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DENR to issue violation notice against shipowner for discharging untreated wastewater into Manila Bay

By DENRPublished on May 1, 2021

QUEZON CITY, May 1 -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday (April 28) said it will be issuing a Notice of Violation against the owner of MV Sarangani after it was identified as the source of the untreated wastewater that was dumped in Manila Bay over the weekend.

It may be recalled that on Monday (April 26), Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu visited the priority area of the Manila Bay rehabilitation where he discussed the incident with representatives of the Philippine Coast Guard, the local government of Manila, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Manila Bay Coordinating Office, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), and Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

"After the investigation, if the shipowner is found liable, the DENR will impose fines. Additionally, the owner has to rehabilitate the vessel to avoid destruction to the environment, and the pollution of our waters," said Cimatu.

"We hope to get to the bottom of this issue during the investigation," the environment chief added.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said that samples taken from the actual discharge area showed an effluent fecal coliform count of 1,700 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL), based on the report of EMB.

This is higher than the standard effluent fecal coliform of 200 MPN/100 mL.

Likewise, the EMB reported that the ambient fecal coliform was high at 2,400 MPN/100 mL, as against the standard 100 MPN/100 mL.

Meanwhile, the oil and grease traced to the vessel were at 19 milligrams per liter (mg/L) exceeding the standard of 5 mg/L.

"We found out that the wastewater from the vessel is above the standard of the DENR. On this basis, we can now issue a Notice of Violation to the owner. A technical conference will be called to hear their side," Leones emphasized.

"After this requirement of the due process, the EMB and the Coast Guard will be filing a case against the shipowner before the Manila Bay Task Force (MBTF)," he added.

Leones said the MBTF will convene and discuss the violations of the shipowner and the penalties to be imposed.

"After we have completed the process, the MBTF will convene and they will be adjudicating the violations of the shipowner, and hopefully they will be coming up with the appropriate sanctions, penalties, and imposition of fines against the shipowner," he explained.





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Leones said the shipowner could be facing charges for allegedly violating Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, the Marine Pollution Decree of 1976, Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, and other regulations of the PPA.

If held liable, based on the provisions of the Clean Water Act, the vessel owner has to pay a daily fine ranging from P10,000 to P200,000 from the start of the discharge until such time that it has cleaned up the affected area.

"We are warning the public that if they violate laws and regulations, we will be imposing the maximum penalties and sanctions for discharging their untreated wastewater in Manila Bay," Leones said.

To avert similar incidents, Cimatu said the department will impose a 2.5-kilometer no-entry zone for vessels except for those that deliver dolomite for the ongoing beach nourishment project of the DENR. (DENR)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1073970





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DENR to issue violation to vessel over waste water

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:08 AM May 01, 2021

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will serve a notice of violation against the owner of the MV Sarangani, a vessel that was tagged as the source of waste water in Manila Bay. Jonas Leones, undersecretary for DENR, said on Thursday that the waste water from the vessel was above the acceptable level set by the agency. Water samples taken from the area showed effluent fecal coliform count of 1,700 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL), significantly higher than the standard 200 MPN/100 ml. The ambient fecal coliform likewise showed a high reading at 2,400 MPN/100 ml. The standard level is 100 MPN/100 mL. The test also showed that oil and grease traced from the vessel was 19 milligrams per liter, exceeding the standard 5 mg/L. —Nikka G. Valenzuela

Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1425829/denr-to-issue-violation-to-vessel-over-waste-water





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DENR: May-ari ng barkong nagtapon ng dumi sa Manila Bay, 'posibleng' kasuhan

By **Bombo Christian Yosores** -May 2, 2021 | 3:33 AM

MANILA – Iniimbestigahan pa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kung may pananagutan sa batas ang may-ari ng barkong nagtapon ng "wastewater" o dumi sa karagatang sakop ng Manila Bay.

"After the investigation, if the shipowner is found liable, the DENR will impose fines," ani Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu sa isang <u>statement.</u>

Ayon sa ahensya, maaaring paglabag sa mga batas na: Republic Act 9275 o Philippine Clean Water Act, Marine Pollution Decree of 1976, Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, at iba pang regulation ng Philippine Ports Authority ang ginawa ng MV Sarangani.

Kung maaalala, napaulat noong nakaraang linggo ang pagtatapon umano ng barko ng wastewater nito sa bahagi ng Manila Bay.

Sa ilalim ng RA 9275, may arawang multa na P10,000 hanggang P200,000, simula sa araw ng pagkaka-discharge ng wastewater hanggang matapos ang paglilinis nito.

Batay sa resulta ng test na ginawa sa samples ng aktwal na tubig, na may halong discharge ng barko, lumabas na 1,700 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL) ang sukat ng "effluent fecal coliform" nito.

Higit na mataas mula sa standard na 200 MPN/100 mL ng ahensya.

Pagdating naman sa sukat ng "ambient fecal coliform," nasa 2,400 MPN/100 mL daw ang sukat. Mula ito sa standard na 100 MPN/100 mL.

Habang ang sukat ng diniskargang langis ng barko ay nasa 19-milliligrams per liter. Mataas din mula sa 5-millilgrams per liter.

Papatawan na ng ahensya ng notice of violation ang may-ari ng barko.

"A technical conference will be called to hear their side... After this requirement of the due process, the EMB and the Coast Guard will be filing a case against the shipowner before the Manila Bay Task Force (MBTF)," ani DENR Usec. Jonas Leones.

"After we have completed the process, the MBTF will convene and they will be adjudicating the violations of the shipowner, and hopefully they will be coming up with the appropriate sanctions, penalties, and imposition of fines against the shipowner."

Source: https://www.bomboradyo.com/denr-may-ari-ng-barkong-nagtapon-ng-dumi-sa-manila-bay-posibleng-kasuhan/





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DENR-12 hands over Cotabato City land records to BARMM

By Edwin Fernandez May 1, 2021, 6:27 pm



LAND RECORDS TRANSFER. DENR-12 and BARMM environment officials sign documents turned over from the Cotabato City DENR office to the BARMM's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources on Friday (April 30, 2021). The city environment office now operates under BARMM after Cotabato City voted 'yes' to join the fledgling autonomous region during a two-part plebiscite held in 2019. (*Photo courtesy of MENRE-BARMM*)

COTABATO CITY -- The Land Management Services (LMS) of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MENRE-BARMM) has received the first batch of Cotabato City land records from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR 12), officials reported Saturday.

The turnover signaled that the city environment office now operates under the control and supervision of MENRE-BARMM following the 2019 two-part plebiscite where residents opted to join the fledgling autonomous region.

LMS Director Eshan Karl O. Mabang and Assistant Regional Director Mama G. Samaon led the MENRE and DENR-12 teams, respectively, during the turnover on Friday afternoon of land-related documents of Cotabato City that include its approved survey plans and records.

"There will be a series of turnover from DENR-12 to MENRE-BARMM for the land records of Cotabato City including the electronic copies of these documents," Mabang said.

He said the records section of LMS in the MENRE is changing to develop the management, storage, and access to land-related documents in the BARMM to achieve an overall improvement in operations.

"The LMS is establishing a progressed records-keeping and management system for Cotabato City and the 63 villages in North Cotabato that also joined the BARMM during the 2019 plebiscite, to effectively cater to regionwide land documents, especially with the added data digitalization plan," Mabang said.

Samaon said the DENR-12 is doing its best to hand over all land documents in a systematic manner for easy referral of MENRE-BARMM in the future. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1138731





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Giving Value To Biodiversity To Help Restore The Earth

BYBUSINESSMIRRORMAY 2, 2021



The recent launch of the global report, "Economics of Biodiversity: Dasgupta Review," has once again revitalized discussions around the question: "How does one live a sustainable life and help restore the Earth?"

These conversations came at a timely opportunity in the recent April 22 celebration of Earth Day. With the report asserting that "our economies are embedded within nature, not external to it," economic and environmental experts are now compelled to think about sustainable ways forward for people, planet and profit.

In line with this, the Asean Centre for Biodiversity has initiated a webinar series on Conservation Financing. The first session of the webinar series, "Introduction to Economics of Biodiversity and Conservation Finance," was held online on April 7, ACB said in a news release.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim, in her remarks, pressed that essential services—such as water, clean air, flood mitigation and food supply—are provided by healthy ecosystems.

"Being able to value these contributions will present an even better case why one should pay closer attention to our high biodiversity areas such as our protected areas and Asean Heritage Parks, and invest in them," she said.

The region's protected areas, especially the Asean Heritage Parks (AHPs), play a vital role in sustaining natural capital and the accompanying ecosystem services that provide the needed raw materials for most industries that drive the region's economy, Lim said.





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However, the sustainable management of these critical areas is hindered by insufficient financing.

Conservation Finance Alliance Executive Director David Meyers discussed the different funding tools available for conservation. He defined conservation finance as "mechanisms and strategies that generate, manage and deploy financial resources and align incentives to achieve nature conservation outcomes."

