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WETLAND SA PAMPANGA CRITICAL HABITAT NA

NAGBABALA ang
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR) na
maging "thing of the
past" na lang ang ang
405-hectare na Sasmuan
Bangkung Malapad
Coastal Wetland sa Sasmuan, Pampanga kung
hindi ito poproteksiyonan.

Kaya idineklara na ito ng DENR na critical habitat na ang ecotourism area.

Sa bisa ng Department Administrative Order na nilagdaan ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, ang nasabing coastal wetland ay tatawagin nang Sasmuan Bangkung Malapad Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (SB-MCHEA).

Pamamahalaan ito ng DENR Region 3 at ng lokal na pamahalaan ng bayan ng Sasmuan.

Ayon kay DENR regional office executive director Paquito Moreno, ang SBMCHEA ay habitat sa maraming endemic at threatened water birds kabilang ang Philippine duck, Black-faced spoonbill, Chinese egret, Far eastern curlew, Malaysian plover, at iba pang migratory bird species.

Matapos ang deklarasyon, sasailalim na sa istriktong monitoring at enforcement ng environmental laws ang nasabing wetland area. Sa ilalim ng DAO, mahigpit na ipagbabawal ang pagtatapon ng basura, squatting o pag-occupy sa bahagi ng critical habitat, pagsusunog, logging, quarrying, mineral exploration, at illegal fishing.

Hinimok ni Moreno ang publiko na isumbong sa DENR kung may makikitang lumalabag.





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DENR-10 4th place in 1st PSA Quiz Bee National

Finals

Published on: November 30, 2021

By PSA-10

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY (PIA)--Jessa Ann B. Mahartin, Statistician II of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources X, finished 4th place in the recently concluded 1st PSA Quiz Bee National Finals conducted virtually, October 27.

The 1st PSA Quiz Bee was participated by 17 contestants representing the 17 Regional Statistics Committees in the country. This is conducted in celebration of the 32nd National Statistics Month, which contributes to the advocacy in the use of statistics for evidence-based decision making and familiarization on the other mandates of the PSA.

On behalf of the Regional Statistics Committee-10, the Philippine Statistics Authority-10 recognizes Mahartin's achievement in the said Quiz Bee which brings honor and pride for Northern Mindanao.

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2021/11/30/denr-10-4th-place-in-1st-psa-quiz-bee-national-finals





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SUB ROSA invites new readers on HANIHARA'S Poetry Collection

By ... -November 26, 2021



SUB ROSA: The Crucifix of a Poet and other Poems is a collection of written works by Maria Linda Hanihara, an award-winning creative writer, editor, lawyer, wife and a devoted mother to her special child, Mina Ellen. Launched recently via online, the poetry book is the author's open vault containing a compilation of her thoughts, feelings and experiences about her personal life, and more importantly, her journey with her daughter.

First printed in May 2014, Sub Rosa features poems she has written over a span of several years that the poet had kept to herself. For Linda then, writing was more of a hobby while she pursued other fields of study, but her brilliance with the pen shined through even without the grind.

"Writing has always been her life's passion. She would write poems everywhere she goes, especially when she's travelling," according to Milagros F. Viernes, Linda's sister. But admittedly, she was "on a mission to undermine her gift" and never got around to compiling her works to the least- of the many poems scribbled on the pages of her notebooks, pad papers, diaries and others, much less to have it published as a collection. It was only through her sister Milagros F. Viernes' encouragement that made her come up with a book.

The poetry book offers 125 poems, including the masterpieces that first appeared in Focus magazine, 1976, 1980; Literary Apprentice, 1981-82; Inspirations in Ink, 1992, and Caracoa III, 1983.

"The collection gives a picture of a woman who is intelligent, very emotional and passionate, and very hurt. Frailty and strength mix in her like soda and gin, though her strength is usually a front and takes more force with each betrayal and searing disappointments in her love affairs, whether romantic or otherwise... (Sub Rosa) is interesting for the stuff in it," wrote Filipino poet Ricardo de Ungria.

Assistant Professor ROSELLA TORECAMPO, one of Linda's friends, has this to say, "National Artist Francisco Arcellana always said that we can only write about what we know. That is material. But what it is we do to what we know, to turn it into narratives, poetry, drama or any other discourse so far removed from what it is, so these can be what is possible or can be imagined, that is where the magic, akin to omnipotent power that gave rise to creation, gets to be wielded and perfected. Such is the writer's craft. Such was Linda's work."





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"SUB ROSA is my offering to appease the past and inspire the future. I recognize the certainties only divine intervention can change. I now embrace tomorrow and accept all the little surprises God has in store for me. I am beginning to really live," shares Linda and she did live life to the fullest. The second printing of Sub Rosa in June 2017 was dedicated to her passing after she succumbed to breast cancer in 2016.

At a time when social media has become the source of daily buzz and everywhere hype, soulful and poetic people tend to crave for some literary pieces that would speak their minds and feed their inner being; some kind of literary pieces, with old charm just like that of Edgar Allan Poe's.

For readers with discerning tastes, the poet has a compilation of unique and classical pieces of poems based on her life's musings; poems that fire up readers to think deeply of her pains and the angst, and to join in the revelry of her triumphs.

As readers would decipher from her pieces, Linda's success in life is one wherein the author depicts her loneliness and yearning while caring for her special child. Amidst that, she carried on with her life in gratitude and in God's grace. Mina Ellen Felipe-Hanihara was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1994. A special child who cannot speak or talk, she had her first solo exhibition entitled "LET US BLEND AND BREW, THREE IN ONE FOR KALIKASAN in 2017, sponsored by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in celebration of the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week. Featured were 13 beautiful paintings of trees, mountains, flowers and the environment among others. In 2019, she had her 2nd solo exhibition dubbed "September to Remember" again at the DENR where a total of 13 acrylic painting on canvass were displayed at the Biodiversity Management Bureau, Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife under the leadership of Ms. Julie Gorospe-Ibuan, Chief of the Stakeholders Management and Conflict Resolution Division. Mina's paintings were also exhibited at the Philippine Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany. The exhibition was titled Art Beyond the Spectrum of a Girl with Autism.

