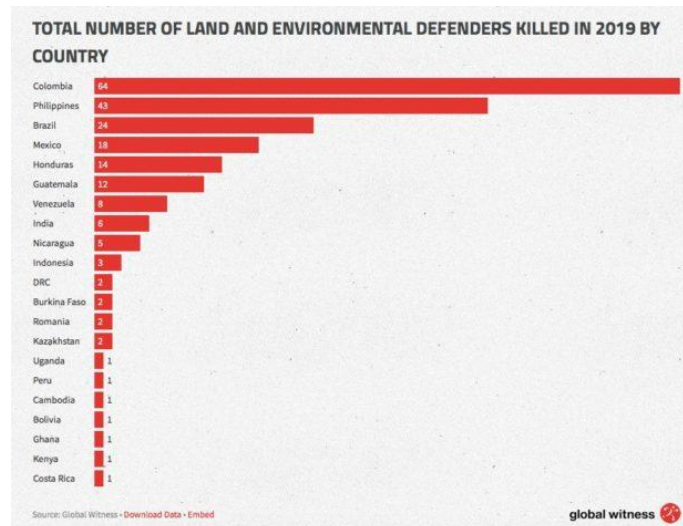
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DATE

PH deadliest country in Asia, 2nd deadliest in the world, for land rights defenders — report

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:31 PM July 29, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has recorded the highest number of land rights and environmental defenders killed in 2019 among Asian countries, and the second highest number in the world behind Colombia, according to an environment and human rights watchdog.

In a report posted on its website Wednesday, [Global Witness](#) revealed it has recorded a total of 212 land and environmental defenders killed in 2019, the highest number of registered murders of such defenders in a single year.

“Shockingly, over half of all reported killings last year occurred in just two countries: Colombia (peaking at 64) and the Philippines (rising from 30 in 2018 to 43 in 2019). Globally, the true number of killings was likely much higher, as cases often go undocumented,” said the watchdog.

“These killings include the murder of [Datu Kaylo Bontolan](#), murdered in the Philippines after opposing illegal mining in the area. A Manobo leader, he was one of many indigenous people killed in 2019, asserting their right to self-determination and protecting their ancestral lands from those looking to exploit their natural resources,” it added.

According to Global Witness, the Philippines “has become even deadlier for activists since 2018, having been consistently named one of the worst places in Asia for attacks against defenders.” It noted that the situation in the country even became worse in 2019.

“The relentless vilification of defenders by the government and widespread impunity for their attackers may well be driving the increase,” said the international NGO.

An average of four defenders have been killed every week since the creation of the Paris Climate agreement in December 2015, while countless more are silenced by violent attacks, arrests, death threats or lawsuits, according to the organization.

The report also showed that mining was the deadliest sector globally with 50 defenders killed last year.

The Philippines has logged the highest number of mining-related deaths, with a total of 16 people killed.

PH deadliest country in Asia, 2nd deadliest in the
world, for land rights defenders - report

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According to the NGO, Asia has consistently been “one of the worst regions” for attacks related to agribusiness, which has long driven the attacks against environment and land defenders.

In 2019, over 85 percent of recorded agribusiness-related attacks happened in Asia. Of these, almost 90 percent were documented in the Philippines.

Rachel Cox, campaigner at Global Witness, said in a statement that agribusiness and oil, gas and mining have been consistently the biggest drivers of attacks against land and environmental defenders. She added these are also the industries pushing the world further into runaway climate change through deforestation and increasing carbon emissions.

“Many of the world’s worst environmental and human rights abuses are driven by the exploitation of natural resources and corruption in the global political and economic system. [Land and environmental defenders](#) are the people who take a stand against this,” said Cox.

“If we really want to make plans for a green recovery that puts the safety, health and well-being of people at its heart, we must tackle the root causes of attacks on defenders, and follow their lead in protecting the environment and halting climate breakdown,” she also said.

The report likewise showed that one in 10 defenders killed in 2019 are women. It noted that female defenders face specific threats, including smear campaigns often focused on their private lives, with explicit sexist or sexual content.

Sexual violence is also used as a tactic to silence women defenders, most of which is underreported, according to the NGO.

INQUIRER.net is still awaiting the Philippine National Police’s statement regarding the report.

EDV

Philippines 'deadliest' country for land, environmental defenders in Asia

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In this file photo, Dumagats protest the planned construction of a dam along the Agos River. They fear that the dam project will displace their communities and destroy their ancestral domain.

The STAR/Boy Santos, File

Philippines 'deadliest' country for land, environmental defenders in Asia

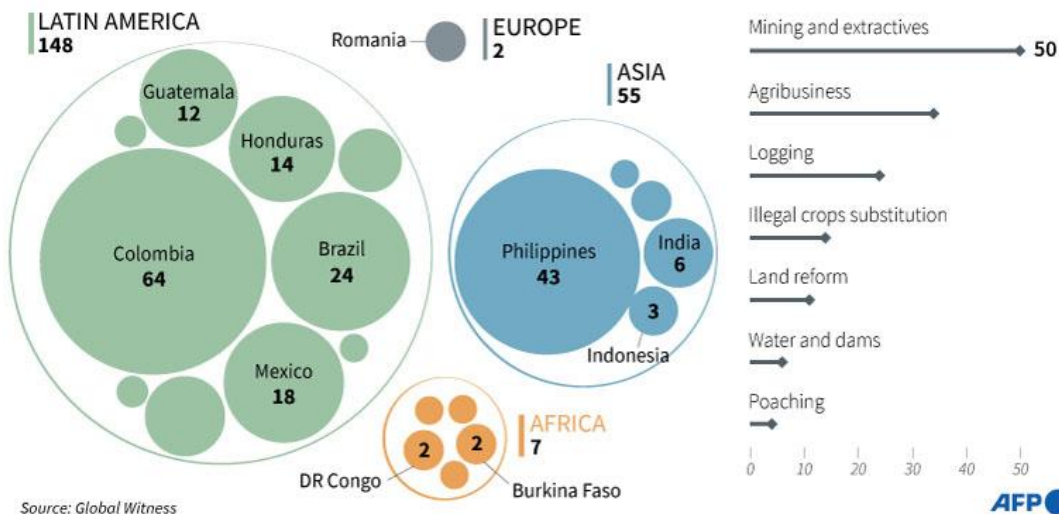
[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - July 29, 2020 - 10:46am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines was the deadliest country in Asia for environmental and land activists in 2019, with at least 43 recorded deaths, according to an international watchdog.

