01 NOVEMBER 2021, MONDAY



1

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Dolomite beach overcrowding won't happen again – DENR

Elizabeth Marcelo - The Philippine Star November 1, 2021 | 12:00am



A woman takes a photo of the Manila Bay dolomite beach along Roxas Boulevard on Tuesday. The artificial white sand beach is closed to the public until Nov. 3 in observance of Undas.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is "recalibrating" its crowd management measures at the Manila Bay dolomite beach following an overcrowding incident recently, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said yesterday.

"The public's health is still of paramount concern for us. This is the reason why we are studying the guidelines to make sure that the people can still appreciate the beauty of the dolomite beach while keeping them free from sickness," Cimatu said in a statement.

He said the incident on Oct. 24 when authorities failed to control the entry of more than 121,000 visitors to the dolomite beach "would not happen again in the future."

"I would like to put on record that the Manila Bay Task Force (MBTF) is looking into the incident to assure the people that this will not happen again," he said.

Cimatu had relieved MBTF ground commander Jacob Meimban Jr. from his post following overcrowding on the man-made beach.

Meimban admitted that there may have been lapses in the enforcement of health and safety protocols, particularly on the number of people allowed inside the beach.

The DENR drew flak for opening the dolomite beach to the public amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno had earlier said officials of the DENR should be charged for allowing thousands of visitors to overcrowd the dolomite beach, adding that the agency did not coordinate with the city government on the opening of the tourist attraction.

The dolomite beach is closed to the public until Nov. 3 in observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Cimatu said the DENR is studying the possibility of extending the closure period until the completion of the second phase of the Manila Bay beach nourishment project.



"Measures of either closing the beach on weekends or until the second phase of the rehabilitation is completed will be examined and will be based on the decision of the MBTF and the Alert Level status in Metro Manila," the DENR said.

Retired Philippine Army general Reuel Sorilla, who replaced Meimban as MBTF commander, has ordered the deployment of additional personnel to the dolomite beach "for stricter patrols and monitoring in the area."

"My initial plan is to ensure the safety of all stakeholders and identify ways on how to improve the crowd control system in place," Sorilla, who is also the officer-in-charge of the DENR Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service, said.

DENR Undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs Jonas Leones said aside from prohibiting the entry to the dolomite beach of children aged 11 and below, the MBTF would also set up a special lane for persons with disabilities, pregnant women and senior citizens.

"We are aware that if this overcrowding situation continues and the minimum health standards are ignored, this may bring us to a scenario of a possible super spreader event," Leones said.

He said the DENR is also considering the "cinema approach" for those who want to visit the dolomite beach.

"Through this approach, visitors will be limited to the capacity of the dolomite beach area and will only have up to two hours to stay and enjoy the scenery," Leones explained.

Visitors may be issued stubs just like in movie houses, he said.







<u>'Hazards of environmental field work': Cimatu mourns passing of forest officer</u>

OCT 31, 2021, 11:00 AM

Santiago Celario

Writer

ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has expressed grief over the untimely demise of a forest officer who was swept away by strong river current while conducting a survey operation in Quezon province last Thursday, (October 28).

Cimatu led the DENR community in extending condolences to the family of Rigor Santos, a forest monitoring officer assigned at the DENR-CALABARZON under the Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP).

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of one of our employees from CALABARZON who has put his life on the line to be of service to the people and the environment," Cimatu said. "We sincerely honor the dedication of Mr. Santos to his work."

Cimatu said the death of Santos highlights the dangers DENR field personnel face while performing their job of protecting the environment.

"This tragic incident just shows the danger our personnel in the field have to face just to carry out their duties," Cimatu said.

It was gathered that Santos was swept away by the strong water current while traversing Kanan River located at Barangay Mahabang Lalim in General Nakar town.

He was with select members of the validation team who conducted survey, planning, and mapping activities at the proposed E-NGP site in the said village.

His body was recovered at 11 a.m. of October 30, Saturday.

Cimatu said the DENR will extend all forms of assistance to the forest officer's bereaved family.

"Mr. Santos is an environmental hero," Cimatu pointed out. "We mourn with his family and commit to providing all forms of assistance to the bereaved family of a great environmental worker."

A native of Tanay, Rizal, the victim was a graduate of Bachelor of Agricultural Technology at the University of Rizal System.

He has been with the DENR since 2014 where he started work at the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office in Rizal as forest extension officer, before transferring to the CALABARZON regional office.(Santiago Celario)

Source: <u>https://opinyon.net/national/hazards-of-environmental-field-work-cimatu-mourns-passing-of-forest-officer?fbclid=IwAR2phl-IsgiwTrOEeXw33hi61NxYAhJaB406fDxuq-HtKqNP0C4AYKxH-cE</u>



DENR forest monitoring officer drowns in Quezon

Arnell Ozaeta - Philstar.com October 31, 2021 | 11:19am



This handout photo shows part of the search for Santos, who was swept by the current while crossing the Kanan River in Quezon province.

QUEZON, Philippines — A 30-year-old Department of Environment and Natural Resources officer was found dead after drowning in the river in General Nakar town Saturday morning, officials said.

After three days of continued search and rescue operations, the body of Forest Monitoring Officer Rigor Santos was found around 11 a.m.

According to DENR, Santos and three laborers from the Regional National Greening Program Validation Team had been conducting survey and mapping activities at the proposed e-NGP site in Barangay Mahabang Lalim in General Nakar on October 28.

The group was traversing the Kanan River when Santos was swept away by the current.

