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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



2 'wild birds' nasagip ng DENR

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- September 4, 2021 - 12:00am



Sa pangunguna ng mga tauhan ng DENR Hotline sa ilalim ng DENR Action Center at DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau, isang crested serpent eagle at peregrine falcon ang nailigtas sa magkahiwalay na operasyon.
[twitter.com / DENROfficial](https://twitter.com/DENROfficial)

MANILA, Philippines — Nasagip ng mga environmental frontliners ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang dalawang wildlife species sa lalawigan ng Rizal at Taguig City.

Sa pangunguna ng mga tauhan ng DENR Hotline sa ilalim ng DENR Action Center at DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau, isang crested serpent eagle at peregrine falcon ang nailigtas sa magkahiwalay na operasyon.

Ayon sa ahensya, nakatanggap ng tawag ang DENR Hotline mula sa isang concerned citizen na nagsasabing may isang agila ang bumagsak sa ginagawang bahay sa San Mateo, Rizal.

Isang falcon din ang naiulat na tumama sa windshield ng sasakyan sa Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

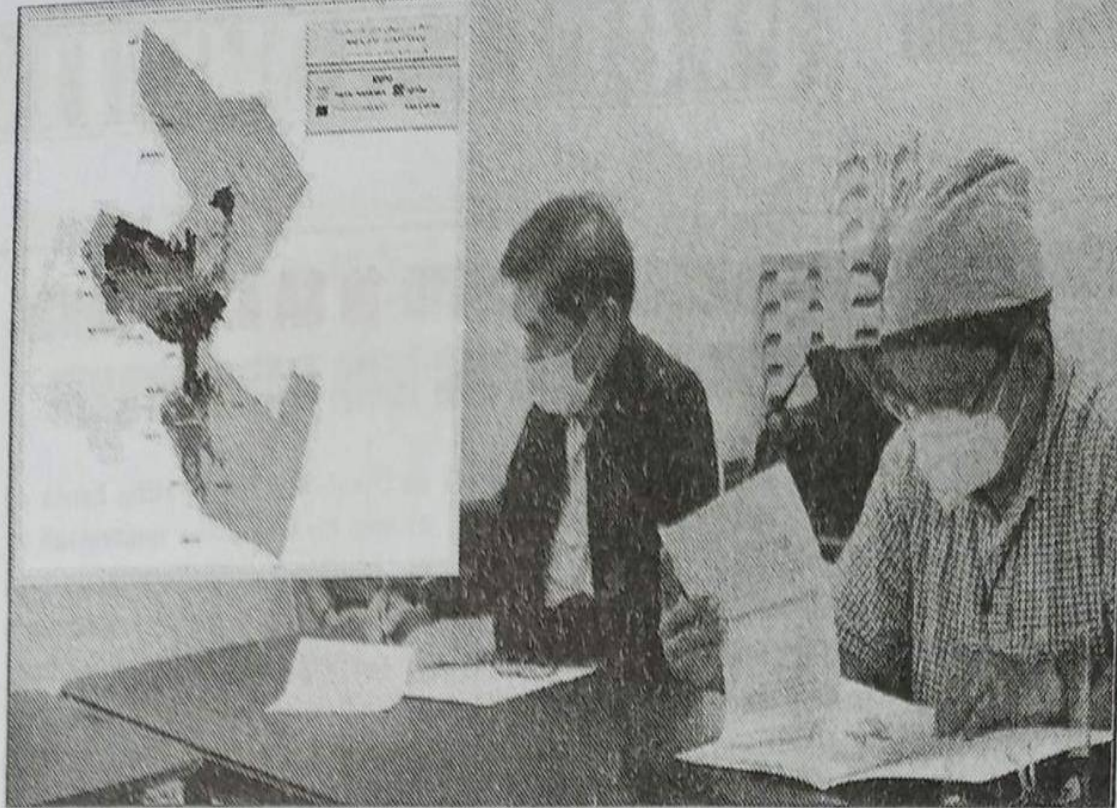
Kaugnay nito, pinuri naman ni Secretary Roy Cimatu ang mga empleyado ng DENR dahil sa kanilang dedikasyon sa trabaho kahit may mga limitasyon dahil sa quarantine restrictions upang mabawasan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19.

Samantala nagbigay din ng kasiguruhan ang DENR chief na ipagpapatuloy ng kagawaran ang pagbabantay sa biodiversity ng bansa kahit na nasa gitna ng pandemya.

Ang nailigtas na agila at falcon ay agad na dinala sa BMB Wildlife Rescue Center sa Quezon City para sa physical examination kung saan lumabas na nasa maayos na kondisyon ang mga ito.

Matapos magamot sa mga maliliit na sugat, agad ring ibinalik sa kanilang natural habitat ang agila at falcon.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2021/09/04/2124775/2-wild-birds-nasagip-ng-denr/amp/>



CIMATU SINURI ANG ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SA CALIRAYA-LUMOT WATERSHED.

Masusing pinagaaralan nina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (kaliwa) at DENR CALABARZON Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria (kanan) ang investigation report sa environmental issues sa Caliraya-Lumot Watershed (inset) sa

ginanap na pulong sa PENRO Laguna Multi-Purpose Hall sa Lalakay, Los Baños, Laguna noong Agosto 10. Layunin ng pulong na mapag-usapan at matugunan ang di umano'y pagdami ng illegal settlers, clearing activities at ang sinasabing pagbebenta ng ilang lugar sa loob ng watershed. Kabilang din sa mga dumalo sa pulong ang mga opisyal ng DENR CALABARZON at MIMAROPA regions at mga kinatawan mula sa Watershed Management and Information and Technology Services ng National Power Corporation (NPC) na siyang namamahala sa naturang watershed na matatagpuan sa Cavinti, Laguna.



CHR backs DENR's call for law to protect, conserve PH's wetlands

Published September 3, 2021, 2:17 PM

by [Jel Santos](#)



Commission-on-Human-Rights

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) supports the call of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the immediate enactment of a law that would advance the conservation and protection of the country's wetlands.

Through lawyer Jacqueline Ann de Guia, CHR spokesperson, the CHR said that wetlands such as rivers, lakes, marshes and swamps, coastal, marine, and human-made wetlands, are essential to many forms of life.

"They comprise a wide range of ecosystems that support many species population, as well as providing ecological, hydrological, and other functions and services," De Guia said.

"These functions include a critical role in moderating climate, as a big portion of the world's soil carbon is stored in wetlands. This is a crucial factor towards maintaining long-term climate stability," she said.

She pointed out that while there are existing laws with provisions that directly and indirectly promote the conservation of wetlands, there has been "no specific law that explicitly governs the conservation and protection of wetlands."

She cited to existing bills at the House of Representatives — a substitute bill titled, "An Act Institutionalizing the National Wetlands Conservation Policy," and House Bill 7206 on the proposed "National Peatland and Peatland Resources Act."

At the Senate, she said there is Senate Bill No. 2036 or the "National Wetlands Conservation Act" which was filed last February.



CHR backs DENR's call for law to protect, conserve PH's wetlands

De Guia said: "Such proposed pieces of legislation will not only promote biodiversity and sustainability but are intricately linked to the realization of many human rights concerning environment, health, and livelihoods. Thus, the wetlands are a critical resource of great economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value, and the loss of which would be irreparable."

As she expressed the urgency on the passage of a law on wetlands, De Guia stressed that the right to a healthy environment is a human right.

"But overall, the pursuit of conservation goals can contribute positively to the realization of many human rights, and the realization of rights can enable more effective conservation outcomes," she said.

The CHR reminded the government that as early as 1994, the Philippines has been a Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention which is the only international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

"As a Contracting Party, the State commits to adopt and implement laws, policies, and plans to promote the wise use of wetlands," De Guia stressed.



ASEAN explores possible sources to fill gaps in financing protected areas

Published on: September 03, 2021

By ACB



LAGUNA -- The ASEAN Member States are working to address their needs and gaps in funding biodiversity conservation activities in protected areas. Several sustainable mechanisms, such as carbon financing and payment for ecosystem services have been identified to bridge these gaps.

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said that although funding remains a challenge, sustainable finance mechanisms to address protected area needs are within the reach of the ASEAN region.

“While much progress has been achieved in addressing the challenges in funding protected areas in the ASEAN, the work ahead may require us to establish means to incorporate biodiversity considerations into the overall budgetary systems,” said Dr. Lim in her opening remarks at the third session of the webinar series on sustainable financing for ASEAN Heritage Parks last week.

The webinar series is being organised by the ACB in cooperation with the European Union, German Development Bank (KfW), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP) Project, Small Grants Programme (SGP), and the Institutional Strengthening of Biodiversity Sector in the ASEAN II (ISB II) Project, respectively.

Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Assistant Director Amelita Ortiz of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Philippines shared that the realignment of domestic and subnational government budgets to the pandemic response and reduced revenues from tourism and other activities in the protected areas have made the sustainable financing of protected areas even more challenging.

