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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Pagtutulongan, makabagong solusyon kailangan para sa proteksyon ng Ph forest – Cimatu



March 5, 2021 @ 6:42 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang kahalagahan ng makabagong solusyon upang maprotektahan ang forest ecosystem at biodiversity ng bansa sa ginanap na virtual celebration ng World Wildlife Day noong Miyerkules, Marso 3.

“In order to achieve our goals, we do not need to go back to an era of primitivity, where we abandon the comforts of the 21st century and tailor our lives after our ancestors,” nakasaad sa speech ni Cimatu na binasa ni DENR Undersecretary for Legal Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr.

“Instead, we must find ways to continue to advance while maintaining the integrity of our forest ecosystems. What is needed is a step forward, not a step back,” pagbibigay-diin ni Cimatu.

Naniniwala ang DENR chief na upang makaabante ay kinakailangang magkaroon ng tulongan sa panig ng enforcement agencies at pagbuo ng makabagong pamamaraan upang mabigyan ng solusyon ang environmental problems.

“It also means the creation of sustainable models that will guide the government in defining policies for the management of our ecosystems. It also means legislating pro-environment rules such as the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases,” ayon pa kay Cimatu.

“Lastly, it means establishing frameworks that will lead to more efficient investigation and prosecution of crimes,” dagdag pa nito.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu ang kanyang respeto at pagpapahalaga sa indigenous peoples (IPs) ng bansa kasabay ng pagsasabi na bagama’t ang selebrasyon ng World Wildlife Day ay “globally” mananatili naman itong very Filipino.”



Pagtutulungan, makabagong solusyon kailangan para sa proteksyon ng Ph forest – Cimatú

“A perfect example is when we look to our indigenous peoples. Their survival depends on the integrity of our forests. And though our IPs are only a segment of our country’s population, it does not mean that the rest of us does not, in a similar way, depend on our surroundings for survival,” pahayag ni Cimatú patungkol sa selebrasyon ngayong taon na may temang “Forest and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet.”

Bilang bahagi ng selebrasyon ng World Wildlife Day, ang Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ng DENR ay nagsagawa ng 8th Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards at nagbigay din ng rekonisyon sa Inter-Agency Task Force Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife (POGI) dahil sa pagkamit nito ng Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards na ipinagkaloob ng United Nations Environment Programme noong Pebrero.

Umabot sa 43 law enforcers mula sa mga partner-agencies kabilang na dito ang National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police, at Bureau of Customs ang binigyan ng pagkilala.

Sa kabuuan, mayroong 18 gold awardees, 2 silver awardees, at 23 bronze awardees ang nakatanggap ng parangal.

Nagsagawa rin ang BMB ng iba’t ibang youth competitions kabilang na dito ang poster-making, mobile photography, at jingle-making.

Nakakuha ng P15,000 (1st prize) ang nanalo sa poster-making at mobile photography, P10,000 sa 2nd prize at P7,500 sa 3rd prize. Sampung participants ang nakatanggap ng consolation prize na P2,000 bawat isa.

Para naman sa jingle-making contest, ang 1st, 2nd, at 3rd prize ay nakatanggap ng P20,000; P15,000; at P10,000 ayon sa pagkakasunod-sunod.

Nabigyan naman ng P3,000 bilang consolation prize ang tatlong kalahok bawat isa.

Isa naman sa nabigyan ng “highlight” sa selebrasyon ang paglulunsad ng online learning platforms kabilang na dito ang eLearning course para sa Basic Wildlife Law Training and the Wildlife Podcast, sa ilalim ng DENR-Asian Development Bank at ang Global Environment Facility Illegal Wildlife Trade Project and USAID-Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Project 3. **(Santi Celario)**



USAID turns over new wildlife ambulance to DENR

Published March 5, 2021, 7:10 PM

by [Roy Mabasa](#)

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has turned over a new wildlife ambulance to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the first of its kind in the country to help in the rescue and retrieval of wildlife.



USAID ceremonially hands over the key to the wildlife ambulance to the DENR
(USAID Philippines / MANILA BULLETIN)

Coinciding with the observance of World Wildlife Day on March 2, 2021, the USAID's turnover of the ambulance was part of its Php1.2-billion Protect Wildlife Project.

The wildlife ambulance will specifically help the DENR's National Wildlife Rescue and Research Center improve its response time during wildlife rescue operations, as well as facilitate the provision of immediate on-site care for injured and trafficked wildlife. The vehicle has furnished cabinets for veterinary and wildlife handling equipment, a collapsible veterinary examination table and seats, and a roof rack for transporting animal crates, ladders, and other equipment for wildlife rescue.

"We appreciate USAID's continued generosity to the DENR through the years. The enforcement of our wildlife laws, rules, and regulations do not end with the confiscation of the wildlife and the prosecution of the violators," DENR Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo, Jr. said in his remarks during the turnover rites at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City. Apart from the specialized vehicle, the USAID also handed over WILDBase, a centralized online system that will help rescue centers keep track of wildlife in their care, as well as medical records, inventory, and other important information for rescue center operations and decision-making.



USAID turns over new wildlife ambulance to DENR

USAID Philippines Environment Office Deputy Director Paul Seong, meanwhile, said the ambulance and online system complete USAID's program of assistance for the DENR's National Wildlife Rescue and Research Center and complements the Center's new wildlife diagnostics equipment, wildlife handling tools, and digital innovations.

Since its inception five years ago, the Protect Wildlife project has helped protect 750,000 hectares of diverse landscapes and seascapes, trained 2,300 men and women in improved environmental enforcement practices, and brought economic and environmental benefits to 95,000 Filipinos through environmentally sustainable livelihoods, community-based enforcement, and sustainably managed natural resources.



USAID turns over wildlife ambulance to DENR

[INQUIRER.net](https://www.inquirer.net) / 06:19 PM March 05, 2021



USAID turns over a new wildlife ambulance to officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. (Photo from US embassy)

MANILA, Philippines — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) turned over a new wildlife ambulance to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to “strengthen the Philippine government’s wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts.”

The ambulance which is part of USAID’s P1.2 billion Protect Wildlife Project will help improve the time response of DENR National Wildlife Rescue and Research Center wildlife rescue and retrieval and immediate on-site care for injured and trafficked wildlife, the US embassy to the Philippines said in a statement on Friday.

The turnover was made on March 2.

WILDBase, a centralized online system for recording and monitoring rescued wildlife, was also handed over by the USAID.

According to the US embassy, WILDBase will help rescue centers to “keep track of wildlife in their care, as well as medical records, inventory, and other important information for rescue center operations and decision-making.”

DENR Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo, Jr. received the wildlife ambulance and WILDBase from USAID Philippines Environment Office Deputy Director Paul Seong in a turnover ceremony held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center.

“We appreciate USAID’s continued generosity to the DENR through the years. The enforcement of our wildlife laws, rules, and regulations do not end with the [confiscation of the wildlife](#) and the prosecution of the violators,” said Adobo.

“With this new ambulance, WILDBase, and newest equipment and materials, we can more easily treat and monitor the health of confiscated [wildlife](#),” he added.



USAID turns over wildlife ambulance to DENR

Seong also said that “this ambulance and online system complete USAID’s program of assistance for the DENR’s National Wildlife Rescue and Research Center, and complements the Center’s new wildlife diagnostics equipment, wildlife handling tools, and digital innovations.”

Since 2016, the project has helped protect 750,000 hectares of diverse landscapes and seascapes, according to the US embassy.

It also brought economic and environmental benefits to 95,000 Filipinos and has trained 2,300 men and women in improving environmental enforcement practices. — **Liezelle Soriano Roy, trainee**

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1403497/usaids-turns-over-wildlife-ambulance-to-denr#ixzz6oH7lPCYp>

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USAID turns over wildlife ambulance to DENR

[Friday, March 5, 2021 People's Tonight](#)



Left photo shows USAID's Protect Wildlife project Chief of Party Rebecca Paz (seated, left) and DENR-BMB Wildlife Resources Division Chief Atty. Theresa Tenazas (seated, right) signing the formal turnover of the wildlife ambulance to the DENR. Serving as witnesses are (standing, right to left) DENR Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo, Jr., USAID/Philippines Environment Office Deputy Director Paul Seong, and U.S. Embassy Environment, Science, Technology and Health Officer Claire Bea. Right photo shows USAID ceremonially handing over the key to the wildlife ambulance to the DENR.

TO mark World Wildlife Day and strengthen the Philippine government's wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) turned over on March 2 a new wildlife ambulance to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). This turnover was part of USAID's Php1.2-billion Protect Wildlife Project.

The wildlife ambulance—the first of its kind in the country—will help the DENR's National Wildlife Rescue and Research Center improve its response time during wildlife rescue and retrieval, as well as facilitate the provision of immediate on-site care for injured and trafficked wildlife. The specially designed vehicle has furnished cabinets for veterinary and wildlife handling equipment, a collapsible veterinary examination table and seats, and a roof rack for transporting animal crates, ladders, and other equipment for wildlife rescue.

USAID also handed over WILDBase, a centralized online system for recording and monitoring rescued wildlife. WILDBase will help rescue centers keep track of wildlife in their care, as well as medical records, inventory, and other important information for rescue center operations and decision-making.