The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office of Infanta launched a search and rescue operation while the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management Committees of nearby barangays were alerted to keep a lookout for him.

A Quick Response Team from the environment and natural resources office of Real, Quezon was also dispatched to the the area and Indigenous Peoples' communities along the Agos River also launched their own search and rescue operations.

Four motorboats searched the Agos River for Santos while an aerial search was also done.

Santos' body was found by Forest Protection Officer Ruben Bornolla, Forest Ranger Windel Adornado, and FPO Ronnie Odi in the water around two kilometers from Pagsanghan Bridge.

Rigor Santos was from Tanay, Rizal and a graduate of Bachelor of Agricultural Technology from the University of Rizal System. He was a Forest Monitoring Officer assigned at the Regional National Greening Program Coordinating Office of the regional DENR office.

He served the department for almost eight years.

Source: <u>https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/10/31/2138030/denr-forest-monitoring-officer-drowns-quezon</u>





DENR forester natagpuang patay sa Quezon



October 31, 2021 @ 2:50 PM 16 hours ago

LUCENA CITY- Natagpuang patay sa isang ilog sa bundok ng Sierra Madre sa General Nakar, Quezon ang naiulat na nawawalang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) forester.

Inanunsyo sa Facebook page ng DENR-Calabarzon na natagpuan ang bangkay ni Rigor Santos, 30, ng search and rescue team bandang alas 11 ng umaga sa parte ng Agos river sa Barangay Pagsangahan.

Sa pagkahanap ng mga labi ng forester natapos ang tatlong araw na land and air search and rescue operation na isinagawa ng mga government personnel, volunteers at indigenous people.

Naiulat na nawawala si Santos nitong Oktubre 28 matapos tangayin ng rumaragasang tubig habang tumatawid sa Agos river para makarating sa plantation project na binabantayan niya at ng tatlo pang tauhan ng DENR.

Si Santos ay isang forest monitoring officer na nakadestino sa regional national greening program coordinating office ng DENR sa Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon).

Empleyado siya ng DENR sa loob ng walong taon.

Nagbigay naman ng tulong ang ahensya sa pamilya ng biktima. RNT/SA



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On Oct 31, 2021



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METRO

DENR exec hinigop ng ilog

By Abante Tonite - Last updated Oct 31, 2021



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Bangkay na nang matagpuan ang isang kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Calabarzon matapos siyang lamunin ng ilog kamakailan sa loob ng tatlong araw sa General Nakar, Quezon.

Kinilala ang bangkay na si Rigor Santos, 30-anyos, Forest Monitoring Officer ng DENR-Calabarzon, at residente ng Tanay, Rizal.

Natagpuan ang kanyang katawan na lulutang-lutang dalawang kilometro ang layo mula sa Pagsangahan Bridge sa ganap na alas-11:00, Sabado ng umaga, nina Forest Protection Officer Ruben Bornolla, Forest Ranger Windel Adornado at FPO Ronnie Odi.





DENR says rehabilitation of closed dumpsites now in the hands of local governments

October 31, 2021 | 6:31 pm



DUMAGUETE City, capital of Negros Oriental province, closed its 35-year-old dumpsite earlier this year while a facility for recyclable materials was opened in July. A sanitary landfill is also planned for construction in the area where the material recovery plant is. The city government has allocated about P100 million over the last three years for the waste management plan, including the closure and rehabilitation of the dumpsite, and the purchase of land and setting up the recovery and recycling facility. — DUMAGUETECITY.GOV.PH

LOCAL governments now face the responsibility of rehabilitating the dumpsites closed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in compliance with the country's solid waste management law.

"After our successful feat to close dumpsites all over the country, I would like to reiterate to our concerned LGUs (local government units) to ensure that all systems and engineering measures are carried out in their rehabilitation plan to prevent negative impacts and risks to the environment," DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a news release on Sunday.

The DENR officially closed all 335 operating open dumpsites in the country in May.

Mr. Cimatu acknowledged the cooperation and support of local governments in the long-overdue program.

However, he stressed that the work of LGUs is not over as they have to implement their respective safe closure and rehabilitation plans.

"Closing the dumpsite is just the first step... (LGUs) have to proactively implement rehabilitation because it is a requirement for closure," Mr. Cimatu said.

Under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, open dumps for solid waste should have been converted into "controlled dumps" within three years of the law's effectivity. The controlled dumps should have been closed within the succeeding two years.

The waste management law mandates the country, with LGUs at the forefront, to "adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program."



A DENR administrative order issued in Sept. 2006 sets the guidelines for dumpsite closure and rehabilitation.

Under the guidelines, LGUs or contracted private operators can undertake the rehabilitation based on the local government's approved solid waste management program. — **Bianca Angelica D. Añago**



Cenro-Manukan plants tree around Agustin Cave

SunSta



ZAMBOANGA. The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte leads the conduct of a tree-planting activity Wednesday, October 27, near the Agustin Cave in Lipakan village, Rozas, Zamboanga del Norte. A photo handout shows the tree planting activity participants planted some 100 narra trees around the cave. (SunStar Zamboanga)

October 31, 2021

THE Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte conducted a tree planting activity in Lipakan village, Rozas, Zamboanga del Norte.

George Laolao, Cenro-Manukan chief, said the tree planting activity was held Wednesday, October 27, along with the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign relative to the implementation of the Agustin Cave Management Plan in Lipakan.

Laolao said the tree-planting activity was participated by the representatives of the municipal government, police, village officials and Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries.