In between chapters, readers will also find some of the artworks of accomplished painter and the poet's daughter, Mina Ellen.

SUB ROSA is available only in Amazon. Please click https://www.amazon.com/Sub-Rosa-Crucifix-Other-Poems-ebook/dp/809K37YHXW

Source: https://malayaph.com/news_living/sub-rosa-invites-new-readers-on-haniharas-poetry-collection/





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Signature campaign calls for protection of PH Eagle's 'ancient nesting site' in Davao City

Published November 30, 2021, 3:54 PM

by Zea Capistrano

DAVAO CITY — Environment groups in Davao City launched a signature campaign to call for the cancellation of a timber permit issued to cut down century-old trees in Mounts Makabol-Alikoson Conservation Area (MMACA), which is believed to be "an ancient nesting site" of the critically endangered Philippine eagle.

The petition calls on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region XI to "cancel Private Land Timber Permit No. RXI-PLTP-001 2021 issued for the cutting of 121 old-growth trees within the MMACA."



30EAGLE

The area, estimated to cover 8,819 hectares, "supports the lives and livelihoods of over 6,000 residents of Barangay Salaysay in the uplands of Davao City," the petition said.

The petition, which has over 700 signatures as of Monday morning (Nov. 29), was initiated by the Ecoteneo, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), Philippine Eagle Foundation, Save Macabol Forest and Watershed, Students' Environmental Alliance of Davao.

According to the petition the MMACA is an "ancient nesting site of a Philippine Eagle pair."

"The eagle couple's first nest was recorded by the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in 1986. The eagle pair hatched and raised at least 12 young eagles in five nesting trees within MMACA since then," the petition read.

"However, based on Obu Manuvu oral history in Salaysay, the mighty Banog (or Philippine Eagle) has always existed in the area," it added.

The petition also calls on the DENR to "affirm MMACA's designation as an environmentally critical area in the Davao City Watershed Management Code."

It also calls on the DENR to improve its protection as a conservation area.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/11/30/signature-campaign-calls-for-protection-of-philippine-eagles-ancient-nesting-site-in-davao-city/





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Legazpi City shares coastal management program with Albay town

By Emmanuel Solis

Published on November 30, 2021, 2:29 pm



Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal (PNA file photo)

LEGAZPI CITY – The city government here will share its coastal resource management program with Manito town also in Albay as part of the rehabilitation and preservation program of the coastal marine resources for long-term food security.

Mayor Noel Rosal, in an interview on Tuesday, said the local government unit (LGU) of Legazpi will support the coral rehabilitation activities in the municipal waters of Manito to improve the fishing activities of the fisher folks.

"The Integrated Coastal Resource Management Unit (ICRMU) of Legazpi will participate in the implementation of the marine management program of Manito in order to properly manage and supervise their marine resources," Rosal said.

He added that among the coastal management programs that will be shared by Legazpi City are the implementation of its habitat expansion project regarding coral reef rehabilitation as well as the seagrasses area expansion and recovery and mangrove plantation.

"(LGU) Legazpi will help Manito to build at least 100 artificial reefs cement modules including the placement of buoys, planting of Acropora branches, and other species in the waters of the villages of Cawit and Pawa," he said.

Rosal said the project materialized through the help of the Rotary Club West which donated PHP700,000 for the rehabilitation of Manito's coastal marine resources.

Manito Vice Mayor Carlito Belludo, in a separate interview, said he is very grateful to the Legazpi LGU for helping his town in the rehabilitation of coral reefs and implementation of a marine resource management program that will give additional income to the fishers.

"Rehabilitation of coral reefs in Manito can also educate at least 200 persons in our two coastal barangays regarding marine conservation," he said.

Belludo said they will monitor all the coral reefs in its municipal waters in order to protect these from dynamite fishing and other forms of illegal and destructive fishing activities. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1161273





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Aboitiz showcases climate change adaptation best practices at Climate Change Consciousness Week

Monday, November 29, 2021 Journal Online



AEV Chief External Affairs Officer led the Aboitiz Group business leaders in sharing the Group's best practices in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation at the 14th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

In support of initiatives on climate change adaptation and mitigation, the Aboitiz Group showcased its best practices and the role that the private sector plays in putting a spotlight to the said issue at the recently-concluded Climate Change Consciousness Week organized by the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

With the theme "Klima ng Kinabukasan, Ating Pangalagaan," the event marked the 14th Annual Global warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week, bringing together national and local government, academe, business, non-profits, civil society, and the youth to accelerate progress on the shared challenges of climate change.

The Aboitiz Group has been one of CCC's long time partners for sustainable development in critical sectors where it operates such as energy, banking, food, real estate, infrastructure, and construction.

Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV) Chief External Affairs Officer David Jude Sta. Ana emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships in raising awareness about climate change and the solutions to address it. "As a policy-making body that coordinates, monitors, and evaluates climate change initiatives, CCC plays a critical role... your support will continue to be essential to the success of these ambitious efforts," he said.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Emmanuel M. De Guzman said the commission has forged partnerships and collaborated with the private sector to implement climate smart initiatives in all sectors.

"There's so much that we can do for the well-being of our nation today and tomorrow. Let us unite on this noble cause to secure a resilient and sustainable future for all Filipinos," he said.

Aboitiz Group Best Practices

The Aboitiz Group, a 30,000 plus strong organization that is moving towards a shared vision of creating value for all its stakeholders has been cited as one of the best managed companies in the Philippines with its consistent adherence to good corporate governance and citizenship.





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Aboitiz leaders from its various business units joined the discussion on how the private sector plays a crucial role in bringing awareness on Climate Change and the climate smart solutions that could be implemented in various business sectors. In Photo: Maribeth L. Marasigan, Aboitiz Foundation President and COO (top row, center); (2nd row, L to R): Dave Devilles, VP for Sustainability, CSR, and Employee Relations; Anna Lu, VP-Project Development and President of Apo Agua Infrastructura; Ginggay Hontiveros, AEV VP for Reputation Management; (3rd row, L to R) Joeben Gamatero, Pilmico and Gold Coin Group VP for Brand, Marketing, and CSR, and Suiee Suarez, AboitizPower VP for Reputation Management.