To increase capital for conservation and bridge the \$316 billion annual biodiversity finance gap, Meyers shared seven finance mechanisms: return-based investments, economic instruments, grants and other transfers, business and markets, public financial management, risk management and financial efficiency.

The Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in Asean Project of the ACB and the European Union supports the Asean member-states (AMS) in reducing biodiversity loss.

The persistent gap in financing for the protection and management of protected areas led to the ongoing study on Conservation Financing for five AHPs under the BCAMP funding support.

Two of the researchers on conservation financing shared preliminary results for the Eastern Forest Complex in Thailand and the Virachey National Park in Cambodia during the webinar. In Cambodia, Virachey National Park, at its current area of 332,500 hectares, has an approximate 115,030,970 (MgC) tons of carbon stored in its vast array of forest ecosystems potentially to be counted as carbon credits.

This, according to Dr. Chou Phanith, may be adequate to finance biodiversity conservation and livelihoods in the national park.

Meanwhile, in the Eastern Forest Complex of Thailand, the environmental impacts of the proposed flooding of the Ang Rue Nai Wildlife sanctuary for water supply threaten critical elephant habitat.

It was shared during the online session how the bid to restore the complex's ecosystem can significantly reduce the risks for both elephants and humans.

Data shows that the Philippine forests and coral reefs could generate approximate \$300 per hectare per year and \$450 per hectare per year, respectively, the news release said.

However, despite being one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, a gap exists in the allocated funds for the management of protected areas.

Protected area managers and key environment officials from the AMS discussed potential efforts to augment revenue and diversify sources of funds to finance conservation across the region, the ACB news release said.

On April 27, the second session to the conservation finance webinar series held an in-depth discussion of the economics of biodiversity taking off from the recommendations of the Dasgupta Review.

The webinar aims to identify and explore actions and priorities in the Asean context and build a good case for investing in nature and biodiversity-related actions, including protected areas.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/02/giving-value-to-biodiversity-to-help-restore-the-earth/





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Saving The Philippine Crocodile

The rarest crocodile species in the world

BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 2, 2021



Philippine crocodile

The efforts to save the Philippine crocodile, also known as Mindoro crocodile (Crocodylus mindorensis)—the rarest and the most threatened crocodile species in the world—are slowly paying off and offering renewed hope for this critically endangered species.

Commonly called buwaya, there are only around 100 Philippine adult crocodiles left in the wild with small populations in southwestern Mindanao and northern Luzon.

Different Species

However, don't mistake the Philippine crocodile from the saltwater crocodile (Crocodylus porosus).

Philippine crocodiles are freshwater crocodiles. They can grow to a maximum of 3 meters long. They live in freshwater rivers and creeks, and in small lakes, ponds and marshes. They have enlarged scales in the neck.

A saltwater crocodile can grow up to 6 meters long. They live in mangroves, coastal waters, large rivers and lakes. And have small scales in the neck, said Marites Gatan-Balbas, COO of Mabuwaya Foundation Inc.

Saving Crocodiles

The saltwater crocodile is listed globally under the category of "least concern" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

However, in the Philippines, like the Philippine crocodile, the saltwater crocodile is considered critically endangered because of its declining population in the wild.

As it is allowed to be traded under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna, crocodile farming began in 1987 with the establishment of the Palawan Crocodile Farm with the Philippine government as the main proponent.

It is with the hope that with the breeding, both species of crocodiles could be released into the wild later in order to help repopulate known crocodile habitats.

Along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), which oversees the operation of the Palawan Crocodile Farm, at the forefront of the effort to conserve the Philippine crocodile are two nongovernment organizations—the Mabuwaya Foundation Inc. and the Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc. (CPPI).

Both the Mabuwaya Foundation and CPPI are into research, conservation work, communication, education and public awareness campaigns about crocodiles.





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Mabuwaya Foundation

Founded in 2003 by Dutch scientists and Filipino conservationists, Mabuwaya has been involved in Philippine crocodile research and conservation after a baby crocodile was turned over by a fisherman in San Mariano, Isabela, narrated Gatan-Balbas.

Mabuwaya is also working for the conservation of other threatened species.

It is helping local governments in declaring local conservation areas for flying foxes, Isabela oriole, Philippine duck, freshwater fish and sea turtles in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, and is assisting them develop management plans for each LCA.

It is also implementing various programs to help protect and conserve the environment. "We support reforestation and agroforestry development and we assist indigenous communities in Isabela and Cagayan provinces with sustainable green livelihood programs," Gatan-Balbas said.

Why Save Philippine Crocodile?

Asked why the need to save the Philippine crocodile, Gatan-Balbas gave a number of reasons. But easily, she said: "The Philippine crocodile can only be found in the Philippines and that is something to be proud of."

"The Philippine crocodile is as much part of our natural and cultural heritage as the Philippine Eagle, or other endemic species. The Philippines has a responsibility to conserve all its endemic species, and has signed international treaties to that effect," she added.

Philippine crocodile plays an important role in Philippine indigenous cultures, in folk stories and in literature.

"Even [National Hero] Jose Rizal has written about the Philippine crocodile," she said. Working With LGUs

As a key predator at the top of the food chain, the Philippine crocodile eats a wide range of prey.

"It eats the weak fish so it keeps the fish population healthy. It eats pests, such as rats and golden apple snail [kuhol] so it actually helps farmers in controlling pests in rice fields," Gatan-Balbas said, adding that the species is helping save wetland environments.

The Mabuwaya Foundation is working with various LGUs to protect and conserve the Philippine crocodile with the hope of making the unique species a tourist attraction.

In San Mariano, Isabela, a total of eight Philippine crocodile sanctuaries were successfully set up.

While in Maconacon, Isabela, the group helped the LGU put up a saltwater crocodile sanctuary, the first in the Philippines.

"LGU Divilacan [in Isabela] also declared Dicatian Lake as a Philippine crocodile sanctuary," Gatan-Balbas said.

Head-Start Program

The foundation has been implementing a so-called head-start program for the Philippine crocodile.

Every year, during the breeding season from March to August, community wardens, or





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Bantay Sanktuwaryo, search crocodile nests. Once located, they protect and guard the nest from human intrusion and predators.

Once the eggs are hatched, the baby crocodiles are brought to the Municipal Philippine Crocodile Rearing Station in San Mariano, where they are raised under protective condition for two years before they are released back into the wild.

"This helps them survive the critical first two years, when normally about 95 percent of them would die in the wild as a result of predation, lack of food and strong water currents. In the rearing station, 70 percent of them survive, so head-starting decreases infant crocodile mortality drastically," Gatan-Balbas said.

Since the head-starting program of Mabuwaya started in 2007, more than 150 juvenile crocodiles have been released into the wild.

Unfortunately, she said, many of the released crocodiles have not survived to adult reproductive age.

Captive Breeding

Mabuwaya Foundation is planning to start captive breeding soon.

"We are not yet into captive breeding, but we have two crocodiles [male and female] with disabilities that we cannot release back into the wild because they may not be able to survive," Gatan-Balbas said.

However, she said they are establishing a Philippine Crocodile Conservation Center to breed them.

The facility will also serve as a one-stop shop for tourists who would like to see Philippine crocodiles.

Crocodylus Porosus

Established in 2000, CPPI was formed by six commercial crocodile farms in the Philippines. It has been working with government agencies in conserving the two species of crocodiles in the country.

Of the six commercial crocodile farm-members of CPPI, two are into captive-breeding the Philippine crocodile, said Rainier I. Manalo, marine biologist and program head for crocodile research at CPPI told the BusinessMirror via Zoom on April 27.

Through the CPPI, 36 progenies of the Philippine crocodile were released in the Paghungawan Marsh on Siargao Island in March 2013. Another 29 were released on the same area in June 2017.

Some of the crocodiles that were released in 2013 are now starting to breed, said Manalo, one of the country's leading researchers on the Philippine crocodile.

Some years back, the discovery of crocodile nests and eggs revealed the good news: that the progenies of the first batch of Philippine crocodile bred in captivity and released on the island are able to adapt to the harsh conditions and are now breeding.

Not Applicable To All Wildlife Species

During the same Zoom meeting, Teri Aquino, a consultant at CPPI and a member of the Crocodile Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, said captive breeding only works with some wildlife species.





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"Not a lot of wildlife species flourish in captivity," Aquino said.

"We are fortunate that the crocodile is amendable to captive breeding. [This is good only] as long as you can provide enough space, the right ratio of water and dryland, and of shelter so they wouldn't get stressed. Over the years, we have learned what is amenable to them and what is not," she said.

A Boost To Conservation

Among crocodiles, commercial farms that are into ex-situ breeding helps in-situ conservation, Aquino said.

"In crocodiles, even commercial farming feeds into in-situ conservation. This is a good strategy for crocodile conservation globally. Anywhere you go, like in Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, the crocodile farmers set aside funds for the conservation of crocodiles of their country," she said.

