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DENR-BMB promotes environmental education

SEP 4, 2021, 5:15 PM

Santiago Celario Writer

Through "Samot-Sari," the Department of Environment and Natural Resources hopes to re-inculcate caring for the environment and natural resources among children.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), has recently launched a family-friendly web series called "Samot-Sari" as part of its efforts to educate children on the importance of conservation.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that despite the pandemic, the DENR is taking steps to continue educating young people through the use of modern digital technology.

"We should not let Covid-19 hinder the education of the next generation. Our teaching methods need to evolve to adapt to the constantly changing situation brought about by this pandemic," he said in a statement.

Cimatu emphasized that caring for the environment and natural resources should remain part of the curriculum especially after some studies showed that there may be a link between negligence and exploitation of the environment and the pandemic.

"We cannot take any more chances and allow another pandemic to happen," the DENR chief said.

"Samot-Sari" is a five-part web series shown in DENR-BMB's online platforms, featuring "engaging, relatable, and playful content, especially targeted toward children and youth."

It features its hero, Super Sari, who helps the children know more about Philippine biodiversity and teaches ways to conserve it.

"We also hope that parents and educators can pick up strategies or innovations that will help them engage the target audience about the environment in creative ways possible," said DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns and concurrent BMB Director Edilberto Leonardo.

The concept of Samot-Sari was adapted from the framework of "Dalaw-Turo" which started as a stage play in 1989.

The BMB Youth Desk and Communication Education and Public Awareness Core Group are behind the production of the creative educational materials.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/denr-bmb-promotes-environmental-education?fbclid=IwAR2DLZN-dCcWtNaGTlT5yIxR39hoG01ZKCFES2tp4xaSFFjZKcZuDfQoN30





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





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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.

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.

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.





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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 <u>Aboitiz Group</u>, 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.

Its current business units include the Aboitiz Integrated Economic Centers in Batangas and Cebu, Apo Agua Infrastructura, 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.

Source: https://journal.com.ph/aboitiz-leads-environment-social-governance-best/





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What we know so far: Revived Boracay casino plans

Rosette Adel - Philstar.com September 4, 2021 | 6:45pm



MANILA, Philippines — It seems like the deferred casino plans on the world-famous island Boracay will push through after all.

Citing lack of funds, President Rodrigo Duterte recently took back his words against casino plans and said he is now in favor of those.

"Ngayon, magsabi ka, 'Ito si Duterte, bakit sabi mo ayaw mo ng sugal, tapos ngayon maski 'yung sa Boracay 'yung gambling house doon ine-encourage mong buksan para sa tourist?" Duterte said in his taped "Talk to the People" aired August 26.

(Now, you'll say, 'This Duterte, you said you don't want gambling, and now you encourage the opening of a gambling house in Boracay for tourists?')

"Patawirin na po ninyo ako for the contradiction. Ngayon po wala tayong pera. Kung saan man tayo makakuha ng pera, kukunin ko. Kung diyan sa gambling, so be it. Ngayon, kung nagkamali ako, tama 'yan, nagkamali ako. Kung wala akong isang salita diyan, tama 'yan, wala akong isang salita diyan. Pero kailangan ko ng pera para patakbuhin ang gobyerno kasi marami akong gagastusan," he added.

(Please forgive me for the contradiction. Now we don't have money. Wherever we may get money, I'll take it. If that's from gambling, so be it. If I was wrong there, yes, I am wrong. If I didn't stand by my word, yes that's right, but I need money to run the government because I have a lot to finance.)

Throwback to 2018

In April 2018, Duterte said he would prohibit casinos on Boracay island, which was closed to tourists for six months for rehabilitation.

"There are no plans for a casino. That's enough, because it's too much. There's a casino here, casino there," Duterte said then.

This, after concerned citizens, questioned the timing of the Boracay island closure that prompted speculations that the island shutdown would pave way for the construction of the casino.

The previous meeting of the president with Galaxy Entertainment Group Limited Chairman Dr. Lui Che Woo in December 2017 also made headlines.

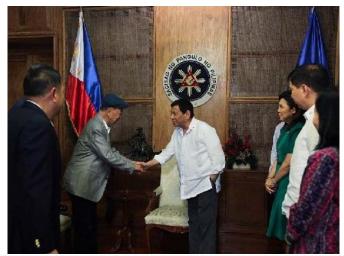
Galaxy's local partner Leisure and Resorts World Corp. (LRWC) said its subsidiary acquired 23 hectares of land in Barangay Manoc-Manoc, Boracay island to build the casino.

In the same year, the president also said there will be no casinos to be built in the country aside from those that already exist.





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President Rodrigo Duterte greets Galaxy Entertainment Group Limited Chairman Dr. Lui Che Woo who paid a courtesy call on the president in Malacañan Palace on Dec. 6, 2017

His statements then were perceived contradicting as Galaxy said that it would continue its \$500 million-worth casino project in Boracay, citing that it has been granted a provisional license by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. early that year.

PAGCOR chief Andrea Domingo said Duterte is aware of this project and that it would ensure the environmental aspect of the construction. However, the gaming regulatory agency later changed tune after Duterte lambasted the casino project on the island.

Resumption of Boracay plans

Three years later, Domingo said Duterte greenlighted two casino projects in Boracay Island by Megaworld and Macau-based Galaxy Entertainment Group.

Megaworld's Andrew Tan said his company Alliance Global Group Inc. (AGI) will proceed with their casino project in Boracay Newcoast.

"We already have several hotels there and we are still building more," Tan was quoted as saying in a statement.

Boracay Newcoast is 150-hectare integrated tourism development developed by Megaworld subsidiary Global-Estate Resorts Inc.



Boracay Newcoast map facing the Sibuyan Sea.





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Megaworld also reportedly said the project would adhere to the government's environmental policy, citing that there are dedicated "green and open spaces."

On the other hand, Galaxy's local partner LRWC said it would still hold talks regarding the resumption of casino construction plans.

"The company is looking forward to the resumption of the discussions with Galaxy in view of the president's go-signal for casino operation in Boracay," LRWC was quoted as saying.

With Duterte's fresh backing of the controversial casino project, his latest pronouncements gained mixed reactions from stakeholders.

Opposition vs revived Boracay casino plans

The president's recent pronouncement earned the ire of Boracaynons.

Business community leader or business owner Nenette Aguirre-Graf opposed the project, saying they have worked their way to promote Boracay as a family destination.

"It's been like that for years. And here comes a new pronouncement by the president. We all know what goes with a casino island. It goes with drugs, prostitution, criminality, money laundering and many other things that are negative," she told ANC.

Native Boracaynon Gil delos Santos also argued that opening casinos in Boracay is not an answer to government's shortage of funds due to the pandemic.

"This is all lie! This is deceit to people especially to Boracaynons who will suffer the long-term effect of the casino," Delos Santos said.

He cited that the physical structure of the casino has not yet been constructed and it would take three to five years to complete.

"When can they start to collect proper government taxes, after the pandemic? How could it answer their purpose to aid pandemic fund crisis at the moment? Pandemic is the 'alibi' of the president and the people under his command on the same political party...as he already promised to Chinese to allow this casino in Boracay, 2018 pa lang," the Boracay advocate claimed.

"He needs to deliver that before his term ends. And that local executives in Aklan already got a good package for their 'YES,'" he added.

"It is a dream to properly tax them. The gain of this political leaders pushing for the casino in Boracay is personal 'kickback,'" Delos Santos said.

Aside from this, Delos Santos noted that after the six-month rehabilitation in 2018, Boracay is being marketed and branded as a "serene destination." They are implementing the carrying capacity policy for the same reason.

