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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR reports gains in Manila Bay rehab project

FEB 1, 2022, 6:32 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

DENR takes pride in Manila Bay rehab gains in 2021.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reported a number of its achievements in confronting the challenges of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

This, as it vowed to accomplish more significant gains this year.

Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said he is personally satisfied with the accomplishment of the DENR in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay in 2021 despite some setbacks due to natural hazards and the pandemic.

"I am especially pleased with our transformation of Manila Bay. We should be more appreciative of what we have achieved thus far, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and natural disasters over the past couple of years," Cimatu said .

He also extended his gratitude to the Duterte administration for its full support of the rehabilitation program.

"Thanks to the creation in February 2019 by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of the Inter-Agency Manila Bay Task Force, led by the DENR, to expedite the rehabilitation of the bay's degraded coastal and marine ecosystems," Cimatu pointed out.

Likewise the DENR chief underscored the significant impacts brought about by the interventions that were put in place to achieve a water quality that will be fit for water contact activities in Manila Bay.

"Our sewage treatment plants in three outfalls are reducing fecal coliform counts significantly in the bay's water," Cimatu elaborated.

He added:

"Along with solar-powered restrooms and other geo-engineering interventions, our work will enable the public to enjoy swimming, boating, and fishing in the bay, hopefully by the end of my term this midyear, in addition to strolling on the dolomite beach."



Moreover, DENR Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Luzon Gilbert Gonzales discussed the accomplishments of the three regional offices with jurisdiction over Manila Bay.

He said that 2,379 "estero" rangers were hired to conduct daily cleanup of water bodies draining to the Manila Bay, and have helped collect 82 million cubic meters of waste.

The DENR-National Capital Region (NCR), where the concentration of the rehabilitation program is being conducted, had the largest amount of waste collected at around 72 million cubic meters.



Boracay wetlands take spotlight in PH celebration of World Wetlands Day 2022

FEB 1, 2022, 9:19 AM

Santiago Celario
Writer

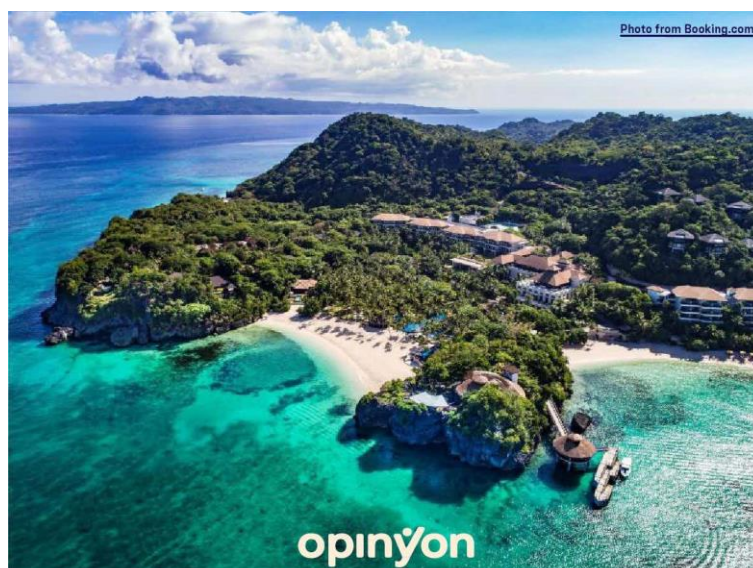
Environmental officials said this year's celebration of World Wetlands Day serves as a "clarion call for Filipinos to act for the welfare of the country's wetlands."

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) is set to highlight its gains in the restoration of Boracay Islands at the local observance of World Wetlands Day 2022 on Wednesday (February 2).

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that this year's celebration focuses on our concrete actions for wetlands to save them from further degradation.

"Wetlands are among our country's natural assets and thus we have made them part of our ongoing rehabilitation of Boracay Island. We believe that showcasing their importance through wetlands recovery and restoration in the island is an effective means of spreading awareness to the public," Cimatu said in a press release.

"By restoring the 'Wetlands of Boracay,' we do not only conserve their ecological functions in the island but also add up to the diversification of Boracay's tourism attraction sites," he added.



Boracay Island (Booking .com)



Boracay Island (Traveloka)

Festivities

The DENR will lead the Philippines' World Wetlands Day celebration at the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park (formerly Wetland No. 2) in Barangay Balabag, Boracay Island on February 2.

The event will showcase the partnership in wetland conservation with private companies such as Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., Energy Development Corp. (EDC), and J.G. Summit Olefins Corp.

The EDC, an adopter of the DENR's "Adopt-a-Wetland Program," will also turn over the completed project for Wetland No. 2 to the DENR after more than three years of rehabilitation.

With the theme "Wetlands Action for People and Nature," this year's World Wetlands Day highlights the importance of concerted actions in conserving and ensuring the sustainable use of wetlands for human beings, the environment, and all living creatures that depend on it.

DENR-BMB OIC Director Natividad Bernardino said this year's theme also serves as a "clarion call for Filipinos to act for the welfare of the country's wetlands."

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on February 2 to raise global awareness on the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.

The date also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.



Boracay Island

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/boracay-wetlands-take-spotlight-in-ph-celebration-of-world-wetlands-day-2022?fbclid=IwAR3ucOCC4DYkbFHMEDRUIS5_Pa4l44cuHIEX9p1W1iS2kmVGjA8e0ahwJMA



Senate passes 14 bill establishing marine hatcheries in 12 provinces

Published February 1, 2022, 12:53 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

The Senate, by a vote of 21-0-0, has passed on third and final reading 14 local bills seeking the establishment of marine hatcheries in different parts of the country.

These are House Bill (HB) 7435 (Libon, Albay); HB 7544 (Sta. Lucia, Puerto Princesa, Palawan); HB 7547 (Batad, Iloilo); HB 7691 (Basilisa, Dinagat Islands); HB 9933 (Calbayog, Samar); HB 9934 (San Jose, Northern Samar); HBN 9935 (Samal, Davao del Norte); HB 9936 (Basey, Samar); HB 9937 (Carmen and Braulio E. Dujati, Davao del Norte); HB 9938 (Bombon, Camarines Sur); HB 9939 (Tibiao, Antique); HB 9940 (San Jose, Occidental Mindoro); HB 9941 (Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija); and HB 9942 (Bagac, Bataan).

Senator Cynthia S. Villar, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform, and sponsor of these bills, stressed the importance of multi-species marine hatcheries in ensuring sustainable supply of marine products.

“We have a lot of catching up to do to support our fishing industry. Otherwise, we will compromise our food security. The hatcheries shall help solve the problem of dwindling fish supply in our country and secure the livelihood of small fishermen in the municipal waters,” Villar said.

Villar noted that fisheries in the Philippines make a significant contribution to the national economy in terms of income and employment. In 2018, the total fish production was estimated at 4.61 million metric tons and the fisheries sector contributed US\$4.9 billion to the country’s economy in 2018.

Compared to other Southeast Asian nations, the Philippines is only No. 4 in marine capture after Indonesia, Vietnam, and Myanmar; No. 5 in inland municipal water fishery output compared to Myanmar, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Vietnam; and No. 3 with regard to aqua culture production after Indonesia and Vietnam, she pointed out.

“The building of more hatchery facilities to improve the country’s fish farming capability is one of the long-term solutions to improve productivity. The country’s traditional fishing grounds are getting overfished and the government needs to create breeding grounds and hatcheries to help arrest the dwindling fish stock,” Villar added.

Majority Leader Juan Miguel “Migz” Zubiri, Senators Juan Edgardo “Sonny” M. Angara, Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa, and Joel Villanueva were made co-sponsors of HBs 7691, 9934, 9935, 9936, 9937, 9938, 9939, 9940, 9941, and 9942.



Senate passes 14 bills on marine hatcheries

By [Javier Joe Ismael](#) February 2, 2022



SEN. Cynthia Villar. file Photo

THE Senate on Monday, January 31, approved on third and final reading 14 bills seeking the establishment of marine hatcheries in 12 provinces.

With a vote of 21-0-0, the [Upper Chamber](#) passed local bills seeking the establishment of marine hatcheries in different parts of the country, namely, House Bill (HB) 7435 (Libon, Albay), HB 7544 (Sta. Lucia, [Puerto Princesa](#), Palawan), HB 7547 (Batad, Iloilo), HB 7691 (Basilisa, Dinagat Islands), HB 9933 (Calbayog, [Samar](#)), HB 9934 ([San Jose](#), Northern Samar), HBN 9935 (Samal, Davao del Norte), HB 9936 (Basey, Samar), HB 9937 (Carmen and Braulio E. Dujali, Davao del Norte), HB 9938 (Bombon, Camarines Sur), HB 9939 (Tibiao, Antique), HB 9940 (San Jose, Occidental Mindoro), HB 9941 (Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija) and HB 9942 (Bagac, Bataan).