Each of the Group's Strategic Business Units (SBU) are fully committed to this shared vision as they fuse sustainability into the very core of their business operations. AboitizPower, apart from being one of the power firms with the largest capacity of renewable energy in the country, also uses battery electric storage systems (BESS) in select power plants as supporting intermittent renewable energy in the nation's power grid.

In the water industry, Apo Agua, one of the Business Units under Aboitiz InfraCapital, Inc., is leading the way towards the use of more sustainable surface water sources in Davao City, as opposed to the current ground well sources, through the Davao City Bulk Water Supply Project, which when completed will provide water to millions of Davaoenos.

Food unit Pilmico started its Rice Husk Project back in 2018, where biomass boilers were used to turn the rice husk waste into alternative bunker fuel, cutting dependence on traditional bunker fuel by more than 60%. Similarly, Republic Cement has their own Ecoloop programme, which advocates for a circular economy by turning qualifying wastes and byproducts into input materials such as alternative fuel and alternative raw materials for cement manufacturing operations.

Union Bank of the Philippines and Aboitiz Foundation, Inc., on the other hand, focus on sustainability of the human kind. UnionBank has geared sustainability efforts towards "people sustainability" and social sustainability. One clear example is their UBP Xcellerator Program that takes young Filipinos to train them into becoming part of the nation's homegrown talent pool.

For the Aboitiz Foundation, part of their commitment to co-creating resilient, empowered, and sustainable communities in the face of climate change is supported by the capacity-building programs they implement in partner communities and with local governments nationwide. Through the Foundation's participation in the Adopt-A-Municipality program, for example, it hopes to support the local government units of Tiwi, Albay and Iligan City in order to achieve human, economic, infrastructure, and environmental resilience through a robust public-private sector participation.





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The Group has showcased credible, transparent, and strong performance in sustainability management, delivering commitment to the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals and aligning with the ten principles of the UN as a member of the UN Global Compact and board of trustees of the Global Compact Network Philippines.

Aboitiz Group CEO Sabin Aboitiz is a member of the APEC Advisory Council (ABAC) representing the Philippines. This gives the organization an opportunity to lead and participate in regional discussions on policy recommendations that affect climate leadership, food security, and digital transformation.

AEV Reputation Management Vice President Ginggay Hontiveros said Aboitiz defines sustainable development as inclusive growth that carefully looks into the dimension of Environmental Social and Governance (ESG).

"We are very much committed to a mindset that views sustainability not as a cost of doing business but as a way of doing good business. Sustainability is very much an integral part of our business strategy and our culture," she noted.

Environmental Protection

Hontiveros pointed out that the Group recognizes this immense responsibility of protecting and giving back to the environment. "We are very much conscious of resources and ensure that these can be replenished for future generations. Our goal is to continuously minimize the impact of our business to the environment by reducing emissions, having proper materials and waste management systems, and increasing renewable energy capacities," she stressed.

The Aboitiz Group is also the first Philippine-based company to support and align with the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). The Group supports the National Greening Program through its Simultaneous Tree Planting initiative or A-Park with more than 11 million trees planted to date. It has embarked on various environmental programs including 'Race to Reduce' program and Weather Philippines as well as committed to advocacies such as Climate Resilient Philippines, The Water Alliance, and Climate Investment Network.

Learn more about the Aboitiz Group's sustainability efforts: https://sustainability.aboitiz.com/

About Aboitiz Equity Ventures

Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV) is the public holding company of the Aboitiz Group with major investments in power, banking and financial services, food, infrastructure, and land. Today, AEV is recognized as one of the best-managed companies in the Philippines and in the region, consistently cited for its commitment to good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. With five generations of Aboitiz Group business success behind it, AEV continues to drive change for a better world by advancing business and communities.

Source: https://journal.com.ph/aboitiz-showcases-climate-change-adaptation-best-practices-at-climate-change-consciousness-week/





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TVIRD's award

posted November 30, 2021 at 08:14 pm



Agata Mining Ventures Inc., a project of TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc., receives the 2021 Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award, the country's highest distinction for exceptional environmental performance, safety and health practices, social development and effective Information, education and communication programs. Prior to its maiden shipment of laterite nickel ore in 2014, Agata already began reforestation activities, underscoring that responsibility starts even before mining does.

Source: https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/371246





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30 South African white rhino relocated to Rwanda in a Boeing 747

posted November 30, 2021 at 09:30 am by AFP

Thirty endangered white rhinos arrived in Rwanda on Monday after a long journey from South Africa in a Boeing 747, conservationists said, hailing it as the largest single transfer of the species ever undertaken.

The majestic animals, which can weigh up to two tonnes, travelled some 3,400 kilometres (2,100 miles) from South Africa's Phinda Private Game Reserve as part of a programme to replenish the species' population, decimated by poaching since the 1970s.

Once plentiful across sub-Saharan Africa, white rhino suffered first from hunting by European settlers, and later a poaching epidemic which largely wiped them out.

The rhinos began their 40-hour journey to the new home in Akagera National Park in eastern Rwanda following months of preparation, said African Parks, a charity headed by Britain's Prince Harry which is involved in the exercise.

"We had to tranquillize them to reduce their stress, which is itself risky, and monitor them," said African Parks' CEO Peter Fearnhead, calling the project a success.

The animals were transported in a chartered Boeing 747 and were placed in two grassy enclosures -- each the size of a football stadium -- after arriving in the park.

Later they will be allowed to roam the expansive park, authorities said.

"This will provide an opportunity for them to grow in a safe environment from South Africa where three are killed per day by poachers," said the park's regional manager Jes Gruner.

Wildlife transfers are not without risks. In 2018, four out of six relocated black rhinos died a few months after arriving in Chad.

The southern white rhino, one of two subspecies of white rhino, is now considered endangered with about 20,000 individuals remaining, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

It is classified as near-threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Breeding programme

The northern white rhino has all but vanished, with only two females left alive.

Scientists are attempting to save the species from extinction by harvesting eggs from the younger of the two animals, Fatu, and using sperm from two deceased males to create embryos in an unprecedented breeding programme, which is their last chance at survival.