They planted a total of 100 narra and 200 coffee seedlings within the 500-meter radius from
theopeningoftheAgustinCave.

Laolao said the IEC campaign on Republic Act (RA) 9072 or otherwise known as the National Cave and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act and RA 9147 or Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act was conducted to raise community awareness on the importance of protecting and conserving the cave and wildlife resources in Lipakan village.

He said that RA 9072 defines Caves as any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess or system of interconnected passages beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge and which is large enough to permit an individual to enter, whether or not the entrance, located either on private or public land, is naturally formed or man-made.

It shall include any natural pit, sinkhole, or other feature that is an extension of the entrance. The term also includes cave resources but not any vug, mine tunnel, aqueduct or other manmade excavation.

A day before the tree planting and IEC on RA 9072, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) inked a partnership with the municipal government or Roxas and Agustin cave landowner, Nicholas Duhig, to implement the management plan of Agustin cave in Lipakan village.





DENR Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Ronald Gadot, who chairs the Regional Cave Committee, said the partnership will open more opportunities in agriculture and eco-tourism, which will help to increase financial stability of the community.

The municipality is rich in biodiversity having a number of natural caves waiting to be assessed and classified, which is the reason why they were able to host the National Cave Congress way back in 2017 wherein delegates from all over the country attended. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**



DOF chief to highlight PH agenda at COP26 climate change summit

October 31, 2021, 4:46 pm



DOF Secretary Carlos Dominguez III

GLASGOW – Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Carlos Dominguez III will lead the Philippine delegation to the 26th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in this city, where world leaders and other decision makers will gather starting Sunday to determine how to accelerate action on reversing the devastating effects of the climate crisis.

Dominguez will highlight the Philippines' efforts in addressing the climate crisis and is expected to demand greater accountability from Western countries that contributed and continue to contribute the most greenhouse gas emissions.

The series of COP 26-related meetings will run from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12, 2021.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. will also join the delegation to the 12-day climate summit.

Dominguez and Locsin will be accompanied by the Philippine Delegation Secretariat, composed of the DOF, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Energy (DOE), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The delegation, which will endeavor to champion climate justice and climate finance, will be participating in five priority workstreams, namely: Common Time Frames of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Enhanced Transparency Framework; Adaptation; Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; Sustainable Finance; and Technology Transfer and Development.

The delegation will also work closely with its peers under the G77 and China coordination meetings.

Representatives from each agency, meanwhile, will act as substantive negotiators: Undersecretary Mark Dennis Joven and Assistant Secretary Paola Sherina Alvarez from the DOF; Philippine Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York Leila Lora-Santos; Undersecretary Felix William Fuentabella from the DOE; and Director Albert Magalang from the DENR.

Despite emitting only 0.3 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, the Philippines has drawn up extensive plans to cut local carbon emissions by 75 percent by 2030.



This ambitious target is the country's first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in accordance with its commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The Philippines is one of the countries at highest risk for climate-related disasters.

Climate-induced hazards caused a loss of PHP463 billion in infrastructure alone from 2010 to 2019, with the total damages in 2020 alone reaching PHP113.4 billion.

In the next 50 years, the country has a 40 percent chance of experiencing a loss exceeding PHP989 billion, and a 20 percent chance of experiencing a loss exceeding PHP1.53 trillion.

The Sustainable Finance Roadmap and its Guiding Principles is the country's primary blueprint as the Philippines transitions to a low-carbon and climate-resilient society.

Created in partnership with the government of the United Kingdom (UK) as it helps the country implement the Asean Low Carbon Energy Programme, the Sustainable Finance Roadmap aims to address policy and regulatory gaps in promoting sustainable investments through finance, implementing sustainable government initiatives, facilitating investments in public infrastructure, and developing projects that promote sustainable financing in the Philippines.

To increase capacity in enacting relevant and actionable plans across the different regions, the Climate Change Commission (CCC), of which Dominguez is the chairperson-designate, reconstituted its National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE).

Composed of specialists from diverse fields of expertise, the consulting body will provide innovative and concrete advice for programs and policies in local communities.

On Nov. 3, Dominguez will deliver a keynote address at the Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) Launching, which will officially establish an ETM to accelerate the transition from coal to clean energy in Southeast Asia in an equitable and scalable manner.

He will be joined by Indonesian Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati and Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masatsugu Asakawa.

On the same day, he will take part as one of the panelists at the 4th High Level Ministerial Dialogue on Long Term Climate Finance.

Dominguez will also join the Ministerial Dialogue for Adaptation, Loss, and Damage Day on Nov. 8.

On Nov. 9, Secretary Dominguez will deliver the Philippines' National Country Statement for COP 26. (PR)







<u>Humanity's last chance! Loren says lives,</u> livelihoods of Filipinos at stake in COP26 meet

OCT 30, 2021, 12:03 PM

James Veloso

Writer/Columnist

This year's COP26 conference has been described by scientists as humanity's "last best chance" to reduce emissions enough to keep the planet below 1.5° Celsius.

ANTIQUE Representative Loren Legarda who is also the country's foremost climate action advocate, today emphasized the importance of the upcoming talks at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in securing the lives and livelihoods of Filipinos amidst the intensifying climate crisis.

"COP26—if it delivers—can help secure the lives and livelihoods of Filipinos today and in the future as we continue to deal with the consequences of global warming. Many climate vulnerable countries like ours are anxiously waiting for its results," Legarda said in a press statement Saturday, (October30).

Almost 200 nations and territories will finally gather in person in Glasgow, Scotland for 12 days of global climate action talks and negotiation from October 31 to November 12, after the COP was postponed last year because of the pandemic.

