

06 FEBRUARY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR backs inclusion of producers' plastic waste responsibility in Solid Waste Management Act

Published February 5, 2022, 6:31 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has expressed support for Senate Bill (SB) 2425, which obligates manufacturers and producers to manage their plastic packaging waste properly.

In a statement released on Saturday, Feb. 5, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said that the department supports the initiative to include the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“We are supporting moves in Congress to amend the RA 9003, to institutionalize the practice of extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging wastes,” Cimatu said on the 21st-anniversary celebration of RA 9003.

SB 2425 was passed on the third and final reading last Jan. 31 to institutionalize EPR and amend RA 9003.

Cimatu said that EPR is a practical approach to efficient waste management, waste reduction, and the development of environmentally-friendly packaging products. It also promotes sustainable consumption production — emphasizing the full responsibility of producers.

“We need not just a whole-of-government but also a whole-of-society approach to reduce the residual waste stream to zero in the circular economy that we are pushing for,” he said.



Philippine Eagle Release Brings Cheers

Saturday, February 5, 2022 Journal Online



Godod, a female Philippine eagle ([Pithecophaga jefferyi](#)) prepares to fly to its home in the forest of Godod, Zamboanga del Norte on its release on January 10, 2022, amid the cheers of the residents (inset) of the town. The eagle, named after the town of Godod, was rescued from an upland dweller in Zamboanga del Norte and underwent physical and medical examination, and was geotagged before it was recommended for release. The [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) in Region IX has documented the breeding of the critically endangered Philippine eagle in the Zamboanga Peninsula particularly in Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte, Pasonanca Natural Park in Zamboanga City, and in Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur.



DENR: Medical waste reaches 1k tons daily amid devolution

By: [Leila B. Salaverria](#) - Reporter / [@LeilasINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:48 AM February 04, 2022



HEALTH HAZARD Hundreds of medical waste, such as syringes and blood sample tubes, are dumped at the shoreline of Barangay Concepcion in Virac, Catanduanes, on Jan. 24 and are believed to be cause of the COVID-19 infection of seven children who played with them. —PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY ARCILLA

With an estimated 1,000 metric tons of health-care waste collected daily, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it had been stepping up its coordination with local governments to ensure proper disposal.

Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said the amount of health-care waste collected increased during the pandemic, when face masks were made mandatory.

The health-care waste collected daily could fill up 166 six-ton trucks, Leones noted.

“What we are doing now to ensure collection is to boost our coordination with local governments, especially with the barangays. We need a stricter implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act, the segregation and collection,” Leones said at the Laging Handa briefing.

Responsibility of local governments

He said barangays are supposed to collect the health-care waste from households—which are supposed to segregate these —and then bring these to the temporary transfer station where they are collected by the municipal or city government.

The collected waste are then brought to a treatment facility before being transferred to the final disposal site, he said.

But the DENR official said the responsibility for handling health-care waste lies with local governments, and the DENR just provides them with assistance and guidance.

The department also reminded local governments to provide support to garbage collectors.

“We want local government units to procure [garbage collection services with contracts that] should include protection [for garbage collectors] so that they would not be infected with COVID-19,” Leones said.

Problem to worsen

But the problem is expected to worsen as the Duterte administration implements Executive Order No. 138, which transfers public services provided by the national government to local government without additional funding.



President Duterte signed EO 138 last June to dodge the cost of the Supreme Court's ruling that the internal revenue allotments (IRA) of local governments should come from all national taxes and should be released automatically.

To reduce the cost of the ruling, Duterte administration "devolved" some services that it previously paid for and told local governments to use their IRAs which, the Supreme Court said, should be used for the special needs of local governments.

But the administration admitted that many local governments do not have the capacity to provide such services and only recently started training them.

On Thursday, the Bureau of Local Government Finance of the Department of Finance said it was focusing on training local governments for the administration's devolution transition plan.
gsg



DZBB Super Radyo
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LIVE sa dzBB: DENR USec Jonas Leones.



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DENR USec Leones: COVID-19 related waste or medical waste iba ang treatment natin diyan.



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DENR USec Leones: Sa taya natin ay 1,000 metric tons of hazardous waste coming from households are being collected every day.



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DENR USec Leones: Itong basura ng bakuna, facemask, face shield ay hindi dapat dinadala agad sa sanitary landfill, ito'y kinokolekta ng LGU at kailangan may treatment process muna.



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[A](#)



120 pawikan hatchlings pinakawalan sa dagat sa Zambales

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Feb 05 2022 06:33 PM



Kuha ng La Paz Organizers and Volunteers for Environment.

Ibinahagi ni Bayan Patroller Aira Milen Almandares ang mga pinakawalan nilang pawikan hatchlings sa bayan ng San Narciso sa Zambales sa pamamagitan ng pakikipagtulungan sa isang pribadong grupo na nangangalaga rin ng mga pawikan hatchling.

Ayon kay Almandares, kuha ang mga litrato at video noong ika-30 ng Enero sa dalampasigan sa San Narciso Yaman Pawikan-Pawicare Hatchery.

Kita sa mga larawan at video ang 120 hatchling pawikan na isa-isang gumagapang patungo sa dagat.

Kwento niya, ang mga pawikan eggs at hatchlings ay pinangangalagaan ng Pawikan Rangers ng Pawicare San Narciso sa ilalim ng Marine Turtle protection and conservation na programa ng kanilang grupo.

“Bilang kabataan, ako, ikaw, tayong lahat ay makakatulong sa ating inang kalikasan. Disiplina sa simpleng pagtatapon ng basura sa tamang tapunan at sa pagbawas ng paggamit ng plastic ay isang malaking tulong na sa ating kalikasan,” payo ni Almandares sa kabataan.

