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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

US, PHL advance ties for biodiversity protection and water sanitation

 BY BUSINESSMIRROR

JUNE 6, 2021



Environment Roy Cimatu and USAID Deputy Mission Director Sean Callahan sign a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the partnership between the US and Philippine governments in protecting the country's natural resources.

Marking the 75th year of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have agreed to advance their cooperation to protect the Philippines' rich natural resources and improve access to clean water and sanitation, a statement from the US Embassy said.

In February, USAID and the Philippine government, through the National Economic and Development Authority, signed a four-year agreement worth P7.25 billion (\$150 million) to protect the environment, promote sustainable use of natural resources and reduce risks from natural disasters.

Under this agreement, USAID and the DENR signed on May 27 the sub-agreements for two projects: Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) and Safe Water Project.

SIBOL is a five-year project worth P1.1 billion (\$22 million) to improve natural resource governance, stimulate public and private sector investments in conservation and reduce environmental crime, which lead to greater environmental stability and inclusive green growth.

The five-year Safe Water Project worth P870 million (\$18.4 million) will help improve water security for vulnerable and underserved communities.



US, PHL advance ties for biodiversity protection and water sanitation

Working with both the national and local governments, Safe Water supports increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services, improves the sustainable management of water resources and strengthens governance and regulation of the water sector.

“The long history of the partnership between the DENR and USAID has been fruitful, and together we have achieved much in creating a more secure environment that sustains both ecological integrity and human development,” said Acting USAID Philippines Mission Director Sean Callahan.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said: “Given the pandemic, the DENR is committed more than ever to address the country’s environmental challenges. USAID, a consistent and effective ally of the DENR, has also supported us in creating sustainable models that guided us in managing our ecosystems. Through these projects, we will advance our shared goals of environmental sustainability and improving the lives of Filipino communities.”

Since 2014, USAID has provided more than P5 billion (\$100 million) to help conserve the Philippines’ biodiversity and protect its natural resources.



DENR educates stakeholders to spur passion for environmental protection

By DENR Published on June 7, 2021

QUEZON CITY, June 7 -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has challenged the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, teachers, as well as the DENR utility personnel, to promote care for the environment in their own ways, during the learning session for the Month of the Ocean (MOO) celebration.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu explained that presenting a challenge to these stakeholders will "awaken their passion and awareness about the current situation of our oceans and the biodiversity that thrives in it."

"It is important that we educate all the sectors, including the teachers, who will mold the minds of the next generations, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, who is tasked as one of the stewards of our environment, and even the maintenance personnel of the DENR, as they are the custodians of our institution," Cimatu said.

The learning event for the MOO, hosted by the DENR's Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division of the Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS), is in line with this year's MOO theme, "The Science We Need for The Ocean We Want."

A total of 569 participants attended the four-day learning event: 155 rover and 113 senior members of the Boy Scout of the Philippines on May 26-27; 196 elementary and high school teachers on May 28; and 105 men and women from D'Triumph, the janitorial manpower agency of the DENR, on May 29.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, who is concurrently the Supervising Undersecretary for SCIS and Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan, pointed out the need to act now. "Humankind is racing against time in saving the oceans because we might lose it one day," he said.

"We at the DENR are challenging you to contribute in your own way and work to protect the ocean and the environment," Antiporda told the participants.

He said the stakeholders' contribution is significant to achieve the department's goal "to care for and enrich our oceans, and the creatures and plants that live beneath them."

During the learning event, the participants were taught about the importance of the oceans, heard success stories through the DENR regional offices, and discovered how they can save the natural aquatic resources.

The Month of the Ocean is celebrated annually in the Philippines in May by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 57 issued in 1998. (DENR)



Ganito Kasi 'Yan

ni **ANDY VERDE** DZRH anchorman

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HINAMON ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Boy Scouts of the Philippines, teachers, maging ang DENR utility personnel na itaguyod ang pangangalaga sa kapaligiran sa kanilang pamamaraan sa ginanap na learning session para sa pagdiriwang ng Month of the Ocean (MOO).

Ipinaliwanag pa ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na ang pagbibigay ng hamon sa mga stakeholders ay magmumulat o "awaken their passion and awareness about the current situation of our oceans and the biodiversity

that thrives in it."

"It is important that we educate all the sectors, including the teachers, who will mold the minds of the next generations, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, who is tasked as one of the stewards of our environment, and even the maintenance personnel of the DENR, as they are the custodians of our institution," sabi ni Cimatu.

Sa kanyang panig, ipinaliwanag ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda na siya ring concurrent Supervising Un-

PAGPAPASIGLA SA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAMON SA BOY SCOUTS

dersecretary for SCIS and Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan, kailangan nang kumilos ngayon. "Humankind is racing against time in saving the oceans because we might lose it one day," aniya.

"We at the DENR are challenging you to contribute in your own way and work to protect the ocean and the environment," sabi pa ni Antiporda sa mga participants.

Aniya, makabuluhan ang kontribusyon ng stakeholders upang makamit ang layunin ng departamento na "to care for and enrich our oceans, and the creatures and plants that live beneath them."

Sa naganap na learning event, ang mga participants ay tinuruan ng kahalagahan ng karagatan, nakinig sa mga success stories mula sa DENR regional offices at natukla-

san kung paano ililigtas ang natural aquatic resources.

Ang Month of the Ocean ay ipinagdiriwang kada taon sa Pilipinas tuwing buwan ng Mayo sa bisa ng Presidential Proclamation No. 57 na inilabas noong 1998.

oOo

TOTOONG sa panahong ito ng pandemya dahil sa marami sa ating mga kababayan ang hindi makalabas ng bahay bunga ng pagsunod sa health protocols ng gobyerno ay nakaka-alarms na ang napapanalitang pagtaas daw ng bilang ng mga kabataang naaadik o nahuhumaling sa online gambling.

Tulad na lang ng online cockfighting o e-sabong, online bingo, virtual casino at iba pang uri ng internet gambling na siyang nag-alok ng access at pagtatago

ng pagkakakilanlan ng mga manunugal.

Kung kaya't dapat na bantayang mabuti ng mga magulang ang kanilang mga anak dahil ang mga ito ay computer literate na online o digital currency ang gamit sa pagpusta sa online sabong, marami umano ang nalulong sa bisyong ito dahil isang pindot lang ang pagtaya.

Kahit nga po yung menor-de-edad ay nakakataya sa online sabong sapagka't hindi naman nakikita ng operators o ng PAGCOR kung sinu-sino ang tumataya na napapanalita marami din daw mag-asawang naghiwalay dahil naadik sa online sabong ang asawa habang may mga seaman at OFWs na nagpakamatay dahil naubos ang naipon at walang maiuwi sa pamilya.



DENR-MGB to conduct inventory of idle gov't mining assets

By DENR Published on June 7, 2021

QUEZON CITY, June 7 -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), is ready for the updating of essential mining information on the government's idle mining assets.

"This is in preparation for the bidding and sale of mining assets to gain revenues and help the country recover from the economic devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic," said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano said the bureau will be updating the mineral resources and mineral reserves data of identified state-owned mining assets to determine the viability of future mining operations.

"Some of these mining assets stopped operating in the 1980s, which means these hold mining information that is around 40 years old," Moncano pointed out. "Data are necessary to be collated and evaluated to see if the reports of former geologists and mining engineers are compliant with the Philippine Mineral Reporting Code that is in place sometime in 2010 only."

He cited idle mining assets such as the Basay Mining Corp. in Negros Oriental, which stopped operations in 1983, and the Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corp. (MMIC Bagacay Mine) in Samar, which was foreclosed by the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine National Bank in 1984.

Data to be evaluated include the volume of mineral resources and reserves, technical basis of estimates, and methodology of estimation, among others, Moncano explained.