“We need to shift our paradigm to focus not only on how much and where the money comes from but on creating more inclusive and enabling financing conditions,” Ortiz said.



ASEAN explores possible sources to fill gaps in financing protected areas

Carbon financing

In ASEAN, Indonesia and Cambodia are leading the REDD+ or Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation "plus" conservation project of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which creates incentives for protecting, conserving, and restoring forest ecosystems in developing countries by valuing their carbon sequestration, storage, and other services.

Wildlife Works Regional Director of Asia Brian Williams in his presentation said that under the programme, Indonesia and Cambodia have sold the voluntary carbon credits with almost 30 million tonnes of emission reduction valued at USD 150 million.

In Cambodia, the carbon credits and the income generated from Kao Seima Wildlife Sanctuary and Southern Cardamom National Park have contributed to the parks' activities in law enforcement, local livelihood improvement, and park personnel's capacity development, H.E. Dr. Choup Paris, Director-General of the General Directorate of Environmental Knowledge and Information of Cambodia's Ministry of Environment, shared.

Payment for ecosystem services

Other funding sources such as tourism fees, concessions with private partners, grants from corporations, and establishment and capitalisation of conservation trust funds, can contribute to solving the biodiversity financing conundrum.

Dr. Lim stressed that involving industries, which are key players in creating a nature-positive scenario, can have significant contributions by mainstreaming biodiversity into their development business processes and creating a business environment that facilitates conservation and regeneration of biodiversity and reduces risks to sustainability.

At the webinar, representatives from the Philippines and Viet Nam shared their respective mechanisms in sustainably financing the effective management of protected areas.

The Philippine government augments the resources needed to implement its National Integrated Protected Areas System through the Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF), which was created to institutionalise payment for ecosystem services and ensure that revenues generated from the protected areas will be invested back to biodiversity.

Ryan Cuanan, chief of Community Management and Sustainable Financing section of the Philippines' BMB, said to date, 70 per cent of protected areas in the Philippines have established their own IPAF and around USD 200 million (PHP 1 billion) have been collected since the creation of the IPAF in 1996.

In Viet Nam, Pham Hong Luong, director of Cat Tien National Park said through the Payment for Forest Environmental Services mechanism, which started in 2008, the compensation for ecosystem services coming from hydropower companies, clean water suppliers, aquaculture industry, ecotourism industry, goes back to biodiversity conservation.



ASEAN explores possible sources to fill gaps in financing protected areas

Drawing the participation of the representatives from the ASEAN Member States, the webinar highlighted the need to invest in biodiversity, most especially in line with the efforts of the region to build back better and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recorded live stream of the webinar can be accessed on the ACB's Facebook page. (ACB)



SMC to start mangrove plantation in Bulacan



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

September 4, 2021

[SAN Miguel Corp.](#) (SMC) is looking to start a mangrove plantation on an 80-hectare site in Paombong, Bulacan as part of its nationwide reforestation initiatives.

In a statement, the company said it is in the initial stages of developing the first 20 hectares of what will be the [San Miguel](#)-Paombong Mangrove Plantation and Sanctuary, near the coastline of Barangay Masukol.

It will be undertaken together with the local government of Paombong, headed by Mayor [Maryanne Marcos](#), the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#), and the [Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources](#).

"Our team is in the process putting together the development plan for the mangrove plantation, and after submitting this to the Paombong LGU (local government units), we hope to immediately proceed with the signing of the memorandum of agreement," SMC president [Ramon Ang](#) said.

With an estimated 2,500 mangrove propagules to be planted per hectare, the San Miguel-Paombong Plantation and Sanctuary can host as many as 200,000 mangrove trees. This is more than the 190,000 mangroves that the company initially targeted last year at the start of its mangrove planting activities in Bulacan.

Next month, Ang said SMC employee-volunteers are also set to plant 10,000 mangroves at the Bulakan Mangrove Ecopark. The Bulakan Mangrove Ecopark, a 24.5-hectare mangrove area located at Sitio Wawang Capiz in Barangay Taliptip, is jointly maintained by the local government of Bulakan and SMC.

The planting activity will bring to 16,000 the new mangroves being grown by SMC at the Bulakan Ecopark site. This is in addition to 13,000 already in place in the coastal areas of Hagonoy and Obando.

"Planting is just the first step. Making sure that these mangroves grow to adulthood is the bigger challenge and will involve the community, especially those that will benefit from it," Ang explained.



PCG plants over 500 mangrove propagules in Cagayan, Aurora, and Batanes

Published September 3, 2021, 6:47 AM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) planted over 500 mangrove propagules and conducted simultaneous coastal clean-up drives in Cagayan, Aurora, and Batanes last Saturday, Aug. 28.



Personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) planted over 500 mangrove propagules in Cagayan, Aurora, and Batanes last Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)



Personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) conducted simultaneous coastal clean-up drives in Cagayan, Aurora, and Batanes last Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)



PCG plants over 500 mangrove propagules in Cagayan, Aurora, and Batanes

[Personnel of PCG District Northeastern Luzon](#) have also planted over 250 fruit-bearing seedlings, while 20 sacks of waste materials were collected during the initiative.

The PCG said the initiative was made successful in cooperation with the members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Kabataan Kontra Droga at Terorismo (KKDAT), and motorbanca owners and operators in the region.

According to the environmental organization World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the mangrove forests are home to a large variety of fish, crabs, and mollusk species. These fisheries form an essential source of food for thousands of coastal communities around the world.

The organization said planting mangroves help to prevent coastal damage from hurricanes and typhoons.



PNP loses Zambales land dispute case against OSG



[BY JOEL R. SAN JUAN](#)

SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

3 MINUTE READ

THE Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) has won a land dispute case against the Philippine National Police (PNP) before the Supreme Court.

In a 13-page decision penned by Associate Justice Ramon Paul Hernando, the Court's Third Division granted the petition filed by the Office of the Solicitor General seeking the reversal of the Court of Appeals (CA) decision issued on August 16, 2011.

The appellate court's ruling affirmed the order issued by the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Iba, Zambales, which granted the PNP's application for land registration of lots Nos. 713-A to 713-F of Iba Cadastre.

The PNP through its Provincial Director Jaime Calungsod claimed that it has been in possession of the said lots for more than 30 years.

The subject lots were formerly used as a military reservation of the then Philippine Constabulary and were transferred to the PNP in 1991 when the former office was dissolved.

In support of its application, it submitted the tracing cloth plan of Lot No. 713 as subdivided, technical descriptions of the subject lots, the approved sketch plan and the respective tax declarations of said lots.

The RTC granted the PNP's application for land registration after it was able to prove that it possessed all the qualifications and none of the disqualification to have the subject lots registered in its name.

The government, however, appealed the RTC ruling before the CA through the OSG, arguing that the PNP failed to prove that the subject lots are alienable and disposable lands of the public domain since as per the December 19, 2002 Report issued by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the subject lots had been reserved for constabulary purposes per Executive Order 87, dated November 6, 1915.

Thus, the OSG pointed out that the subject lots are unregistrable in the absence of a positive act from the government withdrawing the land from being reserved for military purposes.

However, the CA dismissed the OSG's petition prompting the latter to elevate the issue before the SC.

In reversing the CA decision, the SC said it agreed with the OSG's arguments that the subject lots are incapable of registration pursuant to the CENRO Report and that PNP's possession of the subject lots for more than 30 years is irrelevant because said lots are inalienable having been reserved for military purposes.

"In the instant case, the PNP did not submit a DENR Certification to the effect that the subject lots are alienable and disposable lands of the public domain, which was the prevailing requirement when its application for land registration was pending with the RTC. The PNP merely submitted a



PNP loses Zambales land dispute case against OSG

subdivision plan of Lot 713, Cad 191, Iba Cadastre, which indicated that the subject lots are alienable and disposable," the SC pointed out.

"Therefore, respondent's reliance on the subject lots' subdivision plan, without the corresponding DENR certification stating that they are entirely within the alienable and disposable zone, which was the prevailing rule during the pendency of its application with the RTC, proved fatal to its case. In short, respondent failed to substantially prove that the subject lots are alienable and disposable lands of the public domain," it added.

Even during the pendency of the case before the CA, the SC noted that the PNP did not submit the required certifications—a CENRO and a copy of the original classification approved by the DENR Secretary—in order to prove that the subject lots have been classified as alienable and disposable lands of the public domain.

"In fine, we find that the respondent's evidence does not suffice to entitle it to register the subject lots. The PNP failed to present any evidence showing that the DENR Secretary had indeed released the subject lots as alienable and disposable lands of the public domain," the SC said.

Concurring with the ruling were Associate Justices Marvic Leonen, Henri Jean Paul Inting and Edgardo delos Santos.