DENR Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo, Jr. received the wildlife ambulance and WILDBase from USAID Philippines Environment Office Deputy Director Paul Seong at a turnover ceremony held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center.

"We appreciate USAID's continued generosity to the DENR through the years. The enforcement of our wildlife laws, rules, and regulations do not end with the confiscation of the wildlife and the prosecution of the violators," said Undersecretary Adobo. *"With this new ambulance, WILDBase, and newest equipment and materials, we can more easily treat and monitor the health of confiscated wildlife."*



USAID turns over wildlife ambulance to DENR

“This ambulance and online system complete USAID’s program of assistance for the DENR’s National Wildlife Rescue and Research Center, and complements the Center’s new wildlife diagnostics equipment, wildlife handling tools, and digital innovations,” said Seong.

Since 2016, the Protect Wildlife project has helped protect 750,000 hectares of diverse landscapes and seascapes, trained 2,300 men and women in improved environmental enforcement practices, and brought economic and environmental benefits to 95,000 Filipinos through environmentally sustainable livelihoods, community-based enforcement, and sustainably managed natural resources.



Wildlife ambulance ibinigay ng USAID sa DENR



March 5, 2021 @ 7:39 PM 9 hours ago

Manila, Philippines — Binigyan ng United States Agency for International Development (USAID) ng bagong wildlife ambulance ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang mapalakas pa ang wildlife, rescue, at rehabilitation efforts ng Pilipinas.

Bahagi naman ito ng P1.2 bilyong Protect Wildlife Project ng USAID na magpapaganda sa hakbang ng DENR National Wildlife Rescue and Research Center wildlife rescue at retrieval at immediate on-site care para sa mga sugatan na wildlife.

Kasama ring tinanggap ang WILDBase, centralized online system para sa recording at monitoring ng na-rescue na wildlife ni DENR Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo, Jr. sa isang seremonya na ginanap sa Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center.

“We appreciate USAID’s continued generosity to the DENR through the years. The enforcement of our wildlife laws, rules, and regulations do not end with the confiscation of the wildlife and the prosecution of the violators,” lahad ni Adobo.

“With this new ambulance, WILDBase, and newest equipment and materials, we can more easily treat and monitor the health of confiscated wildlife.” RNT/FGDC



Is this the beginning of the end for Manila Bay polluters?

Published March 5, 2021, 7:02 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force (MBAPTF) has begun the process of picking out the “pasaway na polluters (disobedient people who pollute)” of Manila Bay.

This, after Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Usec. Benny D. Antiporda told member-agencies of the task force to “identify erring establishments that continue to pollute the Manila Bay region”.



DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda (PIA / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

A Facebook post Friday, March 5 by Antiporda’s office account showed pictures of the recent MBAPTF meeting where he gave the order.

Receiving the directive were representatives from the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), DENR offices in Regions 3 and 4A, and the Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office.

“We will deal with them head-on. Aaksyunan na natin ang mga establishments na bago pa man mag-pandemic ay sinabihan na natin ng paglabag pero hanggang ngayon ay ginagawa pa rin ang violations (We will act against the establishments that we gave warning to even before the pandemic began, but continue to commit violations even to this day),” the post quoted Antiporda as saying.

He also required the MBAPTF member-offices to identify issues in connection with pollution in their respective areas of jurisdiction that will serve as basis for future operations of the task force.

The MBAPTF was created via DENR Special Order (SO) No.2021-17 issued on January 26, 2021.



DENR-EMB shuts down sanitary landfill in Urdaneta City

By Hilda Austria March 5, 2021, 7:26 pm



LANDFILL CLOSURE. Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) closed on March 5, 2021 the gates of the Urdaneta City sanitary landfill following the cease and desist order issued by the central office. The order was issued due to several violations.

(Photo courtesy of DENR-EMB)

URDANETA CITY, Pangasinan – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) has issued a cease and desist order for the closure of the sanitary landfill here due to several violations.

In an interview on Friday, EMB Ilocos regional director Dorica Hipe said the landfill has violated the Clean Water Act upon the recommendation of the Pollution Adjudication Board, as well as the Presidential Decree 1586 or the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement, and the Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

“The violation under RA 9003 is the operation of an open dumpsite. Although it is a sanitary landfill, what happened is that they just dumped the wastes and it was no longer being managed. It is no longer based on the operation of a sanitary landfill that it has become an open dumpsite,” she said.

Hipe said it has also violated the Clean Water Act as the analysis on its water sample exceeded the effluent standard and the water pollution violation.

The waste juice from the landfill has reached almost the nearby Sinocalan River system, she said.

“The conditions of the environmental compliance certificate issued to the local government unit (LGU) for the operation of the sanitary landfill were not complied with like the designation of a control officer, submission of the compliance report, and ensuring that the operations of the landfill are in accordance with the guidelines for the proper operation and management,” she added.

Hipe said the LGU may take legal recourse but in the meantime, the sanitary landfill will be closed.



DENR-EMB shuts down sanitary landfill in Urdaneta City

“While it is closed, the LGU should make time for rehabilitation as the equipment will be allowed to enter to somehow manage the wastes. The residents who pass by the gates of the landfill will also be arranged,” she said.

The order was served to the LGU on Friday and the DENR-EMB team proceeded to the landfill to ensure its closure.

Hipe said they had technical conferences with the LGU since 2019 and advised them on what to do but there were still violations seen in 2020.

“We observed due process, we conducted sampling, confirmatory sampling. Once it was confirmed, that’s the time we build our case and endorse it to the central office. They scheduled hearings and conducted (a) series of monitoring activities, issued a notice of violation, conferences, and then lastly the show-cause order. They have given a timeframe until December last year to implement measures. They were given until the end of February but they did not comply,” she added.

Hipe said the LGU has taken some actions but these were not sufficient to address the violations.

Meanwhile, Mayor Julio Parayno III said they will appeal to the DENR to allow Urdaneta City to still use the landfill for their wastes.

“We will do away with the other LGUs dumping in the landfill. More or less, there are 30 LGUs under contract,” he said in an interview.

Parayno said the private company they had a contract with for the rehabilitation of the landfill did not deliver as expected.

“We cannot close it yet because of breach of contract but now, it is the DENR that issued the closure. This private company will have to answer to the LGUs that have contracted for the use of the landfill,” he added.

The landfill located on an 18-hectare property owned by the city in Sitio Calegu, Barangay Catablan was inaugurated in 2011. (PNA)



DENR, PNP take on Tarlac greening program

The police have shown commitment in protecting and developing some 20 hectares of plantations found in Sitio Candang and Sitio Libag, both in Barangay Maasin of the town of San Clemente.



Published 5 hours ago
on March 6, 2021 02:30 AM
By [Jonas Reyes](#)



Tarlac City — In line with the ongoing protection of forests and the intensified efforts on the greening program of the province of Tarlac, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Tarlac Police Provincial Office have signed an agreement to protect National Greening Program (NGP) plantations.

In a statement, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Celia Esteban disclosed that the the environmental agency will work hand-in-hand with 10 municipal police stations of the first congressional district, along with the 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company to protect and develop the plantations of the NGP.

She added that the police have shown commitment in protecting and developing some 20 hectares of plantations found in Sitio Candang and Sitio Libag, both in Barangay Maasin of the town of San Clemente.

“After three years, the established NGP plantations have no more funds for protection and maintenance and this is where the police will enter to adopt these areas which were established by our partner people’s organizations,” Esteban said.

The 10 municipal police stations will also act as overall project manager and will take charge in the mobilization of personnel prioritizing in hiring the people’s organizations within the area.

They will also be responsible in the funding of survey, mapping and planning, produce seedlings for replanting, maintenance and protection of the adopted plantation.

They will be given technical assistance by the DENR if needed.



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DENR, Lions Clubs Bicol Cooperative Venture Take Off

By Jose Briones



The cooperative venture called Environment and Natural Resources Ambassadors Project between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region V, Bicol under Regional Director Atty Antonio A. Abawag, CESO IV and the Lions Clubs of Region 7 (Bicol) initially took off in a simple ceremony held at the Covered Court in Barangay Salugan, Camalig, Albay.

Spearheaded by the Regional Public Affairs Office of DENR Regional Office No. 5 (Bicol) under the TAYO KALIKASAN program, the ENR AMBASSADOR PROJECT was formalized with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing between DENR Region V

(Turn to Page 10)

Signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DENR R-V, Engr. Eva S. Ocfemia, PH.D, CESO IV, who ably represented Regional Director Atty Abawag, CESO IV and Region Chairman Lion Edmundo B. Barrios, MJF, representing the thirteen Lions Clubs of Region 7 (Bicol)



NWRB: Sufficient water supply for summer in Metro Manila

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINQ](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:31 PM March 05, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — There is sufficient water supply in Metro Manila for the “summer” season, National Water Resources Board executive director Dr. Sevillo David Jr. said Friday.

David said Angat Dam, the main water source of Metro Manila, said that the dam’s water level currently stands at over 210 meters, higher than the recorded level at the dam during the same period in previous years.