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However, Villar added, compared to other Southeast [Asian nations](#), the Philippines is only No. 4 in marine capture after [Indonesia](#), [Vietnam](#) and [Myanmar](#); No. 5 in inland municipal water fishery output compared to Myanmar, Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam; and No. 3 with regard to aquaculture production after Indonesia and Vietnam.

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All senators present during the passage on second reading of HBs 7435, 7544 and 7547 were made co-sponsors of the bills.



Senate passes bill placing plastic wastes under producers' responsibility

Published February 1, 2022, 1:06 PM by [Mario Casayuran](#)

The Senate, voting 22-0-0 on Monday, January 31 passed on third and final reading a bill that would mandate large companies to adopt and implement policies for the proper management of plastic packaging wastes.

Senate Bill (SB) 2425 seeks to institutionalize the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and in effect amend Republic Act (RA) 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Senator Cynthia V. Villar, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, said the bill was crafted in response to the clamor for the regulation of single-use plastics and its production, importation and disposal by industries.

"It is not a solution in itself, but it is a move in the right direction, I believe. We need to rescue our country from being a marine litter culprit and demonstrate that a developing country can and will make this work," Villar said following the approval of the bill.

Through the EPR, obliged companies "have the responsibility for the proper and effective recovery, treatment, recycling or disposal of their products after they have been sold and used by consumers" to reduce packaging waste generation and improve the recyclability and reusability of packaging wastes.

Obliged companies will include producers, manufacturers and importers of consumer goods using plastic packaging. They shall be responsible for making financial contributions to support the collection, recovery, transportation, processing, recycling and disposal of their plastic packaging wastes.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will not be required to have EPR programs, the bill stated.

SB 2425 sets targets until 2030 for the compliance of the required companies to "improve their performance over time".

Producers, distributors, retailers implementing EPR programs would also be eligible to tax incentives.

On the other hand, fines ranging from P5 million to P20 million were proposed as penalties for failure to comply with the mandated EPR, as well as failure to meet the targets imposed by the bill.

"It is a sad reality that the Philippines is not in a good place when it comes to plastic wastes. The Philippines is the world's third largest source of plastic waste leaking into the ocean and we have yet to improve our ranking. We hope to contribute in solving this through this legislation," Villar said.

"The EPR bill is not meant to put additional burden to the companies who are plastic packaging wastes generators, but rather it is an acknowledgment and a call for help that plastic waste problem will not be solved without their invaluable cooperation," she added.

Aside from Villar, co-authors of the measure were Senators Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel 3rd, Pilar Juliana "Pia" Cayetano, Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara, Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Joel Villanueva, Maria Lourdes "Nancy" Binay, Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao, Risa Hontiveros, Manuel "Lito" Lapid, and Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri



Senators Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa, Sherwin Gatchalian, Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, Richard Gordon, Panfilo Lacson, Imee Marcos, Grace Poe, Francis Tolentino also voted for the passage of SB 2425.

Villar thanked Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph G. Rect and Senate Minority Leader Franklin M. Drilon for their amendments and support for the bill.



'Plastic waste management producers' lookout'

By [Javier Joe Ismael](#) February 2, 2022



SEN. Cynthia Villar

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"It is not a solution in itself, but it is a move in the right direction, I believe. We need to rescue our country from being a marine litter culprit and demonstrate that a developing country can and will make this work," Villar said upon the measure's approval on third reading.

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Hazardous wastes sa labas ng ospital sa Lucena inireklamo

Dennis Datu, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Feb 01 2022 07:35 PM

MAYNILA — Malabundok na ang taas ng mga nakatambak na hazardous hospital waste na nasa compound ng Quezon Medical Center sa Lucena City.

Hindi na kinaya ng storage facility ng ospital ang dami ng mga basura kaya umapaw na ito. Sa tagal na walang humahakot nito, kumakatas na ang mga basura.

Nagdudulot na rin ito ng masangsang na amoy lalo na kapag umuulan.

Malapit lamang ang nakatambak na mapanganib na mga basura sa residential at commercial area na tanging bakod lamang ang pumapagitan kaya apektado na ang mga residente.

Ayon sa pamunuan ng ospital na pinapatakbo ng provincial government ng Quezon, huling bahagi ng nakaraang taon nang magsimula silang magkaproblema sa pagdami ng mga basura.

Doble umano ang volume ng mga hazardous waste na naiipon ng ospital kumpara sa kakayahan ng kanilang treater na integrated sterilizer and shredder machine na nasa 200 kilos kada araw lamang ang kayang iproseso.

Hindi rin umano makolekta ng kanilang contractor ang mga basura matapos magkaproblema sa budget ang provincial government.

Mapapabilis sana ang pagproseso ng mga hazardous waste pero hindi pa magamit ang makina na dumating sa ospital.

Tiniyak ng pamunuan ng ospital na gumagawa sila ng paraan para mawala ang mga basura.

Inaasahang magsisimula na muling maghakot ng basura ngayong linggong ito ang contractor ng ospital.

—Ulat ni Dennis Datu, ABS-CBN News

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/01/22/hazardous-wastes-sa-labas-ng-ospital-sa-lucena-inireklamo?fbclid=IwAR0KaO8RK6tPKBZrD8IA0seQSNZQBtpLySl6-aF-jnPYgX1h25IBYfn04ZE>



News5

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Nagpositibo sa COVID-19 ang walong bata sa Catanduanes matapos silang maglaro sa lugar na tinatambakan ng mga medical waste. #FrontlineSaUmaga



YOUTUBE.COM

Walong bata, nagpositibo sa COVID matapos ma-expose sa medical waste

#FrontlineSaUmaga | Nagpositibo sa COVID-19 ang walong bata sa Catanduanes matapos sila...

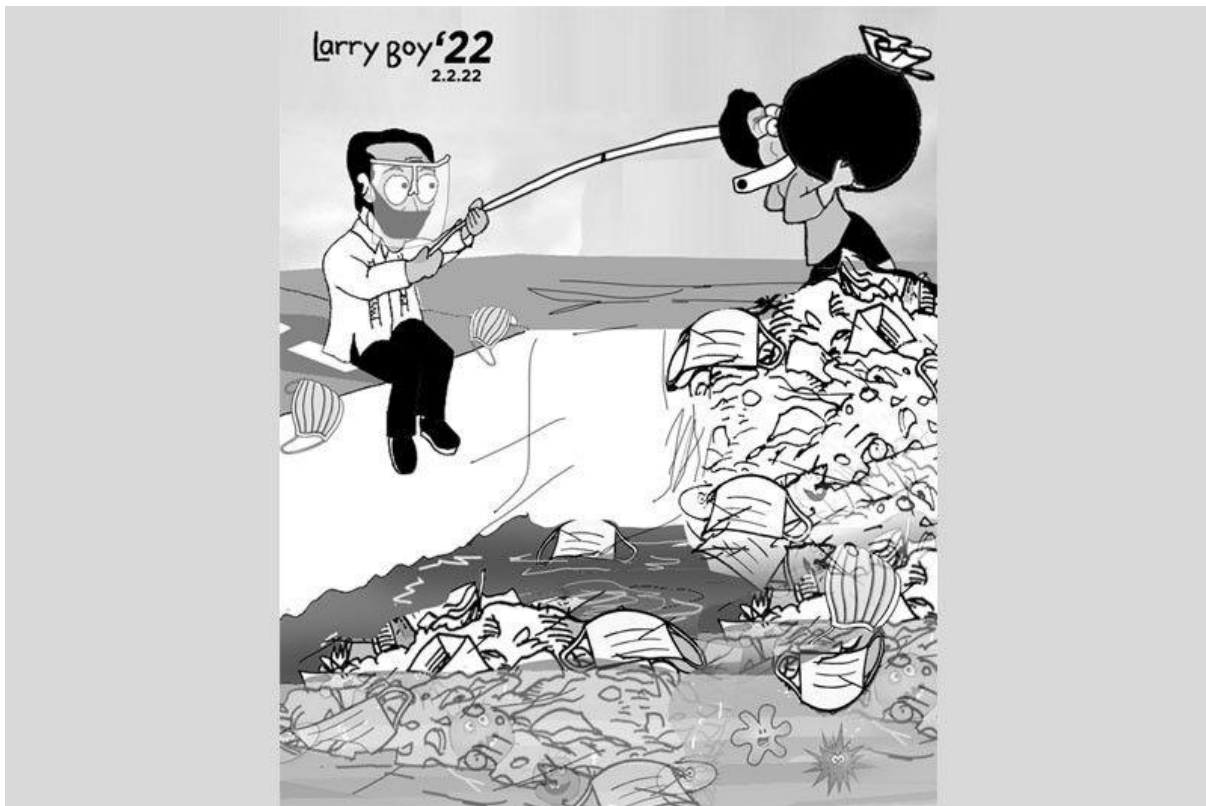
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EDITORIAL - Parusahan, iresponsableng nagtatapon ng medical waste

Pang-masa February 2, 2022 | 12:00am



MARAMING may-ari ng laboratoryo at klinika ang iresponsable sa pagtatapon ng kanilang medical waste ngayong may pandemya. Kung saan-saan na lang nila itinatapon ang mga ginamit na COVID test kits, heringgilya, face masks, guwantes at iba pang protective personal equipments (PPEs). Ang mga iresponsableng laboratoryo at klinika, iniwan na lang sa mga nakabuyangyang na basurahan sa sidewalk at ang iba naman ay sa mga bakanteng lote, tabing dagat, ilog at sapa. Sobrang iresponsable ng mga may-ari ng laboratoryo at klinika na hindi na naisip na puwedeng mahawa ang mae-exposed sa medical waste.