Hosted by the United Kingdom in partnership with Italy, COP26 will center on four key themes: securing global net-zero by mid-century and keeping 1.5°Celsius within reach; urgent adaptation to protect communities and natural habitats; mobilizing finance; and working together to deliver the means of implementation to the Paris Agreement: climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building from developed countries to developing ones.

This year's summit has been touted as a critical meet given the need for immediate action to prevent the average global temperature from going beyond 1.5°C and avert the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

The year 2021 has also been described by scientists as humanity's "last best chance" to reduce emissions enough to keep the planet below 1.5° Celsius.

"This is a make-or-break point for all nations to get their act together and agree on how to effectively implement the Paris Agreement, which is meant to limit global warming and ramp up our ability to adapt to worsening climate risks. Our hope is that COP26 will bring major progress on those fronts," Legarda concluded.

Source: <u>https://opinyon.net/national/humanity-s-last-chance-loren-says-lives-livelihoods-of-filipinos-at-stake-in-cop26-</u> meet?fbclid=IwAR1qrrr_0m0S2jv8_0_cwHRWRptHnqLbj6IUozHWT8cVLzHoiEQNs_jSk6I





Environmental groups hope PH delegation pushes for climate finance in COP26

By <u>Paige Javier, CNN Philippines</u>

Published Oct 31, 2021 11:20:58 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 31) – Greenpeace Southeast Asia and World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines call on the Philippine delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UN COP26) to champion climate finance and accountability from developed countries.

The Philippines is among the nearly 200 countries that will attend the UN COP26 from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12 in Glasgow, Scotland. The summit also comes nearly six years after the creation of the Paris Agreement, which mandates nations to curb the effects of climate change.

Both groups say the event is particularly significant for the Philippines, given that the country is among the most vulnerable nations to climate change. Greenpeace Southeast Asia Executive Director Yeb Saño says the delegation should take a stand on issues like global climate finance and carbon offsets.

"What is important as a vulnerable country is that there is progress in pledges, climate finance, carbon offsets, loss and damage. What we hope to achieve as a delegation is to see developed countries being able to ratchet up their pledges," he added.

WWF Philippines Climate Programme Head Angela Ibay said the decisions that will be made at UN COP26 will have an effect on the country's long-term plans. She hopes developed nations will announce more ambitious goals, concrete plans and pledges.

"It's very critical that we also have funding for adaptation purposes because we know we are impacted by climate change and it does cost a lot to be able to rebuild, to adapt to it," she said.

PH delegation at UN COP26

Finance Secretary and Climate Change Commission Chairman-Designate Sonny Dominguez will lead the country's delegation at COP26. He called on developed nations to deliver on their promises in the climate change fight.

"We need the Western countries to take responsibility for having contributed and continue to contribute the most to greenhouse gas emissions. They must be given the greater burden of paying for the grants, investments, and subsidies needed for the most climate-vulnerable countries to mitigate the effects of global warming," he said at an online meeting.

Dominguez will also present the "Sustainable Finance Roadmap," which includes policies to help transition into a greener economy. He hopes this will serve as a blueprint on how to mainstream climate change to the financial sector.





Greenpeace SEA and WWF Philippines welcome the presence of Dominguez, saying this will be a strong signal on the country's position on climate finance. They also hope he pushes for accountability from developed countries.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teddyboy Locsin will also join the delegation, along with representatives from the DOF, DFA, Environment department and Energy department. No other member of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) is part of the delegation.

Saño said there should have been at least one representative from the CCC and civil society in the delegation. He said CCC members can provide previous positions and deals the country had in past talks.

He also questioned why there were supposedly no consultations between environmental groups and the delegation. Being a former CCC Commissioner and chief negotiator in high-level climate talks, he said it's important to know the situation on the ground.

"When I was chief negotiator, we share that information with stakeholders *so alam nila 'yung dala-dala natin na* position. Ngayon, we don't even know what they are going to say...because there were no consultations. I don't think the delegation will negotiate effectively," he said.

[Translation: When I was chief negotiator, we share that information with stakeholders so they know our position. Now, we don't even know what they are going to say...because there were no consultations. I don't think the delegate will negotiate effectively]

However, Saño said the lean delegation may also be a result of the limitations and glaring inequalities among nations brought about by the pandemic.

PH plans to curb climate change

In April, the Philippines pledged to cut local carbon emissions by 75% by 2030. The country contributes only 0.3% to the total greenhouse gas emissions. This goal is part of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

Environmental groups say the conditional target (around 72%) is a tall order, but can be achieved with climate finance and the push for renewable energy. As of 2019, nearly half of the local energy supply comes from non-renewable sources like oil, coal and gas.

"It would require transformation of our energy sector, of our transport sector, of our industrial production sector as well as a clear program to protect our forests. But most of that are already in the government plans. What we do need is the climate finance and technology must be forthcoming from the industrialized countries," Saño said.

Ibay says the government can be more ambitious in its unconditional goals. She believes the country can explore the existing proposals and policies on renewable energy.

"If they're really serious about climate resiliency for the country, increasing that (unconditional goal) more provides a bigger signal of the priority of the government and the seriousness that we place on what we want to do for our NDC," she added.

Ibay says curbing climate change should be a holistic approach involving individuals, civil society, businesses and government. She hopes the leaders elected in the 2022 elections will have policies on climate change in their plans.