Ayon naman sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa Olongapo City, mahalaga na mapangalagaang mabuti ang mga pawikan at hindi dapat saktan.

Isa lamang sa 100 hatchlings ng pawikan ang maaaring ma ka-survive sa karagatan dahil na rin sa predators nito, kaya ayon sa DENR, napabilang ito sa endangered species list.

Dagdag pa nila na sa 30 hanggang 50 taon ay bumabalik ang mga pawikan kung saan sila pinakawalan upang sila naman ang mangitlog doon.



Si Bayan Patroller Aira Milen Almandares.



Puspusan naman ang information education campaign ng DENR para mabigyan ng impormasyon at kaalaman ang publiko sa kung ano ang gawin kapag nakakita sila ng marine turtles na naliligaw sa coastal area. Kabilang din dito ang pagturo sa mga tao na iwasan ang pagtapon ng mga basura kung saan-saan.

Panawagan din ng DENR sa publiko na huwag kunin o kainin ang mga itlog ng mga marine turtle.

Maaring ipagbigay alam ito sa lokal na pamahalaano sa DENR upang mabigyan agaran at tamang aksyon. - BPPM



ABS-CBN News

15h · 🌐



🦉 Isang hawk-owl ang nailigtas sa gitna ng kalsada sa Alasaging, Maayon, Capiz Miyerkoles. Ayon sa magkapatid na Magno na nakakita sa kuwago, may sugat ito sa kanang pakpak at nahihirapang lumipad.

Ang ibon ay itinum-over sa Capiz Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office at dinala sa Office of the Provincial Veterinary para magamot.

Nakatakda itong pakawalan kapag gumaling na. (📍: CaPENRO) | via Rolen Escaniel

Kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../12/two-new-owls-discovered-ph>



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ABS-CBN News

9h · 🌐



Isang pawikan ang pinakawalan sa Virac, Catanduanes. Martes nang makuha ito ng mangingisdang si Haissam Araojo na tila na-trap aniya sa isang bahagi ng baybayin.

Tantiya ng lokal na pamahalaan, nasa apat hanggang pitong kilo ang pawikan. Panawagan ng mga awtoridad sa mga makakahuli ng pawikan na agad i-turnover ang mga ito upang ma-geotag at maibalik sa kanilang natural na tahanan. (📷: PLGC) | via Jose Carretero

Para sa iba pang mga balita, magtungo lamang sa news.abs-cbn.com.



👍❤️ 77

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Lingayen Gulf wawasakin ng mining

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Feb 5, 2022

NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVELTOTHEPHILIPPINES.INFO



Pumalag ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) sa panukalang offshore mining sa Lingayen Gulf sa Pangasinan dahil papatayin umano nito ang industriya ng isda at iba pang yamang dagat, gayundin ang turismo sa lalawigan.

Ayon kay BFAR director at Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) retired commodore Eduardo Gongona, mariin nilang tinututulan ang panukalang offshore mining na sumasaklaw sa 9,252.45 ektaryang karagatan sa mga bayan ng Lingayen, Sual, Binmaley, Labrador at Dagupan City.

Idiniin ni Gongona na bilang isa sa mga stakeholder na may responsibilidad na pangalagaan ang mga karagatan sa bansa, obligasyon ng BFAR na hadlangan ang anumang hakbang na makasisira sa mga bakawan na tahanan ng iba't ibang nabubuhay sa karagatan.

Sinabi ni Gongona na kritikal na lugar ang Lingayen Gulf para sa panukalang offshore mining kung kaya't dapat itong isailalim sa Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) sa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sa panig ng BFAR, iginiit ni Gongona na tutol sila sa anumang hakbangin na makakaapekto sa kalidad ng mga karagatan sa bansa, gayundin ang lahat ng nabubuhay sa nasabing gulpo alinsunod na rin sa itinatadhana ng Fisheries Code ng Pilipinas.



Samantala, nanawagan na rin umano ang BFAR sa mga local government unit sa paligid ng Lingayen Gulf na tutulan ang nasabing panukala dahil sa peligrong idudulot nito sa kapaligiran.

Ang Lingayen Gulf ay isa mga fishing ground sa bansa na sumasakop sa 2,064 square kilometer ng tubig. Pinaliligiran ito ng mga bayan ng Agoo, Alaminos, Anda, Aringay, Bani, Bauang, Binmaley, Bolinao, Caba, Dagupan, Labrador, Lingayen, Rosario, San Fabian, San Fernando (La Union), Santo Tomas at Sual.

Nauna na ring tinutulan ng iba't ibang grupo ang panukalang offshore mining sa Lingayen Gulf dahil tiyak din umanong makakaapekto ito sa dalawang protected area sa lugar – ang Hundred Islands National Park at Agoo-Damortiz Protected Seascape – na paboritong pasyalan ng mga turista sa lalawigan. (Mia Billones)



Arroceros Park gets ‘green’ thumbs up

Published 6 hours ago on February 6, 2022 12:21 AM

By **Pat C. Santos** @tribunephil_pat



Photograph Come one, come all --- Arroceros Forest Park opens Friday evening to the delight of conservationists

The City of Manila formally opened to the public on Friday evening the Arroceros Forest Park following months of construction to make it more conducive to visitors.

Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso thanked the “Save the Arroceros Park Movement” and the Winner Foundation during simple rites that opened the gates of the park to the people.

The park had been tagged as Manila’s “Last Lung” amid a jungle of concrete structures.

Domagoso said environmental groups had thrown their support to the park’s rehabilitation after initially expressing concern that some trees may be affected by the project.

No trees were cut or uprooted in the park that provides visitors all the convenience while enjoying what nature has to offer, he said.

The 47-year-old mayor added that his administration ensured that the construction works in the 2.2-hectare park would not upset its ecological balance.