A mineral resource refers to the concentration of materials of economic interest found in the Earth's crust, while a mineral reserve is the economically mineable portion of a mineral resource.

According to Moncano, the updating of the baseline information will also improve the "packaging" of the mining assets to help boost sales.

"The MGB will allot some funds from its budget for the updating of data. The updating of the mining information will most likely advance first on those assets without pending legal cases like the Basay Mining Corp. and MMIC Bagacay Mine," he said.

However, Moncano said that some assets under the Privatization and Management Office (PMO) of the Department of Finance (DOF) have already sufficient and updated data, which can be up for bidding soon.

"Once investors will bid on these mining assets, operations will resume. However, documentary requirements to allow for the development and commercial operations to resume will have to be submitted by the winning bidder to MGB," he said.

The PMO of the DOF and the Philippine Mining Development Corporation are the ones responsible for the sale and disposal of such state mining assets through public bidding.



DENR-MGB to conduct inventory of idle gov't mining assets

The DOF has been working with the MGB in the preparations for the sale since its announcement last year to privatize state-owned mining assets.

PMO-identified mining assets for disposal also include Pacific Nickel Philippines Inc. in Surigao del Norte, North Davao Mining Property in Davao del Norte, Maricalum Mining Corp. in Negros Occidental, and Marcopper Mining Corp. in Marinduque. (DENR)



DENR-EMB NAGSAGAWA NG WATER SAMPLING SA NAVOTAS FISH PORT



June 7, 2021 @ 10:55 AM 20 hours ago

PINANGUNAHAN ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda ang grupo sa inspeksyon sa marine vessels na nakadaong sa Navotas Fish Port at batil (wooden cargo vessels) sa Delpan, Port Area, Manila.

Binisita rin ni Antiporda, na siya ring namumuno sa Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force, ang shipyards sa Navotas Fish Port kung saan nakadaong ang malalaking marine vessels na dumadaan sa pagsasaayos.

Aniya, ang wastewater na nanggagaling sa shipyard ay kinabibilangan ng toxic compounds at maaaring magdulot ng masamang epekto sa karagatan at marine organisms.

Sinabi pa ng DENR official na tatawagan nito ang atensyon ng mga may-ari ng marine vessels sa shipyard sa Navotas, kabilang na rito ang mga nag-o-operate sa Manila Bay region.

“We will summon the respective owners of the shipyards in Navotas area,” sabi pa ni Antiporda. “Of course within the Manila Bay area where there are established shipyards, we will also get their attention and ask for their support in our campaign to address the pollution in Manila Bay.”

Idinagdag pa nito na kapag hindi sumunod ang mga may-ari ng marine vessels sa kautusan ng DENR, mapipilitan ang ahensya na magsampa ng kaso laban sa mga ito.

Samantala, hinarap din ni Antiporda ang mga kapitan ng batil na nakadaong sa Delpan, Port Area, Manila na nagdadala at naglalabas ng cargo sa Palawan, upang pag-usapan ang wastewater ng mga crew at ang solid waste management system ng mga ito.



DENR-EMB NAGSAGAWA NG WATER SAMPLING SA NAVOTAS FISH PORT

“Despite our campaigns to clean our oceans, if the sea vessel operators will not help in this endeavor, we will not be able to clean it up,” saad ni Antiporda.

Nagsagawa rin ng water sampling ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau sa Navotas Fish Port upang matukoy kung mayroong chemical components tulad ng lead, iron, at copper ang matatagpuan sa katubigan malapit sa shipyards.

Kumuha rin ng water samples sa Delpan Port upang mapag-aralan ang water quality sa lugar batay na rin sa fecal coliform content.



Wildlife release marks world environment day



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center, marks the celebration of World Environment Day on Saturday, June 5, with the release of 100th rehabilitated wildlife in Zamboanga del Norte. A photo handout shows DENR officials release the wildlife in Don Eleno, Sergio Osmeña, Zamboanga del Norte. (SunStar Zamboanga)

June 07, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center, marked the celebration of World Environment Day on Saturday, June 5, with the release of 100th rehabilitated wildlife in the province of Zamboanga del Norte.

DENR Regional Executive Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez spearheaded the event, which was held in Don Eleno village, Sergio Ormeña, Zamboanga del Norte.

Rodriguez said that released back to the wild were a pair of juvenile Brahminy Kite and a juvenile Pinksers Hawk-eagle.

Rodriguez said the species mentioned were the 98th, 99th and 100th releases made by her office among the wildlife rescued and rehabilitated at the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center in Baclay village, Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur.

DENR DAO 2019-09 and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed the Pinksers Hawk-eagle as endangered and the Brahminy Kite as other wildlife species (DENR DAO 2019-09) and least concern (IUCN).



Wildlife release marks world environment day

Rodriguez said the releasing of wildlife in Sergio Osmeña town signified the three environmental celebrations: June 4 to 10 as Philippine Eagle Week, June 5 as World Environment Day and the whole month of June as Environment Month.

"We would like to tell the people that our wildlife should remain in the wild. Let's not capture them. If there are instances that you see or observe birds that are stranded, injured or sick, please report it to our nearest CENR Office or you can go to your respective Local Government Unit. Just a reminder, that the threat of Bird Flu is still there, so please don't touch the birds with our bare hand, but instead, report it to the authorities for they know what to do to the captured wildlife," she added.

Since April 2019, the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center (RWRC) has been fully functional with its major operational activities -- rescue, rehabilitate and release.

In partnership with the Department of Agriculture regional office and the Zamboanga del Sur Provincial Veterinary Office headed by Dr. Anita Chua, the RWRC has been providing medical attention, shelter and rehabilitation to the rescued wildlife prior to their release back to their natural habitat.

World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5 as the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

With this year's theme, "Reimagine. Recreate. Restore," the releasing of rescued and rehabilitated wildlife is one way of supporting ecosystem healing and restoration.

The month of June of each year is declared as Philippine Environment Month under Presidential Proclamation 237 to generate awareness and advocacy towards the protection, conservation and sustainable development of our environment and natural resources. (SunStar Zamboanga)



Conserving PH megadiversity crucial to economy, climate change

By

-June 7, 2021



Tamaraws (Photo by Jezryl-Garcia)

Conservation efforts continue despite the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the Philippines whose biodiversity makes it not only one of the richest, but also one of the most vulnerable in the world.

“We must act now despite the global pandemic,” said Grace Diamante, an executive director of Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (MBCFI), during a virtual advocacy event conducted recently by the Manila House Private Members Club.

Diamante was joined by Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) executive director Karen Agabin, MFI marine biologist and conservation manager Pacifico Beldia II, and Western Philippines University professor Dr. Lota Creencia in discussing terrestrial and marine conservation efforts in Palawan, Mindoro, and the Verde Island Passage.

Since 2013, MFI has helped establish and manage over 335,000 hectares of marine-protected areas (MPAs) and marine management zones with communities, local government units, and national agencies. MBCFI seeks to conserve the unique and threatened environment, biodiversity, and natural resources of Mindoro Island, which is recognized as one of the global biodiversity conservation priority areas, particularly in terms of the number of endemic species, diversity of habitats, and degrees of threats.

There are reported sightings of returning endangered species in MPAs that have been effectively managed after five years, like the Napoleon wrasse in Coron. Black-tipped sharks and dolphins are also returning to areas that are well-protected.



Conserving PH megadiversity crucial to economy, climate change

As part of its marine rehabilitation work, MFI and its partners are restocking protected reefs within effectively-managed MPAs with over-extracted shell species like the abalone, trochus, and giant clam species, some of which are classified as endangered and locally-extinct.

Most notable is the return of the Philippines' giant clam *Tridacna gigas*, declared locally-extinct in the 80s. Over 3,000 giant clam shells have been restocked since 2019.