According to Aquino, crocodile farmers are the biggest source of funds for conservation in most countries.

Asean Treasures

Theresa Mundita S. Lim, executive director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity, said Asean treasures like the Philippine crocodile, and the Crocodylus siamensis common to Thailand and other neighboring countries, such as Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, need to be protected.

"They are Asean endemics. They are important because they have limited distribution," Lim, a former DENR-BMB director told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on April 24.

Asked on the prospect of commercial farming Philippine crocodile, like its saltwater cousins, Lim said they are native to the Philippines. The first option to take in conserving them must be to protect them in their natural habitat and to make sure that there is also good genetic diversity in the wild.

"Farming can be a complementary action if there are threats to their natural habitat that cannot be immediately addressed, such as destruction of the wetland areas and the breeding grounds or heavy poaching," she said.

"I mentioned complementary, because the propagation of the Philippine crocodile will not be an effective conservation measure on its own. There must be parallel activities that will protect and restore their habitat so that they can eventually be reintroduced and once again perform their ecological function in the natural environment." Lim said.

The Philippines remains one of the world's biodiversity hotspots because of the rapid rate of biodiversity loss due to habitat loss.

Other than that, hunting in the wild, such as that of crocodiles, continues to drive this already critically endangered species to the brink of extinction. Saving them will take more than successful captive breeding. Keeping their habitats safe and intact as well is a must. Image courtesy of Jake B. Binaday/CPPI

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/02/saving-the-philippine-crocodile/





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Slow Loris Rescued In Tawi-Tawi

BY**JANINE DE LA CRUZ** MAY 2, 2021



The Philippine slow loris, locally known as "kokam," that was rescued in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. DAVAO CITY—A Philippine slow loris was rescued from a resident in Tawi-Tawi, the Bangsamoro Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (Menre) said.

Locally known as "kokam," the animal was found by a resident in a malnourished condition in barangay Mandulan, in the municipality of Bongao.

It was held captive for a few months before it was rescued, the Menre said.

"The slow loris is now being monitored to determine if it has any diseases or if it is already capable of aclimatizing to its natural diet and habitat," said Tawi-Tawi First District Community Enre Officer Saido Espiliro.

The Tawi-Tawi Enre Office and the Police Provincial Office in Baywalk, Pahut, Bongao, jointly conducted the rescue.

The Bangsamoro Information Office quoted Emerson Sy, executive director of the Philippine Center for Terrestrial and Aquatic Research, as saying that this was the second time a Philippine slow loris was rescued from captivity in the last decade. The first was in 2019 in the municipality of Simunul, also in Tawi-Tawi province.

The Menre Tawi-Tawi has eyed Bud Kabugan as a release site to ensure the animal's safety. The information office said the capture of the slow loris was an opportunity for the Menre "to launch a community-wide ecological awareness campaign to gain the residents' commitment to not hunt, collect, harm and trade wildlife species."

The loris belongs to the family of primates known as Lorisidae, which has nine genera and over 25 species, according to the Vietnam-based Endangered Primate Rescue Center (EPRC).

The family includes the loris of Asia and the galagos and pottos of Africa. The eight species of loris currently recognized range across India, Sri Lanka and the Southeast Asia up to southern China, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

The EPRC said that "like every other primate, a loris's fingers and toes have nails although their second toe has a claw.





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This characteristic allows the animal to climb trees skillfully despite their slow movement. However, it does not prefer to travel on the ground and needs a closed tree canopy for an easy walk.

Loris loves to eat insects and tree sap for which it can forage themselves by drilling holes into tree bark and extract the tree sap with their relatively sharp teeth

In 2015, the International Union for Conservation of Nature classified it as vulnerable due to decreasing population caused by human encroachment into its natural habitat for pet trade. Image courtesy of Bangsamoro Information office

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/02/slow-loris-rescued-in-tawi-tawi/





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PH faces waste crisis amid pandemic

posted May 01, 2021 at 11:03 pm by Othel V. Campos

World Vision Development Foundation and the EcoWaste Coalition jointly launched PHINLA (Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka) waste management program to support local government units in managing waste and derive income from waste.



PHINLA global program project coordinator Joben Asuncion

The partnership aims to raise public awareness in addressing challenges brought about by unchecked and wanton disregard on proper waste disposal.

In the second year of the pandemic and after two major lockdowns, the Philippines faces a waste disposal crisis with 23.61 million tons of waste.

"With total lockdowns and the closure of majority of business establishments in the country to enforce physical distancing, there was a surge in demand for home delivery services of food and groceries, which has led to an increase in the generation of common packaging plastic wastes. Due to reduced recycling activities as a result of coronavirus outbreak, management and handling of plastic waste has become a huge challenge for the waste management particularly in our communities," said PHINLA global program project coordinator Joben Asuncion at the Earth Day forum organized by World Vision.

The Philippines is one of the world's leading waste contributors, as it generates 15 million tons of wastes each year. This figure does not yet reflect the waste generated during the pandemic.

EcoWaste Coalition Rey Palacio cited a National Solid Waste Management statistics report covering 2008 and 2018, stating that each Filipino generated on an average 0.40 kilograms of wastes per day.

"And based on this computation and the annual projected population, the Environmental Management Bureau computed a steady increase in waste generation from 13.48 million tons per year in 2008 and in 2020, it will reach 16.62 million tons. But recent data from the EMB showed that in 2020, the country actually disposed tons of garbage, and that is more than 4.8 million tons more than what was originally projected in the status report," he said.

He said the sudden increase in generated waste in 2020 was due to a paradigm shift in the form of waste generated. This is partly due to the increase in medical waste especially one-time use personal protective equipment, face masks and face shields, on top of many other disposable sanitary products like alcohol bottles and wet tissues or wet wipes.

According to the same study, the country by September 2020 had an estimated disposal of 48 billion pieces of face masks, representing 196 times more than 353.03 tons per day of medical wastes.

"We believe that the number one issue is the poor implementation of Republic Act 9003. There is also the lack of participation in the LGU solid waste management programs by community members, and there is a continued production of non-environmentally acceptable products by manufacturers, the increased use of single use plastic to alarming levels during the pandemic, and of course the impact of pandemic restrictions on waste management activities," Palacio said.

With these concerns, PHINLA carries out a series of advocacy campaigns among household members, LGU officials, waste collectors and students across the country as part of the project's aim to assist LGUs and other stakeholders to improve waste management systems, bring livelihood opportunities to waste collectors and raise the public's active involvement to address the waste problem in the communities.





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"Through waste management education, innovation, and adherence to our commitments, we can make the necessary changes to protect our planet," Asuncion said.

Part of the campaign is the assistance given to LGUs and barangays to develop distinct solid waste management plans. PHINLA is introducing the concept of waste bank and capacity building activities for targeted barangays which were piloted in Quezon City, Cagayan de Oro City and Davao City.

"We assist our beneficiary barangays in setting up effective ecological solid waste management system at the local level. We also provide tools and equipment and assistance in terms of the production of information materials, awareness materials and the conduct of information, education and communication campaigns we also do mentoring and provide other technical assistance that might be needed by the Barangay LGU," Palacio said.

Both World Vision and the EcoWaste Coalition believe that the lingering waste management concerns require intensified education campaigns to raise the public's understanding that everyone has a role in solving waste management problems.

"Education is the key to success and it opens opportunities, making it possible for each of us to contribute to a progressive, healthy and sustainable society. The effects are already visible and will be catastrophic unless we act now," Asuncion said.

PHINLA is set to carry out series of training activities for waste collectors, LGUs household members and students this year. More units of pedicabs and motorbikes will also be donated to partner LGUs.

Source: https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/353324





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Colgate-Palmolive PHL, Green Antz Reach First Milestone In Plastic Waste Management Initiative

BY**BUSINESSMIRROR**MAY 2, 2021



Colgate-Palmolive Philippines President and General Manager Arvin Sachdev (left) and Green Antz Builders President and CEO Rommel Benig (right) turnover a "Wash and Brush Station" to Pulilan Mayor Maria Rosario Ochoa-Montejo. The washing station was constructed with Green Antz eco-bricks made in part of used plastic sachets.

Colgate-Palmolive Philippines and Green Antz Builders recently reached the initial milestone of their plastic waste management program—they turned over the first of a series of "Wash and Brush Stations" that was made in part of plastic-sachet waste, to the municipality of Pulilan.

The two companies have been collaborating to divert plastic waste from the environment with their Closed Loop Plastic Waste Management Program in partnership with five local government units (LGUs) and 62 schools in Bulacan.

Green Antz is an innovative, visionary provider of building and housing solutions integrating eco-friendly practices and green technologies in its products and services, and is known for its eco-bricks, eco-pavers, and other materials composed, in part, of waste plastic sachets. The company's tagline is "Creating Sustainability. Challenging Poverty. Now."

The turnover was led by Colgate-Palmolive Philippines President and General Manager Arvind Sachdev, and Green Antz President and CEO Rommel Benig.