In a report released Wednesday, Global Witness said that 20% of the 212 of the environmental activists defenders murdered last year were from the Philippines, making it the second most dangerous nation in the world behind Colombia and the first in Asia.

Environmental activists killed in 2019

212 murdered land and environmental defenders



Farmers, indigenous leaders and government workers tasked with protecting the environment were among the victims.

In 2018, the Philippines had the highest number of recorded deaths—at 30—worldwide.

Global Witness said that more than half of the deaths in the country last year were related to agribusiness. Meanwhile, 16 killings were linked to mining—the highest globally.

“We are suffering a global pandemic expected to inflict P2.2-trillion damages on top of at least 1.36-trillion losses from climate impacts and natural resource plunder incurred over the past four years of the Duterte administration,” Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment, said in a statement.

“It is alarming that Filipino environmental defenders confronting these existential planetary crises are still increasingly criminalized and murdered under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte,” he added.

Highly militarized regions

Nearly 90% of the killings last year took place in resource-rich Mindanao and on Negros Island, according to the report.

Almost half of all land and environment defenders killed last year were from Mindanao, where the military has long maintained a heavy presence.

The report put a spotlight on Talaingod-Manobo communities in Mindanao, which is being threatened by mining projects and China-backed hydropower dam—an example of “business at all costs” in the country.

“Large companies, influential politicians and established landowners continue to make money with brazen disregard for the rights and wellbeing of local communities, and the lives of activists,” Global Witness said.

A large number of activists were also killed on Negros island in Visayas, which is also heavily militarized.

“Peasant laborers and farmers groups have long campaigned for land reform over the island’s vast sugar plantations to address inequality and poverty across the region. Despite promises, the Philippine government has done little to support these communities, frequently putting the interests of big agribusiness first,” it said.

According to the Global Witness, half of the documented killings since Duterte assumed power in 2016 were linked to the armed forces or paramilitary groups.

Criminalization of activists

The report stressed that the “relentless vilification of defenders by the government and widespread impunity for their attackers” may be driving the increase in killings.

“In the Philippines, individual activists and environmental organizations have been accused of being rebels or communist sympathizers—a practice commonly known as ‘red-tagging.’ Inflammatory calls by Duterte’s government to kill activists deemed to be obstructing justice,’ as well as his direct threats to bomb indigenous schools puts defenders at much greater risk of attacks,” it said.

Early this month, Duterte signed the controversial terror bill into law which environmentalists feared could result in more attacks against activists protecting the climate and the country’s forest and seas.

Even government workers were not spared. Eight of the reported murders of state employees responsible for protecting the environment took place in the Philippines.

Organizations Kalikasan PNE, Save our School Network and Alyansa Tigil Mina urged the Philippine government to conduct an independent investigation into attacks on indigenous groups, remove military units from lands of indigenous peoples and dismantle paramilitary groups.

They also called for the repeal of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020.



 **Philippine Star** ✓
15h · 🌐

Fishermen check their nets for a catch while others search for recyclable materials in the waters of Manila Bay on Wednesday as majority of Filipinos are still experiencing significant stress caused by COVID-19 pandemic, according to a Social Weather Stations survey last week.




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Lebel ng tubig sa Pantabangan dam mababa pa rin



July 29, 2020 @ 11:10 AM 19 hours ago

Nueva Ecija – Inihayag ng National Irrigation Administration-Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-UPRIIS) na nasa mababang lebel pa rin ang tubig sa Pantabangan Dam.

Ayon kay NIA-UPRIIS manager Rosalinda “Rose” Bote, dahil sa mahihinang pag-ulan simula pa noong Mayo 2020 hanggang ngayong Hulyo 2020 na sinasabayan pa ng peak season ng pagtanim ngayong Sakahang Panag-Ulan 2020, ang tubig sa dam ay sadyang nasa mababang lebel o nasa 176.00 meters na lamang.

Maging ang local flows na dati-rati ay sumasapat para patubigan ang mga nasasakupan ng Division III-Cabanatuan City at Division IV-Gapan City ay kapos na rin kaya sa Pantabangan dam umaasa.

Ang nasabing kondisyong ay isinisisi sa climate change na nararanasan sa iba’t ibang panig ng mundo.

Ang mga magsasaka na bahagi ng Irrigators’ Associations sa nasasakupan ng NIA-UPRIIS ay batid na ang kalagayan ng patubig kaya umaasa sila sa kooperasyon ng bawat isa upang i-maximize ang anumang biyaya ng tubig-ulan at drainage re-use.

Ang mga bomba o pumps ay gagamitin kung kinakailangan. Ang rotational na paggamit sa daloy patubig ay ipinatutupad na rin sa mga service areas ng iba’t ibang dibisyon.

Hinihiling nila sa mga concerned agencies ang implementasyon ng cloud seeding program upang magdulot ng pag-ulan sa mga tuyot na lugar.

“Last year kasi nagkaroon ng 2-weeks habagat ng July kaya mabilis tumaas ang tubig natin sa Pantabangan unlike ngaun naulit ‘yung 2015 ay bumaba din ang elevation kaya nagpa cloud seeding din noon na nahinto lang sa pagsapit ng typhoon Nona”, ayon kay Engr. Bote.

Ngayong Sakahang Panag-ulan 2020, ang mga magsasaka na nakapagtanim na ng palay ay umaasa sa aksyon ng NIA-UPRIIS para sa patubig.

Sa Agosto hanggang Oktubre pa inaasahan ang La Niña, ayon sa PAGASA. Pagkakataon ito upang ang Pantabangan dam ay makapag-imbak para naman sa darating na Sakahang Panag-araw 2021. ELSA R.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/lebel-ng-tubig-sa-pantabangan-dam-mababa-pa-rin/>

Nature conservation



By [Architect Felino A. Palafox, Jr.](#)

July 30, 2020

The Earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.