MBCFI is working with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Tamaraw Conservation Program, and their Rangers and Wardens to conserve the Tamaraw or Mindoro dwarf buffalo, of which an estimated 480 are left in the world.

Other conservation efforts in Mindoro include the completion of MBCFI's propagation of the endangered Philippine Teak at Ilin Island, Occidental Mindoro in 2019, 163 hectares of woodlot areas established, documentation of 54 fauna and discovery of one flora, and the ongoing construction of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center in Puerto Galera.

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Native species of 'mistletoe' discovered in Mt. Hamiguitan

Published June 7, 2021, 12:39 PM

by [Antonio Colina IV](#)

DAVAO CITY – Researchers from the National Museum of the Philippines and Central Mindanao University (CMU) in Bukidnon discovered a new species of flowering plant “*Amylothea cleofei* Tandang, Galindon, & A.S.Rob,” which belongs to the family Loranthaceae, collectively called as “mistletoe,” at the Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary (MHRWS) in Davao Oriental.

In a statement released by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Davao, the new floral species was the first genus recorded in the Philippines and the fifth species of “mistletoe” in the world.

The plant endemic to Mt. Hamiguitan was first documented in 2019.

It said “mistletoe,” known for their “exceptional lifestyle as a hemiparasite,” propagate through birds that spread their seeds to other host plants.

“When a bird eats the mistletoe fruit and poops (excretes), the sticky seed will attach to the branch and a specialized root-like structure called haustorium will emerge and penetrate to the host tree or shrub to extract water and nutrients for its growth and nourishment,” it added.

According to the National Museum of the Philippines, researchers, Danilo Tandang and John Michael Galindon, of the Botany and National Herbarium Division, discovered the plant species.

Their research on this new plant species was published in an international peer-reviewed journal, *Phytotaxa*. The co-authors of the paper included Noel E. Lagunday, Fulgent P. Coritico, Victor B. Amoroso, Alastair S. Robinson.

“Although the genus has been previously described from the Philippines, taxonomic revisions have transferred all *Amylothea* species to its closely allied and more primitive genus, *Decaisnina*, wholly absenting *Amylothea* from the Philippines,” it said.

It said the researchers believed that there are still several unknown species that have yet to be discovered in the forests.

The plant was named after Clint Michael B. Cleofe, ecosystems management specialist 1 of DENR-Davao, who assisted the researchers during their expedition in Mt. Hamiguitan.

Mt. Hamiguitan was inscribed as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world heritage site on June 23, 2014 and declared as Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) Heritage Park on October 21, 2014.

The Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, declared a protected area under RA 9303, measures 16,923 hectares covering San Isidro Municipality, Governor Generoso, and Mati City.

Recorded species on Mt. Hamiguitan are 963 species of flora and 440 species of fauna, 341 of which are endemic to the Philippines.



Native species of 'mistletoe' discovered in Mt. Hamiguitan

The plants include 729 angiosperms, 27 conifers, 164 ferns and allies, 17 mosses, 13 liverworts, and 13 lichens while the known fauna include 15 species of non-flying mammals, 11 species of flying mammals, 108 species of birds, 33 species of reptiles, 18 species of frogs, 142 species of butterflies, 31 species of dragonflies and damselflies, 46 species of spiders, four species of earthworms, 15 species of nematodes, and 17 species of freshwater fish.

DENR-1 targets to plant trees on 3,700 hectares of forest cover in 2021

By Anne Hazel Fajardo-Flores Published on June 7, 2021

SAN FERNANDO CITY, Jun. 7 (PIA) – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Ilocos (DENR-1) targets to plant trees on 3,700 hectares of forest cover in the region for this year.

The said target was reported during the Kapihan sa Ilocos program of the Philippine Information Agency-Region 1 on June 4 with DENR-1 as guest agency during the kick-off celebration of the 2021 Philippine Environment Month with the theme: *“Sama-samang Pagkilos, Sama-samang Paghilom, Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan.”*

According to DENR-1 Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services and in-charge of the Office of the Regional Executive Director Felix Taguba, “In compliance with Executive Order No. 26 or the National Greening Program (NGP), from 2011 to 2020, we were able to cover 91,841 hectares or equivalent to 80,000,847 seedlings planted.”



NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM 2021 - Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-1) Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services and in-charge of the Office of the Regional Executive Director Felix Taguba (right) reports the accomplishments of their agency during the Kapihan sa Ilocos program of the Philippine Information Agency-Region 1 on June 4, 2021. (AHFF/PIA-1)

Further, he said that with the aim of the NGP to plant 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 billion hectares of lands of public domain for a period of six years in the entire country, DENR-1 is implementing various programs to reach the target together with its partner agencies.

“Some of the NGPs objective is to reduce poverty in the upland areas, be able to provide food security to the people, for environmental stability and biodiversity conservation, and most importantly mitigation and adaptation to climate change,” Taguba added.



DENR-1 targets to plant trees on 3,700 hectares of forest cover in 2021

Taguba said that Executive Order No. 193 or Enhanced NGP, which was signed on November 12, 2015, will rehabilitate all the remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands estimated at 7.1 million hectares from the years 2016 up to 2028.

He expressed that through the support of DENR's partners and the community, the said target is not impossible to reach.

The NGP, as the DENR's banner program, is a convergence initiative with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Reform, where DENR stands as the lead agency.

Meanwhile, DENR Environmental Management Bureau Regional Director Engr. Ma. Dorica Naz-Hipe also reminded the local government units (LGUs) to comply with Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 during the said program.

"It is fortunate that some of the LGUs in the Ilocos region, which have non-compliant dumpsites, have the initiative to voluntarily discontinue their operations and did not wait for a cease and desist order from our agency to act on the matter, since they already know that our agency is strictly implementing the law," Hipe said.



RA 9003 - Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau Regional Director Engr. Ma. Dorica Naz-Hipe reminds the local government units to comply with Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 during the Kapihan sa Ilocos program of the Philippine Information Agency-Region 1 on June 4, 2021. (AHFF/PIA-1)

The RA 9003 provides the necessary policy framework, institutional mechanisms and mandate to the LGUs to achieve 25 percent waste reduction through establishing an integrated solid waste management plan based on 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycling). (JCR/AMB/AHFF/PIA-1)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1077351>



DENR rehabs 122K hectares of denuded CL forestlands, watersheds

By Carlo Lorenzo J. DatuPublished on June 7, 2021

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, June 7 (PIA) -- About 122,000 hectares of denuded forestlands and watersheds in Central Luzon have been rehabilitated through the Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP) of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) since 2011.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said the government's flagship reforestation program has continued to restore the region's degraded areas and has reinforced its efforts on increasing the survival rate of these plantation sites.

"In average, the survival rate of our plantation sites is around 81 percent. This rate is significantly affected by natural occurrences such as forest fire and extreme weather changes. Work limitations brought by the community quarantine restrictions have affected regular operations and activities for E-NGP," he added.

Despite the pandemic, DENR has established another 300-hectare bamboo plantation in Bulacan last year as an additional forest cover in the Angat-Ipo-Maasim River Watershed. This is in addition to the more than 14,000-hectare bamboo plantations established since 2011 under NGP.



About 122,000 hectares of denuded forestlands and watersheds in Central Luzon have been rehabilitated through the Enhanced National Greening Program of Department of Environment and Natural Resources since 2011. (DENR)



DENR rehabs 122K hectares of denuded CL forestlands, watersheds

Moreno said partnerships with private firms were also strengthened to achieve a higher survival rate in these plantations. To date, 62 unfunded NGP areas have already been adopted by different organizations.

DENR likewise partnered with Peoples' Organizations, Philippine National Police and Philippine Army to monitor the development of plantations and facilitate quick response and reporting of illegal forest activities in NGP areas.

