

DATE: AUGUST 20, 2020

DAY: THURSDAY

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

Cleaning Manila Bay

August 19, 2020

People's Tonight

DESPITE the crippling coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Filipino people still support the ongoing rehabilitation of the heavily-polluted but historic and sun-kissed Manila Bay.

The Duterte administration should be commended for initiating the gigantic undertaking, which monuments government efforts to encourage more foreign tourists to visit the country.

In the past, hordes of foreign and local tourists, many of them young lovers, flocked to Roxas Boulevard in Manila just to watch the world-famous and breath-taking "Sunset at Manila Bay."

"Pero sa paglipas ng panahon ay ginawa itong malaking tapunan ng ibat-ibangklase ng basura, kabilang na ang mga plastik," lamented a long-time resident of the Walled City of Intramuros.

It is no wonder, therefore, that a top official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is all praises for the highly-successful "Aling Tindera" program.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda said the program is a joint project of the DENR-National Capital Region office and the Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEX).

A former newsman, Antiporda described the "Aling Tindera" program as very timely as it augments government efforts to rehabilitate the ancient Manila Bay amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

PCEX, a non-profit organization founded by philanthropist and entrepreneur Nanette Medved-Po, buys plastic wastes from sari-sari stores, where fishermen purchase their food and other essentials.

DENR-NCR Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan said the "Aling Tindera" program is designed to promote qualified "sari-sari" stores as waste-to-cash collection centers at the barangay level."

The program, which incentivizes the collection of plastic wastes from Manila Bay, is an innovative approach to address the problem of plastic wastes in Metro Manila, according to Director Caancan.

Now that the DENR-NCR and PCEX have launched "Aling Tindera" program, it will be up to the public to support the campaign to clean and rehabilitate sun-kissed Manila Bay.

DENR TODO-SUPORTA SA ALING TINDERA PROGRAM PARA SA MANILA BAY



August 20, 2020 @ 12:58 AM 6 hours ago

BUHOS ang buong suporta ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa programang "Aling Tindera" na nagbibigay ng insentibo sa pangongolekta ng mga nagamit na plastic sachets na napupunta sa Manila Bay.

"This residual waste recovery program is very timely as it augments government efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay amid the pandemic where the use of sachets and other plastic packaging has become more rampant," sabi ni DENR Spokesperson at Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management ang Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.

Ang Aling Tindera ay magkatuwang na proyekto ng DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) at Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEX) na isang non-profit plastic offset organization na itinatag ng philanthropist at entrepreneur na si Nanetted Medved-Po.

Layunin nito na magbigay ng insentibo sa mga mangingisda at sa kanilang pamilya para mangolekta sila ng mga plastic na basura sa Manila Bay at maibenta nila kapalit ay pera sa maiipong points sa Aling Tindera na nakaistasyon sa coastal areas.

Ang Aling Tindera shops na mga "sari-sari" stores ay pag-aari ng mga kababaihan. Nangongolekta ang mga ito ng mga plastic para pagkakitaan, sa pamamagitan ng pagbebenta sa mga sustainability- conscious na mga kompanya sa pamamagitan ng PCEX.

Ayon kay Antiporda, dahil na rin sa paglaganap ng COVID-19 pandemic, karamihan sa mga tao ay nagtutungo sa mga maaasahang "sari-sari" store upang bumili ng kanilang pagkain at iba pang pangangailangan.

Aniya, bukod sa mura ay matatagpuan din ng mga tao sa mga tindahang ito ang mga praktikal na bagay na kailangan nila sa pang araw-araw.

"Unfortunately, since these products come in small packages like sachet, more plastic trash are generated by the community which, if not properly disposed of, would find their way into our waterways," punto ni Antiporda.

Ito ang dahilan, sabi pa ni Antiporda, kung bakit mahalaga na ang publiko ay palaging nagsasagawa ng waste segregation sa kanilang mga bahay at sumusuporta sa solid waste management programs, tulad ng Aling Tindera.

Inilarawan naman ni DENR-NCR Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan, ang programang Aling Tindera bilang ay isang innovative approach sa pagtugon sa problema sa plastic waste sa Metro Manila.

Ayon pa kay Caancan, ang mga plastic waste, partikular na ang mga plastic na pambalot sa mga produkto ay malaking bahagi ng lumalaking volume ng solid waste sa metropolis.

"The program was designed to promote qualified '*sari-sari*' stores as waste-to-cash collection centers at the barangay level," paliwanag pa ng regional director.

Dagdag pa nito: "We are not only systematizing the recovery of post-consumer plastic wastes such as empty sachets and other single-use plastic packaging from the waste stream, we will also be incentivizing the store owners, and also their *suki* for turning in their plastic wastes instead of just throwing them away."

Para naman sa kay Medved-Po, hindi dapat gawing dahilan ang COVID-19 upang itigil ang mga nasimulan para panumbalikin ang Manila Bay sa dati nitong anking ganda at tanyag.

"The conservation of Manila Bay should not come to a halt while we address the global pandemic," pagdidiin pa ni Medved-Po. "We need to collaborate to create long term solutions for the health of our oceans and waterways because it is very much tied to our own health."

Daily Tribune (Philippines) ⋮

Bataan cleans up Manila Bay

[Manila](#) · [Bataan](#)

20 Aug 2020 JONAS REYES

Three local government units of Bataan were cited by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the 2019 Regional Manila BAYani Awards for their efforts in keeping Manila Bay clean.

DILG Bataan identified the LGU as Balanga City, Top Performer City Category; Dinalupihan, first runner-up in the Top Performer Municipal Category; and Hermosa, second runner-up in the Top Performer Municipal Category.

The awards recognize LGU that have shown exemplary performance on the implementation of their mandates and responsibilities under environmental laws and policies that support the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Economic valuation of wildlife species being conducted

Published August 19, 2020, 5:22 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Economic valuation of wildlife species, such as marine turtles and blue-naped parrots, is being conducted to help in the prevention of their extinction and protection of their natural systems.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau, Asian Development Bank, and NIRAS Asia Manila sought last August 12 an economic valuation review of wildlife to better appreciate the value of marine turtles and blue-naped parrots, which are representative of some of the most iconic wildlife of the Philippines.

Led by environmental economist Dr. Agustin Arcenas, the report analyzed the monetary value and ecosystem benefits derived from marine turtles and blue-naped parrots.

“The study aims to convince decision-makers that many animals are worth more alive than dead by assessing the trade, tourism and ecological value of marine turtles and blue-naped parrots,” Arcenas explained.

The results of the study is expected to be completed in the coming months.

Cecilia Fischer from ADB and independent consultant Romeo Trono also shared their inputs during an online event, which is part of the DENR-ADB/Global Environment Facility project to combat the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in the Philippines.

Two parrot experts, ornithologist Juan Carlos Gonzalez of the University of the Philippines Los Baños and biologist Peter Widmann from the Katala Foundation also shared their insights.

PH as a biodiversity and IWT hotspot

The country served as an illegal transshipment point for elephant ivory, as a source country of wildlife and wildlife byproducts, such as pangolins and marine turtles, as well as a destination of trades, such as parrots kept as pets.

“People know that wildlife play an important role in balancing the environment, but their economic value has never been taken seriously,” DENR-BMB Wildlife Resources Division OIC Theresa Tenazas said in a statement.

“This study can finally give our enforcers, law practitioners, prosecutors and judges the correct valuation of wildlife – preventing the dismissal of wildlife cases because of the inability to establish their economic value, an argument often used by offenders to escape conviction,” she added.

DENR-ADB/GEF is pushing for stronger legal reforms against IWT, enhanced capacity-building for law enforcers, as well as demand reduction measures targeting consumers, particularly on marine turtles and blue-naped parrots.

“Biology, conservation science and economics must be meshed together to defeat the illegal wildlife trade and we are glad to see that the Philippines is taking a leading role in this,” ADB environmental specialist Dr. Francesco Ricciardi said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/19/economic-valuation-of-wildlife-species-being-conducted/>

3 tarsiers released back to the wild in Sarangani

Published August 19, 2020, 9:13 AM
by [Zea Capistrano](#)

DAVAO CITY – The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Sarangani freed three Philippine tarsiers (*Carlito syrichta*) back to the wild in Alabel town on Monday afternoon.



Photo courtesy of DENR Soccsksargen/ MANILA BULLETIN

In a statement on Tuesday, the PENRO in Sarangani said a concerned citizen surrendered the three tarsiers to PENRO Officer Renato C. Domingo in his office.

According to Domingo, “Engelberto J. Gran together with his men found the small primates in Gran’s farm at Barangay Bagakay.”

The tarsiers were then examined by Dr. Roy O. Mejorada, in-house veterinarian of Sarangani Environmental Conservation and Protection Center.

The PENRO-Sarangani said two of the three primates were mature male and female, and the other one was a juvenile female tarsier.

“Since the tarsiers didn’t show any signs of injuries and were fit to be released back to the wild, they were freed by the PENRO-Sarangani personnel late afternoon on Monday in an uninhabited area (in) Brgy. Bagakay – the same place where the tarsiers were found,” it said.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/19/3-tarsiers-released-back-to-the-wild-in-sarangani/?fbclid=IwAR00B8E24-hXadLRRyzHobl88_JfZNac15hfNSv9swsYLy5wsG2sLasftIg



News5
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Tatlong tarsier ang itinumover ng isang concerned citizen sa DENR Sarangani noong Lunes.

Tiniyak naman ng veterinarian ng Sarangani Environmental Conservation & Protection Center na malusog ang mga tarsier bago nila pinakawalang muli sa wild.