– John Paul 2nd

CELEBRATED each year on July 28, World Nature Conservation Day reminds us of the urgency and gravity of protecting our natural environment and applying sustainable practices. According to the world's leading scientists, "nature is being destroyed at a rate tens to hundreds of times higher than the average over the past 10 million years." Almost half of the area of our natural ecosystems around the world have been destroyed and about a million species are highly vulnerable to extinction. It was also reported that three-quarters of all land has been converted into cities, farm fields, livestock farms and other developments while two-thirds of the marine environment is already used for fish farming and shipping routes, among others. At the rate we are going, "we are eroding the very foundations of economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide," as Sir Robert Watson of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services says.

Nature conservation and sustainability are advocacies we take seriously at Palafox Associates and Palafox Architecture Group. There have been numerous times wherein we had to beg off from taking big-ticket architectural and planning projects because the requirements went against our design principles and values. An example would be when we were hired as architects for a six-star hotel in Subic. We were instructed by the developer to cut down 366 70-year-old trees, but knowing the priceless benefits trees have, we returned the contract worth \$1 million. A mature tree can absorb up to 150 kilograms of carbon dioxide each year and can filter fine particulates and other urban pollutants, thus improving air quality.

Whenever we commit to a project, we make sure that it does not violate our development principle of integral ecology — balancing social equity or people first with protecting and conserving natural environments, inclusive economic growth, culture, history and interfaith spirituality. We are also guided by our company design principle of 12 Green Sustainable Design Developments: green architecture, green urbanism, green technology, green energy, green interior, green furniture, green infrastructure, green manufacturing, green transportation, green purchasing, green jobs and green sustainable development.

Green and sustainable architecture

With our architecture projects, we always put forward green architecture principles and components in our designs. About 20 years ago, I signed up for the American Institute of Architects' 2030 Challenge, through which we are encouraged to design and plan carbon-neutral buildings. As much as we can, we emphasize the importance of green architecture to our clients and how it minimizes harmful effects on human health and addresses environmental sustainability. Green building components like cross-ventilation, water recycling, solar power, rainwater harvesting, smart lighting, solar shields and day lighting among others help ensure energy, water and land use efficiency; low environmental impact; material efficiency; low maintenance cost; waste reduction; use of renewable energy; and indoor environmental quality.

Nature conservation and sustainability in planning

The Philippines is an archipelagic country comprising more than 7,000 islands, and it is renowned for its immense beauty and abundant natural resources. Nature conservation and sustainability are powerful means that can help alleviate the difficult circumstances our cities and communities are facing. Together, these practices can be life-changing because not only do they create economic opportunities, they can also result in positive impacts to the environment, the society and the local cultures.

We are privileged to be involved in master planning and urban planning projects that focus on sustainability and protecting natural environments. La Mesa Eco Park is one of the few remaining vast green spaces in Metro Manila. The ecological park that is a part of the La Mesa Dam watershed, which is Metro Manila's main water source, is a well-loved forest sanctuary frequented by families, nature lovers and students on field trips, among others. Working with Bantay Kalikasan and the late Gina Lopez, a renowned environmentalist, we developed the master plan, architectural design, landscape architectural design and urban design for the park to enhance natural spaces so visitors may appreciate and understand the importance of nature and the environment. Since its inauguration in 2004, the park has improved the forest cover and biodiversity in the area, and it continues to be an important venue for environmental education and biodiversity conservation. The park also serves as a vital carbon sink for air pollution coming from the surrounding highly urbanized cities.

The island of Boracay has improved by leaps and bounds compared to its controversial reputation back in 2018 when it had uncontrolled and unmonitored developments, and failed to comply with acceptable water standards due to the lack of environmental compliance. Collaborating with the municipal government of Malay for the formulation of the Malay Master Plan for Tourism, we envisioned a clean, efficiently run, environment-friendly Boracay toward a more sustainable, global, tourism island destination. For environment protection and enhancement, we proposed six interconnected sewer lines along the circumference of the island, and every development, structure and building must be connected to it. Also, a 50-meter setback on the beach should be heavily emphasized, which is in line with international standards.

The province of Ilocos Norte is brimming with historical heritage sites and stunning natural landscapes. Through the Master Tourism Development Plan of Ilocos Norte, the province hopes to elevate conventional tourism into tourism for sustainable and positive change. Five tourism assets of the Ilocos region have been identified that will help sustain its natural treasures, shape its socioeconomic development and redefine its cultural footprint. We also coordinated closely with the local government units by educating the community on the benefits and maintenance of ecotourism and the importance of heritage conservation.

Let us all do our part in being good stewards of our natural environment. It is one of the ways we can show our gratefulness to our Creator who provides for our needs through nature.

Budget constraints delay Bayanihan 2

Roque said the country is more able to expand testing, build additional isolation facilities to house asymptomatic patients or those with mild symptoms, and build an army of contact tracers to prevent transmission.

Published 6 hours ago on July 30, 2020 12:20 AM

By [Hananeel Bordey](#)



The Congress is in a billion-peso quandary.

It must act fast to get Bayanihan 2 going, but at an amount that will not be vetoed by the President and within the caps of the Finance and Budget departments.

The Senate approved P140 billion on final reading on Tuesday, but of its members think at least P500-billion funding is needed under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Law.

“We are in a stalemate,” Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said Wednesday.

“Explanations of votes said they wanted to see a (bigger) amount but we have to work with what the DoF (Department of Finance) has said because we are in fear of a veto. The power of the purse is in Congress and the power of veto is with the Executive. We have to be prudent and work with the DoF and DBM (Department of Budget and Management,” Zubiri added.

Zubiri said P500 billion would be “a good amount” that can include micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and transport industry, among those which will receive assistance.

The P140-billion proposal of the Senate “is not enough to continue the government’s Social Amelioration Program (SAP) and assistance to critically-impacted sectors,” he added. But the Senate was left with no choice as economic managers declared the government cannot afford to spend beyond P140 billion.

“We decided to pass a version that is within the cap of the DoF, go into bicam and let us haggle with the DoF ‘cause we will still go into a bicameral conference committee,” Zubiri explained.