He argued that a casino project could hurt that branding and could be likened to Macau. Having gamblers on the island could pose threat to the community's peace and order.

Support for Boracay casino project

Acting Boracay municipal mayor Frolibar Bautista is in favor of the construction of these casinos.

"After ng closure, pinag-usapan na ang Boracay maging family tourist destination. Ngayon iba na naman ang magiging direction so tingnan natin ano ang mangyari d'yan. Minsan ang pagiisip kasi natin 'pag sa casino iba na ang pananaw natin," Malay town mayor Frolibar Bautista told ABS-CBN's Teleradyo interview.

(After the closure, Boracay was planned to become a family tourist destination. Now, we are going to go on a different direction and we'll see what would happen then. Sometimes we think differently of casinos.)





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He also alleyed the public's fears and said that a casino has operated in Boracay for many years and it did no harm. He said perceived negative impact only depends on the management of these casinos.

Moratorium on casino construction

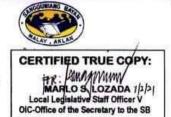
In a Facebook post, Delos Santos cited that Malay Sangguniang Bayan Resolution No. 0068 dated July 4, 2017 declaring a 15-year moratorium on endorsement for casino operations in Boracay and Malay, valid until 2032.

"Whereas, during the effectivity of this moratorium, a periodic review shall be conducted by the Sangguniang Bayan to determine the feasibility or viability of gaming activities and its economic impact in the Municipality of Malay," the resolution signed by Concordia Alcantara, secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan reads.



Republic of the Philippines Province of Aklan MUNICIPALITY OF MALAY

Office of the Sangguniang Bayan



EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 22^{MD} REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF MALAY, AKLAN (2016-2019) HELD AT THE SB SESSION HALL, POBLACION, MALAY, AKLAN ON JULY 4, 2017.

Present:

Hon. Abram L. Sualog, Municipal Vice Mayor, Presiding Officer

SB Member Natalie C. Paderes

SB Member Jupiter Aelred G. Gallenero

SB Member Frolibar S. Bautista

SB Member Lloyd B. Maming

SB Member Maylynn A. Graf

SB Member Danilo G. Delos Santos

SB Member Dante C. Pagsuguiron

Absent:

SB Member Dalidig Y. Sumndad (on leave)

SB Member Julieta A. Aron, Liga President (OB)

Х

RESOLUTION NO. 0068

Series of 2017

RESOLUTION DECLARING A FIFTEEN (15)-YEAR MORATORIUM ON ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE OPERATION OF CASINOS, GAMING JUNKETS, LEGAL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES, AND OTHER PAGCOR/GAB-SANCTIONED GAMING OPERATIONS IN BORACRY AND MAINLAND MALAY, AKLAN

WHEREAS, The Local Government Code, in empowering Local Government Units, mandates the exercise of powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare;

WHEREAS, giving utmost consideration to the promotion of the general welfare, the Sangguniang Bayan finds that the number of operating casinos, gaming junkets, legal gambling activities, and other PAGCOR/ Gaming Amusement Board (GAB)-sanctioned gaming operations in the Island of Boracay is enough to maintain this kind of economic activity in the Municipality of Malay;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Bayan, to regulate the proliferation of casinos, gaming junkets, legal gambling activities, as well as other PAGCOR/GAB-sanctioned gaming/gambling operations in the Municipality of Malay, finds the declaration of a moratorium on endorsements for fifteen (15) years timely and proper, which includes the transfer of existing endorsements, permits, licenses or authorizations to parties other than those it has been issued to exclusively;

WHEREAS, upon the effectivity of this moratorium, the Local Government Unit and its concerned offices shall entertain only the renewal of those previously-issued existing endorsements, business permits, licenses or authorizations:





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RESOLUTION No. 0068, July 4, 2017

WHEREAS, during the effectivity of this moratorium, a periodic review shall be conducted by the Sangguniang Bayan to determine the feasibility or viability of gaming activities and its economic impact in the Municipality of Malay;

THEREFORE, Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Sangguniang Bayan in session duly assembled: To declare a FIFTEEN (15)-Year Moratorium on Endorsements for the operation of casinos, gaming junkets, legal gambling activities, and other PAGCOR/GAB-Sanctioned Gaming Operations in Boracay and Mainland Malay, Aklan.

ENACTED. JUNE 27, 2017.

APPROVED. JULY 4, 2017.

x x x

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the afore-quoted Resolution.

CONCORDIA S ALCANTARA

Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

ATTESTED:

ABRAM L. SUALOG Municipal Vice Mayor Presiding Officer

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

MARLO S LOZADA 7/2/21
Local Legislative Staff Officer V
OIC-Office of the Secretary to the SB

Second page of the Malay Sangguniang Bayan Resolution No. 0068

PAGCOR, however, lifted the three-year moratorium on casino ban. Its head, Domingo, also reportedly said they would implement this new policy.

Authorities handling the Boracay island, the Boracay Inter-agency task force, is also reported that members have yet to discuss the effectivity of the Malay Sangguniang Bayan resolution.

Delos Santos, however, maintained that despite the president's pronouncements and lifting of the moratorium on casino ban, local government units "have local autonomy rights."

"Casino proponents still need to acquire local permits," he told Philstar.com.

He also said that casino is not the only source of income for Boracay.

"Develop the culture and arts instead than to bring Chinese dominance on the island," the Boracay advocate said.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/09/04/2124880/what-we-know-so-far-revived-boracay-casino-plans





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Lineman sugatan matapos tuklawin ng ahas mula linya ng kuryente

ABS-CBN News
Posted at Sep 04 2021 03:13 PM

ILOILO CITY— Naging maaksyon ang paghuli ng mga tauhan ng isang power company sa isang ahas na nakapulupot sa linya ng kuryente na nauwi sa pagkasugat ng isang lineman sa Brgy. San Isidro sa Jaro, Sabado ng umaga.

Unang nakita ng mga residente ang ahas na nakapulupot sa linya ng kuryente sa lugar, at agad silang humingi ng tulong sa mga tauhan ng More Power Corporation para makuha ang ahas.

Pahirapan pa ang pagkuha sa ahas sa linya ng kuryente dahil sa mahigpit itong nakakapit.

Gamit ang panungkit ay nakuha ang ahas na nakapulupot sa linya ng kuryente.



Isang lineman ng isang power company ang sugatan matapos tuklawin ng ahas na nakapulupot sa linya ng kuryente sa Iloilo City.

Mga larawan mula sa More Power Corporation

Pagdating sa ibaba ay biglang pumalag ang ahas at mabilis na gumapang kaya hinabol ito ng mga tauhan ng power company at sa tuwing dadakmain ang ahas ay lumalaban ito at nanunuklaw.

Nang ma-korner ang ahas nanuklaw ito bigla at nakagat ang kaliwang kamay ng lineman na si Rutaben Salvacion.

Sa huli ay nakuha ang ahas na tinatayang may 4 hanggang 5 talampakan ang haba at isinilid sa isang sako.

Kaagad na dinala sa ospital si Rutaben para maturukan ng anti-venom vaccine.

Samantala, nai-turn over naman ng mga tauhan ng power company ang ahas sa DENR Region 6.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/04/21/lineman-natuklaw-ng-ahas-mula-linya-ng-kuryente





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2 Nicer centers on environmental concerns to rise in North Luzon

BYS&T MEDIA SERVICESSEPTEMBER 5, 2021



The bathymetric drone with echo sounder to be housed in the CoastER Center will be used to quickly and efficiently acquire data for the coastal modeling of storm surge and tsunami events.