“Sa ganitong level ay masasabi nating may sapat tayong supply ng tubig para magamit,” David said in an interview with Teleradyo.

Asked if there is sufficient water supply for the dry season, David responded in the affirmative.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles earlier assured there will be [sufficient water supply](#) in Metro Manila this upcoming hot, summer months.

“According to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Chairman and OIC Administrator Reynaldo Velasco, we expect to have a sufficient supply of water this year in Metro Manila; wala ho tayong water shortage dito sa Maynila,” Nograles said in an online briefing.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1403373/nwrbsufficientwaterforsummerinmetromanila#ixzz6oHOtyXPF>

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'Stop quarrying in Marikina watershed'



By [Catherine S. Valente, TMT](#)

March 5, 2021

A group of environmentalists urged President Rodrigo Duterte to cancel mining agreements inside the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) in Rizal province to protect threatened flora and fauna in the area.

In a statement released on World Wildlife Day on Wednesday, the Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition asked Duterte to “urgently rescind” all existing Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) inside the 26,126-hectare UMRBPL and nearby protected and conserved areas before his term ends next year.

“This is pursuant to the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 prohibiting mineral exploration or extraction within protected areas, among other official policies, and the President’s 2016 campaign promise for reforms towards more responsible development and extractive industries,” the group said.

It added that there were at least six MPSAs existing or overlapping with the UMRBPL, covering about 1,500 hectares of protected forest land. Another 658 hectares appear to be under MPSAs in adjacent protected and conserved areas.

“Even if some of these MPSAs are not yet operational, they are a clear and present threat to the integrity of the watershed and all life within it,” the coalition said. “Quarrying will permanently destroy sensitive habitats of threatened flora and fauna.”

These species, according to the group, include narra, red and white lauan, kamagong, and molave trees; birds like the Philippine hawk-eagle and jungle fowl; and mammals like the Philippine deer, Philippine warty pig, Philippine monkey and Northern Luzon cloud rat.

“It will also worsen the perennial, devastating, costly and life-threatening floods experienced by local governments, businesses and ordinary citizens of Metro Manila, Rizal and nearby areas,” it said.

The coalition said the massive flooding that submerged communities in Marikina City and Rizal province following the onslaught of Typhoon “Ulysses” (international name: “Vamco”) late last year showed the urgency to stop destructive activities within the watershed.

Experts said the inability of watersheds to absorb and hold rainfall contributed to the severe flooding.

The status of the Upper Marikina Watershed — which covers Antipolo City and the towns of Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo and Tanay in Rizal — was upgraded to “protected landscape” from “reservation” in 2011.



'Stop quarrying in Marikina watershed'

"Some government offices have argued that even without quarrying in the Upper Marikina Watershed, flooding, erosion and siltation will still occur. While these are indeed natural processes, it is by protecting and restoring designated protected areas that we are able to mitigate their increasingly adverse effects," the group said.

"Protected areas are also off-limits to extractive industries not just to help reduce the risk of flooding and other forms of disasters, but to conserve precious wildlife and habitats and preserve ecosystem services such as clean and healthy soil, water and air," it added.

The group bared that protecting the UMRBPL played an important part of climate adaptation, "being our only natural defense against extreme weather events, and climate mitigation, being a natural carbon sink."

"With less than 500 days left before the end of President Rodrigo Duterte's term in office, there is no better time than now to leave a lasting legacy for Filipinos," the group said.

"We urge President Duterte to rescind the MPSAs found inside this critical watershed and nearby protected and conserved areas now. The Filipino people will be behind him," it continued.

Among the signatories are Greenpeace Philippines, Masungi Georeserve Foundation, Center for Energy and Ecology Development and Living Laudato Si.



Online e-learning on wildlife law enforcement launched to battle illegal wildlife trade

Published March 5, 2021, 1:00 PM

by [Patricia Bianca Taculao](#)

Harboring over 52,000 described species of flora and fauna, the Philippines is one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world. It is rich in various ecosystems that provide food, shelter, and other economic benefits for millions of people.

Forests are among these valuable ecosystems that provide not only for the animals and plants found there but also to people living in or near the area. From forests, several species of plants and animals indigenous to the Philippines thrive and provide a biologically diverse ecosystem.

People can also get products from forests such as timber and non-timber products which they can use to their benefit.

But there are instances when people take advantage of the Philippines' diverse wildlife and abuse it to a certain extent. The most common form of exploitation done to wildlife is the illegal wildlife trade (IWT).

In the Philippines, the value of IWT is estimated at ₱50 million a year, which includes the market value of wildlife and its resources, their ecological role and value, damage to habitats incurred during poaching, and loss in potential ecotourism revenues.

To raise awareness about IWT and help equip people with the knowledge about IWT, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), its Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), the Global Environment Facility, and the Asian Development Bank have come up with an online course that stakeholders and wildlife law enforcers can access to help them better combat IWT.

A first for the Wildlife Law Enforcement

The online course was launched during the celebration of World Wildlife Day on March 3, 2021, Wednesday, under the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet," which focused on the central role of forests, forest species, and ecosystems services in sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people globally.

As a tool for apprehending IWT, the Wildlife Law Enforcement Online Training is meant to improve the capacity building as well as provide and share information against IWT across the law-enforcement chain.

Being the first self-paced e-learning course on Philippine Wildlife Law Enforcement, the course is available to access at any time, any place, and in any space.

Over the past decade, wildlife law enforcers spend eight hours within three to five days just to learn the ropes on wildlife law enforcement. With this online course, they can focus their time and energy on actual policing.

With the online course, enforcers and stakeholders can refer to the information available again and again.

What's in the course

Seven modules and 19 topics are available on the online course.



Online e-learning on wildlife law enforcement launched to battle illegal wildlife trade

Lessons range from wildlife law enforcement in the Philippines, introduction to IWT, species commonly involved in wildlife crimes, laws that protect wildlife, to the local and international agencies involved in wildlife law enforcement.

All module topics were developed and reviewed by experts with wide experience in biodiversity issues, wildlife and environmental law enforcement, policy, and capacity building.

By adapting to modern times, wildlife law enforcers and stakeholders can have a better chance of policing and apprehending IWTs, thus keeping endemic plants and animals safe from exploitation as well as promoting the biodiversity of forests and other ecosystems.

For more information or help on the course, contact elarning@adb.org.



1,723 baby turtles released in Tayabas Bay

By: [Delfin T. Mallari Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@dtmallarijrINO](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:50 PM March 05, 2021



Some of the 67 olive ridley sea turtle hatchlings freed in the waters of Tayabas Bay from shores of Sariaya town in Quezon province early in the morning of March 3, 2021 by local officials and fisherfolk. Photo from Sherwin Rosales

LUCENA CITY -- At least 1,723 baby sea turtles, locally known as “pawikan,” had been freed to their natural habitat in Tayabas Bay off Sariaya town in Quezon province since the start of this year.

On March 3, another 67 newly hatched olive ridley sea turtles were released in the coastal village of Bignay 1 of the town, according to Sherwin Rosales, a fisheries technician at the municipal government’s agriculture office.

Rosales said it was the last batch of baby turtles that were returned to the bay this hatching season.

Similar events took place in other coastal villages, but some have not been documented by the municipal agriculture office, he said.

Late last year, more than 1,000 baby sea turtles were also freed in Tayabas Bay.

During the first three months of the year, just before sunrise, the sight of baby sea turtles on the shores racing towards the bay has become an annual spectacle for nature lovers and protectors.

The releases were usually witnessed by families of fishermen and by local government and barangay officials.

The Sariaya coastline, host to many beach resorts, serves as a sanctuary to turtles that usually come to lay and hatch their eggs from October to December and stay for 58 days throughout the nesting period.

The hatchlings were cared for by fishermen, fish wardens, and the local government in four nesting sites in the villages of Castañas, San Roque, Guisguis, and Bignay 2.



1,723 baby turtles released in Tayabas Bay

Rosales appealed to fishers and coastal villagers to immediately report the presence of marine turtles to authorities.

“Don’t kill or harm them. We have to protect and take care of them (so they can) multiply,” he said.



Photo from Tanggol Kalikasan

The coastal villages of Sariaya are known nesting sites of the green sea, olive ridley, and hawksbill turtle species, which the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora consider endangered.

The Philippine Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act prohibits the hunting, selling, and killing, as well as collecting of eggs, of endangered species.

The local government has been promoting Sariaya as a “home of sea turtles.”

Most residents along the coast of Tayabas Bay in Quezon used to keep sea turtles as pets.

But Tanggol Kalikasan (TK), a Lucena-based public interest law office that advocates environmental protection, has been conducting a campaign to educate the public about environmental and wildlife protection laws.

Jay Lim, TK project officer, citing information from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Quezon, said the “baklad,” those numerous huge stationary fish traps at the bottom of Tayabas Bay and Lamón Bay, also pose a danger to marine creatures, which may get entangled to these traps.

Moreover, reef conditions had deteriorated due to dynamite and cyanide fishing, while mangrove forests along the coastline had been degraded or destroyed.