Source: <u>https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/10/31/environmental-groups-PH-delegation-pushes-climate-finance-COP26.html</u>



EcoWaste warns public vs mercury-laced skin whiteners

Elizabeth Marcelo, Ralph Edwin Villanueva - The Philippine Star November 1, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition yesterday warned the public against mercury-containing skin whitening products being sold in two shopping malls in Pasay.

EcoWaste chemical safety campaigner Thony Dizon said their team's spot check last Friday showed that imported skin whitening facial creams banned by health authorities for containing mercury have resurfaced at the Baclaran LRT Terminal Plaza and Baclaran Bagong Milenyo Plaza.

"The reemergence of these banned chemical skin whiteners justifies the need for unrelenting law enforcement action to implement the global and national ban on mercury-laden cosmetics such as skin lightening and anti-aging creams," Dizon said. "Countries must stop the manufacture and export of these cosmetics."

Dizon also called on authorities to "rid the market of contraband cosmetics, especially those tainted with mercury and other hazardous chemicals."

He said the Pasay government, through the office of the city health officer, had ordered the shopping malls to remove all banned products from display and refrain from selling these following a complaint filed by the EcoWaste in September last year.

Dizon said their market surveillance and spot check showed that the banned skin products were still on display in shelves inside the two establishments.

Among the banned skin whiteners found being sold over the counter were Goree Beauty Cream, Goree Day & Night Cream and Parley Beauty Cream, all manufactured in Pakistan as indicated on their labels.

The EcoWaste said the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned Goree and Parley products on Oct. 30, 2017 and March 5, 2019, respectively. The products contained mercury beyond the one part per million (ppm) limit.

The group also found on sale the Collagen Plus Vit E Day & Night Cream reportedly smuggled from Indonesia. The FDA banned this cosmetic for lacking a valid Certificate of Product Notification.

The FDA said the use of violative products may pose health risks to consumers.

"We also found other mercury-laden facial creams still on sale in Pasay despite the reports we have filed with the FDA regarding their mercury content," Dizon said.

Among the other unauthorized cosmetics found being sold in the shopping malls were AQME Beauty Cream, Golden Pearl Beauty Cream, Morning Face Beauty Cream, Parley Goldie Advanced Beauty Cream and Safora Beauty Cream.

The EcoWaste said its previous analyses using an X-ray fluorescence device found that these products have high concentrations of mercury ranging from 5,696 to 16,915 ppm.



The World Health Organization has listed mercury as among the 10 "chemicals of major public health concern."

According to the WHO, mercury use in skin lightening products can cause adverse health effects, including skin rashes, discoloration and scarring and may reduce skin's resistance to bacterial and mycotic disorders.

Repeated applications of mercury-laden whiteners onto the skin can also cause damage to the kidneys, brain and the central nervous system, the WHO said.





Headline Editorial Column Ø Opinion Feature Article

Rivers

HINDSIGHT - F. Sionil Jose - The Philippine Star November 1, 2021 | 12:00am

One of my most memorable encounters with academics happened in the late 1960s in New York when the New York University Professor Frank Traeger, a Southeast Asian specialist, introduced me to Karl A. Wittfogel. I had just read his "Oriental Despotism," a study on Asian agrarian societies. It is an impressive achievement; I was then doing a lot of reading on agrarian problems and peasant rebellions. He had applied Marxist analysis on his study and had come up with so many insights on how agrarian societies were dominated by despots and how these rulers and their power and longevity are at the same time determined by their use of water. These societies, which Professor Wittfogel called "hydraulic," are different from western societies that developed in the industrial revolution.

This venerable scholar, then in his 80s, also asked me about the peasant Huk rebellion, its causes and its possible effect on Philippine political development.

Professor Wittfogel broadened my interest; I was now concerned with water as a resource. I got interested in the river systems as I knew them then. In those days, before jets, propellered airplanes did not fly too high, from that height one can observe the land as it unfurled below, the rivers wide, glittering ribbons in the sunlight.

I bring to mind the mighty rivers, first in our part of the world – the Mekong which rushes down the Himalayas across several countries and by the thousands who live in it, the Yangtze in China and in the United States, the Mississippi – there is so much romantic lore entwined with them, as Mark Twain and William Faulkner country, and that song Ole Man River. These are huge bodies of water – seas almost.

I was in Brazil in 1960 to witness the inauguration of Brazil's new capital, Brazilia, and I stopped for a couple of days in Manaus where I went fishing in the Amazon and caught a giant catfish. From the air, the Amazon is not one single swath but several rivers spread across the continent. My host confirmed the dreadful stories about the Amazon's killer fish, the Piranha, but these stories were exaggerations.

In Russia, the Volga is like the Mississippi, wide like the sea. It was at the Volga that I saw my first sturgeon, a big fish whose eggs are known as caviar.

What surprised me most, however, about these great rivers is the Jordan in Israel, which is so crucial to that country which knows how to conserve and use water in the best way. It was so narrow in some places one can simply jump across it. Since eons ago, rivers are arteries of commerce and communication, and many cities developed along them.

Chao Phraya in Bangkok, the Han in Seoul. When I saw the Han in the 1960s shortly after the Korean war it had only one twisted bridge; today it is spanned by thirty.

There's the Thames in London, and in Europe, the most popular of them, the Seine in Paris, the Rhine waterway and the beautiful Danube. And of course, our own dying, polluted Pasig, which will now have a parallel elevated expressway.