Antique MENRO rescues nests of endangered green sea turtle

By Annabel Consuelo Petinglay September 3, 2021, 3:44 pm



GREEN SEA TURTLES. San Jose de Buenavista Mayor Elmer Untaran inspects a hatchling of the Green Sea Turtle before it was released back to the sea on August 28, 2021. A discovery of the turtle sand marking on Sept. 2, 2021 led to another five nesting areas of the endangered species, said Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer Madelyn Pagunsan in an interview on Friday (Sept 3, 2021). *(Photo courtesy of San Jose de Buenavista LGU)*

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – An endangered green sea turtle has found a safer place to lay her eggs at the marine protected area (MPA) of Barangay Funda-Dalipe here.

In an interview Friday, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO) Madelyn Pagunsan said a fisherman on Thursday spotted markings of the turtle in the area leading to five nests filled with eggs that are expected to be hatched within the next 40 to 60 days.

“The local fisherman was able to easily spot the markings of the turtle on the sand because of the size of its flippers,” she said.

She added that it was already the seventh time that local fisherfolk was able to spot markings of the endangered species.

On July 2, the markings led them to the site of 70 newly-hatched eggs and another 86 eggs on the second day.

“We were able to release the hatchlings only last August 28 and 29,” Pagunsan said.

Mayor Elmer Untaran led the release of the hatchlings back to the sea as part of conservation, she added.

The environment officer believed that it is the mother turtle that kept on coming back to the area to lay her egg. A mother turtle is capable of laying up to 700 eggs seven times in a season.



Antique MENRO rescues nests of endangered green sea turtle

The MPA has rich vegetation and only a limited number of people stay in the area, making it an ideal place for the turtle to lay eggs.

She appealed to the coastal folk to help secure the other markings that would guide them to the nests.

The green sea turtle is considered an endangered species because only one out of every 1,000 hatchlings survives. (PNA)

"Clean Up! Green Up!"

Published on: September 03, 2021

By PIA-NCR



MANILA, 03 September 2021 — In celebration of the National Clean-Up Month this September, the 60th episode of "Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Change Pathways" featured local governments' and private sector's initiatives to help reduce single-use plastics and prevent plastic pollution. This was also in time for the passage of House Bill 9147 or the Single-use Plastic Products Regulation Act in the third and final reading in the House of Representatives.

The online conversation conceptualized and hosted by three-term Senator, now Deputy Speaker and Antique Representative Loren Legarda, with co-host Atty. Ipat Luna, featured guests including Engr. Ma. Teresa Quiogue, Supervising Environmental Management Specialist from the City Environment & Natural Resources Office of Parañaque; Mr. Vincent Alon, Head of Solid Waste Management Research & Training Division of the local government of Muntinlupa City; Mr. Saar Herman, Chief Technology Officer of Green Antz Builders, Inc.; and Ms. Mharee Lynn Guillena from the National Clean Up Day Coalition Philippines.

"Huwag na tayong maghintay na matapos ang pandemic bago tayo sumunod sa warning o alarm ng ating planeta. Nakikita natin ang epekto nito sa ating mga buhay at kabuhayan, at sinasabi na ng mga eksperto sa agham na lalala pa ito," Atty. Luna emphasized.

The City Environment & Natural Resources Office of Parañaque shared their best practices and solid waste management programs including the deployment of Bantay Kalikasan; CENRO and City MRF Operations; "Zero Plastics Sa Landfill" Project; "Upcycling" Livelihood Project; Plastic Ordinance Implementation; and Order Ni M.R.S.

"Waste management is a shared responsibility. Ito po ay hindi responsibilidad lang ng gobyerno, let us all be responsible sa sari-sarili nating waste," said Engr. Quiogue.



"Clean Up! Green Up!"

The local government of Muntinlupa City also shared its solid waste management programs, including the Bring-Your-Own-Bag (BYOB) Program.

"Yung mga programang para sa ikabubuti at ikaaayos ng kalikasan, hindi na dapat natin itong pagtalunan, bagkus ay dapat natin itong pagtulongan," said Mr. Alon.

Mr. Herman introduced Green Antz Builders, an organization that provides building and housing solutions that integrate eco-friendly practices and green technologies in its products and services. They partnered with the private sector and local governments to combat plastic pollution and reduce the waste going to landfills through setting up a recycling facility that would process biodegradable wastes to composts, and plastics to eco-bricks.

"Since climate change is such an imminent and immediate danger to our well-being, it will be very helpful if we can put up as many resources to try to tackle it, like the prevention of plastic and wastes as part of prevention of the effects of climate change. But definitely, in a place like the Philippines, we need the entire system to understand the amount of threat that this represents and the amount of help needed to work together," said Mr. Herman.

Ms. Guillena shared their advocacy of promoting and creating awareness in taking action on issues with ocean garbage and water waste, as well as green programs and grassroots campaigns. Apart from cleanup programs, they also collect single-use plastics to convert them into eco-bricks, as well as organize eco-bricks workshops and online webinars.

"Let us not allow plastics to rule us, destroy us, and kill us. Let us all unite and win this war against plastics," said Ms. Guillena.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, "Stories for a Better Normal" aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities by demonstrating ways in which a 'better normal' can be realized within our communities.

This online discussion is organized in a partnership between the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda and the Climate Change Commission, with support from the Department of Education, Philippine Information Agency, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, The Climate Reality Project-Philippines and Mother Earth Foundation. ### (Climate Change Commission)

CCC highlights private sector role in reducing emissions, achieving PH's NDC

Published on: September 03, 2021
By PIA-NCR



MANILA, 02 September 2021 — The Climate Change Commission highlighted the important role of the private sector in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement during a workshop on corporate governance and environmental impact and risk management held on August 27.

Citing the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera noted that "there's a need to reduce GHG emissions in order to limit further global warming and also to mitigate impacts of climate change that are expected to become more severe and more frequent, and in some cases, irreversible."

"We may actually breach the 1.5°Celsius limit—which we consider as our climate threshold for survival—within 20 years, unless we reduce our GHG emissions at a rapid, immediate, and widespread scale," she noted in her discussion on expectations from the private sector in connection with the country's GHG emissions reduction targets.

The workshop is the fourth session of the Corporate Governance and Sustainability Workshop Series organized by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

Other resource speakers included Michael Salvatico, S&P Global Head of Environmental, Social, and Governance Business Development for Asia-Pacific, who discussed what investors track in companies regarding GHG emissions; GRI Country Manager Katreena Pillejera, who discussed GRI standards and provided an overview of GHG emissions calculation; Jo Ann Eala, BPI Vice President for Sustainable Development Finance; and Arlene Tan-Bantoto and Maria Christine Garcia of Nestle Philippines, who shared company "Net Zero" initiatives. The workshop was moderated by Lany Harijanti, ASEAN Regional Program Manager of GRI.



CCC highlights private sector role in reducing emissions, achieving PH's NDC

As part of its work towards achieving the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global warming to 1.5°C, the Philippines submitted its NDC this year, which, Herrera explained, communicates "a 75% GHG emission reduction and avoidance for the period 2020 to 2030 for the sectors of agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy."

Herrera emphasized the crucial role of the private sector in achieving this NDC, especially through mobilizing investments and conducting GHG emissions inventories, which can help government develop better climate actions and business models.

"The NDC promotes the full engagement of the private sector in the achievement of our emissions reduction target, recognizing your role as the country's main engine of economic growth and transformation. We see major areas of partnership, primarily in mobilizing climate investments and the conduct of GHG inventories," Herrera said.

Herrera also highlighted the key role of the private sector in building momentum especially in the shift towards renewable energy.

"Publicly-listed companies have a critical role in sustaining this momentum and further enabling the transformation, for the energy sector, and across all sectors," she noted. *"Through this workshop, we hope that companies would further see the value of sustainability reporting, not just from a business perspective, but also in terms of their potential to contribute to our country's goals on sustainability and resilience, as embodied in our NDC and other national plans,"* Herrera concluded. ###

Procter & Gamble partners with EcoMatcher to leverage blockchain technology in tree planting

posted September 03, 2021 at 06:50 pm
by [Manila Standard](#)

Procter & Gamble Philippines further strengthened its commitment to the environment with its partnership with the technology platform EcoMatcher.



This partnership with EcoMatcher is part of "Forests for Good", P&G's campaign to actively protect nature by planting trees that help improve local ecosystems.

Forests for Good is part of the company's global sustainability goals, dubbed Ambition 2030, to make responsible consumption possible by 2030. One of its goals is to be carbon neutral for the decade, so it is actively reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across its manufacturing sites globally. Locally, the P&G Cabuyao plant is already powered by 100% renewable electricity and has already reduced more than 80% of their greenhouse gas emissions.

"Environmental sustainability is built into our P&G business strategy. Our promise will always be to delight consumers, customers, and communities with superior products while conserving and protecting the environment at the same time," says Raffy Fajardo, P&G Philippines President and General Manager.

