

06 APRIL 2021, Tuesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Environmental preservation, safety achievements

By ...  
-April 4, 2021



Republic Cement has won big at the prestigious Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Awards (PMIEA) held recently at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Social Hall in Quezon City. For its achievements in environmental preservation and safety excellence, Republic Cement was awarded with the Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Awards for Quarry Operations for its Bulacan and Batangas Plants, the highest honor for these respective categories. Republic Cement & Building Materials Inc. president Lloyd Vicente (center) is flanked by DENR Undersecretary Jim Sampulna (left) and Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) chairman Gerald Brimo (right). Republic Cement was also recognized for having the Safest Quarry at its Batangas plant, the Best Mining Forest Program–Non-metallic Category for its Bulacan plant, and a Platinum Achievement Award for Quarry Operations for its Iligan plant.

Source: [https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news\\_special\\_feature/environmental-preservation-safety-achievements/](https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/environmental-preservation-safety-achievements/)



## DENR taps 119 Sarangani families for greening projects

By Richelyn Gubalani April 5, 2021, 4:08 pm



**GENERAL SANTOS CITY** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has tapped some 119 households in three municipalities in Sarangani province to help rehabilitate starting this year over 500 hectares of forestland in the area.

Forester Abdul Cariga, chief of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro)-Kiamba, said Monday they have signed letters of agreement (LOA) with the concerned households to expand the implementation of the Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP) through the “family approach.”

He said 84 families, mostly indigenous peoples, signed up for the program in Maitum town, 33 in Kiamba, and two in Maasim.

The project will cover a total of 517 hectares in the upland barangays of the three municipalities, he said.

“These areas will be planted with bamboo, cacao, coffee as well as other forest and fruit trees,” Cariga said in a statement.

Under the program, he said their office will assist the concerned families in rehabilitating and developing the forest areas in line with the implementation of the ENGP.

Through the “family approach,” which was introduced by the DENR central office last year, they aim to get more participation and commitment from their partner families and other community stakeholders.

A project briefer said the program beneficiaries will be properly compensated by the government, through the DENR, for the services rendered in the implementation of the program.

They will receive a retention fee equivalent to 10 percent of the total project cost for at least three years or the duration of the contract.



## DENR taps 119 Sarangani families for greening projects

Cariga said they will continually engage with their family partners to ensure the proper implementation of the projects.

He said they extend the necessary technical assistance and other support programs to sustain the plantations and achieve E-NGP's purpose in the concerned localities.

“Under my watch, we will implement this greening program with a strong partnership, accountability, and transparency,” he said. *(PNA)*



## 2 giant cloud rats rescued



CLOUD RAT. One of two endemic Northern Luzon giant cloud rats rescued in the towns of San Rafael and Doña Remedios Trinidad in Bulacan province. (DENR)

### [IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

April 05, 2021

ENFORCERS from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) came to the rescue of two endemic Northern Luzon giant cloud rats (*Phloeomys pallidus*), locally known as Bu-ot, in the towns of San Rafael and Doña Remedios Trinidad (DRT) in Bulacan province.

Chief of the forest protection unit of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) Baliwag Morgan Gallego said that a certain Edmund dela Cruz, resident of San Rafael town, reported to their office the presence of the wild animal in their area.

The Cenro forest protection team conducted a successful rescue operation on the wildlife on Thursday, April 1.

Meanwhile, another Northern Luzon giant cloud rat was also rescued on the same day in an abandoned house in Barangay Camachile in DRT.

Upon examination, the Cenro team found out that the two animals have no injury and are healthy.

The two animals were immediately released at the more than 2,000-hectare Biak na Bato National Park in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Dennis Vergara, head of Cenro-Baliwag, urged the public to report to the nearest environment authorities in their area any illegal wildlife activities.



## 2 giant cloud rats rescued

He also warned the public to refrain from catching and eating wildlife meat or bushmeat to prevent the spread of zoonotic disease.

According to a study, the Northern Luzon giant cloud rat is a timid, forest-dwelling animal with long and rough fur, and is endemic to the island of Luzon where it is found in the northern and central provinces.

The giant cloud rats are primarily tree-dwelling, spending most of their time high in the branches and it can sometimes be seen moving slowly along the forest floor searching for food, the research added.

Republic Act 9147 or the wildlife protection and conservation law of 2001 prohibits the killing, destroying, trading, collecting, hunting or possessing wildlife, their by-products and derivatives.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1890772/Pampanga/Local-News/2-giant-cloud-rats-rescued>



## 4 Bataan LGUs win in 'Manila Bay rehab' program

[Monday, April 5, 2021](#) [Christian D. Supnad](#)

**FOUR** Bataan local government units won in the prestigious '2020 Manila Bayani Awards' for their laudable roles in cleaning the surroundings and nearby bodies of the once polluted Manila Bay.

The awardees in the recently concluded ceremonies were Samal under the leadership of Mayor Aida de Guia; Dinalupihan under Mayor Gila Garcia, Balanga City under Mayor Francis Garcia and Orani which the DILG dubbed as high compliant local government units of Bataan.

*"Malaking karangalan ito, and this will further motivate us to buckle down to work to clean our environment,"* said Macalinao upon receiving the prestigious award.

Macalinao said that with the town's meager resources, she topped other private company officials like Thailand's Udomsak Aksornphakdee, president of CPF, NGO's, among others in cleaning Samal's coastal area.

Raul H. Mamac, who was himself leading his staff to launch a massive coastal clean up, said Bataan has the longest coastal area in Central Luzon being in the mouth of the sprawling Manila Bay.

Other winners were Baliwag, Plaridel, City of San Jose Del Monte and Santa Maria for Bulacan; Palayan City for Nueva Ecija, and the City of San Fernando and Mabalacat City for Pampanga.

DILG Regional Director Julie Daquioag for Central Luzon, however, said that although the ceremony has been conducted for years, it is still lacking in terms of the institutionalization of the program.

*"It is actually not needed that we will have an assessment, and awarding just to wake up people to clean the Manila Bay. When people are awake and they understand the program, our communities will be awake also. When the communities are awake, the whole Central Luzon and the whole nation will be awake, too,"* said Daquioag.

The DILG director also pressed that communities should innovate and initiate further in maintaining and preserving the bay as the fact that it helps in everyday means of livelihood is enough reason why this natural resource that surrounds Region 3 should be protected.

*"What's so unique for the 2020 Manila Bayani Awards and Incentives is that we were able to implement the different provisions and guidelines for the clean-up, rehabilitation, and preservation of the Manila Bay despite the pandemic that has happened and is still happening,"* said the DILG official.