Apart from its ecological value, NGP has generated 228,592 jobs in the region from its plantation maintenance and protection activities.

NGP aims to reforest 1.5 million hectares of denuded forestlands and watersheds in the country. It was expanded until 2028 under Executive Order No. 193 to reforest and develop remaining degraded forest areas in the country. (CLJD-PIA 3)



Over 122K hectares of denuded forestlands restored in C. Luzon

By Zorayda Tecson June 7, 2021, 5:49 pm



ENHANCED NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM. Over 122,000 hectares of denuded forestlands and watersheds have been rehabilitated in Central Luzon through the DENR's Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP) since 2011. DENR-3 executive director Paquito Moreno, Jr. said on Monday (June 7, 2021) the government's flagship reforestation program has continued to rehabilitate the region's degraded areas and has reinforced its efforts on increasing the survival rate of these plantation sites. *(Photo courtesy of DENR Region 3)*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – More than 122,000 hectares of denuded forestlands and watersheds have been rehabilitated in Central Luzon through the Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office here since 2011.

Paquito Moreno, Jr., executive director of the DENR in Region 3, said on Monday the government's flagship reforestation program has continued to rehabilitate the region's degraded areas and has reinforced its efforts in increasing the survival rate of these plantation sites.

"In average, the survival rate of our plantation sites is around 81 percent. This rate is significantly affected by natural occurrences, such as forest fire and extreme weather changes," Moreno said in an official social media post.

He said that despite the work limitations brought by coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), the DENR established another 300-hectare bamboo plantation in Bulacan last year, as an additional forest cover in the Angat-Ipo-Maasim River Watershed.

Moreno said this is in addition to the more than 14,000-hectare bamboo plantations established since 2011 under NGP.

He said partnership and collaboration with private firms were also strengthened to develop and achieve a higher survival rate of these plantations, where 62 unfunded NGP areas have already been adopted by different organizations.



Over 122K hectares of denuded forestlands restored in C. Luzon

Last February, the DENR Region 3 (Central Luzon) has partnered with the Star 8 Green Technology Corporation (GTC) to boost the development and protection of established plantations in Bataan under the NGP.

Star 8 GTC has adopted an estimated 350 hectares of NGP-established plantations inside the multiple-use zone of the Bataan Natural Park in Morong town under the “New Tomorrow” program to strengthen its protection and enhance the development of agroforestry.

Likewise, Moreno said the DENR has partnered with peoples’ organizations, the Philippine National Police and Philippine Army in the region to monitor the development of plantations and facilitate quick response and reporting of illegal forest activities in NGP areas.

Apart from its ecological value, the NGP, since its implementation in 2011, has generated 228,592 jobs in the region from its plantation maintenance and protection activities.

NGP, which was launched in 2011, aims to reforest 1.5 million hectares of denuded forestlands and watersheds in the country, reduce poverty, provide food security, conserve biodiversity and address global warming and climate change.

The program was expanded until 2028 under Executive Order No. 193 to reforest the remaining degraded forestlands, and remains one of the banner environmental advocacies of the government. (PNA)

REDUCING GARBAGE | DENR calls on Metro Manila residents to adopt zero-waste lifestyle

June 7, 2021 , 03:56 PM

(June 7, 2021) – With the Philippines being one of the biggest waste producers in the world, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Monday called on Metro Manila residents to do their part in restoring urban biodiversity in the capital.

DENR regional executive director Jacqueline Caancan cited data from the National Solid Waste Management Status Report showing Metro Manila's contribution to the annual waste generation rate of the country continued to rise from 22.2% in 2010 to 26.7% in 2018.

"We need to rethink the ways we do things here in Metro Manila. Imagine that we are the smallest region in the Philippines in terms of land area, but we contribute more than a fourth to the waste generated in the country," said Caancan in a statement in observance of World Environment Day.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the DENR reported that the volume of hazardous waste in the country has climbed by a staggering 400% in 2020. Around 350,000 metric tons of hazardous waste were recorded last year from just 88,000 metric tons in 2019.

Caancan attributed the rise of waste generation to the lifestyle in Metro Manila, where businesses extract raw materials from nature, process and turn them into consumer products that can be easily thrown away.

"We consume more, and therefore produce more waste than we can manage. Our current economic model, most prevalent in urban areas where major commercial and trading centers are based, follows a 'take-make-dispose linear pattern,'" said Caancan.

Caancan also lamented that Filipinos do not care where the waste ends up, calling on the country to reflect on ecological footprints and work on restoring ecosystems.

"What people don't know is that we city dwellers consume over 75% of natural resources, produce over 50% of global waste, and emit between 60-80% of greenhouse gases. We need to change our ways," urged Caancan. "Our consumerist culture is destroying our ecosystem, but without the life-giving support from our ecosystem, we will not be able to survive and live healthy and happy."

The Philippines ranked as the world's third-biggest polluter with over 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste each year, according to a 2015 study by the Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian has already proposed the utilization of waste-to-energy facilities in the country's waste management efforts under Senate Bill 1789 or the Waste to Energy Act.

"We can work on restoring our ecosystem by simply changing our way of living," said Caancan. "We can do this by adopting a zero-waste lifestyle. We reduce our consumption, switch to plant-based diets, and walking or biking to work or other places."

(Kiko Demigillo/PM)

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/163550757135020/posts/2567029813453757/>



Duterte raises concern: Plastic waste on the rise due to pandemic

Published June 7, 2021, 9:59 PM

by [Genalyn Kabiling](#)

President Duterte has called for the proper disposal of garbage, including medical waste, after observing the rise in plastic pollution during the coronavirus pandemic.



President Rodrigo Duterte delivers a public address from Davao City (Photo/Office of Sen.Go)
The President sought to raise awareness against plastic and medical waste following the observance of the World Environment Day on June 5.

"The global community celebrated World Environment Day to promote greater commitment to care our planet. Sadly, however, the COVID-19 crisis has also given rise to plastic waste," he said in a televised address Monday, June 7.

"The popularity of delivery of services has produced considerable solid waste such as delivery of packaging of both food and non-food products," he said.

Duterte also raised concern about the increase in medical waste as the nation battles the pandemic, saying such garbage must be properly disposed.

"A serious concern is the proper disposal of medical waste. There have been several reports of poor disposal," he said.

Duterte, a former mayor of Davao City, recalled that medical waste was once buried in a beach, which he claimed was "not the proper way."



Duterte raises concern: Plastic waste on the rise due to pandemic

"You might as well as wait for the garbage men to lock the garbage. Balutin ninyo ang mga medisina, 'yung naturok at saka mga syringe, balutin ninyo at ibigay ninyo sa basurero. Alam nila ano gagawin nila (Collect the medical waste, including the syringe, and give them to the garbage men. They know what to do)," he said.

A waste management firm Metro Clark Waste Management (MCWM) recently called for a strategic and efficient waste management program as the country faced rising medical and plastic waste. The group made the pitch to ensure public health as medical waste such as face masks, shields, syringes, and personal protective equipment continued to pile up in the country.



PRRD renews call for proper disposal of medical waste

By Azer Parrocha June 7, 2021, 11:32 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday renewed his call for the proper disposal of medical waste that poses a threat to human health and the environment if improperly handled.

In a pre-recorded public address, Duterte described the failure to comply with proper waste management as a “serious concern.”

“A serious concern is the proper disposal of medical waste. There have been several reports of poor disposal,” he said.

He urged hospitals and other healthcare establishments to ensure that there are no adverse health and environmental consequences in their handling, storage, treatment, and disposal of medical waste.