Rwanda, which is positioning itself as a top Big Five safari destination, received five eastern black rhinos in 2019 from the Czech Republic and 17 from South Africa in 2017.

Not a single eastern black rhino has been poached at the Akagera park since their reintroduction in 2017, according to its regional manager Gruner.





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Rhinos have few predators in the wild due to their size but have been devastated by poaching for their horns -- used in traditional Chinese medicine.

According to the IUCN, there are around 5,000 black rhinos left in the wild, compared to more than a million in the mid-19th century.

Source: https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/371207





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Mahinang pagsabog naitala sa Mt. Pinatubo – Phivolcs



November 30, 2021 @ 5:04 PM 13 hours ago

Larawang kuha ni Philippines AirAsia Captain Aljess Lasmarias

MANILA, Philippines – Nakapagtala ng mahinang pagsabog o 'weak explosion' ang Bulkang Pinatubo.

Ito ang ulat ng Philippine Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) ngayong hapon, Nobyembre 30.

Sa isang statement, sinabi ng Phivolcs:

"The Pinatubo Volcano Network recorded seismic and infrasound signals of a weak explosion at Mt. Pinatubo between 12:09 PM and 12:13PM."

"The seismic and infrasound signals are not typical of known volcanic processes and are currently being evaluated together with other potential sources," ayon pa sa ahensya.

Hinihintay pa ang kumpletong impormasyon patungkol dito. RNT

Source: https://www.remate.ph/mahinang-pagsabog-naitala-sa-mt-pinatubo-phivolcs/

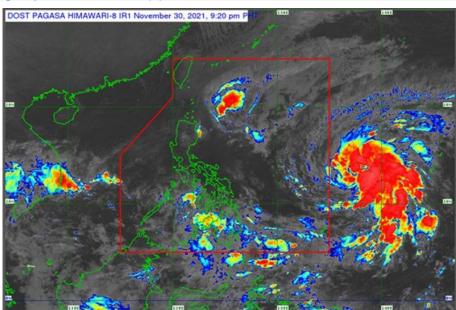




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Tropical storm to enter PAR today, may exit quickly

Michael Punongbayan - The Philippine Star December 1, 2021 | 12:00am



But considering its track, PAGASA said the weather disturbance may not affect the country's prevailing weather conditions and may exit as quickly as 24 hours.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) is expecting a tropical storm to enter the Philippine area of responsibility today.

But considering its track, PAGASA said the weather disturbance may not affect the country's prevailing weather conditions and may exit as quickly as 24 hours.

In its tropical cyclone advisory yesterday, the weather bureau said Tropical Storm Nyatoh, to be locally named Odette once it enters the Philippine area of responsibility, was sighted 1,455 km east of the Visayas yesterday morning and moving westward at 20 kilometers per hour with maximum sustained winds of 65 kph near the center and gustiness up to 80 kph.

"Its duration within the Philippine area of responsibility is currently forecast to be short, as it may leave the region within 24 hours of entry. However, the public is advised to continue monitoring for possible eastward or westward shift in the track forecast of the tropical storm," it added.

Based on projections, the tropical cyclone is forecast to intensify into severe tropical storm in the next 24 hours and highly favorable conditions will allow Nyatoh to be upgraded to typhoon category by Thursday and may reach a peak intensity of around 140 kph.

"This tropical cyclone is less likely to affect the prevailing weather condition in the country for the next three to five days. Considering these developments, the public and disaster risk reduction and management offices concerned are advised to continue monitoring for updates related to this tropical cyclone," PAGASA said.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/12/01/2144898/tropical-storm-enter-partoday-may-exit-quickly







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DOH logs 425 new COVID-19, lowest since July 2020

By CNN Philippines Staff

Published Nov 30, 2021 4:31:26 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 30) - The Department of Health reported 425 new COVID-19 infections, the lowest in over 16 months.

The last time the figure was lower was on July 2, 2020 when there were 294 infections tallied.

The nationwide total is now 2,832,734 with 15,800 or 0.6% active cases or currently sick patients. At least 47.5% of active cases have mild symptoms, 24.42% are in moderate condition, 16% have severe symptoms, 6.8% are in critical condition, and 5.3% have no symptoms.

The death toll is at 48,545 - which is 1.71% of the case total - after 44 more people lost their lives.

Meanwhile, 909 more people recovered, raising the survivor count to 2,768,389 or 97.7% of the COVID-19 tally.

The Health Department said it reclassified 40 survivors as among the dead after validation, and deleted three duplicates, including two recoveries. There were also 63 recoveries that were found to have actually tested negative and were removed from the total.

Six laboratories were excluded from the report — two that did not operate on Nov. 28 and four that failed to submit their data on time. These laboratories contributed an average of 0.4% of tested samples and 0.4% of positive individuals in the last 14 days.

The World Health Organization, on the other hand, says the ideal positivity rate is below 5% and must be maintained for at least 14 days for countries or regions to reopen. The country has already maintained its below 5% rate for at least 18 days, or from Nov. 10.

OCTA research fellow Guido David also reported that new daily cases in the National Capital Region decreased to 200 by the end of November, just as the group has forecast. The sevenday average is at 204, the lowest since June 5-11 last year, while positivity rate is at 1.47%.

The national government <u>recently announced</u> that Metro Manila will stay under Alert 2, a move that OCTA supports amid the threat of the new and more infectious Omicron variant.

Source: https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/11/30/ph-new-covid-cases.html





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2.5M jabs administered on 1st day of COVID-19 vaccination drive

Gaea Katreena Cabico - Philstar.com November 30, 2021 | 11:39am



Medical workers in protective suits administer vaccines at a coliseum in Makati City, suburban Manila on November 29, 2021, as the Southeast Asian nation launched a three-day vaccination drive targeting nine million people as young as 12 in an effort to accelerate the roll-out of jabs, amidst the threat of heavily mutated coronavirus variant Omicron.

AFP / Ted Aliibe

MANILA, Philippines (**Updated 3:57 p.m.**) — The government has administered 2.5 million COVID-19 vaccine doses on the first day of the national immunization drive, the Department of Health said Tuesday.