Recognized as the Provincial Top Performers Municipal Category are Dinalupihan in Bataan, Baliwag in Bulacan, Candaba in Pampanga, Santa Rosa in Nueva Ecija, and Bamban in Tarlac; while Provincial Top Performers in City Category are Balanga City in Bataan, City of San Jose del Monte in Bulacan, City of San Fernando in Pampanga, Palayan City in Nueva Ecija, and Tarlac City.



## 4 Bataan LGUs win in 'Manila Bay rehab' program

Balanga, Bataan was also awarded as the Regional Top Performer City Category with City of San Jose Del Monte in Bulacan and City of San Fernando in Pampanga winning second and third places, respectively.

The DILG said the ceremony is in line with the Manila Bay Clean Up Program which aims to restore the water quality of the bay in accordance with the Supreme Court mandamus in 2016.





## Cargo ship sinks off Misamis Oriental town, spills oil to villages

By: [Jigger J. Jerusalem](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Mindanao](#) / 08:35 PM April 05, 2021



A volunteer of Lower Jasaan village in Jasaan town, Misamis Oriental province helps clean up oil that spilled from an old cargo vessel that sank on Sunday (April 4). PHOTO FROM SABAS TAGARDA JR.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Residents of the village of Lower Jasaan. Jasaan town, Misamis Oriental province have expressed concern that the oil spill from the sinking of an old cargo ship would threaten their livelihood.

The cargo vessel MV Racal IV had been docked at a local shipyard in Lower Jasaan for five years before it sank on Sunday, the Philippine Coast Guard said.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald Moncayo, acting chief of the PCG's Marine Environment Protection Force based in Misamis Oriental, said a breach in its hull had caused seawater to seep into the vessel.

He said the ship was no longer operational and was sold to a new owner when it sank. Moncayo said a salvage company had asked permission to "pump out" any remaining fluid, like oil, inside the vessel before chopping it up for scrap metal.

"I told them (salvage company) to put spill booms around the vessel as requirement before we could allow them to conduct a 'pump out,' but it sank before the salvaging company could comply with the requirement," Moncayo said.

He said the yet-to-be identified ship's owner could face charges of violating Republic Act 9275 or the Clean Water Act for the oil spill.

He confirmed an oil discharge during the sinking.



## Cargo ship sinks off Misamis Oriental town, spills oil to villages

The villages affected included Luz Banson, Kimaya, Lower Jasaan and Upper Jasaan.

“This is worse than the previous oil spill incidents that we had,” said Sabas Tagarda Jr., Lower Jasaan village chair, in a phone interview on Sunday (April 4). He said he advised residents not to swim in the water or go fishing until the spill was fully contained.

As of Sunday afternoon, Sabas said villagers collected at least 2,000 liters of oil-contaminated seawater from the seafloor using sawdust and mosquito net.

To get the oil, they spread sawdust to the contaminated sea. Once the sawdust absorbs the oil, they gather these using a mosquito net.

“It is simple yet effective. So far, we were able to collect almost half of the oil in my area of responsibility,” Sabas said, adding that he hoped other village leaders would follow suit.

He said the workers also placed oil spill booms around Lower Jasaan’s coastal area to contain the spillage.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1415177/cargo-ship-sinks-off-misamis-oriental-town-spills-oil-to-villages#ixzz6rCVNRhv8>

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## MAGTANIM NG MANGROVES

[9 hours ago](#) [jake](#)

### Badilla Ngayon

ni DR. NELSON S. BADILLA



ISA ang Bulacan sa bahaing lugar sa ating bansa.

Ngunit, hindi inatras ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) ang plano nitong itayo ang modernong paliparan sa nasabing lalawigan.

Pangmatagalan ang itatayong paliparan na napakalaki ng maitutulong sa daloy ng mga sasakyan sa Metro Manila, sa maraming Fiipino dahil magkakaroon sila ng hanap-buhay at napakalaki rin ang maiaambag nito sa ekonomiya ng ating bansa.

Kaya, hindi problema ang matinding suliranin sa baha dahil lulutasin ito ng SMC.

Ang ginawa ng pamunuan ng SMC, batay na rin sa plano ng chief operating officer ng korporasyon na si Ramon S. Ang (RSA), ay magtanim ng mangroves.

Nabatid kong 200,000 mangroves ang ipinatanim ni RSA sa mga gilid ng dagat sa Bulacan.

Sa pamamagitan ng mangroves, mapipigilan nito ang pag-agos ng tubig mula sa dagat patungong kapatagan ng Bulacan.

Hindi nanghingi ng pera ang SMC sa pamahalaang lalawigan at sa mga pamahalaang lungsod at bayan sa Bulacan para sa 200,000 mangroves.

Siyempre, sa kalaunan ay makatutulong ito sa New Manila International Airport.

Ngunit, higit itong makatutulong sa mga Bulakenyo.

Napag-alaman kong epektibong solusyon pala ang mangroves laban sa baha.

Napipigilan ng mangroves ang labis na pagtungo ng mga tubig sa kapatagan.

Kung gayon, nararapat pa lang magpatanim ang pamahalaang lalawigan, lungsod at bayan ng mangroves upang malunasan ang mga pagbaha.



## MAGTANIM NG MANGROVES

Hindi literal na absolutong solusyon ang mangroves, ngunit lumilitaw na malaki ang maitutulong ng mangroves laban sa baha.

Kung gayon, nararapat at obligado palang magtanim ng napakaraming mangroves sa gilid ng mga dagat at estero.

Sa mga bahaing lugar sa Rodriguez at San Mateo sa Rizal ay nararapat at obligadong magtanim ng mangroves.

Kahit sa Marikina River dahil perwisyong katakut-takot ang pagbaha sa ilang barangay sa Lungsod ng Marikina tuwing bumabagyo.

Ganoon din sa Lungsod ng Dagupan dahil napakatindi ng baha rito tuwing bumabagyo.

Mistulang nakikipagpaligsahan sa ilang lungsod sa Metro Manila ang napakatinding pagbaha sa Dagupan.

Kahit sa napakahabang paligid ng Lawa ng Laguna ay kailangang magtanim ng mga mangrove, sa halip na lagyan ito ng makapal na pader.

Ang gastos sa mga bato, o mga hollow blocks, semento, bakal at iba pang pampatibay daw ng gilid ng lawa ay ilaan na lang sa mangroves.