The Wash and Brush Station was received by Pulilan Mayor Maria Rosario Ochoa-Montejo. The handwashing station, constructed with Green Antz eco-bricks located at the Pulilan Public Market, was a joint effort with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, headed by Roberto Cruz, the Department of Education (DepEd), through District Supervisor Dr. Ana Liza Villanueva, and community members and organizations.

At the turnover, Ochoa-Montejo said safeguarding the environment is a major challenge to the LGU.

"We cannot do it alone. But we do not despair. We are inspired by Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, by Green Antz, by our NGOs [nongovernment organizations] in Pulilan for putting the environment first. This is an advocacy. We are grateful for the help you are extending. Let us continue working hand in hand to preserve our surroundings and the planet," she said.

Sachdev said: "At Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, we are committed to help create a healthier and more sustainable future for everyone. We have pledged to allocate resources to divert plastic waste from landfills and oceans, toward our goal of helping eliminate plastic waste and recovering the equivalent amount of plastic we generate in the market."





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"We welcome this partnership with Green Antz, the different LGUs of Bulacan, and the [DepEd] as it not only helps to divert plastic waste but it also fulfills the advocacy of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines of educating our students and the community on proper waste management, and instilling new behavior and understanding about environmental responsibility," Sachdev added.

"By helping to collect plastic waste, we are able to make Wash and Brush Stations available to the schools and the community. These handwashing stations are most appropriate at this time to help inculcate proper hygiene and cleanliness within the community. This is only the start for us in our efforts to address plastic waste," Sachdev said.

He noted that some 18,000 discarded plastic sachets were used in the construction of the first handwashing station.

He said the company is doing its part in providing every Filipino with more sustainable products.

These are the biodegradable Colgate bamboo toothbrush, the recycle-ready Palmolive Shampoo sachets and Palmolive Soap cartons, and soon Colgate Toothpaste in recyclable tubes.

"This way we are increasing the acceptability of our products' packaging in the recycling stream," Sachdev said.

For his part, Benig said at Green Antz "we are glad to share this simple milestone toward environmental sustainability. Even as a handwashing station is highly relevant in helping people to keep healthy during the pandemic, we can collaborate to transform waste into a resource of value."

He added: "We are glad that more and more people are joining the Green movement. If we combine forces and help each other, we can successfully address the plastic waste crisis."

Besides Pulilan, the Closed Loop Plastic Waste Management Program of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines and Green Antz Builders involves the LGUs of Baliwag, Malolos City, Plaridel and San Ildefonso.

It also involves more than five dozen schools, where plastic waste is collected, then is processed into eco-bricks and used to construct handwashing stations.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/02/colgate-palmolive-phl-green-antz-reach-first-milestone-in-plastic-waste-management-initiative/





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Borongan Bishop Warns Against Lifting Mining Ban

BY**CBCP NEWS** MAY 2, 2021



Bishop Crispin Varquez of Borongan.

Allowing more mining operations in the country could prove disastrous on top of the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, warned a Catholic bishop.

Bishop Crispin Varquez of Borongan decried the lifting of the moratorium on new mining projects because it would further "exploit our already much-wounded land."

"New mining operations will only worsen our environmental crisis on top of this health pandemic," Varquez said in a recent pastoral letter.

The bishop was reacting to President Duterte's lifting of the moratorium on new mining deals to boost state revenue and prop up the pandemic-hit economy.

The decision ended the policy imposed in 2012 by President Aquino, following public clamor over a spate of mining accidents.

Varquez also questioned the move due to lack of "dialogue for the common good" among all stakeholders.

"We call on President Rodrigo Duterte to issue again an Executive Order for mining moratorium in the Philippines," Varquez said.

Eastern Samar hosts decades-old chromite and nickel mining operations on the historic Homonhon Island in Guiuan town.

Efforts are also reportedly being made to revive the nickel mining operation on Manicani Island, also in Guiuan, that the government shutdown in 2002 over human rights and environmental issues.

Abandoned 26 years ago, the Bagacay mine spill disaster in Western Samar's Hinabangan town still haunts the affected communities, especially those along the Taft River in Easter Samar.

For the diocese, the island has no history of responsible mining.

"Our local experience provides enough evidence," Varquez said. "Bagacay, Homonhon and Manicani cry out this truth."





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Samar, the country's third largest island, is hilly and mountainous. Mining in this area, he added, means lowland communities become more susceptible to flooding and pollution from mining operations.

"Locals may be temporarily employed or benefited. But the long-term consequence of a devastated landscape is also incalculable and irreversible," Varquez said. CBCP News

Image courtesy of Borongan Cathedral

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/02/borongan-bishop-warns-against-lifting-mining-ban/





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Mining and ivermectin: Signs of the (desperate) times



ByMarlen V. Ronquillo May 2, 2021

Much of the world rolled out bold climate change proposals in April, the 22nd day of which was the celebration of Earth Day. From unprecedented commitments to cut pollutants and emissions to the marginalization of fossils, nations — there were a few outliers of course — by and large pledged to save Planet Earth from the inexorable march to an environmental Armageddon. The world's biggest powers, the United States and China, have been clashing on most of the critical issues, from trade to technology policies to how much global influence each must exert, but marched lockstep to join the global effort to reverse the impending environmental doom.

Germany, the biggest European economy, is looming as a prized catch for the Green Party in a post-Merkel era. If that happens, the Greens will surely embark on a bold environmental agenda.

Societies have to give up cherished cultures in the process, some of them unimaginable a few decades earlier. Giving up gas-guzzlers and their mighty engine roars on the open highways in the near future, the very definition of individual freedom, was unthinkable in the not-so-distant past. But it must be done, even through government fiat. In favor of EVs (electric vehicles) and plug-ins. North America and Europe, where cars developed and where there is a general obsession with internal combustion engines, have agreed to stop the production of fossil-fed cars within the new few decades.

So, when the Philippine government rolled out a major policy in April, the lifting of an executive order (EO) that ordered a moratorium on new mining agreements, that decision stood out like a drunk in a churchyard. Lifting the ban on new mining investments — tubong lugaw activities that are simply gouging the earth for minerals, activities that leave a trail of irreversible destruction in its wake — on the very month countries across the world vowed to reverse the impending environmental doom attracted as much scrutiny as the decision of Brazil to announce an incredulous cut in environmental spending after the Earth Day celebration. The optics of mine-tailing dams being breached, with the toxic sludge burying communities in the process, remain on top of our horrifying images on what natural horrors look like. But even that was not terrifying enough to reconsider the decision to lift the mining ban EO.

The late Gina Lopez, who considered mining a scourge and a curse on Planet Earth and did everything within her limited powers to rein in mining during her short but heroic term as Department of Environment and Natural Resources secretary, must be rolling and tossing in her grave.

The seemingly mindless and outlier decision to lift the ban on new mining agreements was not made in April to spite the broader world. It is more in sync with what the head of this column suggests, signs of the desperate times. The March lockdown, done under duress and over the objection of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), just validated the agency's fears — a new lockdown would stunt whatever economic momentum was building up in the early months of the year. The lockdown toll, estimated at P1.2 billion a day and thousands of jobs lost per day, was not something the economy could absorb without brutal wages, the NEDA warned. Even Harry Roque Jr. in his full glibness failed to paper over the shocking and unexpected fragility of the national economy that the NEDA warned about.

Indeed, after the March lockdown, multilateral agencies, the credit rating entities, the global think tanks had this shared forecast: 2021 will be gloomy and 2022 will remain a period of great uncertainty for the broader Philippine economy. The forecast of the near future was anchored on two words, "laggard" and "weak." While the Philippines' Asean neighbors were declared as past the peril point and a few were moving into boom times, only correct political speech prevented the forecasters from stating the brutal truth, we are aimlessly moving into the general description of a failed state.





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With this grim forecast as background, April was the month for the hunt for low-hanging fruits that can save the economy from plunging into the deep, irreversible morass. It was in this context that the decision to lift the mining ban was rushed. The rollout period unfortunately fell on the month that should be spent pledging to do our share to combat climate change. But beggars can't be choosers.

It also was in this general context of desperation that, in April, ivermectin entered the pharmaceutical roll of outlandish but ineffective Covid-19 cures, joining Clorox, tuob, bleach, sunlight, UV rays, coconut oil and the infamous Trump-Bolsonaro-prescribed cure: the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine. It was also in April 2020 that Trump advised Americans to drink bleach to ward off the coronavirus.

Ivermectin, the World Health Organization (WHO) has gravely warned Philippine health and drug authorities, is for animals, and totally unfit for humans. It has no therapeutic impact on Covid-19 whatsoever and those taking it take it at a great risk. Even the drug's manufacturer says ivermectin has no use for humans, much more for treating the deadly virus. Merck has the option to play dumb on the ivermectin discussion but has come out in a straightforward manner on what the drug can and can't do to help guide the gullible public.