Noong nakaraang linggo, pitong bata sa Virac, Catanduanes ang tinamaan ng COVID. Ang mga bata ay edad 3 hanggang 11. Nahawa ang mga bata dahil sa pinaglaruan nilang mga ginamit na heringgilya na kanilang napulot sa tabing aplaya sa Brgy. Concepcion. Ang mga ginamit na heringgilya ay itinaon ng isang laboratoryo na nasa di-kalayang lugar. Hindi lamang ang pitong bata ang nahawa ng COVID kundi pati na rin ang isang babae na sumaway sa mga bata.

Ayon sa barangay chairman ng Concepcion, naka-isolate na ang mga bata at binigyan na ng mga bitamina para lumakas ang immune system. Ayon pa sa barangay chairman, nag-sorry na raw sa kanila ang laboratoryo na nagtapon ng mga heringgilya. Hindi nabatid kung kakasuhan ang laboratoryo sa pagtatapon ng medical waste. Dapat maparusahan ang iresponsableng laboratoryo at pangalanan ito.

Hindi kataka-taka kung kumalat ang COVID dahil sa mga tulad nitong iresponsableng laboratoryo at klinika. Maski sa Metro Manila ay maraming iresponsableng laboratoryo. Noong nakaraang taon, isang basurero ang nagkalat nang mga basurang COVID test kit sa Vicente G. Cruz St. Nabutas ang black bag na kinalalagyan ng used test kit at naglaglagan sa kalsada ang mga basura. Ayon sa basurero, napulot niya ang black bag sa Palanca St. Quiapo. Itinaon ito ng isang laboratoryo. Hindi nabatid kung kinasuhan ng Manila City Hall ang laboratoryo.



Habang ang gobyerno ay naghihigpit para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng COVID, marami naman ang pasaway at walang pakialam kung kumalat ang virus. Dapat may masampolan na makasuhan na mga iresponsableng nagtatapon ng medical waste o ng mga basurang pandemya.



Sarangani Bay communities battle crown-of-thorns starfish outbreak

February 1, 2022 | 10:01 pm



DENR SOCCSKSARGEN

COASTAL communities around Sarangani Bay have been working together to collect crown-of-thorn (COT) starfish as an outbreak threatens coral reefs at the protected area.

Protected Area Superintendent Joy C. Ologuin said teams composed of residents, local government workers and volunteers have collected over 100,000 of the COT starfish over the last three months.

“This is one of the worst COT breakouts not only in SBPS (Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape) but in the whole country,” Ms. Ologuin said in a statement Tuesday released Monday by the Environment department’s Soccsksargen regional office.

“The 101,323 COT collected do not include those collection efforts from volunteers during weekends.”

She called on other stakeholders, including businesses and civic organizations, to help as continued gathering is needed.

“We’re afraid that we may be losing our corals reefs if this is not abated.”

The Protected Area Management Office offers rice-for-work to encourage more community members to participate.

“(T)his problem should be addressed with urgency because our coral reefs are at stake,” said Maria Elvira V. Lumayag, head of Sarangani’s Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office.

COT starfish, according to the Australian Institute of Marine Science, “are marine invertebrates that feed on coral. They occur naturally on reefs throughout the Indo-Pacific region, and when conditions are right, they can reach plague proportions and devastate hard coral communities.”

Outbreaks since 1962 have “had a major impact on the many reefs that make up the Great Barrier Reef. A fourth outbreak is currently underway in the World-Heritage Area,” the institute said on its website. — **MSJ**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/sarangani-bay-communities-battle-crown-of-thorns-starfish-outbreak/?fbclid=IwAR3ejrDggqcHzdb1Fm59LXyRKhf2ilOhajRlPPCVPH8iDrJdnrctn0PXCZs>



Bora bins swab pass

Published 9 hours ago on February 1, 2022 10:07 PM

By **Jun Aguirre**



BORACAY, AKLAN—The provincial government has lifted Tuesday the negative RT-PCR test as requirement for fully vaccinated tourists to this resort island, effective immediately.

Miraflores amended Tuesday his Executive Order 001-A series of 2022 issued 6 January, which originally required it in the face of Omicron.

It was gathered that the move is part of the resort-island's preparations receiving international tourists in the weeks to come.

The Malacanang earlier announced that the Philippines will be open to international tourists by 16 February.

The province currently has 699 active Covid-19 cases, where at least a case has been confirmed to be Omicron.

According to the Malay Tourism Office, Boracay registered 33,756 tourist arrivals from 1 to 28 January 2022.

The local government of Malay, meanwhile, announced that the new curfew for Boracay is set at 1 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. daily.



Presidential candidates urged to push climate actions

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) February 2, 2022

Environmental organization [Greenpeace Philippines](#) renewed its call for the inclusion of climate action and climate justice in the presidential candidates' electoral agenda.

In a statement, Greenpeace urged presidential candidates to go beyond disaster response and to push for policies that will address long-term climate impacts by ensuring climate is the next administration's priority focus.

These policies, the organization said, should include holding big polluting countries and companies accountable for their contributions to the climate crisis, and lobbying for enhanced climate financing as well as compensation for loss and damage—aside from transitioning the economy away from fossil fuel dependence.

"While disaster recovery plans are needed, especially as the country reels from the impacts of Typhoon '[Odette](#),' presidential candidates must realize that this will not improve economic resilience to the climate crisis in the long run. Climate policies centered on the rights of the people must be placed alongside ensuring job security and a green and just [Covid-19](#) recovery, in order to ensure economic stability," Greenpeace Country Director [Lea Guerrero](#) said.

The call came following a USwitch report that revealed that disasters linked to global warming have cost the Philippines \$42.929 billion or \$360.75 million annually between 1902 and 2021.

Other slow onset impacts can also severely affect the economy, according to Greenpeace. In 2021, a Greenpeace report estimated that sea level rise and flooding in the City of [Manila](#) within the next 8 years can impact around 87 percent of the city's GDP.

While the study focused on just the capital, earlier Greenpeace research shows that only one of the 16 regions of the Philippines is not vulnerable to a one-meter rise in sea level, and the regions and provinces most susceptible to sea level rise, extreme weather events, and landslides are also among those with the highest poverty incidence.

Greenpeace urged that the candidates for executive and legislative positions must advocate urgent climate action at home, such as following through with the Climate Emergency Declaration, and ensuring the country's rapid transition to renewable energy.

Because of the Philippines' extreme vulnerability to climate impacts, the country must also lead the call for climate justice, it added.

"The climate crisis is the defining issue for the next administration. It is only fitting that aspirants prioritize it as early as now," Guerrero said.



Angeles launches ‘plastic-to-rice’ project

The project is to persuade Angeleño households to practice waste segregation at source in their own homes, and will also reduce the use of plastics.

Published 3 hours ago on February 2, 2022 03:40 AM

By **Jonas Reyes**



Photo: City Information Office Angeles City

ANGELES CITY — The local government here kicked off a plastic-to-rice exchange project in Barangay Mining on Tuesday, in the city’s bid to reduce plastic wastes and to help augment the livelihood of its residents.

Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin Jr. revealed that a total of 198 kilos of rice were exchanged to 198 kilos of plastic from residents Barangay Mining.

Lazatin said that the project — dubbed as “Walang Plastikan — Plastik Palit Bigas Project” — aims to collect recyclable plastics from Angeleño households in exchange for rice.

“The redemption trucks will go to the 33 barangays via schedule to implement the project efficiently,” Lazatin said, adding that a kilo of plastic is equal to one kilo of rice.

