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Oyon Bay: Protecting Central Luzon's biggest, only marine protected area

BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA OCTOBER 3, 2021



Ovon Bay beach

In 1992, former President Ramos took a dive at a little-known spot in Masinloc, Zambales.

Overwhelmed by the beauty of the bay, the beach and its pristine waters, the thick beach and mangrove forest, and the diversity of the marine life, President Ramos declared that the area should be set aside for conservation.



Reef fishes in Oyon Bay

Hence, it was declared a protected area through Presidential Proclamation 231 on August 18, 1993.

Today, the place is popularly known as the Masinloc and Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape (MOBPLS), one of the 97 protected areas covered by Republic Act 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System Act of 2018.

Vast territory

Located in the western portion of Masinloc, the 7,558-hectare marine protected area (MPA), which is a combination of beautiful landscape and seascape, covers the municipalities of Masinloc and Palauig in Zambales.

It straddles 11 coastal barangays in Masinloc, while it covers three coastal barangays in the northwestern portion, or the side of Palauig.

The multiple-use zone of MOBPLS covers an approximate area of 5,195.3493 hectares, while the strict protection zone covers an approximate area of 2,362.7972 hectares.





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Unique species

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), some of the notable species or resources found in the MOBPLS are the rare hybrid mangrove species bakawan bato (*Rhizophora stylosa*) and apiculata or bakawan lalaki (*Rhizophora x lamarckii*). They can all be found in Mangrove Island, or Yaha.

Meanwhile, the San Salvador Marine Sanctuary, a local marine protected area, is blessed with unique mesophotic coral species.

Also within the MOBPLS are several giant clams (*Tridacna Gigas*) at the so-called Taclobo Farm MPA.

Thriving in the MOBPLS reefs are the threatened Blue-spotted rabbitfish or *Siganus corallines* which was named as the Flagship Species of the MOBPLS.

Finally, the MOBPLS will not be complete without its own marine turtle nesting area.

Threats to MOBPLS

Like other MPA in the country, the MOBPLS is threatened by various activities, notably, the docking and anchoring of vessels that threaten the coral reefs and seagrass beds in and around the protected area.

It is also threatened by the presence of informal settlers in the coastal area while the corals are under siege by the dreaded crown of thorns.

The proliferation of fish cages, siltation in fish-cage areas as well as improper solid waste management pollute the waters.

Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprise

Various programs and projects were implemented in partnership with various stakeholders to help conserve and protect the area. The DENR, through the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and the Office of the MOBPLS Protected Area Management Office, headed by Protected Area Superintendent Ariel M. Mendoza, implemented the programs.

Mendoza is also the Community Environment and Natural Resource Office (Cenro) chief of Masinloc, Zambales.

The Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprise initiatives in the MOBPLS started in December 2018 with the Samahang Magbabalat ng San Salvador as the DENR's development partner.

Among the projects is the sea cucumber-ranching project, which covers an area of 0.63 hectares for handling, harvesting, processing and marketing.

The Implementing Biodiversity Sustainable Ecotourism Project was also awarded to the group for catering, tour guiding and kayaking activities.

As the DENR's development partner, the group received the total financial assistance of P1.260.000.

Protected

The MOBPLS is protected against various threats, Mendoza said in an interview via Zoom on September 22. Even the harvesting of mangroves for fuel and charcoal making, he said, no longer occurs.





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"It is illegal because we prohibit cutting of mangroves in the area," he said.

Don Guevarra, chief of the Regional Public Affairs Office of DENR Central Luzon, said the DENR Central Luzon Office intensified the information and communication activities for Oyon Bay this year, especially in areas with no information and communication units, in order to enhance the awareness of various stakeholders, and encourage the communities to help protect natural wonders like the bay.

"We have an eight-year Regional Strategic Communication Plan. Part of the plan is our protected area, including the Masinloc-Oyon Bay," he said.

"This year, we conducted environmental education lectures in targeted barangays within the MOBPLS," he said.

"We wanted to talk to the barangay officials in the area to help protect the mangrove areas and our coral reefs. There's a mangrove island there and we have beautiful beaches in Masinloc-Oyon Bay," he said.

Guevarra said part of the plan to preserve the MOBPLS beauty is to promote proper solid waste management in coastal barangays, particularly against single-use plastic.

Ecotourism, livelihood

According to Mendoza, promoting the MOBPLS as an ecotourism destination in Zambales is one of the objectives of conserving and protecting Oyon Bay.

"We have several ecotourism areas that attract local tourists like the San Salvador MPA. We also have beaches where people can go swimming," he said.

From the operation of over 300 fish cages being managed by at least nine fish cage operators "we are limiting the operation of fish cages because we don't want Oyon Bay to end up like the Laguna de Bay. We limit the acceptance of new applicants and we only allow the operation of fish cages in the multiple-use zone," he said.

According to Mendoza, to efficiently run the operation of fish cages, the DENR is getting the much-needed boost from the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources which has a representative in the MOBPLS PAMB.

Funding support

The official said lack of fund is a big problem in running the operation of the MOBPLS.

Mendoza said right now, the DENR Central Luzon and the Masinloc Cenro works with a very limited budget to run the operation of the MOBPLS.

"Hopefully, by next year with the help of [Deputy Speaker] Loren Legarda, we will finally receive regular funding for the MOBPLS," he said.

He added that the designation of permanent personnel will boost the conservation and protection effort for what is currently the only MPA in Central Luzon.

Biodiversity monitoring

Speaking mostly in Filipino, Mendoza said one of the important activities to be performed by would-be regular employees or personnel of MOBPLS is biodiversity assessment and monitoring to be able to come up with a more science-based conservation strategy for the entire MPA.





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The official said he wants to see fishing communities near the MOBPLS to continue enjoying the benefit of a healthy marine area.