According to Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje, a total of 2,554,023 jabs were administered Monday, lower than the government's target of three million vaccine doses per day.

Initially, authorities aimed to give five million doses daily, but the target for the three-day vaccination activity was adjusted due to shortage in syringes and other logistical challenges.

Calabarzon, Central Luzon, Western Visayas, Central Visayas and Bicol region were the regions with the biggest outputs.

Cabotaje, who heads the National Vaccination Operations Center, said some people who went directly to vaccination centers without appointments were not allowed to get jabbed.

"We now have a directive that allows walk-ins. No one among those who lined up should go home without getting inoculated," she said.

In a separate interview, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año said the government is so far satisfied with the turnout of the vaccination drive. "We are satisfied with our performance yesterday because a lot of people went to vaccination sites," Año said in an interview on Teleradyo.

"There were areas overwhelmed [by the number of vaccinees], but in general, the turnout was good," he added in Filipino.





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The government's goal is to fully vaccinate 54 million Filipinos by yearend. To help achieve this target, there will be another three-day vaccination activity scheduled from December 15 to 17.

As of November 29, over 35.89 million Filipinos have completed vaccination against COVID-19. Meanwhile, more than 46.27 million people have received partial protection.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/11/30/2144794/24m-jabs-administered-1st-day-covid-19-vaccination-drive





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Face shields won't return

The Philippines on Tuesday recorded a total of 425 new Covid-19 cases, the lowest daily recorded cases since July 2020, the Department of Health said.

Published 6 hours ago on December 1, 2021 12:30 AM

By **Jom Garner**



The Department of Health (DoH) on Tuesday said there is no need to bring back the face shield use policy due to the continuous decline in the number of the daily reported cases.

In an interview, DoH Epidemiology Bureau Director Dr. Thea de Guzman said the agency will let private establishments decide whether to make the use of face shields mandatory.

"As transmission goes down, we really need to open sectors, but also in a safe manner. Right now, masks will be able to provide us that benefit or protection," De Guzman said.

"We leave it to private establishments. But right now, there is no need at this very low transmission level to use face shields," she added.

The same sentiment was echoed by the World Health Organization (WHO)country representative Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe, reiterating that the wearing of face shields should still be voluntary.

"We've always taken the stance that we're not mandating vaccines. People should be free to decide what's best for them," Abeyasinghe said during the Laging Handa public briefing.

425 new Covid-19 cases

Meanwhile, the Philippines on Tuesday recorded a total of 425 new Covid-19 cases, the lowest daily recorded cases since July 2020, the DoH said.

The lowest daily reported cases were on 2 July 2020, when recorded cases were 294. The newly-confirmed cases are also the seventh consecutive day that cases were below 1,000.

Based on its latest case bulletin, the fresh infections pushed the country's total caseload to 2,832,734, of which 15,800 are tagged as active cases.





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Of the active cases, 47.5 percent are mild, 5.3 percent are asymptomatic, 16 percent are severe, and 6.8 percent are in critical condition.

Meanwhile, the agency reported 909 new recoveries which brought the country's total recovered patients to 2,768,389.

The country's Covid-19 death toll is now at 48,545 after 44 new fatalities were recorded.

Out of the 24,442 individuals who were screened for Covid-19 on 28 November, 2.1 percent turned out positive.

The DoH noted that three duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, two are tagged as recoveries.

"In addition, 63 cases were found to have tested negative and have been removed from the total case count. These 63 are recoveries," the agency said.

"Moreover, 37 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it added.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/12/01/face-shields-wont-return/?utm source=rss&utm medium=rss&utm campaign=face-shields-wont-return

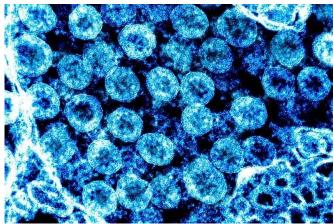




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What is known so far about new COVID-19 variant Omicron

Agence France-Presse November 30, 2021 | 11:13am



This undated National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH handout photo obtained August 1, 2021, shows a transmission electron color-enhanced micrograph of SARS-CoV-2 virus particles, isolated from a patient.

Handout / National Institutes of Health / National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases / AFP

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — South African scientists have discovered a new COVID-19 variant with multiple mutations, Omicron, which is thought to be highly contagious.

The World Health Organization warned on Monday that the Omicron variant poses a "very high" risk globally.

Many countries are racing to try to contain it, banning flights from South Africa and neighbouring countries.

Scientists are also working round the clock to analyse the variant and try to understand its behaviour.

Here is a brief explainer of what is known so far about Omicron -- days after it emerged -- as shared by scientists.

Origins

It is currently unclear where the variant originated, but the variant was "first described in Botswana and shortly thereafter in South Africa", according to top South African epidemiologist professor Salim Abdool Karim.

South African scientists went on to announce the discovery on November 25.

By that time cases had been detected in Hong Kong.

Days later at least 11 countries including Israel, Belgium, the UK, Netherlands, Italy, Canada and Portugal had found infections with the variant.

Mutation

Scientists discovered the new variant with a "very unusual constellation of mutations" on November 23.

Some of the mutations are already known, affecting transmissibility and immune evasion, but many others are new.





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The WHO said Monday the strain is a "highly divergent variant with a high number of mutations... some of which are concerning and may be associated with immune escape potential and higher transmissibility."

It has the "most mutations we have seen to date", said Professor Mosa Moshabela, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

He said "some of these mutations we have seen before like in Delta and Beta," but others are new to scientists and "we don't know what the combination of those mutations will translate into."

Leading virologist Tulio de Oliveira said there were around 50 mutations overall, including 30 on the spike protein, the focus of most vaccines as it is what enables the virus to enter cells.

Transmissibility

Official statistics show that nearly three-quarters of the COVID-19 cases reported in South Africa in recent days are driven by the new variant.

Although not all are Omicron cases, the daily COVID positivity rate rose last week from 3.6 percent on Wednesday to 6.5 percent on Thursday, and by Sunday it hit 9.8 percent.

It is forecast that actual numbers of daily infections could treble to around 10,000 by the end of this week.