📍: DENR Soccsksargen, PENRO Sarangani



👍❤️ 567

45 Comments 22 Shares

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2151229061700503&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0

Python alert: House of Representatives COVID clean-up reveals snake pit

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Python alert: House of Representatives COVID clean-up reveals snake pit

Published August 19, 2020, 10:23 AM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

A COVID-19 clean-up drive at the House of Representatives resulted in the discovery of a reticulated python at the Batasang Pambansa grounds in Quezon City on Tuesday.



A House security personnel disclosed that the python was discovered “sleeping” a few meters from the perimeter fence while ground maintenance workers were starting to clean the complex.

The python, measuring around four to five feet, was captured and brought to the nearby security post.

“Naghihintay po kami ng instruction kung ano ang gagawin sa sawa (We are still awaiting for instruction on what to do with the python),” a source from the security office said.

The python was turned over on Wednesday to the Biodiversity Management Bureau – Wildlife Rescue Center.

Officials have already been informed of the discovery.

Regular sessions have been suspended in the Lower House in the past two days to give way to massive disinfection and clean-up following a spike in the number of COVID cases among employees and officials.

Work is also suspended on Wednesday in commemoration of the Manuel Luis Quezon Day in Quezon City.

The maintenance personnel were cleaning up the grounds when they found the python.

As of Tuesday, the Lower House confirmed that 47 employees and officials are infected with COVID-19. Four have died, including Senior Citizens Partylist Rep. Francisco Datol Jr.



Python alert: House of Representatives COVID clean-
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Aside from Datol, other lawmakers who tested positive for the disease were Deputy Speakers Johnny Pimentel (PDP-Laban, Surigao del Sur) and Mujiv Hataman (NP, Basilan), and Reps. Samier Tan (PDP-Laban, Sulu) and Henry Villarica (NUP, Bulacan).

Noting that a COVID-19 positive employee may have infected fellow congressional workers, House Secretary General Jose Luis Montales warned that disciplinary action against personnel found guilty of violating health and safety protocols will be imposed.

“Let us be clear: we shall impose appropriate penalties for violations of our health and safety protocols. Everyone is forewarned,” Montales said in a viber message addressed to workers of the legislative chamber.

Balabac Island Group maintains record of having

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TITLE: most number of crocodiles in PH

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Balabac Island Group maintains record of having most number of crocodiles in PH

Published August 19, 2020, 11:43 AM

by [Aira Magdayao](#)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan – The Balabac Island Group has been able to maintain the record of having the most number of crocodiles in the entire country, according to the Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc. (CPPI).



The Balabac Island Group has been able to maintain the record of having the most number of crocodiles in the entire country, according to the Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc. (CPPI). (Photo courtesy of PC Baltazar of CPPI and Deseree Abalo of Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center)

CPPI Program Director and marine biologist Rainier Manalo said the Balabac Island Group has the highest number of crocodiles in the country when compared to the southern mainland Palawan based on its 2018 survey in the southern part of the province.

“[Barangays of] Bugsuk, Ramos, and Balabac Islands are the areas with the highest number of crocodiles. More than half or 54 percent of this wild population is present in the Island of Bugsuk,” he said.

Manalo said that they recorded declines in the population of crocodiles in the early 40s to late 80s, as these animals were heavily hunted for their skin. As many as 2,000 crocodiles were being hunted in just a few months in the past, or from three to four crocodiles a day.

Data from 80s and 90s were based on the 1992 acquisition records of the Crocodile Farming Institute (CFI) in Palawan, with the crocodiles being acquired from the wild population in Palawan and Mindanao.

Manalo said that from 2016 to 2019, CPPI surveyed 19 rivers in the southern Palawan and obtained a corrected average density of 0.95 non-hatchlings/km.

“We recorded an estimated wild crocodile population of 519 non-hatchlings in 2019. Non-hatchlings kasi ibig sabihin ay pwede na sila lumaban sa ibang predator or hindi na sila prone sa environmental stress. Ang scientific count kasi sa kanila ay one year na sila [mula noong pinanganak] pero pwede naman bilangin ang iba kasi pwede pa rin naman sila mamatay,” Manalo said.

He said that only the Indo-pacific crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) species is present in the Islands of Palawan.

Balabac Island Group maintains record of having

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“We prefer the English name Indo–Pacific crocodile to better differentiate its geographic distribution, instead of the commonly known habitat of the species which is saltwater,” Manalo noted.

He also said that, globally, the IUCN status of *Crocodylus porosus* was not considered to be at high risk of extinction under the low-risk category. There are about 400,000 non-hatchlings in the wild all throughout its range.

Manalo explained that crocodiles imply a positive in the environment because they are “keystone species” that structure aquatic and terrestrial biotic communities.

He likewise pointed out that CPPI, in partnership with Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center, continues to conduct information dissemination.

“We continue to distribute information materials to areas that have a crocodile population. Our organization conducts public education and knowledge sharing alongside with our field surveys, we distribute calendars with crocodile reminders signs and reflectorize stickers,” Manalo said.

In order to encourage coexistence, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) developed and issued DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau Technical Bulletin 2020 – 02 or the Protocol for Managing Human – Crocodile Conflict (HCC).

The local government units in Rizal, Bataraza, and Balabac, as well as law enforcers from different agencies, are being trained to be the first responders in case of human and crocodile interaction.



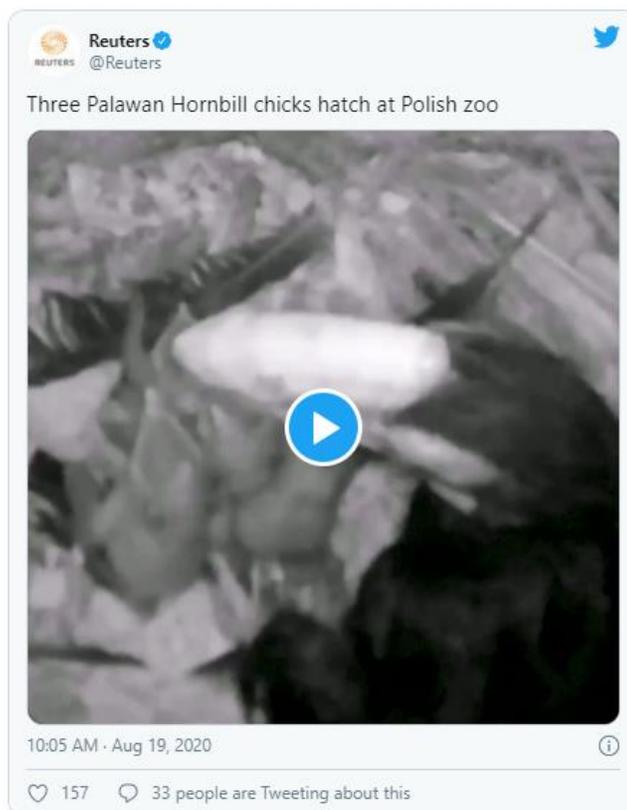
Palawan hornbill (GMA News file photo)

'Vulnerable' Palawan hornbill chicks hatch in foreign zoo

Published August 19, 2020 11:29am

Three chicks of an endangered bird endemic in the Philippine province of Palawan is being caught on video hatching in a Polish zoo.

A video posted on Reuters Twitter shows the mother of the little birds attending to its hatchlings.



The Palawan hornbill, known as Talusi in the Philippine language Cuyunon, is a forest-dwelling bird with predominantly black plumage and a white tail. It is endemic in Palawan.

Noel Rafael, one of the curators at Ark Avilon Wildlife Conservation Foundation (AAWCF) back [in 2012](#) [told GMA News TV show "Tonight With Arnold Clavio"](#) that the Palawan hornbill, among three species of birds in the Philippines, is already "vulnerable", meaning it could face extinction within the next 20 to 50 years. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/751997/vulnerable-palawan-hornbill-chicks-hatch-in-foreign-zoo/story/>

Something good out of the bad

Published 1 day ago on August 19, 2020 04:20 AM

By [Elmer Recuerdo](#)



Confiscated forest products from anti-illegal logging operations in Northern Samar will be put into good use — either for the construction of COVID-19 quarantine facilities or for repairs of damaged buildings during typhoon “Ambo” in May.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) donated to government offices 1,410 pieces of Lauan wood totaling 27,038 board feet with an estimated market value of P1,329,220 and 51 pieces of boat keels with a volume 23,149.145 bd. ft. and an estimated market value of P1,152,820.24.

Northern Samar Governor Edwin Ongchuan received the donated lumber which he distributed to different local government units (LGU) for the construction of COVID-19 isolation facilities.

Other recipients were the Department of Education for the construction of classrooms, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine Army for the repair of their offices and camps.

DENR assistant regional director Jose Bascos said that while it is unfortunate that trees were cut illegally, the timely reaction of law enforcement officers resulted in their seizure and confiscation.

“We can say that donating these lumber to victims of typhoon “Ambo” is a silver lining to an otherwise unfortunate event,” Bascos said.

Acting on information from concerned citizens, the DENR enforcement team in coordination with the Army and the police conducted operations at Barangay Happy Valley in San Isidro town in April and May, resulting in the seizure of forest products with an estimated total market value of P5.4 million.

DENR donates lumber for Zambo Sibugay Covid-19 isolation facility

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. August 19, 2020, 9:33 pm



DONATED LUMBER. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay, donates seized lumber for building an isolation facility for coronavirus disease (Covid-19) patients at the Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Hospital on Tuesday (August 17, 2020). *(Photo courtesy of CENRO-Imelda)*

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has donated lumber to build a coronavirus disease (Covid-19) isolation facility in the province of Zamboanga Sibugay, an official said Wednesday.

Pilarito Montebon, head of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay, said the donation consisted of forfeited forest products that were confiscated in anti-illegal logging campaigns in the province.