Arroceros Park was almost flattened under the previous administration to make way for a shopping mall and condominium project.

Domagoso said that an additional 500 square meters had been added to the park. “We almost lost this place, but now this park is here for all of us to enjoy,” he said.



Daily Tribune

15h · 🌐



LOOK:

Manila Mayor [Isko Moreno Domagoso](#) and Vice Mayor [Honey Lacuna](#) lead the inauguration of 2.2 hectares Arroceros Urban Forest Park in Manila as it reopens on Saturday, 5 February after undergoing renovation. (Photos courtesy of Pat Santos)

[#forestpark](#)

[#DailyTribune](#)



👍 4

1 Share



From waste to 'Super Uling,' thanks to DOST-FPRDI tech

BYS&T MEDIA SERVICES FEBRUARY 6, 2022



Four drum kilns each loaded with 100 kg of coconut shells (80 percent) and wood trimmings (20 percent) can generate about 50kg to 80kg of charcoal briquettes for Thega Coconut Farm.

What may have been just a pile of waste waiting to decompose becomes a profitable venture for a local coconut farm—thanks to a technology from the Forest Products Research and Development Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-FPRDI).

The Thega Coconut Farm (TCF) sought DOST-FPRDI's assistance in 2018 to convert the farm's tons of coconut shells into charcoal briquettes.



TCF's Super Uling is being sold at a stall in Ayala Vertis North.

"Every 45 days, TCF generates about 1,600 kilograms to 2,400 kg of coconut shells from copra making," said Sarahme Corazon B. Esteban of DOST-FPRDI's Socio-Economics and Marketing Section (SEMS).

"If not given free to nearby households or sold to tinapa [smoked fish] makers at P3.50 a kg, the coconut shells are usually left to break down into natural compost. So the company thought of acquiring four drum kilns, manual briquettor, binder-mixer and charcoal crusher from DOST-FPRDI to turn the waste into something profitable," Esteban explained.



Molded through pressure, charcoal briquette is a compacted mass of fuel material made from a mix of carbonized fines and a binder.

It is less messy than ordinary charcoal and easier to handle because it is compact and uniform in size. It also burns more slowly, gives more intense heat per unit volume, and is almost smokeless when burning.

TCF's charcoal briquettes are now being sold under the trade name "Super Uling PH," with prices ranging from P60 to P80 per kg.

The farm's operation has been gradually recovering after a temporary halt in its production in July 2019 when a series of typhoons ravaged its main market, Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro.

It was also adversely affected in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic. As of writing, TCF is at full operational capacity, with a monthly production volume of 1.5 tons to 2 tons.

The Super Uling charcoal briquettes are currently penetrating online shopping sites and some physical stores of local food businesses and households in Puerto Galera and other tourist sites.

The briquettes are also being sold at kiosks in Ayala Fairview Terraces and Ayala Vertis North along with other TCF products such as coco ropes, coco peat and coco coir. **Apple Jean C. Martin-de Leon and Sarahme Corazon B. Esteban, S&T News Services**

Image credits: [Super Uling's Facebook page](#)



Photos of birds, fishermen top ACB's 'Zooming in on Biodiversity'

BY BUSINESSMIRROR FEBRUARY 6, 2022



Among the winners in the sixth Asean "Zooming in on Biodiversity" are (from left) Pavina Vongsouvanh of Lao PDR , Creativity Award in the #WeAreAseanBiodiversity Tiktok Challenge; Maria Fe Felicilda, Philippines, People's Choice Award; «Fishing the Traditional Way" (top) by Kyaw Kyaw Winn, Myanmar; and "Together" by Aung Chan Thar, Myanmar.

"[The] power of photography has become even more important today, as our movement continues to be limited due to the continuing threat of Covid-19 and its emergent variants," said Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim of Asean Centre of Biodiversity (ACB).

With the ongoing pandemic, photographs of nature have the power to inspire and cultivate a deeper appreciation for biodiversity and its protection, the ACB news release said.

The ACB announced on January 31 the winners of its Asean-wide photography competition, „Zooming in on Biodiversity" via Zoom and Facebook live, after a thorough evaluation of photo and digital content entries.

Organised by the ACB in partnership with the European Union (EU) through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in Asan Project, the competition was opened in November 2021 to all amateur and professional photographers and creatives in the Asean region.

It is part of a regional #WeAreAseanBiodiversity campaign, which aims to raise awareness and mobilize support for biodiversity conservation in the region.

"[An image] can tell us a compelling story and even bring us to places we haven't seen, heard, or experienced. Such power of photography has become even more important today, as our movement continues to be limited due to the continuing threat of Covid-19 and its emergent variants," Lim said in a recorded video message.

She said the photographs of land and seascapes, plants, and animals are reminders of the essential role of biodiversity in our daily survival.

The sixth staging of Zooming in on Biodiversity has two categories. The general category, "#WeAreAseanBiodiversity: I am part of the solution," focused on the richness of Asean's rich biodiversity, and the active role of people, as part of nature, as a vital part of the solution to conserving this rich natural heritage.

The the Asean Heritage Parks (AHP) special category highlights the natural and cultural richness of the 50 AHPs.

The finalists were judged following a set of criteria: relevance, composition, creativity and technical excellence.



The panel of judges was composed of ACB's Lim; Ileana Miritescu, program manager of the EU Delegation to the Philippines; and professional photographer Sheryl Aguiba.

Aung Chan Thar of Myanmar bagged the grand prize in the general category and the People's Choice Award for the AHP category for his photo titled «Together.»

The second place and third place of the general category went to Kyaw Zay Yar Lin's «Life of Fishermen» of Myanmar, and Arturo B. de Vera Jr.'s «For the Future Generation» of the Philippines, respectively.