"There are many corals in Masinloc and we have the San Salvador MPA. With this alone, the marine ecosystem can be self-sustaining," he said.

The San Salvador MPA, he said, can be described as a huge fish sanctuary where various seafood, such as fish, shellfish and other seafood thrive.

"Of course, with a healthy mangrove area, coral reefs and seagrasses, we can expect plenty of food for the coastal communities," he said.

Image courtesy of Don Guevarra, DENR Central Luzon Public Affairs Office

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/10/03/oyon-bay-protecting-central-luzons-biggest-only-marine-protected-area/





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BSP strengthening banks' system vs climate change

Lawrence Agcaoili - The Philippine Star October 3, 2021 | 12:00am



In an online forum organized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said the central bank, in collaboration with the World Bank and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), is conducting vulnerability assessments and stress testing exercises to boost the banking sector's resiliency against climate change.

MANILA, Philippines — The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is further strengthening the risk management system of Philippine banks against climate change as extreme weather events continue to affect the industry's performance.

In an online forum organized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said the central bank, in collaboration with the World Bank and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), is conducting vulnerability assessments and stress testing exercises to boost the banking sector's resiliency against climate change.

During the virtual forum, Diokno said the results of the study would be used to potentially further enhance the risk management strategy of Philippine banks.

"This will enable the BSP to capture necessary data in climate and other environment- related risks which could be used for surveillance analysis and policy development," the BSP chief said.

In a study conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Diokno said the country stands to lose six percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually by 2100 if climate change risks are not addressed.

However, the study stated that the Philippines could avert losses of up to four percent of GDP by 2100 if it starts to invest 0.5 percent of GDP for climate change adaptation starting 2020.

"We recognize this. As such the sustainable finance framework emphasizes that banks should study the environmental and climate related risks, which may exacerbate the financial risk exposure of banks," Diokno said.

Based on the results of the preliminary study on the effect of extreme weather events to bank's performance, he explained extreme rainfall events translated to a decline in loan growth, contraction in deposits, and weakened loan quality as non-performing loans (NPLs) increased.

"We practice what we preach. So we established a sustainable central banking roadmap, which will provide a framework and milestones in the adaptation of sustainability principles in the key operations of the central bank," he said.





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According to Diokno, the framework highlights the essential roles of the BSP as an "enabler, mobilizer, and doer" in advocating sustainability in the financial system.

In April last year, the regulator released its sustainable finance framework directing banks to adopt sustainability principles through environmental and social risk management systems as well as in their governance frameworks, strategies and operations.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/10/03/2131325/bsp-strengthening-banks-system-vs-climate-change





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Mayor Sara Duterte signs EO to boost fight vs climate change

Published September 29, 2021, 2:58 PM by Ivy Tejano

DAVAO CITY – Mayor Sara Duterte confirmed her commitment to sustainable development and environmental preservation by establishing the Davao City Climate Change Commission (DCCC) through an executive order, which was signed on September 21.

Mayor Sara emphasized the need to establish a local organization to carry out the Local Climate Change Action Plan when signing the EO (LCCAP).

She said extreme weather events, rising temperatures, sea-level rise, heavy rainfall, and drought are all contributing to the Philippines' deepening climate emergency.

"Davao City is no exception," Mayor Sara said, citing that the city also has flash floods, landslides and drought.

Mayor Sara expressed confidence that the municipal government's LCCAP 2019-2023, which was recommended by the City Planning and Development Office and authorized by the city council, will be completely implemented now that the DCCC is in place.

The five-year LCCAP aims to pursue and protect the city's development benefits and sustainability efforts and initiatives by building disaster-resilient and climate-change adaptable communities.

The DCCC is composed of the city mayor as the chairperson, city administrator as cochairperson, and the head of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office as vicechairperson.

The members include the local government unit's Planning and Development Office; Disaster Risk Management and Reduction Office; Health Office; Engineer's Office; Agriculturist's Office; Veterinarian's Office; Transport and Traffic Management Office; Department of Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau; and Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability; as well as two representatives from the academe.

All offices involved are mandated to name a permanent representative.

The EO 47 said the committee, however, may designate City Government of Davao employees and/or identify qualified personnel, representatives from the academe, private sector and other stakeholders.

The DCCC is mandated to oversee the implementation of the identified plans, programs, and activities under the thematic areas in the LCCAP; formulate a Strategic Framework on Climate Change to serve as the basis for a program for climate change planning, research and development, extension, and monitoring of activities on climate change; coordinate and synchronize climate change programs in the city; and recommend legislation, policies, strategies, programs on and appropriations for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The special body is also tasked to conduct Greenhouse Gas Inventory and formulate strategies for mitigating GHG emissions, anthropogenic sources and enhance removal by sinks; oversee the popularization of climate change, local vulnerabilities and risks, relevant laws and protocols, and adaptation and mitigation measures through campaigns and information dissemination; create and publish the efforts, initiatives, and accomplishments of the city in mitigating climate change; and perform such other functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Executive Order.

CENRO shall serve as the DCCC's secretariat, which will handle all administrative and/or secretarial-related activities.





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Meanwhile, a Technical Working Group will also be created to assist the committee in the discharge of its function whose composition shall be determined by the members of the Committee.

A budget shall be allocated from available and appropriate resources to fund the operations and activities of the committee, including meetings, seminars, training, capacity-building, and other administrative costs, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules.

 $Source: \underline{https://mb.com.ph/2021/09/29/mayor-sara-duterte-signs-eo-to-boost-fight-vs-climate-change/}$





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Tribes submit to South Cotabato SP demand for lifting of mining ban

John Unson - Philstar.com October 2, 2021 | 5:52pm



Tribal leaders endorsed to the South Cotabato provincial board Friday their petition for the lifting of the open-pit mining ban in the province.

KORONADAL CITY, Philippines — Ethnic Blaan and T'boli leaders submitted Friday to the South Cotabato provincial board a strongly-worded petition for its members to lift a local openpit mining ban.