The project is supervised by Chief Adviser IC Calaguas with Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel, City Engineer Donato Dizon, Angeles City Economic Development Investment and Promotions Officer-in-Charge Irish Bonus-Llego, Angeles City Barangay Outreach Officer Michael Lising, City Social Welfare and Development Officer Edna Duaso, City Environment and Natural Resources Office Head Archie Lazatin, and Angeles City Traffic Development Officer-in-Charge Francis Pangilinan.

The project is to persuade Angeleño households to practice waste segregation at source in their own homes, and will also reduce the use of plastics.

The plastics collected will then be sold to companies recycling plastic for hollow blocks and cement, according to Lazatin.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/02/02/angeles-launches-plastic-to-rice-project/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=angeles-launches-plastic-to-rice-project



Too many masks: WHO cites glut of waste from Covid response

By [Associated Press](#) February 1, 2022

GENEVA: The [World Health Organization](#) says overuse of gloves, "moon suits" and the use of billions of masks and vaccination syringes to help prevent the spread of the [coronavirus](#) have spurred a huge glut of health care waste worldwide.

The [UN](#) health agency reported Tuesday that tens of thousands of tons of extra medical waste has strained [waste management](#) systems and is threatening both health and the environment, pointing to a "dire need" to improve those systems and get a response from both governments and people.

"Part of the message for the public is to become more of a conscious consumer," said Dr. [Margaret Montgomery](#), technical officer of WHO's water, sanitation, hygiene and health unit. "In terms of the volume, it's enormous."

"We find that people are wearing excessive PPE," Montgomery said, referring to personal protection equipment.

The agency says most of the roughly 87,000 tons of such equipment — including what she called "moon suits" and gloves — obtained from March 2020 to November 2021 to battle Covid-19 has ended up as waste. More than 8 billion doses of vaccine administered globally have produced 143 tons of extra waste in terms of syringes, needles and safety boxes.

"It is absolutely vital to provide health workers with the right (protective gear)," Dr. [Michael Ryan](#), WHO's emergencies chief, said in a statement. "But it is also vital to ensure that it can be used safely without impacting on the surrounding environment."

In the statement, Dr. [Anne Woolridge](#) of the [International Solid Waste Association](#) said "safe and rational use" of personal protective equipment would reduce environmental harm, save money, reduce possible supply shortages and help prevent infection "by changing behaviors."

WHO issued recommendations like use of "eco-friendly" packaging and shipping as well as reusable equipment and recyclable or biodegradable materials.

The agency called for investment in "non-burn waste treatment" technologies. It reported that 30 percent of healthcare facilities worldwide — and 60 percent in the least developed countries — were already ill-equipped to handle existing waste loads, even before the Covid-19 pandemic led to them to balloon.



Future of coral reefs in the time of climate change

February 1, 2022



Coral reefs and fish in the waters of the Seychelles archipelago. UNDP PHOTO

[NEW JERSEY](#): Coral reefs are one of the world's most biologically diverse and productive ecosystems. They provide abundant ecological goods and services and are central to the socioeconomic and cultural welfare of coastal and island communities — throughout tropical and subtropical ocean countries — by contributing billions of dollars to the local and global economies when combined with tourism and recreation.

Coral reefs also play a vital role in the protection of shorelines, fisheries, biodiversity and unique ecosystems. Building magnificent reefs, tiny coral polyps have developed an incredible ability to calcify and are the most prolific mineralizers on the planet.

They form immense structures such as the Great Barrier Reef, which is a world heritage site. And in doing so, they make more minerals than any other organism and have adapted specialized structures that are well worth imitating.

Biomimicry

Biomimicry is the concept of the imitation of models, systems and elements of nature to solve complex human problems. It is an efficient, innovative and sustainable way compared to conventional techniques, and hence it has scope in the future of sustainable habitats.

Biomineralization expert [Brent Constantz](#) of Stanford University was inspired to make a new type of cement for constructing buildings by copying how corals build reefs.

Making this cement through biomimicry removes carbon dioxide — a greenhouse gas that causes global warming, as noted by [Carla A. Wise](#) (March 12, 2010) in "Biomimicry inventors tackle environmental problems" in <https://www.hcn.org/issues/42.5/inspired-by-nature>.

Corals have evolved chemical defenses to protect themselves from predators. These substances are important sources of new medicines that are being developed to treat cancer, arthritis, human bacterial infections, Alzheimer's, heart disease and other maladies.

Further research is being developed for potential medical treatments, nutritional supplements, pesticides, cosmetics, and other commercial products. Unfortunately, the adverse effect of human activities adversely impacts upon these valuable maritime resources.



Critical threats

Among the most critical of threats are improper fishing activities (bottom trawling), land-based sources of pollution (such as sewage discharge, microplastic pollution), climate change, ocean warming and acidification, and habitat destruction through rapacious overfishing, with China and Taiwan among the chief culprits.

Corals reefs are the foundation of tropical marine ecosystems that exist in a symbiotic relationship with algae and plankton that keep the world's fish stocks sustained. Corals obtain their energy by consuming compounds derived from photosynthesis by the microorganisms inhabiting coral tissue.

This symbiosis is very sensitive and subject to subtle environmental changes, such as increased ocean acidity and rising temperature. When excessively stressed, the colorful algae are expelled from the corals, causing the corals to bleach and eventually die.

The most significant threat to coral reefs ever documented was the high temperature-related coral bleaching caused by the El Niño Southern Oscillation of 1997-1998. Recovery of affected reefs has been primarily through the regrowth of surviving colonies.

Since then, significant coral recruitment has been observed, raising hopes for the recovery of several reefs if other major threats do not transpire in the near term.

Nevertheless, threats to coral reefs continue due to human activities, including overfishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution, human settlement and development, mining, commercial shipping industry and rampant tourism in tropical coastal regions.

The effects of overfishing and bottom trawling on structurally complex habitats and fauna have been compared to the impacts of forest clear-cutting. As nets, beams, trawl doors, chains and dredges pass over the seabed, the sediment surface and a considerable proportion of the vital habitat of animal and plant life are disturbed, sometimes permanently.

Destructive fishing practices

China's distant water fishing where the fishing boats often use bottom trawling, dragging a net across the seabed entailing significant bycatch (including juvenile fish, sharks, seabirds, marine turtles), damages the seafloor, and irrevocably harms coral reefs. Trawling can also disturb areas where fish breeding stocks congregate, which artisanal fishing communities have traditionally used to identify critical fishing grounds.

Data on the dimensions of various destructive fishing practices (such as blast fishing, anchor damage and the use of poisons), coral regrowth estimates, and time graphs of fish diversity, all reveal the full extent of all current destruction of coral reefs and their habitat.

Many countries have laws prohibiting blast fishing, but they are not fully implemented unfortunately, and are challenging to enforce in remote areas. The sound waves from the explosions of fish bombs are trapped underwater, making it difficult to detect from the surface. Effective management of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) is key to patrolling illegal fishing areas.

In northern [Tanzania](#), illegal blast fishing poses a critical danger to its coral reefs. Blast fishing was banned in Tanzania in 2003 under the revised [Fisheries Act](#). Such fishing practices carry a penalty. However, such illegal practices provide fisherfolk an easy way (short cut) to boost their catch, especially in countries where enforcing maritime laws can be difficult.



A spot check by Anadoly News agency revealed that illegal fishing practices continue unabated in parts of the region as noted by Kizito Makoye (Aug. 31, 2021) in "Blast fishing by Tanzanian fishermen endangers marine life in Indian Ocean" in <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/blast-fishing-by-tanzanian-fishermen-endangers-marine-life-in-indian-ocean/2351382>.

Dynamite fishing destroys both the food chain and the corals where fish hatchlings nest and grow in safe ecosystems. Without healthy coral reefs, these ecosystems and the fish that live within them die off. It kills the entire food chain, including algae, plankton, large and small fish, and the juveniles that do not grow old enough to breed.

Sustaining the needs of local fisherfolk requires careful examination, given the implications for their livelihoods and socioeconomic well-being. One study found that decline in the shark fin trade among communities in eastern [Indonesia](#) led fisherfolk to pursue high-risk activities, including blast fishing, illegal trans-boundary fishing and transnational crimes — as noted by the [California Environmental Associates](#) in "Trends in Marine Resources and [Fisheries Management](#) in Indonesia: A 2018 Review" in <https://www.ceiconsulting.com/casestudies/indonesia-report/>.

Given the complexity of these socioeconomic conditions, additional research is required to identify sustainable and practical fisheries management measures that can reduce pressure on the most vulnerable fishing communities and thereby, protect coastal livelihoods. Adverse conditions arising from a cycle of poverty results in resource degradation, and if pushed too hard, coral reefs may eventually lose their ability to bounce back even when economic conditions improve.