Higit na mainam ang mangroves upang malutas ang deka-dekada nang suliranin laban sa baha kumpara sa pader at semento.

Alam ba ninyo na napakalaki ng suporta ng mangroves sa pagpapaganda ng kapaligiran at - paglilinis at pagpapabango ng simoy ng hangin.

Mayroong konsepto na nabuo sa Public Administration na ang simoy ng hangin mula sa mga puno at dahon ay bahagi ng kapaligirang ginagalawan ng tao.

Ang kapaligiran ay nakatutulong nang malaki sa kalusugan ng mamamayan, lalo na ng mga bata at nakatatanda.

Kapag binalikan at muling pag-aralan ang badyet ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ay mapapansin ninyong bilyun-bilyong libo ang pondong inilalaan para sa pagpapagawa ng mga estero, kanal, imburnal at iba pa laban sa baha.

Taun-taon ay mayroong bilyun-bilyong perang nakalaan ang DPWH bilang hakbang laban sa baha.

Nangangahulugan lamang na ang mga inhinyero sa DPWH ay napakalaki ng tiwala sa ideyang pagkukumpuni ng mga estero, kanal at imburnal ang natatanging lunas sa baha.

Hindi pa ako nakakakita ng bilyun-bilyong pera.

Pero, alam kong napakalaking salapi ito.



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## MAGTANIM NG MANGROVES

Hindi ba't napakainam kung ilalaan ang bilyun-bilyong pera ng DPWH na pambili ng mangroves at iba pang mga punong itanim upang malunasan ang regular na pagbaha sa maraming bahagi ng ating bansa mula sa tuktok ng Luzon hanggang talampakan ng Mindanao.

Kumbinsido ako sa magagawa ng mangroves laban sa malawakang pagbaha sa maraming panig ng ating bansa.

Kaya, nararapat lamang na magtanim tayo ng mangroves.



## CPSU demands quarry ban within its reservation area



NEGROS. The quarry site in Sitio Mansumbil, Barangay Tagukon, Kabankalan City. (Contributed photo)

[TERESA D. ELLERA](#)

April 05, 2021

THE management of the Central Philippine State University (CPSU) is demanding a stop of the quarry operations within its reservation area in Sitio Mansumbil, Barangay Tagukon, Kabankalan City.

In an interview with SunStar Bacolod, Dr. Aladino Moraca, president of CPSU, said the quarry permit was allegedly given to the operator without coordination from the management of the school.

CPSU has a total area of 4,653 hectares and the quarry site is inside the reservation area of the school that "should be protected for lifetime."

"We should take care of our environment and this is non-negotiable. This quarry operation destroys the terrain of the area," Moraca pointed out.

He also expressed his concern because the barangay officials of Tagukon reportedly supported and endorsed the quarry operation.

Moraca said he personally brought up the matter to the Provincial Environment Management Office (Pemo) where he expressed his concern, and that a team was already sent to the area and conducted the investigation, but preparations are still ongoing for the quarry.



## CPSU demands quarry ban within its reservation area

Dominic Gillen, head of CPSU Environment Department, said ongoing monitoring is being done by the school on the activities at the quarry site.

He said the road network for the dump trucks and other heavy equipment has been done and that a batching plant has also been completed without the knowledge of the school.

"This is a violation of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Law," Gillen said.

## CSFP shares best practices in zero waste management

By Marie Joy S. CarbungcoPublished on April 5, 2021

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, April 5 (PIA) -- The city government of San Fernando shared its best practices on zero waste management at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Councilor BJ Lagman, who represented the city government in the virtual forum, said the activity is part of the goal of attaining an extensive sustainable development in the world by 2030.

“It is focused on showcasing several zero-waste systems and practices of different cities and municipalities across the globe, including San Fernando’s, to private and public institutions,” Lagman said.

During the forum, Lagman, together with City Environment and Natural Resources Office Officer-in-Charge Marilen Malabanan, discussed the city’s long-term programs, projects, and activities that served as factors in reaching a current 81 percent waste diversion rate, one of the highest marks in Asia.



City of San Fernando, through Councilor BJ Lagman and City Environment and Natural Resources Office Officer-in-Charge Marilen Malabanan, virtually shares its best practices on zero waste management at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development held in Bangkok, Thailand. (CSFP-CIO)

These include the active implementation of Ecological Solid Waste Management Act; functional Materials Recovery Facilities in barangays, subdivisions, schools, and establishments; partnership with local media networks, youth groups, and suppliers for the roll-out of environmental programs; and, regular conduct of inspection and enforcement operations, among others.





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## CSFP shares best practices in zero waste management

The forum was organized by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.

In recent years, San Fernando's initiatives were featured in an international documentary on plastic pollution entitled "The Story of Plastic."

The city was also invited to share its best practices on waste management during the International Zero Waste Cities Conference in Indonesia and Malaysia in 2018 and 2019, respectively.  
(CLJD/MJSC-PIA 3)



## No waste wasted with Gilbert Angeles

posted April 05, 2021 at 06:50 pm

by [Bernadette Lunas](#)

Gilbert Angeles is doing it for his family.



*Green artist Gilbert Angeles uses eco paint, a mix of shredded plastic and acrylic paint, in creating his artwork.*

Seeing the mountains of plastic waste in landfills and ocean, he knew he had to do something. Those landfills and oceans, he realized, are the same landfills and oceans his children and their children will inherit.

“We only have one Earth, one life,” he said. “Everything is interconnected; a simple decision that you make will influence or affect other persons.”

The simple act of throwing a piece of plastic candy wrapper or shampoo sachet, Angeles said, was not as minor as they seem to be because they are the very small things that contribute to the big problem.

“A wrong decision can lead to destruction.”

The Philippines ranks third in the world’s biggest plastic polluter, generating 2.7 million metric tons every year, according to a 2017 report by the Ocean Conservancy and the McKinsey Center for Business and Development.

Despite the country’s high garbage collection rate, a 2018 report by the World Wide Fund revealed up to 74 percent of plastic that ends up in the ocean is from the waste already collected.

While he “was looking for a perfect medium” for himself, he had a eureka moment: “If you’re doing something, make sure you’re solving a problem.”

Creativity, resourcefulness, and a genuine concern for the environment led the Bulacan-based artist to ask friends and neighbors for their plastic waste, “anything out of value.”



## No waste wasted with Gilbert Angeles



*Angeles demonstrates how to make an eco painting as Conrad Manila general manager Linda Pecoraro (seated, right) looks on.*

But there was a small problem in using the collected waste as medium. “Depending on the space and structure of the products, we found the art limiting.”