The petition was signed by tribal leaders wishing, for two decades now, to extract no less than €5.8 billion (Euro currency) worth of copper deposits, based on estimates of foreign geologists, in Blaan ancestral lands in Tampakan, South Cotabato.

The petition is essential to the on-going review by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of a provincial environment code that outlawed open-pit mining in South Cotabato.

The review is premised on mounting clamors of thousands of residents of Tampakan and nearby towns in South Cotabato and in the provincial capital, Koronadal City, to have the provincial ordinance lifted.

The petition, signed by tribal chieftains from across South Cotabato, was endorsed Friday to the SP by Domingo Collado and Bae Salena Samling.

Collado is Tampakan's indigenous people's mandatory representative while Samling is from an influential bloc of Blaan women who wants the open-pit mining ban invalidated.

The on-going review for weeks now of the provincial anti-open pit mining ban is being presided over by Hilario de Pedro, a senior SP member.

De Pedro last week lamented what he described as interference by leaders of the Catholic Church in the province on the review process via threats to campaign against them, if they seek reelection in 2022, once the ordinance gets lifted.

"We are doing our work here correctly, fairly and sensibly," De Pedro said in a closing statement after an SP hearing last week.

Tampakan is an ancestral land of the Blaans whose right to utilize natural resources obtainable in their tribal domains is guaranteed by the Indigenous People's Rights Act, or IPRA, according to Collado.





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The IPRA, also known as the Republic Act 8371, provides indigenous people the right to self-determination and autonomy in managing community affairs in their ancestral domains.

Blaan and T'boli tribal chieftains are ranting on the opposition of Catholic Church leaders to any mining operation in Tampakan.

Datu Edmund Ugal, a T'boli, from T'boli town in South Cotabato, said they are so annoyed by the opposition to any mining activity in Tampakan by outsiders who cannot even help address the grinding poverty, illiteracy and underdevelopment in Blaan enclaves in the municipality.

"There is a hostage here --- the peace and socio-economic empowerment of the Blaans in Tampakan, Ugal said.

Meanwhile, Teduray tribal leaders in Maguindanao, among them Romy Saliga, said any opposition to the wishes of Blaans and T'bolis are best discussed in the South Cotabato SP.

"What we can say is that we have the IPRA, or Republic Act 8371, for us, the indigenous people, next to the Holy Bible. It can be used as reference in addressing that demand of the indigenous people in South Cotabato," Saliga said.

Saliga, who is from Maguindanao province, is representing the non-Moro Teduray community in the interim parliament of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Saliga said the IPRA provides indigenous communities autonomy to decide on how to harness the natural resources, including forests and waterways, in ancestral lands for the tribes to achieve socio-economic empowerment.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/10/02/2131333/tribes-submit-south-cotabato-sp-demand-lifting-mining-ban





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Climate change: Stop smoke and mirrors, rich nations told

By Matt McGrathEnvironment correspondent, Milan Published 6 hours ago



Young protesters in Milan argue that ministers aren't doing enough

Rich countries' plans to curb carbon are "smoke and mirrors" and must be urgently improved, say poorer nations.

Ministers meeting here in Milan at the final UN session before the **Glasgow COP26** climate conference heard that some progress was being made.

But officials from developing countries demanded tougher targets for cutting carbon emissions and more cash to combat climate change.

One minister condemned "selfishness or lack of good faith" in the rich world.

US special envoy John Kerry said all major economies "must stretch" to do the maximum they can.

- Money on the agenda at Milan climate talks
- Youth have right to be angry on climate, UK PM says
- Australia PM may skip COP26 climate summit

Around 50 ministers from a range of countries met here to try to overcome some significant hurdles before world leaders gather in Glasgow in November.

But for extremely vulnerable countries to a changing climate the priority is more ambitious carbon reductions from the rich, to preserve the 1.5C temperature target set by the 2015 Paris agreement.

Scientists have warned that allowing the world temperatures to rise more than 1.5C above preindustrial levels is highly dangerous.

An assessment of the promises made so far to cut carbon suggests that the world is on track for around 2.7C.

Ministers from developing countries say this is just not acceptable - they are already experiencing significant impacts on their economies with warming currently just over 1C.

"We're already on hellish ground at 1.1C," said Simon Steill, Grenada's environment minister who argues that the plans in place just weren't good enough to prevent disaster for his island state.





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"We're talking about lives, we're talking about livelihoods, they cannot apply smoke and mirrors to that."



Image caption, US special envoy John Kerry called on all richer countries to step up

"Every action that is taken, every decision that is taken, has to be aligned with 1.5C, we have no choice."

Some delegates felt that richer countries aren't sufficiently engaged on the issue of 1.5C, because they are wealthy enough to adapt to the changes.

"They don't care about 1.5C because if there's sea level rise, they have the means to build sea walls, and they are just remaining there in their high walls of comfort," said Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Some countries are willing to do things but they don't have the means, some have the means but are not willing to do things. Now how do we find the right choreography?"

On this question of choreography, ministers were in agreement that the G20 group of countries should be leading the dance.



Image caption, Alok Sharma is the UK minister in charge of COP26

Mr Kerry called on India and China, who are part of the G20, to put new carbon plans on the table before leaders gather in Glasgow.

"All G20 countries, all large economies, all need to try to stretch to do more," he told the gathering.

"I'm not singling out one nation over another. But I am encouraging all of us to try to do the maximum we can."





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Analysis By Victoria Gill Science correspondent

The mood on the street in Milan could not have contrasted more sharply with the formal, political roundtable discussions inside the PreCOP26 conference.

On Friday, students and activists marched to the doors of the conference venue - banners waving and arms linked in a human wall to protect Greta Thunberg, who led the procession. There were cheers of: "We are unstoppable, another world is possible". And just one day after sharing the stage with world leaders, and after meeting the Italian prime minister, 18-year-old Greta told a cheering crowd: "We are sick of their blah blah and sick of their lies."