Myanmar's Aung Kyaw Zaw's «Back to Home» was the People's Choice Awardee garnering the highest number of likes on Facebook.

For the AHP category, Kyaw Kyaw Winn of Myanmar also won first place for his photo «Fishing the Traditional Way,» while Tran Viet Linh's «Sea Fish Farming on Bai Tu Long Bay» of Vietnam, and Danny Ocampo's «Jacks of Tubbataha» of the Philippines came in second and third, respectively.

Meanwhile, in the #WeAreAseanBiodiversity Tiktok Challenge, Pavina Vongsouvanh of Lao PDR won the Creativity Award.

Maria Fe Felicilda of the Philippines had the most liked entry and bagged the People's Choice Award.

Winners took home prizes between \$300 and \$1,500.

«We saw powerful messages, stunning landscapes, and superb wildlife captured in your photos. They show us the many creative perspectives highlighting the natural and cultural richness of Asean Heritage Parks and interactions of humans with biodiversity,» Miritescu of EU said in a video message.

Moderated by Antoinette Taus, UN Environment Programme Goodwill Ambassador and one of the voices of the ACB's #WeAreAseanBiodiversity campaign, the awards ceremony also featured one of the first environment champions hailed as Asean Biodiversity Heroes.

Asean Biodiversity Hero of Cambodia Sophea Chhin, one of the founders of Birds of Cambodia Education and Conservation, in a conversation with Taus, talked about his passion for photography and wildlife conservation and his community's appreciation for wildlife.

«Before, a lot of people [in my community] were using slingshots to shoot birds. Wildlife was bushmeat for them then. It changed when they started using a camera,» Chhin said.

Image credits: [ACB photo](#)

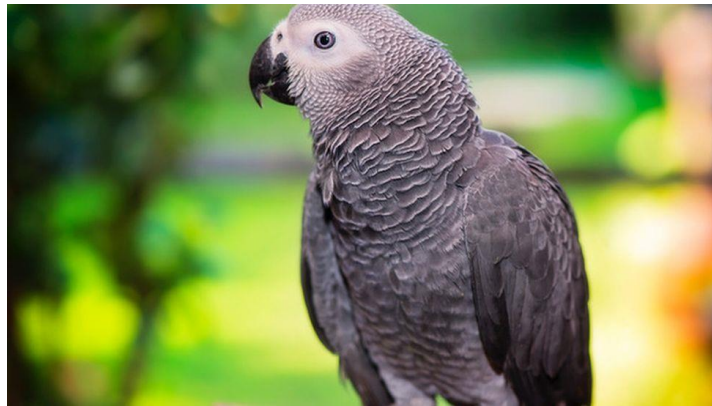
Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/02/06/photos-of-birds-fishermen-top-acbs-zooming-in-on-biodiversity/>



Parrots for sale: The internet's role in illicit trade

By Shiroma Silva & Carl Miller

BBC Click Published 21 hours ago



GETTY IMAGES

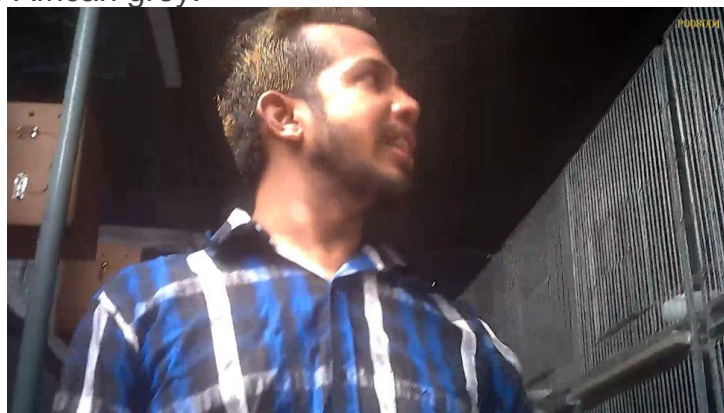
Image caption, The African grey parrot is endangered and it is illegal to sell them

Row after row of thin barred cages hold brilliantly coloured birds whose screeches fill the air with a deafening noise.

Faiz Ahmed sits at a desk, oblivious, as he turns to a team of undercover BBC News journalists. He's busy with his business of importing and selling birds.

It's a popular line of trade in Bangladesh, where he's based, particularly among people with connections and money to invest.

The conversation had started over the purchase of legal captive-bred parrots, but turned to a particular species, the African grey.



BBC News secretly filmed Faiz as he went about his business

"Wild grey parrots are good. Many people are breeding from wild ones," he says.

It is illegal under international law to sell wild-caught African greys, which are endangered and on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List. However, Faiz calmly told us how he could evade checks at customs.

"It's hard to get import permission for grey parrots. There's another species almost the same as the grey parrots, Timneh parrots. It's possible to get permission for Timneh parrots and import grey parrots instead," he said.

On the surface, the illicit wildlife trade is as it always has been - secret shipment routes, forged customs documents, and covert warehouses.



But how we've arrived at Faiz's establishment is a sign of how drastically the illicit trade in endangered plants and animals has transformed.

He has been openly advertising the sale of endangered birds and animals across social media.



The authorities are only just beginning to realise the extent of the rich trade in the birds

"The internet has made the setting up of trade routes much easier, and buyers and sellers can communicate with each other much more easily than before," says Simone Haysom, from Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (Gitoc).

Some time after the initial meeting with Faiz, he told our reporters that the Bangladesh authorities were getting stricter, so he could still import the birds but couldn't take responsibility for them at airport customs.

When Faiz was approached by the BBC's producer in the UK he first denied having offered to trade wild-caught African greys. He then claimed he didn't know their import and trade was now illegal, pointing out that there are many such sellers in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Rowan Martin, of the World Parrot Trust, says: "More and more people want exotic birds and animals as pets - driven by a desire to own something unusual.