When I first came to Manila in 1938, I used to swim in it after my high school classes in the afternoons. It had only three bridges then – Ayala, Santa Cruz, and Jones. The interisland boats docked near the Jones Bridge together with the presidential yacht, Icasiana. I finally saw the sea, the Pasig emptying into it. And on a personal note – I have crossed a lot of bridges – and some, if I may continue with metaphors, I have burned.



Like Manhattan, which is bracketed by two rivers, my hometown is also wedged in by two creeks. As a boy, I had swam in both and traced where the two joined to form one river that joined the Agno. The water in the Agno, coming as it does from the Cordilleras, is much cooler. I used to gather old pine splinters buried in its bottom and used them for kindling fire. In the 1930s, an earthen dike on both banks of the Agno was built to contain its overflow. When the dikes are breached, Western Pangasinan becomes a light brown sea.

All over the world, dams have been built to hold water and provide power and irrigation. Some are megalithic structures that took years to construct. Violent conflicts have resulted from these constructions – the damming of the Mekong up in China, of the Nile which cuts across Africa. On a smaller scale, similar conflicts, often violent, erupt when a landlord or rich farmer denies irrigation water to others. It may interest our people to know that one of the most viable arrangements to equitably distribute water has been in existence in the llocos region since the Spanish regime.

It is heartwarming to know, too, and to see that Manila Bay is being cleaned and very soon, the Pasig, too, which may be more difficult and will take longer because the esteros which empty into the Pasig must be cleaned, too. This is how the land – and the body, too, is made alive.

I witnessed the building of the earthen Ambuklao Dam in the Cordilleras; the inundation and disappearance of villages and soon, as more dams were built, the violent opposition of people who will lose their ancestral land.

Water, which is all around us since our birth, is so ordinary. We hardly think of it until there is a flood or a shortage. As scientists probe the galaxies, they eagerly look for traces of water; it means life. So, for once, as you hold up that glass, think of what it symbolizes, its implications, how as liquid, it is powerless, until it becomes a raging flood, a tsunami. Think of it as the deluge for which Noah built his ark. It is God's precious gift, holy as life itself, precious as blood, as freedom.

And to paraphrase Judge Learned Hand, "It lives only in the heart, and if it dies there, no court of law or constitution can ever bring it back to life."



November 01, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

G20 to tackle climate change

By Agence France-Presse November 1, 2021



The Manila Times

SAVING THE PLANET French President <u>Emmanuel Macron</u> (right) chairs a meeting with leaders of the <u>African</u> <u>Union</u> and European Union at the Palazzo Farnese in <u>Rome</u>, on the sidelines of the G20 leaders' summit, on Oct. 30, 2021. Climate change and the relaunch of the global economy will top the G20 agenda as leaders of the world's most advanced nations meet on October 30, the first in-person gathering since the pandemic. AFP PHOTO

ROME, Italy: G20 leaders gather for a second day of their Rome summit on Sunday, with all eyes on whether they can deliver a meaningful commitment on climate change ahead of crucial United Nations talks.

The <u>Group of 20</u> (G20) major economies emit nearly 80 percent of carbon emissions and a promise of action would provide a much-needed boost to <u>United Nations Climate Change</u> <u>Conference</u> (COP26) climate talks starting in <u>Glasgow</u> on Sunday.

But draft communiqués suggest they would fall short of a firm pledge to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels or a clear timeline on how to reach net-zero emissions.

Experts say meeting the 1.5-degree target — the most ambitious goal in the 2015 Paris climate deal — means slashing global emissions nearly in half by 2030 and to "net-zero" by 2050.

However, some activists expressed hope that in the final hours of wrangling, some progress would be made before nearly 200 leaders, including many of those in Rome, fly to Scotland.

<u>US</u> President <u>Joe Biden</u> is among those pushing for action in Rome, although his own ambitious climate policy is mired by infighting among his own party.

A senior US official said elements of the final G20 statement "are still being negotiated," adding the Rome summit was about "helping build momentum" before Glasgow.

The official expressed hope that the summit would commit "to end overseas financing of coal," offer "positive language" on decarbonizing the power sector and see more countries sign up to targets on cutting methane.

Speaking to the weekly Journal du Dimanche, French President Emmanuel Macron said the Rome summit had to "do its utmost" to ensure the success of Glasgow, but that "nothing is ever written before a COP."

"Let's not forget that in Paris, in 2015, nothing was decided in advance," he said.



President <u>Xi Jinping</u> of China — by far the world's biggest carbon polluter — is absent from the meeting, as is Russia's Vladimir Putin, although they sent representatives and are logging in via videolink.

Britain's Prince Charles, a long-time environmentalist, will be making his case for change on Sunday as a special guest of the summit, speaking ahead of final working sessions.

Going alone 'not an option'

On Saturday, summit host <u>Mario Draghi</u>, the Italian prime minister, urged G20 leaders to act together on climate, but also on improving the delivery of vaccines and on helping the world recover from the devastation of Covid-19.

"From the pandemic, to climate change, to fair and equitable taxation, going it alone is simply not an option," he told the gathered leaders.

The G20 showed on Saturday they could work together on some issues, green-lighting a deal for a minimum tax of 15 percent on global corporations as part of a reform plan inked by almost 140 nations.



Page

UN climate conference in Glasgow to bring over 100 global leaders

October 31, 2021, 3:14 pm



GLASGOW – More than 100 heads of states and governments from all over the world, including US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron, will take part in the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP26), to begin in Glasgow on Sunday.

In the run-up to the conference, about 25,000 people from 196 countries arrived in Scotland's largest city for the two-week conference, including state officials, journalists, members of non-governmental organizations and businesses. About 10,000 police officers will be on duty to ensure their safety.