According to a [World Bank](#) report, 56 percent of the coastline of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal and Togo is subject to average erosion of 1.8 meters per year. Benin's erosion rates are exceptionally high, with an average loss of four meters per year.

Beyond the economic cost, coastal degradation takes lives and destroys livelihoods — as noted in the World Bank publication (March 14, 2019) in "West Africa's Coast: Losing Over \$3.8 Billion a Year to Erosion, Flooding and Pollution" in <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/publication/west-africas-coast-losing-over-38-billion-a-year-to-erosion-flooding-and-pollution>

Environmental ethics

Today, with many nations and communities practicing sustainable ecological programs, human perceptions of nature, the environment, climate and the oceans are changing. Undoubtedly, humans are an integral part of creation, nature and the environment and therefore developing a new concept of environmental ethics is essential for a sustainable future for the planet.

There are projects that range from education programs, plastic pollution control, Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS) eradication, coral nurseries to renewable energy development and responsible stewardship.

The [Global Fund](#) for Coral Reefs (GCF) is a 10-year, \$625-million blended finance vehicle consisting of a grant window, designed to incubate a pipeline of investible projects, and an investment window which GCF is funding as noted by GCF staff (Nov 11, 2021) in "Global Fund for Coral Reefs brings together grant and investment windows at GCF COP26 event" in <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/global-fund-coral-reefs-brings-together-grant-and-investment-windows-gcf-cop26-event>



Marine biologists vigilantly monitor coral reefs with the help of scuba divers and by deploying autonomous or human-operated underwater vehicles to capture visual data on coral reefs. There are research materials on the effects of oceanographic variables, such as sea temperature, turbulence, salinity, and nutrients feeding coral reefs and their influence on coral growth, reproduction, mortality, assimilation and adaptation.

Coral plantations are costly and time-consuming, and species introductions are often very challenging. [King Abdullah University of Science and Technology](#) (Kaust), located on the shore of the [Red Sea](#), offers a unique combination of wonderful access to coral reefs and world-class research laboratories.

Kaust is working to identify heat-resilient corals and crossbreed them with coral populations elsewhere to increase their heat tolerance — as noted by [Marta Vidal](#) (Jan. 17, 2022) in [Deutsche Welle](#) (DW) News in "Could the Red Sea's heat-resilient corals help restore the world's dying reefs?" in <https://www.dw.com/en/could-the-red-seas-heat-resilient-corals-help-restore-the-worlds-dying-reefs/a-60389699>.

The CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing system is also helping scientists understand, and possibly improve, how coral reefs respond to the environmental stresses of climate change.

Economic value

The economic value of coral reefs is rarely appreciated. Gains and losses in numbers activate a sense of realization when confronted with risky decisions related to the environment. Governments, key decision-makers, and individuals working together must advocate more of the actual value of coral reefs when used sustainably.

This will help specifically in restructuring aid and sustainable-conservation efforts to tackle the causes of coral reef decline. The [United Nations](#) General Assembly has declared 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (Iyafa 2022).

This timing from the world's leading multilateral agency can serve as an excellent opportunity to promote the socioeconomic importance of coral reefs and the maintenance of vibrant coastal communities steeped in the culture of the peoples of the sea.

[Gabriel Grimsditch](#), a marine ecosystem expert at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), said: "Apart from urgently cutting carbon emissions, humans can design a network of effective and equitable marine protected areas or locally managed marine areas to protect coral reefs." Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is one of the United Nations critical Sustainable Development Goals – SDG 14 is a problem of grave global concern.

At risk is a significant source of protein for hundreds of millions of people and the health of coral reefs. Stop Fish Bombing, an NGO registered as a charity in Hong Kong, has developed underwater bomb location technology in collaboration with the Californian tech company ShotSpotter to adapt their gunshot location technology to help detect and alert law enforcement and ultimately eradicate destructive fishing practices.

This innovative technology testing by the NGO Stop Fish Bombing must extend to all continents. Local announcements of such innovations can allow administrations to create alerts.

Coral reefs form barriers to protect the shoreline from waves and storms — where coral reef structures buffer shorelines against erosion and floods, helping to prevent loss of life and property damage.



Shoreline protection is necessary to retain and rebuild natural systems (such as cliffs, dunes, wetlands, and beaches) and to protect man's artifacts (buildings, infrastructure, etc.). Working together with governments and law enforcement coastal communities can significantly improve the operational efficiency of enforcement activities and legal processes, which has the potential to have a global impact.

BY GEETIKA CHANDWANI AND [IRA CHANDWANI](#), IPS

Geetika Chandwani is finishing her MA at the [School of Diplomacy and International Relations](#) at [Seton Hall University](#), New Jersey and her daughter Ira Chandwani is a high school student in New Jersey.



Are wildlife species evolving much more rapidly because of global warming?

By GMA News

Published February 1, 2022 3:09pm



Dark Eyed Junco Courtesy of EarthTalk

The science speaks for itself. Researchers from Australia's Deakin University found evidence of so-called "[shapeshifting](#)" among animals in recent years, in direct response to warming temperatures across habitat ranges.

Witness: Several species of Australian parrots have four-to-10% bigger bills than their ancestors before the industrial revolution, directly correlating with rising temperatures due to human-induced global warming.

Dark-eyed juncos in North America have also evolved bigger bills as temperature extremes ramped up across their range. Mammalian shapeshifting also includes [longer tails in wood mice](#) and increased leg and tail sizes in masked shrews over the 150 years, which are all likely adaptations to [warming habitats](#).

Another study found that climate change has sped up the rate of natural selection for mosquitos that lay their eggs inside carnivorous pitcher plants. Mosquito larvae that hatch in the spring have adapted to an earlier spring by opening sooner than they did 25 years ago to feed on more dead insects.

While these types of adaptations may benefit the species under study, climate change is likely affecting many more which cannot adapt fast enough to keep up. For example, Scotland's feral sheep have become smaller due to warmer weather in the winter that no longer necessitates larger, thicker coats.

Polar bears, which have evolved thick fur coats and layers and layers of fat to keep them warm out on the Arctic tundra and swimming between ice floes, are likely another evolutionary loser in the age of [climate change](#). As ice caps melt and ice floes become fewer and farther between, these majestic white guardians of the Arctic are unlikely to adapt quickly enough to keep up with the fast-moving changes to their environment and are thus likely headed for extinction unless we can turn things around ASAP.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a quarter of all species may face extinction as a result of global warming, an estimate based on studies on the range of species and whether a species has adapted to new conditions of temperature, rainfall and more. Researchers then projected future ranges of to determine whether the range will shift faster than a species can move and adapt. Species that fail to adapt quickly enough will be trapped in degrading habitat and as such are much more likely to go extinct.



While warming temperatures increased gene flow and evolution among some species during the Pleistocene era, the current reality of climate change paints a different picture. “The present human-caused climate change will not lead to similar extensive mixing and adaptation of populations,” says Eeva Furman of the Finnish Environment Institute. “Partly because movements of most species are greatly hindered in human dominated landscapes, and partly because the present climate warming is extremely rapid in comparison with Pleistocene climate fluctuations.” — **LA, GMA News**

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at [here](#). To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/820286/are-wildlife-species-evolving-much-more-rapidly-because-of-global-warming/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1I3wWefDBnVDDQ19EFiIpugZOTBrS0R9P8b5zN0K7SVIyaU91XHHCmbPQ



Dahil sa pollution, isang rehiyon sa Russia, nakararanas ng itim na snow!

[MGA PANGYAYARING KAGILA-GILALAS](#) - [Arnel Medina](#) - Pang-masa February 2, 2022 | 12:00am

ILANG bayan sa Magadan region sa Russia ang nakararanas ngayon ng itim na snow dahil sa air pollution na dulot ng lumang coal-powered water heating plant!

Sa bayan ng Omsukchan, hindi pangkaraniwan ang snow na bumabagsak mula sa kalangitan. Imbis na puting niyebe, mala-uling na snow ang bumabalot sa kanilang lugar.

Tuwing winter, nagiging viral ang mga litrato ng itim na snow ngunit ayon sa mga residente, kahit ano pa ang gawin nilang pangangalampag sa mga awtoridad, walang nagiging aksyon ukol dito.

Hindi isang kababalaghan ang itim na snow sa Omsukchan. Ito ay epekto ng matinding air pollution. Sobrang lamig ng klima sa Omsukchan tuwing winter kaya may planta roon na nagsupply ng mainit na tubig sa mga residente.

Gumagamit ang planta na ito ng coal o uling upang mapataas ang temperatura ng tubig na dahilan para magkaroon ng polusyon sa hangin. Ang dulot na pollution ng planta ay nagbibigay ng itim na kulay sa snow.