1,723 baby turtles released in Tayabas Bay

Tayabas Bay stretches from San Juan town in Batangas province to the towns of Sariaya, Pagbilao, Padre Burgos, Agdangan, Unisan, Pitogo, Macalelon, General Luna, Catanauan, Mulanay and San Francisco, and Lucena City in Quezon.

LZB

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1403461/1723-baby-turtles-released-in-tayabas-bay#ixzz6oHPlucnQ>

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Giant clam shells worth \$3.3 million seized in Philippine raid

(Agence France-Presse) - March 5, 2021 - 4:44pm



This undated handout photo released by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on March 5, 2021 shows coast guard personnel, marine troops and local conservation officials unearthing illegally harvested giant clams worth around 3.3 million USD on the black market near the homes of residents on Johnson Island, Palawan province.

Handout/Philippine coast Guard (PCG)/AFP

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine authorities have seized illegally harvested giant clam shells worth \$3.3 million as smugglers turn to the endangered creatures as a substitute for the illicit ivory trade.

In one of the biggest operations of its kind in the country, 80 tons of the tropical species were discovered in a village on a remote island in the western archipelago of Palawan, officials said Friday.

The Philippines is home to most of the world's giant tropical clam species, which are considered threatened in the country as poaching surges.

Conservationists say their shells are used as an alternative material for products ranging from earrings to chandeliers as ivory becomes scarce amid a global crackdown on the illegal trade in elephant tusks.

Marine troops, the coastguard and local conservation officials raided local homes on Johnson Island on Wednesday, unearthing more than 300 clam shells with a value of around \$3.3 million on the black market.

Among them was the *Tridacna gigas*, the world's largest clam, which can grow a shell up to 1.4 meters (4.6 feet) long.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature considers *Tridacna gigas* a "vulnerable" species.

The island's village chief will be charged with poaching for supervising the illegal collection, said Jovic Fabello, spokesman for the Palawan government's conservation council.



Giant clam shells worth \$3.3 million seized in Philippine raid

"This has been our biggest haul so far," he said.

It likely took the locals between six months and a year to amass the 80-ton pile, a coastguard spokeswoman told AFP.

Palawan is considered the last frontier of the Philippines' rich biodiversity, but is also a hotspot for the illegal wildlife trade, with pangolins, marine turtles and wild birds poached and sold illicitly.

The country's fisheries code bans the collection of giant clams that are considered endangered, with prison terms for offenders of up to eight years and fines of up to three million pesos (\$61,000).

Giant clams are important ecological components of coral reefs, which are nurseries for many fish species consumed by humans.



P160M taklobo nakumpiska sa Palawan



March 5, 2021 @ 1:51 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nakumpiska ng Philippine Coast Guard ang P160 milyong halaga ng taklobo sa Roxas, Palawan.

Batay sa PCG, naganap ang operasyon sa Barangay VI, Johnson Island noong March 3 kung saan nakuha ang 324 clams na may bigat na 80 tonelada.

Nagpaalala naman ang ahensya na ipinagbabawal ang pangunguha ng “taklobo” sa ilalim ng Republic Act No. 10654 o The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

Maaari namang pagmultahin ang mga lalabag ng hanggang P3 milyong piso at pagkakakulong na hanggang walong taon.

Bukod pa rito, nakuha rin ang 124 pirasong illegally-cut mangrove trees sa lugar. **RNT/FGDC**



5 endangered species in the Philippines



SunSar File

[TIFFANY L. NERI](#)

March 04, 2021

EARTH, the blue planet, is the epitome of life existing in the universe as we know it. Scientists have estimated more than eight million species of plants and animals in existence where only an eighth of those species have been identified and described.

Biodiversity's biggest threat

Among those species, there are predators and there are prey, but even the biggest predator on earth isn't at fault for driving certain species to extinction. So, what's the biggest threat to Earth's biodiversity? It's us—humans.

Habitat loss, poaching, pollution, among many others, are the reasons that many species are endangered and have gone extinct. Most, if not all, of these conditions have been set to serve the human race.

So what if somewhere in the world bees are dying?

The problem is balance. The ecosystem and everything in it came into existence to balance each other out. Everything that is has its natural function that serves the circle of life. Tipping those scales could cause more harm than good in the greater scheme of things.

So bees dying somewhere in the world matters just as well as the dwindling numbers of tigers, elephants, and all other creatures.



5 endangered species in the Philippines

World Wildlife Day in the Philippines

March 3 marks World Wildlife Day, a day to celebrate and raise awareness for the world's wild animals and plants. The day also emphasizes the importance for different sectors to band together and take steps to conserve wildlife in their respective areas.

In line with this very special day, we have listed down five endangered species in the Philippines and a few interesting things about them.



SunStar File

1. Tamaraw

The Tamaraw is a dwarf buffalo that lives in only one place in the world—Mindoro Island, Philippines. It is classified as critically endangered. They have shiny black hair, backward-facing horns, and stand at no taller than about 4 feet at the shoulders.

Despite being tiny, they're known for having quite a temper and will ready their horns against any strangers.



5 endangered species in the Philippines



SunStar File

2. Philippine Crocodile

Isn't that a surprise? Crocodiles are usually feared because they are known as predators and even man-eating animals—so one would have never thought they would come to be endangered.

The critically endangered Philippine crocodile is said to have a diet of mostly fish, small mammals, birds, and snails—this, in turn, helps farmers in controlling those pests on the rice fields.

Compared to other crocodiles, the Philippine crocodile is smaller than usual—and grows to about an average of 5 feet long.



Creative Commons



5 endangered species in the Philippines

3. Philippine Mouse Deer

The critically endangered Philippine mouse deer, also known as pilandok or the Balabac chevrotain, is a unique creature only found in the islands of Palawan. They are absolutely small in stature and resemble exactly what their name describes: a mix of a mouse and a deer.

A little something you probably didn't know is that it does not belong to the deer family. It is nocturnal and eats mostly plants, leaves, fruits, and sometimes insects.



Mildred Galarpe

4. Tarsier

Tarsiers are tiny leaping primates found mostly in Bohol, Philippines. A definite tourist attraction when visiting the island, they are fascinating creatures with big eyes, tiny bodies, and long rat-like tails.

Tarsiers are the only known carnivorous primates and prey on insects, lizards, and sometimes even snakes. They usually cling upright to trees and branches and can live in monogamous pairs.

Tarsiers are easily stressed and become self-destructive when they are held in captivity or even just touched—so please never cage or pet them.

The species is not critically endangered but its population is threatened, so let's hope these lovable creatures never get to that critical point.



5 endangered species in the Philippines



Contributed photo

5. Philippine Forest Turtle

The Philippine Forest Turtle, found in Palawan, is among the most critically endangered turtle species in the world.

For a while, the Philippine Forest Turtle was believed to have been extinct, but a few specimens were found again somewhere in Northern Palawan. This brought the species into existence again in 2004.

Unfortunately, this rediscovery brought about a negative effect as it made poachers get into a frenzy of capturing the turtles to sell as pets, make them into traditional medicine, and even food.

Five out of seven sea turtle species are found in the Philippines. All of these species are threatened and classified as endangered animals in the country.

How did all these species come to be endangered?

The various endangered species have come to this point because of habitat loss, poaching, human consumption, pollution, disease, and climate change.

What can we do to help?

Awareness is the first step to helping. Spread the word! Most of us don't know the cost nature is paying for humanity's existence—some may even call it humanity's selfishness.

On our end, what we can do in our little way is to support causes that conserve wildlife, respect the rules whenever we happen to visit a wildlife reserve, and never buy wild animals as pets.

Do your part today!

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1887751>



DoST-funded app taps citizens to monitor Manila Bay, other areas

March 5, 2021 | 6:00 pm

A NEW Department of Science and Technology (DoST)-funded mobile app aims to monitor Manila Bay and its surroundings by letting citizens report environmental issues via the platform, its developers said on Friday.

The MASDAN app, which would be available to Android users soon, is part of the P10-million Project MapABLE, one of the four components of the IM4ManilaBay Program.

The IM4ManilaBay Program aims to use geospatial technology and citizen science in monitoring the water quality in Manila Bay, and its linked environments.

The MASDAN app is managed by the DoST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD).

“The goal of this mobile application is to crowd source or look for reports on various environmental issues in different portions of Manila Bay or the entire country... Citizens can report issues on algal blooms, fish kills, water hyacinth growth, and water pollution using the platform,” MASDAN app development team leader Jommer M. Medina said in Filipino during the app’s virtual launch on Friday.

He added that the public can also report about ongoing reclamation efforts and solid waste management issues affecting water quality in Manila Bay.

Using the app, citizens can record the location of the environmental issue and submit photos along with their reports.

“Government agencies would be able to see the places where these reports are distributed. These would prove to be useful later on when looking for hotspots or whether the government should embark on a more intensive program (in a certain area),” Mr. Medina said.

He said the mobile app was developed to benefit environmental monitoring agencies, local government units, environmental volunteers and organizations, and the public.

The MASDAN app is currently on its first version and while it can accommodate pictures, it has yet to allow the uploading of videos, backend developer Dominic C. Fargas, Jr. said.