Environmental management activities are bound to get nicer in northern Luzon as two projects under the Niche Centers in the Regions for Research and Development (Nicer) program had been approved recently.

The Coastal Engineering Research (CoastER) Center will be established in Region 1, while the Smart Water Infrastructure and Management (SWIM) Research and Development Center will be setup in Region 2.

The P79.93-million CoastER is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through the Office of the Undersecretary for Research and Development (OUSECRD).

The Mariano Marcos State University, along with Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University and the University of the Philippines Diliman will co-implement the project in partnership with Urdaneta City University and the University of Northern Philippines.

With the aim of mitigating disasters based on strategies addressing coastal erosion and climate change, the CoastER Center would aid in building a resilient seaside community and reducing agricultural and fishery losses by 20 percent, or equivalent to P1 billion in savings.

Meanwhile, the P77.27-million SWIM Center will be co-implemented by Isabela State University, Cagayan State University and Quirino State University.

Partners will include the Office of Civil Defense, the National Water Resources Board, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Agriculture, the National Irrigation Administration, and various local government units.

The SWIM Center aims to develop technologies in water management and promote disasterresilient infrastructures. Its innovations are expected to improve safe water supply, quality, access, utilization, and reuse—as well as reduce agricultural and infrastructural damages through better forecasting of droughts and extreme rainfall.

Interested parties may contact Dr. Nathaniel R. Alibuyog through email at natzalibuyog@gmail.com for more on the CoastER Center, and Dr. Orlando F. Balderama at orly_isu@yahoo.com for the SWIM Center.

Allyster A. Endozo/S&T Media Services

Image courtesy of aerospectrum.com, DOST-OUSE CRD.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/09/05/2-nicer-centers-on-environmental-concerns-to-rise-in-north-luzon/





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EcoWaste warns of excessive lead-containing spray paints still being sold in Manila, Pasay

Published September 4, 2021, 12:15 PM by Joseph Pedrajas

Pro-health and environment group EcoWaste Coalition has warned the public against spray paints containing excessive and dangerous amounts of lead that continue to be sold in the market despite an advisory from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The group made the call on Saturday after conducting test buys early this week of 10 spray paints worth P100 to P150 from motorcycle supplies and general merchandise stores in Manila and Pasay cities, and undergoing them under chemical screening.

Based on its assessment, all the 10 spray paints "were laden with lead above the regulatory limit of 90 ppm (parts per million) and are therefore illegal to import, distribute and sell in the local market."

"Worst, eight of the paint samples contained dangerous concentrations of lead above 10,000 ppm with one product containing a shockingly excessive 70,900 ppm of lead," Thony Dizon, EcoWaste Coalition's chemical safety campaigner, said in a statement.

According to the group, the following are spray paints containing dangerous amount of lead:

- 1. Standard Aerosol Spray Paint (medium yellow) contained 70,900 ppm
- 2. Koby Spray Paint (canary yellow) contained 42,800 ppm
- 3. Koby Spray Paint (fresh green) contained 36,600 ppm
- 4. King Sfon Spray Paint (orange red) contained 33,100 ppm
- 5. Standard Aerosol Spray Paint (orange red) contained 31,300 ppm
- 6. Standard Aerosol Spray Paint (orange yellow) contained 22,400 ppm
- 7. Koby Spray Paint (Mars red) contained 14,300 ppm
- 8. Koby Spray Paint (deep yellow) contained 13,900 ppm
- 9. Koby Spray Paint (Suzuki red) contained 7,496ppm
- 10. King Sfon Spray Paint (Honda red) contained 1,116 ppm



EcoWaste Coalition/MANILA BULLETIN





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"Koby (canary yellow, fresh green and Suzuki red) and Standard (orange yellow) are included in the FDA list of banned spray paints as of 2020," the group said, adding that spray paints containing more than 90 ppm were prohibited by the national government to be sold and purchased through FDA Advisory No. 2020-1585.

Citing the World Health Organization, EcoWaste said exposure to excessive amounts of lead causes long-term harm in adults, including increased risk of high blood pressure and kidney damage. Exposure of pregnant women to high levels of lead can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, premature birth and low birth weight.

The group is calling on authorities to ensure compliance of business establishments with FDA advisories and to go after erring manufacturers, importers and distributors in a bid to stop the illicit sale of lead-containing spray paints.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/09/04/ecowaste-warns-of-excessive-lead-containing-spray-paints-still-being-sold-in-manila-pasay/





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EcoWaste nagbabala sa lead-containing spray paints na binebenta sa Maynila, Pasay



September 4, 2021 @ 3:09 PM 16 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nagbabala ang pro-health at environment group EcoWaste Coalition has publiko laban sa spray paints na may labis at lead na patuloy binebenta sa merkado.

Ito ay makaraang magsagawa ng 'test buys' sa 10 spray paints na nagkakahalaga ng P100 hanggang P150 mula sa motorcycle supplies at general merchandise stores sa Maynila at Pasay.

Batay sa assessment, ang lahat ng 10 spray paints ay "laden with lead above the regulatory limit of 90 ppm (parts per million) and are therefore illegal to import, distribute and sell in the local market."

"Worst, eight of the paint samples contained dangerous concentrations of lead above 10,000 ppm with one product containing a shockingly excessive 70,900 ppm of lead," saad niThony Dizon, EcoWaste Coalition, chemical safety campaigner, said in a statement.

Partikular na rito ang mga sumusunod:

- 1. Standard Aerosol Spray Paint (medium yellow) contained 70,900 ppm
- 2. Koby Spray Paint (canary yellow) contained 42,800 ppm
- 3. Koby Spray Paint (fresh green) contained 36,600 ppm
- 4. King Sfon Spray Paint (orange red) contained 33,100 ppm
- 5. Standard Aerosol Spray Paint (orange red) contained 31,300 ppm
- 6. Standard Aerosol Spray Paint (orange yellow) contained 22,400 ppm
- 7. Koby Spray Paint (Mars red) contained 14,300 ppm
- 8. Koby Spray Paint (deep yellow) contained 13,900 ppm
- 9. Koby Spray Paint (Suzuki red) contained 7,496ppm
- 10. King Sfon Spray Paint (Honda red) contained 1,116 ppm

"Koby (canary yellow, fresh green and Suzuki red) and Standard (orange yellow) are included in the FDA list of banned spray paints as of 2020," saad ng grupo. RNT/FGDC

Source: https://www.remate.ph/ecowaste-nagbabala-sa-lead-containing-spray-paints-na-binebenta-sa-maynila-pasay/





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Birds of prey in PHL, worldwide face decline from habitat loss and poisons

BYTHE ASSOCIATED PRESS SEPTEMBER 5, 2021



"Girlie," a 29-year-old Philippine Eagle at the Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City is shown in this photo taken on March 14,

WASHINGTON—Despite a few high-profile conservation success stories—like the dramatic comeback of bald eagle populations in North America—birds of prey are in decline worldwide.

A new analysis of data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and BirdLife International found that 30 percent of 557 raptor species worldwide are considered near threatened, vulnerable or endangered or critically endangered.

Eighteen species are critically endangered, including the Philippine eagle, the hooded vulture and the Annobon scops owl, the researchers found.

Other species are in danger of becoming locally extinct in specific regions, meaning they may no longer play critical roles as top predators in those ecosystems, said Gerardo Ceballos, a bird scientist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and co-author of the study published on August 30 in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"The golden eagle is the national bird of Mexico, but we have very few golden eagles left in Mexico," he said. A 2016 census estimated only about 100 breeding pairs remain in the country.