P&G will be launching 12 pilot programs in 12 months across the Asia Pacific, Middle East, and Africa region. This program allows to see progress virtually through an advanced technology hub. Using blockchain technology ensures accountability, traceability and scalability in sustainability, which are all critical, and in line with P&G's mission to ensure sustainable growth and



Procter & Gamble partners with EcoMatcher to leverage blockchain technology in tree planting

accountability. In the Philippines, P&G is piloting the tree-planting activities in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

“The United Nations actually mentioned that this is the decade of action. One of the things that can be done to address the climate crisis is by massively planting trees. But tree planting needs to be done in a proper way. You need to plant the right trees at the right time and at the right place,” says Bas Fransen, CEO, and Founder of Ecomatcher.

Programs like Forests for Good are critical in making a meaningful impact on climate, which is a priority impact area for P&G together with the areas of waste and water.

P&G has committed to smarter packaging solutions and circularity to prevent waste from ending up in nature or landfills. All P&G plants globally are now zero manufacturing waste to landfill. With a focus on finding solutions for post-consumer waste, it locally launched sustainable packaging innovations with the Herbal Essences bio:renew bottles, which are made from 25% post-consumer resin or recycled plastic. In partnership with World Vision, the company has also recovered and upcycled 3.2 million sachets into thousands of school chairs for public schools.



Aboitiz leads with environment, social, and governance best practices in Batangas and Cebu industrial estates

[Friday, September 3, 2021 Journal Online](#)



The Aboitiz Integrated Economic Centers uphold Environmental, Social and Governance best practices with the hopes of having a great ripple effect among its stakeholders. In photo is West Cebu Industrial Park, which seamlessly integrates industrial and the environment.

In line with the Aboitiz Group's strong commitment to operate its businesses employing sustainable strategies, the Aboitiz Integrated Economic Centers are upholding best practices in environmental management, social responsibility, and good governance (ESG) within their industrial-anchored Estates.

The Aboitiz InfraCapital business unit recognizes that with its Estates hosting some of the biggest companies in the world, its approach to doing business could have a great ripple effect among its stakeholders.

"The Aboitiz Group has always been committed to striking a balance between the interests of people, planet, and profit; and we take this very seriously as an operating business. Constant learning and sharing of best practices have been key to sustaining our operations throughout this pandemic and they will reinforce our strong position as we head into recovery," said Rafael Fernandez de Mesa, First Vice President for the Aboitiz Integrated Economic Centers.

"Through consistent implementation of these ESG best practices, we hope to not just deeply embed the sustainability mindset in all levels of the organization, but also influence and encourage our business partners, locators, and host communities to live by the same standards," he added.

Championing the environment, sustainability

Many of the Estates' initiatives are geared towards protecting the environment and ensuring the sustainability of resources. One of them is the creation of the LIMA Estate's LIMA Organization of

Aboitiz leads with environment, social, and governance best practices in Batangas and Cebu industrial estates

Pollution Control Officers (LOPCO), which currently has 41 member locators. LOPCOs serve as environmental stewards that promote environmental conservation and protection.



Prior to the pandemic, DENR, LIMA Estate, and its locators would come together regularly to achieve a cleaner, safer and healthier environment for all.

Another flagship initiative at LIMA is the "Adopt-An-Estero" Program, a collaborative undertaking among the estero community, donor-partners, local government units, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); validated through water quality monitoring in the adopted area. Through this initiative, LIMA has been awarded Best Available Practices In Solid Waste Management by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau in 2019 and 2020.



LIMA's The Outlets at Lipa prides itself for hosting 1.5MWP installed by AboitizPower Distributed Energy (APX), which offsets up to 31,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year.

Aboitiz leads with environment, social, and governance best practices in Batangas and Cebu industrial estates

Meanwhile, The Outlets at Lipa, LIMA's mall development within its Central Business District, is partially powered by solar energy. The Outlets' 1.5MWp solar panels, installed by AboitizPower Distributed Energy (APX), offset up to 31,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually, equivalent to planting 1.4 million trees. LIMA locators also partially use solar energy with a combined total capacity of 17MW. In 2017, Adventenergy, Inc., the Retail Electricity Supplier subsidiary of AboitizPower (AP), started delivering 18MW of renewable energy from AP's geothermal power plants to LIMA Contestable Customers.

Moreover, Aboitiz Construction, which has built projects for LIMA, recently introduced the "Scrap to Crop and Waste Management" program for Batangas communities. Under this program, Aboitiz Construction sells scrap materials from its project sites to raise funds for the benefit of the communities.

In 2020, Lima Water Corporation was accredited as an environmental testing laboratory of the DENR, affirming its commitment to outstanding water quality testing standards. In parallel, LWC launched a pilot automation program, as it works towards adopting a Smart Water Network wherein its water facilities turn into interconnected and intelligent systems, thereby ensuring locators will enjoy reliable water supply in the years to come.



Mactan Economic Zone 2 has been using electric shuttles and tricycles within the Estate since 2015.

In Cebu, the Mactan Economic Zone 2 has replaced 100% of its sodium street lights with LED lights, reducing electric consumption. Through third party providers, MEZ2 has been using electric shuttles and tricycles within the Estate since 2015. In addition to helping the environment, these initiatives also ensure the safety of workers commuting on and off site. Last month, MEZ2 also co-led Lapu-Lapu City's Drainage Clean-up efforts to ensure free flow of water in the drainage area.

Aboitiz leads with environment, social, and governance best practices in Batangas and Cebu industrial estates

Promoting safety, sound labor practices

To ensure minimal disruption amid the pandemic, disinfection of common areas of the Estates are regularly scheduled. A strict no face-mask no entry policy is implemented, with safety reminders posted throughout the development.

To further accelerate vaccine rollout in the city and ensure that locators and their employees get inoculated, LIMA partnered with the Lipa City Government and Philippine Economic Zone Authority to set up a vaccination hub at The Outlets at Lipa. This complements The Aboitiz Group's efforts to vaccinate its team members and subcontractors to ensure continued operations in the Estate.

LIMA, MEZ2, and WCIP management also hold regular virtual meetings with locators regarding concerns and safety procedures such as the reporting system, contact tracing, infection control, and other COVID-related matters.

In addition, the Estates practice good governance through equal opportunity policies, staff benefits, and professional development.

Uplifting communities

By building integrated townships anchored on its 1,100-hectare industrial zones, Aboitiz is promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth across the country.

The Aboitiz Integrated Economic Centers collectively provide jobs to about 90,000 Filipinos. In April, LIMA launched commercial lots for sale within its Central Business District. To date, 49% of total commercial lots have been sold. LIMA also plans to build a seven-tower office complex in the heart of the commercial zone. The Villages at Lipa, AboitizLand's 49-hectare residential development with over 2,000 units, completed its model village in July.

With expansion construction and plans well underway for LIMA and WCIP respectively, the two Estates will be able to welcome more locators, developers, businesses, and merchants in its commercial centers, thereby creating up to 25,000 job opportunities for its host communities and other neighboring provinces.

The smart development of these Aboitiz Integrated Economic Centers, all fitted with the latest digital infrastructure solutions that enable smart city technology, promises to advance their respective communities and elevate the overall standards of living in countryside locations.

About Aboitiz InfraCapital

Aboitiz InfraCapital, Inc., the infrastructure arm of the [Aboitiz Group](#), aims to transform lives through better and integrated infrastructure facilities and services. It develops fully integrated economic centers as well as water, digital infrastructure, and transport & mobility projects that advance business and communities.



Aboitiz leads with environment, social, and governance best practices in Batangas and Cebu industrial estates

Its current business units include the Aboitiz Integrated Economic Centers in Batangas and Cebu, Apo Agua Infraestructura, Inc. in Davao, Lima Water Corporation in Batangas, and Unity Digital Infrastructure. The company also has a minority stake in Balibago Waterworks System, Inc., a privately-owned waterworks utility system based in Pampanga.

About Aboitiz Equity Ventures

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

To date, the Aboitiz Group has contributed over P2.2 billion for its COVID-19 response efforts.

This excludes various payments waived, reduced, extended, or restructured to help customers cope with the impact of COVID-19.



Climate advocates urge US, China, Japan: Stop funding coal, fossil fuel projects

Published September 3, 2021, 3:20 PM

by [Roy Mabasa](#)

A Philippine-based climate justice advocacy group on Friday urged the governments of the United States, China and Japan to immediately end public and private funding for overseas coal projects and other fossil fuels.



Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)

The US, Japan, and China are among the world's top sources of both public and private finance and investments in fossil fuel projects.

Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), said the US, Japan, and China must have bolder climate ambitions and should come up with a faster pace and more ambitious reduction targets to keep the temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"One crucial step in achieving this climate ambition is for the governments of US, Japan, China to stop overseas fossil fuel financing from both public and private financial institutions and companies," Nacpil said.