During Monday’s fifth State of the Nation Address, President Rodrigo Duterte specifically asked the Congress to pass Bayanihan 2 that will replace Republic Act 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

ARISE not a priority

The House of Representatives, meanwhile, proposed P1.3 trillion under the Accelerated Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy (ARISE) Act, which was also approved on final reading.

But the President did not endorse it as a priority measure.

“I urge the Executive to engage us and come to the table with a coherent COVID recovery strategy in mind, so we can work together to finally bring an impactful recovery plan to the people,” Marikina Rep. Stella Quimbo on Wednesday

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, the Ways and Means chair, also insisted on a third tranche of the SAP, citing a Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) report that 4.9 million jobs were lost during the first four months of the year.

Salceda also estimated that by the third quarter of the year, another million will be unemployed “once the impacts of the subsidies and the wage protection programs wear off.”

He said the government needs about P21 billion for a one-month cash assistance for some 3.3 million households and P27.3 billion for 4.2 million households.

“I am studying how to finance this immediate need and will work with my colleagues in the Committee on Ways and Means to figure out how we can ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability of this government without denying or wishing away our short-term needs,” he said.

Major changes

Bayanihan 2 must be enacted soon to support what presidential spokesman Harry Roque said are “major changes” and “invigorated” approach in the country’s response against the coronavirus pandemic.

New quarantine classifications will be applied on the first half of August while the public can expect a “difference” in the handling of the crisis — particularly on testing, isolation and tracing.

The government now has the capability to execute strategies it had wanted to do at the start of the outbreak, he added.

“Let’s just say that things will not be the same. There will be major changes in our response to the pandemic,” Roque said in a television interview.

“So it’s not so much on the (quarantine) classification that would matter but the responses... the new, invigorated responses we will have this COVID-19 pandemic.”

Roque said the country is more able to expand testing, build additional isolation facilities to house asymptomatic patients or those with mild symptoms, and build an “army of contact tracers” to prevent transmission.

“There will be expanded targeted testing beyond numbers people probably would not have imagined and they will now see the government will be getting more and more isolation facilities,” he said. The Philippines has the second highest number of COVID-19 cases in Southeast Asia behind Indonesia.

As of 28 July, the Philippines has an overall 83,673 count, trailing Indonesia which has 102,051. However, more than 55,000 remain active cases in the Philippines while Indonesia’s is less than 37,000.

Talks are rife that Metro Manila will revert to modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) by Saturday, as it accounts for more than half of total cases at 45,969. Cebu City is currently the sole area under MECQ.

The President, upon the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases, will have the final say. They met on Tuesday.

“Sometimes, we have to rely less on community quarantine classifications. We need to be innovative in our response,” he said.

with Keith Calayag AND MJ Blancaflor
@tribunephil_kit @tribunephil_MJB

Gov't vows to make major changes in COVID-19 response

July 29, 2020

People's Tonight

Gov't vows major changes in strategy vs COVID-19.

THE national government vowed to make "major changes" in its coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response after President Rodrigo Duterte announces the new quarantine classifications on Thursday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, however, emphasized the need to rely less on classifications, and instead be more "innovative" in terms of COVID-19 response.

"The people will now see the difference in the response that we will have, it is now thoroughly invigorated and part of it, is we build capacity and we now have the capacity to do what we wanted from the very beginning," he said in an interview over CNN Philippines.

Roque said expanded targeted testing will soon be possible after pool or batch testing, which makes use of one reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test kit for 10 to 20 persons, has been approved in principle.

"There will be expanded targeted testing, beyond numbers that they probably would not have imagined," he said.

He said they would also reinvigorate tracing by building an army of volunteers, enhance isolation by building more isolation centers for mild and asymptomatic patients, and improving treatment with the use of life-saving equipment such as high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) machines.

Asked of the possibility that Metro Manila could revert to modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ), Roque said it would depend on the country's current critical care capacity.

"It's critical care capacity that's the problem 'no because [intensive care unit] beds, we have reached around 80 percent," he said.

He emphasized the need to dedicate more ICU beds reserved for COVID-19 patients first.

On the other hand, he said the country's case doubling rate has improved from 7 days to 8.9 days.

"We actually improved because the higher the case doubling rate is, the longer is better," he said.

Currently, Cebu City remains the only area under modified enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) until July 31.

Areas under general community quarantine (GCQ) are Laguna, Cavite and Rizal for Region 4-A (Calabarzon); Lapu Lapu City, Mandaue City for Region 7 (Central Visayas), Ormoc City, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga City, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte and Basilan.

The cities of Talisay, Minglanilla, and Consolacion in Cebu province are also under GCQ.

Areas under "medium-risk" MGCQ are: Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) -- Benguet, Baguio City; Region 1 (Ilocos Region) -- Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Dagupan City; Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) -- Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya; Region 3 (Central Luzon) -- Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, Tarlac, Zambales, Angeles City; Region 4-A -- Batangas, Quezon, Lucena City; Region 4-B (Mimaropa) -- Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro and Puerto Princesa City.

Gov't vows to make major changes in COVID-19

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Also under medium-risk MGCQ are: Albay, Masbate, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Naga City in Region 5 (Bicol); Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Capiz, Antique, Aklan, Guimaras, Iloilo City, Bacolod City in Region 6 (Western Visayas); Negros Oriental, Bohol, Cebu Province in Region 7 (Central Visayas); Western Samar, Leyte, Biliran, Tacloban City in Region 8 (Eastern Visayas); Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Norte in Region 9 (Zamboanga); Misamis Occidental, Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Cagayan de Oro City, Iligan City in Region 10 (Northern Mindanao); Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao de Oro, Davao City in Region 11 (Davao Region); Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato, South Cotabato, General Santos City in Region 12 (Soccsksargen); Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao in BARMM; and Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur in Region 13.

The rest of the country will remain under "low-risk" MGCQ.

'Corona' funds audit sought

At the opening of the second regular session, the lawmakers said the special audit is needed to guide the legislators in exercising their power of the purse.

Published 6 hours ago on July 30, 2020 12:20 AM

By **Hananeel Bordey**



Seven senators on Tuesday asked a special scrutiny on all COVID-19 spending, loans and donations by the Commission on Audit "to guide the chamber" on how these funds were spent.