Montebon said Tuesday's donation to the Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Hospital in Ipil town consisted of 68 pieces Bagtikan species with an equivalent volume of 376 board feet.

He said lumber will be used by the hospital in building new isolation facilities for Covid-19 patients.

The Department of Health (DOH) said Zamboanga Sibugay has 39 cases of Covid-19 as of August 18.

Meanwhile, Dr. Dennis Dacayanan, DOH-9's Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (RESU) head, has called on the local government units to activate more contact tracing teams in response to the continuous increase of Covid-19 cases in the region.

Dacayanan said the enlistment of more contact tracing team is vital "for us to immediately isolate Covid-19 patients in the community and this will prevent the rapid spread of the virus within our localities." **(PNA)**

Mount Timolan Protected Landscape marks 20th anniversary

August 19, 2020

THE Protected Area Management Board of Mount Timolan Protected Landscape celebrated last week its 20th Proclamation Anniversary of the protected area with a program and tree-planting activity in Lake Maragang Rainforest Park, Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Executive Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez said that like all other legislated Protected Areas (PAs) under Republic Act (RA) 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-Nipás) Act of 2018, Mount Timolan Protected Landscape will be establishing and staffing the Protected Area Management Office (Pamo) as well as the construction of its office building.

Rodriguez chairs the Mount Timolan Protected Landscape (MTPL) Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).

Rodriguez said that the Pamo is created specifically for the conservation, protection, management and development of E-Nipás protected areas.

“This would also create employment opportunities for Filipinos nationwide,” she said.

She added that various activities being conducted in MTPL such as biodiversity monitoring, eco-tourism and others to complement the legal status of the MTPL as a legislated protected area under RA 11038.

To help ensure the safety of tourists, Tigbao Mayor Eleazar Carcallas and Abdon Sugabo, Jr., representative of Zamboanga del Sur Governor Victor Yu expressed their commitment in looking for funds for the continuation of a concrete motor lane from the village road in Limas, Tigbao to the ecotourism site in Lake Maragang.

Rodriguez said the other anniversary activities included biodiversity conservation lectures and the conduct of an MTPL PAMB meeting.

This year’s anniversary celebration is anchored on the theme, “Dalawang Dekadang Pangangalaga ng Inang Kalikasan: Ang bukal ng buhay at Likas na Yaman.”

Presidential Proclamation No. 354 declared Mount Timolan situated in the municipalities of Lapuyan, Guipos, San Miguel and Tigbao in Zamboanga del Sur as Mount Timolan Protected Landscape pursuant to RA 7586 or the Nipás Act of 1992. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM NG PINAS SUPORTADO NG USAID



August 19, 2020 @ 7:38 AM 22 hours ago

INILUNSAD ng United States Agency for International Aid kamakailan sa bansa ang isang programang naglalayong protektahan ang kalikasan sa kabundukan at karagatan kabilang ang pagpapatigil sa mga pang-aabusong ginagawa rito.

Ang proyektong Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) ng USAID sa ilang lugar sa bansa ay may pondong P1.1 bilyon bilang ayuda nito sa gobyerno upang paunlarin ang mga paraan ng makabuluhang paggamit ng yaman sa kalikasan na magpapalakas naman ng negosyo rito ngunit nakasaalang-alang pa rin ang pagdepensa ng ecosystem nito.

Katuwang ng USAID sa pagpapatupad ng SIBOL ang ilang ahensya ng pamahalaan kabilang ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) kung saan layunin nito na mapangalagaan ang yaman ng kabundukan at karagatan na pangunahing pantawid-gutom ng mahihirap na mamamayan ngayong krisis.

Pangungunahan ng RTI International, isang US-based non-profit organization dito, ang pagpapatupad ng naturang proyektong nakatuon sa pagbibigay ng technical assistance, pagpapalakas ng institusyon, tulong sa nabanggit ng programa at research ng iba't ibang sektor sa bansang katuwang ang Center for Conservation Innovations, Forest Foundation Philippines, Internews, Zoological Society of London, The Resources, Environment at Economics Center for Studies.

Kaugnay nito, pinasalamat naman ni DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Juan Miguel T. Cuna ang nabanggit na proyektong malaking tulong umano sa mga programa ng ahensyang nagbibigay-proteksyon sa kalikasan upang lalo pang mapakinabangan ng taumbayan.

May malasakit talaga ang US sa bansa natin kumpara sa Tsina na nagbibigay ng tulong kapalit naman ng pag-angkin nito ng teritoryo natin sa West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Sabagay, matagal na kasing kaalyado ng 'Pinas ang mga 'Kano at hindi na rin makwenta kung ilang bilyon na ang naibigay nitong tulong sa atin lalo na sa larangan ng environmental protection.

Kaya kagaya ng pulso ng karamihan sa mga kababayan natin, mas gugustuhin pa ang mga ayudang ibinibigay ni Angkel Sam dahil bukal sa loob ang pagbibigay nito kesa sa makakaliwang Tsino'y na kaliwa't kanan ang pang-aabusong ginagawa sa bansa nating animo'y sigang mga dayuhan din lang naman dito.

Para sa inyong komento o suhestiyon mag-text sa 09999388537/email normanlaurio17@gmail.com/Facebook page Imbestigador Norman Laurio

Source: https://www.remate.ph/environmental-program-ng-pinas-suportado-ng-usaid/?fbclid=IwAR1ljm_xQE8lTid1d4_Wgb50hJxOsBx-4w7HzOyNkTD_Ix3kz2VO67_GAbw

Sinkhole, landslide, flooding in Masbate after 6.6-

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TITLE: magnitude quake

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Sinkhole, landslide, flooding in Masbate after 6.6-magnitude quake

Published August 19, 2020, 12:21 PM

by [Nino Luces](#)

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay – A sinkhole was spotted near the shore of Barangay Casabangan, Pio V. Corpuz town in Masbate province, purportedly created after a 6.6 magnitude quake struck the province on Tuesday morning.



(PHOTO FROM OCD-BICOL / MANILA BULLETIN)

Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) Bicol Information Officer Gremil Naz confirmed that residents discovered the sinkhole, and later reported it to authorities.

“Sa Pio V. Corpuz yun, papunta na po ang team ng MGB (Mines and Geosciences Bureau), DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) at iba pang concerned agencies para i-assess yung nadiskubreng sinkhole,” he said.

A sea intrusion or a flooding caused by “subsidence by liquefaction or fault movement and high tide” was reported in Barangay Matayum, Cataingan, Masbate – a coastal barangay located near the epicenter of the strong quake.

Landslide was also recorded in Barangay Bogtong in Pio V. Corpuz town, Naz said.

Naz said the estimated cost of damage brought by the strong quake in Masbate was at P23.96 million.

He said that the estimated cost was based on the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Bicol’s assessment on damaged roads and government buildings.

“Yun pong estimated damage cost at ayon naman po sa assessment ng DPWH Regional Office 5 kung saan may mga nai-record na sira sa mga kalsada, government buildings at iba pa. Ayon naman po sa DepEd Bicol, mayroong 19 public schools ang nasira dala ng malakas na lindol,” he explained.

Naz also said that at least 61 houses were damaged by the strong quake, of which, 26 were totally damaged, and 35 partially damaged.

“Nasa 11 po na pamilya o kaya 40 na indibidwal ang nasa evacuation center sa ngayon dahil na nga po nasira yung mga bahay o kaya yung iba takot sa bumalik sa mga bahay nila dahil sa patuloy na nangyayaring aftershock,” he said.

Naz confirmed that all roads were passable for all kinds of vehicles in the province.

Sinkhole, landslide, flooding in Masbate after 6.6-

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TITLE: magnitude quake

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After being hit by a 6.6 magnitude quake and some residents in Cataingan town were left homeless, Naz explained.

He also said strict health protocols were still being observed by families which were taken to evacuation centers.

Meanwhile, Malacañang assured residents of Masbate that help is forthcoming but reminded them to still observe social distancing if they are staying in evacuation centers.

In an interview with CNN Philippines Wednesday morning, presidential spokesman Harry Roque assured the people of Masbate that help is ready for them.

“We’d like to assure our Masbateño brothers and sisters that help has been prepositioned and further assistance is on the way,” he said.

“We’re talking of food packs, bottled water, blankets, things that they would need in resettlement areas,” he added.

According to Roque, the Palace already has a direct line with the local government of Masbate, especially in Cataingan where the quake was felt the strongest.

“The coordination effort to deliver what is needed by the residents of Cataingan is in full blast,” he said.

Roque reminded affected residents, especially those who were forced to stay in evacuation centers, to still practice social distancing. He said there will be manpower deployed to ensure that COVID-19 protocols are followed.

Even though Masbate has a low number of COVID-19 cases, Roque said residents should not be complacent.

“One thing going for Masbate is that it has low cases of COVID-19 but nonetheless, they should not be too complacent,” he said.

Based on the COVID-19 tracker of the Department of Health (DOH), Masbate has recorded 143 cases of COVID-19 as of August 18, 59 of which are active cases.

Roque, meanwhile, is unsure if President Duterte will be able to visit the residents of the quake-hit area. He, however, said Duterte would want to go there.

“The President would want to go but I don’t know if he can actually go because of restrictions on his movement right now,” he said. (With a report from Argyll Geducos)

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/19/sinkhole-landslide-flooding-in-masbate-after-6-6-magnitude-quake/>

Sinkhole, gahiganteng isda nagsulputan sa magnitude 6.6 na lindol



August 19, 2020 @ 2:58 PM 16 hours ago

Legazpi City, Albay – Lumitaw ang isang sinkhole sa babayin sa Masbate habang lumitaw naman ang gahiganteng isda sa Eastern Samar matapos na yanigin ng 6.6 magnitude na lindol.