“Balutin ninyo yung mga ano ninyo, mga medisina, yung naturok na, tsaka yung mga syringe, balutin ninyo at ibigay ninyo sa basurero. Alam nila kung anong gawin nila (Wrap them properly those syringes and give them to garbage collectors. They know what to do with them),” he added.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) last April said around 52,000 metric tons of medical waste has so far been generated amid the pandemic.

Plastic waste

Meanwhile, Duterte emphasized the need to give attention to the rise of larger volumes of plastic waste which resulted from the pandemic.

“On June 5, the global community celebrated World Environment Day to promote greater commitment to care [for] our planet. Sadly, however, the Covid-19 crisis also gave a rise to plastic waste. The popularity of delivery of services has produced considerable solid waste such as the delivery packaging of both food and non-food products,” he said.



PRRD renews call for proper disposal of medical waste

Late last month, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) unveiled a regional action plan (RAP) for combating marine debris in its member states for the 2021-2025 period.

The plan will serve as a joint strategy focusing on solutions to the question of plastic pollution in the region.

According to ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi, the plan adopted by ASEAN member-states ahead of World Environment Day (June 5) and World Ocean Day (June 8) has been described as a new achievement for the region, which has shown firm commitment, in line with the national agenda of each member state, in facing environmental challenges through actions at the regional level.

Nearly 80 percent of the garbage in the sea is believed to be plastic. Six out of 10 ASEAN member-states produce more than 31 million tons of plastic waste per year, he added. (PNA)



An urgent call to stop using single-use plastic



[BYATTY. JOSE FERDINAND M. ROJAS II](#)

JUNE 7, 2021

2 MINUTE READ



Because of the pandemic, there has been a kind of break in air pollution and environmental emissions around the world. But now that countries are slowly opening up and people are cautiously emerging from their homes, we can expect to see a rise in environmental problems once more. Covid-19 did not cancel out climate change, after all. Measures to address climate problems should be part of the recovery strategies that every nation is drawing up at this time.

June is Philippine Environment Month, by virtue of Proclamation 237, s. 1988. We are enjoined to work together and raise environmental consciousness among Filipinos. The theme for this year is "Sama-samang Pagkilos, Sama-samang Paghilom [Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan]." According to the Climate Change Commission, "this year's celebration aims to draw attention and create a united movement for the Earth's restoration, by reimagining a better world, reviving the strength of rivers, oceans, and coasts, and rethinking plastic use."

The Commission seems to be focusing its attention and resources on eradicating the use of single-use plastics in the country. And rightly so, because studies show that there are 164 million pieces of plastic sachets being consumed (and dumped) daily in the Philippines, which was the reason why the country was cited as a top plastic polluter. As a matter of fact, plastics contribute to global warming and climate change. It is indeed obvious that we must all rethink the way we use and consume products in single-use plastics.

Aside from putting legislation in place to make sure that manufacturers and businesses are aligned with the goals, the government is also counting on the Filipino consumers themselves to make more environmentally conscious purchases and to lead a sustainable, earth-friendly lifestyle. And so in celebration of Philippine Environment Month, CCC is urging Filipino citizens and households to reduce or avoid single-use plastic consumption.



An urgent call to stop using single-use plastic

If you are feeling overwhelmed or clueless as to how to start on this journey, consider the following recommendations from the CCC:

Grow your own food or patronize local, plant-based, and in-season produce;

Consider energy- and cost-efficient transport modes, like walking and biking;

Practice energy conservation measures, such as using low-wattage appliances, unplugging electronics, and converting to LED light bulbs;

Contribute to efficient waste management system by segregating waste, recycling products, and composting food scraps;

Refuse and avoid single-use plastics, such as plastic straws and plastic bags, and use eco-bags and containers; and

Conserve water by collecting rainwater or reusing laundry water for other chores.

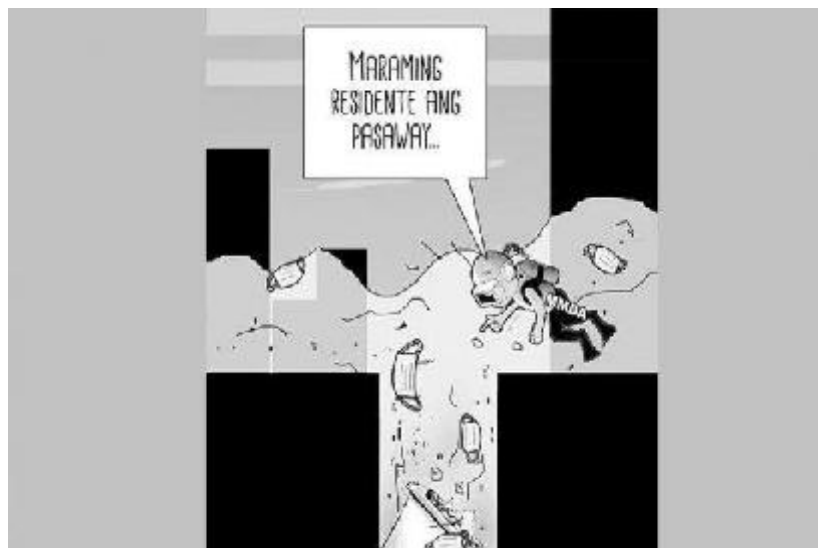
It is our responsibility as Filipinos and residents of the planet to help care for the environment and ensure that the next generation can continue to enjoy the gifts of nature.



EDITORIAL - Maraming walang disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura

(Pang-Masa)

- June 8, 2021 - 12:00am



BASURA ang isa sa mga pangunahing dahilan kaya hindi matapus-tapos ang problemang baha sa Metro Manila. Taun-taon, laging problema ang baha. Lagi namang nagsasagawa ng paglilinis sa drainages at mga estero ang Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) pero lagi pa ring may baha at lalo pang lumalala. Kahit pa nagkaroon ng flood control program na ginastusan nang malaki noong 2010, nananatiling problema ang baha sa Metro Manila. Sa Maynila, hindi na nawala ang baha sa España Blvd, ganundin sa kahabaan ng Taft Avenue at Rizal Avenue.

Idineklara noong Biyernes ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) na simula na ng tag-ulan. Kaya inaasahan na hindi lamang ulan ang problema kundi pati na ang baha. Magkakambal na problema na daranasin ng mamamayang nakikipaglaban sa COVID-19. Ang masakit, hindi lamang COVID ang kalaban ngayon kundi pati na rin ang iba pang sakit ngayon tag-ulan gaya ng dengue at leptospirosis.

Dahil basura ang numero unong dahilan ng pagbaha, nagpaalala ang MMDA sa mamamayan na maging responsible sa pagtatapon ng basura. Magkaroon ng disiplina. Ilagay sa tamang lugar at oras ang basura kung saan hahakutin ito ng mga garbage truck. Kapag hindi naging maayos sa pagtatapon ng basura, babara ang mga ito sa daanan ng tubig na magiging dahilan ng pagbaha.

Karaniwang supot na plastic, grocery bags, sachet ng 3-in-1 coffee, catsup, shampoo, toothpaste, at iba pang basura na hindi nabubulok ang itinatapon sa kung saan-saan. Sa kasalukuyan, pati na rin face masks ay kabilang na rin sa mga basurang lulutang-lutang sa estero na nagiging dahilan na rin ng baha. Lahat nang basurang itinapon sa mga estero ay tatangayin naman sa Manila Bay.

Isa sa mga paraan para mabawasan ang mga basura sa Metro Manila at maiwasan ang pagbaha ay ang pagbabawal sa single-used plastic. Tanging ang Quezon City pa lamang ang nagpapatupad nito. Noong nakaraang linggo, hinikayat ni QC Mayor Joy Belmonte ang mga residente na mag-recycle



EDITORIAL - Maraming walang disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura

ng basura. Papalitan ng pagkain at cash ang mga basura. Mabisa itong paraan para mabawasan ang plastic pollution na nagdudulot ng pagbaha.