Senate Pro Tempore Ralph Recto, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, Senators Risa Hontiveros, Francis Pangilinan, Sonny Angara, Panfilo Lacson and Leila de Lima filed a resolution asking the CoA to provide a report before the deliberations on the 2021 national budget start.

At the opening of the second regular session, the lawmakers said the special audit is needed to "guide the legislators" in exercising their power of the purse.

Congress is set to deliberate on the 2021 General Appropriations Bill which is expected to provide massive funds to address health, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Senate Resolution 479 was filed on Tuesday afternoon.

The lawmakers explained that Republic Act 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act authorized the government to procure necessary equipment and pay for services needed in its COVID-19 response in "most expeditious manner."

It is exempt from the procurement guidelines under the Government Procurement Reform Act.

They raised the previously-reported allegations of overpriced nucleic acid extractors bought by the government at P4 million each, compared to the private sectors' price P1.75 million per unit.

Lawmakers also noted in the resolution the overpriced personal protective equipment (PPE) priced at P1,800 each compared to market units priced at P400-P1,000.

They also seek clarification and proper accounting of the "more expensive" RT-PCR test kits from China and Korea compared to the "cheaper" Filipino-made units which they said "gather dust" in laboratories.

"Allegations of overpricing of the PPE — purchased by the Procurement Services of the Department of Budget and Management and by the Philippine International Trading Corporation are particularly egregious, considering that many health workers and frontliners have fallen ill due to the lack of adequate protective gear," the resolution read.

It also called for the proper accounting of P6.5 billion donations as reported by the World Health Organization and other loans and grants that the Philippines received from various entities and organizations.

"The World Bank has found that pandemics not only deplete resources from government and lead to economic recession, government responses to them also create pathways for corruption as 'emergency laws give government greater power with relaxed accountability,'" the resolution read.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/30/corona-funds-audit-sought/>

Health workers lament empty COVID-19 plans in #SONA2020

Published 14 hours ago
on July 29, 2020 03:25 PM
By [Gabbie Parlade](#)



The Filipino Nurses United (FNU) on Wednesday expressed disappointment over the government's lack of plans to curb the coronavirus disease.

The group made the statement in reaction to President Rodrigo Duterte's fifth State of the Nation Address delivered last Monday.

FNU, in a statement, lamented that even with the mention of the number of laboratories and tests, the president made no clear outline of the plan to curb the pandemic.

"The SONA did not have clear plans on COVID like the conduct of free mass testing, early detection, and quarantine facilities," the group said.

Nurses said that among the issues which could've been tackled include the proper allotment of hazard pay and the equal distribution of benefits across all levels of health workers.

"Nurses are tired and demoralized with no sufficient protection, overwhelmed with [the] workload and severe understaffing," FNU further said.

Also, the group said, if only the government could pay the nurses with proper wages and treated well, many would prefer to stay in the country to work.

"There are a minimum of 200,000 unemployed nurses, who if offered a just pay and assured of health benefits, security of tenure would willingly serve to augment the acute 'nursing shortage'," the group said.

Earlier, Internal Medicine Specialist Dr. Pia Montecillo said as the country continues to battle the pandemic for the last four months, a number of health workers are already exhausted.

She emphasized that despite this, only limited protection and prioritization are granted to frontliners.

"Many health workers get sick and no life is worth 1 million pesos, we are not superheroes, we are not immune to the virus. As a matter of fact, many healthcare workers like nurses often resign because of the risk of infection with no proper compensation," she said.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/29/health-workers-lament-empty-covid-19-plans-in-sona2020/>

Duterte forms committee to study inclusion of nuclear energy in power mix

Published July 29, 2020 12:59pm

By VIRGIL LOPEZ, GMA News

President Rodrigo Duterte has formed an inter-agency committee to study the possibility of tapping nuclear energy as the Philippines seeks to ensure steady power supply to meet the demands of a growing population and its economy.

Signed by the President on July 24, Executive Order 116 created the Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee headed by the Department of Energy, with the Department of Science and Technology as vice chairperson.

Its members include the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Affairs, National Economic and Development Authority, National Power Corporation, National Transmission Corporation, Philippine Nuclear Research Institute and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The body was tasked to evaluate and assess the need for and viability of introducing nuclear power into the country's energy mix, taking into consideration economic, security and environmental implications, and engagement of the public and relevant stakeholders.

Duterte also directed the committee to formulate a roadmap and timeline in the preparation of the Nuclear Energy Program, measures to address infrastructure gaps, and recommend the necessary steps in the utilization of existing facilities such as but not limited to the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

The committee was given six months to submit an initial report to the Office of the President. Succeeding reports will be submitted every six months.

The order took effect immediately.

“The experience of a number of countries has shown that nuclear power can be a reliable, cost-competitive and environment-friendly energy source,” the EO stated.

“There is an imperative need to revisit the country's policy on nuclear energy and determine its feasibility as a long-term option for power generation.”

Last year, the Philippines and Russia agreed to explore the possible construction of nuclear power plants in the country, whose current energy mix includes fossil fuels, geothermal and hydro sources as well as biomass.

But environmentalists, including Greenpeace, urged the government not to pursue nuclear power, citing safety concerns. —**KG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/748976/duterte-forms-committee-to-study-inclusion-of-nuclear-energy-in-power-mix/story/>

Duterte signs EO authorizing nuclear energy study

July 29, 2020 | 7:12 pm



REUTERS

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte signed an executive order (EO) authorizing a feasibility study to evaluate the introduction of nuclear energy into the energy mix.

The Palace on Wednesday released Executive Order No. 116 which ordered the adoption of a national position on nuclear energy and establishing a committee to study the possibility of nuclear energy adoption.

“The government shall conduct a study for the adoption of a national position on a Nuclear Energy Program (NEP) in accordance with pertinent IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) guidelines and relevant laws, rules, and regulations,” Mr. Duterte said in the EO, signed on July 24.

The Department of Energy (DoE), assisted by the IAEA, has started the nuclear power issue via energy planning studies.

The EO constitutes the Nuclear Energy program Inter-Agency Committee to be chaired by the DoE. The committee is tasked to conduct a study to evaluate and assess the adoption of nuclear energy and consider the economic, security, and environmental implications.