Harpy eagles were once widespread throughout southern Mexico and Central and South America, but tree cutting and burning has dramatically shrunk their range.

Of threatened birds of prey that are active mostly during the day—including most hawks, eagles and vultures—54 percent were falling in population, the study found.

The same was true for 47 percent of threatened nocturnal raptors, such as owls.

That means "the factors causing the decline have not been remedied" and those species need immediate attention, said Jeff Johnson, a biologist at the University of North Texas, who was not involved in the study.

Globally, the biggest threats to these birds are habitat loss, climate change and toxic substances, said Evan Buechley, a research associate at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and a scientist at nonprofit HawkWatch International who was not involved in the study.

The insecticide DDT thinned egg shells and decimated bald eazleading to its ban in the US in 1972.

But Buechley said other threats remain, including rodent pesticides and the lead in hunters' bullets and shot pellets. Many raptors feed on rodents and dead animals.





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The Andean condor is declining due to exposure to pesticides, lead and other toxic substances, said Sergio Lambertucci, a biologist at the National University of Comahue in Argentina.

Widespread use of an anti-inflammatory drug in livestock led to the rapid decline of vultures in South Asia. The birds died after eating carcasses, shrinking the population of some species by 95 percent in recent decades.

In East Asia, many raptor species are long-distance migrants: They breed in northern China, Mongolia or Russia and travel down the eastern coast of China to spend summers in Southeast Asia or India.

"Certain areas of the coast will see 30 to 40 species during peak migration," said Yang Liu, an ecologist at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, who was not involved in the study.

But eastern China is also the most populous and urban part of the country, with steep development pressures.

"Sites that are bottlenecks for migration, with thousands of birds passing through, are important to protect," he said.

Of 4,200 sites identified by conservation groups as critical for raptor species globally, most "are unprotected or only partly covered by protected areas," said Stuart Butchart, chief scientist at BirdLife International in the United Kingdom.

A 2018 study in the journal Biological Conservation found that 52 percent of all raptor species worldwide are decreasing in population. **AP**

Image courtesy of AP/Bullit Marquez

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/09/05/birds-of-prey-in-phl-worldwide-face-decline-from-habitat-loss-and-poisons/





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Negros Season of Culture – PEACEPOND





Solid waste management, anyone? It used to be that if people could have their druthers, they would rather just send plastic packaging to an open dump. Out of sight, out of mind — easy! In fact, most people say, reducing carbon footprint to near zero is hard to do. It's complicated. PeacePond banishes the thought.



This five-hectare community in Binalbagan, Negros Occidental, shows us that accountable living, the kind that drastically reduces carbon emission, is possible if not simple. PeacePond was started in 2004 by Jet Orbida and Checcs Osmeña-Orbida to address the elephant in the room – unsegregated, unmanaged garbage, and whose job is it to deal with it. Years later, PeacePond is more than just a huge materials recovery facility.



Today, it is a microcosm of an ideal clean world, where a living, breathing neighborhood exists, generating waste, but responsibly managing that waste. The 24 farmers residing here, comprising the PeacePond Farmers Association, are not too shabby about it. They bagged the Gold Prize at The Outstanding Farmers of the Philippines Awards in 2018.

Reducing carbon footprint works, and PeacePond makes it look fun. Up until the lockdowns of this pandemic, over 8,000 visitors have joined the PeacePond Eco Tour program, from small groups to entire schools. And everyone is a kid all over again, wide-eyed at discoveries of how waste materials are repurposed, as in their Blastik Project that teaches communities to upcycle plastic waste into various household products. Meanwhile, the plow system using a bicycle instead of fuel never fails to amaze visitors.





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The Negros Season of Culture believes that a clean environment must be part of Negrense heritage, a gift to pass on to the next generation. In September and October this year, the NSC will pursue an environmental issue featuring five efforts that have started palpable change in environmental conservation and protection in Negros Occidental. The series includes Danjugan Island, Sagay Marine Reserve, Negros Forest Park, Wala Usik Economy, and PeacePond.

Mark your calendars. Visit www.negrosseasonofculture.com and like us of FB and IG @NegrosSeasonOfCulture.

Source: https://www.villageconnect.com.ph/negros-season-of-culture-peacepond/7770





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Investors face 'transitional shock' as climate crisis hits

BYBLOOMBERG NEWS SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

"Put simply, the climate crisis represents the "biggest market failure of all time."

The observation comes from Knut Kjaer, the founding chief executive of what is now the world's biggest sovereign wealth fund and, more recently, an evangelist for planet-preserving investment strategies.

The 65-year-old Norwegian, who's also a co-author of the United Nations-backed Principles for Responsible Investment, says good climate strategies require much longer time horizons than stock markets generally allow.

Asset managers need to prepare for the "massive change" that's coming over the next decade, Kjaer said in an interview. From both an investment and policy perspective, that means anticipating new behavior patterns as people try to adapt to a hotter and less stable environment. Failure to adapt implies "a much bigger transitional shock later," he said.

Today, as the chairman of a private equity firm called FSN Capital, Kjaer won't touch fossil fuels: "We normally don't take a bad company and make it good." In fact, he says FSN's investment models, which look at a company over horizons as long as 10 years, flash "Don't Touch" when it comes to "brown companies."

Kjaer doesn't use the same jargon as many of his peers in environmental, social and governance investing. Instead, he speaks of the dismal future ahead after a persistent mispricing of carbon that's led to chronic overuse. He also blames "irrational human behavior" for the mess in which the planet now finds itself.

Such comments have begun to strike a nerve as some of the puffery around ESG investing starts bumping up against reality. Former insiders have come forward to expose what they say are the misleading ESG claims being made by investment professionals. And asset managers that made bold declarations about their ESG credentials now find themselves the target of international investigations.

Meanwhile, scientists have made clear that the planet is overheating at a more dangerous pace than previously thought. And only by dramatically cutting carbon emissions does humanity stand a chance of avoiding a climate catastrophe, they say.

Adapting to heat

The financial industry has responded to the looming planetary crisis by creating a \$35-trillion ESG market, in which many products come at a premium. And money keeps pouring in. Investment in ESG exchange-traded funds more than doubled last week, marking a 52nd straight week of inflows. But a growing army of climate watchdogs is increasingly finding gaping holes in products sold as green.

Kjaer says he's not convinced the global finance industry has the power to deliver the needed change. In part because any meaningful ESG strategy should apply to much longer time horizons than those typical of publicly traded markets, though he readily acknowledges that not all investment models can allow themselves the selective approach FSN takes.

The companies Kjaer's firm invested in saw an 11-percent jump in total revenues last year, while their operating profit (Ebitda) went up 35 percent, according to its website. In June, FSN said it had to take in more investor cash than planned after its latest financing round was oversubscribed. The 1.8 billion euros (\$2.1 billion) it generated will by placed into mid-sized companies in Northern Europe that live up to so-called Article 8—or light green—standards as defined in the EU's Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation.





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Rebecca Svensoy, FSN's legal counsel, says part of the firm's strategy is to assume that the world will look different as the fallout of climate change makes itself felt.

"We have prepared for a transition scenario and an adaption scenario, on a portfolio level," she says. Part of that involves having a "separate due diligence approach" that specifically targets climate change, she said.

Kjaer says that "for every investment we do and every action we take in a portfolio company, we must have a 10-year-plus horizon." The upshot is that the strategy at FSN "is aligned with" limiting temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as targeted in the Paris Agreement.