Malubha ang problema sa basura dahil marami pa rin ang walang disiplina. Kailangang matuto na ang mamamayan sa pagkakataong ito.



Startups trying to solve plastic problem receive support from WWF, investor groups

June 7, 2021 | 5:56 pm



Five startups working on a different piece of the plastic waste puzzle will receive support from World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF-PH) and several investor groups.

[AtoANI BioPack](#), [AUDEO](#), [Cloop](#), [Nanolabs](#), and [Salin PH](#) were selected from a pool of enterprises that were part of [earlier incubation programs](#) by makesense, a social entrepreneurship community; and The Incubation Network (TIN), a connected network of innovators, investors, organizations, and government leaders across South and Southeast Asia.

"While all the innovations and business models in the pool were promising, these five enterprises were selected because the entrepreneurs behind them expressed their commitment to solve the problem, embark on this learning journey, and move their enterprises forward," said Love Gregorie M. Perez, director of xchange, an active investor in early-stage impact enterprises in the Philippines.

AtoANI BioPack is working on packaging alternatives made from agricultural waste, Salin PH is working on finding a refilling model that is scalable, while AUDEO, Cloop, and Nanolabs are taking plastic waste and using them in innovative ways to come up with value-added products.

Plastic pollution threatens communities, marine life, and the Earth's ecosystems. An [October 2020 WWF Philippines report](#) estimated that about 2.15 million tons of plastics are generated annually in the country. The average Filipino generates about 15.43 kilograms of plastic per year. Packaging wastes that are commonly found in wastes streams include packaging for consumer goods, disposable food containers, and multi-layered sachets.

TINGI

MENTALITY

Until August, the five enterprises are undergoing a program with activities on innovation and systems thinking, marketing, accounting, strategic planning, the circular economy, gender lens investing, and pilot designing.



Startups trying to solve plastic problem receive support from WWF, investor groups

"It's been a learning and collaborative process especially during a pandemic. We learned that there are many ways to solve the plastic problem, so clarity is key because it provides direction. Going in the right direction is much more important than scaling because we have to consider social and environmental issues; we have to be more inter-sectional. With a possible ban on single-use plastics, it's important to start opening conversations with key stakeholders to ease the transition by collaborating on possible solutions," said Donna Formalejo, cofounder and chief creative officer of Salin PH.

Among the mentors are TJ Agulto of AHA! Behavioral Consulting, who will conduct a masterclass on understanding behavioral science and applying these concepts to drive behavior change in individuals and organizations towards [zero waste](#) and [the circular economy](#). Another is Marie Torres of Investing in Women, who will conduct a masterclass on understanding the principles of gender, diversity, and inclusivity and how these impact businesses.

The role of impact entrepreneurs is to ideate, test, and execute innovative market-based solutions, said Czarina Constantino-Panopio, WWF-PH project manager for Plastic Smart Cities and national lead for the No Plastics in Nature Initiative.

"We acknowledge the *tingi* mentality is something that has been instilled in Filipinos due to reasons of buying capacity and current need for the item," she told *BusinessWorld* in a separate e-mail interview. "We want to come up with ways on how Filipinos can still buy in *tingi* while taking in consideration the environmental impact of these plastics. What we want to emphasize is that sustainability is something that is also economical."

Apart from working with impact entrepreneurs, WWF is also working with other stakeholders to address the Philippines' plastic pollution situation. This includes working with policy makers to advocate for an Extended Producer Responsibility where producers take responsibility for the full life cycle of the plastics they bring into the market.

"We believe that we need to work with stakeholders in the entire plastic value chain to stop plastic waste leakage into nature," added Ms. Panopio. — Patricia B. Mirasol



DOST: EU-ASEAN dialogue to focus on plastic waste management, green technology

Published June 7, 2021, 1:37 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

The fifth leg of the European Union (EU)-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) webinar series, which will be held on June 24, will focus on plastic waste management in marine environment.



(PIXABAY / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) announced this Monday, June 7, in a Facebook post.

"The fifth EU -ASEAN Webinar Series is scheduled on June 24, 2021 that will focus on the innovative approaches in managing plastic wastes in the marine environment," it said.

The DOST said the initiative aims to provide a platform for dialogues on green technology markets, particularly among innovators, and to promote EU-ASEAN Technology Cooperation and Transfer.

"The focus on plastic value chain management can facilitate discussions on the present and future of plastic waste management and its key elements, including new technologies and solutions on plastic waste consolidation, segregation, and recycling to close the loop towards a circular economy," it said.

The DOST together with the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), with the support of the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) and the ASEAN Secretariat S&T Division hosted the EU-ASEAN Dialogue on GreenTech & Innovation Mapping: Green Technologies for Plastic Value Chain Management Webinar Series.



DOST: EU-ASEAN dialogue to focus on plastic waste management, green technology

DOST Secretary Fortunato "Boy" T. de la Peña had expressed DOST's commitment to continue promoting EU-ASEAN Technology cooperation and transfer, particularly on plastic wastes management, as the E-READI was implementing the initiative EU-ASEAN Dialogue on Green Technology & Innovation Mapping (GreenTech) in cooperation with ASEAN.

The DOST started holding the webinars in February this year "to amplify awareness, create platforms for dialogues on technology markets and innovations, and promote EU-ASEAN Technology cooperation and transfer."

"These webinars offer a platform for dialogue between ASEAN and European stakeholders in the plastic wastes management domain where advanced and future perspectives of plastic waste management and its key elements are discussed; new technologies and solutions are presented; and technology suppliers and users can meet to lay the grounds for future collaboration," de la Peña said in a report.



Go Green: Local direct selling company pioneers use of 100% biodegradable packaging

posted June 08, 2021 at 12:01 am
by [Manila Standard Lifestyle](#)

Filipino-owned company Personal Collection Direct Selling, Inc. (PCDSI) announced today its plan to use 100 percent biodegradable containers in its product packaging.



Personal Collection is switching to 100 percent biodegradable packaging that decomposes within five to 10 years.

The biodegradable packaging material is expected to decompose in landfills within approximately five to 10 years, 100 times faster than the standard plastic bottle which could take up to 1,000 years to disintegrate. The new packaging will also contribute to the creation of biogas, a potential source of sustainable energy.

The move is part of the company's A Green Life is A Great Life initiative which underscores its commitment to environmental conservation.

According to PCDSI, whose products include household cleaning items, personal care and hygiene products, intimate apparel, and more, the switch to 100 percent biodegradable packaging "required a sizable increase in the product cost due to massive investments in research and development and the recalibration of existing packaging".

Despite the huge, undisclosed sum of money required for this move, the company is determined to push forward.

"If business leaders will work hard for their goals while caring for the only world we live in, then everyone can have their dreams realized for the years to come – a mark of a successful enterprise," said PCDSI board of directors chairman Willie "Jun" Evangelista, Jr.



Go Green: Local direct selling company pioneers use of 100% biodegradable packaging



Household cleaning items from Personal Collection, a Filipino-owned direct selling company.

Evangelista also mentioned that they have allotted a long-term major company commitment to this cause.

The new biodegradable package design will be unveiled this month. More initiatives will be launched in the coming months as Personal Collection explores the use of organic, all-natural ingredients in its product lines.



Davao Oriental dineklarang mining free zone ng Kamara

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jun 7, 2021

VISMIN



Walang tumutol sa pagpasa ng panuklang Davao Oriental Mining Free Zone Act (House Bill 6563) na nakatanggap ng 219 boto.

Ang panukala ay akda nina Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., at Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Mayo Almario.

Inaprubahan ng Kamara de Representantes sa ikatlo at huling pagbasa ang panukala na ideklarang mining free zone ang Davao Oriental.