The APMDD's statement came as US Climate Envoy John Kerry held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and other officials in Tokyo early this week and is now in China for talks with Chinese Special Envoy for Climate Change Xie Zhenhua. The talks are part of the US effort to urge Japan and China to take more climate action ahead of the UN's [climate change](#) conference, COP26, this November.

In a statement, Nacpil further called on the US and Japan to deliver their climate finance obligations.



Climate advocates urge US, China, Japan: Stop funding coal, fossil fuel projects

"The US and Japan must fully meet their climate finance obligations so that developing countries can undertake a swift and rapid transition to clean energy, effective climate adaptation programs and cover loss and damage as they face escalating impacts of the climate crisis," she said.

The APMDD's official also called on Washington to do its fair share of the global action needed to help limit global warming to 1.5°C. According to environmental groups, a total US fair share contribution to global mitigation is equivalent to a reduction of at least 195% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels by 2030. This calls for 70% domestic emissions reductions and a further 125% reduction achieved by financing emission reductions in the Global South.

"This is a responsibility of the US being the world's largest economy and greatest historical and continuing emitter of greenhouse gases," said Nacpil.

China, on the other hand, is the largest public funder of overseas power plants, particularly coal plants. The Export-Import Bank of China and the China Development Bank accounted for US\$15.6 billion, or 50 percent of global public finance commitments in overseas coal-fired power plants that reached financial closure between 2013 and 2018, or 40 percent by generation capacity, according to the data provided BY APMDD.

Both the US and Japan follow closely behind, supporting mostly gas and coal power overseas. US public finance for overseas fossil fuel projects averaged more than \$4 billion annually over the past decade, according to Oil Change International. The Japanese government is the world's third largest provider of public finance for overseas fossil fuel projects after China and Canada, providing \$9.6 billion per year from 2016-2018.

American, Japanese, and Chinese banks are among the leading institutions financing fossil fuels globally for the period 2016–2020. Included in the annual report "Banking on Climate Chaos 2021" of top fossil-fuel funding banks are JPMorgan Chase (US\$317 billion); Citi (US\$238b); Bank of America (US\$199b); Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (US\$148); Mizuho Bank (US\$124b); Morgan Stanley (US\$111b); Bank of China (US\$101.20b); Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (US\$96.01b); and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. Group (US\$86.26b).

Nacpil called on the three governments to reign in and stop private and commercial financing of coal and fossil fuels. "We urge the US, Japan and China to prioritize efforts to institute policies such as climate disclosure rules, green finance incentives, and climate risks reporting. We would like to see these policies implemented immediately."

She also called on Tokyo and Beijing to end government support for overseas coal immediately. "We believe that ending public finance for overseas coal immediately is a commitment that the governments of the US, Japan and China can definitely deliver on. Such a commitment will make possible a fossil-fuel-free Asia way before 2050," said Nacpil.

Nacpil also called on the three countries to drastically cut down fossil fuel use and transition to clean energy even as she sees the need to "increase climate ambition and action now".



Climate advocates urge US, China, Japan: Stop funding coal, fossil fuel projects

"Climate science demonstrates that in order to limit global warming to 1.5C, coal, oil, and gas production must all decline significantly in this decade. China and Japan can help lead the region together with the US to make sufficient emissions reductions and accelerate the clean energy transition. This includes stopping the build-out of gas infrastructure as well," said Nacpil.

Kerry is in Asia for the second time as US climate ambassador, and ahead of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) to be hosted by the United Kingdom in Glasgow from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12.



Is climate change to blame for extreme weather events? Attribution science says yes, for some – here's how it works

By [Xubin Zeng via The Conversation](#)

- September 3, 2021 - 5:33 PM



A member of the NYPD supervises tow trucks clearing cars abandoned on the Major Deegan Expressway after the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida brought drenching rain, flash floods and tornadoes to parts of the northern mid-Atlantic, in the Bronx borough of New York City, U.S., September 2, 2021. (Reuters/Caitlin Ochs)

Extreme rainfall and flooding have left paths of destruction through communities around the world this summer. In New York City, remnants of Hurricane Ida flooded streets and subway lines as more than [3.15 inches of rain fell in an hour](#) and more than 7 inches fell in all on Sept. 1-2, 2021. A week earlier in Tennessee, a record-shattering [17 inches of rain](#) fell in 24 hours, turning creeks into rivers that [flooded hundreds of homes](#) and [killed 20 people](#).

A lot of people are asking: Was it climate change? Answering that question isn't so simple.

There has always been extreme weather, but human-caused global warming [can increase extreme weather's frequency and severity](#). For example, research shows that human activities such as burning fossil fuels are [unequivocally warming the planet](#), and we know from basic physics that [warm air can hold more moisture](#).

A decade ago, scientists weren't able to confidently connect any individual weather event to climate change, even though the broader climate change trends were clear. Today, attribution [studies can show](#) whether extreme events were affected by climate change and whether they can be explained by natural variability alone. With rapid advances from research and increasing computing power, [extreme event attribution](#) has become a burgeoning new branch of climate science.

The [latest attribution study](#), released Aug. 23, 2021, looked at the rainfall from the European storm that killed more than 220 people when floods swept through Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in July 2021.

Is climate change to blame for extreme weather events? Attribution science says yes, for some – here's how it works

A team of climate scientists with the group [World Weather Attribution](#) analyzed the record-breaking storm, dubbed Bernd, focusing on two of the most severely affected areas. Their analysis found that human-induced climate change made a storm of that severity between 1.2 and nine times more likely than it would have been in a world 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.1 F) cooler. The planet [has warmed just over 1 C](#) since the industrial era began.



An overturned trailer and flooded car were washed into a creek by flash flooding during heavy rainfall in Tennessee.
AP Photo/John Amis

Similar studies haven't yet been conducted on Hurricane Ida's rainfall or the Tennessee storm, but they likely will be.

So, how do scientists figure this out? As [an atmospheric scientist](#), I have been involved in attribution studies. Here's how the process works:

How do attribution studies work?

Attribution studies usually involve four steps.

The first step is to define the event's magnitude and frequency based on observational data. For example, the July rainfall in Germany and Belgium [broke records by large margins](#). The scientists determined that in today's climate, a storm like that would occur on average every 400 years in the wider region.

The second step is to use computers to run climate models and compare those models' results with observational data. To have confidence in a climate model's results, the model needs to be able to realistically simulate such extreme events in the past and accurately represent the physical factors that help these events occur.

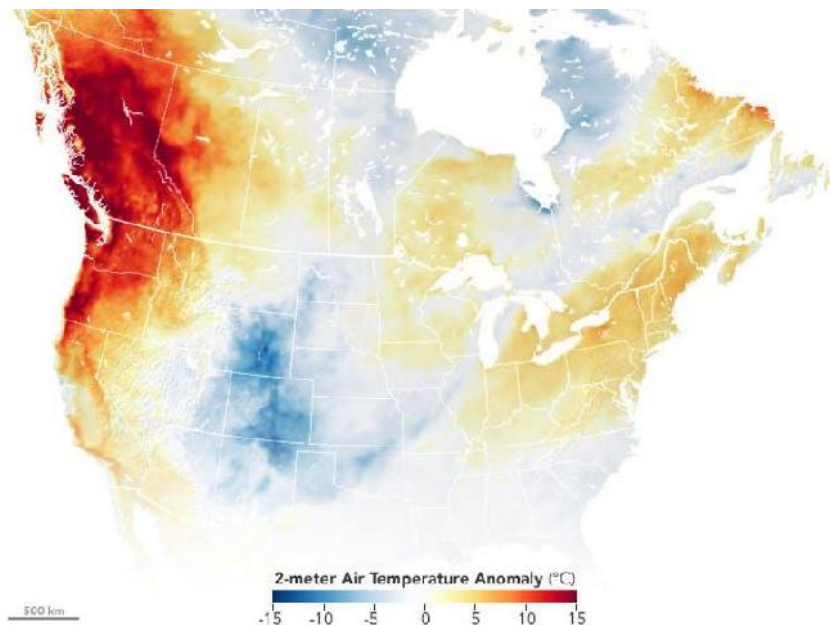
Is climate change to blame for extreme weather events? Attribution science says yes, for some – here's how it works

The third step is to define the baseline environment without climate change – essentially create a virtual world of Earth as it would be if no human activities had warmed the planet. Then run the same climate models again.

The differences between the second and third steps represent the impact of human-caused climate change. The last step is to quantify these differences in the magnitude and frequency of the extreme event, using statistical methods.

For instance, we analyzed how [Hurricane Harvey](#) in August 2017 and a unique weather pattern interacted with each other to produce the record-breaking rainstorm in Texas. Two attribution studies found that human-caused climate change [increased the probability](#) of such an event by roughly a factor of three, and increased Harvey's rainfall by 15%.