Meanwhile, behind the concrete walls of the conference hall on Saturday, ministers were cautiously optimistic that their discussions had laid crucial foundations for the UN climate meeting in November. As he brought the meeting to a close, Alok Sharma, president for the much-anticipated COP26 in Glasgow, assured me that there was now a tangible "sense of urgency".

"It's this set of world leaders that are deciding the future," he said. "We're going to respond to what we've heard here from young people."

One of the biggest remaining hurdles to progress remains the question of finance. The richer world promised to pay developing nations \$100bn a year from 2020.

That figure hasn't yet been met and while ministers here were confident it would be achieved in Glasgow, the failure to land the money is eroding trust.

"Everything we need to do, we know what that is, and now it's just a question of who's going to be paying for it, who is going to be willing to share their technology," said Tosi Mpanu Mpanu. "And that's where the problem is. So there seems to be at times selfishness or lack of good faith."



Despite these reservations, the UK minister tasked with delivering success in Glasgow was in positive mood after the meeting in Milan.

"I think we go forward to Glasgow with a spirit of co-operation," said Alok Sharma.





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"I do not want to underestimate the amount of work that is required but I think there is a renewed urgency in our discussions."

However there are significant hurdles to clear before leaders arrive in Glasgow and technical questions about carbon markets and transparency are still unresolved.

"We need to change. And we need to change radically, we need to change fast," said EU vice-president Frans Timmermans. "And that's going to be bloody hard."

Follow Matt on Twitter @mattmcgrathbbc.

Source: https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-58774786





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Energy lawsuits pact seen threatening Paris climate deal

Concerns are growing that a treaty originally intended to protect EU energy firms when the Soviet Union collapsed could undermine the Paris Agreement on climate change.



The coal power plant "Staudinger" by energy company Uniper is photographed during sunrise in Grosskrotzenburg, 30km outside Frankfurt, Germany, February 13, 2019. Image: REUTERS/Kai Pfaffenbach

Thomson Reuters Foundation

Oct. 2, 2021

Fear of multi-billion-euro lawsuits from fossil fuel investors is putting the Paris agreement on climate change at risk, one of the deal's architects has warned.

Compensation claims from a pact that allows companies to sue countries over policies that affect their investments could amount to more than a trillion euros by 2050, according to one estimate.

The Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) was originally drawn up to protect energy firms as the Soviet Union crumbled, but <u>new analysis</u> suggests it could allow coal plants in 54 signatory states to keep belching carbon dioxide for more than a decade.

"The integrity of the Paris agreement is critically undermined by the Energy Charter Treaty," said Laurence Tubiana, the French climate change ambassador during negotiations for the Paris agreement.

"Europe and others should withdraw from this shambolic and dangerous anachronism if we are to stay within 1.5C (of global warming)," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The treaty's primary aim was to protect investments by European Union energy majors in Russia and the new republics said Yamina Saheb, the ECT's former energy efficiency chief, who left in June 2019.

"What they never thought about is that the treaty could be used against the EU countries themselves," added Saheb who is now working as the lead author of a UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change working group on climate mitigation.

The sums involved could soar to 1.3 trillion euros (\$1.51 trillion) by 2050, she <u>estimates</u>, potentially bringing the treaty into conflict with the 2015 Paris accord.

Under pressure from countries including France, which favours withdrawal from the treaty, the European Commission <u>proposed</u> a compromise to end ECT protections for future investments in coal, oil and some gas projects.





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However, that would still allow investors in existing coal plants to sue governments that tried to shut them down for 10 years after an agreement was signed, according to the new study by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Tim McPhie, a Commission spokesperson, said the proposal was "aligned with the EU commitments under the Paris Agreement and the EU long-term decarbonisation and energy transition policy objectives."

But an EU official acknowledged that talks on a withdrawal "are taking place and have taken place in parallel and irrespective of the progress of the negotiations."

A petition of more than one million people calling for the EU to exit the ECT was delivered in Brussels on September 21.

Globally, five energy multinationals are now suing governments for a total of \$18 billion, claiming a loss of earnings due to climate action. Four of these suits are taking place in the ECT's investor-state tribunals.

The British firms Rockhopper and Ascent Resources are respectively suing Italy for \$325 million in a dispute over an offshore drilling ban, and Slovenia for \$118 million after it required an environmental impact assessment on fracking plans.

Energy firms RWE and Uniper are separately suing the Dutch government for \$1.6 billion and \$1.06 billion after it decided to phase out coal.

In the largest case, TC Energy is <u>claiming</u> more than \$15 billion from the U.S. government for cancelling its Keystone XL pipeline project, under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

NAFTA has also been sued by the oil and gas company Lone Pine in an ongoing \$119 million lawsuit against Canada over a fracking moratorium in Quebec.

Many bilateral free trade deals such as the EU's agreements with Canada, Mexico and Singapore also include provisions for investor court mechanisms that allow investors to sue states.

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Source: https://www.eco-business.com/news/energy-lawsuits-pact-seen-threatening-parisclimate-deal/





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Public conversation data vital during climate emergencies

October 3, 2021

Climate change has contributed to extreme weather around the world, fuelling an increased number of phenomena like deadly floods, wildfires and frequent typhoons. As extreme weather unfolds across the globe, people come to Twitter before, during and after these events to talk about what's happening. Powered by social insights and analytics, these real-time conversations could be harnessed to provide instant alerts, relief efforts and assessment of the situation on ground.