That was when he got connected with Green Antz Builders, a building solutions provider that collects plastic waste and transforms it into construction products such as eco bricks.

Waste collected from Angeles’ studio is turned over to Green Antz for shredding, allowing the self-avowed “green artist” to mix the shredded single-use plastic waste with leftover acrylic paints resulting in what he calls the “eco paint.”

In 2019, Green Artz was born to create “awareness of the harmful effects of post-consumer waste through art.”

“We treat waste as a resource. From waste, we create something of value,” shared the University of Santo Tomas fine arts graduate. “Eco painting is a tangible example of creating something of value from waste. By doing this, it reminds us to be more responsible in throwing our waste.”

Angeles has since then created several artwork made using this medium, while actively sharing the process to encourage others to try and create something out of what could have ended up in landfills and ocean.

During his demonstration at Conrad Manila, as part of his ongoing exhibit at Gallery C until May 9, he showed how to make an eco painting: On a canvas, he first applied a binder (glue) then added the shredded plastic. He painted over the plastic (alternative method is mixing the shreds and paints beforehand) and let the canvas dry.



## No waste wasted with Gilbert Angeles

The “Of Art and Wine: New Earth, New Life, New Hope” exhibit showcases Angeles’ 23 eco paintings. According to the hotel, some of his canvases are also made of used wooden panels recovered from construction sites.

“New Earth, New Life, New Hope’ celebrates life and nature, which is echoed by Conrad Manila through our Travel With Purpose corporate



*MADE WITH PLASTIC. Gilbert Angeles’ eco paintings showcase colors and textures and the important message of responsible waste disposal. Photos from Green Artz by Gilbert Angeles/Facebook*

social responsibility campaign which we share with our guests and team members,” said Conrad Manila general manager Linda Pecoraro.

SM Hotels and Conventions Corporation (SMHCC) executive consultant Nes Jardin seconded, “I’m excited about this exhibit because it promotes Conrad Manila’s sustainable practice in hotel management.”

For her part, SMHCC president Elizabeth Sy lauded the efforts of everyone involved in the show, “I congratulate and thank Gilbert Angeles, Green Artz, and Conrad Manila for showcasing how sustainable art can be a tool for environmental preservation.”

**Topics:** [Gilbert Angeles](#) , [World Wide Fund](#) , [“Of Art and Wine: New Earth , New Life , New Hope”](#) , [eco paintings](#)

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/351047>



## Pinoy scientist mistakes plastic trash in Emden Deep for jellyfish

Published April 5, 2021 8:54pm

Filipino scientist [Dr. Deo Florence Onda](#) thought he saw a jelly fish during his historic trip to the Emden Deep, the third deepest part on Earth.

Upon closer inspection, he was taken aback to see that it was actually a piece of plastic, which survived despite the immense pressure in the depths of the sea.

In Oscar Oida's report for "24 Oras," the microbial oceanographer said plastics should hypothetically be broken down by the harsh environment underwater.

"That's one thing that really shocked me," he said in Filipino. "The plastics we saw aren't broken down. Meaning, that's how resistant and durable they are."

"These are still human remains [and] contaminations so the imprints of humans actually went to the Emden Deep before us," he added.

Dr. Onda said this is as an eye-opener for everyone to be mindful about their plastic usage.

"We can't change our ways overnight but slowly minimizing the usage and being conscious of the things we use, it will help," he said.

He also called on not just consumers, but also producers and the government, to come up with ways to help the environment.

"[Let's] make policies to lessen the usage and to find alternative materials for plastic," he said.

Dr. Onda is the [first Filipino to reach Emden Deep](#), located 34,100 feet below sea level, in March.

In May 2019, [trash were also found in Mariana Trench](#), the deepest place on Earth.

—**Franchesca Viernes/MGP, GMA News**

Tags: [Emden Deep](#), [Deo Florence Onda](#), [plastics](#), [trash](#)

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/782521/pinoy-scientist-mistakes-plastic-trash-in-emden-deep-for>



## EcoWaste Coalition takes up cudgels for the ‘mangangalakal’, asks gov’t to ensure their ‘ayuda’

Published April 5, 2021, 12:36 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Environmental group EcoWaste Coalition is appealing for the quick delivery of “ayuda” or government aid to a very particular sector that has been hard hit by the pandemic, but may sadly be overlooked.



(ALI VICOY / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a statement Monday, April 5, the group called on national and local government authorities to be responsive to the special needs of workers belonging to the informal waste sector (IWS), especially with the one-week extension of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila and its four nearby provinces.

“Members of the IWS are among those hardest hit by the COVID-19 lockdowns because of the restrictions on movements that disallow them from going door to door or roaming the streets to recover recyclable materials from waste,” said Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition.

IWS members are colloquially called “mangangalakal”. For Lucero, they’re also frontliners in the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

“Women in the IWS face extra challenges due to household chores and their heavy responsibilities as mothers, wives and workers. With their work further disrupted due to the extended ECQ in the NCR Plus, informal waste workers who are daily wage earners will need rapid and adequate assistance to enable them to meet their basic human survival needs,” she said.



## EcoWaste Coalition takes up cudgels for the ‘mangangalakal’, asks gov’t to ensure their ‘ayuda’

“While cash or in-kind assistance will not replace daily loss of earnings, the much anticipated ‘ayuda’ in this difficult period will help in improving the dire conditions for individuals and families in the IWS,” she pointed out.

Lucero reckoned that those already receiving assistance via Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) would still need extra money to purchase their essentials. 4Ps is the government’s longtime flagship poverty-alleviation program.

According to the National Framework Plan for the Informal Sector in Solid Waste Management, the IWS covers “individuals, families, groups or small enterprises engaged in the recovery of waste materials either on a full-time or part-time basis with revenue generation as the motivation.”