The Food and Drug Administration, it was reported, initially allowed one hospital to conduct trials on its possible use as a Covid-19 medicine, mocking the guidelines of the WHO in the process. A former Senate president and the current one were reported to have taken ivermectin, a bizarre admission given what is known about the drug and the danger it poses to humans. Now, the number of hospitals allowed to experiment with the quack cure ivermectin has risen to five.

A society that allows quackery and hedging to be part of its Covid-fighting menu is one that is both failing at coronavirus control and desperate for solutions. And that is precisely us. A decision-making process that picks at low-hanging fruits like mining to prop up economic recovery efforts is short-sighted and desperate, too. That, also, is precisely us.

Where this sense of desperation will lead us is quite predictable — 99 percent pain and 1 percent gain. And that 1 percent goes to the miners who almost always pack up and leave the communities they have exhausted and declared as deadenders. Add to the list of beneficiaries, the long list of quack Covid cures and their hawkers.

This is a valid question. How did we sink into this rabbit hole?





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Panahon para kumilos

Posted by: Tracy Cabrera on April 30, 2021 in Opinion Leave a comment

By the time we see that climate change is really bad, your ability to fix it is extremely limited... The carbon gets up there, but the heating effect is delayed. And then the effect of that heat on the species and ecosystem is delayed. That means that even when you turn virtuous, things are actually going to get worse for quite a while.

— Bill Gates

NAALARMA ang Santo Papa ukol sa kinabukasan ng ating mundo sa muling paghayag ng kanyang panawagan simula ng kanyang panunungkulan bilang pastol at tagapamahala ng Simbahang Katoliko noong 2013.

Idiniin niyang ang mundo'y nasa 'bingit' na ng kapahamakan at kinakailangang resolbahin ng sangkatauhan ang problemang bumabagabag sa atin — ang pagkasira ng nag-iisa nating tahanan, ang ating planeta.

Sa nakalipas na panahon, aniya, napagtanto na natin na kailangan nating pangalagaan ang kalikasan, kung sana nga lang ay dahil sa ating pag-uugali at interaction sa biodiversity ay mahalagang pag-ingatan at respetohin.

At sa dalawang araw na pagpupulong na pinangunahan ni United States president Joseph Robinette Biden, nangako ang Estados Unidos na babawasan ang greenhouse gas emissions ng 52 porsiyento mula sa sa antas noong 2005 levels sa pagsapit ng taon 2030. Ito ay layuning doble pa sa dating itinakda ng Washington.

Ngunit kombinsido si Pope Francis na isang wake-up call ang kasalukuyang pandemya ng coronavirus at ito ay gumising sa pagpapahalaga sa pangangalaga ng ating planeta.

Tinukoy niya ang dalawang global disaster, ang CoVid-19 at ang global warming na nagpakita sa atin na wala na tayong panahon para maghintay.

Hindi na tayo makaliligtas sa krisis sa madaling pamamaraan. Ang kalbaryong nararanasan sa pandemya, at ang umiiral na climate change sa buong daigdig, ay kinakailangang humimok sa atin na isulong ang innovation, invention at paghahanap ng makabagong pamamaraan para sa proteksiyon ng ating mundo. Hindi nga talaga tayo makaliligtas sa simpleng paraan dahil ang magiging resulta ay maaaring makasagip sa atin o dili kaya'y magbunsod ng kalamidad na magwawakas sa tao.

Nagbabala siya, "kung hindi makaliligtas ang mga tao, lalakbayin natin ang daan patungo sa kapahamakan.

Hiniling din ng Santo Papa "sa lahat ng mga pinuno sa mundo na kumilos ng may paninindiagan at tapang." Ang ating pangunahin layunin ay matiyak na ang ating kapaligiran ay maging malinis at may sapat na proteksiyon. Ito'y nangangahulugan din ng wastong pangangalaga sa ating kalikasan.

Sa simula pa lang ng pandemya, partikular na naging aktibo si Papa Francis sa paghahanap ng solusyon sa krisis at nakipagpulong na siya sa CoVid-19 commission ng Vatican para makapagtatag ng limang working group na maguugnay sa mga eksperto mula sa iba't ibang panig ng daigdig para tugunan at lutasin ang problema ng climate change.

Ang tanong nga lang, may panahon pa ba tayo para gawin ito?

* * *

PARA sa inyong komento o suhestiyon, reklamo o kahilingan, magpadala ng mensahe o impormasyon sa email na filespolice@yahoo.com.ph o kaya'y i-text n'yo sa cellphone numbers na 09054292382 para sa Globe at 09391252568 para sa Smart. Salamat po!

PANGIL Tracy Cabrera

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1138731





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PANOORIN: Isang Bryde's whale na napadpad sa dalampasigan ng Barangay Lanca, Mati City, Davao Oriental ang pinilit sagipin ng mga residente Sabado.

Ayon sa nagbahagi ng video na si Jay Oliverio, nagulat sila nang biglang napadpad sa mababaw na bahagi ng dagat ang balyenang tila umiiyak.

Nagtulong-tulong ang mga residente sa paglagay ng tubig sa balyena para hindi ito mainitan.

Nahirapan silang itulak ito papunta sa dagat dahil sa bigat nito at takot din ang ilang residente.

Ayon sa marine biologist na si Darrell Blatchley, 99 porsiyento ng stranded na balyena ang namamatay. Kabilang sa sanhi ng pagkakapadpad nila sa baybayin ang stress o sakit. | via Hernel Tocmo

BASAHIN DITO ang kaugnay na ulat: https://bit.ly/3xy96sV



Source: https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10159446294990168/?app=fbl





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BFAR: 7 lugar positibo sa 'red tide'

By **Bombo Christian Yosores** -May 2, 2021 | 12:07 AM



IMAGE | DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources office in Quezon City/Google Photos

MANILA – Nagbabala ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) sa mga residente at mangingisda ng pitong lugar na nag-positibo sa "paralytic shellfish poison" o red tide.

Batay sa Shellfish Bulletin No. 13 na inilabas ng BFAR nitong araw, nag-positibo sa red tide ang mga karagatan ng:

- Puerto Princesa Bay, Puerto Princesa City in Palawan
- Coastal waters of Dauis and Tagbilaran City in Bohol
- Tambobo Bay, Siaton in Negros Oriental
- Coastal waters of Calubian in Leyte
- Balite Bay, Mati City in Davao Oriental
- Lianga Bay and coastal waters of Hinatuan in Surigao del Sur
- Bislig Bay in Surigao del Sur

"(These areas) are still positive for Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) or toxic red tide that is beyond the regulatory limit."

Ayon sa BFAR, hindi ligtas kainin ang kahit anong shellfish at alamang na makukuha mula sa naturang mga lugar.

Gayunpaman, nilinaw ng ahensya na ligtas kainin ang mga mahuhuling isda, pusit, hipon, at alimango sa nasabing mga karagatan basta't tiyaking sariwa at lilinasan ng maayos bago kainin.

"Provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly, and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking."

Source: https://www.bomboradyo.com/bfar-7-lugar-positibo-sa-red-tide/

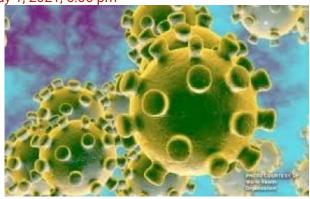




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10.8K more survive Covid-19; recovery count at 957K

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora May 1, 2021, 6:06 pm



MANILA – A total of 10,809 more people have beaten the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), raising the overall recoveries to 957,051 or about 91.4 percent of the total case count.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) also recorded 9,226 new infections and 120 new fatalities. These additional logs bring to 72,248 and 17,354, the active cases and death toll, respectively.

Since the Philippines recorded its first patient last year, the total number of confirmed cases has reached 1,046,653, with at least 6.9 percent undergoing treatment while 1.66 percent are deaths.

The Department of Health (DOH) said 94.9 percent of the active cases have mild symptoms, 1.7 percent are asymptomatic, 1.1 percent are in critical condition, 1.4 percent are severe, and 0.9 percent are moderate.

Data based on April 29 reports also showed that 16.8 percent of the 51,598 individuals tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

Nationwide, 64 percent of the 1,900 intensive care unit beds (ICU) are in use, along with 45 percent of the 13,600 isolation beds, and 51 percent of the 6,000 ward beds dedicated to Covid-19 patients.

About 44 percent of the 2,000 ventilators for Covid-19 cases are also in use.

In the National Capital Region, DOH data showed that 71 percent of the 700 ICU beds, 53 percent of the 3,800 isolation beds, and 62 percent of the 2,200 ward beds are occupied.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire on Saturday said the DOH continues to find ways to increase beds for Covid-19 patients.

"The major objective really is for us to decongest our hospitals at magagawa po lang natin iyan kung bababa po iyong mga kaso pa natin because we would like to still decrease mobility during this MECQ for two weeks (and we could only do that if we are able to bring down the number of cases. That's why we want to decrease mobility during the modified enhanced community quarantine for two more weeks)," Vergeire said in a Laging Handa briefing.