"It was an African grey parrot after all that taught Dr Dolittle how to speak all the languages of the other animals, so it goes back a long way.

"This is driving wildlife trafficking, not least because wild-caught animals are often cheaper than those bred in captivity."

Plain sight

Other cyber-crimes, like drug sales and images of child sexual abuse, have typically been pushed into encrypted spaces such as the dark net, but much of the online illicit wildlife trade remains in plain sight.

Traffickers might use tools such as Facebook Stories to make the content viewable briefly.

But there is also a large collection of smaller websites, from classified advert sites in Africa and Asia to specific forums for collectors and enthusia

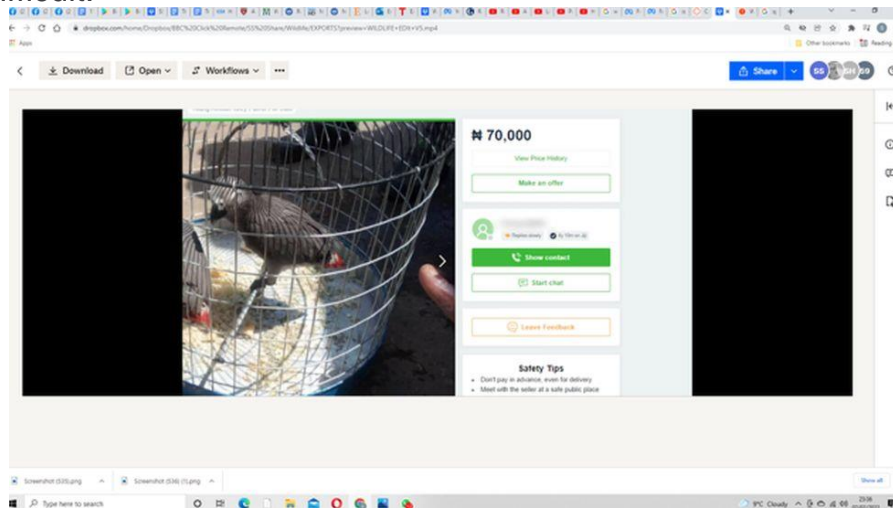


Senior crimes investigator Simone Haysom says the internet has made the illicit sales a lot easier

Yet while it is well known there is illegal activity, wildlife campaigners have had to rely largely on anecdotal evidence to gauge its nature and extent.

The often-elusive nature of material on the internet has made evidence gathering very ad hoc.

And the tactics of sellers, wise to the online platforms trying to detect their activity, can make the job doubly difficult.



Parrots are openly listed for sale on a range of social media platforms

A new project led by Gitoc, bringing together conservationist and technology partners, uses machine learning to identify the language traffickers use.

"Jitot", for example, means a fully tamed bird, while "raw" signifies wild and plentiful.

So far, the project has found more than 4,500 classified adverts for African greys, among 10,000 likely cases of endangered plants and animals being offered for sale.

And this is likely to be the tip of the iceberg, as the project works to expand its search to illicit commodities, such as bear bile and ivory.

New trends

Facebook and Instagram took down several pieces of content when alerted by BBC News.

Parent company Meta said: "We prohibit the trading of endangered wildlife or their parts.

"Meta is a dedicated member of the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online. And through our partnerships with the likes of WWF {the World Wide Fund for Nature} and [wildlife trade specialists] Traffic, we are committing to tackling this industry-wide issue."



GETTY IMAGES

Image caption, The decline of bird communities is a biodiversity crisis, says Gary Ward of London Zoo



Online harms such as disinformation, hate and extremism are coming under increased scrutiny. But some conservationists feel environmental crime has not received the attention it deserves, and that platforms have come under less pressure to respond to it.

"They have the technological capacity to deal with this overnight if there is a will," says wildlife expert Chris Packham.

"If I had my finger on the conservation purse, I'd spend a lot more money tackling these tech-led issues - because we're underestimating how much damage is being done and we've got to change that.

"We have to elevate the position of wildlife crime, because it impacts on all of our lives."

'Catastrophic declines'

And while Faiz's warehouse remains full of birdsong, the forests where these populations live have fallen silent.

Gary Ward, a curator of birds at London Zoo, said this is "because the birds have been trapped out of these environments".

He added: "We've had catastrophic declines of whole suites of bird communities. This isn't just a climate crisis, it's also a biodiversity crisis."



Measuring climate change: It's not just heat, it's humidity

'When moisture condenses, it releases heat, that's why when it rains, now it pours.'

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FEBRUARY 6, 2022



A villager holds an umbrella as dark clouds loom over Balasore district in Odisha, India, on May 25, 2021, ahead of a powerful storm barreling toward the eastern coast.

When it comes to measuring global warming, humidity, not just heat, matters in generating dangerous climate extremes, a new study finds.

Researchers say temperature by itself isn't the best way to measure climate change's weird weather and downplays impacts in the tropics.

But factoring in air moisture along with heat shows that climate change since 1980 is nearly twice as bad as previously calculated, according to their study in the recent *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The energy generated in extreme weather, such as storms, floods and rainfall is related to the amount of water in the air.

So a team of scientists in the US and China decided to use an obscure weather measurement called equivalent potential temperature—or theta-e—that reflects “the moisture energy of the atmosphere,” said study co-author V. “Ram” Ramanathan, a climate scientist at the University of California San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Cornell University. It's expressed in degrees, like temperature.

“There are two drivers of climate change: temperature and humidity,” Ramanathan said. “And so far we measured global warming just in terms of temperature.”

But by adding the energy from humidity, “the extremes—heat waves, rainfall and other measures of extremes—correlate much better,” he said.