Ayon kay Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) Bicol Information Officer Gremil Naz na nadiskubre ng mga residente sa Barangay Casabangan sa bayan ng Pio V. Corpuz ang sinkhole.

“Sa Pio V. Corpuz ‘yun, papunta na po ang team ng MGB (Mines and Geosciences Bureau), DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) at iba pang concerned agencies para i-assess ‘yung nadiskubreng sinkhole,” ani Naz.

Binaha at nakapagtala rin ng ilang landslide sa probinsya, ayon pa kay Naz.

Dagdag pa niya na umabot na sa P23.96 million ang inisyal na naitatalang halaga ng nasira sa Masbate na base na rin sa ginawang pagtataya ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Bicol.

Samantala, lumitaw naman ang gahiganteng isda sa bayan ng Santa Monica sa Tubabao Island, sa bayan ng Oras sa Eastern Samar.

Nahuli umano ito ng isang mangingisda ilang oras matapos ang pagyanig.

Ayon kay Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Director Juan Albaladejo, tinatawag na “Opah” ang isda na isang deep-water specie na madalas makita sa lalim na 500-meter ng dagat.

Ayon kay Albaladejo na maaaring ikinagulat ng isda ang lindol kung kaya lumangoy ito sa mababaw na bahagi ng karagatan at nahuli.

Isa ang Opah sa pinakamahal na isda sa merkado dahil ginagamit ito panggawa ng sashimi. *RNT*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/sinkhole-gahiganteng-isda-nagsulputan-sa-magnitude-6-6-na-lindol/?fbclid=IwAR26I6tPSGVpKF4jhXmt1MPJc8zRJzSskz1LsUiix0HHpGIkx8UCPDfoUT4>

Giant fish caught in Eastern Samar after Masbate quake

By Sarwell Meniano August 19, 2020, 10:27 am



GIANT MOONFISH SURFACES. A 65-kg. Opah fish is caught in Oras, Eastern Samar hours after the strong quake that rattled the central Philippines on Tuesday (Aug. 18, 2020). Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources 8 (Eastern Visayas) Director Juan Albaladejo said the earthquake shock waves could have “spooked” the giant fish, causing it to surface on shallow waters in Tubabao Island in Oras. *(Photo courtesy of Ranilo Ebron)*

TACLOBAN CITY – A fisherman caught a deep-sea giant fish in Oras, Eastern Samar, hours after the strong quake that rattled the central Philippines on Tuesday.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) 8 (Eastern Visayas) Director Juan Albaladejo said there is a big possibility that earthquake shockwaves “spooked” the Opah fish, causing it to surface on shallow waters in Tubabao Island in Oras town.

Fisherman Armando Amos of the town's Sta. Monica village caught the fish through hook and line.

The 65-kg. fish, commonly known as moonfish, is a deep-water species found 500 meters deep into the sea.

The Opah (scientific name *Lampris guttatus*) is a warm-blooded fish, which makes it a high-performance predator that swims faster and sees better.

“This was quite a revelation, seeing this magnificent fish. We know that it is quite abundant in our eastern seaboard, usually schooling with highly migratory tuna species but rarely seen,” Albaladejo said in a phone interview on Wednesday.

He said the fishermen sold the fish at the local market at PHP200 per kg.

The giant fish was washed up to the shallow part of the sea and caught shortly after a magnitude 6.6 tectonic quake struck Cataingan town in Masbate province and shook several areas in the Visayas at about 8:03 a.m. on Tuesday. **(PNA)**

SMC to develop sustainable mangrove crab trade in Bulacan

August 19, 2020

People's Tonight



SAN Miguel Corporation (SMC) will grow 100,000 mud crabs monthly at its 10-hectare mangrove plantation site in Hagonoy, Bulacan to protect the forest and provide a new and sustainable source of livelihood for residents of the town and the rest of the province.

SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang said the mud crab business has long been established in the country. And while the Philippines is, in fact, one of the top producers of mud crabs in the world, experts say there is a need to further improve production to meet demand in the coming years.

Hagonoy, one of the priority areas of SMC's massive mangrove planting program to help address perennial flooding in Bulacan province and Central Luzon, is a good area to start the said project.

"Along with our goal to help address flooding through the planting of mangroves in these priority areas identified by the Department of Environment of Natural Resources (DENR), we are seeding 100,000 mud crabs monthly at Hagonoy's mangrove plantation area to help boost the country's mud crab production," Ang said.

Mud crabs are considered a culinary delicacy in many restaurants and hotels in both local and international markets, making it a foreign exchange earner and a major source of livelihood for fishermen and fishpond owners in the country.

"These mangrove areas are a good breeding ground for mud crabs and will provide the local government unit of Hagonoy, fishermen, local entrepreneurs, and rural communities with a sustainable source of income given the mud crabs' high-income potential," he said.

Hagonoy's coastal area is part of the total 76 hectares under SMC's massive mangrove-planting program. A total of 190,000 mangroves will be planted in the coastal areas covering Bulacan and Central Luzon.

The first 8,000 of the 25,000 mangroves were planted in three hectares in Hagonoy's Barangay Tibaguin last July 29 with the remainder expected to be completed within the year.

Hagonoy, one of the lowest-lying areas in Bulacan province, is expected to benefit from the mangrove project for the long-term as mangroves will help protect locals from floods brought on by the rainy season, tidal floods, and waters coming from the Pampanga basin.

SMC to develop sustainable mangrove crab trade in

August 20, 2020

TITLE: Bulacan

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DATE

The mangrove planting program is part of SMC's flood-mitigation plan ahead of the construction of the Manila International Airport, the country's newest and largest international gateway just north of Metro Manila, in October.

"These flood mitigation measures are all integral to airport development. It's very important to address these environmental concerns before investing over P700 billion for the airport. This airport is a game-changer for everyone and will help revive the economy of Bulacan and the country against the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

SMC's airport project will feature four parallel runways and a provision for two more, a world-class terminal, supported by a seamless transport system, among other features.

It can accommodate up to 100 million passengers yearly, generate over a million direct and indirect jobs, spawn many small industries in Bulacan, and significantly boost tourism that will lead to more jobs across all industries.

TITLE: Mga residente sa isang barangay sa Tuy, Batangas,
nagulat sa 'higanteng' bula na lumabas sa sapa

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August 20, 2020
DATE



Mga residente sa isang barangay sa Tuy, Batangas, nagulat sa 'higanteng' bula na lumabas sa sapa

Agosto 19, 2020 9:45pm GMT+08:00

Nagulat at nabahala ang ilang residente sa Barangay Sabang, Tuy, Batangas nang mapuno ng dambuhalang bula ang isang sapa o maliit na ilog sa kanilang lugar nitong Miyerkules ng hapon.

Higanteng bula na lumabas sa sapa



Ngayon lang daw nakakita ang mga residente ng ganito karami at kalaking bula. (Photo courtesy: Jolina Barrias)

Higanteng bula na lumabas sa sapa



Nakita ang bula sa ilog ng Barangay Sabang, Tuy, Batangas. (Photo courtesy: Jolina Barrias.)

Mga residente sa isang barangay sa Tuy, Batangas,
TITLE: nagulat sa 'higanteng' bula na lumabas sa sapa

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Higanteng bula na lumabas sa sapa



Nagulat ang mga residente at natakot sa kanilang nakita. (Photo courtesy: Jolina Barrias)

Ayon sa nag-upload ng mga larawan sa Facebook na si Jolina Barrias, nakita raw ng mga residente ang paglitaw ng napakaraming bula dakong 1:00 ng hapon.

Hindi raw maiwasan na mangamba ang mga tao dahil ngayon lang daw sila nakakita ng ganito karami at kalaking bula.

Wala rin daw silang alam na pabrika sa lugar na malapit sa sapa upang pagmulan nito.

Dati nang ipinaliwanag ng ilang eksperto na ang pagkakaroon ng bula sa isang ilog ay palatandaan ng pagiging marumi na nito.

Ipinaalam na sa mga opisyal ng barangay ang pangyayari sa sapa.

Nais daw malaman ng mga residente kung ano ang dahilan ng paglitaw ng mga bula sa sapa.

Idinagdag ni Barrias sa kaniyang post na may bumisita nang kinatawan ng Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (MDRRMC) sa lugar at tila may kemikal umano na itinapon sa sapa na dahilan ng pagbula ng tubig.

Ipasusuri raw ito sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources para malaman kung sino ang dapat managot sa insidente.

Sa ilang FB post, makikita rin na ilang isda ang nakitang namatay sa naturang sapa.--**Peewee Bacuño/FRJ, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/752108/mga-residente-sa-isang-barangay-sa-tuy-batangas-nagulat-sa-higanteng-bula-na-lumabas-sa-sapa/story/>



INQUIRER.net

17h · 🌐

Today is the first death anniversary of former DENR Secretary Gina Lopez, a philanthropist and an environmental champion. www.inquirer.net



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10h ·

Ginugunita natin ngayong araw ang unang taon mula nang pumanaw ang pilantropo na si Gina Lopez na nakilala sa iba't ibang adbokasiya na nailunsad para sa ikabubuti ng kalikasan at kabataan.



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Environmental group hails halting of mining project in Mindanao

Published August 19, 2020, 10:34 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Environmental activist group Kalikasan on Wednesday hailed the Tampakan municipal government's termination of its agreement with a mining company over a copper-gold mining project in Central Mindanao.

Citing the decision of the local government, Kalikasan said halting the Tampakan project of the Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) would prevent the displacement of thousands of indigenous peoples and destruction of thousands of hectares of forests and agricultural lands in Mindanao.