Mr. Duterte said, “(T)he experience of a number of countries has shown that nuclear power can be a reliable, cost-competitive and environment friendly energy source.”

— **Gillian M. Cortez**

Nuclear power? Environmental group urges Duterte gov't to focus on renewable energy

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 29 2020 06:21 PM



The Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in Morong is surrounded by wide roads and an elevated landscape to reduce the risk of accidents. *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/file*

MANILA - An environmental group urged President Rodrigo Duterte's administration on Wednesday to focus on renewable energy instead of considering the use of nuclear power after the chief executive ordered a study on its inclusion into the Philippines' power generation mix.

Harnessing nuclear energy opens the Philippines to several dangers, non-government organization Greenpeace said, noting that the Philippines should fast track the adoption of renewable energy instead.

"Nuclear energy is the most expensive and most dangerous way to generate electricity, and can take 20 years to construct. It will only lock the country into perpetual dependence on imported fuels and debts, rendering our communities and our environment vulnerable to immense risks that we are ill-equipped to handle," Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Khevin Yu said in a statement.

It also questioned the timing of President Rodrigo Duterte's order as the country continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic.

Duterte, in a July 24 executive order, directed the government to study the implications of using nuclear energy, which has long been a divisive issue in the country due to safety concerns.

The President also ordered the formation of a Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee, to lead the study on the matter.

The said committee is composed of different government agencies, which Greenpeace criticized for not being inclusive.

"It lacks representation from civil-society organizations, health institutions, communities and other important stakeholders," Greenpeace said.

"The creation of a national position, especially one that will recommend directions for our future everyday lives, should involve all stakeholders, and not only appointed members of a working committee," it added.

The Philippines in 2017 forged an agreement with the Russian State Atomic Energy Corp. (ROSATOM) for the possible development of nuclear infrastructure.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/29/20/nuclear-power-environmental-group-urges-duterte-govt-to-focus-on-renewable-energy?fbclid=IwAR0ZaNyc_dIBQB6qvQcku4Hdt-25AMRPOuTyovoJKxJG3zGXibVKp2QPnEo

Tam aba ang pag-aalburuto ng mga grupong
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TAMA BA ANG PAG-AALBURUTO NG MGA GRUPONG MAKAKALIKASAN?



July 29, 2020 @ 11:04 AM 19 hours ago

Nagsipag-almahan ang isang grupo na umano'y nagsusulong para sa kaligtasan ng kalikasan sa reklamo ni Laguna Cong. Dan Fernandez sa Meralco na gumagamit ng coal imbes na natural gas upang makapag-imbak ng enerhiya at suplay ng kuryente.

Sa FB post ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, sinabihan ng grupo si Fernandez na huwag niyang baluktutin ang katotohanan patungkol sa coal na umano'y hindi mura ang paggamit nito at hindi rin ito magagamit nang pangmatagalan para sa paglago ng ekonomiya ng bansa.

Sinegundahan pa ng Power for People Coalition ang pag-aalburuto ng PCMJ at binatikos din ang salitang binitawan ni Fernandez tungkol sa paggamit sa coal para sa ating enerhiya.

Ayon naman kay Gerry Arances, P4P convenor, mali ang impo ni Rep. Fernandez tungkol sa coal hearing na isinagawa kamakailan sa House committee on good government and public accountability.

Mas makasasama raw ang coal para sa kalikasan at kalusugan ng nakakarami.

Ang tanong??? Bakit ba gigil na gigil ang dalawang grupong ito sa paggamit ng malalaking power plant sa bansa ng coal para makapag-imbak ang ng enerhiya para masuplayan ng kuryente ang ating bansa, bakiitttt?

May mga kongkretong patunay ba sila na mahal at marumi ang coal kaysa sa ibang elemento katulad ng renewable energy or liquified natural gas.

Ngayon heto naman ang bigwas ko sa mga ulupong na ito, kung masama ang coal bakit ang mauunlad na bansa, gaya ng Japan at Germany ay patuloy pa rin ang paggamit ng coal para masuplayan ang pangagailangan nila ng enerhiya?

Ang HELE ay makabagong teknolohiya para sa coal plants na gumagamit ng mas kakaunting fuel at naglalabas ng mas mababang grado ng carbon dioxide para maiwasan ang pagkasira ng kalikasan.

Dito sa Pilipinas, 40% ng power plants ay gumagamit ng coal na nagbibigay ng aabot sa 21,000 megawatt na kapasidad na enerhiya ng bansa, ayon sa datos mula sa Kagawaran ng Enerhiya.

Tam aba ang pag-aalburuto ng mga grupong
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E, pinipilit ng PMCJ at P4P na dapat nang ipagbawal ang paggamit ng coal sa mga power plant at palitan ito ng mga RE, imposible ang gusto nilang mangyari dahil sa mataas na pangagailangan ng bansa ng maaasahan at episyenteng suplay ng kuryente na 'di kayang ibigay lang ng RE.

Lalong tataas ang singil sa kuryente kung ipipilit nila na RE lang ang gamitin natin.

Wala itong pinag-iba sa post ni Anakalusugan Partylist Rep. Mike Defensor sa FB niya sa pagbatikos sa kanya sa pagboto niya na huwag bigyan ng prangkisa ang ABS-CBN na umano'y parang sila lang ang nakaiintindi ng nangyayari sa bansa na palaging sila lang ang tama, sila lang ang may-alam kung anong dapat.

oOo

Anomang puna o reklamo i-text sa 09189274764,09266719269 o i-email sa juandesabog@yahoo.com o juandesabog48@gmail.com

MWCI, Maynilad told to explain water bills

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

July 30, 2020



(CNN PHL)

After receiving over 400 complaints from customers since last month, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said it has ordered Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI) and Manila Water Co. Inc. (MWCI) to explain the surge in water bills.

MWSS Chief Regulator Patrick Lester N. Ty said a Notice to Explain was issued by the agency's Regulatory Office (RO) to the two private water concessionaires on July 23.

"The concessionaires are expected to resolve these observed violations, and issue an official explanation within this week," Ty said in a statement.