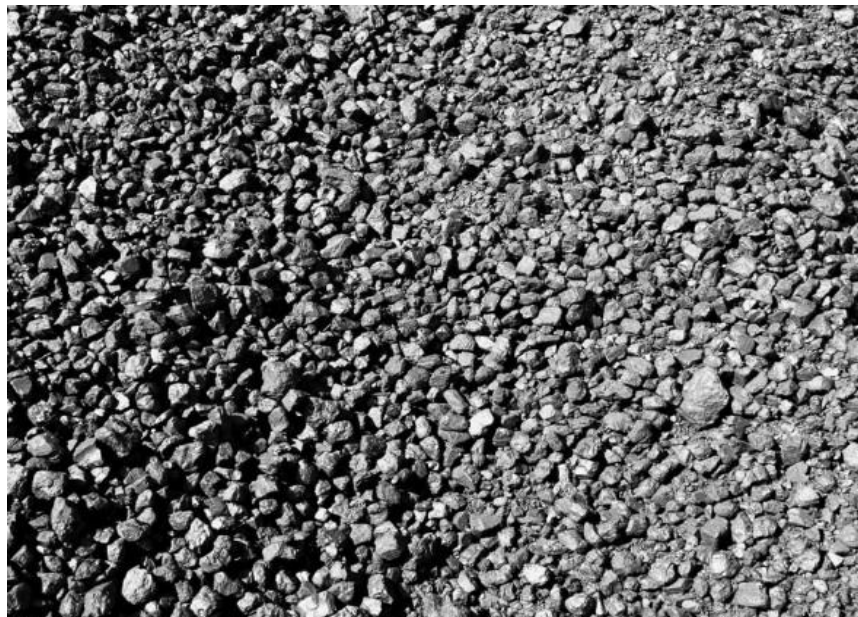
As noted in the said framework plan, “IWS workers contribute to positive economic impacts on the overall solid waste management,” handl(ing) large volumes of waste materials at practically no cost to the government or taxpayers.”

“We trust national and local authorities will act with dispatch to ensure the speedy delivery of assistance to the IWS amid the continuing pandemic. It’s the least we can do to show our appreciation to the unsung IWS frontliners in the recovery of post-consumer waste in our communities,” Lucero said.



## Church leaders seek swift transition to clean energy

April 5, 2021 | Filed under: [News](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)



Church leaders and the youth in Atimonan, Quezon have renewed their push for a swift and just transition to clean energy for the province and the country and resisting destructive energy from coal, the continued use of which for power generation goes against the preservation of the integrity of Creation.

The call was made during an online devotion session for Holy Week called “Daan ng Krus tungo sa Pagbabagong Ekolohikal” (Way of the Cross towards Ecological Conversion) on Good Friday of the Our Lady of Angels Parish in Atimonan, inspired by the 2019 Pastoral Letter on Ecology of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines and Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si.”

“Mapagsumikapan nawa naming isulong ang dagliang paglipat sa ligtas, malinis, at murang eherhiya. Tiyaikin ang makatarungan at patas na paglipat sa renewable energy sources at ibasura ang mga huwad na solusyon; makiisa sa kampanya sa madaliang pagtatanggal ng mga coal-fired power plants at iba pang nakadepende sa paggamit ng nakaruruming fossil-fuel,” a statement of the parish of Atimonan said.

Coal plants have been on the receiving end of global backlash for their contributions to climate change, environmental impacts, increasing costs of construction and maintenance, and high price of electricity produced. (Tristan Lozano)

Source: <http://www.tempo.com.ph/2021/04/05/church-leaders-seek-swift-transition-to-clean-energy/>





## Higit 1 milyong COVID-19 cases sa katapusan ng Abril - OCTA

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)  
- April 6, 2021 - 12:00am



Ayon sa OCTA group, nananatiling tumataas ang infections ng may 20% o 5,538 na arawang kaso sa nagdaang linggo.  
The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Posibleng sumirit sa mahigit 1 milyon ang kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa sa pagtatapos ng Abril.

Ito ang pagtaya ng OCTA Research group kahit na bumababa ang pagdami ng infection ng virus nitong ipinatupad ang ECQ sa Metro Manila at karatig lalawigan.

Ayon sa OCTA group, nananatiling tumataas ang infections ng may 20% o 5,538 na arawang kaso sa nagdaang linggo.

Ang reproduction number ng Metro Manila mula March 29 hanggang April 4 ay bumaba ng 1.61, pero ang bawat kaso ay maaaring makahawa ng mahigit sa isang tao.

“It is clear that the lockdown has been effective in slowing down the increase in number of new cases in the NCR. With an additional week of ECQ... the goal is to bring the reproduction number down to 1 or close to it,” ayon sa OCTA.

Sabi pa ng grupo, bumagal ang transmission ng virus sa Maynila, Parañaque, Marikina at Navotas habang ang Pasay at Makati ay nakapagtala ng downward trend pero may “rapid increases” ng bagong infections sa Mandaluyong, Las Piñas at San Juan.

Ang pagdaragdag ng hospital beds para sa kaso ng COVID-19 ay may malaking tulong din sa pagbaba ng hospital occupancy rate sa ilang lungsod pero inaasahan na mapupuno rin ito sa darating na mga araw.



## Higit 1 milyong COVID-19 cases sa katapusan ng Abril - OCTA

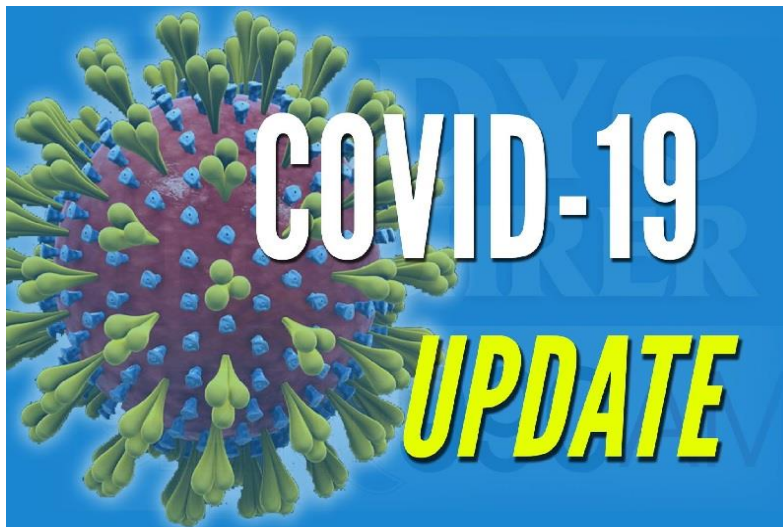
“We will still be seeing 11,000 to 12,000 plus cases per day for the next week or so,” sabi pa ni Prof. Guido David ng Octa.

Anyang, dapat habaan pa ang araw ng COVID restriction protocol dates para tuluyang bumaba ang hawaan ng virus.



## Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, umabot na sa 131.92 milyon

By Angellic Jordan April 05, 2021 - 01:30 PM



Pumalo na sa 131.92 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 131,920,255 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 31,420,331 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang Brazil na may 12,984,956 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 12,589,067 naman ang kaso sa India habang 4,822,470 ang napaulat na kaso sa France.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 cases sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- Russia - 4,580,894
- United Kingdom - 4,359,388
- Italy - 3,668,264
- Turkey - 3,487,050
- Spain - 3,300,965
- Germany - 2,895,631
- Colombia - 2,446,219
- Poland - 2,438,542
- Argentina - 2,393,492
- Mexico - 2,250,458

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 2,866,007 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 106,202,786 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/288766/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-umabot-na-sa-131-92-milyon#ixzz6rCY4HJxt>

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## Covid-19 cases surge attributed to ‘multiple factors’: WHO

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor April 5, 2021, 10:11 pm



World Health Organization (WHO) representative to the Philippines Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe (*File photo*)

MANILA – Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to the Philippines, on Monday said the surge of Covid-19 cases in a country is attributed to “multiple factors” and not dependent on the government’s pandemic response.

In a virtual Palace press briefing, Abeyasinghe said the population size, testing capacity, and health systems capacity also affect the decline or surge of infections and these differ from one country to another.

“So, what will be more accurate is to look at the incidence rates or the number of cases per 100,000 or 1 million population, this would be going to point where the Philippines actually is. But again, there are multiple factors that affect the transmission in a country because countries are different from each other,” Abeyasinghe said.

He explained that the Philippines is not the only country that has seen a significant increase in cases in the past two weeks, citing the confirmation of three variants of concern in the country,

“And I would also like to highlight that we are even seeing this increasing trend even in countries that are doing an extensive vaccination,” he added.

While the increase of infections cannot be attributed to a lack of government competence, Abeyasinghe emphasized the need for the Philippines to continue investing in preparedness and response capacities on the ground.

He also urged the public to observe minimum public health standards which are “adequate to interrupt transmissions when implemented fully.”



## Covid-19 cases surge attributed to ‘multiple factors’: WHO

Abeyasinghe also cited the optimism on the arrival of vaccines and gradual rollout of vaccination program as another contributory factor as it led to the reduction to the compliance with the minimum public health standards on the parts of the citizens.

He also mentioned the optimism on the part of local governments and authorities “where they have relaxed the implementation and monitoring of the minimum public health standards oftentimes because their attention was focused on preparing for rollout of vaccines.”

“So all of these measures have contributed in varying degrees in different countries to the increase of cases we are seeing. I would want to reiterate the fact that the Philippines is not unique in seeing an increase, and this increase is not attributed in any way to a lack or incompetence. It is an issue related to the factors that I mentioned,” he added.

The WHO official also emphasized the need to continue to invest and works towards strengthening the country’s preparedness and response capacities on the ground especially to strengthening diagnostic; reduce the time required for diagnostics; only contact tracing, quarantining, and isolation of infected people or exposed people; ensuring that adequate health care capacities are available to manage patients particularly those patients who developed severe disease because of they are of advanced age or comorbid conditions; adequate risk communication to the public about where is the transmission happening, which situations need to be avoided; and the vaccine rollout – the most important thing.

“All of these coming together will help us address the surge,” he said. (PNA)



## Palace: Better water service with new deal

posted April 05, 2021 at 10:30 pm

by [Vito Barcelo](#)

The government has completed the renegotiation of a new concession deal with Manila Water Inc. over a year after President Rodrigo Duterte alleged that the existing agreement was disadvantageous to the public.

“A revised concession agreement was formed that gives better water service in Metro Manila, and is advantageous to government and consumers,” presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said.

Roque said the revised concession deal was now “advantageous” to both the government and the consumers.

He said the deal removed clauses that ban government “interference,” and recognized Manila Water as a public utility that makes it “more accountable” to the government and the public, among other things.

“After a year, we confirm that the renegotiation of the 1997 MWSS concession agreement with Manila Water Corporation has been completed. Next will be with Maynilad,” Roque said.

Duterte had previously slammed Manila Water and Maynilad for allegedly milking billions from the people and the government over the disadvantageous 1997 water contract.

The President had threatened to sue the water firms due to the “onerous” provisions of their contract with the government.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said officials of the Ayala group-led Manila Water Co. Inc. and the state regulator, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System signed the revised contract.

**Topics:** [Manila Water Inc.](#) , [President Rodrigo Duterte](#) , [concession deal](#)



## Duterte stands by Lorenzana's remark on Julian Felipe Reef

By Azer Parrocha April 5, 2021, 5:02 pm



MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte is standing by the strong statement made by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana demanding the immediate departure of the remaining 44 Chinese vessels from the Julian Felipe Reef in the West Philippine Sea, Malacañang said Monday.

Lorenzana on Saturday told the remaining 44 Chinese vessels to leave, saying they had no more reason to take shelter there since the weather has cleared.

In response, the Chinese Embassy in Manila called Lorenzana's remark "unprofessional", maintaining its historical claim over the feature which is within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

"Of course, the President stands by the statements of our Secretary of Defense," Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in an interview over CNN Philippines.

Roque, however, pointed out that the presence of Chinese ships in the area would not lead to war.

"I hasten to add that the President has been clear that this is not an issue that will lead to war between friendly nations. We are hoping that our friendly relations will soon resolve this latest impasse," he added.

In a Palace press briefing aired over PTV-4, Roque cited Duterte's speech during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2020 where the latter affirmed the Permanent Court of Arbitration's (PCA) ruling in favor of the Philippines' arbitration case against China's expansive maritime claims in the disputed sea.

*"Hindi po nagbabago ang posisyon ng ating Presidente. Eto po yung kanyang nabanggit na salita sa UN General Assembly. Hindi po natin isasakripisyo, hindi natin ipamimigay ang ating national territory at ang ating mga exclusive economic zone (The President's position has not changed. He mentioned this during his speech at the UN General Assembly. We will not sacrifice or give away our national territory and EEZ),"* he said.



## Duterte stands by Lorenzana's remark on Julian Felipe Reef

Roque said Duterte also believes that friendly relations between the Philippines and China will result in the peaceful resolution of this impasse.

*"Ang posisyon po ng Presidente, paninindigan natin ang ating karapatan pero hindi po to isang bagay para tayo po ay gumamit ng dahas. Kampante po ang ating Presidente na dahil nga po mero tayong malapit na pagkakaibigan mareresolba ang hidwaan na 'to (The President's position is that we will fight for our rights, but this is no reason for us to use force. Our President is confident that our strong ties would resolve this impasse)," he added.*

He also reiterated support for Lorenza's demand for Chinese vessels to leave the Julian Felipe Reef.