COP26 will be of special significance, partially due to the fact that it was postponed by one year amid the coronavirus pandemic, and its organizers admitted that it was hard to squeeze the tasks and agenda of two conferences into one.

Besides, this conference will sum up the results of the five-year cycle, which began when the Paris Agreement on climate change was signed during COP21 in 2015.

The organizers and the host nation are facing a serious challenge of convincing the international community that the deal is working and persuading its participants to undertake new serious obligations. In accordance with the Paris Agreement, this should be done every five years.

In the weeks that preceded the summit, it became known that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin would not attend it in person. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador will not travel to Glasgow as well.

Moment of truth

The host of the event, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, called it 'the moment of truth.'

"The question everyone is asking is whether we seize this moment or let it slip away," he said.

"I hope world leaders will hear them and come to Glasgow ready to answer them with decisive action," Johnson added. "Together, we can mark the beginning of the end of climate change - and end the uncertainty once and for all."

Johnson will fly to Glasgow on Sunday directly from Rome, where he is taking part in the G20 summit.



Headline

Editorial

Column

Opinion Feature Article

According to a TASS correspondent, Russia's delegation to Glasgow, led by Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk, will list about 270 members.

It will include Russian Special Presidential Representative on Climate Issues and presidential adviser Ruslan Edelgeriev, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment Alexander Kozlov, Economic Development Minister Maxim Reshetnikov and the head of Russia's Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet), Igor Shumakov.

Other members of the delegation are several deputy ministers, the president's special envoys, heads of Russian governmental agencies, businessmen and members of non-governmental organizations.

Unlike the United Kingdom, which has set 2050 as the deadline for achieving carbon neutrality (the state of net-zero carbon dioxide emissions), Russia has additional 10 years to do so.

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced in mid-October that Russia has a "concrete benchmark" for achieving this goal, which is no later than in 2060.

In the run-up to the conference, the Russian leader held a phone conversation with Johnson. The UK prime minister welcomed the steps Russia has taken in recent days to commit net zero by 2060 and expressed his hope that Russia will raise that target to achieving net zero by 2050.

Activists and law enforcement

On the eve of the COP26 summit, the Extinction Rebellion movement held a protest in Glasgow, which gathered about 1,000 activists. Participants arrived from all parts of the United Kingdom, as well as from Europe and even Argentina.

They also plan to stage various events during the entire duration of the summit in a bid to underline the importance of fighting climate change to the international community.

About 10,000 law enforcement officers will be on duty in Glasgow every day, becoming one of the biggest police operations in the entire history of the United Kingdom.

All roads leading to the event's venue have been cordoned off completely starting from Saturday.

Earlier, the Scottish police force said it was ready to take all possible measures to prevent public order violations, even if they will be frowned upon by the international community. (TASS)



G20 agrees on 1.5 degree climate change target: draft

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Oct 31 2021 11:44 PM



G20 leaders toss a coin into Rome's iconic Trevi Fountain on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome, Italy, October 31, 2021. *Guglielmo Mangiapane, Reuters*

ROME, Italy - G20 leaders agreed Sunday on the need to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius but fell short of a hoped-for pledge on reaching net zero emissions, according to a draft communique seen by AFP.

The group of 20 major economies emit nearly 80 percent of carbon emissions, and are under pressure to go bold on climate to give a much-needed boost to crucial UN climate talks starting in Glasgow on Sunday.

According to the draft, which sources said would be the final one, the G20 reaffirm their support for the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of keeping "the global average temperature increase well below 2 degrees and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels".

In addition, they state that "keeping 1.5 degrees within reach will require meaningful and effective actions and commitment by all countries."

This will "require taking into account different approaches, through the development of clear national pathways that align long-term ambition with short- and medium-term goals, and with international cooperation and support".

Experts say meeting the 1.5 degree target means slashing global emissions nearly in half by 2030 and to "net-zero" by 2050.

But the draft declaration, due to be published later Sunday, does not set a clear deadline for carbon net neutrality, saying it should be achieved "by or around mid century."

Summit host Italy was pushing for a 2050 target, but this was hard to square with China, the world's largest carbon emitter, which has set its own deadline at 2060.

The declaration includes a commitment to "put an end to the provision of international public finance for new unabated coal power generation abroad by the end of 2021", a key pledge that mirrors what was already promised by China in September.

Elsewhere, it reaffirms the so-far unmet commitment to mobilise \$100 billion for developing countries for climate adaptation costs.



Opening the formal discussions on climate on the second and final day of the G20 Rome summit Sunday, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi urged counterparts to aim high.

"The decisions we make today will have a direct impact on the success of the Glasgow summit and ultimately on our ability to tackle the climate crisis," he said.

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EDITORIAL - Don't forget climate change

The Philippine Star November 1, 2021 | 12:00am



Long after the COVID-19 pandemic is over, the planet will continue to grapple with the existential threats posed by climate change.

The COVID health crisis unavoidably relegated global warming to the backseat. COP 26, the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow, Scotland from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12, hopes to get global warming back on the agenda of governments even as they grapple with a still raging killer pandemic.

Debates on measures to reduce global warming have always been contentious. COP26 hopes to secure commitments from participants for ambitious emission reduction targets by 2030.

While there is little argument over the need to stop deforestation, there is pushback on timetables set for the phase-out of coal, which is a cheap source of energy for developing states. Advanced economies are being urged to do more in reducing the consumption of fossil fuels. Switching to electric vehicles and increasing investments in renewables are also meeting resistance from those who balk at the initial high investment that is required.