"We congratulate the municipal officials of Tampakan, South Cotabato for their position and action against the Tampakan mining project. Their principled stance shows that ecological integrity and people's health and welfare are far more precious than the false promises of big mining," Kalikasan national coordinator Leon Dulce said.

"The 12-year extension given by the Duterte government to the Tampakan mining project, if not stopped, will result in irreversible consequences harming current and future generations," he added.

Kalikasan noted that in 2010 the South Cotabato provincial government passed an environmental code banning open-pit mining technology, which hindered SMI's mining project because their primary way to extract minerals is through open pit mining.

In spite of strong local opposition, SMI and its investors continue to pursue the project, the group said, adding that this resulted in militarization and numerous human rights violations.

Dulce pointed out that the local government of Tampakan's opposition to the project is significant in the various people's struggles against the Tampakan mining project.

"We encourage more patriotic and genuine government employees and leaders to do the same especially those from Sultan Kudarat, Davao del Sur, and Sarangani covered by the Tampakan mine. Follow suit in stopping these mines from exploiting our natural resources and violating the rights of our people," Dulce said.

The Tampakan project lies in a 23,571-hectare site at the intersection of the provinces of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and Davao del Sur.

Palawan prov'l board to adopt resolution naming sandbars, reefs near Pag-asa Island

Published August 19, 2020, 12:06 PM

by [Aira Magdayao](#)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan— In a bid to strengthen the claim of the country in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), the provincial board here has stepped closer to adopting a resolution, naming the sandbars and reefs situated within 12 nautical miles of Pag-asa Island in Kalayaan town.

In his privilege speech delivered Tuesday in the provincial board's regular session, Board Member Ryan Maminta said the resolution that the municipality of Kalayaan recently adopted to name the sandbars and reefs within its jurisdiction could change the current situation in the disputed waters.

“Ito ay sinusugan natin sa pamamagitan ng isang ordinansa kung saan pinagtitibay natin ang pangalan na ipinasa ng munisipyo ng Kalayaan,” he said.

(We will support this by issuing an ordinance that will re-affirm the names that the municipality of Kalayaan has adopted for these sandbars and reefs)

On August 14, the Kalayaan town council enacted a municipal ordinance officially naming four sandbars and two coral reef surrounding the town as follows: Pag-asa Cay 1, Pag-asa Cay 2, Pag-asa Cay 3, and Pag-asa Cay 4; and Pag-asa Reef 1 and Pag-asa Reef 2.

“Ang nationalism at patriotism ay mas malawak pa sa politika. Tayo ay binigyan ng maganda at mayaman na lugar. ‘Yong ginawa ng Kalayaan ay maaring maliit, pwedeng hindi mahalata o marecognize ng buong mundo pero ito ay parang bato na kapag itinapon ay magigig alon. Kaya po sinusupportahan natin ito dahil maaari itong magbigay ng pagbabago,” Maminta added.

(Nationalism and patriotism are more encompassing than politics. We were blessed with beautiful and rich natural resources. What the municipality of Kalayaan did could have been a small move, which may not be noticed or recognized by the world, but it was still marked in stone, which when thrown to water would create ripples. That is why we support this move because it may provide change)

In 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruled that claim to the entire WPS is favorable to the Republic of the Philippines against the People's Republic of China.

The proposal has been referred to the Committee on rules and laws for further discussion.

Red tide alert raised in Samar's San Pedro Bay

By Sarwell Meniano August 19, 2020, 7:02 pm



RED TIDE-INFESTED. A portion of San Pedro Bay in Basey, Samar. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has raised a red tide alert in San Pedro Bay on Wednesday (Aug. 19, 2020) due to the high concentration of the toxic algae in its seawater. *(PNA photo by Sarwell Meniano)*

TACLOBAN CITY – The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has raised a red tide alert in San Pedro Bay in Samar on Wednesday due to the high concentration of the toxic algae in its seawater.

Authorities gathered and examined the water samples from the bay this week that showed the presence of toxins above the regulatory limits, said BFAR Eastern Visayas regional director Juan Albaladejo.

“The toxins in water is around 17 cells per liter, way above the regulatory limits of 10 cells per liter. Maybe this is contamination from nearby Cancabato Bay, which has readings of 4,000 cells per liter,” Albaladejo said in a phone interview.

San Pedro Bay in the towns of Basey and Marabut, Samar is a rich source of shellfish in the southern part of Samar Island.

This is the second occurrence of the red tide phenomenon in the bay this year. The first one was recorded in January.

“To safeguard human lives while waiting for the result of a confirmatory test of shellfish samples sent to our main office, we are issuing this warning as precautionary advice to the public to refrain from gathering, selling, and eating all types of shellfishes,” he added.

The fisheries bureau also banned the trading and consumption of *Acetes* sp. locally known as "alamang" or "hipon" harvested from the bay to avoid possible shellfish poisoning.

Currently, there are several red tide-infested bays in the Eastern Visayas region.

For several months, red tide toxins have been present in Cancabato Bay in Tacloban City; Matarinao Bay stretching across the towns of General MacArthur, Hernani, Quinapondan, and Salcedo in Eastern Samar; Carigara Bay -- Babatngon, San Miguel, Barugo, Carigara, and Capoocan in Leyte; coastal waters of Guiuan, Eastern Samar; and Irong-irong Bay in Catbalogan City, Samar.

Local government units are advised to regulate gathering, marketing, and transporting of shellfish in infested areas.

Fish, squid, shrimp, and crab are safe to eat “provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking,” BFAR said.

Red tide is a term used to describe a phenomenon where the water is discolored by high algal biomass or the concentration of algae. **(PNA)**

MM on first day of GCQ: Peaceful and orderly, says PNP

Published 12 hours ago on August 19, 2020 06:27 PM

By [Kristina Maralit](#)



The Philippine National Police on Tuesday described Metro Manila as generally peaceful and orderly during the first day of the new quarantine status.

PNP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Bernard Banac, the situation in Metro Manila and four nearby provinces remains stable “with no major untoward incident reporter.”

“The PNP remains alert and vigilant to prevent occurrence of crimes and ready to respond to any disaster, calamity or emergency,” Banac said a statement.

President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday had lifted the modified enhanced community quarantine imposed on Metro Manila and four provinces and placed them under a GCQ.



Under the House version of the bill, Bayanihan 2 will provide P10 billion for expanded testing, P10 billion for additional Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) coverage, P10.5 billion for hiring of more healthcare workers and P4 billion for the construction of quarantine and isolation facilities.

BW Photo/File

Bicam OKs P166.5 billion for Bayanihan 2

[Edu Punay](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 20, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The bicameral conference committee of the Senate and House of Representatives has agreed to increase funding for the proposed Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or the Bayanihan 2 Law to P166.5 billion amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Members of the panel from the Senate agreed to the amount set in the House version of the bill and even agreed to add more funds to the measure, according to a member of the bicam from the lower chamber.

The amount is P4.5 billion higher than the proposed P162 billion of the House, and P26.5 billion higher than the P140-billion proposal of the Senate.

The insider bared that the bulk of increases in the proposed stimulus package would be allocated to the Department of Health (DOH) for hiring emergency personnel and to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for its cash-for-work program.

Also increased were funds for the agricultural sector, capital infusion in government banks and credit assistance to local government units.

The source, however, explained that only the P140 billion as proposed by the Senate would be funded immediately while the remaining P26.5 billion would be part of a “standby fund.”

Under the House version of the bill, Bayanihan 2 will provide P10 billion for expanded testing, P10 billion for additional Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) coverage, P10.5 billion for hiring of more healthcare workers and P4 billion for the construction of quarantine and isolation facilities.

Also, P20 billion will be allotted for the implementation of cash-for-work program and the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD), P51 billion for infusion of capital to government financial institutions, P20 billion support to the agriculture sector and P10 billion for programs for transport sector.

Tourism subsidy

The bill also seeks to allot P10 billion subsidy to finance Department of Tourism (DOT) programs to assist impacted businesses in the tourism industry. But the House version transferred this fund to the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

The bicam panel has decided to shelve or set aside this TIEZA funding after hours of debate, according to the insider.

As this developed, more lawmakers called on the panel to return the P10-billion TIEZA fund to the DOT to be used as stimulus program for affected businesses and workers in the tourism industry.

Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman both assailed the proposed funding for TIEZA, calling it callous and even a “pork barrel.”

“Infrastructure is the new word for pork barrel. It’s very callous of a group of some congressmen to remove the fund meant to help businesses and provide employment,” Atienza said.

He also slammed proponents led by Deputy Speaker LRay Villafuerte for defending the transfer of the fund to TIEZA, saying it was completely unacceptable and a wrong move on the part of Congress.

“Bayanihan 2 is supposed to be a stimulus program that will help businesses and affected workers, including those in tourism industry. This (transfer to TIEZA) will just exacerbate the situation and lead to more unemployment in the country,” Atienza argued.

Lagman agreed with this opinion and urged the bicam panel to restore the DOT funding.

“While infrastructure is important, what the tourism industry needs is ready access to soft and concessional loans to reopen and operate the pandemic-devastated sector. The bicam must restore the 10 billion for loans to the tourism sector in the meager Bayanihan 2. Infra projects can be appropriated in the 2021 national budget,” he pointed out.

Sen. Grace Poe would insist on providing cash assistance for displaced workers and employers in the tourism sector in the proposed Bayanihan 2.

The bicameral conference committee has been holding meetings since last week on the bill, dubbed “Bayanihan 2,” which seeks to fund another set of emergency assistance to sectors badly-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The panel, which met again yesterday, is reconciling conflicting provisions of the versions of the bill passed by both chambers, Poe told the Kapihan sa Manila Bay media forum.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon last week cited some programs that Bayanihan 2 aimed to provide for the most vulnerable sectors.