Kapag naisabatas, wala ng ahensya ng gobyerno na pahihintulutang magbigay ng permit na may kaugnayan sa pagmimina.

Ang mga permit at kontrata na ipinatutupad bago pa maisabatas ang panukala ay kikilalanin hanggang sa mag-expire o ma-terminate ang mga ito.

Ang mga taong lalabag sa panukala ay maaaring makulong ng 6-12 taon at pagmultahin ng P1 milyon hanggang P10 million. (Billy Begas)



6 fall in Surigao Sur crackdown vs. hot logs

By Alexander Lopez June 7, 2021, 4:48 pm



CRACKDOWN VS. ILLEGAL LOGGING. Various police stations in Surigao del Sur arrest six persons and confiscate PHP30,978 worth of illegally-cut lumber products on Sunday (June 6, 2021). In Cantilan town, local police arrested Jimson D. Sandaya, 26 for transporting 240 board feet of Lawaan lumber products. *(Photo courtesy of PRO-13 Information Office)*

BUTUAN CITY – Six persons were arrested in separate anti-illegal logging operations by the Surigao del Sur Police Provincial Office (SDSPPO) on Sunday.

SDSPPO director, Col. James T. Goforth, in an interview with the Philippine News Agency on Monday, said a total of 1,446 board feet (bd. ft.) of illegal lumber products worth PHP30,978 were confiscated during the operations.

“These timber poachers think that our police stations are relaxed during Saturdays and Sundays. They are dead wrong. We do not put our guards down even on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, not even during this time of the pandemic,” Goforth said.

In Barangay Kauswagan in San Agustin town, operatives from the 1st Surigao del Sur Provincial Mobile Force Company apprehended Daniel Valera, 30, while transporting illegally-gathered lumber products onboard his motorcycle.

Confiscated from the suspect were 336 bd. ft. of Lawaan lumber products worth PHP7,728.

In the town of Madrid, the local police nabbed James Maca, 18, in an operation conducted in Barangay Patong-Patong following reports of illegal logging activities in the area.

Seized from Maca were 210 bd. ft. of Lawaan lumber products worth PHP5,250.

In Cantilan town, four suspects were arrested in separate operations conducted by the local police.

Jimson D. Sandaya, 26, was arrested in Purok 3, Barangay Cabangahan while transporting on his motorcycle 240 bd. ft. of Lawaan lumber products worth PHP4,800.



6 fall in Surigao Sur crackdown vs. hot logs

Three other suspects were also arrested in the same barangay for transporting without permit some 660 bd. ft. of Lawaan lumber products worth PHP13,200.

The three were identified as Edgardo Irinko, 20; Andres M. Daano, 18, and Albert V. Abaja, 22.

In a statement Monday, Police Regional Office in Caraga (PRO-13) director, Brig. Gen. Romeo M. Caramat Jr., said the police operations in Surigao del Sur stemmed from the reports of local residents on illegal logging activities in the area.

"I thank the public for their continued support to the efforts of the Philippine National Police for the protection and preservation of our forests and natural resources. As responsible stewards of the Earth, let us help one another in protecting our nature from these irresponsible individuals who are destroying it," Caramat said. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1142849>

Saving corals: Batangas dive spots under siege



BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

JUNE 6, 2021

6 MINUTE READ



Volunteer diver Daniel Abulag removes a huge crown-of-thorns starfish during a dive on May 23 at the famed Sepoc Wall, a dive spot in Mabini, Batangas.

[2](#)

For diving enthusiasts, seeing one or two crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) in their favorite dive spots is tolerable. But a hundred of these large starfish with venomous thorn-like spines covering a bed of corals is considered alarming.

Situations like this call for an immediate action.

Volunteer divers did just that on May 23 when they launched a “search and destroy” operation to save the corals in some of the popular dive spots in Batangas.



A coral infested with crown-of-thorns starfish.



Saving corals: Batangas dive spots under siege

Outbreak amid a pandemic

A COTS outbreak can sometimes be beneficial, but most of the time, it can be harmful to coral reefs if it is caused by anthropogenic pressures. Such an outbreak can destroy a healthy reef in a matter of days.

"It takes 20 to 30 years for a reef to recover from severe COTS infestation," said Danny Ocampo, an ocean conservation advocate.

A dive master and underwater photography expert, Ocampo led a small team of volunteer divers and took a dive at Sepoc Wall, a dive site in Tingloy and Mabini. Infestation was also observed at a dive spot in the nearby town of Bauan.

Ocampo explained that travel restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic have compelled the diving resorts in the area to strictly limit their diving activities. Consequently, little was known about the proliferation of the COTS in Batangas.

In a voice call by BusinessMirror over Facebook Messenger last June 2, Ocampo said that it was a fellow diver, Yvette Lee, who informed him about the COTS infestation.

"We also heard from other divers about it," he said. "When they went to Bauan, our group decided to go to Sepoc Wall, where we discovered the massive infestation."

Dive to save corals

Along with Gladys Guy, Maria Angeles, John Kenneth Gines; and brothers Nixon and Daniel Abulag—who are both Ocampo's dive scholars and now dive masters themselves) the group took time out from their usual "sight-seeing" activities underwater to save the affected corals.

They have since managed to haul over 300 COTS.

According to Ocampo, within an hour that day, they were able to remove a total of 140 COTS at an average depth of 4-6 meters covering an area less than 100 square meters. They also managed to remove an additional 165 for a total of 306 COTS.

"Collecting COTS should be done properly and carefully to avoid damaging corals and ensure they do not release eggs while being removed from the reef due to stress," he explained.

In Bauan, over 300 COTS were removed by another group of volunteer divers.

A serious threat

Marine scientists and experts say that COTS pose a serious threat to coral reefs.

In her master thesis, Mar Saniano, a marine scientist working for Oceana Philippines, an ocean conservation non-governmental organization, said she that had been removing COTS from the reefs since 2008.

She described the potential devastation impact to the coral reefs in the country as "alarming."

Saniano told the BusinessMirror via Facebook Messenger on May 24 that she had been disseminating information about the adverse effects of COTS and was glad that it is "finally getting attention."



Saving corals: Batangas dive spots under siege

However, she noted that COTS can also be beneficial to marine ecosystems.

She explained: "They are natural inhabitants of the reef across the Indo-Pacific, [helping] balance the population in a reef ecosystem. Juveniles feed on planktons and algae, while adults feed on corals. They actually prefer weak corals that cannot protect themselves from the seastars. However, they are devastating or deleterious when they are in an outbreaking population as they can wipe out an entire reef in days."

Monitoring COTS

Saniano underscored the importance of monitoring COTS in the country's coral reefs, while noting that a COTS outbreak is a result of a bigger problem.

"COTS infestation is due to [an] imbalance in the ecosystem," she said.

She shared: "We need to see the interconnection of these organisms. For example, removing benthic feeders like parrot fishes, i.e., those feeding on algae that smother corals, means high food availability for the cryptic and numerous juveniles (I have seen benthic feeding juveniles smaller than a P5 coin). Over exploiting the parrot fishes increases the survival of the juveniles. With this high survival rate, you can definitely expect an outbreak in two to three years."

Meanwhile, Saniano said that other stressors, such as the increase in nutrient input into the sea and habitat destruction that weakens corals, can lead to an increase in the survival of COTS. This can also result to COTS outbreak populations.

"We must keep our reefs healthy to avoid the deleterious effect of an outbreak," she pointed out.

Prey and predator

Jimely Flores, a marine scientist working for the Environmental Defense Fund, agrees with Saniano.

"If there are too many [COTS], they can wipe out corals," she said. "Usually, if the coral reef is healthy, they can be controlled naturally at a young age by predators, such as mollusks and some parrot fishes."