But Kjaer isn't one to kid himself on the broader outlook. Even that level of temperature rise implies a "huge worsening" of the climate compared with today, he acknowledges.

So adaption is a strategy that "we need to apply," he said.

Bloomberg News

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/09/05/investors-face-transitional-shock-as-climate-crisis-hits/





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Swiss glaciologist bears witness to relentless Alpine glacier melt

posted September 04, 2021 at 08:30 pm by **AFP**

After hiking for hours across the mountain and a vast expanse of white, Swiss glaciologist Matthias Huss crouches down near the middle of the massive glacier and checks the measurements.

Analysis of the data gathered from Aletsch, the largest glacier in the Alps, paints a dire picture of the toll that climate change is taking on the behemoth.

Aletsch glacier alone holds about a fifth of the total ice volume found in all of Switzerland's around 1,800 glaciers.

But over the past decade, the glacier consisting of some 80 square kilometers (32 square miles) of ice and rock has seen 1.5 metres (yards) shaved off its thickness each year.



Data gathered from Aletsch, the largest glacier in the Alps, paints a dire picture of the toll that climate change is taking on the mammoth ice formation. AFP

A cubic kilometre of ice has also melted away during the same time period.

"The change is happening really, really quickly," Huss told AFP.

The 41-year-old heads Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland (GLAMOS), a scientific network documenting the shrinking of the Swiss glaciers in the face of a warming planet.

"The glaciers are truly a giant and visible thermometer," he said, pointing out that it is "much more poignant to see a glacier shrinking in volume and thickness than to look at a graph showing temperatures rising."

"Glaciers are beautiful," he added, accounting for the often emotional response when people reflect on the shrinking and future disappearance of the ice formations.

GLAMOS scientists monitor around 20 Swiss glaciers each year and have noted that since 2010, the frequency of years with extreme ice loss has accelerated dramatically.

One such year was 2011, the next was 2015, and then 2017, 2018 and 2019 were each record breakers.

While last year was not a year of extremes, Swiss glaciers still shed two percent of their total volume, Huss said.

And this year, the negative trend will likely continue, despite heavy snow and a relatively cold winter, he added.





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Global warming is going so fast that a number of smaller glaciers have already disappeared. In September 2019, Huss participated in a symbolic funeral for the Pizol glacier in northeastern Switzerland, at an altitude of around 2,700 meters (8,850 feet).

"Since then, we have stopped active monitoring of Pizol. It no longer makes any sense," Huss said.

He plans to collect two final samples in a few weeks, but, he acknowledged, "after that it will really be over".

And Pizol will surely not be the last glacier to melt away, Huss said.

"Over the next 10-20 years, there will certainly be other well-known glaciers that will disappear."

Global warming caused by human activity -- mostly the burning of fossil fuels -- has pushed up Earth's average surface temperature 1.1 degrees Celsius (2.0 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to mid-19th century levels.

Most of that increase has occurred in the last 50 years.

Huss has been fascinated by the mammoth ice formations since early childhood, when he first set foot on the giant Gorner glacier, near Zermatt.

"Every time I return to a glacier, I have this special feeling, and I think about the first time," he said.

That childhood pleasure is visible each time the lanky yet athletic figure bounds across the bluish crevasses cutting across his path.

Given Huss's love of glaciers, one might expect the work of documenting their rapid demise to be a sad endeavour.

"It is true that, as a human being, it is depressing," he said.

"But as a scientist, it is also very interesting to see and analyse such rapid changes."

Huss said he hoped that highlighting what scientific measurements tell us about the state of the glaciers could finally help spur concrete action.

"For a while now, I've had the feeling that there has been a real change in the way politicians think" about climate change, Huss said, welcoming the fact that "a lot of people are now saying that we must act."

But, while there are swelling numbers of action plans, he insisted that "at some point, they will need to be transformed into something real."

Source: https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/364130





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Laudato si': Science offers faith tools amid climate crisis

BYVATICAN NEWS SEPTEMBER 5, 2021



Dr. Gregory Asner shows Pope Francis a map on biodiversity at a papal audience last Thursday.

"Laudato si' speaks to people in ways that a scientist cannot. Pope Francis really gives us a gift to communicate where science plays into integral ecology, as part of a larger responsibility."

That remark sums up for one scientist the pope's contribution to promoting integral ecology among people of all religions.

According to Dr. Gregory Asner, a US-born climate and biodiversity scientist, faith and science can work together on the issue of climate change and are not opposed, as seen in the Pope's 2015 encyclical.

Asner spoke to Jean-Charles Putzolu on the sidelines of a papal audience in the Vatican on Thursday with the Laudato si' Movement, formerly known as the Global Catholic Climate Movement.

Faith and science work together

"Hearing Pope Francis, the Church, and Laudato si', I see an understanding that [the issue of climate change and biodiversity] is critical," Asner said. "We have to play a role in improving our conditions across the planet for people and for nature."

Science and faith, he added, can "absolutely" work together to achieve that goal.

In his travels to many of the world's nations, Asner noted that he often encounters the idea that science and faith are opposed to one another.

He said his upbringing showed him that the two are both important, but for different reasons.

"Faith gives us compass, understanding, and much more than science will ever give us," Asner said. "But science gives us something unique: tools."

The tools offered by science, he added, can help us move from points A to B and improve our world.

Science offers tools

Referring to his own country, the United States, Asner said he often hears people almost raising climate change to the level of belief, saying "I don't believe in climate change."

His response is that climate change is not a belief but a scientific measurement using tools.

"It's difficult for people to realize that science is not in combat with belief; it's a utility, a tool, a way to navigate forward," he said, offering the example of turning on a car's headlights while driving at night. "They just show me where to go."





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Laudato si' bridges the gap

The encyclical Laudato si', according to Asner, bridges the gap between faith and science, calling it "such a unique perspective."

The pope's mentality, he said, is that the two work together.

"Belief—whichever belief system you associate with—cannot ignore the fact that science is speaking loudly, telling us that we have to change our habits, the way we are consuming the Earth's resources, and change the stress we are putting on ecosystems, biodiversity, and the climate," he added.

He said humanity must "take responsibility for what we've been given—this Earth—and take care of it." Devin Watkins/Vatican News

Image courtesy of Vatican Media

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/09/05/laudato-si-science-offers-faith-tools-amid-climate-crisis/





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Komodo dragon, 2-in-5 shark species lurch towards extinction

Published September 4, 2021 10:11pm



About 28 percent of the 138,000 species assessed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for its survival watchlist are now at risk of vanishing in the wild forever, as the destructive impact of human activity on the natural world

Trapped on island habitats made smaller by rising seas, Indonesia's Komodo dragons were listed as "endangered" on Saturday, in an update of the wildlife Red List that also warned overfishing threatens nearly two-in-five sharks with extinction.

About 28 percent of the 138,000 species assessed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for its survival watchlist are now at risk of vanishing in the wild forever, as the destructive impact of human activity on the natural world deepens.

But the latest update of the Red List for Threatened Species also highlights the potential for restoration, with four commercially fished tuna species pulling back from a slide towards extinction after a decade of efforts to curb overexploitation.

The most spectacular recovery was seen in the Atlantic bluefin tuna, which leapt from "endangered" across three categories to the safe zone of "least concern."

The species -- a mainstay of high-end sushi in Japan -- was last assessed in 2011.

"These Red List assessments demonstrate just how closely our lives and livelihoods are intertwined with biodiversity," IUCN Director General Bruno Oberle said in a statement.

'Clarion call'

A key message from the IUCN Congress, taking place in the French city of Marseille, is that disappearing species and the destruction of ecosystems are no less existential threats than global warming.