"I think Secretary Lorenzana was correct in pointing out that we consider that area as part also of Philippine territory and exclusive economic zone," he said.

'Sovereignty non-negotiable'

In a separate statement, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo expressed opposition over the "unjustified stay" of Chinese vessels at the Julian Felipe Reef, saying it could result in "unwanted hostilities" between the two countries.

"While we recognize the historical and cultural ties with China that have evolved into a productive relationship, its present territorial incursions is producing an unwelcome stain in their bond and may trigger unwanted hostilities that both countries would rather not pursue, as destructiveness consequences are not only undesirable, they are abhorrent as well and anathema to the peace of the region," Panelo said.

Panelo insisted that the country's sovereignty is "non-negotiable" despite the Philippines' improved ties with China.

"Let it be clear to all countries of the world that are protective of their own sovereignties. Like them, we are fiercely protective of ours. We can negotiate on matters of mutual concern and benefit, but make no mistake about it -- our sovereignty is non-negotiable," he added.

He said the matter of territorial dispute has to be resolved in the "diplomatic negotiating table or by the dictates of international law."

The National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea earlier expressed concern over a Philippine Coast Guard report that about 220 Chinese fishing vessels, believed to be manned by Chinese maritime militia personnel, were sighted in line formation at the Julian Felipe Reef on March 7.

The reef is located approximately 175 nautical miles west of Bataraza, Palawan.

The Department of Foreign Affairs expressed support over the DND's demand for the remaining Chinese ships' withdrawal from the Julian Felipe Reef.

"[T]he Philippines' position on this continued Chinese presence in the WPS has been unequivocal, as articulated by the recent statement of the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea and the statement today by the Department of National Defense," the DFA said.





## Duterte stands by Lorenzana's remark on Julian Felipe Reef

On March 21, the Philippines filed a diplomatic protest over the presence of around 200 Chinese ships at the Julian Felipe Reef.

The DFA on Monday "strongly" denounced the Chinese embassy's "unprofessional" comment against Lorenzana.

"The DFA strongly denounces the Embassy's attempt to impugn the Secretary of National Defense -- a Cabinet official of the Republic of the Philippines -- by calling his statement 'unprofessional,'" the DFA said in a statement. (PNA)



## Wastewater leak now ‘catastrophic’

posted April 05, 2021 at 09:10 pm

by [AFP](#)

Miami—Emergency crews in central Florida were working Sunday to prevent an environmental catastrophe at a leaking reservoir that risked sending millions of gallons of contaminated wastewater toward nearby homes and into the Tampa Bay.

More than 300 homes near the site of an abandoned phosphate mine and fertilizer-production facility in Manatee County were under mandatory evacuation orders, and Governor Ron DeSantis on Saturday declared a state of emergency to free up funds to tackle the crisis.

“What we are looking at now is trying to prevent, and respond to if need be, a real catastrophic flood situation,” DeSantis told a press conference after viewing the site by helicopter Sunday.

He said emergency workers, assisted by the Florida National Guard, were pumping about 33 million gallons of water daily out of a wastewater reservoir at the site, which has sprung a growing leak in its plastic lining.

“According to on-site engineers, a controlled release was necessary to prevent a catastrophic failure,” the governor said.

The wastewater “meets water-quality standards for marine waters,” he said, with the exception of phosphorous and nitrogen levels. **AFP**

Marine algae thrive on such elements, and environmental groups fear the release of millions of gallons of nutrient-rich water into the ocean could trigger a deadly “red tide,” or algal bloom, that can suffocate fish and other aquatic life and deter tourist activity.

Still ‘critical’

Manatee County’s acting administrator Scott Hopes said inmates and staff at the local jail had been moved to the second floor of the two-story building as a precaution.

Hopes sounded a slightly more optimistic note later Sunday, saying the situation should be in a “much better position” by Tuesday.

But “we are not out of the critical area yet,” he warned.

A collapse of the reservoir also risked sending water into nearby stacks of phosphogypsum, a leftover from fertilizer production.

Phosphogypsum is considered radioactive as it contains isotopes such as radon, as well as toxic heavy metals like arsenic, lead and mercury.

The Center for Biological Diversity national conservation group called for the US Environmental Protection Agency to step in.

“Federal officials need to clean up this mess the fertilizer industry has dumped on Florida communities and immediately halt further phosphogypsum production,” Jaclyn Lopez, the organization’s Florida director, said in a statement.



## Wastewater leak now ‘catastrophic’

Problems at the Piney Point reservoir stretch back decades.

Florida’s agriculture commissioner, Nicole Fried, wrote to DeSantis, saying the current emergency was only the latest in a string of incidents.

“For more than 50 years, this central Florida mining operation has caused numerous human health and environmental disasters and incidents,” she wrote, adding there had been several earlier failures of the reservoir’s lining.

Hopes said authorities were looking to permanently empty reservoirs at the site.

“We won’t be repairing the liner, we will be depleting the holding ponds of their water and then we will be moving forward to a permanent solution into the future once we mitigate the current risk,” Hopes said.

This will “probably include filling these ponds after they have been devoid of their contents and capping them.”

DeSantis said the company operating the site, HRK Holdings, should be held accountable.

“This is not acceptable and it’s not something we will allow to persist,” he said.

HRK did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

**Topics:** [Florida](#) , [environmental catastrophe](#) , [leaking reservoir](#) , [Ron](#)



## Ghana investigates after dead fish, dolphins wash up on shore

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 07:32 PM April 05, 2021

Accra, Ghana — Authorities in Ghana on Monday said they were investigating after the country's coastal areas were flooded with different species of dead fish and scores of dolphins.

The dead fish washed up on three different Atlantic Ocean coastal areas of the West African country over the weekend, officials said.

“We’ve counted about 60 dead dolphins here alone at the beach and other smaller fish. It is quite strange and we really can’t tell what’s happening,” Samuel Obeng, a fisherman at Axim in the Western Region area, told local media.

He said it was rare for fish to wash up in such large numbers.

Officials of the country's Fisheries Commission have confirmed the incident and said samples have been taken for laboratory analysis.

“Upon arrival at the beach, the team noticed that there were dead small pelagic and demersal fish at the shore. Initial observation... showed no wound/lesions on their bodies,” Executive Director of the Fisheries Commission, Michael Arthur-Dadzie, said in a statement.