"Gusto ho natin palakasin pa iyong ating health system capacity, makapagdagdag pa ng additional beds, makapag-decongest ng ospital at mas maiayos po natin ang sitwasyon dito po sa ating mga lugar (We want to further strengthen our health system capacity, add more beds, and decongest hospitals to improve the situation)," she added. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1138752





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DOH INAASAHANG SA 2022 MAGKAKAROON NG HERD IMMUNITY ANG BANSA VS. COVID-19

written by **DWIZ 882** May 1, 2021



Posibleng sa susunod na taon makamit ang herd immunity laban sa COVID-19.

Ito ay ayon kay Department Of Health o DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III na kung hindi dumating sa itinakdang panahon ang mga bakuna maaaring sa unang bahagi ng 2022.

Mararamdaman ang herd immunity kapag mayroong sapat na miyembro ng populasyon ang immune na sa sakit para hindi na kumalat pa ang naturang virus.

Kailangan ng bansa ng 140 milyong doses ng bakuna upang maabot ang target na 70 milyong kataong babakunahan sa bansa.

Samantala, mahigit 1.8 milyong Pilipino na ang nakatanggap ng bakuna kontra COVID-19.— sa panulat ni Rashid Locsin





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Russia's Sputnik V jabs finally delivered

By Lade Jean Kabagani May 1, 2021, 7:17 pm



SPUTNIK V DELIVERED. The Philippines received 15,000 doses of Russian-made Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccines on Saturday (May 1, 2021). After the Qatar Airways flight landed at NAIA Terminal 3, the jabs were taken to the PharmaServ Express cold-chain storage facility in Marikina City. (PNA photo by Robert Alfiler)

MANILA - The Russian-made Sputnik V vaccines are now in the Philippines after a few days of delay.

Officials of the National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19, led by vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Francisco Duque III, and Russian Ambassador to the Philippines Marat Pavlov on Saturday witnessed the arrival of the 15,000 doses of the vaccines produced by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology.

Qatar Airways flight QR932, from Moscow via Qatar, landed at around 3:50 p.m., at the Bay 114 ramp of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

The delivery was supposed to arrive on April 28 but was postponed as there was no flight from Moscow to Manila.

Duque said the government will initially roll out the jabs in Taguig, Manila, Muntinlupa, Makati, and Parañaque as early as next week.

They will get 3,000 doses each.

Galvez, the NTF chief implementer, said the additional 485,000 doses will be delivered within May.

He said the pilot rollout will determine the capability of the country to handle and administer the Sputnik V vaccines.

"It's like a logistical test. Gusto ng Russia na talagang bago tayo magkaroong ng huge volume, alam na natin kung ano ang gagawin (Russia wants us to know what to do before receiving a huge volume of the vaccine)," he said in an interview.

Galvez said the Philippines has secured a total of 10 million doses from Gamaleya but the number may double.

"We have two contracts with Gamaleya, *kasi ang balak natin 'yung* initial 10 million *na* (because we are targeting that the initial 10 million doses under the) contract will be paid under DOH funds and another 10 million will be sourced out from ADB [Asian Development Bank]," he said.

The arrival of the government-procured vaccines, Galvez said, will ascertain that the national vaccination program will keep going.

Mass vaccination of the general populace is seen to start in August with the possible bulk deliveries from various pharmaceutical companies.





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INITIAL BATCH. Officials led by vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, and Russian Ambassador to the Philippines Marat Pavlov, witness the arrival of Sputnik V vaccines from Moscow at NAIA Terminal 3 in Pasay City on Saturday (May 1, 2021). The initial 15,000 doses will be divided among five Metro Manila areas. (*PNA photo by Robert Alfiler*)

About Sputnik V

Duque said the vaccines will be transported immediately to the PharmaServ Express cold-chain storage facility in San Roque, Marikina City.

The Sputnik V vaccine requires a storage temperature of minus 18 degrees Celsius and below (frozen solution).

PharmaServ's facility meets the minus 25 to minus 15 degrees Celsius temperature requirement of Covid-19 vaccine manufacturer Pfizer and Gamaleya.

Among the common adverse events reported during the third clinical trial phase of the Sputnik V vaccine, includes pain on the injection site, hyperthermia, and swelling.

Vaccine recipients may also experience headache, asthenia, muscle/joint pain, malaise, sore throat, diarrhea, rhinorrhea, loss of appetite, pain in the oropharynx, nasal congestion, colds, sneezing, and cough.

So far, there are no serious adverse events reported in the recent clinical phase trial, according to the DOH. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1138761





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Palace blasts Carpio, other critics on West Philippine Sea

By Christina Mendez(Philstar.com) - May 2, 2021 - 12:00am



This March 22, 2021 aerial photo shows Chinese vessels still present in the Julian Felipe Reef in the West Philippine Sea, well within the Philippine exclusive economic zone and continental shelf.

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea criticized yesterday former foreign affairs secretary Albert del Rosario and former senior associate justice Antonio Carpio Jr. for putting the blame for China's aggressive stance in the disputed areas of the West Philippine Sea (WPS) on President Duterte.

"For the stupid actions they've done during their regime they want PRRD (President Rodrigo Roa Duterte) to solve the problems they have created in the WPS. And still, they have the temerity and nerve to lecture PRRD that it is his avowed duty to defend the Philippines' sovereign rights at all costs," he said.

Medialdea, concurrent chairman of the National Coast Watch Council (NCWC), noted how the officials of the previous administration have orchestrated the filing of the arbitral ruling upon the advise of the United States.

The NCWC sits in the National Task Force on West Philippine Sea (WPS).

A few days after Duterte publicly questioned the motives of Carpio and del Rosario, the Executive Secretary also echoed the President's stance that the "broker" of the filing of the case has not even helped the country in the enforcement of the arbitral ruling.

Medialdea stopped short of saying the US has placed the Philippines in an awkward situation as regards dealing with China following the arbitral ruling.

"Del Rosario has admitted that the filing of the case was a brokered deal by the US. Del Rosario and Carpio were aware of the fact that it was impractical to enforce the decision but were assured by the broker of a 'strong global voice' which will shake the world when a favorable ruling comes out," he claimed. "Where was the strong global voice when the ruling came out in July 2016, barely a month after PRRD assumed office?"

He added that "it was only del Rosario and Carpio who were savoring the victory." ?"To cover their dastardly acts, Carpio and del Rosario have not stopped criticizing PRRD on his post-decision actions on the issue. What a way to hide!" Medialdea said in a post on his FB account, which was seen by his contacts in the social media platform.





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The Palace official's statement also came in the wake of the President's public rants against Carpio and del Rosario over the issue.

Last Friday, Carpio called out Duterte for "setting aside" the arbitral ruling almost five years since it was handed down by an arbitral tribunal in The Hague.

Cowards

Sen. Bong Go also lambasted Carpio and del Rosario for their "arrogance, claiming to be brave," in saying the West Philippine Sea must be reclaimed from China.

"You are all cowards anyway," he said in Filipino as he insisted that Duterte has been fighting for the West Philippine Sea.

He added that the Aquino administration, while busy with the case at the arbitral tribunal, left China to continue building up structures in the questioned area.

"Now, these (structures) could not just be easily removed anymore because you let them there in your time," Go said as he challenged Carpio and del Rosario to, "if you are truly brave," go fight with China and do every possible move they could against the country.

"No one else deserved the blame but Carpio and del Rosario. It was their fault when they allowed it. And now they appear to be courageous in fighting China, but it's all talks. What will your talks do? You are cowards," Go added.

Speaking during a chance interview after the distribution of aid to flood victims in Palo town in Leyte, Go claimed that the Duterte administration has been contesting and will continue to push for Philippine sovereignty over the disputed waters.

He cited Duterte's earlier declaration not to withdraw the Navy and Coast Guard patrols in the West Philippine Sea, insisting that the country's sovereignty over the waters is non-negotiable.

"I know the President personally for a long time, and I know that he is always after the interest of Filipinos," he insisted.