"Some of the mutations that are expressed have previously been shown to enable the virus to spread easily and quickly, and because of that we suspect that the (new variant) is going to spread quickly," said Moshabela.

Immunity, severity

Some of the genetic mutations shown by the virus are known to enable the virus to evade immunity.

It is still unclear what the impact will be on the protection provided by vaccines.

But "based on what we know, the vaccines should hold well in terms of preventing hospitalisation and severe disease because they depend on T-cell immunity and less on antibodies," said Karim.

As for the severity of disease caused by the variant, scientists say there is not enough data yet.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/world/2021/11/30/2144793/what-known-so-far-about-new-covid-19-variant-omicron





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WHO special session seeks 'pandemic treaty' amid Omicron concerns

Published on November 30, 2021, 5:40 pm



A medical worker treats Covid-19 patients in an ICU of the University Emergency Hospital in Bucharest, Romania on Nov. 4, 2021. (Xinhua/Cristian Cristel)

GENEVA – A special session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) kicked off here on Monday amid growing concerns over the latest Omicron coronavirus variant, where the participants aimed to negotiate a new "pandemic treaty."

Legally binding pandemic treaty

The WHA May session this year decided to set up a working group to consider the findings and recommendations of a number of panels and committees on global preparedness for and response to coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) before starting their discussions on Monday on the potential new "legally binding agreement between nations."

"Covid-19 has exposed and exacerbated fundamental weaknesses in the global architecture for pandemic preparedness and response," said World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the opening of the special session.

"The best way we can address them is with a legally binding agreement between nations, an accord forged from the recognition that we have no future but a common future," he said.

Tedros said the new "pandemic treaty" is expected to address Covid-19 as "a crisis of solidarity and sharing."

"The lack of sharing of PPE (personal protective equipment), tests, vaccines, technology, know-how, intellectual property and other tools hindered our collective ability to prevent infections and save lives," he said, noting the lack of a consistent and coherent global approach has resulted in "a splintered and disjointed response, breeding misunderstanding, misinformation and mistrust."

Get prepared for Omicron

The WHA special session coincides with the emergence of the highly mutated Omicron virus variant, which was designated by the WHO as a "variant of concern" (VOC) just three days ago.

Though the WHO has said it is not yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible or causes more severe disease than the other known variants, including Delta, concerns over its impact on the efficacy of existing vaccines and treatments have been growing.





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A number of countries have already introduced entry bans on travelers from South Africa, where Omicron was first confirmed on November 9 and has been identified in multiple European countries, including Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Portugal, and Sweden.

Sweden's Public Health Agency on Monday confirmed its first case of the Omicron variant, found when a traveler who last week returned to Sweden from South Africa was tested.

Portugal's National Institute of Health Doctor Ricardo Jorge (INSA) also confirmed 13 cases of the Omicron variant in Portugal among players and staff members of the football club Belenenses SAD.

The INSA said the samples were collected and analyzed on Sunday, and that one of the players who tested positive had recently returned to the country from South Africa.

In Germany, the Covid-19 seven-day incidence rate climbed to a new all-time high of 452.4, up from 386.5 a week ago, the Robert Koch Institute for infectious diseases reported.

German virologist Christian Drosten told the broadcaster ZDF on Sunday that he was "quite concerned at the moment. I am surprised to see so many mutations in the virus."

In Cyprus, new anti-coronavirus measures relating to young school children came into force on Monday, with most Covid-19 clusters currently being found in schools.

In addition to banning direct arrival from the eight African countries most affected by the Omicron variant, all travelers coming from other destinations will also be tested for the coronavirus at airports, said Michalis Hadipantelas, Cyprus' health minister.

Polish Health Minister Adam Niedzielski said the country's government is set to announce new restrictions to cope with the new variant, including tightened flight rules on seven southern African nations.

"Omicron demonstrates just why the world needs a new accord on pandemics: our current system disincentivizes countries from alerting others to threats that will inevitably land on their shores," Tedros said. (Xinhua)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1161382





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World closes doors to African countries due to Omicron

Published on November 30, 2021, 4:23 pm



(Image from Anadolu)

JOHANNESBURG/ISTANBUL – A number of countries have imposed travel bans on African nations amid fears over the new coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) variant Omicron.

Travel restrictions have been imposed on eight southern African countries after the potentially more contagious variant was first detected earlier this month in South Africa and Botswana.

The bans apply to South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho.

The UK immediately added South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana, Eswatini, and Zimbabwe to its red list of countries deemed high risk after Omicron was detected.

The European Union announced on Nov. 26 that it will block flights from these countries.

The US, Canada, Germany, France, Japan, Israel, India, Australia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Italy, Malta, Pakistan, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Oman have also imposed similar travel restrictions.

Turkey also announced that it will restrict travel from South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe from November 26.

The national flag carrier Turkish Airlines (THY) carried out evacuation flights from Cape Town and Johannesburg on Nov. 27 for Turkish citizens in South Africa, repatriating 71 citizens in all.

Turkey has also imposed a 14-day quarantine on passengers coming from South Africa regardless of whether they have been vaccinated or had the disease in the last 180 days.

African countries also closing their doors

Angola has, meanwhile, decided to close its borders to seven African countries to prevent the spread of the Omicron variant.

Sudan has banned entry for travelers from South Africa, while Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and Rwanda announced that direct flights to South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have been temporarily suspended.





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Morocco suspended passenger flights for two weeks to prevent the variant from entering the country.

What does WHO (World Health Organization) say?

The WHO said Sunday there is no evidence so far concerning the transmissibility or severity of the new Omicron strain.

The WHO's regional office for Africa urged countries to follow science and health regulations rather than imposing travel bans on African nations.

The African Union criticized the travel bans on African countries while South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the restrictions were "scientifically unjustified."

"We call upon all those countries that have imposed travel bans on our country and our southern African sister countries to immediately and urgently reverse their decisions," he said.