He said the MWSS RO has received over 400 billing complaints from the concessionaires' customers since June.

It may be recalled that meter reading and billing activities have been suspended, and the average billing policy has been applied during the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) and modified ECQ periods.

Prior to the resumption of the concessionaires' read-and-bill operations the previous month, the MWSS-RO has put in place various measures to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the financial situation of customers and to prevent bill shock.

MWSS said the concessionaires have been ordered to explain their noncompliance to several of the directives that have been agreed upon by the agency and the water concessionaires.

This includes the directive to verify the consumption patterns of customers, check for irregularities and automatically withhold any Statement of Account with observed significant deviation from these patterns for further investigation and necessary adjustment.

The water concessionaires also did not communicate effectively, and in a timely manner, all information regarding the directives to customers and concerned stakeholders.

"The MWSS RO will continue to address customer concerns regarding the concessionaires' services, as well as actively monitor and validate the concessionaires' compliance with the agency's strategies and directives. The agency assures the public that sanctions will be imposed over violations of such policies that aim to protect public welfare," Ty said.

Reply

Manila Water said it is now preparing the letter of response to the notice to explain issued by the MWSS-RO. Of the complaints it received, the company said only 0.03 percent remains unresolved.

“We will be recommending to the Regulatory Office a solution to the remaining .03 percent of unresolved issues due to after-the-meter leaks. We need the Regulators permission to effect these solutions,” the company said in a statement.

Based on data gathered by Manila Water from June 1 to July 27, out of the 1 million customers of the company, 7 percent or 73,588 sought clarification on their billing.

“Of these, 90 percent were resolved by the call center or by business area frontliners. Only 0.7 percent of customers, or 7,937, have cases that were endorsed for further handling and of these, 6,246 were verified to have been billed based on actual consumption of customers,” the company said.

“There are 379 cases wherein the spike in billing was caused by undetected underground leak in the customers’ plumbing system while only 57 customers had their bills adjusted.” it added.

Manila Water also said it followed all the guidelines issued by the MWSS-RO on average billing during the lockdown and the actual billing after the quarantine restrictions were eased as well as installment payments and disconnection grace period.

LPA, southwest monsoon to bring rains over Metro Manila, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA

Published July 30, 2020 4:31am

As of early Thursday morning, the Low Pressure Area (LPA) was at 50 kilometers west of Iba, Zambales while the southwest monsoon affecting Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, PAGASA reported.

Metro Manila, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, and MIMAROPA will experience monsoon rains brought about by the LPA / southwest monsoon. Flash floods or landslides may occur in the areas due to moderate to occasional heavy rains.

Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, SOCCSKSARGEN, Davao Region and the rest of Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms due to LPA / southwest monsoon while flash floods or landslides may occur during severe thunderstorms.

The rest of country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms due to the southwest monsoon. The weather bureau warns that flash floods or landslides may occur during severe thunderstorms.

The wind speed forecast for Luzon is moderate to strong moving in the southwest to south direction while coastal waters will be moderate to strong.

In the Visayas and Mindanao, wind speed forecast is light to moderate moving southwestward while coastal waters will be slight to moderate.

The sun will rise at about 5:39 a.m. and set by 6:26 p.m. -- **BAP, GMA News**

World tiger population grows but SE Asia threats

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World tiger population grows but SE Asia threats 'critical': WWF

Published July 29, 2020, 6:05 PM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

Tiger populations in five countries are making a comeback but the endangered species still faces major threats such as poaching, conservation group WWF and the Indian government said.



This handout recent picture released on July 24, 2020 by Wroclaw Zoo shows a critically endangered Sumatran Tiger cub at the Wroclaw Zoo in south-eastern Poland. – The tiger cub was born on May 20, 2020 and was presented to the public for the first time this week. (Wroclaw Zoo / AFP)

India, home to 70 percent of the big cat's global population, is among 13 countries that pledged a decade ago to boost feline numbers.

"From an historic population low in 2010, tigers are finally making a remarkable comeback in much of South Asia, Russia and China," WWF Tigers Alive Initiative head Stuart Chapman said in a statement to mark World Tiger Day on Wednesday.

Chapman said population increases in Bhutan, China, India, Nepal and Russia were "great news" for other threatened species in their habitat, as well as for millions of people dependent on such ecosystems.

But tigers were still under threat from poaching and habitat destruction, while the wild animal populations had fragmented, which increases the risk of inbreeding, the WWF said.

"This has reached critical levels in much of Southeast Asia, where a snaring crisis is decimating wildlife, including tigers and their prey," the group said.

In a report released earlier this month, the WWF found that there were more than 12 million snares threatening wildlife in the protected areas in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

India released its status report on tigers Tuesday, which detailed the steps taken to conserve the big cats.

The report warned that although the population had grown, many of India's tiger reserves and protected areas were within larger regions used for "ecologically unsustainable" purposes such as mining.

"Many tiger populations are confined within small protected areas and some have habitat corridors that permit tiger movement between them," the report added.

But many of the corridor habitats were not protected areas and also at risk due to human activity and development, it said.

The census, carried out between 2018-19, was also included in the Guinness World Records earlier this month for being the largest-ever camera-trap wildlife survey.



World tiger population grows but SE Asia threats

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Camera traps were deployed at more than 28,000 locations across 381,400 square kilometres (147,000 square miles) — about the size of Japan — of forested habitats in 20 Indian states.

The government's survey results, released last year, found that India had 2,967 tigers in the wild, compared to 1,411 when the first nationwide survey was conducted in 2006.

It showed the population had grown six percent a year between 2006 and 2018.

Endangered tigers captured on camera in Thailand

TITLE: bolster hope for species' survival

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Endangered tigers captured on camera in Thailand bolster hope for species' survival

By Helen Regan, CNN

Published Jul 29, 2020 6:07:51 PM



(CNN) — Conservationists have captured footage of [endangered tigers](#) in a region of western Thailand for the first time in four years.

The footage of the big cats is rekindling hope that tigers are returning to the forests of the country after being poached to near extinction and sold in the illegal wildlife trade.

Remote camera traps captured three young Indochinese tigers in February and March. In one shot, a curious tiger comes right up to the camera to check out the device.