At the same time, climate change itself is casting a darker shadow than ever before on the futures of many species, particularly endemic animals and plants that live uniquely on small islands or in certain biodiversity hotspots.

Komodo dragons -- the world's largest living lizards -- are found only in the World Heritage-listed Komodo National Park and neighboring Flores.

The species "is increasingly threatened by the impacts of climate change" said the IUCN: rising sea levels are expected to shrink its tiny habitat at least 30 percent over the next 45 years.

Outside of protected areas, the fearsome throwbacks are also rapidly losing ground as humanity's footprint expands.

"The idea that these prehistoric animals have moved one step closer to extinction due in part to climate change is terrifying," said Andrew Terry, Conservation Director at the Zoological Society of London.





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Their decline is a "clarion call for nature to be placed at the heart of all decision making" at crunch UN climate talks in Glasgow, he added.

'An alarming rate'

The most comprehensive survey of sharks and rays ever undertaken, meanwhile, revealed that 37 percent of 1,200 species evaluated are now classified as directly threatened with extinction, falling into one of three categories: "vulnerable," "endangered," or "critically endangered". That's a third more species at risk than only seven years ago, said Simon Fraser University Professor Nicholas Dulvy, lead author of a study published on Monday underpinning the Red List assessment.

"The conservation status of the group as a whole continues to deteriorate, and overall risk of extinction is rising at an alarming rate," he told AFP.

Five species of sawfish -- whose serated snouts get tangled in cast off fishing gear -- and the iconic shortfin make shark are among those most threatened.

Chondrichthyan fish, a group made up mainly of sharks and rays, "are important to ecosystems, economies and cultures," Sonja Fordham, president of Shark Advocates International and coauthor of the upcoming study, told AFP.

"By not sufficiently limiting catch, we're jeopardizing ocean health and squandering opportunities for sustainable fishing, tourism, traditions and food security in the long term."

The Food and Agriculture Organization reports some 800,000 tons of sharks caught -- intentionally or opportunistically -- each year, but research suggests the true figure is two to four times greater.

Conservation tracker

The IUCN on Saturday also officially launched its "green status" -- the first global standard for assessing species recovery and measuring conservation impacts.

"It makes the invisible work of conservation visible," Molly Grace, a professor at the University of Oxford and Green Status co-chair, said at a press conference on Saturday.

The new yardstick measures the extent to which species are depleted or recovered compared to their historical population levels, and assesses the effectiveness of past and potential future conservation actions.

Efforts to halt extensive declines in numbers and diversity of animals and plants have largely failed.

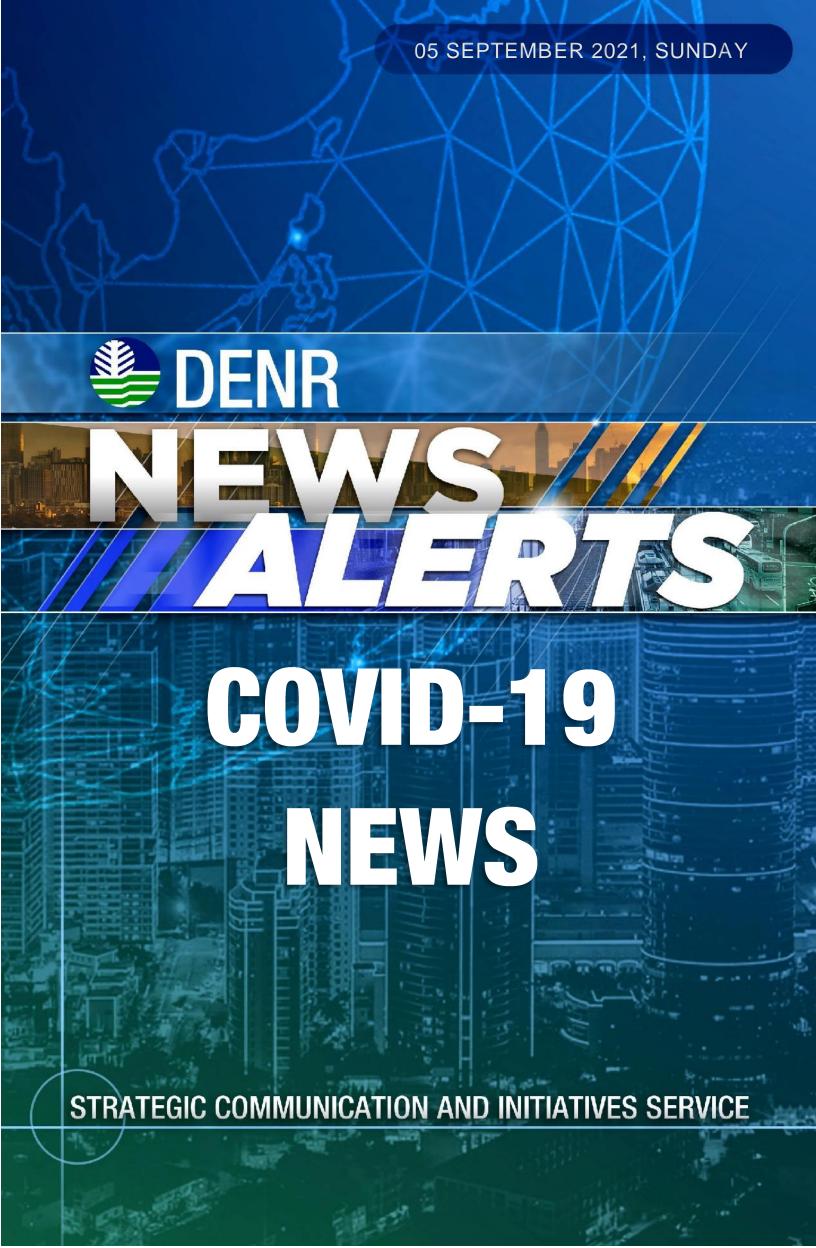
In 2019 the UN's biodiversity experts warned that a million species are on the brink of extinction -- raising the specter that the planet is on the verge of its sixth mass extinction event in 500 million years.

"The red list status shows that we're on the cusp of the sixth extinction event," the IUCN's Head of Red List Unit Craig Hilton-Taylor told AFP.

"If the trends carry on going upward at that rate, we'll be facing a major crisis soon." - **Agence France-Presse**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/802114/komodo-dragon-2-in-5-shark-species-lurch-towards-

 $\underline{extinction/story/?fbclid=IwAR0cP5VnDgoIIXbDcaVZhCscinsCaWpLbcPLftnbgOOD0GhJff}\\Mj-M3BG5k$







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PH logs nearly 22K new Covid-19 recoveries

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora September 4, 2021, 5:55 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday reported 21,962 new recoveries, raising the total of those who recuperated from coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) to 1,869,376.

In its latest bulletin, the agency also recorded 20,741 new infections, which pushed the country's total active case count to 157,646.

The death toll from the disease has reached 34,062 after 189 additional fatalities were logged.

The total number of confirmed infections has reached 2,061,084 since the Covid-19 pandemic started, of which 7.6 percent are undergoing treatment, 90.7 percent have recovered, while 1.65 percent died.

Of the active cases, 94.7 percent have mild symptoms, 1.9 percent are asymptomatic, 0.6 percent are critical, 1.2 percent are severe, while 1.6 percent are moderate.

The latest DOH data showed that 74,034 individuals had been tested for the virus on September 2, of whom 28 percent or 20,729 turned out positive.

With cases expected to increase in the coming days, the agency advised the public to strictly observe the minimum public health standards.