Another study determined that the western North American extreme heat in late June 2021 would have been [virtually impossible](#) without human-caused climate change.



The extreme heat wave in the Pacific Northwest in June 2021 sent temperatures more than 27 F (15 C) above normal in some areas. NASA Earth Observatory

How good are attribution studies?

The accuracy of attribution studies is affected by uncertainties associated with each of the above four steps.

[Some types](#) of events lend themselves to attribution studies better than others. For instance, among long-term measurements, temperature data is most reliable. We understand how human-caused climate change affects heat waves [better than other extreme events](#). Climate models are also usually skillful in simulating heat waves.



Is climate change to blame for extreme weather events? Attribution science says yes, for some – here's how it works

Even for heat waves, the impact of human-caused climate change on the magnitude and frequency could be quite different, such as the case of the extraordinary [heat wave across western Russia](#) in 2010. Climate change was found to have had minimal impact on the magnitude but substantial impact on the frequency.

There can also be legitimate differences in the methods underpinning different attribution studies.

However, people can make decisions for the future without knowing everything with certainty. Even when planning a backyard barbecue, one does not have to have all the weather information.

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2021/09/03/199466/is-climate-change-to-blame-for-extreme-weather-events-attribution-science-says-yes-for-some-heres-how-it-works/>



Climate change blamed for New Zealand's warmest winter

(Agence France-Presse)
- September 3, 2021 - 3:32pm



Protesters march to Parliament down Lampton Quay during a climate strike protest march in Wellington on September 27, 2019. More than 40,000 people packed into the grounds of Wellington's parliament buildings on September 27, giving the latest global climate strike a flying start with the largest turnout yet seen in New Zealand.

Marty Melville / AFP

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand saw its warmest winter on record this year as climate change fuelled rising temperatures, a government scientific agency said Friday.

Temperatures in the June-August period were 1.32 degrees Celsius (2.38 degrees Fahrenheit) above average, exceeding the previous record set last year, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) said.

The agency said the data meant seven of the top 10 hottest winters in New Zealand had occurred since 2000.

It said the last time the country recorded back-to-back record winters was in 1970 and 1971, but those years now stood at 18th and 13th respectively on the all-time list -- which dates back to 1909.

"What was considered to be unusually warm at the time is no longer considered unusual," NIWA meteorologist Nava Fedaeff said.

Fedaeff said natural weather patterns played a role in both record-setting periods but a key difference was the amount of carbon dioxide now polluting the atmosphere.

She said one measuring station near Wellington recorded a carbon dioxide concentration of 320 parts per million in the early 1970s but the level was now 412 parts per million, up almost 30 percent.

"These similar winters, decades apart, show us that there are key natural ingredients to getting a warm winter, but adding climate change to the mix is like taking the same recipe and swapping plain flour for self-raising," she said.



Climate change blamed for New Zealand's warmest winter

The country's centre-left Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern declared a 'climate emergency' last year, saying urgent action was needed for the sake of future generations.

New Zealand has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050 and generating all of its energy from renewable sources by 2035.



[Draft resolution seeks to stop plastic waste in world's oceans](#)

SEP 3, 2021, 2:41 PM



Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

A resolution crafted by an intergovernmental conference has taken early steps toward drawing up an agreement to curb plastic pollution and marine litter around the world, which can choke off sea life, harm food safety and coastal tourism, and contribute to climate change.

A draft resolution presented by Peru and Rwanda and backed by the European Union and several other countries, at the end of a two-day Geneva conference on Thursday (September 2) seeks to stop plastic waste and other litters from choking marine life in the world's oceans.

The resolution crafted by an intergovernmental conference has taken early steps toward drawing up an agreement to curb plastic pollution and marine litter around the world, which can choke off sea life, harm food safety and coastal tourism, and contribute to climate change.

Though just a small step, the draft resolution is important in building momentum for drawing up the language as early as next year on a binding global deal. It is expected to be considered at a UN Environmental assembly in February.

Supporters hope to unify fragmented efforts to curb such waste around the world. They hope to consider the full lifecycle of plastics — from production to consumption to waste management, treatment and prevention, the AP reported.

Conference organizers say up to 12 million tons of plastic waste ends up in the oceans each year, and the flow is expected to triple by 2040. So far, nearly 5 billion tons of plastic produced since the early 1950s has ended up in either landfills or in the natural environment, they said.

"The end goal, or the target, is to have zero waste," said Oliver Boachie, a special adviser to the government of Ghana, which co-organized the conference with Ecuador, Germany and Vietnam. More than 1,000 representatives from over 140 countries took part, along with advocacy groups.

Boachie told reporters there were no holdouts among countries, but that some unspecified countries were still assessing prospects for an accord and drawing up national policies on the matter. There were no "fixed positions," he said, expressing optimism that countries will eventually "come around."

An agreement could be built around legislation in more than 120 countries — including European Union member states and nearly three dozen African countries — that restricts or bans single-use plastics.



[Draft resolution seeks to stop plastic waste in world's oceans](#)

But some countries are hesitant.

For example, Japan has expressed opposition to a binding deal — preferring a voluntary solution — and the United States has resisted calls for a ban on single-use plastics.

“There was no illusion that this would be a piece of cake,” Boachie said.

Trash to treasure: Thailand makes COVID-19 protective gear out of upcycled bottles

September 3, 2021 | 5:01 pm

By Juarawee Kittisilpa



STOCK PHOTO

SAMUT PRAKAN, Thailand – With an abundance of plastic waste but a scarcity of personal protective equipment (PPE), Thailand is turning trash into treasure by upcycling bottles into protective clothing for people at risk of coronavirus infection.

Millions of plastic bottles have been collected, shredded and turned into threads to be weaved into fabrics eventually used for PPE, either for hospitals or Buddhist temples, where monks have been cremating coronavirus victims.

The effort comes as Thailand has recorded more than 1.1 million coronavirus infections and 12,000 deaths since April this year.

“There are times where it is very difficult to get hold of PPE suits, sometimes even if you have money, you can’t buy,” said Phra Maha Pranom Dhammalangkaro, abbot of Chakdaeng temple in Samut Prakan province near Bangkok.

“But now we’re making it out of upcycling plastic bottles, so what’s trash is now valuable.”

Temple volunteers have been sewing orange PPE suits for monks, undertakers and scavengers, and PPEs are being sent to thousands of temples in need across the country.

Though these are not medical-grade, they provide at least some protection for those potentially exposed to COVID-19, and one PPE suit can be made using only 18 plastic bottles.



Trash to treasure: Thailand makes COVID-19 protective gear out of upcycled bottles

The fabric for the PPEs is being donated by a textile factory in Rayong province, that usually makes fabrics used by some major global brands. At the factory, threads are made from recycled bottles and spun into a giant roll, then weaved into fabric that gets treated to become water resistant.

"This is so that it can prevent particle dust from seeping through and the virus from coming into contact with us," said Arnuphap Chompuming, head of sales and marketing at textile firm Thai Taffeta, which operates the factory east of Bangkok.

Some 18 million plastic bottles have been used since the middle of last year to make fabric for PPEs, which have been sent to hospitals around the country, he added.

The Chakdaeng temple abbot said the upcycling project was helping to ensure more people exposed to the coronavirus were protected, not only medical professionals. "We're saving lives and the environment as well," he said. – Reuters

04 SEPTEMBER 2021, Saturday



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



20,310 new infections, 2nd highest of all time

By [Shiela Crisostomo](#) (Philstar.com)
- September 4, 2021 - 12:00am



Based on the DOH case bulletin, the additional cases pushed the nationwide tally to 2,040,568. Last Aug. 30, the country logged the highest ever daily tally at 22,366 cases.

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 20,310 new cases of COVID-19 were recorded by the Department of Health (DOH) yesterday, the second time this week that the single-day tally breached 20,000.

Based on the DOH case bulletin, the additional cases pushed the nationwide tally to 2,040,568. Last Aug. 30, the country logged the highest ever daily tally at 22,366 cases.

The latest report also showed 193 more people had succumbed to the infection, bringing the pandemic death toll to 33,873.

The number of recoveries, meanwhile, increased to 1,847,701, with the addition of 7,710 new survivors.

The DOH added that there were 158,994 active cases, representing 7.8 percent of total cases. Amid the continuous rise in COVID-19 cases, President Duterte said: "The (vaccine) is really what we can offer you to fight COVID-19. Nothing else. There's no other defense against the microbe."

"If you haven't received your second dose yet, kindly get it as fast as you can. The vaccine is there," he added.

Duterte lauds Duque, HCWs

Meanwhile, the President lauded embattled Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, as well as health care workers (HCWs), for the recovery of over 1.8 million people afflicted with COVID-19 in the country.



20,310 new infections, 2nd highest of all time

He made the remark as COVID-19 infections in Philippines breached the two million mark this week, a fifth of which were cases reported in August alone.