While saying that Duterte wants to maintain friendly ties with China, the President will also "fight for us and for what is ours, the one that we won over China at the arbitration court." – **Miriam Desacada**

Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/05/02/2095313/palace-blasts-carpio-other-critics-west-philippine-sea/amp/



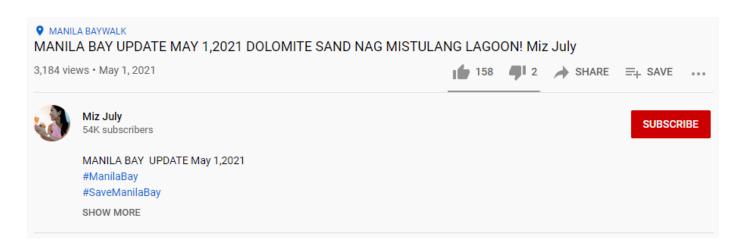




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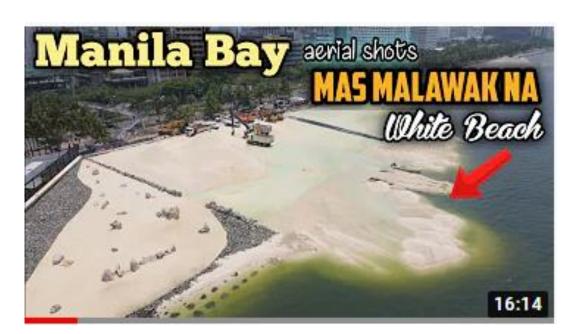
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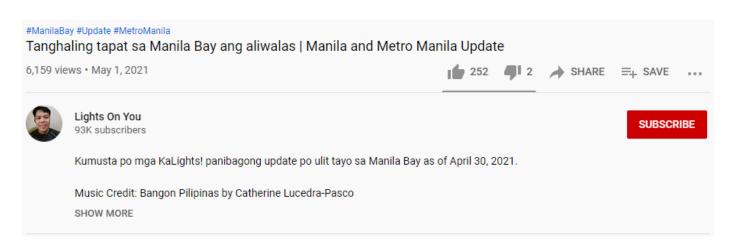




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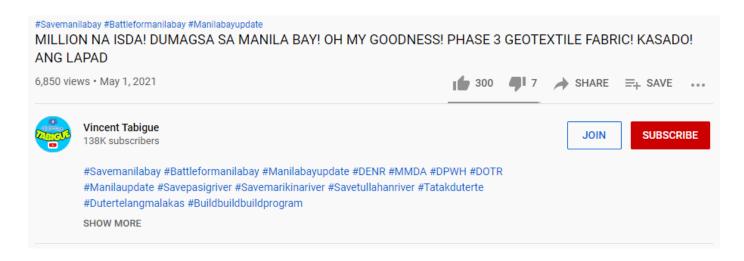




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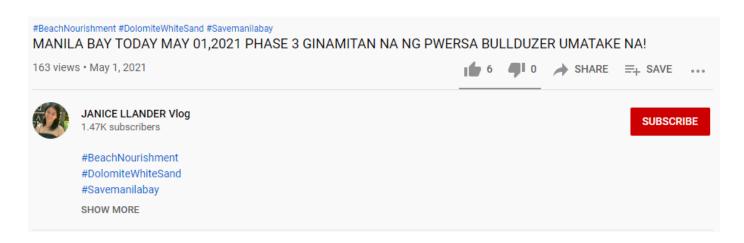




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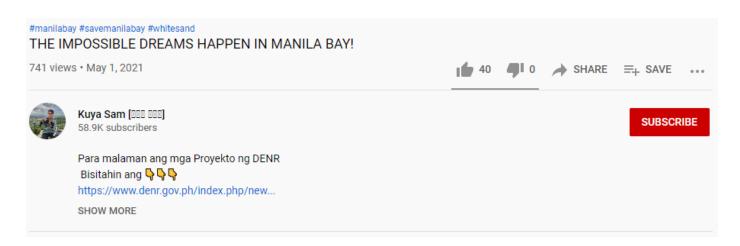




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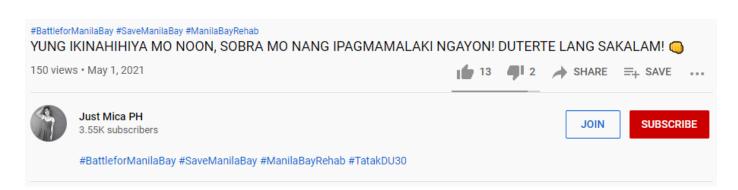




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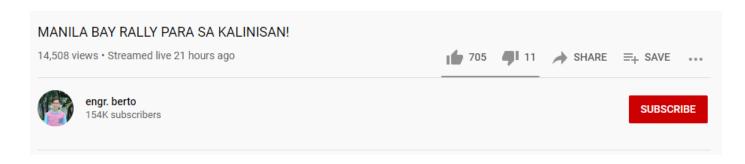




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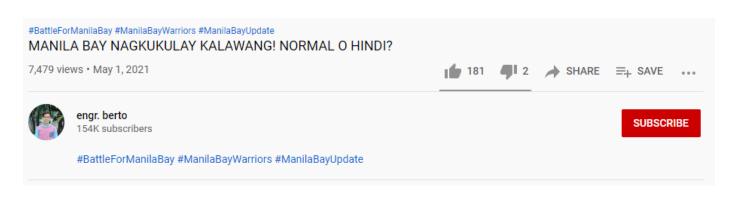




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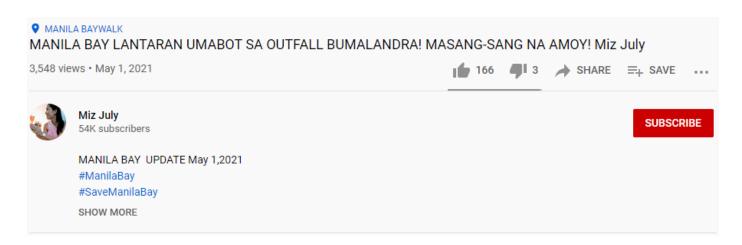




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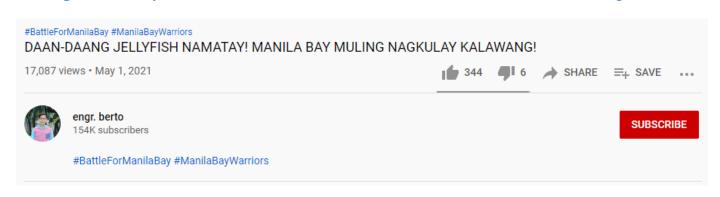




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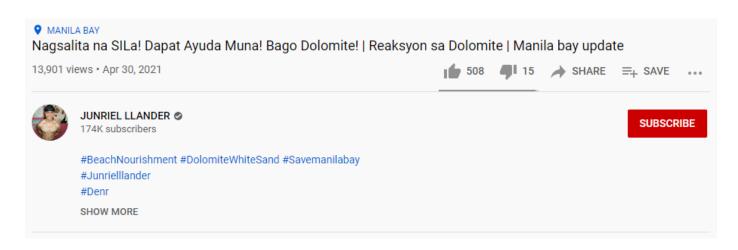




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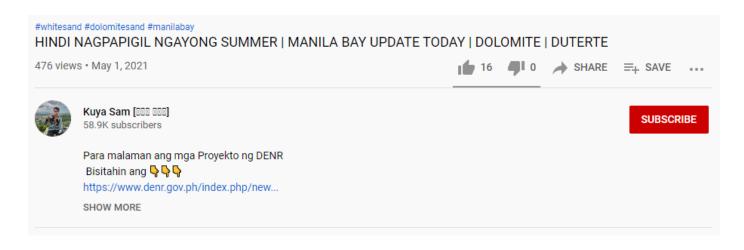




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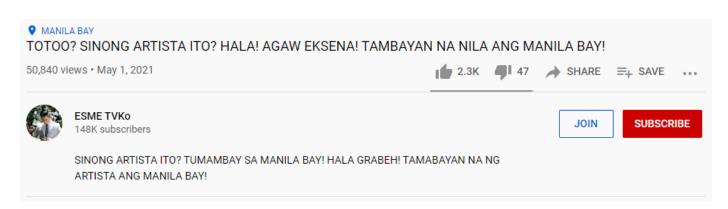




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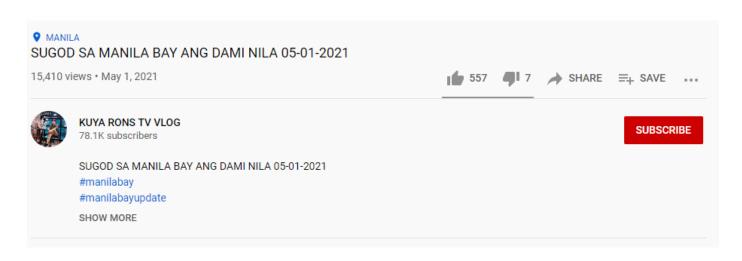




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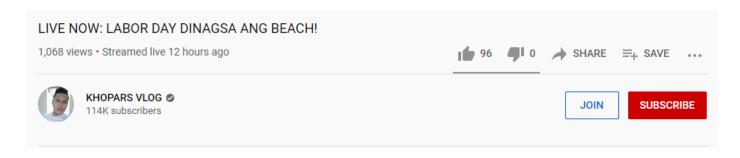


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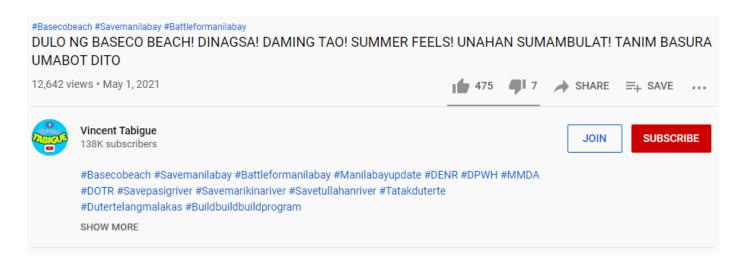