John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), said the coronavirus pandemic had indicated that travel bans served little purpose in managing the spread of the virus. (*Anadolu*)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1161347





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ITSURA NG OMICRON VARIANT INILABAS NA



November 30, 2021 @ 8:35 PM 10 hours ago

INILABAS na ng Bambino Gesu Hospital sa Rome, Italy ang itsura ng Omicron variant ng coronavirus disease-19 at sandamukal umano ang bagong anyo nito o mutants subalit pinagaaralan pa kung mas mabagsik ito sa Delta variant o hindi.

Italy, kasama ang Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany at The Netherlands, ang isa sa mga naunang sinalakay ng Omicron variant at nagsagawa agad ito ng pagsusuri rito.

Ayon naman sa South Africa, wala pang natatagpuang may seryosong kalagayan na may Omicron variant kundi mild lang, lalo na ang pagkakaroon ng fatigue o parang panghihina dahil sa pagod.

DAIG NG MAAGAP ANG MASIPAG

Sa kabila ng mga sinasabing dapat umanong hindi katakutan agad ang Omicron variant lalo't kinakailangan pa ang mas malalim na pagsusuri rito,, mas magandang pairalin na ang sinasabi ng mga matatanda na "daig ng maagap ang masipag."

'Yun bang === gumawa na tayo ng paraan na maharang ang pagpasok ng Omicron variant sa Pinas ngayon pa lang kaysa maging huli na ang lahat.

Heto ang mga dapat nating tandaan:

Una, idineklara na mismo ng World Health Organization na "variant of concern" o VOC ang virus.

Ikalawa, bilang variant of concern, mabilis itong makahawa, nagreresulta ng pagkaospital at kamatayan, pinahihina nito ang kalasag ng katawan sa sakit o immune system, pinahihina o pinawawalambisa nito ang bakuna laban sa COVID at kaya nitong iwasan ang anomang uri ng COVID test.

Ikatlo, itinuring itong VOC dahil may 50 itong mutant o bagong anyo at nasa 32 rito ang kumakapit at pumapasok sa selula o kalamnan natin na mabilis nating ikasasakit ng COVID.

Ikaapat, kung ang Delta na grabe ang pananalasa sa buong mundo ngayon ay dalawambeses na mabagsik kaysa orig na COVID virus, paano na lang itong Omicron variant na 500 porsyento umanong mas mabagsik sa Delta variant?

NASA TABI-TABI NA LANG

Nasa tabi-tabi na lang ang Omicron variant dahil may biktima ito sa Hong Kong at Australia na malalapit lang sa atin.

Higit dito, kumalat na sa Europa, Africa at Middle East ang virus na ito, pati sa Canada at maaaring United States na rin.





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Ngayong Kapaskuhan, marami na ang nagsisiuwing overseas Filipino worker, balikbayan at iba pa at halos nanggagaling ang mga ito mula sa mahigit 200 bansa at teritoryo sa mundo, kasama ang mga may Omicron variant.

Paano kung may dala silang Omicron variant?

Pwede nating ipagbawal ang lahat ng dayuhan na pumasok sa bansa gaya ng agad na ginawa ng Israel pero hindi natin pupwedeng harangin ang pagdating ng mga OFW, balikbayan at iba pa.

Kung may nakalusot nang Omicron variant papasok sa Pinas, ano ba ang mga dapat nating gawin?

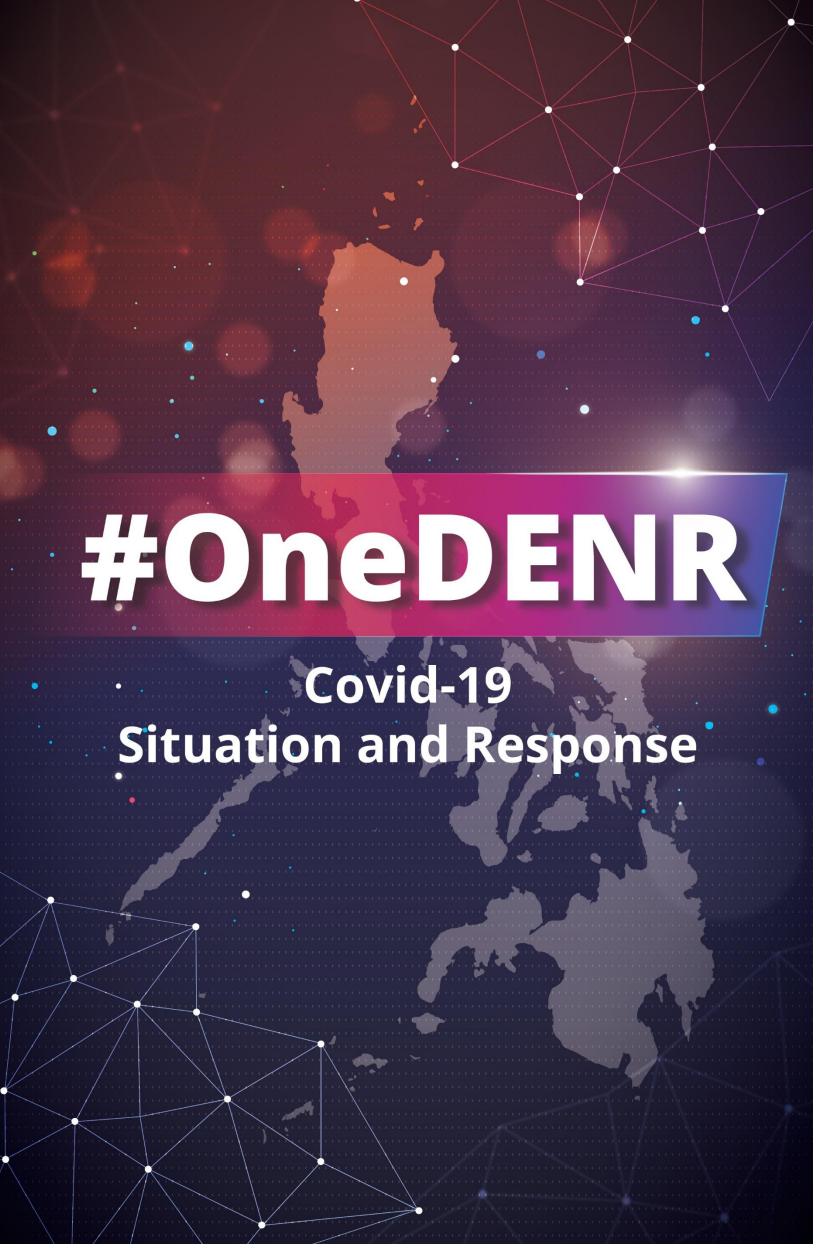
MAGPABAKUNA, HEALTH PROTOCOLS SUNDIN

Lumalabas na kumakapit ang Omicron variant kahit sa mga doble bakunado at napatunayan ito sa South Africa at Botswana na pinanggalingan ng virus.