Dahil sa reklamo ng mga residente, tumugon na ang mga pulitiko at nangako na ipasasara na ang coal-powered plant at papalitan na ito ng electric powered plant ngunit naghahanap pa ng investor ang kanilang local government.



5-taong pagrekober sa Thailand oil spill ikinabahala ng mga mangingisda



February 1, 2022 @ 1:14 PM 17 hours ago

THAILAND – Nagkukumahog ngayon ang Thai navy sa paglilinis sa hindi bababa sa 60 toneladang krudo na tumagas mula sa undersea pipeline na pagmamay-ari ng Star Petroleum Refining Public Company Limited sa Gulf of Thailand.

Nangyari ang oil spill 20 kilometro mula sa baybayin ng Rayong province.

Kaugnay nito, pinagbawalan muna ang paglangoy sa Mar Ram Phueng Beach matapos na ideklarang disaster zone dahil sa oil spill.

Ayon sa mga may-ari ng resorts at seafood restaurants sa Rayong, lalong papatay sa kanilang mga negosyo ang oil spill kung saan una nang naapektuhan ng pandemya ang kanilang turismo.

Marami ring mangingisda ang isang buwan munang pinahinto sa pangingisda kapalit ng \$900 emergency payments na ayon sa mangingisdang si Tuem, 46, ay hindi matutumbasan ang kinikita nila sa kanilang regular na trabaho.

Tila mauulit anila ang karanasan nila sa mahabang environmental at economic recovery matapos na isa ring pipeline ang tumagas sa kaparehong lugar noong 2013.

“I don’t want compensation. I want a healthy sea that I can work in for my livelihood,” ani Tuem.

“The sea can give us money every day. The sea was good in the past few years. I do not know how many years before it becomes good again.”

Samantala, ayon kay Thanomsak Boonphakdee, marine scientist sa Burapha University, posibleng matagalan pa bago nila ma-assess ang lahat ng pinsalang idinulot ng oil spill sa lugar.

Katunayan, inabot ng limang taon bago tuluyang nakarekober ang karagatan mula sa epekto ng oil spill noong 2013.

Sabi naman ng Star Petroleum Refining PCL, operator ng pipeline na ang pangunahing shareholder ay Chevron, sinusubukan nilang bawasan ang ecological impact ng langis gamit ang kanilang mga boom. *RNT*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/5-taong-pagrekober-sa-thailand-oil-spill-ikinabahala-ng-mga-mangingisda/>



Schneider Electric promotes the need for uniform data center environmental impact reporting

Published February 2, 2022, 12:11 AM
by [Enzo Luna](#)



Schneider Electric, the global leader in digital energy management and automation and the world's most sustainable corporation for 2021, according to Corporate Knights, recently unveiled a comprehensive new framework for ecologically sustainable data centers. For data center operators at various phases of their sustainability journeys, the industry-first methodology presents five areas of environmental impact, each with significant KPIs. Operators can reduce the environmental impact of data centers by utilizing the architecture.

Data centers are the backbone, perhaps more critical and appropriate, they are the heart of our digital world. All data flows through data centers, and with the accelerated transition to a more automated and more digital world, it is crucial for data centers – the very largest data centers and the very smallest edge data centers – to support the increased demand – efficiently and sustainably, while also delivering on resiliency. With this increased digital demand, the IT-sector energy consumption and projected energy consumption are highly debated topics given the climate crisis.



Today, data centers are responsible for 2% of the world's CO2 emissions – equivalent to the global airline industry – according to the latest UN IPCC report on climate change. To add to this, according to recent research from Schneider Electric, IT-sector electricity demand is predicted to grow by ~50% by 2030, reaching 3,200 TWh.

As per Statista report (a leading provider of market and consumer data), the industrial sector was the Philippines' second-largest electricity-consuming sector in 2020, with total consumption of roughly 25.6 million megawatts.

Schneider Electric will unveil a framework for a holistic approach to environmental sustainability, which will include important metrics and areas of environmental impact. By proposing five categories, which encompass 23 essential metrics for data center operators in the Beginning, Advanced, and Leading stages of their sustainability journey, the goal is to lead



the 17 most relevant sustainability frameworks and standards to help data center operators set goals, report on progress, and certify their facilities.



Data Center Female IT Specialist Uses Laptop Computer. Cloud Computing Server Farm with IT Engineer Monitoring Statistic, Maintenance Control. Information Technology of Fintech, e-Business.

Schneider Electric is recommending that data centers are holistic in their environmental strategies and reporting which means being inclusive of 5 areas of environmental impact:

- Energy use
- GHG emissions
- Water
- Waste
- Land and biodiversity

A group of ESG specialists, sustainability consultants, data center scientists, and data center solution architects collaborated to establish the environmental sustainability measure framework.

The goal of the data center sustainability metric framework is to drive the industry to become the leading industry in terms of environmental sustainability, as well as to obtain industry adoption and push the sector toward self-regulation.

Pankaj Sharma, Executive Vice President, Secure Power Division, Schneider Electric, said: “Environmental sustainability reporting is a growing focus for many data center operators. Yet, the industry lacks a standardized approach for implementing, measuring, and reporting on environmental impact. Schneider Electric developed a holistic framework with standardized metrics to guide operators and the industry at large. Our intention with this framework is to improve benchmarking and progress toward environmental sustainability to protect natural resources for future generations.

“The data center industry has made significant progress in increasing energy efficiency; however, as digital demands increase, they must remain committed to driving long-term broader sustainability initiatives,” said Rob Brothers, Program Vice President for the Datacenter and Support Services Program at IDC. You can’t have an impact on what you don’t measure; therefore, companies must establish clear and consistent metrics that account for not only efficient technology, but also the consumption (or possible destruction) of natural resources such as water, land and biodiversity.”

No matter where they are on their sustainability path, Schneider Electric can help industries and business organization with their data center operations. Schneider Electric can consult and guide data centers on everything from setting bold and actionable strategies to practical design, build, operate, and maintain practices, energy procurement services, supply chain decarbonization, and annual reporting, thanks to its global network of over 2,000 sustainability consultants. Schneider Electric’s framework was created by the



company's Energy Management Research Center, which drew on the knowledge of ESG specialists, sustainability consultants, data center scientists, and data center solution architects to eliminate the guesswork from measurement and reporting. Since its inception in 2002, the Energy Management Research Center has produced over 200 vendor-neutral whitepapers and trade-off tools that are freely available to the industry.

Schneider Electric works with leading technology companies and colocation providers to design, build, operate, and maintain facilities. It is the only digital partner that offers solutions for power, building, IT, and sustainability facets of the business.

To learn more about the framework and enable your sustainable growth, download the Guide to Sustainability Metrics for Data Centers, today.

02 FEBRUARY 2022, WEDNESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID- 19

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH logs below 10K new infections; active cases down to 176K

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz February 1, 2022, 6:16 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday reported 9,493 new cases of Covid-19, a significant drop from the previous 14,546 daily infections.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH said active cases are now down to 176,053, compared to Monday’s 190,818.

Of the active cases, 164,995 have mild symptoms, 6,133 are asymptomatic, 3,070 moderate symptoms, 1,529 with severe symptoms, and 326 in critical condition.

The DOH also logged 24,210 new recoveries, bringing the country’s tally to 3,339,558 or 93.6 percent of all confirmed infections since the pandemic started in March 2020.

It reported 51 new deaths, lower than Monday’s 112, with the country’s total at 54,054 or 1.51 percent of all reported cases.

Based on the latest testing data, there were 31,053 Covid-19 tests administered on Sunday with a positivity rate of 28.8 percent.

To date, there are 3,800 beds at intensive care units (ICU) all over the country at 46 percent occupancy, 21,000 isolation beds at 45 percent occupancy, 15,900 ward beds at 47 percent occupancy, and 25 percent of 3,100 ventilators are in use.

In the National Capital Region alone, there are 1,300 ICU beds at 40 percent occupancy, 4,800 isolation beds at 35 percent occupancy, 4,300 ward beds at 40 percent occupancy, and 24 percent of 1,000 ventilators are in use. **(PNA)**



Ordinances restricting the unvaccinated relaxed with shift to Alert Level 2

Philstar.com February 1, 2022 | 9:56am



Health workers conduct house-to-house antigen testing for residents of West Rembo in Makati City on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022. The activity is part of COVID-19 response program of the office of the Vice President Leni Robredo. DOH Epidemiology Bureau director Dr. Alethea de Guzman, said 15 areas in Metro Manila already have cases of the highly transmissible Omicron coronavirus variant

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — With the declaration of Alert Level 2, the Metro Manila Council's resolution limiting the mobility of the unvaccinated is also lifted, along with the "no vaccination, no ride" department order on public transportation.