Released to coincide with Global Tiger Day, the images were captured as part of a joint monitoring program between Thailand's Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), global wild cat conservation organization [Panthera](#) and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

"In a sea of news casting doubt on the future of our planet's wildlife, this development is a welcome sign of hope and potential turning of the tide for the endangered tiger in Thailand," said John Goodrich, chief scientist and tiger program director for Panthera.

The tigers are believed to have moved south from an established breeding population, with at least one tiger traveling about 80 kilometers (50 miles) to reach a new area near the Myanmar border.

That part of Thailand is remote, mountainous and covered in thick tropical forest. However, the exact location of the tigers hasn't been made public to protect them from poachers.

"We believe they are quite young and think they are all males," said Chris Hallam, Southeast Asia regional coordinator for Panthera, the global wild cat conservation organization.

Hallam said that evidence of tigers moving into areas not seen before was significant because it means those areas are protected enough and have enough prey for them to settle.

"We don't know that they are definitely studded down in that area, but we are monitoring them closely," he said, adding that their presence signified "the recovery of an area that historically would have had tigers and is now sort of welcoming them back."

Precarious existence

There are an estimated 3,900 tigers left in the wild worldwide, down from 100,000 a century ago, with the majority in India. In Thailand, just 160 tigers are thought to remain.

Poaching is the main cause of depleted tiger numbers, where the animals are hunted and killed to fuel the demand for the multi-billion dollar illegal wildlife trade. Tiger parts, such as skin and bone, are hugely sought after in the [traditional medicine](#) market.

Endangered tigers captured on camera in Thailand

TITLE: bolster hope for species' survival

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The destruction of their habitats from logging and human encroachment has also contributed to the decline.

While they once flourished across much of Asia, tiger populations have been destroyed in China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and much of Myanmar. Three populations are [already extinct](#) — Caspian, Javan and Bali tigers. The South China tiger is also critically endangered, and possibly extinct in the wild.

In 2010, all 13 countries with tiger populations committed to doubling the number of wild tigers by 2022, which is the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese zodiac. The Global Tiger Recovery Program has seen some success, including in India and Nepal.

India's tiger population [increased by a third](#) between 2014 to 2018 to almost 3,000 animals, according to a national survey.

Other areas have fared poorly. A 2019 report suggested that [there are no tigers](#) left in Laos and [some experts](#) warn tiger populations on the Malayan Peninsula could go extinct in two to three years.

The new sightings in Thailand then are hugely important for the survival of the entire species.

"Thailand is absolutely essential for tiger populations and tiger conservation," said Panthera's Hallam. "Thailand, especially for the Indochinese tiger, is the last bastion of hope for recovering that species."

The chief of the wildlife research division for Thailand's DNP, Saksit Simcharoen, said the sightings were "encouraging for the future of tigers in our country and beyond."

"These tigers are in a precarious situation. Sustained and stronger protection of this area from poaching activity of any kind is the key to ensuring these individuals live on, helping Thailand's tigers to rebound," he said.

Thailand's successes

Recognizing that tigers faced extinction in Thailand, the government launched a plan to increase tiger numbers by 50% by 2022, with some success.

The world's second known breeding population of Indochinese tigers was found in eastern Thailand in 2016.

The discovery in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Dong-Phayayen Khao Yai Forest Complex included images of tiger cubs and was a significant step toward ensuring the survival of tigers in the country.

The largest breeding ground is in the Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries in western Thailand.

The new sightings, thought to have expanded from this region, are the result of a seven-year effort that included bolstering protected areas and tiger habitats, training rangers, strengthening law enforcement, and working with villages to better understand livelihoods and mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

"To witness apex predators, like tigers, returning to forests means the ecosystem is recovering, which is good for all wildlife," said Eileen Larney, ZSL's Chief Technical Advisor in Thailand.

"The situation for tigers worldwide remains precarious, but successes like this show that through our work with communities and governments, we can see populations start to recover."

This story was first published on CNN.com, "[Endangered tigers captured on camera in Thailand bolster hope for species' survival](#)."

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Biggest meat firm causes Amazon agony — report

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

July 30, 2020

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian firm JBS, the world's biggest meat processing company, was again accused of "laundering" cattle from ranches blacklisted for destroying the Amazon rainforest.

The charge, leveled in a report by an investigative journalism consortium, marks at least the fifth time in just over a year that the company, which exports around the world, has been accused of cattle laundering.

That is a practice in which animals from a blacklisted ranch are transferred to one with a clean record to dodge a ban on sales.

The London-based Bureau of Investigative Journalism, British newspaper The Guardian and Brazilian journalism group Reporter Brasil said in the joint report that pictures posted on Facebook by a JBS truck driver appeared to show him and his colleagues transporting cattle from a blacklisted ranch, Estrela do Aripuanã, to a "clean" one 300 kilometers away, Estrela do Sangue, in July 2019.

The drivers wore JBS uniforms and drove JBS trucks in the pictures.

Located in the west-central state of Mato Grosso, which is largely covered in Amazon rainforest, Estrela do Aripuanã was blacklisted by Brazil's environment ministry in 2012 over the illegal deforestation of around 1,500 hectares of land.

Authorities also fined its owner 2.2 million reals (around \$1 million at the time). The consortium said it had obtained Brazilian government records indicating that at least 7,000 animals were shipped from the embargoed ranch to the "clean" one between June 2018 and August 2019.

Other documents show the latter sold 7,000 animals to JBS slaughterhouses from November 2018 to November 2019, it said. JBS denies cattle laundering and says it is implementing measures to prevent third parties from sneaking such animals into its supply chain.

"We have adopted an unequivocal stance of zero deforestation," it said in a statement, adding it had opened an internal investigation into the latest allegations.

Brazil faces mounting pressure to slow surging deforestation after massive fires devastated the Amazon in 2019 — often set to clear land for ranching and farming.

Some European countries have threatened to scupper a trade deal between the European Union and the Mercosur trade bloc, of which Brazil is a member, over the issue.

And global investment firms managing close to \$4 trillion in assets in June wrote an open letter to far-right President Jair Bolsonaro urging him to change government policies blamed for accelerating the destruction.