Twitter provides companies and individuals with programmatic access to Twitter data through its public application programming interfaces (APIs), allowing them to build apps and tools for consumers to draw insights out of Twitter. Following natural disasters including the Jakarta flooding in Indonesia, Australian bushfires and typhoon "Hagibis" in Japan, Twitter worked with Peta Bencana and Twitter Official Partners like Brandwatch to help local communities understand trends in conversation data. In addition to using the service to share resources, raising funds and rallying around one another, the Tweets create a wealth of social data that could be used to understand the issue of climate change and the crisis more broadly, while enabling policy makers to respond to future climate emergencies.

In collaboration with award-winning creative studio Design I/O, Twitter has unveiled an interactive webpage to explore how conversations evolved on Twitter during each extreme weather event.

Conversations heat up

The <u>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</u> (IPCC), the <u>United Nations</u>' climate science research group, recently concluded in a report that human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe — including increases in the frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves and heavy precipitation.

The extent of extreme weather events is reflected in public conversations on Twitter too. A sample of English-language Tweets from 2013 to 2020 indicated that mentions of "climate change" grew an average of 50 percent over seven years.





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These Tweets have proven to be powerful and influential as environmental activists use Twitter to raise awareness about the climate crisis, organize their communities and connect with others passionate about protecting the planet.

By utilizing the vast amount of data about public conversation Twitter provides, developers have the opportunity to build solutions that could help local communities during unforeseen extreme weather events, or study public sentiments about climate change without human bias.

Home to more than half of the world's population, the <u>Asia Pacific</u> region is one of the most vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate change. Twitter has played a critical role in providing actionable information during extreme weather events, and could continue to do so with the support and commitment from developers who are passionate about building for the climate crisis.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/10/03/business/sunday-business-it/public-conversation-data-vital-during-climate-emergencies/1816895







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Philippines logs over 14,000 new COVID-19 cases, 164 more deaths

(Philstar.com) - October 2, 2021 - 6:25pm



Devotees attend the first Friday of October devotional mass at the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila on Oct. 1, 2021. Under the IATF's recommendation, religious events are allowed up to 20% of

the venue capacity. The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The country logged 14,786 new COVID-19 infections on Saturday, pushing the nationwide tally to 2,580,173, the Department of Health said.

- Active cases: 144,061 or 5.6% of the total
- **Recoveries**: 894, pushing total to 2,397,456
- **Deaths**: 164, bringing toll to 38,656

The positivity rate was 22.1% based on the results of 68,233 people tested on Thursday.

Probe into face shield tampering

- The Department of Health said it is investigating the alleged tampering of face shields procured from Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corp. It also suspended succeeding deliveries of face shields from the company, pending results of its investigation.
- US pharmaceutical firm Merck said it will seek authorization of its antiviral drug molnupiravir for COVID-19 after it showed "compelling results" in a clinical trial.
- The United States government will send five shipments totaling 5.57 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to the Philippines by next week.
- Nearly 46 million doses have been administered across the archipelago, with over 24.3 million given as first shots. More than 21.5 million have completed COVID-19 vaccination.





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243 Metro Manila areas under lockdown

Ghio Ong - The Philippine Star October 3, 2021 | 12:00am



Police seen along Galicia Street in Bangkulasi, Navotas on July 14, 2020. The area was placed under lockdown since July 10 due to the surge of COVID-19 cases.

MANILA, Philippines — There are now 243 areas in Metro Manila under granular or area-based lockdown as of yesterday, according to a list presented by the Philippine National Police (PNP).

The figure represents an increase of 19 areas compared to 224 last Friday.

The Manila Police District had the most granular lockdown zones under its watch with 95: 92 houses and three floors of residential buildings had been sealed off

Both the Northern Police District and Eastern Police District have 46 granular lockdown areas. The Quezon City Police District has 37 such areas while the Southern Police District has 19.

A total of 1,910 households in Metro Manila are under guard, affecting 6,286 individuals. The figures are lower than the 2,323 households and 7,299 persons recorded last Friday.

The PNP said 732 police officers and 868 force multipliers were assigned to watch over the granular lockdown areas.

San Juan: Active cases down

Meanwhile, the San Juan City government reported that active COVID-19 cases dropped to 498 as of Sept. 30, representing a 56-percent decline from 1,123 cases recorded on Sept. 15.

The city government said it recorded 14,316 COVID-19 cases as of Sept. 30, along with 13,520 recoveries and 298 deaths.

"We should not be complacent. I continue to enjoin each and every San Juaneño to adhere to all health and safety protocols so that we can further bring down the numbers in our city which will enable us to live and thrive in a safer environment while at the same time allow our economy to reopen gradually," Mayor Francis Zamora said in a statement.

Barangay Greenhills had the most number of active cases with 47. Barangay St. Joseph and Progreso had the least with one active case each. – **Ralph Edwin Villanueva**

Source: https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/10/03/2131382/243-metro-manila-areas-under-lockdown





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Scientific method in deciding NCR alert levels pushed

Louella Desiderio - The Philippine Star October 3, 2021 | 12:00am



Women line up as they avail of free MRT ride at the MRT North Ave Station in Quezon City on March 8, 2021 as part of the commemoration of National Women's Month. The pandemic has increased the occurrence of domestic abuse, shrank job opportunities and widened the gender gap in the labor force.

MANILA, Philippines — Pandemic alert levels raised in the National Capital Region (NCR) must be determined by more scientific and transparent methods relatable to the public, leaders in business and the academe said this weekend.

The STAR / Michael Varcas, file

"There has to be a basis of declaring the alert levels in NCR, something that is quantifiable and easy to understand by the public," said Presidential Adviser on Entrepreneurship and Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion.

Molecular biologist, priest and professor Fr. Nicanor Austriaco also pushed for a way to help the private sector and the general public understand how the government arrives at these classification levels.

Concepcion and Austriaco agree that COVID-19 data on active cases, hospitalization and vaccination must be factored in when deciding the alert level classification in the NCR, where the new alert level system is being pilot-tested.

"There's a correlation between the number of active cases and hospitalization, which is a key indicator on how well countries are handling the COVID-19 pandemic. We should try to do the same here," Concepcion said.