He said fish and seawater samples were being examined to determine to cause.

“The color of the sea and temperature are normal. We assure everyone that we are working hard to ascertain the actual cause of mortality of the fish.”

Ghana is located on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea with a shoreline stretching some 550 kilometers (340 miles) with a quarter of the country's population living by the sea.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1415151/ghana-investigates-after-dead-fish-dolphins-wash-up-on-shore#ixzz6rCUTy78e>

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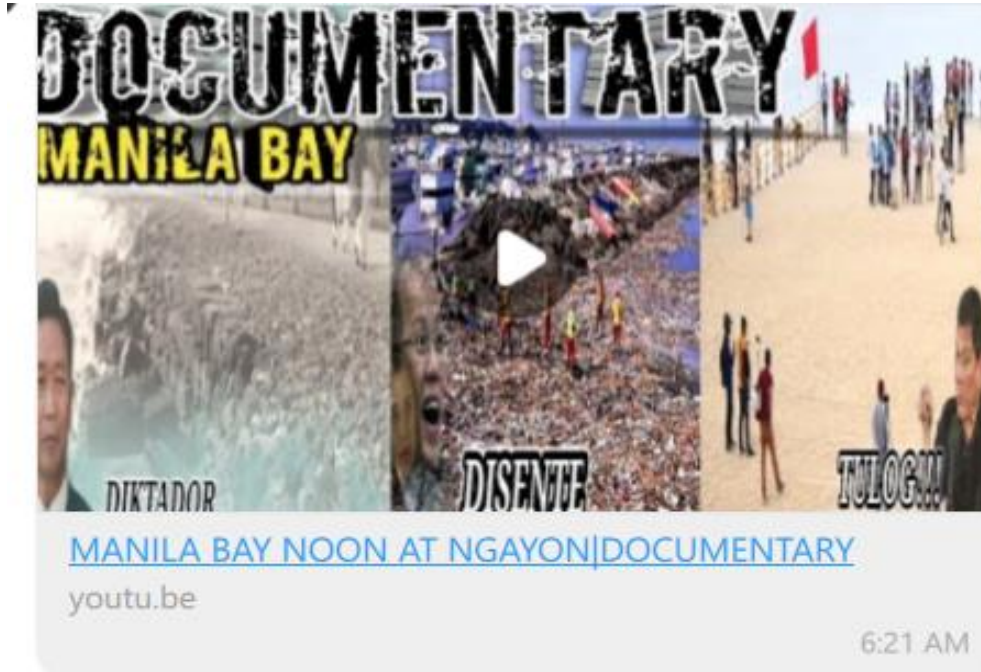
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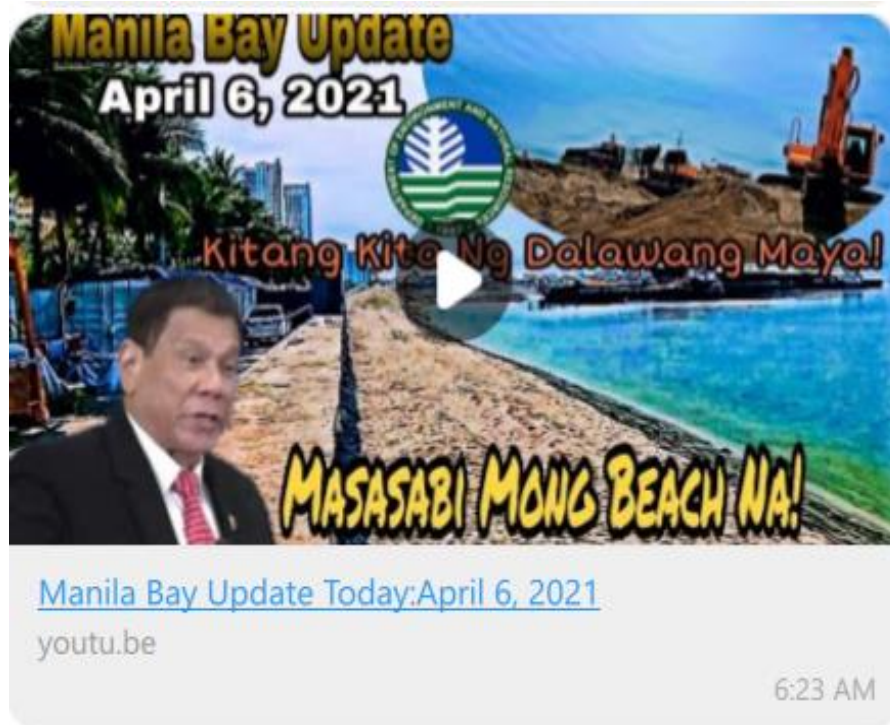
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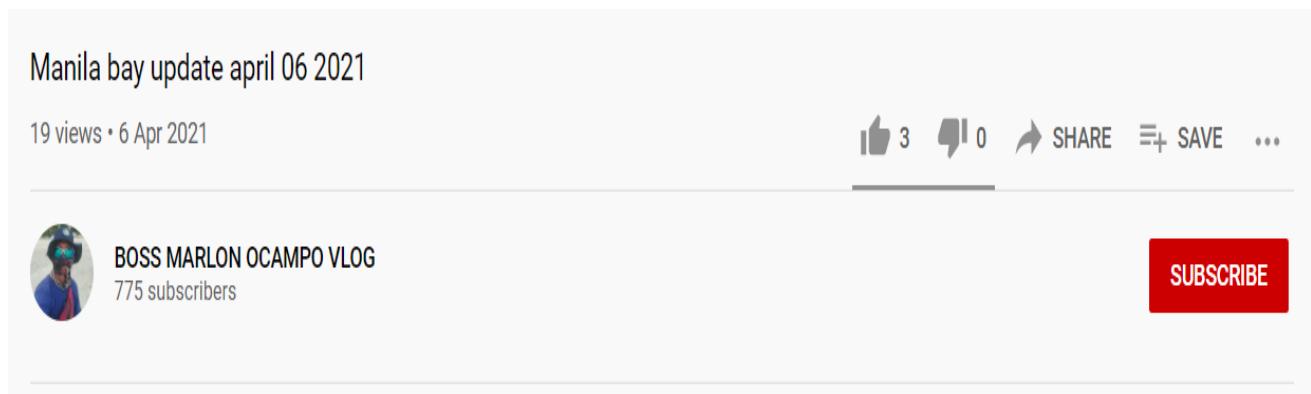
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