"Sa mga susunod na araw ay maari pang tumaas ang ating mga kaso ng Covid-19. Ang pagsunod sa minimum public health standards, maiging pagsasagawa ng PDITR (Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate) strategies, at pagbabakuna ay nanatiling pinakapabisang depensa sa Covid-19 (The cases are expected to rise in the coming days. Following the minimum public health standards, conducting the PDITR, and getting vaccinated remain as an effective defense against Covid-19)," it said.

Out of the 4,200 intensive care unit (ICU) beds nationwide, DOH said 74 percent are being utilized, including 66 percent of the 20,600 isolation beds and 72 percent of 15,300 ward beds dedicated for Covid-19 cases.

In Metro Manila, occupied is 73 percent of the 1,500 ICU beds, 63 percent of 4,600 isolation beds, and 74 percent of 4,300 ward beds. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1152598





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Granular lockdown system starts September 8

Louella Desiderio - The Philippine Star September 5, 2021 | 12:00am



In a Viber message to reporters, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) has approved the implementation of the granular lockdown system.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — The government's pandemic task force has approved the implementation of a granular lockdown system starting Sept. 8 with the National Capital Region (NCR) as pilot area, a Cabinet official said yesterday.

In a Viber message to reporters, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) has approved the implementation of the granular lockdown system.

The NCR is under modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) until Sept 7.

In an interview with dzBB, Lopez said the Department of Trade and Industry supports the scheme.

Earlier, Department of the Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said there was a consensus among government agencies to impose granular lockdowns instead of province-wide or city-wide quarantine restrictions.

Lopez said guidelines for the granular lockdown system are being finalized and would be released before Sept. 7.

Under the setup, only small pockets or areas with transmission would be placed under a hard lockdown and at different levels – from one to four, with four being the most stringent.

He said food would be provided to those in areas under hard lockdown. He also said more businesses would be allowed to open and operate at different capacities depending on the level imposed, and that health protocols like wearing face masks, face shields, distancing and ventilation would still have to be observed.

"There will be flexibility for LGU (local government unit) chief executives," Lopez said.

For authorized persons outside of residence in areas under hard lockdown, he said it is suggested they not be allowed to go in and out, and employers should provide temporary housing or lodging.

If temporary housing cannot be provided, he said they would have to work from home.

The trade chief said the adoption of a granular lockdown system was in response to President Duterte's wish for a more precise and responsive system.

"We have been implementing granular lockdown, but we fine tuned it, made it more specific so that hopefully, it will be more effective," he said.





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As Metro Manila and the rest of the country await another quarantine classification, the Department of Health (DOH) yesterday reported more than 20,000 new COVID cases, the second highest single-day tally logged in the country.

Based on the DOH's case bulletin, 20,741 new COVID-19 cases were reported yesterday. Last Friday, the DOH documented 20,310 cases.

"All labs were operational on Sept. 2 while five laboratories were not able to submit their data to the COVID-19 Document Repository System (CDRS)," the DOH said.

Currently, there are 2,061,084 COVID-19 cases reported nationwide.

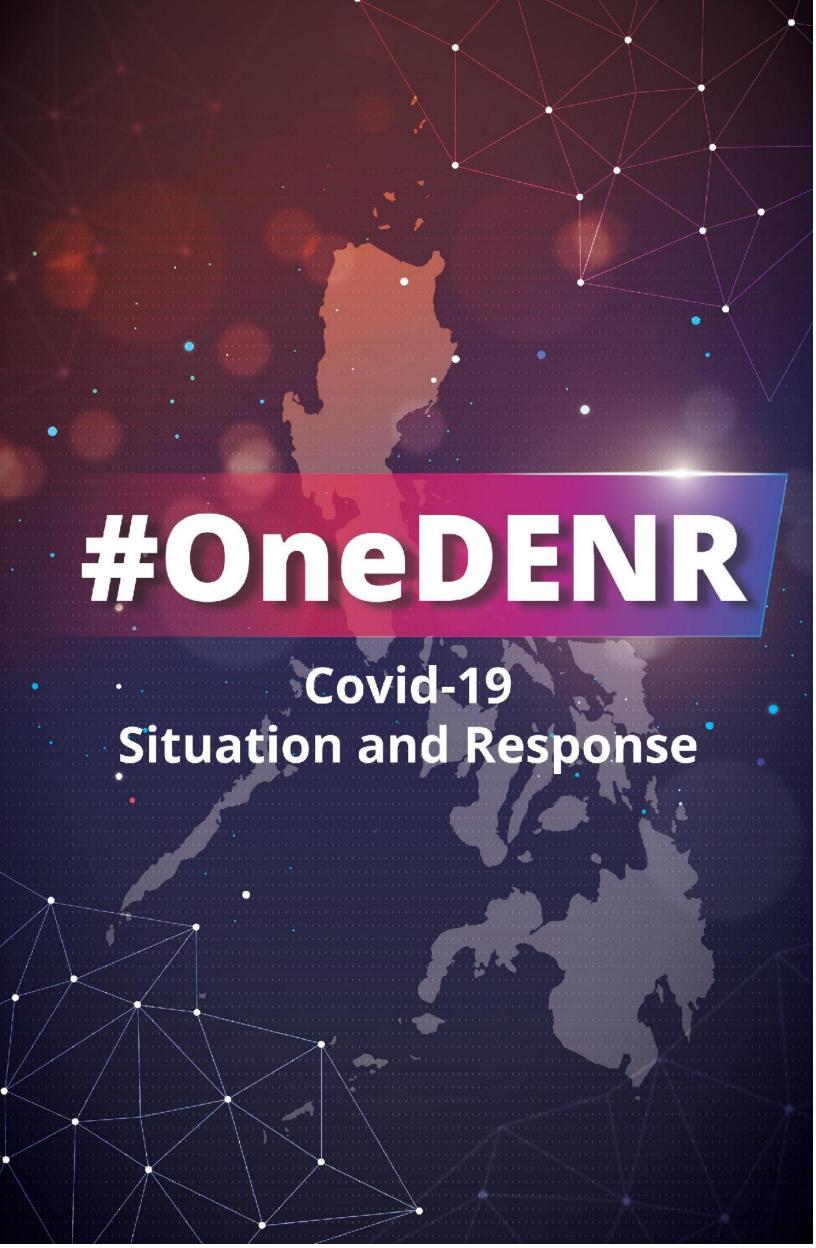
The DOH also reported 189 new deaths, bringing the number of fatalities to 34,062 cases.

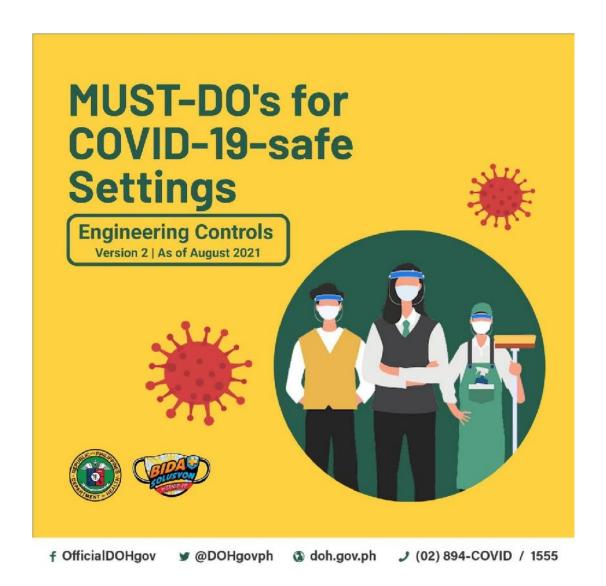
On the other hand, 21,962 COVID-19 patients recovered, raising the number of survivors to 1,869,376.