These include the proposed P15,000 cash assistance for healthcare workers who would contract mild to moderate COVID-19, P100,000 to nurses and doctors who would contract a severe case of COVID-19, and P1 million to the families of healthcare workers who die of the disease; as well as P5,000 to P8,000 cash subsidy to low-income earners; provision of cash assistance to teachers from private schools and tertiary education institutions and part-time faculty in state universities and colleges and cash-for-work for displaced workers.

More tourism associations are joining the call for allocating the tourism sector’s P10-billion fund under the Bayanihan 2 bill for the financial assistance of industry stakeholders struggling to survive from the impact of the pandemic.

52 associations

As of Wednesday afternoon, a total of 52 tourism associations have expressed their support to the industry’s call for a rescue package.

“The Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TCP), along with over 50 national and regional associations representing various tourism sectors, are earnestly calling on the government and our lawmakers to provide the rescue package that the Senate version of the Bayanihan 2 bill has provided – a P10 billion credit facility that would allow us, the micro and small players of the industry, to quickly recover from the COVID-19 pandemic,” tourism industry groups said in a joint statement.

“While we acknowledge the long-term wisdom of the House version of allocating the amount to infrastructure projects under the (TIEZA) to help the industry recovery, we believe that the priority in this critical period is an emergency rescue package for tourism businesses like ours,” the tourism associations said.

They emphasized that 70 percent of the industry is made up of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that have been severely affected by the pandemic.

As senators and congressmen deliberate on the final version of Bayanihan 2, Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said he also proposed to include a 90-day or three months “grace period” for repayment of loans to financial institutions.

The bicameral conference committee is considering a loan payment moratorium of two months. A grace period will be a big relief for businesses, especially small and medium enterprises reeling from the pandemic.

Deputy Speaker Rep. Mikee Romero of the 1Pacman party-list group, raised his concern for teachers whose financial assistance should be increased from P300 million in the original appropriation to P5 billion, considering the suffering they experienced since the start of the lockdown five months ago.

Leyte Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez, chairperson of the House committee on disaster management, lauded Congress’ move to approve the Bayanihan 2 bill that will help tide Filipinos over the health crisis. — **Delon Porcalla, Paolo Romero, Catherine Talavera**

Gov't admits tracing, isolation not enough

Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar was designated by President Rodrigo Duterte as isolation czar. He is in charge of building isolation centers for COVID-19 victims. He had tapped mostly existing government facilities for the purpose.

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

By [MJ Blancaflor](#)



The government has acknowledged the need to expand isolation facilities that will cater to COVID-19 patients and boost contact tracing efforts to curb the spread of the respiratory illness.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Wednesday that the country's current isolation facilities are "probably not enough for the time being."

As a solution, he said the government has been expanding quarantine areas by building additional facilities and by converting dormitories and hotels as isolation centers.

The Palace official also noted that public schools in Metro Manila are slowly being refurbished to temporarily house COVID-19 patients and those suspected to have acquired the virus.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar was designated by President Rodrigo Duterte as isolation czar. He is in charge of building isolation centers for COVID-19 victims. He had tapped mostly existing government facilities for the purpose.

"We could see that we probably will not have enough for the time being although we field quite a number of We Heal as One Centers, as well as Ligtas Centers maintained by the local government units," Roque said.

"If there are, for instance, 4,000 positives daily, if you're going to trace 10 of their closest contacts, that's going to be 40,000 a day of individuals that you would have to isolate," he added.

Last week, Education Secretary Leonor Briones allowed the use of school facilities since there would be no face-to-face classes until a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available.

"The good thing is that with the public schools, we don't really need to build structures. We just have to buy beds, linens and provide for kitchens for these public schools when we use them as isolation centers," Roque said.

In addition to public schools, Roque added that 250 beds recently designated for COVID-19 patients at the East Avenue Medical Center have raised the hospital bed capacity in Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, testing czar and Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong recognized that Metro Manila's contact tracing efforts barely improved during the two-week imposition of modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) as the number of individuals tracked down remains far from the government's target.

He reported in a Palace briefing on Tuesday that the region can only identify five close contacts for each confirmed COVID-19 patient, slightly better than the four close contacts before the MECQ period.

“If you ask me if I’m happy with this figure, I think it’s really not enough,” Magalong told reporters, noting that 37 close contacts should be traced for every COVID-19 patient.

He attributed the poor contact tracing efforts to alleged lack of involvement of local chief executives, saying that they have prioritized cash aid and other measures to cushion the pandemic’s impact.

He also acknowledged the lack of funds and qualified personnel who can perform tracing operations.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government, the lead agency involved in contact tracing, previously said that it aims to hire at least 100,000 additional personnel by the end of July to bolster the 54,042 or 3,397 tracing teams in the country.

The contact ratio in CALABARZON also dipped from 1:5 to 1:4 during the two-week MECQ, according to a table presented by Magalong in the briefing.

Only four regions in the country have managed to trace more than 10 close contacts on average for every confirmed coronavirus case.

So far, MIMAROPA and Cordillera Administrative Region have the highest contact ratio across all regions with 1:27 and 1:22, respectively, during the MECQ period.

Ilocos Region and Cagayan Valley, meanwhile, have 1:12 and 1:11 contact ratio, respectively.

PINAS NAGWAWAGI VS COVID-19; MAGTULUNGAN AT 'DI MAGSIRAAN



August 19, 2020 @ 10:10 AM 20 hours ago

KUNG ang ULTIMATUM ang tatanungin, nagtatagumpay ang ating bayang mahal sa pakikipaglaban sa coronavirus disease-19.

Ang isang malaking sukatan natin?

Siyempre pa, ang liit ng bilang ng mga namamatay sa nasabing sakit; ang lumalaking bilang ng mga nakarerekober at ang maliit na bilang ng kritikal o seryosong kaso na maaaring ikamatay ng biktima.

ILANG REKORD

Sa Southeast Asia na binubuo ng 10 bansa kabilang na ang Pilipinas at Indonesia, pinakamabilis tayo sa pagdami ng biktima ng COVID-19.

Dati-rati, ang Indonesia ang may pinakamaraming biktima ngunit napantayan ng Pinas ito dalawang Linggo na ang nakaraan at ngayon, mahigit na sa 26,000 ang lamang natin.

Magkagayunman, ang Indonesia pa rin ang may pinakamaraming namamatay na naglalaro sa humigit-kumulang sa 100 araw-araw habang mas malayong maliit na bilang ang patay sa atin, gaya ng 7 lamang kahapon.

Sa kabuuan, may 6,277 nang patay sa Indonesia kumpara sa 2,687 sa atin.

Kahapon lamang din, lumabas na may gumaling sa atin na 112,861 mula sa 169,213 na may impeksyon.

Kumpara sa 96,306 mula sa 143,043 na may impeksyon sa Indonesia.

Siyempre pa, pinapangarap nating maging katulad ng Singapore na pangatlo sa SEA na bagama't may naiimpeksyon pa rin, nakapako pa rin sa 27 ang patay sa kanila sa nakalipas na isang buwan.

TATLONG PINAKAMALAS

Sa kabilang banda, mga Bro, nakatatakot pa rin ang nagaganap sa ibang bansa gaya ng Amerika, Brazil at India na naglalaro sa 1,000 ang patay araw-araw gaya ng ulat kahapon na mahigit sa 1,200 ang patay sa mga ito bawat isa.

Itong tatlo ang may milyones na may impeksyon gaya ng sumusunod: Amerika – 5,653,076; Brazil – 3,411,872 at India – 2,766,626.

May patay nang 174,941 sa Amerika; 110,019 sa Brazi at 53,023 sa India na inoberteyk ng Mexico sa bilang na 57,023.

MGA KRITIKAL NA KASO

Batay sa mga rekord na nagsilabasan sa araw na ito, mga Bro, maswerte pa rin tayo na daan-daan lang ang seryosong kaso samantalang libo ang sa iba.

Tingnan ninyo ang mga bansang ito kaugnay ng mga seryosong kaso: Amerika – 17,354; India – 8,944; Brazil – 8,318; Mexico – 3,536; Iran – 3,882; Russia – 2,300; Argentina – 1,749; Saudi Arabia – 1,716; Peru – 1,524; Colombia – 1,493 at Chile – 1,157.

Ang mahal kong Pinas?

Nasa 489 lamang.

Sana naman, kahit kritikal, walang madidisgrasya ngunit nagmumula sa mga kritikal ang binabawian ng buhay.

Kung wala tayong maitutulong sa kanila, ipagdasal natin silang gumaling.

TUMULONG AT HINDI MANIRA

Habang nagaganap ang pandemya, mga Bro, may ilan sa atin ang pinipili pang higit na manira kaysa tumulong sa buong bayan para makabalik tayo sa normal na kalagayan.

Karaniwan sa walang ginagawa kundi manira ang mga deka-dekadang may hawak ng kapangyarihan sa pulitika at nadiskaril lamang ang paghahari nila sa ating lipunan nang dumating ang administrasyong Duterte.

Gayundin ang mga organisasyong wala nang makitang mabuti sa pamahalaan at gustong palitan ito ng kanilang sariling sistema.

Ginagamit ng mga ito ang pandemya na lunsaran ng kanilang mga pag-atake sa pamahalaan at maging sa buong bayan na rin.

Pero kung pakikinggan mo ang tahimik na boses ng higit na nakararami, nariryan ang hindi nila pagsang-ayon sa mga kritiko o maninira.

Una, wala naman kasing ginagawa ang mga kritiko o naninira na ramdam na ramdam ng mga mamamayan na nakatutulong sa kanila para maligtas sa sakit, gumaling dito at umahon mula sa kahirapan at kagutuman.