That's because as the world warms, the air holds more moisture, nearly 4 percent for every degree Fahrenheit (7 percent for every degree Celsius). When that moisture condenses, it releases heat or energy, “that's why when it rains, now it pours,” Ramanathan said.

In addition, water vapor is a potent heat-trapping gas in the atmosphere that increases climate change, he said.

From 1980 to 2019, the world warmed about 1.42 degrees (0.79 degrees Celsius). But taking energy from humidity into account, the world has warmed and moistened 2.66 degrees (1.48 degrees Celsius), the study said. And in the tropics, the warming was as much as 7.2 degrees (4 degrees Celsius).



When judging by temperature alone, it looks like warming is most pronounced in North America, mid-latitudes and especially the poles—and less so in the tropics, Ramanathan said.

But that's not the case, he said, because the high humidity in the tropics juices up storm activity, from regular storms to tropical cyclones and monsoons.

“This increase in latent energy released in the air, which leads to weather extremes: floods, storms and droughts,” Ramanathan said.

University of Illinois climate scientist Donald Wuebbles, who wasn't part of the study, said it makes sense because water vapor is key in extreme rainfall.

“Both heat and humidity are important,” Wuebbles said.

Environmental scientist Katharine Mach of the University of Miami, who wasn't part of the study, said “humidity is key in shaping the impacts of heat on human health and well-being, at present and into the future.” **AP**

Image credits: [AP](#)

06 FEBRUARY 2022, SUNDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

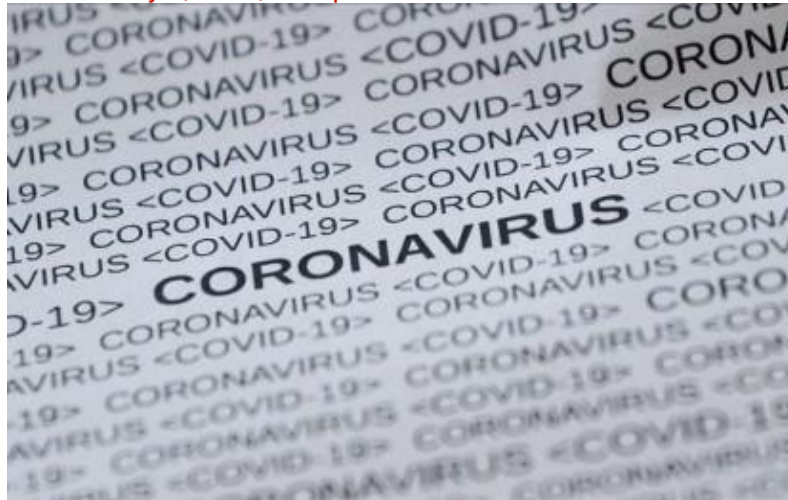
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



New Covid-19 cases fall below 10K for 5th straight day

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora February 5, 2022, 5:54 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday tallied 7,689 new SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) infections, the fifth straight day below the 10,000-mark.

The latest case bulletin showed a total of 136,436 are undergoing treatment for coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), down from the 291,618 peak recorded on January 21.

Of the active cases, 7,069 are currently asymptomatic, 124,476 are mild, 3,106 are moderate, 1,468 are severe, and only 317 are critical.

The DOH also reported 22,539 new recoveries, pushing the number of those who recuperated from the disease to 3,410,821, or 94.7 percent of the overall 3,601,471 count since the pandemic began in March 2020.

One new fatality, on the other hand, brought to 54,214 the Covid-19 death toll.

The positivity rate was pegged at 23.3 percent based on the 40,075 individuals who were tested on February 3.

The DOH said all laboratories were operational on February 3 but six were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The laboratories contributed an average of 0.6 percent of samples tested and 0.9 percent of positive individuals in the past 14 days.

To date, 42 percent of 3,800 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 40 percent of 20,900 isolation beds, and 40 percent of 15,500 ward beds for Covid-19 patients nationwide are filled.

In Metro Manila, at least 36 percent of 1,300 ICU beds, 31 percent of 4,600 isolation beds, and 34 percent of 4,300 ward beds are occupied. **(PNA)**



Nationwide COVID-19 vaccination sa edad 5-11 sisimulan sa February 14

[Danilo Garcia](#) - Pang-masa February 5, 2022 | 12:00am



A mother with her daughter show their vaccination card after the inoculation of children at the Pasig City General Hospital on Oct. 15, 2021. The hospital is one of the sites for the pilot run of vaccinations for children ages 12 to 17 years old.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Sa darating na Pebrero 14 ay ilulunsad ng gobyerno ang pagbabakuna laban sa COVID sa mga edad lima hanggang 11 sa buong bansa.

Nauna nang sinabi ng Department of Health na isasagawa muna ito sa Metro Manila at ilang bahagi ng Central Luzon at CALABARZON sa Lunes, Pebrero 7.

Nakatakda ring ilaan ang darating na 780,000 Pfizer jabs para sa nasabing age group.

Iginiit naman ni Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje, head ng National Vaccination Operations Center na nagkaroon ng logistic difficulties.

“They tried all their best to have alternate routes at saka saan puwede dalhin pero hindi nakaabot. We’re sure it’s going to be delivered this afternoon kasi nakasakay na yan kahapon,” wika ni Cabotaje.

Dahil dito, nagkaroon pa ng sapat na oras ang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan, mga ospital at lokal na pamahalaan para sa paghahanda sa bakunahan.

Habang isa pang batch ng 780,000 dose ng Pfizer ang darating sa Pebrero 9.