Under Alert Level 2, the maximum operational capacities for several businesses and activities is **50% for indoor venues**, fully vaccinated persons, and those below 18 years of age, even if unvaccinated and 70% for outdoor venues provided all workers of the establishments are fully inoculated against COVID-19.

In Quezon City, Mayor Joy Belmonte said that the City Law and Order Cluster will strictly enforce disciplinary hours for minors, who are prohibited from loitering in public places after 10 p.m.

Gatherings "for no specific purpose" are prohibited, while gatherings in residences among persons not belonging to the same household are allowed but "discouraged."

Pasay City also imposed a curfew for all minors in the city from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Quezon City Memorandum No. 06-22 also said that non-fully vaccinated individuals "may engage in outdoor activities, and use public transportation and may also enter indoor establishments to obtain essential goods and services."

All persons are highly encouraged to limit activities out of the home, and businesses are encouraged to adopt work-from-home arrangements to the extent possible, it also said.

In Pasay, though, "unvaccinated persons, regardless of age, must remain at home except as necessary to obtain essential goods and services, or when necessary for work."

Pasay City public information officer Elmer Mesina told reporters that "the LGU will abide by the recommendations of the IATF."



Asked if the new memorandum should take precedence over elapsed MMC Resolution or the IATF's Alert Level 2, Mesina said: "The mayor and his team are currently working on these kinks. Let's wait for their decision."

PNP urges parents: Follow safety protocols

The Philippine National Police also said it is set to recalibrate its action plan in response to the downgrading of Metro Manila and seven other areas to Alert Level 2 starting February 1 until February 15.

Under this alert level, children are allowed to go outdoors. Police Gen. Dionardo Carlos, PNP chief said that if there is no important purpose in bringing the minors outside, then it is better to keep them at home to avoid being caught up in crowded places.

"We are appealing again to the parents or guardians to take the responsibility of monitoring their minor companion since there isn't any age restriction for those who wish to go outdoors," he said.

The PNP assured the public that the deployment of police personnel in public places or areas of concern is already being mapped out.

"We advise our unit commanders to verify the adjustments in policies that the LGUs may implement in their locality," Carlos said.



Alert Level 1 sa NCR posible sa Marso

By [Malou Escudero](#)(Pang-Masa) - February 2, 2022 - 12:00am



Ipinapakita ng mga dumating na pasahero sa NAIA Terminal 1, Parañaque City ang kanilang negative na RT-PCR test na kinunan sa loob ng 48 oras mula sa pinanggalingan na bansa. Magugunita na sinuspendi ng pamahalaan ang "green-yellow-red list" system.

KJ Rosales

MANILA, Philippines — Posibleng sa buwan ng Marso ay maaaring ilagay na ang National Capital Region (NCR) sa Alert Level 1.

Ito ang sinabi ni Dr. Guido David ng OCTA Research group dahil na rin sa mungkahi ni Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion na ibaba sa Alert Level 1 ang NCR pagdating ng katapusan ng Pebrero.

Ayon kay David, pag-aaralan nila ang numero ng COVID-19 pagdating sa katapusan ng Pebrero at sa tingin niya ay posibleng bumaba ang Alert Level kapag nasa 5% na lamang ang positivity rate.

Sinabi ni David na sa Europe ay tinatangal na rin ang alert level pero dapat pa rin aniyang pag-aralan itong mabuti.

Ang NCR ay kabilang sa mga lugar na nasa Alert Level 2 simula kahapon, Pebrero 1 hanggang Pebrero 15.

Idinagdag ni David na titingnan lahat ang mga posibilidad tungkol sa pagtatanggal ng alert level system na puwedeng gawing experiment.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2022/02/02/2157958/alert-level-1-sa-ncr-possible-sa-marso/amp/>



3rd Nat'l Vax Day set very soon

Gov't eyes third National Vaccination Days

Published 6 hours ago on February 2, 2022 12:35 AM

By **Jom Garner**



The government is planning to hold a third round of the nationwide simultaneous vaccination drive to ramp up its inoculation drive against coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in the country.

In a text message to *Daily Tribune*, National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC) chairperson Myrna Cabotaje said that the proposed date of the third national vaccination days will be conducted from 10 to 11 February.

"We are finalizing a 10 to 11 February date," Cabotaje, also an undersecretary at the Department of Health (DoH), said.

However, the proposed third edition of the national vaccination days also known as "Bayanihan, Bakunahan" will be different as it aims to vaccinate at least five million people, slightly lower compared to the previous national vaccination days.

The government conducted the first round of national vaccination days from 29 November to 1 December 2021 but was extended due to failure to achieve the supposed target.

The drive was extended until 3 December with about 9.9 million people receiving Covid-19 shots at the end of the drive.

Meanwhile, more than 7.4 million doses were administered during the second leg of the three-day nationwide simultaneous vaccination drive against Covid-19 which was conducted from 15 to 17 December 2021, despite being affected by the onslaught of the typhoon "Odette."

Cabotaje said the third national vaccination days will focus on administering Covid-19 vaccine to senior citizens, who are considered to be the most vulnerable to the dreaded respiratory disease.

"It will only be two days. Besides, there has been localized version of national vaccination days in other regions and provinces," she added.

In a separate interview in *Tribune's* digital program *Gising Na!*, Cabotaje said that the latest vaccination report showed that more than 59 million Filipinos are now fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

"If our basis will be the 111.5 million total population including children aged 0 to 4 years old and 5 to 11 years old, we are now at 53 percent, in terms of fully vaccinated," she said.



“However, if we look at the target of 70 percent of the total population which is about 89 million, we have already reached 66 percent of the target,” she added.

Since the government started its Covid-19 vaccine rollout in March last year, the country has vaccinated a total of 126,951,502 doses, of which 60,423,277 are first doses, while 7,502,081 are booster doses.

Based on the National Covid-19 Vaccination Dashboard, the average daily dose in the last seven days is currently pegged at 440,751.



Moderna vaccine gets full approval

Spikevax meets the FDA's high standards for safety

Published 2 hours ago on February 2, 2022 05:10 AM

By **Agence France-Presse**



Photo Courtesy : AFP

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Monday that it has granted full approval to Moderna's Covid-19 "Spikevax" vaccine, which had previously received an emergency use authorization in the US.

"The public can be assured that Spikevax meets the FDA's high standards for safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality required of any vaccine approved for use in the United States," acting FDA commissioner Janet Woodcock said in a statement.

"The FDA's approval of Spikevax is a significant step in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, marking the second vaccine approved to prevent Covid-19," Woodcock said.

The full approval of the Moderna vaccine is for individuals aged 18 or older.

It received an emergency use authorization in December 2020.



3 BAGONG ANAK NG COVID BANTAYAN



February 1, 2022 @ 10:34 AM 20 hours ago

HUMUHUPA na ang COVID-19 sa mahal kong Pinas sa pangkalahatan, lalo na sa Metro Manila.

Pero hindi dapat na magrelaks ang lahat at dahan-dahan lang dapat ang mga paglulwag na gawin.

Bakit?

Anak ng tokwa, hindi natin alam kung ano ang nangyayari sa pagsulpot ng tatlong anak ng COVID na sumasalakay sa buong mundo, partikular ang mag-inang Omicron variants na BA.1 at BA.2.

Nandiyan na ring ang pagkakadiskubre ng pangatlong anak na tinatawag ng mga Wuhan scientist na NeoCov.

Lahat ng ito ay nanggaling sa Africa.

Katulad ng BA.1 at BA.2 na narito na sa Pinas, hindi natin alam kung kailan lulundag din ang NeoCov sa ating bansa.

PAGLILIWANAG SA TATLO

Magandang subaybayan natin lagi ang mga bagong anyo ng COVID para hindi tayo masilat sa pakikipaglaban sa mga ito.

Itong BA.1, sinasabing sa labas na ng Metro Manila tumitira pero ang BA.2, sa Metro Manila.

Naging madaling makilala ang BA.1 dahil wala itong Spike gene o S-Gene kung tawagin na dala ng Delta variant.

Kapag isinalang sa reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction test ito at walang S-gene, masasabing BA.1 ito.

Ngayon naman, mga Bro, hindi basta makikilala na Omicron ang BA.2 kahit may S-gene ito sa art-pcr kaya tinawag itong stealth omicron.

Kailangan pa itong isalang sa genome sequencing para makilala ito.

Ang pagkakaiba ng BA.1 sa BA.2 ay ito: Magkapareho ang dalawa sa 32 na itsura pero may 28 na itsurang kaiba ng huli sa una.