“Our consolation is that 1.8 million of these have recovered. So there are 200 who haven’t. And that is a very good reflection of what our health people are doing, and I would like also to commend Secretary Duque for that,” Duterte said in his taped public address. The Chief Executive has repeatedly defended Duque, who is currently under fire for the supposed mismanagement of billions worth of COVID-19 pandemic response funds of the DOH.

Earlier, Duterte vowed to step down if anyone can name a country that was prepared for COVID-19 as his administration faces intense criticism over its handling of the pandemic.

He said COVID-19 infections are rising globally and the effects of the pandemic are being felt even in the United States and Europe.

“Who was prepared for this? America? Name a country that is prepared, I will resign,” he said in a previous public address. – Helen Flores



Philippines sees 20,310 more COVID-19 cases

(Philstar.com)

- September 3, 2021 - 4:01pm



Residents wait for their turn to get a shot of Sinovac vaccine at the cinema area of a mall in Antipolo City on Aug. 24, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Health authorities on Friday listed 20,310 new coronavirus cases, pushing the country's total to 2,040,568.

Today's figures also saw active cases up by 12,484 from the 146,510 on September 2. The Department of Health said six laboratories did not submit test results.

- Active cases: 158,994 or 7.8% of the total
- Recoveries: 7,710, bringing the number to 1,847,701
- Deaths: 193, or now 33,873 in total

New jab allowed for adolescents

- The Philippine Food and Drug Administration allowed [Moderna's](#) COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use on adolescents between 12 to 17 years old.
- Drug regulators also maintained the country's supply of Moderna is [safe](#) after reports of vial contamination in Japan.
- Groups objected to the government's plan for a "[memorial wall](#)" to COVID-19 frontliners, saying officials should instead focus first on releasing health workers' long-delayed benefits.
- The Philippine National Police told its Anti-Cybercrime Group to ramp up [efforts](#) against the selling of fake entry permits to foreigners and other falsified COVID-19-related documents.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/09/03/2124632/philippines-sees-20310-more-covid-19-cases/amp/>



OCTA warns of sharp spike as high as 43k

posted September 04, 2021 at 01:30 am

by [Willie Casas](#)

The Department of Health has warned that daily COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila could reach up to 43,000 by September 30 unless the national and local governments boosted virus containment measures.

"Based on a set of assumptions, daily cases in the National Capital Region for September 30 may range from 16,000 to 43,000. The assumptions used included mobility, public health, and healthcare capacities and system, and the public's adherence to the minimum public health standards," the DOH said in a statement.

The DOH said the projection was "not cast in stone," adding the figures were used to guide the government to be better prepared in its pandemic response, especially with the presence of the highly contagious Delta variant.

"With these high daily case projections, the Department calls on the national government and LGUs to lower the interval between case detection to isolation, strictly monitor the public's adherence to the MPHS, and further ramp up vaccination coverage to lower our daily cases in NCR," it said.

"The DOH also reminds the public to use face masks correctly and consistently, practice physical distancing, and get vaccinated when they become eligible," it said.

Independent expert group OCTA Research earlier said it expected new cases in the NCR to continue to increase, "albeit at a slower growth rate."

It said the reproduction number, which refers to the number of people that each COVID-19 case, could hit below 1 by the third week of September.

Metro Manila reported 41,449 active cases as of Thursday, based on DOH data. The region has so far posted 618,724 recoveries and 9,004 deaths.

At least 45 percent of the target population in the NCR are now fully vaccinated, the government said.

Meanwhile, the Philippines logged on Friday 20,310 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the total to 2,040,568, the DOH reported.

This is the second highest daily infections reported since the pandemic started. On Monday, the country reported an all-time high of 22,366 cases.

The DOH also reported 193 new fatalities, bringing the death toll to 33,873.

The DOH also reported 7,710 new recoveries, bringing the total recoveries to 1,847,701.

The DOH also reported 158,994 active cases, also the highest since April 17.

In related developments:

* An alliance of health workers on Friday called on the government to come up with concrete plans in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic as patients continue to flood hospitals. The Healthcare Professionals Alliance Against COVID-19 (HPAAC), in a press conference, said the situation is getting worse especially in provinces where hospitals have limited capacities. The group apologized



OCTA warns of sharp spike as high as 43k

on behalf of hospitals that could no longer accept COVID-19 patients. The group also mentioned the government's alleged failure to give all the benefits owed to healthcare workers despite the huge amount of misused and unspent funds.

* Calls to One Hospital Command Center (OHCC) who sought help for COVID-19 patients increased by 200 percent in August, an OHCC official said. During the Laging Handa briefing, Medical Director Dr. Marylaine Padlan said that the increase was due to new COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila. "Around 20 percent of our calls are from NCR (National Capital Region)," she said.



Arawang kaso ng COVID-19 sa Metro Manila, posibleng pumalo sa 43K – DOH

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- September 4, 2021 - 12:00am



Shoppers stay at the assigned dining area inside a mall in Antipolo City on Aug. 24, 2021.
The STAR/Michael Varcas, file

Sa katapusan ng Setyembre

MANILA, Philippines — Maaaring umakyat sa 43,000 ang arawang kaso ng COVID-19 sa National Capital Region (NCR) pa lamang sa ka-tapusan ng Setyembre kung hindi umano mapalalakas ng nasyunal at lokal na pamahalaan ang mga aktibidad at panuntunan laban sa virus.

“Based on a set of assumptions, daily cases in the National Capital Region for September 30 may range from 16,000 to 43,000,” ayon sa DOH sa isang pahayag.

Ang pagtatayang ito ay depende umano sa pagpapatupad ng mga panuntunan ukol sa ‘mobility’ o pagkilos ng tao, kapasidad ng pampublikong kalusutan at healthcare, at pagsunod ng publiko sa ‘minimum public health standards’.

Ang pahayag ay kaugnay ng sinabi ni Dr. Alethea De Guzman, director ng DOH Epidimiology Bureau, sa isang briefing sa Malacañang, na aabot sa 30,000 ang arawang kaso sa Set-yembre 30.

Ngunit hindi naman umano nakataga sa bato ang mga pagtataya nila. Ang naturang mga datos ay nagsisilbi rin umanong gabay nila para mas makapaghandang sa kanilang pagresponde sa pandemya, lalo na sa presensya ng Delta variant.



Arawang kaso ng COVID-19 sa Metro Manila, posibleng pumalo sa 43K – DOH

“With these high daily case projections, the Department calls on the national government and LGUs to lower the interval between case detection to isolation, strictly monitor the public’s adherence to the MPHS, and further ramp up vaccination coverage to lower our daily cases in NCR,” dagdag pa ng DOH.

Partikular na iginiit ng DOH sa publiko na gamitin at isuot ng tama ang face masks, ugaliin ang physical distancing, at magpabakuna na.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2021/09/04/2124753/arawang-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-metro-manila-posibleng-pumalo-sa-43k-doh/amp/>



42 ospital sa Metro Manila kritikal na – DOH

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- September 3, 2021 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Health Undersecretary at Treatment czar Leopoldo Vega na ilan sa mga pagamutan na puno na ang COVID-19 beds ay humihingi na ng saklolo sa One COVID-19 Referral Hospital.

MANILA, Philippines — Nasa kritikal na ang 42 sa 159 pagamutan sa Metro Manila dahil sa rami ng mga dinadapuan ng COVID-19 sa rehiyon.

Sinabi ni Health Undersecretary at Treatment czar Leopoldo Vega na ilan sa mga pagamutan na puno na ang COVID-19 beds ay humihingi na ng saklolo sa One COVID-19 Referral Hospital.

Nasa 'high risk' naman ang ICU occupancy sa Metro Manila na nasa 73% o at iba pang bahagi ng bansa na nasa 74% kahapon.

Itinuturing na nasa high risk ang occupancy rate kung lagpas na ito sa 70%.

Nasa 'high risk' din ang ward beds na naitala sa 71% sa buong bansa at 73% sa Metro Manila.



What's the Mu variant? And will we keep seeing more concerning variants?