The DOH added there were 157,646 active cases, representing 7.6 percent of the overall tally.

- Sheila Crisostomo

 $Source: \ https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/09/05/2124975/granular-lockdown-system-starts-september-8$





Maintain physical distancing and Install physical barriers* especially in enclosed spaces

Eg: acrylic sheets, glass panels, hazard warning tape, etc.

**DOLE Department Croser No. 224-21 Guizelines on Ventilation for Warkelaces and Public Transport to Prevent and Control Life Spreed of COVID-15

doh.gov.ph

√ (02) 894-COVID / 1555

f OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

Ensure adequate air exchange in enclosed (indoor) areas*











windows if possible



Install fans or exhaust fans



Ensure airflow in high occupancy spots



Install air filtration devices/ HEPA filters

*BOLE Department Order No. 224-21 Guidelines on Ventilation for Workplaces and Public Transport to Prevent and Control the Spread of COVID-19

f OfficialDOHgov







MUST-DO's for COVID-19-safe Settings (Engineering Controls)

4/8

Install hand hygiene and sanitation facilities











Ensure safe water supply



Ensure hand washing stations



Provide soap/hand sanitizers

*BOLE Department Order No. 224-21 Guidelines on Ventilation for Workplaces and Public Transport to Prevent and Control the Spread of COVID-19

f OfficialDOHgov

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Separate Entry and Exit points in high traffic areas













Use of unidirectional markers



Install signages for foot traffic/ movement



Group certain number of people who can enter



Enforce queues and lines

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*DDLE Department Order No. 224-21 Guidelines on Ventilation for Workplaces and Public Transport to Prevent and Control the Spread of COVID-19

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Establish facility entrance COVID-19 screening. Things that should be present:











Hand sanitizers

Health Declaration or Symptom assessment form

Temperature Checker

Isolation area for symptomatic individuals

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MUST-DO's for COVID-19-safe Settings (Engineering Controls)

8/8

Post visual cues/signages to encourage people to:





Maintain Physical Distancing



Sanitize hands with alcohol



Do cough/sneeze etiquette



Refrain touching face



Wash hands with soap



Throw used masks in proper receptacles

Washing hands with soap and water for 20-30 seconds is still the best!

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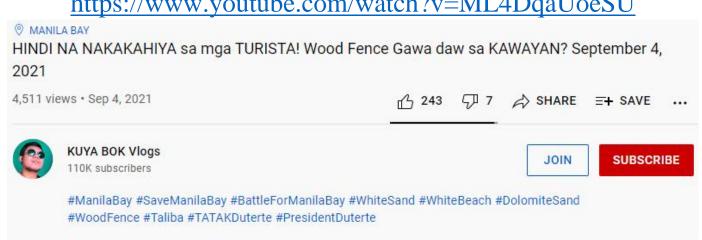




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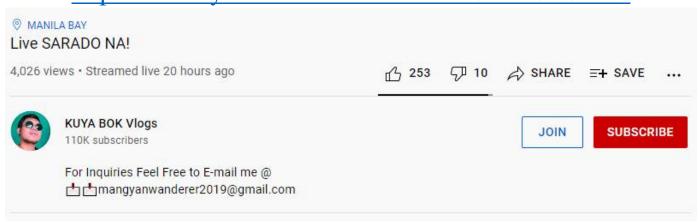




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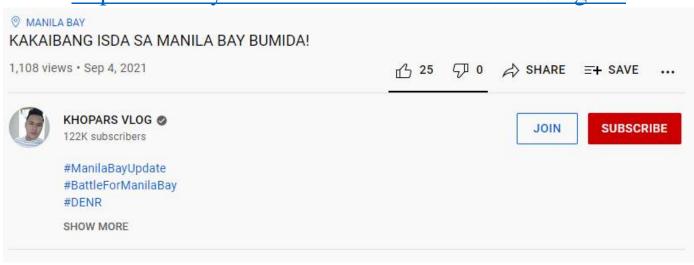




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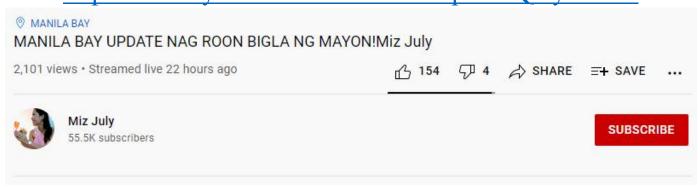




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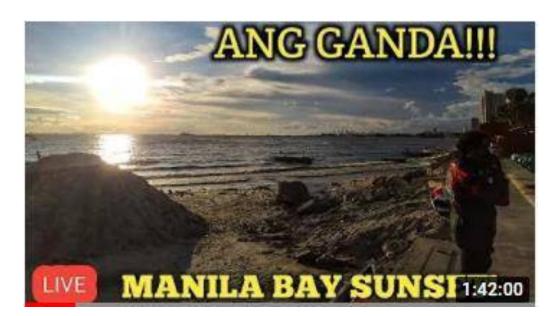
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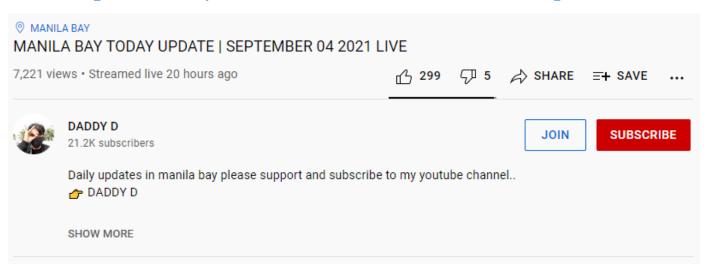




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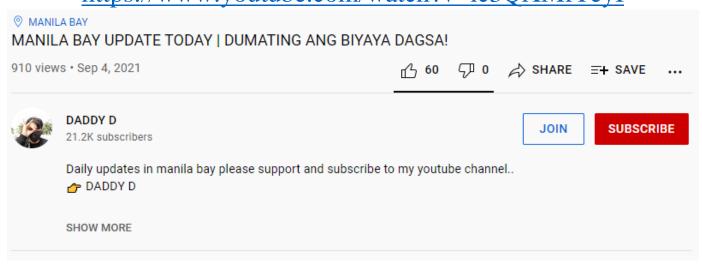




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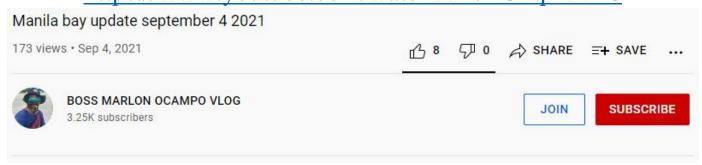




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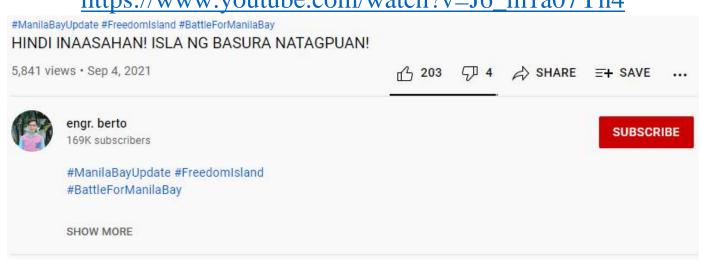




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