“We understand that this platform can be used by stakeholders and citizens from the different sectors to report environmental concerns...This app is envisioned to promote citizen participation in monitoring and managing Manila Bay and its linked environments,” PCIEERD executive director Enrico C. Paringit said during the event. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



UN-FAO taps Searca for Palawan green project



By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#)

March 6, 2021

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO) is developing a pioneering jurisdictional-level platform for Palawan province for the management and monitoring of forest landscape and climate finance investments.

Glenn Gregorio, Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) director, said the UN-FAO has commissioned Searca to lead the project. UN-FAO will fund the project.

Gregorio said forests play a crucial role in climate change mitigation both as a sink and a source of carbon, and to achieve significant emissions reduction. He added that investment in forest landscape and climate finance is needed to support scalable approaches and programs such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

“Private investor engagement is key to the sustainability of environmental efforts and thus the demonstration of profitable business models for forest restoration that target environmental and social benefits is needed to engage the private sector as investors, service providers or implementers beyond their corporate social responsibility advocacy,” Gregorio said.

Rico Ancog, Searca program lead for Emerging Innovation for Growth, said the key to achieving the objective of REDD+ is a correct determination of the scale of crediting for emissions reduction from the forest sector, with entire jurisdictions likely to be the optimal scale because only governments have the main authority to regulate land use change.

Also an associate professor of University of the Philippines Los Baños, Ancog said that in the UN-FAO project, the operational example of a jurisdictional-level platform being developed for Palawan is “to support quantitative evaluation for forest monitoring and forest leveraging and landscape climate finance at the jurisdictional scale.”

He said the project will assess the viability of Palawan to follow a jurisdictional sustainability (JS) approach and identify potential financing sources, and the Searca project, specifically, is to determine if Palawan has the components to operationalize JS; the gaps of JS and climate investment and how to address them; the government’s role in the implementation of JS; and the comparative approaches versus reforestation and afforestation management and the REDD+ approach.

Daniel Nepstad, president of Earth Innovation Institute based in Berkeley, California, said JS is achieved when the entire political region also coincides with the correct ecological scale of a given environmental problem and completes the transition to sustainable development.



UN-FAO taps Searca for Palawan green project

Ancog said the jurisdictional-level platform being developed will facilitate the analysis of multi-stakeholders and the layers of the government to provide sufficient information to the private sector on how their investment will be managed and monitored to align corporate governance to that of forest conservation vis-à-vis climate change mitigation initiatives.

Ancog said one of the initial takeaways of the project is the ability to find solutions to forest management challenges that were effectively analyzed based on the correct ecological scale.

“In turn, such solutions for climate change mitigation must be designed not just in response to gaps in knowledge and awareness gaps, but also to impediments in governance,” he said adding that for climate change initiatives to balance environmental conservation and economic development, governance innovations are needed, in particular, with different forms of forest resource tenure.



New way forward: Sustainable development and environmental law



By [Amado S. Tolentino, JR.](#)

March 6, 2021

SUSTAINABLE development is often equated with “development without destruction,” which means sustainable utilization of resources for the benefit of mankind in a way compatible with the maintenance of the natural elements of the ecosystem. It is the wise use of the environment, which connotes sustainable utilization for the benefit of mankind in harmony with the maintenance of the natural elements of the ecosystem. It is a forward-looking development.

Environmental law, on the other hand, establishes rights and duties of individuals, communities and industries in the use of environmental resources, including the sets of mandatory quality standards, and assigns powers, responsibilities and liabilities in respect of environmental management. Its main concern is to govern the relationship of man and his environment.

Historically, what was originally labeled as natural resources laws are actually laws that are “use-oriented” or designed for the maximum exploitation and development of natural resources as compared to the new environmental legislation, which is “resource-oriented” or designed for the rational management and conservation of natural resources in order to prevent their depletion or degradation. Simply explained forestry law in the beginning meant cutting trees for profit, but now it is cutting trees and planting new ones at the same time for the benefit of the coming generations.

In the course of time, the two sets of legislation came to be labeled as “green legislation” for natural resources laws and “brown legislation” for pollution control, chemical-related and waste management laws. In recent legal literature, the two came to be known as environmental law, a new course in many law schools around the world. (The Philippines is one of the few countries where environmental law is a 3-unit compulsory subject in all law schools in the country.)

Sustainable development goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked goals designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The SDGs set in place by the UN General Assembly are as follows: 1) no poverty; 2) zero hunger; 3) good health and well-being; 4) quality education; 5) gender equality; 6) clean water and sanitation; 7) affordable and clean energy; 8) decent work and economic growth; 9) industry, innovation and infrastructure; 10) reducing inequality; 11) sustainable cities and communities; 12) responsible production and consumption; 13) climate action; 14) life below water; 15) life on land; 16) peace, justice and strong institutions; and 17) partnerships for the goals.

The SDGs are intended to be achieved by 2030, but for some of the targets, no end date is given. Though the goals are broad, they are interdependent, meaning, there is recognition that action in one area will affect outcome in the others and that development must balance social, economic



New way forward: Sustainable development and environmental law

and environmental sustainability. As an example, climate action (SDG₁₃) is connected to the goals on poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, etc. Viewed from another angle, the ongoing unprecedented health crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic requires a lot to be done that it cannot be helped that the search for a global solution is often discussed alongside the SDGs relating to climate action, good health and well-being, clean water and sanitation, no poverty, zero hunger, and economic growth, among others.

In all this, developments in science ought not to be ignored. To cite an example, scientific assessment of climate change revealed forests support human well-being and are critical to end poverty, and that forest-poverty dynamics are affected by a range of social, economic, political and environmental context factors such as rural out-migration, gender norms, remittance flows, etc.

Environmental law vis-à-vis SDGs

How does environmental law fit in the shift from environmental protection to sustainable development as a central global agenda?

During the 1970s, governments were exhorted to establish an effective legal and regulatory framework in order to enhance national capacities to respond to the challenges of sustainable development by adjusting or fundamentally reshaping the decision-making process relating to environment and development.

Among the several trends in the evolution of environmental law vis-à-vis sustainable development are: crystallization of environmental issues in constitutional and policy documents (e.g., right to a healthy environment; sustainable use of natural resources); more comprehensive coverage of environmental issues (e.g., biodiversity conservation; management of hazardous wastes); establishment of environmental standards (e.g., air, water and noise quality standards; maximum level of emission of air-borne pollutants); use of economic instruments (e.g., tax incentives, polluter-pays-principle, environment funds); recognition of international environmental norms (e.g., institutional arrangements to give effect to multilateral environmental agreements; financial obligations required by treaties; environmental impact assessment); effective coordination of environmental management (e.g., ministries responsible for the environment; inter-agency committees for cross-sectoral coordination); measures for effective environmental law implementation and enforcement (e.g., environmental law compliance guidelines; enforcement procedures).

In this connection, the transition of environmental law to a law to achieve sustainable development can best be made by infusing the main body of development with ecological principles. This calls for a re-examination of the property rights principle, banking operations, the tax code as well as by a sector-by sector examination of the laws governing agriculture, climate change, energy, transportation, manufacturing, etc. By tailoring environmental law more closely to the patterns of human behavior, law administration and enforcement will be more efficient and environmental law will blend with other areas of law, thus strengthening respect for and effectiveness of the law to fulfill the SDG 2030 Agenda.



New way forward: Sustainable development and environmental law

To cite examples, concentration in water as a resource is on availability and less on water pollution prevention, or on saving protected areas but not checking on soil erosion, or on protecting endangered species but not on biological diversity. Worse is the regulation of the same activity by many government agencies like pollution from mining, pollution from industry and even coastal pollution.

Let us take groundwater as another example. Groundwater is being withdrawn for irrigation much faster than it can be recharged. The need to control groundwater pollution and its conservation is an intricate regulatory challenge. Most often, agriculture law entangles with pollution control and resource laws with tax measures and reform should be one which could lead to an integrated scheme aimed at sustainable economy and, ultimately, sustainable ecology or, rightly, the sustainable development goals.

Perhaps, a simpler example would be health laws vis-à-vis climate change law. This would entail study of the laws on economics, food security, climate change, waste management, biodiversity conservation, energy, air and water pollution control, to mention a few, examining their consistency in promoting sustainability. Indeed, the use of environmental law to achieve the SDGs requires the use of all legal tools optimally.

Be that as it may, for national environmental legislation, effective implementation and enforcement remain as the most daunting challenges especially for developing countries. How the matter is resolved will largely determine the capacity of the legal arrangements to effectively contribute towards the realization of the objectives of sustainable development. For, in the final analysis, ineffective law may be worse than no law at all.

As can be gleaned, attainment of the sustainable development goals requires not only appropriate and adequate legal and institutional regimes for environmental management, but even more importantly, effective environmental law implementation and enforcement.

Conclusion

The discussion above leads to the broad level of awareness, of understanding the existential context in which we as humans are part of nature and interact with the elements in it. In environmental governance, this is known as the concept of environmental unity, which could be stated as “everything is connected to everything else.” Environmental unity encourages a more comprehensive interdisciplinary approach. If people involved in environmental protection were to approach their work with greater awareness of the unity and finite state of nature, we could work much more effectively toward harmony with nature.