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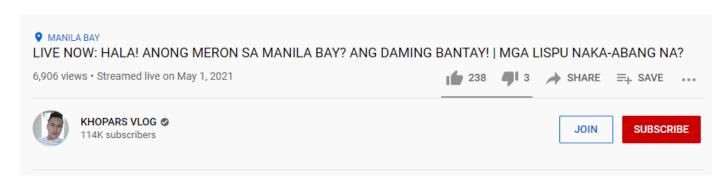




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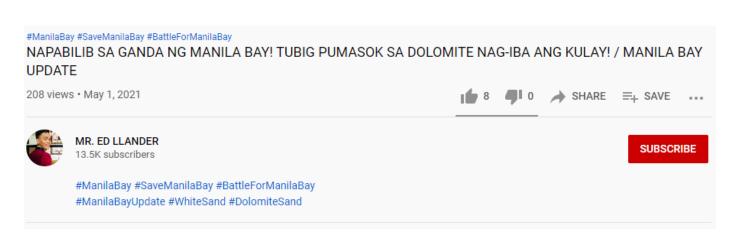




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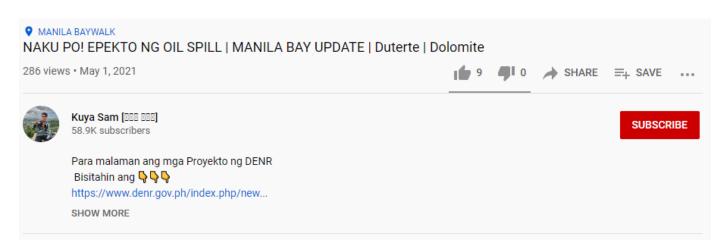




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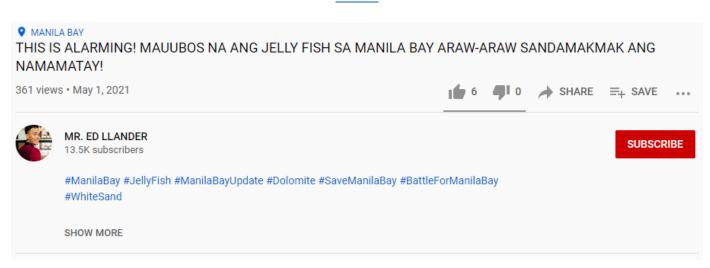




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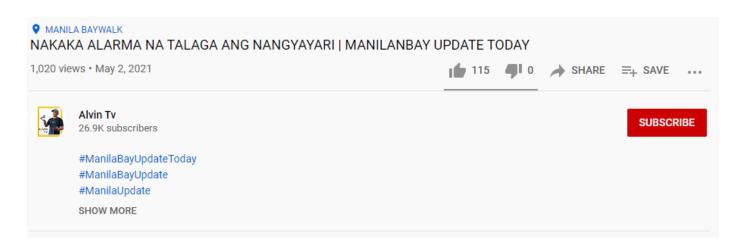




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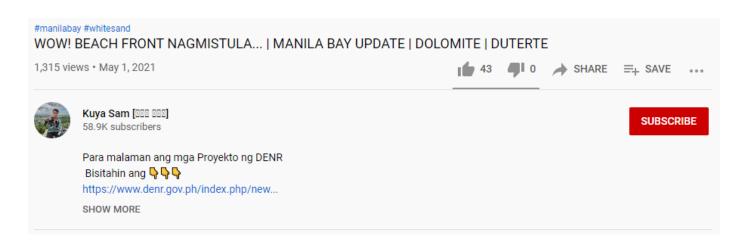




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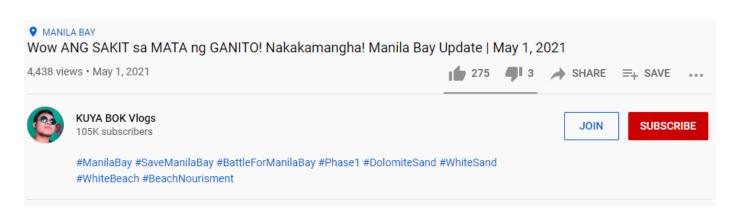




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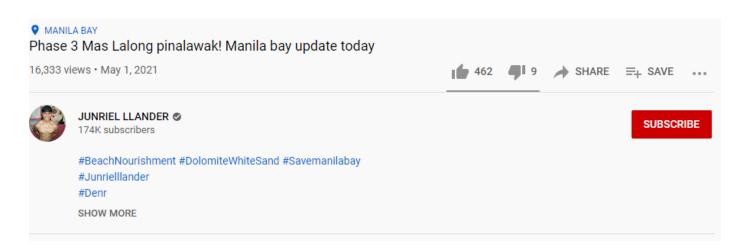




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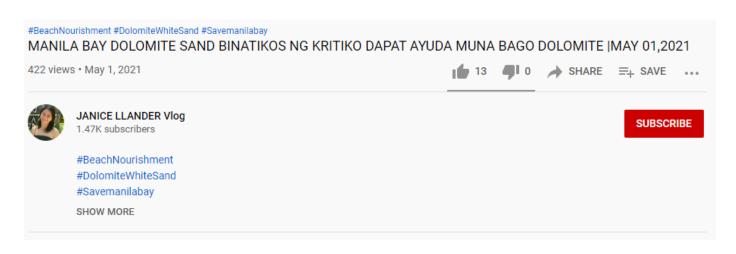




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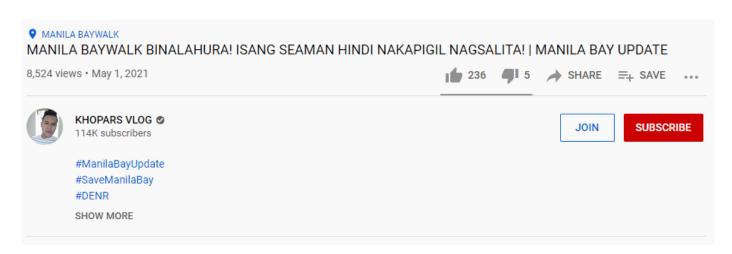




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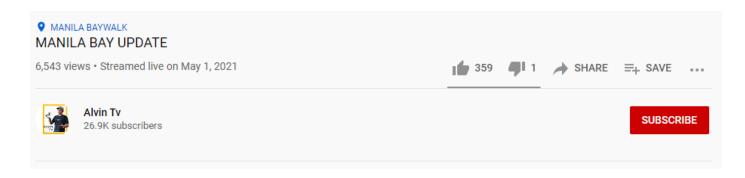




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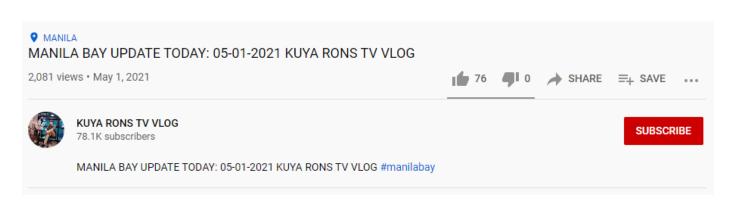




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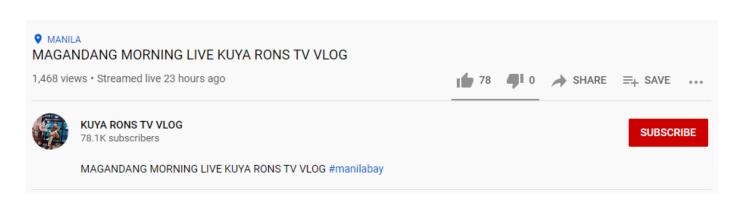




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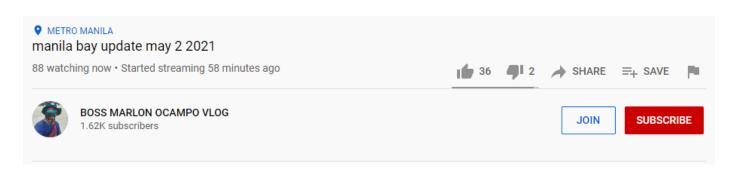




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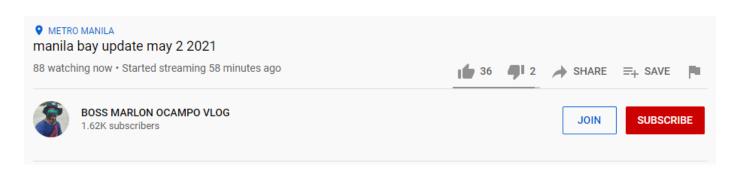




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