COP26 is hoping to get countries to work together to protect and restore ecosystems as well as build defenses, warning systems, and resilient infrastructure and agriculture. Developed countries have committed to mobilize at least \$100 billion in climate finance annually by 2020. COVID-19 has surely affected this commitment, but it must be put back on track.

The Philippines, identified as one of the countries most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, has a large stake in seeing the COP commitments carried out. The country itself must do its own homework in attaining the climate change conference objectives. Every country and every person on the planet has a role to play in confronting climate change, even in the middle of a deadly pandemic.

01 NOVEMBER 2021, MONDAY

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





5.8K new survivors bring PH recovery tally to almost 2.7M

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor October 31, 2021, 5:13 pm



MANILA – The nation's total number of recovered coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases has reached 2,698,871 after 5,825 new recoveries were reported on Sunday.

In its 4 p.m. case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) said recoveries account for 96.8 percent of the total case count which has reached 2,787,276.

Meanwhile, some 3,410 new infections brought the total number of active cases nationwide to 45,233.

About 73.6 percent of these active cases are mild, 4.9 percent are asymptomatic, 2.9 percent are critical, 6.8 percent are severe, and 11.83 percent are moderate.

A total of 128 new deaths were reported, bringing the country's Covid-19 fatalities to 43,172.

According to DOH data on Oct. 29, about 7.2 percent of 46,450 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"About 52 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, 34 are recoveries and one death. Moreover, 158 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it added.

All laboratories were operational on Oct. 29 while four laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH said the four non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 0.6 percent of samples tested, and 0.4 percent of positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

To date, 46 percent of 4,200 intensive care unit beds, 35 percent of 20,600 isolation beds, 32 percent of 14,500 ward beds, and 32 percent of 3,200 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 39 percent of 1,400 intensive care unit beds, 28 percent of 4,800 isolation beds, 29 percent of 4,100 ward beds, and 30 percent of 1,00 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region. *(PNA)*

Source: <u>https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1158360</u>



Philippines logs 3,410 new COVID-19 infections

Philstar.com October 31, 2021 | 4:00pm



Vendors prepare bouquets and other flower arrangements at the Dangwa Flower Market in Manila on Oct. 26, 2021 for people who will visit their departed loved ones at various cemeteries before All Souls' Day. The STAR / Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines registered 3,410 more COVID-19 cases on Sunday, with active infections reaching over 45,000.

- Active cases: 45,223 or 1.6% of the total
- **Deaths:** 128, pushing the toll to 43,172
- **Recoveries:** 5,825, raising the total to 2,698, 871.

The Department of Health noted that of the active cases, 73.6% are mild while 4.9% are asymptomatic.

Another 11.83% are moderate cases while 6.8% are classified as severe and 2.9% are critical.



PH gets over 2M fresh Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine doses

By <u>CNN Philippines Staff</u>

Published Oct 31, 2021 11:40:45 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 31) – The country received on Sunday over two million fresh Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine doses.

The newly arrived 2,098,980 shots were donated by the United States government to the country through the World Health Organization-led COVAX facility.

The latest shipment adds to the more than 20 million COVID-19 vaccine doses already donated by the US through COVAX.

Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez, Jr. said the new Pfizer delivery is timely, as the government starts its nationwide vaccination among all minors aged 12-17 years old on Wednesday.

The Philippines reached a new milestone in its coronavirus inoculation program last Oct. 28, after the total doses delivered to the country hit the 100 million mark.

Galvez earlier said the government is eyeing to increase its daily vaccination target to 1.5 million shots in hopes of a better Christmas and a safe election season.

Source: <u>https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/10/31/PH-gets-over-2M-fresh-Pfizer-vaccine-doses.html</u>





✓ Headline

Editorial

Column

Opinion

Feature Article

Higit 1M katutubo bakunado na kontra-COVID-19

ni Jasmin Joy Evangelista | October 31, 2021



Photo: PTV

Mahigit 1M indigenous people na ang nabakunahan kontra-COVID-19.

Ayon sa National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), may mga katutubo na naapektuhan ng COVID-19 at humihingi ng tulong.

Apektado rin ang kabuhayan ng mga ito lalo na ang mga nagtatrabaho nang malayo sa kanilang pamilya matapos magsara ang kanilang mga pinapasukan.

Kaugnay nito ay pinaiiral ng NCIP ang Whole-of-Government Approach para maihatid sa mga komunidad ang tulong ng gobyerno.

"Mas pinaigting na ng ating komisyon ang pagbibigay-serbisyo dahil mas kailangan ng katutubong pamayanan ang tulong natin," ani Dr. Angelica Cachola, medical officer ng NCIP.

#OnedENR

Covid-19 Situation and Response



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Iwasan nating maging kampante, at ipagpatuloy ang mahigpit na pagsunod sa ating **public health standards** sa lahat ng oras at lugar. Nananatiling ito ang ating pangunahing depensa laban sa pagkalat ng anumang variant ng COVID-19. Tiyakin din natin ang kaligtasan ng ating mga tahanan, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa <u>BHERTS at One COVID Referral Center</u> kung makaramdam ng sintomas ng COVID-19. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa <u>1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333</u>.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating Telemedicine Serbisyo ng ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod: SMART: 0919 977 3333 GLOBE: 0915 777 7777 TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na si KIRA! VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH MESSENGER: Department of Health PH KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



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