As the Delta surge decelerates in Metro Manila, Austriaco said: "We need to be able to establish milestones that will allow us to re-open our society in a safe manner."

In analyzing the critical threshold level of active cases, he found that at the peak of the Delta surge in mid-September when there were 36,427 active cases reported by the Department of Health (DOH), a total of 7,400 beds (1,115 intensive care unit beds included) were occupied.

"This suggests that these numbers represent the maximum staffed bed capacity for Metro Manila," said Austriaco. "In order to protect our health care system, we have to establish a reopening strategy that ensures that we do exceed this bed capacity in the NCR."

With 20 percent of the active cases during the Delta surge hospitalized in the NCR, Austriaco arrived at the following thresholds for Metro Manila: Critical Risk – 30,000 active cases, which would lead to about 80 percent hospital capacity; High Risk – 25,500 active cases, which translates to 70 percent hospital capacity); Medium Risk – 18,500 active cases, 50 percent hospital capacity; Low Risk 14,500 active cases – 40 percent hospital capacity.





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Based on his analysis, Austriaco recommended that the NCR remain under Alert Level 4 until active cases drop below 25,500. Level 3 would be maintained until active cases dropped below 18,500 and so on with Level 2 down to 14,500 active cases and Level 1 when active cases drop below 14,500.

Concepcion said using such data as a guide to determine the alert level classifications in the NCR will not only aid transparency, but also guide the private sector in their decision-making as the economy reopens.

He has been lobbying for the shifting to the lower Alert Level 3 as the fourth quarter of the year is a critical time for businesses when consumer spending is expected to increase.

"We also need to look into the breakdown of cases in each area. It may look like a lot but for the past week, NCR is reporting around 3,000 cases only, the more reason to reconsider the increased capacity of businesses.

 $Source: \underline{https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/10/03/2131416/scientific-method-deciding-ncr-alert-levels-pushed}$





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WALANG BAKUNA? BAWAL KUMAIN, BAWAL PUMASOK, BAWAL MAG-ARAL



October 2, 2021 @ 3:27 PM 15 hours ago

DUMARATING na tayo, mga Bro, sa panahon na maghihiwalay ang mga bakunado at hindi bakunado sa mahal kong Pinas.

At huwag sanang magrereklamo ang mga hindi bakunado na ayaw talagang magpabakuna kahit kwalipikado silang mabakunahan at naririyan na sa kanilang harapan ang mga nagbabakuna.

Unang nagaganap ito sa ibang bansa, ngayon magsisimula na rin mismo sa atin.

FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES

Mararamdaman nang husto ang paghihiwalay ng mga bakunado at hindi bakunado sa pagaaral sa kolehiyo at high school.

Para higit nating maunawaan, magsisimula na ang pagbabakuna sa 12 taon pataas anomang araw makaraang aprubahan ito ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at gagamitan sila ng Pfizer o Moderna.

Mula sa 12 anyos, maaaring papasok na ang estudyante sa face-to-face na klase.

Magkakaroon na rin ng face-to-face classes hindi lang ang mga kumukuha ng kursong medikal kundi pati ang mga may kursong pang-inhinyero at teknolohiya.

At alam ba ninyo na ang numero unong dala-dala ng mga estudyanteng ito ay ang vaccination card bagama't pupwedeng magdala ang iba ng resulta ng COVID-19 test na sila'y negatibo?

Maaaring matapos ng bakunado ang isang semetre nang walang tsetseburetse pero ang mga may resulta lang ng COVID test ay mamomroblema linggo-linggo sa pagpapa-test at magastos ito.

Hindi rin pupwedeng pumasok ang mga guro, administrador, janitor at iba pang hindi bakunado o walang negatibong COVID test.

Dito magaganap ang mga matitinding pagbabawal sa mga hindi bakunado o walang negatibong sertipiko sa COVID test.

Bawal pumasok sa eskwela kaya bawal mag-aral, bawal kumain *sa canteen*.

IBA PANG BAWAL

Kapag lumabas ka naman ng bansa, maraming eroplano ang nagbabawal magpasakay ng mga hindi bakunado.





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Kapag nakasakay ka naman at nakalabas ka ng Pilipinas, hindi ka pupwedeng lumabas sa airport nang hindi ka babakunahan.

Kung hindi, ikukwarantina ka ng aabot sa 14 araw

At kapag nakalabas ka na sa airport makaraan kang mabakunahan o nakapasa sa kwarantina, doon ka na marahil magkaroon ng kalayaan na pumasok kung saan mo gusto para kumain, mag-aral, mamasyal at iba pa.

Depende 'yan sa bansang pupuntahan mo.

Ganyan katindi ang paghihiwalay ng mga bakunado at hindi bakunado.

Ayaw ng marami ang pagsasama-sama ng mga bakunado at hindi bakunado dahil ayaw nilang magkaroon ng mga hawaan.

PROBLEMA SA MGA 'DI BAKUNADO

Para sa mga bakunado, hindi na sila gaanong kapitan ng COVID na magtutulak sa kanila sa ospital at sementeryo.

Mas mahirap din silang kapitan ng sakit kaya makaaasa ka na hindi sila basta makapanghawa ng iba.

Pero ang mga hindi bakunado, malinaw na ang resulta.

Sila ang madaling kapitan ng sakit, naoospital at namamatay kaya higit silang nakahahawa kumpara sa mga bakundo.

Ito'y sa gitna ng sinasabi parehong carrier ng sakit ang bakunado at hindi bakunado.

Pero kitang-kita naman ngayon ang resulta ng bakuna.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad, bumababa na ang bilang ng mga nagkakasakit sa Metro Manila dahil sa rami ng bakunado na umabot na sa mahigit 7 milyon kumpara sa nasa 13 milyong kabuuang populasyon dito.