Target ng pamahalaan na mabakunahan ang 15 milyong bata na kabilang sa naturang age group na sa kasalukuyan ay nasa 160,000 pa lamang ang rehistrado.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2022/02/05/2158647/nationwide-covid-19-vaccination-sa-edad-5-11-sisimulan-sa-february-14>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 693

PEBRERO 5, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

3.8%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
136,436

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

94.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,410,821

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.51%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
54,214

MGA BAGONG KASO **7,689**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **22,539**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **1**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,601,471**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 3
DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 5
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 3

23.3%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

40,075

BILANG NG
TINIST

HALOS
96.4%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

D UMISTANSYA NG
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN
ANG PISIKAL NA
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)	42% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (20.9K TOTAL BEDS)	40% Utilized
WARD BEDS (15.5K TOTAL BEDS)	40% Utilized
VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	22% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)	36% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)	31% Utilized
WARD BEDS (4.3K TOTAL BEDS)	34% Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	20% Utilized

7,069 Asymptomatic
124,476 Mild
3,106 Moderate
1,468 Severe
317 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
seeyoudoc.com
SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD
konsulta.md
KonsultaMD

CloudPx
cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck
medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
TelAventusMD

HealthNow
healthnow.ph/
help@healthnow.ph
HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVIDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

[doh.gov.ph](https://www.doh.gov.ph)

[\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:(02)894-COVID)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCDDmQLk5bM>

MANILA BAY

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOgUUxfJR_U

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DOLOMITE MANILA

Manila bay update today February 5, 2022

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JUNRIEL LLANDER ✓
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#manilabaydolomitesand



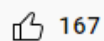
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...



BTV Pinas

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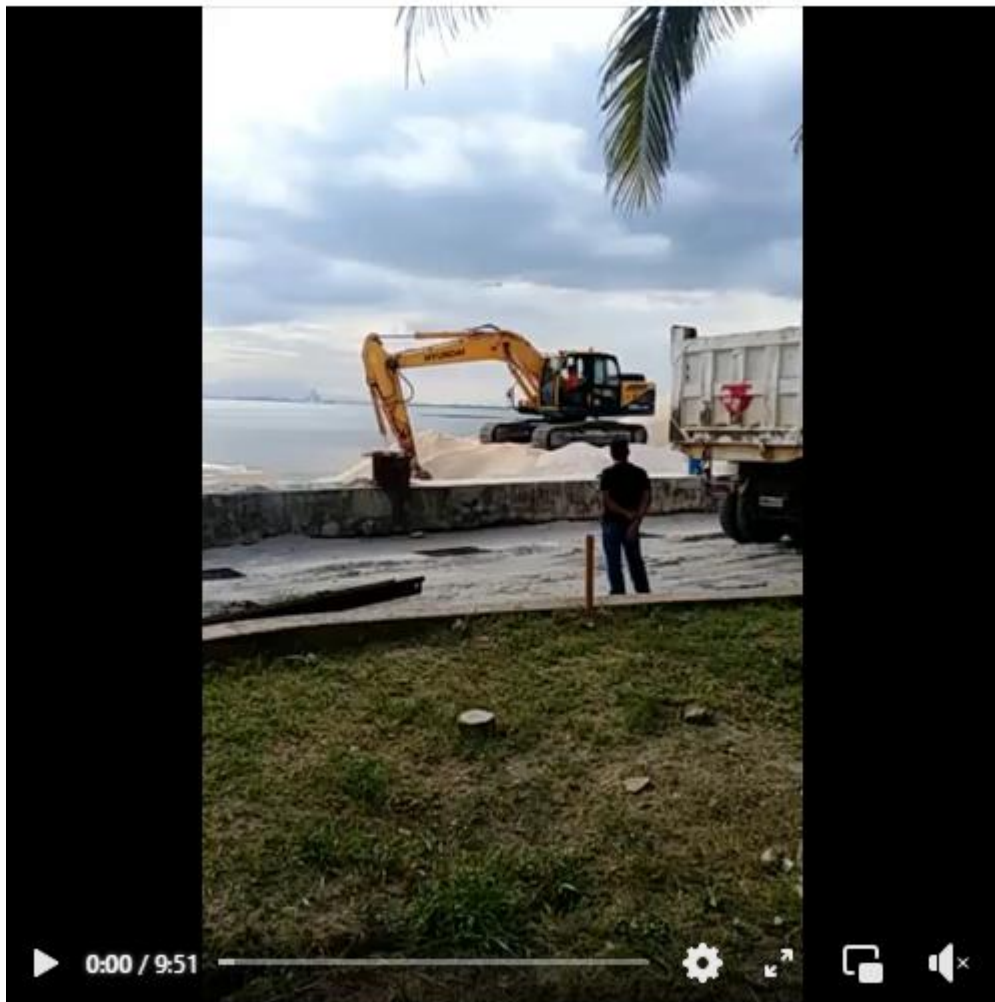


ELtvShow Official was live.

14h · 🌐



Ang hinihintay ng lahat dumating na! Sitwasyon ngayon sa manila bay



👍👎 15

7 Shares

Please click this link:

https://fb.watch/a_IsCx_ByN/



 **Engr. berto** was live.
21h · 🌐

UMPISA NA NG TAMBAKAN NG DOLOMITE!
#Phase2
#BeachNourishment



0:00 / 49:45


  2.3K

402 Comments 116 Shares


Please click this link:

https://fb.watch/a_LER8K4ZH/



 The Wonders Philippines was live.
19h · 🌐

Sinagwan na ang dolomite ❤️❤️
#DENR



0:00 / 49:35

👍❤️ 3.4K 685 Comments 520 Shares

Please click this link:
https://fb.watch/a_LSbJ9841/

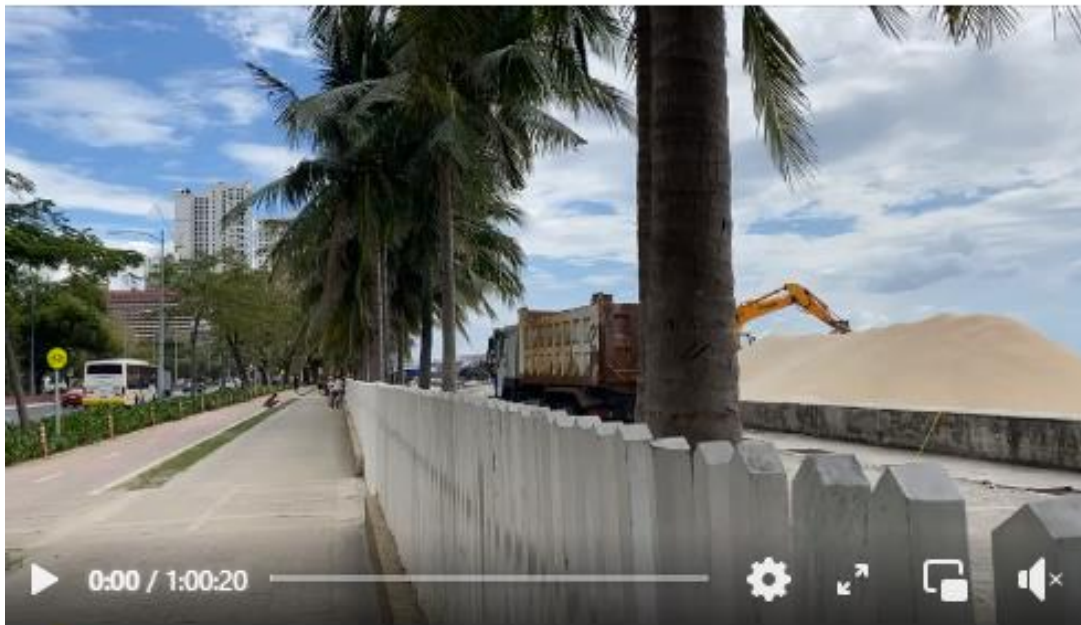


Engr. berto was live.

16h · 🌐



MALA-POLVORON NA DOLOMITE SAND!



👍❤️ 2.7K

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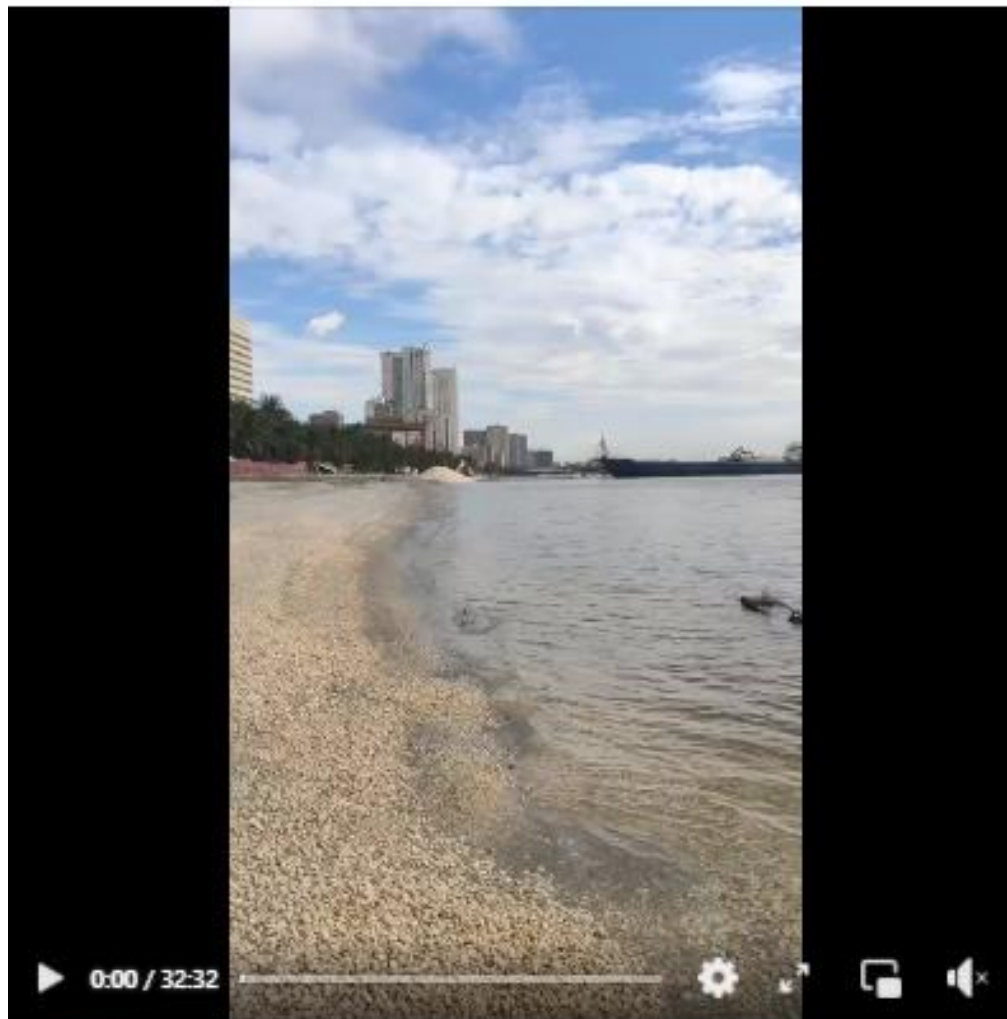


Khopars VLOG was live.

15h · 🌐



Manila Bay Dolomite Beach Phase 2 update today!



👍❤️ 138

39 Comments 7 Shares

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