Subalit, sinasabing mabibisa pa rin ang mga bakuna laban sa Omicron variant dahil COVID pa rin ito sa batayan nitong kalagayan.

Kaya dapat na tayong magpabakuna lahat bago pa tayo datnan nito at huwag na huwag maging pasaway sa pagsunod sa health protocols na pagsusuot ng face mask, social distancing at iba pa.

Source: https://www.remate.ph/itsura-ng-omicron-variant-inilabas-na/







NOBYEMBRE 30, 2021

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO 15.800

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

1 %

2,768,389

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

TOTAL NG NAMATAY 48,545

MGA BAGONG KASO 425

MGA BAGONG GUMALING 909

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 44

2,832,734 KABUUANG BILANG NG KASO

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING NOBYEMBRE 28

DATOS NGAYONG NOBYEMBRE 30 AYON SA REPORTS NOONG NOBYEMBRE 28

PORSYENTO NG MGA **NAGPOSITIBO**

24,44

BILANG NG TINEST

HALOS

52.7% ANG MILD AT

ASYMPTOMATIC NA KASO!



KABUUANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.6K TOTAL BEDS) 26% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (19.8K TOTAL BEDS)

WARD BEDS (13.2K TOTAL BEDS)

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

100 100 100 100 100

26% Utilized

16% Utilized

17 Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS) 25% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)

WARD BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

100 100 100 100 100

KALAGAYAN NG MGA **AKTIBONG KASO**

Mild 47.5

5.3% Asymptomatic

6.8% Critical

16.0% Severe

24.42% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

23% Utilized

21% Utilized

17% Utilized

Ang mababang bilang ng mga nagpopositibo sa COVID-19 nitong mga nakaraang araw ay hindi dahilan para tayo ay maging kampante. Alalahanin na ang COVID-19 ay nasa paligid lang natin, at ibayong pag-iingat, pagsunod sa Minimum Public Health Standards pagtanggap ng bakuna ang ating kailangan upang mailigtas natin ang bawat isa mula sa sakit na ito. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa BHERTS o sa One COVID Referral Center na maabot sa 1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333, para sa karampatang gabay.

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



Ihahanan 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



Manatiling ligtas! I-download ang StaySafe App StaySafe O Gamiting ang WEBAPP at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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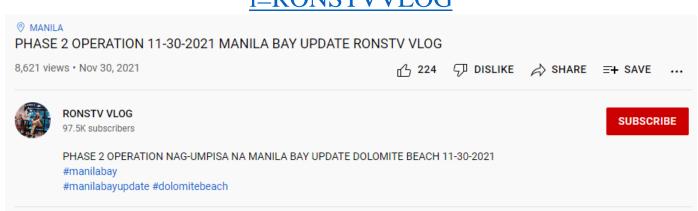




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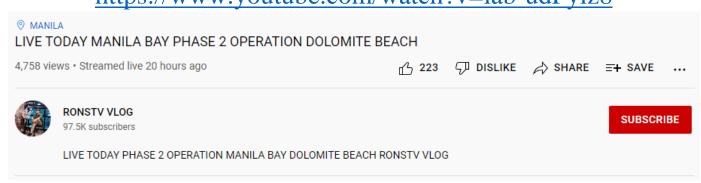




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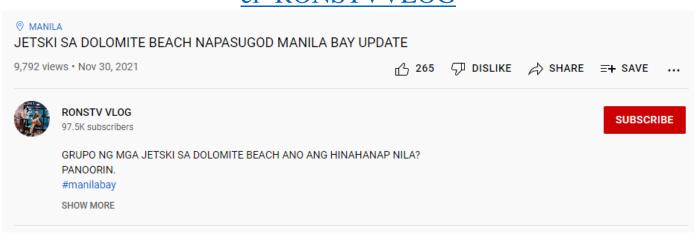




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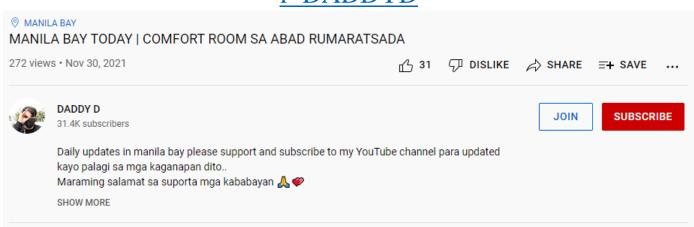




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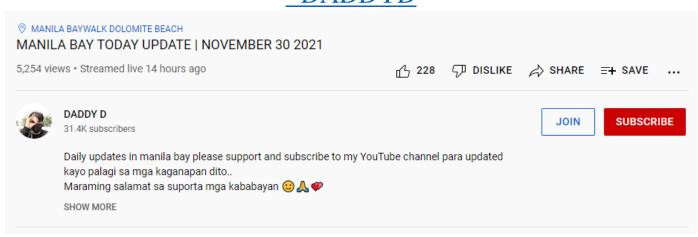




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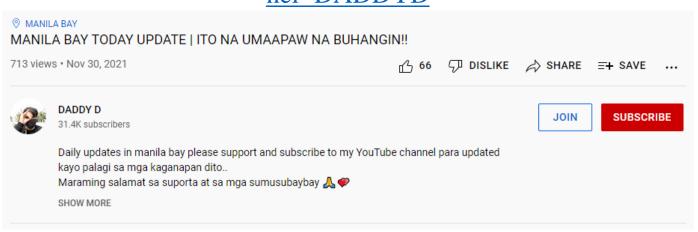




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