Pangalawa, kitang-kita naman ang pagsisikap ng pamahalaan na iligtas ang mga mamamayan sa sumpa at kamatayang dulot ng COVID-19 at pagkakaroon ng mga hakbang na makaahon sa hirap at kagutuman ang lahat.

Panahon na talagang magkaisa at magtutulongan ang lahat para sa kaligtasan natin sa pandemya at sabay-sabay na pagbangon natin mula sa pagkakalugmok dahil dito.

At huwag kalilimutan na laging pairalin ang mga batas o patakaran sa pagsusuot ng face mask, face shield, social distancing, paghuhugas ng kamay, pagiging alerto sa mga impeksyon at pagtulong sa mga ito at iba pa.

Source: https://www.remate.ph/pinas-nagwawagi-vs-covid-19-magtutulongan-at-di-magsiraan/?fbclid=IwAR1wJQxZJpo3QNqtcNorD07PqPyawgcNkrRwDzmxLE4L_eEL93R3SMQD_sk

Rainy in Luzon, Visayas due to LPA

[Helen Flores](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 20, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — A low-pressure area spotted off Eastern Samar will continue to bring rains over parts of Luzon and the Visayas in the next two days.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the weather system would bring cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms over Eastern and Central Visayas, Bicol, Quezon province, including Polillo Island, Aurora and Isabela.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, the weather disturbance was spotted 255 kilometers east-northeast of Borongan City, Eastern Samar.

PAGASA weather forecaster Chris Perez said the low-pressure area was not expected to develop into a tropical cyclone within the next 24 hours.

The next cyclone will be given the local name Igme.

PAGASA said the southwest monsoon would bring cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms over Metro Manila, Mimaropa, the rest of Calabarzon and Central Luzon, Western Visayas and Zamboanga peninsula until tomorrow.

The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rains due to thunderstorms.

Perez said Metro Manila residents could expect an improvement in the weather this weekend.

Magnitude 5.2 aftershock hits Masbate

By Ma. Cristina Arayata August 19, 2020, 10:44 am



Epicenter of the magnitude 6.6 quake in Masbate (Image grabbed from Phivolcs' website)

MANILA – A magnitude 5.2 earthquake hit Masbate on Wednesday, an aftershock of the magnitude 6.6 earthquake in the province on August 18, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported.

The tectonic quake struck 12 km. southeast of the municipality of Cataingan at 5:50 a.m., with a depth of 6 km.

The previous earthquake's epicenter was at 7 km. southeast of Cataingan and had a depth of 21 km.

Meanwhile, there were no reported intensities from the magnitude 5.2 quake.

Phivolcs, however, said aftershocks are still expected. **(PNA)**

Malacañang assures aid for Masbate earthquake victims

August 18, 2020



Malacañang has assured that the government will provide aid to the victims of the earthquake in Masbate and other affected areas.

According to Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, there are still funds allotted for calamities amidst the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

He also stated that President Rodrigo R. Duterte is still waiting for the final decision regarding the visit to the provinces, "Siguradong sigurado po ako na gustong pumunta doon ni Presidente at siguro po makikipag-away pa 'yan sa PSG kung siya'y pipigilan. Pagdating po sa ayuda, huwag po kayong mag-aalala. 'Yung mga pagkain, yung mga blankets, yung mga resettlement area, lahat po iyan ay naka-preposition na po (I'm very sure that the President would want to go there and may even argue with the PSG if they stop him from doing so. When it comes to aid, don't worry. The food, blankets and resettlement areas are all prepositioned)." – *Report from Mela Lesmoras*

EDITORIAL - Maging handa sa pagtama ng lindol

(Pang-Masa) - August 20, 2020 - 12:00am



NILINDOL ang Masbate noong Martes ng umaga na may lakas na 6.6 magnitude. Maraming nasi-rang bahay at nagkabitak-bitak ang mga kalsada. Isa ang namatay at 36 ang nasugatan. Ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) ang epicenter ng lindol ay sa Catangian town. Naramdaman din ang lindol sa Quezon, Bicol Region at ilang bahagi sa Central Luzon.

Nagpahayag naman ang Malacañang na agarang tutulungan ang mga biktima ng lindol. Nakahanda umano ang pamahalaan para mabigyan ng pagkain, tubig, blanket at iba pa ang mga apektadong mamamayan ng Masbate. Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque, sa dami nang mga trahedya o kalamidad na sumapit sa bansa, natutunan nang maging handa sa lahat ng oras ang pamahalaan. Kaya wala raw dapat ipag-alala mga apektado. Ayon pa kay Roque, maaaring dumalaw si President Duterte sa Masbate para makita ang pinsala ng lindol. Maaaring dumating ang lindol, anumang araw at oras. Masosorpresa na lang. Nakakalungkot lang dahil tumama ito habang ang mamamayan ay nakikipaglaban naman sa “hindi nakikitang” kalaban na COVID-19.

Mahirap ang sitwasyon ng mga nawalan ng bahay dahil maaaring manatili sila sa evacuation centers. Nagbibigay ito ng pangamba dahil sa dami ng mga taong nasa evac centers ay baka doon sila magkahawa-hawa ng sakit. Paano ang mga bata at senior citizens?

Sana ay makabisita si President Duterte sa lugar para maging mabilis ang aksiyon ng local government units (LGUs) doon. Nararapat maayudahan ang mga biktima ng lindol. Ipagpatuloy naman ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng health protocol sa mga evac center para maging ligtas sa pagkakasakit ang mga evacuees.

Kahit may pandemya, dapat ding ipaalala sa mamamayan na maging handa sa pagtama ng lindol. Sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon na hindi makapagdaos ng earthquake drill dahil sa pandemia, magbigay ng babala ang Phivolcs. Magbigay ng tips kung ano ang gagawin sakali't tumama ang lindol. Mahalaga ito para hindi mag-panic ang mamamayan. Kadalasan, ang pagpa-panic ang dahilan kaya mayroong mga namamatay. Sa halip na maging kalmado, natataranta at nagkakagulo kaya may stampede.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2020/08/20/2036542/editorial-maging-handa-sa-pagtama-ng-lindol/amp/>

'Climate change could be worse than Covid-19'

By [BusinessMirror Editorial](#)

August 20, 2020

“A global crisis has shocked the world. It is causing a tragic number of deaths, making people afraid to leave home, and leading to economic hardship not seen in many generations. Its effects are rippling across the world. Obviously, I am talking about Covid-19. But in just a few decades, the same description will fit another global crisis: climate change. As awful as this pandemic is, climate change could be worse.”

That's Bill Gates talking. He said if Covid-19 is awful, climate change will devastate us. “To understand the kind of damage that climate change will inflict, look at Covid-19 and spread the pain out over a much longer period.”

Even as the world works to stop the pandemic and begin recovering from it, Gates said we also need to act now to avoid a climate disaster by building and deploying innovations that will let us eliminate our greenhouse-gas emissions.

What is greenhouse-gas emission and how can we help eliminate it?

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are called greenhouse gases. These consist of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Each of these gases can remain in the atmosphere for different amounts of time, ranging from a few years to thousands of years. All of these gases remain in the atmosphere long enough to become well mixed—meaning the amount that is measured in the atmosphere is roughly the same all over the world, regardless of the source of the emissions.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil), solid waste, trees and other biological materials, and also as a result of certain chemical reactions (e.g., manufacture of cement). Methane is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and by the decay of organic waste in solid waste landfills. Nitrous oxide is emitted during agricultural and industrial activities, combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste, as well as during treatment of wastewater. Fluorinated gases are synthetic, powerful greenhouse gases that are emitted from a variety of industrial processes.

Scientists say climate change is here, and it's causing a wide range of impacts that will affect virtually every human on Earth in increasingly severe ways.

In the US, one of the most extreme heat waves in generations is smothering California this week and pushing the region's power grid to the brink of collapse. The Associated Press reported that since Friday, millions of Californians have been abruptly plunged into darkness with little notice as utilities work to keep the state's grid from collapsing. Californians are facing a difficult choice between enduring the heat at home and seeking relief elsewhere in a state that's reported more virus infections than any other.

Scientists said the heat wave gripping the West Coast stems from a stubborn, high-pressure system that has parked itself across the Great Basin spanning Nevada and other western states. It essentially acts as a lid trapping hot air, and there aren't any indications it's going to budge soon. Such phenomenon, sometimes called heat domes, is getting worse because the Earth's climate is changing. Prepare yourself for extreme weather. Nobody will be spared.

High air pollution carries COVID-19 in the air

August 19, 2020

People's Journal



PEOPLE who live in areas with bad air pollution are more likely to catch Covid-19, according to a new study.

International researchers led by Taipei Medical University in Taiwan have claimed pollution plays a direct role in the spread of the disease because particles can carry the virus in the air.

They said viruses may be absorbed by Particulate Matter (PM) – those produced mostly by car fumes and construction work - and then travel or linger in the air for hours or even days before being inhaled by someone.

This would suggest the coronavirus is airborne, meaning people can inhale it from tiny particles in the air.

It wouldn't be the first time a virus has latched on to toxic air as a means of surviving - bird flu and seasonal influenza have both been discovered in PM.

Air pollution affects all regions of the world, but more so in low-income cities, 97 per cent of which do not meet air quality guidelines set out by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Even in high-income countries, 49 per cent are breaching pollution limits.

PM is in the air pollution emitted from vehicles, factories, construction sites, tilled fields, unpaved roads, and burning of fossil fuels.

It's been shown in years of scientific research to damage airways, leading to breathing difficulties and the development of asthma in children who are genetically at risk.