Sustainable development has gone a long way from a mere concept into a principle with normative value. As changes are made through legislation, sustainable development can help define the path toward increasing preservation of the dignity of nature and of the dignity of humanity within it.

3,045 katao bagong hawa ng COVID-19 sa bansa, 'highest sa halos 5 buwan'

(Philstar.com)

- March 5, 2021 - 4:00pm



Nakasuot ng face masks at shields ang mga gurong ito habang nagte-teleconference sa mga estudyanteng hirap sa kanilang mga aralin sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic, ika-3 ng Marso, 2021
AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ng nasa 3,045 bagong kaso ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) ngayong Biyernes ang Department of Health (DOH), bagay na nag-aakyat ng kabuuang bilang ng nahawaan sa Pilipinas sa 587,704.

Patuloy naman ang pagpanik ng mga "active cases," o mga nagpapagaling pa sa karamdaman sa pagtalon nito sa 40,074 — mas mataas uli kumpara noong Huwebes.

Yumao naman ng buhay ang karagdagang 19 katao dahil sa COVID-19 kung kaya't 12,423 na ang mga domestic deaths sa sakit. Umabot na sa 535,207 ang mga ligtas na sa panganib simula nang mag-recover mula sa nakamamatay na sakit.

Anong bago ngayong araw?

- Ngayong Biyernes ang pinakamataas na bilang ng new COVID-19 cases sa iisang araw lang sa nakalipas 141 araw. Ika-16 ng Oktubre pa noong huling mas marami ang reported single-day infection sa bilang na 3,139.
- Pinakamataas din ngayong araw ang active cases (40,074) sa nakalipas na lagpas apat na buwan matapos nitong mahigitan ang record nitong Huwebes na 37,226.
- [Sumipa naman pataas sa 52](#) ang bilang ng mga bagong nahawa ng mas nakahahawang variant ng COVID-19 na unang nadiskubre sa South Africa. Ayon kay Health Secretary Francisco Duque kanina, 41 mula rito ang nanggaling mula sa National Capital Region. Bukod pa 'yan sa 31 additional UK variants na na-detect ng UP Philippine Genome Center (PGC), na siyang mas nakahahawa rin kumpara sa karaniwan.



3,045 katao bagong hawa ng COVID-19 sa bansa, 'highest sa halos 5 buwan'

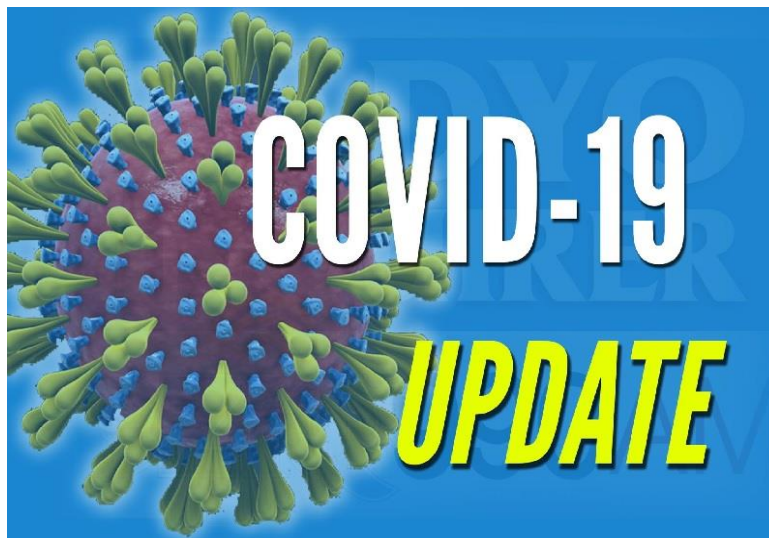
- Ngayong nasa Pilipinas ang COVID-19 vaccines mula sa British-Swedish firm na AstraZeneca, sinabi ni Vince Dizon, deputy chief implementer of the National Task Force Against COVID-19, na [posibleng iturok na ito sa mga ospital ngayong araw](#). Kaugnay niyan, sinabi ni Duque na maaaring ito ang kanyang ipaturok lalo na't siya'y 60-anyos na at hindi rekomendadhong bigyan ng CoronaVac ng Sinovac.
- Ilang linggo na lang daw ang aantayin bago makarating sa Pilipinas ang mga COVID-19 vaccines mula sa Pfizer, ayon kay Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Manuel "Babe" Romualdez kanina.
- Umaabot na sa halos 11.9 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo, ayon sa huling ulat ng World Health Organization (WHO). Sa bilang na 'yan, mahigit-kumulang 2.6 milyon na ang patay.

— James Relativo at may mga ulat mula kay Xave Gregorio



Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, umabot na sa 116.22 milyon

By Angellic Jordan March 05, 2021 - 01:50 PM



Pumalo na sa 116.22 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 116,222,578 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 29,526,086 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang India na may 11,173,761 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 10,796,506 naman ang kaso sa Brazil habang 4,290,135 ang napaulat na kaso sa Russia.

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

- United Kingdom - 4,201,358
- France - 3,835,595
- Spain - 3,142,358
- Italy - 2,999,119
- Turkey - 2,746,158
- Germany - 2,484,306
- Colombia - 2,266,211
- Argentina - 2,133,963
- Mexico - 2,112,508

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 2,581,747 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 91,898,062 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/286390/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-umabot-na-sa-116-22-milyon#ixzz6oHRh2LOs>

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UNAHIN ANG BAYAN KAYSA PAGIGING CHOOSY SA BAKUNA



March 5, 2021 @ 7:34 AM 21 hours ago

KINAKAILANGAN na magpabakuna tayo anoman ang mga dumarating na bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease 2019 o COVID-19.

Ito'y para maabot natin ang sinasabing herd immunity o bilang na 70 porsyento ng mahigit 105 milyong Pinoy.

At makalaya na tayo sa sobrang paghihirap, kagutuman at kawalan ng kinabukasan.

Nitong 2019 na hindi naman gaanong nagbago ngayong 2021, sinasabing 5.3 milyon ang senior citizens na 65 pataas ang edad; mahigit 64.2M ang edad 15-64 at 30.5M ang edad 0-14.

Kung pagsamahin natin ang mga 65-anyos pataas at 15-anyos hanggang 64, maglalaro tayo sa bilang na 70M tao.

Dahil bawal ang pagbabakuna sa 18-anyos pababa, maglalaro pa rin tayo sa 70M tao dahil kaunti lang naman ang maibabawas dito na mga nagkakaedad ng 15-18-anyos.

Ngayon, kung mababakunahan natin ang 70M, unang epekto nito ang kawalan ng hawaan sa pagitan ng 70M at mapipigilan na rin nang malaki ang hawaan nila at ng mga menor-de-edad na maaaring nasa 40M.

'Yan ang tinatawag na herd immunity.



UNAHIN ANG BAYAN KAYSA PAGIGING CHOOSY SA BAKUNA

PAGDATING NG MGA BAKUNA

Tingnan natin ang pagdating ng mga bakuna.

Unang dumating ang 600,000 doses ng Sinovac.

Kagabi, dumating ang AstraZeneca na 487,200 doses at susunod dito ang umano'y nasa 5 milyon na dose pero sa Mayo-Hunyo pa.

At may kondisyon ang World Health Organization sa AstraZeneca: Gagamitin lang ito para sa mga health worker at senior citizen.

Kapag may paglabag dito, baka hindi na raw itutuloy ng WHO ang pagpapadala.

Darating naman umano ang Pfizer pero sa Abril pa at nasa 117,000 doses lang.

Ang aktwal na ibabakuna ay ang pinagsamang Sinovac na 600,000 at AstraZeneca na 487,200.

Kung tig-isang dose ang ibabakuna sa mga Pinoy, 1,087,200 lang ang mababakunahan.

Sakaling darating ang Pfizer naman sa Abril, magiging 1,204,200 lang ang mababakunahan.

Napakaliit ang bilang ng mababakunahan hanggang sa buwan ng Abril at hindi natin matatamo ang herd immunity riyan.

PAGKAKAIBA NG SINOVAC AT ASTRAZENECA

Narito ang ilang pagkakaiba ng Sinovac na gawang China at AstraZeneca na gawang United Kingdom.

Ang AstraZeneca, 22, 60, 70 o 90 porsyento ang epekto nito laban sa COVID-19, depende kung paano nila isinagawa ang mga trial o pagsubok at kung sino ang nagre-report sa UK, Brazil at South Africa.

Pero sa European Medicines Agency, 60% lang ito epektibo.

Sa ulat naman ng Fierce Pharma nitong Pebrero 17, 22% lang ang epekto nito na nakita ng US Food and Drug Administration at halos walang laban sa South African Variant.

Ibinasura na rin ang AstraZeneca ng South Africa dahil wapek ito sa South African variant at ipinamimigay na sa African Union na walang South African variant.

Ang Sinovac naman, may 50.4% sa mga high risk na health worker sa Brazil pero para lang sa 14 araw at hindi ito pinahinog sa 21 araw.

May epekto namang 65% sa Indonesia at 91% sa Turkey.