50 MILYONG DOSE

Inaasahang makaiipon ang pamahalaan ng nasa 50 milyong dose ng bakuna ngayong Oktubre, kasama na ang mga hindi pa naituturok sa mga huling araw ng Setyembre.

Kaya naman, pangarap ng pamahalaan na makapagbakuna ito ng 1 milyon araw-araw.

At iniutos na nga mismo ni Pang. Duterte na maging ang mga batang 12 anyos pataas ay babakunahan na rin, kasama ang lahat ng mamamayan.

Ang mga magulang kung ganoon ay dapat nang ihanda ang kanilang mga anak para sa pagbabakuna.

At lahat na ay dapat na maghanda para sa pagbabakuna.

HERD O COMMUNITY IMMUNITY

Kapag magpabakuna ang lahat ng mamamayan kapag nandiyan na ang bakuna at tuloy-tuloy ang pagdating mga bakuna hanggang katapusan ng Disyembre 2021, magandang balita ang darating sa atin sa Kapaskuhan.

Una, magkakaroon tayo ng herd o community immunity o maramihang hindi magkakasakit at hindi magkahawaan sa COVID.





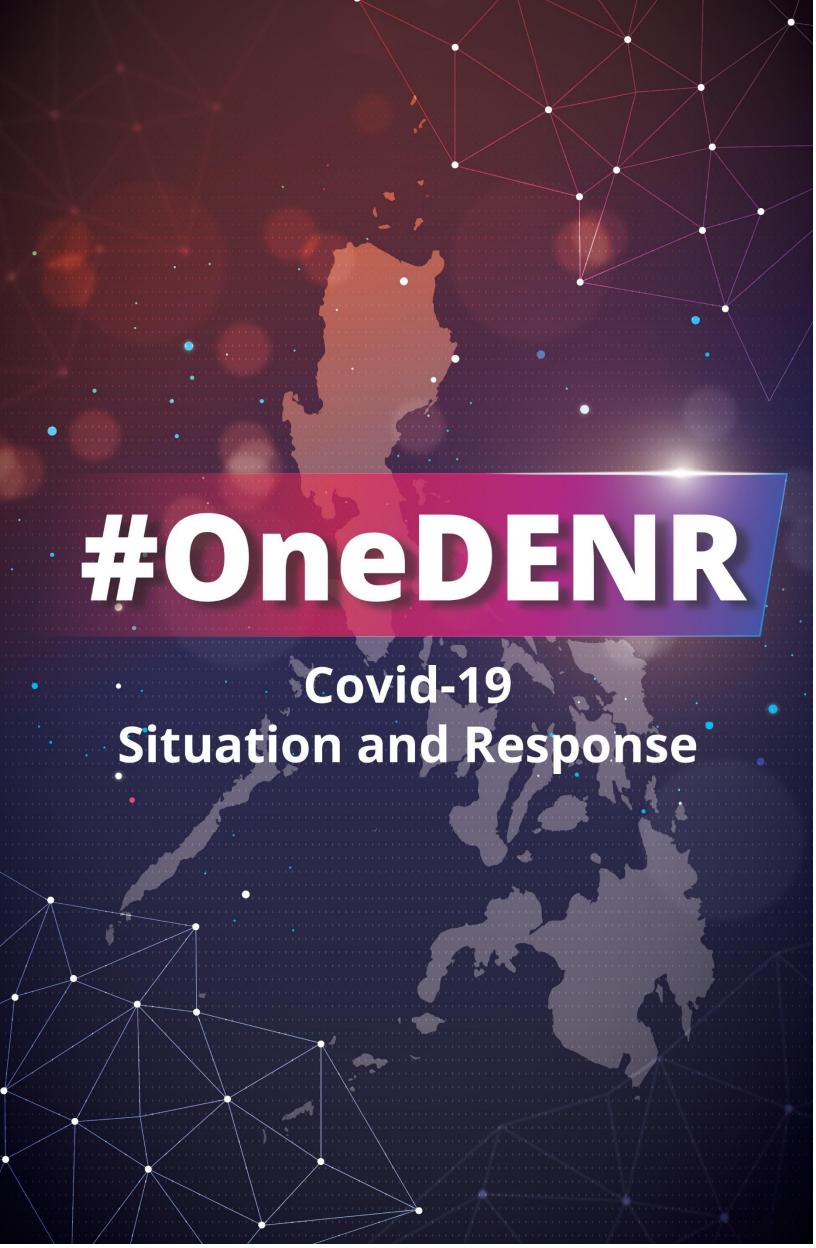
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Ikalawa, maging mas malaya na tayo sa paglabas ng bahay at pumunta sa gusto nating puntahan.

Ikatlo, dahil makapupunta na tayo sa kahit saang lugar, magagawa rin natin ang gusto nating gawin: maghanap ng trabaho o mapagkakitaan, papasok sa trabaho at eskwela, mamasyal sa iba't ibang lugar, makapasok sa mga restoran, mall, barber shop, beauty salon, gym at iba pa.

Saan pa tayo kundi magpabakuna para maging masaya tayo sa Kapaskuhan.

Source: https://www.remate.ph/walang-bakuna-bawal-kumain-bawal-pumasok-bawal-mag-aral/







OKTUBRE 2, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

5.6%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO 144.061 PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

 $\mathbf{92.9}_{\$}$

TOTAL NG GUMALING **2,397,456**

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.50%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY 38,656

MGA BAGONG KASO 14,786

MGA BAGONG GUMALING 894

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 164

KABUUANG BILANG NG KASO

2,580,173

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING SETYEMBRE 30

DATOS NGAYONG OKTUBRE 2 AYON SA REPORTS NOONG SETYEMBRE 30

22.1%

PORSYENTO NG MGA NAGPOSITIBO 68,233

TINEST

93.7% ANG MILD AT ASYMPTOMATIC NA KASO!