Mas matindi umano ang BA.2 sa hawaan kaya lang inaalam pa kung nakalilikha ito ng mas seryosong pagkakasakit at kung higit na nakamamatay.

Ang maganda, kahit humina, epektibo pa rin ang mga bakuna, laban sa mga variant na ito.

Pero itong bagong anak na NeoCov, wala pang nakatitiyak subalit sinasabi na ng mga nakadiskubre na maaaring mas mabagsik ito kaysa sa mga Omicron variants.

MAGBANTAY AT LUMABAN LAHAT

Noong una, sinubukan ng lahat ng mga bansa, kasama ang Pilipinas, pigilin ang pagpasok ng Omicron variant ngunit nakapasok pa rin ito sa pamamagitan ng mga dayuhan at Pinoy na dumarating mula sa iba't ibang bansa.

At mero ngang paniniwala na kabilang ang Pilipinas sa kinapanganakan ng BA.2.

Paano ang NeoCov?

Kung totoong meron ito, maaaring makapasok din ito sa Pinas.

At nandiyan talaga ang posibilidad dahil maaaring muling magbukas ang Pinas ng pintuan nito sa mga dayuhan o mas mabilis na pag-uwi ng mga Pinoy mula sa ibang bansa.

ANG MATINDI

Walang umaamin na pumapatay nang todo ang Omicron variant at ang anak nito at sinasabing paisa-isa lang ang biktima nito, gaya ng ulat ng Department of Health na iilan pa lang ang patay sa Pinas.

Pero ito ang isipin natin, mga Bro.

Sa nakaraang apat na araw sa United States na 95 porsyento na ang Omicron variant at pumalit sa Delta variant na 99% sa mga kasong COVID simula noong Nobyembre 2021, aba, mahigit sa 3,000 lagi ang namamatay.

Hindi nakamamatay ang Omicron variant at ang anak nito?

Maghunos-dili ang mga nagsasabi nito.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 689

PEBRERO 1, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

4.9%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
176,053

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

93.6%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,339,558

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.51%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
54,054

MGA BAGONG KASO **9,493**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **24,210**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **51**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,569,665**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 30

DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 1
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 30

28.8%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

31,053

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
97.2%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

BAWAL
WALANG
FACE MASK

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)
46% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (21.0K TOTAL BEDS)
45% Utilized

WARD BEDS (15.9K TOTAL BEDS)
47% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
25% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
40% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.8K TOTAL BEDS)
35% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.3K TOTAL BEDS)
40% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
24% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

6,133 Asymptomatic

164,995 Mild

3,070 Moderate

1,529 Severe

326 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access
here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
✉ seeyoudoc.com
📞 SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD
✉ konsulta.md
📞 KonsultaMD

CloudPx
✉ cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
✉ medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck
✉ medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD
✉ TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
📞 TelAventusMD

HealthNow
📞 healthnow.ph/
✉ help@healthnow.ph
📺 HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

[doh.gov.ph](https://www.doh.gov.ph)

[\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:(02)894-COVID)

02 FEBRUARY 2022, WEDNESDAY



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BTV Pinas

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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone
[#SaveManilaBay](#)

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Kuya Bok Tv was live.

19h · 🌐



Heto Na MAY BUMISITA sa DOLOMITE BEACH!



  750

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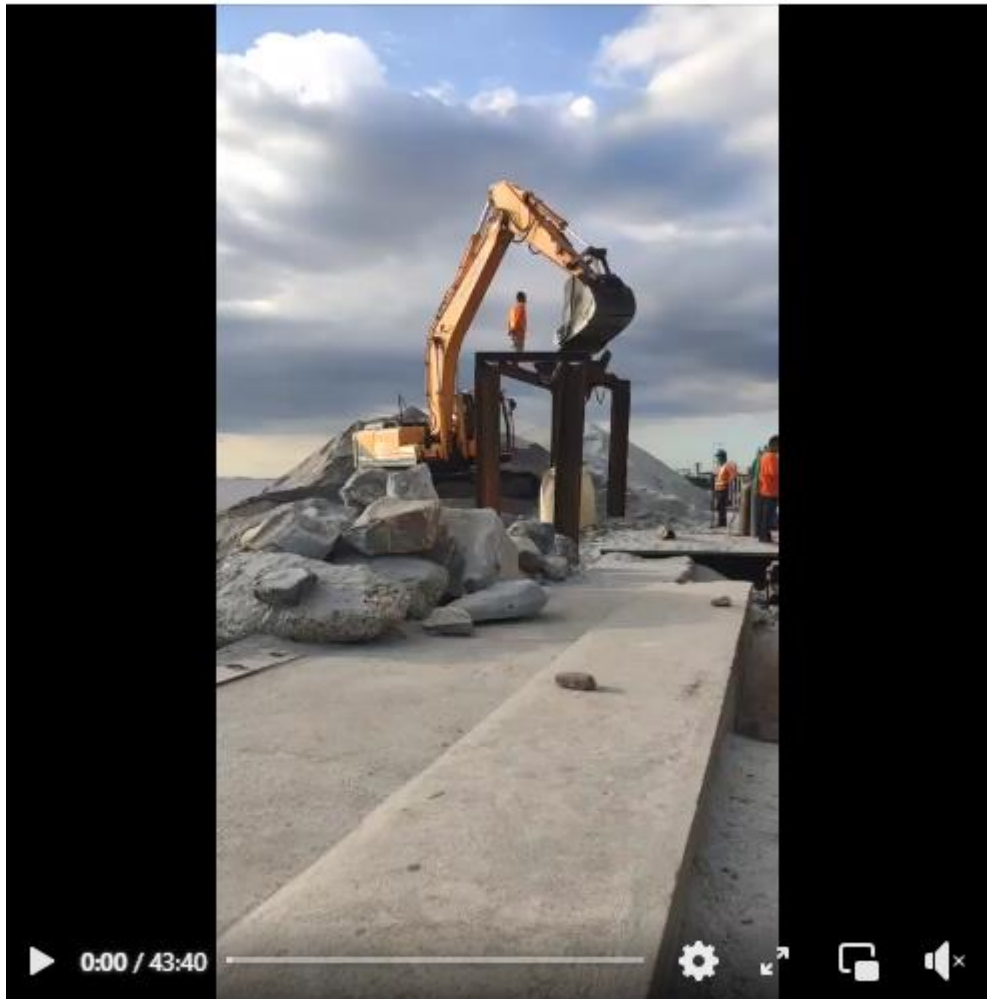


Khopars VLOG was live.

13h · 🌐



Manila baywalk Mini Dolomite Beach Update/Buhangin pinasok na sa Geo bag



👍❤️😮 110

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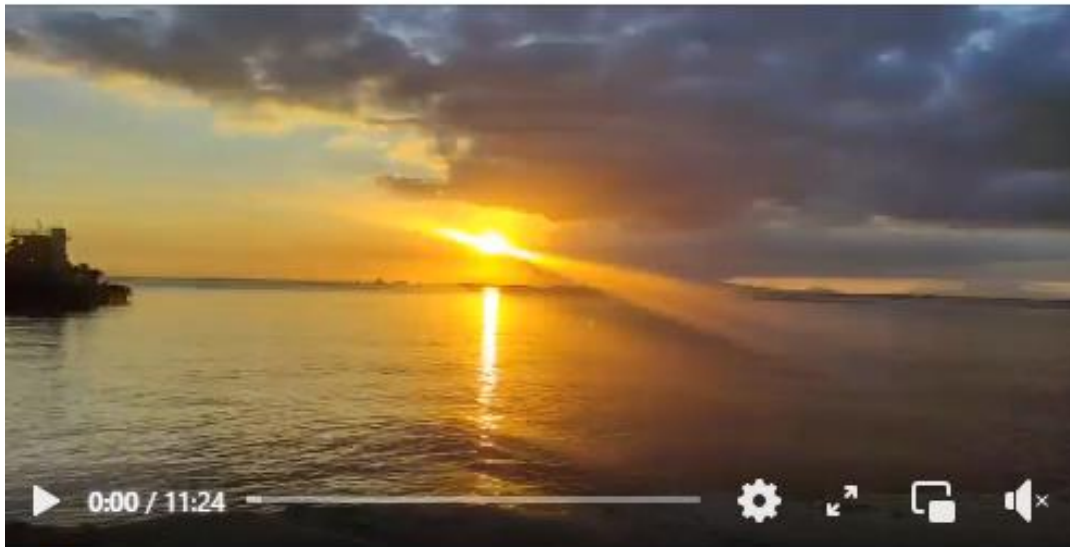
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Janice Llander Vlog was live — at Manila Baywalk
Dolomite Beach.

12h · Manila · 🌐

Beautiful sunset Manila bay today feb.01,2022



1

1 Share

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