Ang Sinovac, para sa edad 19-59 lang habang edad 19 hanggang sa senior citizens ang AstraZeneca na hindi naman pinaniniwalaan sa Europe, maliban lang sa UK.



UNAHIN ANG BAYAN KAYSA PAGIGING CHOOSY SA BAKUNA

Bago pa man magbakuna ang UK nitong Disyembre, noong Hulyo 2020 ay ginagamit na ng China ang Sinovac at pinaniniwalaan itong isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit maagang nakontrol ang COVID-19 sa China sa milyon-milyong nabakunahan dito.

MGA MASAMANG EPEKTO AT KAMATAYAN

Ang adverse effect o masamang reaksyon ng mga nababakunahan?

Sa South Korea, may 63-anyos na nagkalagnat at nagkaroon ng lason sa dugo at pneumonia at may 50-anyos na nagkaroon ng multiple heart attacks makaraan silang maturukan ng AstraZeneca nitong nagdaang mga araw lang.

Ang 63-anyos ay may cerebrovascular disease o pagdurugo sa utak at ang 50-anyos, may sakit sa puso bago naturukan at parehong namatay.

Nitong Pebrero 8, 2021, nakabilang na ang rights groups sa India ng 23 patay umano sa AstraZeneca pero katwiran ng gobyernong India, hindi konektado ang nasabing bakuna sa mga kamatayan kung nagaganap ito mga 4-10 araw makaraang maturukan ang mga namatay.

Dahil naman umano sa kawalan ng sapat na trial, lalo na sa matatanda at grabe umanong mga side effect na pilit namang itinutuwid ng AstraZeneca at UK, nire-reject ang bakunang ito ng maraming mamamayan at health worker sa European Union at iba pang bansang nasa Europe gaya ng Germany, France, Sweden, Austria, Hungary at iba pa.

At lalong ayaw nila ang bakuna sa balitang waepek ito sa South African variant na pumasok na sa Europa.

Ukol naman sa Sinovac, wala pa tayong naririnig na balitang may namatay sa mga bansang itinuturok na ito gaya ng Indonesia, Thailand, Brazil at iba pang mga bansa sa Africa at Gitnang Silangan o mga Arabong bansa.

Hindi natin alam kung sa dinami-rami ng bansang binibigyan nito ng donasyon, magkakaroon din ng patay makaraang mainiksyunan.

Wala pa ring nakaaalam kung epektibo ito o hindi laban sa dalawang uri ng South African variant.

HUWAG MAGING CHOOSY

Kung sobra-sobra sana ang bakuna, maaaring maging choosy tayo.

Pwede ring maging choosy tayo batay sa mga nalalaman nating mga ulat na adverse effects o masasamang bunga ng mga bakuna, kasama na ang mga kamatayan at kawalan ng bisa sa mga COVID variant.

Pwede rin tayong maging choosy batay sa karanasan sa ibang bansa gaya ng okey na Sinovac sa China at okey na AstraZeneca sa Uk.



UNAHIN ANG BAYAN KAYSA PAGIGING CHOOSY SA BAKUNA

Pwede ring batay ang pagiging choosy natin sa ginagawa ng ibang bansa na nire-reject ang Sinovac o ang AstraZeneca.

Pero paano naman kung sa Pinas ay talagang labis-labis ang kakulangan ng bakuna?

Katwiran ng lahat ng mga doktor, nurse at iba pa na nagpabakuna o sumusuporta sa Sinovac kung alin ang available, dapat ito ang tanggapin at ito ang pinakamabisa at pinakaligtas o best vaccine.

Dumaan din naman umano ang Sinovac at AstraZeneca sa pag-aprub ng ating Food and Drugs Administration at nangangahulugan ito ng pagiging ligtas at epektibo ng mga bakunang ito.

Ito ang mga kasalu-saludo na katwiran mula kina Philippine General Hospital (PGH) Director Gerardo “Dr Gap” Legaspi at Dr. Edsel Salvana; Tala Hospital chief Dr. Alfonso Victorino Famaran Jr.; deputy chief of clinical service sa Pasay City General Hospital Dr. John Victor de Gracia; head ng San Lazaro Hospital Adult Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine Unit Dr. Rontgene Solante at spokesman niyang si Dr. Ferdinand de Guzman; head of Cardiovascular Laboratory ng National Kidney and Transplant Institute Dr. Joseph Michael Jaro; Valenzuela City Medical Center Hospital Director Dr. Maria Estrella Litam at Internal Medicine Resident Dr. Aldrin Ramos; Ospital ng Muntinlupa Medical Director Dr. Edwin Dimatatac at East Avenue Medical Center Medical Center Chief Dr. Alfonso Nuñez III at Nurse Rosemarie Reyes.

Gayundin kina president and CEO of St. Luke’s Medical Center Dr. Art Dela Peña; Cardinal Santos Medical Center chief medical officer Dr. Zenaida Javier-Uy; human resources chief Maria Louzel Diaz; orthopedics department chair Dr. Edgar Eufemio; at internal medicine chief resident Dr. Sergie Fernandez; The Medical City, Pasig Acute and Critical Care Institute Director Dr. Jose Emmanuel Palo; Asian Hospital and Medical Center Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jose Acuin at lahat ng nasa 9,000 doktor, nurse, midwife, technician at iba pang health worker.

O magpabakuna na habang may bakuna at huwag maging choosy, alang-alang sa higit na nakararami at buong bansa na dapang-dapa na sa pandemya at para makabangon na tayo lahat sa pagkadarapa sa sobra-sobra nang krisis sa buhay.

Hindi natin dapat hayaang mapabilang tayo sa 582,000 nang tinamaan ng COVID-19 at 12,389 nasawi rito.



Amihan magpapaulan sa 3 lugar sa Luzon



March 5, 2021 @ 5:40 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Patuloy na makaaapekto ang hanging Amihan at magpapaulan sa Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region, at Cagayan Valley, batay sa PAGASA.

Samantala, maaari ring makaranas ng panaka-nakang pag-ulan ang Metro Manila at nalalabing bahagi ng bansa dala ng easterlies at localized thunderstorms.

Habang nagbabala naman ang PAGASA sa posibilidad ng pagbaha at pagguho ng lupa sa kasagsagan ng buhos ng ulan, kulog, at kidlat. **RNT/FGDC**



Mount Pinatubo awakens after 25 years



By [The Manila Times](#)
March 5, 2021

AFTER being dormant for 25 years, Mount Pinatubo has stirred to life, prompting the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) to raise the alert status to Level 1.



At the crater of Mt. Pinatubo lies a beautiful caldera lake. TMT File photo

“This means that there is low-level unrest that may be related to tectonic processes beneath the volcano and though no imminent eruption is foreseen,” said Phivolcs chief Renato Solidum.

Communities surrounding Pinatubo, located in Botolan, Zambales, were reminded to be prepared and vigilant.

“Although there is currently no threat from the above recent earthquake activity, communities and local government units surrounding the volcano, nonetheless, have to be reminded to be always prepared for both earthquake and volcanic hazards and to build on the lessons of their experiences in the past years,” Solidum said.

Phivolcs said the Pinatubo Volcano Network detected 1,722 imperceptible earthquakes beneath the edifice since Jan. 20, 2021.

Mount Pinatubo’s eruption on June 15, 1991 was considered the second-largest terrestrial eruption of the 20th century after the 1912 eruption of Novarupta in Alaska.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/05/news/national/mount-pinatubo-awakens-after-25-years/847395/>



Climate change causing faster snow melt in the Himalayas

New study shows decrease in average snow drought duration; this increases the risk of floods.



In India alone, the Himalaya range has 9,579 glaciers, some of which form the perennial source of major rivers.

[Image: Shutterstock](#)

By Deepa Padmanaban, The Third Pole
March 5, 2021

Disasters such as the recent flash flood that hit the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand underscore the dangers of climate change combined with poorly planned infrastructure, experts have warned.

Climate change has [accelerated](#) the melting of snow in the Himalayas in recent decades, creating unprecedented vulnerabilities that scientists have yet to fully understand.



[CARBON & CLIMATE](#)



Climate change causing faster snow melt in the Himalayas

Himalayan glacier melting rate has doubled—this could affect 800 million people in Asia

But as more studies gather information on natural and climate induced variabilities, there is hope countries and communities will be better equipped in the face of disasters as well as slow environmental changes.

Snow plays a significant role in water availability and in turn people's livelihoods. In the Himalayan region alone, [129 million](#) farmers depend on snow and glacier melt for irrigation.

A deficit of snow also impacts water availability, ecosystems and hydropower generation. But the phenomenon known as snow drought, or relative reduction of the snow cover year on year, is still poorly studied.

In a paper published in 2020, researchers at the University of California, Irvine monitored the intensity and duration of snow drought globally from 1980 to 2018 and found that snow droughts were more prevalent and intense across parts of the US, Russia and Europe, whereas the Hindu Kush and Central Asia, greater Himalayas, and parts of South America experienced a recent decrease in snow drought duration.