HALOS

ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN ANG PISIKAL NA INTERAKSYON SA IBA

KABUUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

T3%
Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (21.0K TOTAL BEDS)

61%
Utilized

WARD BEDS (15.8K TOTAL BEDS) 65%

VENTILATORS (3.4K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

54[%] Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

TSOLATION BEDS (4.7k TOTAL BEDS)

SOLATION BEDS (4.7k TOTAL BEDS)

TSOLATION BEDS (4.7k TOTAL BEDS)

TSOLATION BEDS (4.7k TOTAL BEDS)

WARD BEDS (4.4K TOTAL BEDS)

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

VENTILATORS (I.IK TOTAL VENTILATORS

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 80.3%

13.4% Asymptomatic

0.8% Critical

1.9% Severe

3.56% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

62% Utilized

55% Utilized

Sundin nating mabuti ang Minimum Public Health Standards upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19, maging sa ating mga tahanan. Nariyan din ang ating BHERTS at One COVID Referral Center upang maghatid ng agarang gabay sa mga nakakaramdam ng anumang sintomas. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa 1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333.

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



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333 GLOBE: 0915 777 7777 TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



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



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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov









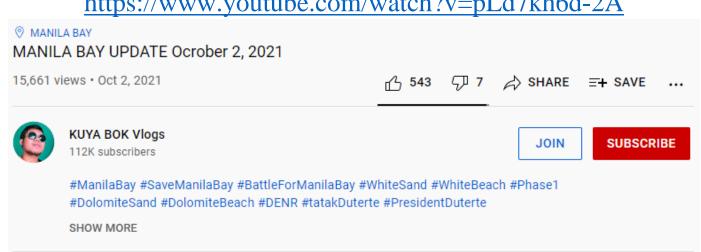




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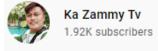


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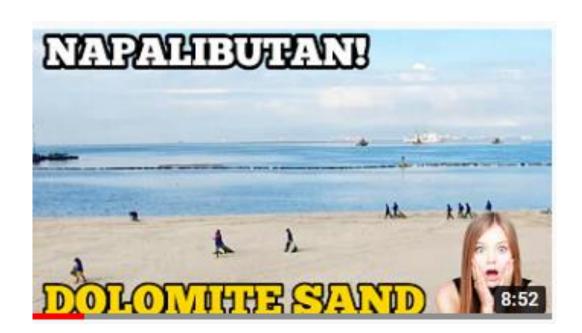
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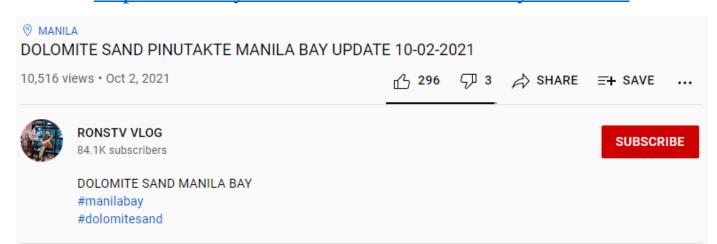




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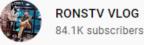
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DOLOMITE SAND MANILA BAY UPDATE

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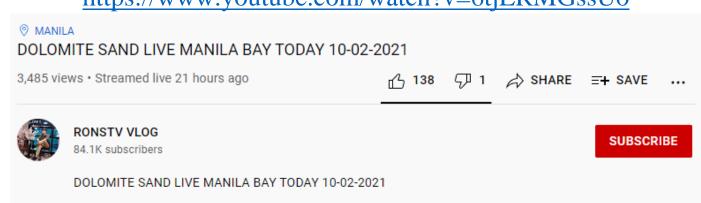




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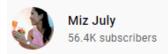
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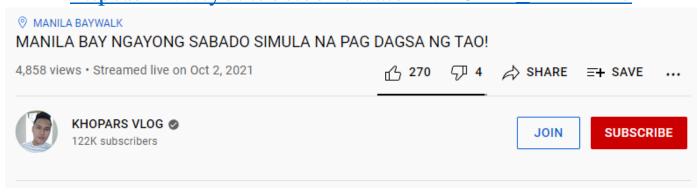




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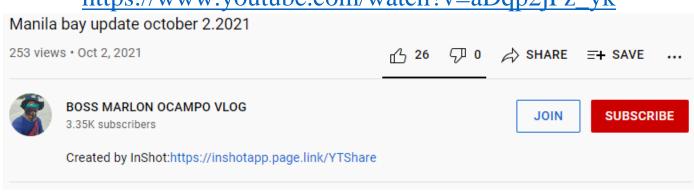




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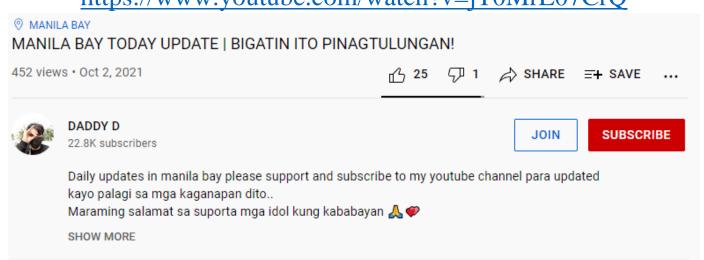




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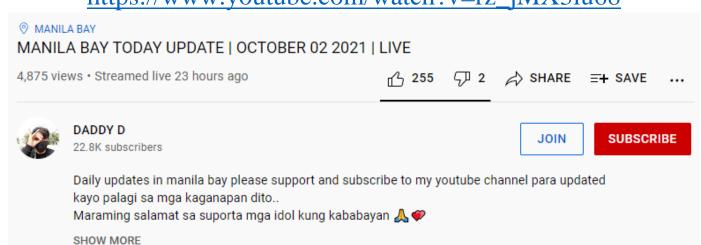




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