Lead researcher Nguyen Thanh Tung of Taipei Medical University and colleagues explained that the PM may make the lungs more susceptible to the coronavirus by increasing the expression of ACE-2 receptors that coat cells.

ACE-2 receptors are used as a portal for SARS-CoV-2 to enter cells. That is, a person who inhales polluted air may have more entry points for the coronavirus.

Previous studies also showed that PM may make the cells in the lungs more susceptible to the coronavirus, increasing the risk of someone becoming badly affected.

Though health officials have said the coronavirus is spread mainly from large respiratory droplets expelled from coughing or sneezing, however, emerging evidence showed airborne transmission also plays a role.

Viruses may be absorbed by PM and remain airborne for hours or days.

Scientists said the tiny particles can then be inhaled deep into the lungs where the virus begins replicating.

They added that PM may provide “a good platform to shade and carry the SARS-CoV-2” and be a direct transmission model in a highly polluted area.

There are some studies which support this theory to some extent including a highly polluted Bergamo in Italy where genetic material of SARS-CoV-2 was detectable in 19 of 34 PM samples.

However, it is not very clear yet that if someone has more ACE-2 expression, they are at higher risk of catching Covid-19.

Previous studies have showed that ACE-2 is preventative of severe lung damage. (ScienceDaily)



Bulilit na 'elephant shrew' na halos 50 taon na 'di nakita, lumitaw

Agosto 19, 2020 6:07pm GMT+08:00

Sa unang pagkakataon makalipas ang halos 50 taon, muling nakita sa Horn of Africa ang isang Somali Sengi, ang bulilit na tila bubuwit na kabilang sa uri ng elephant-shrew na inakalang halos naglaho na sa mundo.

Sa ulat ng Agence France Presse, sinabing nakasaad sa artikulo ng rfi.fr na, "for half a century scientists feared that the Somali elephant shrew had vanished from the face of the earth. No one had seen so much as a whisker."

VIDEO: For the first time in nearly 50 years, a Somali Sengi, a tiny species of elephant-shrew thought to be on the brink of extinction, has been observed in rocky areas of the Horn of Africa pic.twitter.com/qGYHFAs6vD

— AFP news agency (@AFP) [August 19, 2020](#)

Ang naturang hayop ay tila bubuwit o maliit na daga na may mahabang nguso na parang sa elepante.

Ayon sa mga nagsasaliksik, ang maliit na hayop ay tahimik na namumuhay sa "arid, rocky landscape of the Horn of Africa."

"The elusive, insect-eating creature is neither an elephant nor a shrew," dagdag nito.

Ang Somali sengi ay nawala umano sa paningin ng mga tao mula noong 1970s, at tanging 39 preserved specimens nito ang makikita sa natural history museums bilang patunay na namuhay sila sa mundo. --AFP/FRJ, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/752076/bulilit-na-elephant-shrew-na-halos-50-taon-na-di-nakita-lumitaw/story/>

10 more eggs have been harvested from the only 2 northern white rhinos left in the world

By [Alisha Ebrahimji](#), CNN

Updated 1616 GMT (0016 HKT) August 19, 2020



Female northern white rhinos Najin, right, and her offspring Fatu graze in their secured paddock in 2019 at the OI Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya.

CNN) Scientists in Kenya found success once again in harvesting eggs from the only two northern white rhinos worldwide, furthering the initiative to save the animal from extinction.

The last two northern white rhinos -- Fatu and Najin -- are both female and have been living at the OI Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. The last male, Sudan, died in 2018, raising concern that the subspecies was on the verge of extinction.

The conservancy is one step closer to dissolving that fear after a team of scientists and conservationists managed to harvest eight eggs from Fatu and two eggs from Najin, it [announced Tuesday on Facebook](#).

The eggs are on their way to Avantea, a medical laboratory in Italy, where scientists will try to fertilize them with frozen sperm from a northern white rhino bull, according to the conservancy.

"Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a team of scientists and conservationists have made it from Europe to perform the third ovum pick up on our northern white rhinos, Najin and Fatu," the [conservancy wrote](#). "Although delayed by eight months, their dedication to the mission has been relentless."

The fate of the subspecies rests here

The OI Pejeta Conservancy got two male and two female northern white rhinos in 2009 from a zoo in the Czech Republic. Both male northern white rhinos died -- [Sudan of natural causes](#) in March 2018 and the other male in 2014.

Sperm from both was frozen with the hope that technology would help them facilitate reproduction.

In August 2019, an international team of scientists harvested 10 eggs from the two female rhinos. Seven were viable, and two were successfully fertilized into embryos using stored sperm from two northern white rhino bulls, according to [the conservancy](#).

Four months later, the team returned and harvested another seven eggs and helped create another embryo using frozen semen once again.

Rhinos are [targeted by poachers](#), fueled by the belief in Asia that their horns cure various ailments. Experts say the rhino horn is becoming more lucrative than drugs.

CNN's Faith Karimi and Bethlehem Feleke contributed to this report.

Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/08/19/world/kenya-white-rhinos-eggs-trnd/index.html>

Mauritius oil spill: Ikalawang grupo ng experts, ipapadala ng Japan

By [Bombo Sol Marquez](#)

-August 19, 2020 | 2:36 PM

Inihahanda na ng Japan ang pagpapadala nito ng ikalawang grupo ng mga eksperto sa Mauritius upang tumulong na kontrolin ang environmental impact na dulot ng oil spill mula sa isang bulk carrier na pagmamay-ari ng Japan.

Ito ay binubuo ng mga eksperto mula sa National Institute for Environmental Studies at Environment Ministry. Hiling ito ng Mauritius government upang malaman ang lawak ng naapektuhan sa local ecosystem bunsod na rin ng tumagas na langis mula sa nasabing barko.

Sumadsad sa Indian Ocean ang MV Wakashio noong Hulyo 25.

Noong Agosto 10 ay pinadala ng Japanese government sa nasabing lugar ang unang grupo ng mga eksperto kasama na ang mga opisyal ng Japan Coast Guard.

Patuloy naman ang ipinapakitang suporta ng Japan sa Mauritius upang tumulong na hindi na lumala pa ang epekto ng oil spill.

Mauritius oil clean-up team turns focus from sea to mangroves

August 19, 2020 11:27 PM by [DZRH News Online](#)



General view of a mangrove covered in oil from the bulk carrier ship MV Wakashio, belonging to a Japanese company but Panamanian-flagged, ran aground on a reef, at the Riviere des Creoles, Mauritius, August 13, 2020. Picture taken with a drone. REUTERS/Reuben Pillay

TOKYO (Reuters) – A Japanese disaster relief team helping to clean up a devastating oil spill off the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius is focusing on mangroves, beaches and wetlands after most of the oil at sea had been collected, it said on Tuesday.

A Japanese bulk carrier struck a coral reef on July 25, spilling about 1,000 tonnes of fuel oil in what environmentalists say is the country's worst ecological disaster, killing wildlife and damaging pristine waters.

"As most of the spilled oil at sea has been collected, we are moving into a next stage, with the focus on cleaning up the seaside and minimising the environmental impact," Keiji Takechi, deputy team leader, told an online news conference from Mahebourg, Mauritius.

"Environmental experts who can give advice and instruction are needed now."

Japan sent six officials, mainly oil spill experts, to Mauritius last week and plans to send another team of environment ministry officials and specialists this week.

Team leader Junji Gomakubo said the focus was not only on the immediate impact.

"We also need to think about plans to restore the environment in the long run, like in a 10-, 20-, 30-year span," he said.

The full impact of the spill is still unfolding, scientists say. As island residents scrambled to mop up the oil slicks and clumps, they saw dead eels and fish floating in the water, as fuel-soaked seabirds limped ashore.

The damage, scientists say, could impact Mauritius and its tourism-dependent economy for decades.

The bulk carrier, MV Wakashio, owned by Japan's Nagashiki Shipping and chartered by Mitsui OSK Lines <9104.T>, broke apart on Saturday, releasing a small amount of additional oil into the sea, Takechi said.

(Reporting by Yuka Obayashi; Editing by Nick Macfie)

Oil drilling plan sa Alaska wildlife refuge, isasapinal na ng Trump administration

By [Bombo Sol Marquez](#)

-August 19, 2020 | 12:40 PM

Isinasapinal na ng administrasyon ni US President Donald Trump ang plano para sa oil at gas drilling na gagawin sa Arctic National Wildlife Refuge sa Alaska.

Kabilang ito sa mga hakbang ng Estados Unidos para talakayin ang halos isang dekada nang paksa hinggil sa pagrerenta sa naturang pristine wilderness area bago pa man ang posibleng pagbabago sa US leadership.

Sinabi ni Alaska Governor Michael Dunleavy na ang pagbubukas sa drilling ng ANWR ay magiging dahilan umano upang magkarron ng mas marami pang job openings at para na rin palakasin ang ekonomiya ng estado.

Hindi naman ito suportado ng Democrats, kabilang na sina presidential hopeful Joe Biden at iba't ibang green groups. Magbibigay daan daw kasi ito sa mga Big Oil para mapinsala ang unique ecosystem ng Arctic at maging ang mamamayan nito.

Ayon naman kay Interior Department Secretary David Bernhardt, maaaring simulan ang oil at gas lease sa ANWR bago matapos ang taong 2020.

Noong 2017 ng ipasa ng mga Republicans sa senado ang panukala na magbubukas sa nasabing lupain para sa oil at gas lease. Isa ito sa mga hakbang ni Trump para palawigin pa ang fossil fuel production.

Ang 19 million acre (7.7 million hectares) ng lupain ay tahanan ng wildlife population tulad ng porcupine caribou at polar bears.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/oil-drilling-plan-sa-alaska-wildlife-refuge-isasapinal-na-ng-trump-administration/>