“The study underlines the importance of snow in supporting livelihoods for over 800 million people who depend on snow and ice melt,” said Aditi Mukherji, principal researcher at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

“There’s already a lot of evidence that these glacier-dependent irrigation systems are facing challenges due to earlier snow melt, or seasonal changes in timing and volume of snow fall.”

How much did it snow?

“Assessing snow has potential both for drought monitoring and even flood warning,” said Amir AghaKouchak, lead author of the study and professor of civil and environmental engineering at Irvine. “If there is below average snow, there may be problems with water availability. If there is a lot of snow, there is a chance of rapid melting resulting in flood.”

To assess snow drought, the authors use a parameter called Snow Water Equivalent (SWE), which is the amount of water obtained if the snow cover melted all at once.

They used satellite data measuring SWE from October 1980 to September 2018 and combined them with snow cover imaging to identify vulnerable areas to study further. Snowy areas in Western United States (WUS), Eastern Russia, Europe, the Hindu Kush and Central Asia, extratropical Andes, greater Himalayas and Patagonia were chosen based on the study's criteria.



Climate change causing faster snow melt in the Himalayas

The researchers compared snow drought intensity and duration during the first and second halves of the years 1980 to 2018. The analysis revealed that snow droughts across the Western United States, Eastern Russia, and Europe experienced varying degrees of growth, while the Hindu Kush and Central Asia, Andes, greater Himalayas, and Patagonia showed a decrease in the average duration of snow drought.

A decrease in snow drought duration indicates shorter snow drought periods. But this may not always be a good thing as several factors such as temperature and fragile environments can affect snow storage.

Raghu Murtugudde, professor of atmospheric and oceanic science at the University of Maryland (who was not involved in the study) said that the study is good because it analyses the data taking into account both natural and human-made stressors.

“The complications are of course in the multitude of factors that can contribute to snow droughts in different regions, especially for the Himalayas which are so far away from the oceans.”

He added that while it is good news that the snow drought duration had decreased in the Hindu Kush Himalayas, it is critical to know why this is happening. If this change is due to weather patterns originating from the Atlantic or the Mediterranean, it could alter monsoon patterns.

Mukherji said that it is difficult to conclusively state that the Himalayan region is experiencing lower snow scarcity compared to previous years, since observational data is subject to large uncertainties.

But even with limitations, a better knowledge of the local water system’s variability can help design more resilient infrastructure.

For example, “if we know that due to climate change incidences of snowmelt floods or similar water induced disasters will increase, it is better to think of alternatives to hydropower, knowing how fragile the Himalaya region already is,” Mukherji said.

Kangkanika Neog, an independent researcher working on water governance, said, “It is essential to note that the vulnerability of the Himalayas is exacerbated by various factors, not limited to snow droughts.” One of the pressing issues policymakers need to address in the Himalayas, she added, “is to include climate smart design in any area, be it agriculture, water or economy.”

For example, she said, “farmers should be prioritised when it comes to provision of a data-based management system, including and not limited to smart irrigation advisories.”

AghaKouchak’s previous work has shown that even a one degree change in temperature can significantly change snow distribution. “In places like the Himalayas, where the sensitivity to temperature change is significant, rapid snowmelt is a very critical issue,” he said. “Even in the context of an overall decrease in snow drought, that can turn into massive flood.”

This story was published with permission from [The Third Pole](#).

06 MARCH 2021, Saturday



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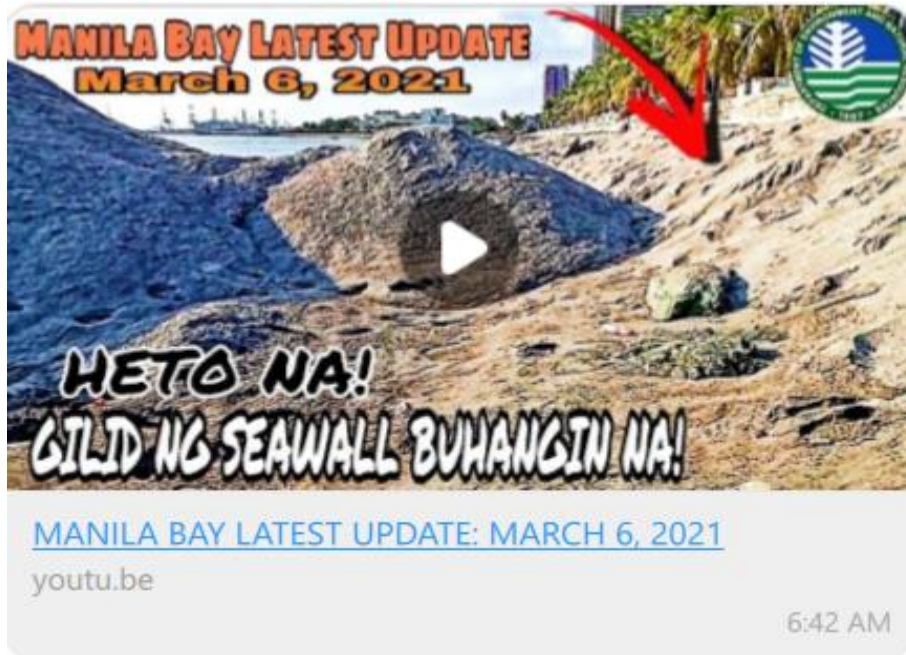
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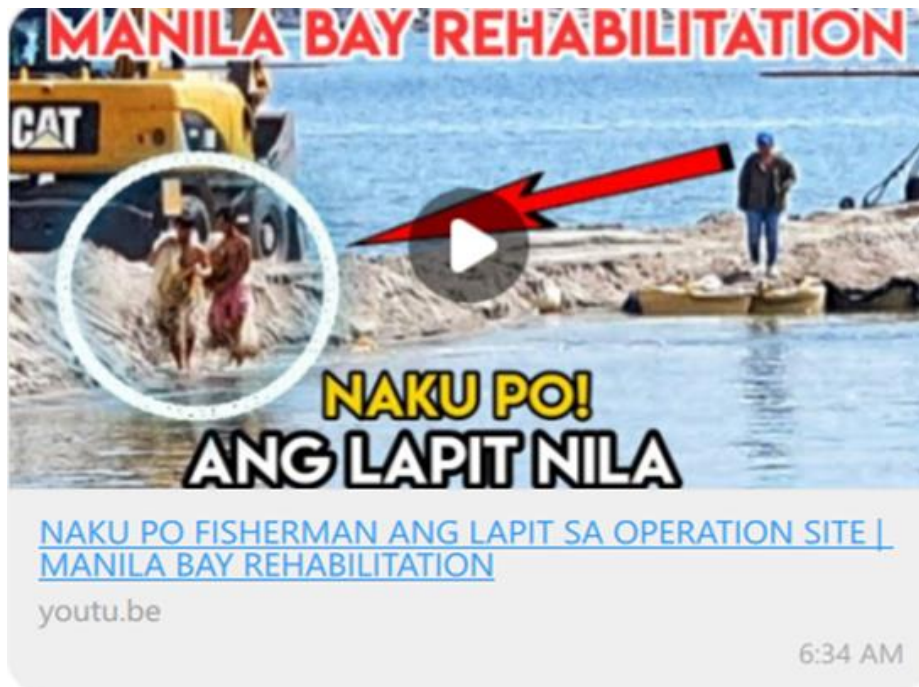
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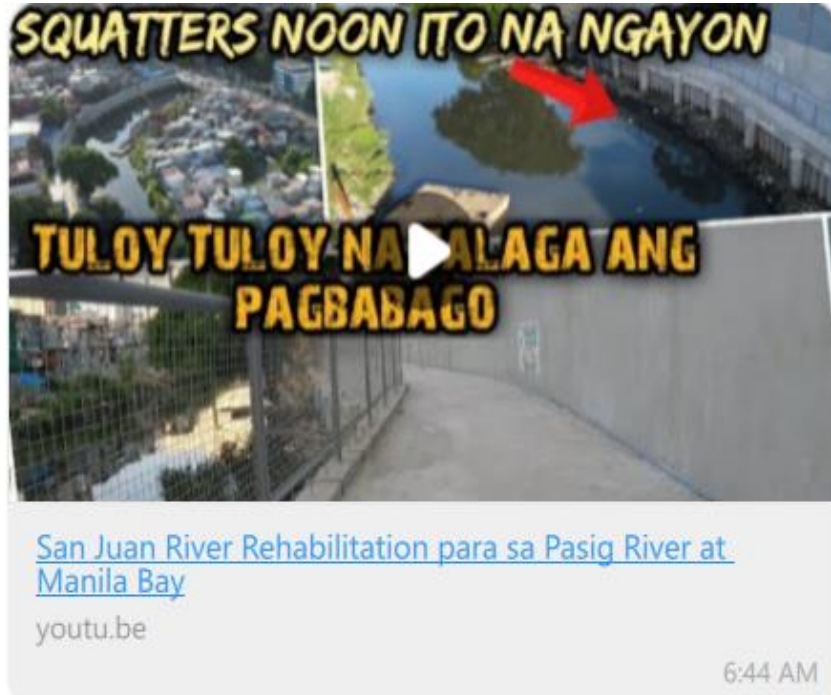
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