By [Paul Griffin via The Conversation](#)

- September 3, 2021 - 4:28 PM

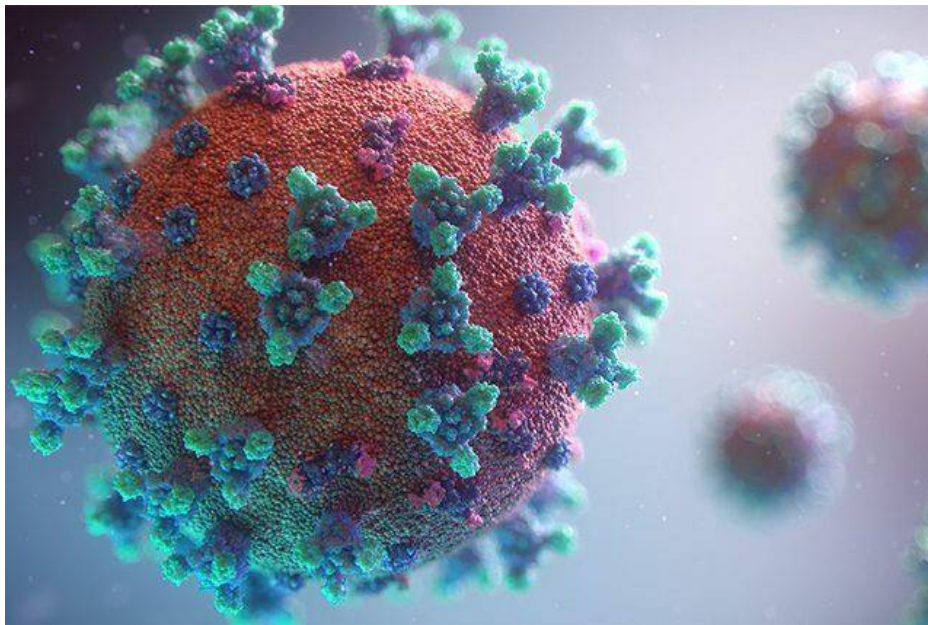


Illustration by Fusion Medical Animation via Unsplash

This week the World Health Organization named a new “variant of interest” of the coronavirus, called the Mu variant. It was first found in Colombia in January 2021, and has been found [in about 39 countries so far](#).

Mu has changes, called mutations, which mean it might be able to evade some of the protection we get from COVID vaccines.

But one reassuring element is that, despite being around since January 2021, it doesn't seem to be outcompeting Delta, the dominant variant across most of the world.

If Mu was truly a really bad variant, we would have expected to have started to see indications of this, and we haven't yet.

What's a variant of interest?

An impressive element of our COVID response has been frequent genomic sequencing, which we haven't done before on this scale. This tracks and maps the evolution of the virus in real time, as it adapts and mutates.

Some mutations will be detrimental to the virus, but some will be beneficial, allowing it to spread better, escape the protection offered by vaccines or even evade COVID tests.

If there are changes to the virus that mean it looks like it has the potential to do more harm, then we might designate it a “variant of interest”.

What's the Mu variant? And will we keep seeing more concerning variants?

Mu has mutations that might confer some of these properties, but evidence is still emerging.

The four other variants of interest are Eta, Iota, Kappa and Lambda.

If there's good evidence Mu is more serious and beginning to overtake other variants such as Delta, it might be upgraded to a "variant of concern". The four variants of concern are Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta.

Can it escape vaccines?

Most COVID vaccines target the "spike protein" of the virus, which it uses to enter our cells. Our vaccines expose our bodies to a part of the virus, commonly the spike protein, so our immune system can learn to fight the virus off if it encounters it.

If a variant has significant changes in the spike protein, this may decrease the effectiveness of our vaccines.

The WHO said preliminary evidence suggests the Mu variant could [partially evade the antibodies we get from vaccination](#).

But because this data is from lab studies, we can't be sure how the variant will actually play out in the population.

We need more research to be certain about how it behaves in humans, and work on this is ongoing.

The good news is our vaccines currently protect well against symptomatic infection and severe disease from all variants of the virus so far.

Vaccines may not protect forever

There's a high probability a new variant will arise one day that can significantly escape the protection offered by our vaccines, which are based on the original strain of the virus. We would call this an "escape variant".

It's hard to know if and when this would happen, but rampant community transmission of the virus increases the chances of such a variant emerging.

However, the leading COVID vaccine manufacturers are well prepared if this eventuates. Some are already developing vaccines for new variants, [such as Delta](#).

If we did discover an escape variant, some vaccine manufacturers could alter their existing vaccines to match the new variant, possibly within 6-8 weeks. Medical regulators around the world would likely accelerate the approval process to make this possible. Certain studies would be required but these could be done quickly, so long as the new vaccine had basically the same properties as the existing vaccine.

It's possible we could see a variant overtake Delta in terms of infectiousness eventually. Scientists think it's [at least 50% more infectious than the Alpha variant](#), which was about 50% more infectious than the original strain.



What's the Mu variant? And will we keep seeing more concerning variants?

Evolutionary theory predicts the virus may become more transmissible over time, but less severe, as a virus wants to spread as much as possible and doesn't want to kill its host before it can do so. But this may not necessarily be how SARS-CoV-2 plays out, and realistically we're still in the early days of this virus.

The best way of combating variants is to get as many people vaccinated as possible, so there are fewer susceptible hosts for the virus to reproduce and mutate.

There is a risk that once we have the majority of the world vaccinated, vaccines may place "selective pressure" on the virus to evolve to escape vaccines. But the benefits of having more people vaccinated outweighs this risk.

I don't think it's time to be concerned about Mu yet. If it became a "variant of concern", then we might be more worried. But we have some amazing tools to fight this virus, including many successful vaccines — the majority of which can be adapted quickly to new variants.

It's likely we'll have regular booster shots to protect us against variants in the future.



#OneDENR

Covid-19
Situation and Response



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 538

SETYEMBRE 3, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

7.8%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
158,994

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

90.5%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
1,847,701

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.66%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
33,873

MGA BAGONG KASO **20,310**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **7,710**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **193**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,040,568**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING SETYEMBRE 1
DATOS NGAYONG SETYEMBRE 3
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG SETYEMBRE 1

27.4%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

67,759

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
97.5%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS) **72%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.3K TOTAL BEDS) **66%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (15.1K TOTAL BEDS) **71%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **56%** Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS) **70%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS) **61%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.3K TOTAL BEDS) **72%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **62%** Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 96.5%

1.1% Asymptomatic

0.5% Critical

1.0% Severe

0.92% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Panatilihin natin ang mahigpit na pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards**, saan man tayo patungo o naroroon. Ugaliin natin ang pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa ating **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** para sa karampatang gabay. 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

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: [kontracovid.ph](https://www.kontracovid.ph)



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://www.staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

04 SEPTEMBER 2021, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



HULING TUBO NG PAGBABAGO!
READY NA!

ANG KAPALARAN NG MANILA BAY AT PILIPINAS AY NASA ATING MGA KAMAY!

GUSTO NYO BA ITONG IBALIK SA DATI?

[GUSTO NIYO BA NA IBALIK ang DATI? Aba ay ISIP-ISP! Ang Huling TUBO KASADO Na!](https://youtu.be/9QHx7JJpjQ) September 3, 2021

youtu.be

5:41 AM

Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/9QHx7JJpjQ>

MANILA BAY

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#ManilaBay #SaveManilaBay #BattleForManilaBay #WhiteSand #WhiteBeach #DolomiteSand #Tubo #Pagbabago #DENR #tatakDuterte



[Manila Bay Update: September 3, 2021](#)

youtu.be

5:45 AM

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#battleformanilabay #fishingarea

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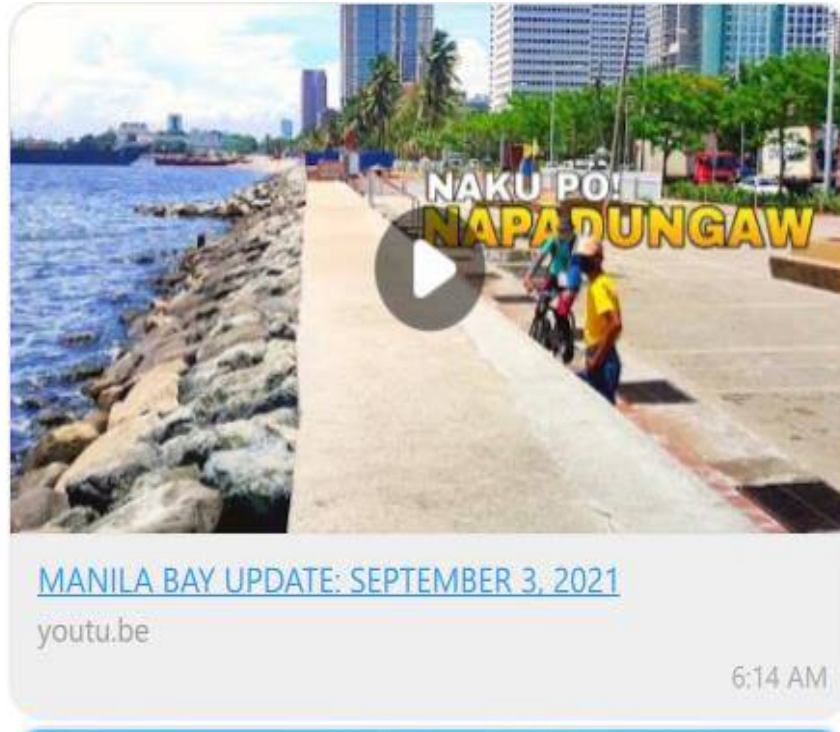
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