Unfortunately, there were a few predators left in that part of Batangas where COTS infestation was reported.

"At a young age, they [COTS] are very prolific. Once they mature, they can resist predation. That's why natural control is important while they are still young," she said.

Flores said the shell craft industry is aggravating the problem that besets the country's healthy marine ecosystem, including the coral reefs.

"Harvesting [too much means] there are almost no more shells in the coral reef areas left," she said. "Triton is the most famous predator [of COTS]. Wrasses and parrot fishes are also high-value fishes, but they are almost gone."

She added: "But when COTS are still young, they can be preyed upon by crabs, shrimps, fishes and other generalist feeder predators."



Saving corals: Batangas dive spots under siege

According to Flores, even while the Philippines still has plenty of protected coral reefs, they are "empty."

Restoring balance

Flores said the best way to get rid of COTS and prevent infestation is restoring balance in the marine ecosystem.

"What we are doing before, which I think some resorts [still do], is to pick them up and place them on land to dry," she said.

She explained: "The first line of defense is to ensure that the adults are picked up and destroyed on land. The long-term objective is to help restore balance. Resort owners may need resident or partner scientists to do that. Restoration of (marine) biodiversity means ensuring that even the generalist will also not become too many."

A COTS outbreak may eventually affect fishery and other seafood, according to Flores.

She said: "They mainly attack the corals, but we know the importance of corals in the life cycle of our fish in the ocean, so in the long term, this would result in seafood insecurity."

Government intervention needed

Saniano said to address the potential adverse impact of massive COT outbreaks, the government must act with dispatch.

"Unlike climate change, increasing temperature, sea-level rise, which we [cannot] control, the COTS infestation problem can be mitigated or totally avoided," Saniano said, explaining that since an increase in temperature also triggers spawning among COTS.

In preventing future COTS outbreaks, she said there is a need to remove man-induced stressors in the country's reefs, such overfishing or destructive fishing activities, and proper waste management.

Saniano added that establishing more Marine Protected Areas (MPA) is more effective.

"Establishing MPA and effectively managing them can lead to healthier and balanced reef ecosystems that can control the population of COTS [to avoid] outbreaks," she said.

But this is easier said than done, Saniano said, noting that the MPA require a concerted effort by the national and local governments and individuals.

"A lot of my diver friends are actively collecting COTS in infested areas," she said. "Others contribute by simply avoiding products that are harmful to corals or those that weaken them. [They can also] avoid stepping on corals that can cause habitat destruction and dumping trash into our seas that [cause] nutrient loading."

For now, Ocampo said the best that divers like him can do is to rally other divers to search for COTS-infested reefs and take action.



We are part of #GenerationRestoration



BY DR. THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM

JUNE 7, 2021

3 MINUTE READ

WE celebrate World Environment Day every June 5 to generate action on pressing environmental issues. This year, our observance is guided by the theme “Reimagine. Recreate. Restore.” as we formally launch the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration—a broad global movement that resounds a call to halt the worsening environmental degradation and protect the world’s ecosystems.

Earlier, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) released a report stating that our current lifestyle uses up natural resources equal to that of 1.6 Earths. Humanity is consuming more than what the planet, our only one, can provide. This contributes to the alarmingly fast rate by which we lose biodiversity compared with our efforts to restore nature.

The economic benefits of restoring forests, farmlands, mountains, freshwaters, and peatlands, and even urban ecosystems to their healthy and stable state far outweigh the costs: restoring 350 million hectares of degraded terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems can generate as much as \$9 trillion, according to the report.

How do we do this? What can we do to contribute to this global movement?

While this urgent task seems daunting, there is much that we can do—on our own and collectively. This “whole-of-society” approach, where all sectors across countries work together, is needed to embed biodiversity in policy-making, development processes, and in our own lifestyle and ways of life. Key stakeholders—from national and local governments, to business, infrastructure, agriculture, education, health, and private sectors, as well as important segments of society such as women, youth, and the indigenous communities—have important roles to play. By implementing various nature-based solutions, the restoration movement, or the #GenerationRestoration, seeks to help alleviate poverty, combat climate change, and prevent the mass extinction of species.

Reforestation and greening initiatives involve regrowing huge tracts of denuded forests, including re-planting of mangrove forests and re-seeding of coral reefs and kelp beds in the marine ecosystems. Regional programs, such as the Asean Green Initiative that aims to plant 10 million trees in 10 years across the region, in support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, take into account tree species that are locally adapted to the ecosystem. Citizens join tree-planting activities in their respective local communities, who are often more knowledgeable of endemic and native trees in the area.

Coastal clean-ups also serve as an opportunity to learn more about marine and wetland conservation. The environmental impact of marine pollution costs the Asean region \$1.3 billion annually in the tourism, fishing and shipping industries, according to UNEP’s 2019 report on policies and standards on packaging waste in the region.

Helping keep our precious ecosystems intact need not be grand. Shifting to a more sustainable lifestyle, such as supporting eco-friendly products and businesses, will have significant impacts on our homes and communities.



We are part of #GenerationRestoration

Supporting sustainable agriculture and buying seasonally available food products from our local farmers and markets help shorten the supply chain. There are also wider options for plant-based diets and wild foods, which contribute to agricultural diversity and use less synthetic chemical inputs.

Patronizing local nature tourism sites and learning from our natural and cultural heritage offer new insights on how we are intrinsically connected to our ecosystems. As travel restrictions are gradually lifted, being mindful and responsible tourists help enrich and respect these local cultures and keep these amazing natural parks pristine and intact.

Strengthening public participation in ecosystem restoration starts from raising awareness. Joining or organizing various events, online and offline, can help deepen understanding about biodiversity, as well as provide exposure to culture-responsive and nature-positive practices.

In line with encouraging broader participation in biodiversity concerns, the ACB's recently launched [#WeAreASEANBiodiversity](#) campaign provides a platform for narratives about efforts, commitments, activities, and other actions—simple or grand—to inspire more people to be part of the movement to restore our ecosystems.

The planet, including humanity, is at stake if we do not act fast. More than 20 percent of the world's known plants and animals call the Asean region their home, and millions of people are dependent on ecosystems for survival, making it imperative for all of us to take part in this crucial movement. The Asean Center for Biodiversity joins the #GenerationRestoration in strengthening our conservation and restoration efforts, bolstered by the Asean Leaders' support and recognition of biodiversity's central role in keeping our region, and our planet safe and resilient.

Happy World Environment Day!

Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim is the Executive Director of Asean Center for Biodiversity.



DepEd, BCSP unveil biodiversity toolkit for teachers and learners



BY [BUSINESSMIRROR](#)

JUNE 6, 2021

2 MINUTE READ



In celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity, the Department of Education (DepEd), in collaboration with the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP), launched recently the “Samot-Saring Buhay: A Toolkit on Philippine Biodiversity” to impart appreciation and awareness of the country’s rich biodiversity.

Crafted to encourage participation and leadership of teachers and learners in conservation efforts, the Samot-Saring Buhay Toolkit provides information on Philippine biodiversity, threats and conservation efforts, while also discussing its effect on our health, economy and resilience to hazards, DepEd said in a news release.

“Recognizing the role of the youth as partners in nurturing and renewing Philippine diversity, we in the Department of Education hold responsibility to equip learners with appropriate learning and thinking skills to make them become agents of change and advocates of biodiversity,” Education Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones said during the online launching.

BCSP President Ranier Manalo explained the importance of the toolkit to the society and environment: “We are also aware that this often involves complex issues in our daily lives in terms of psychological, social, and economic significance. But at the end of the day, when we require policy harmonization for conservation and sustainability needs, this toolkit is for all of us.”

DepEd Undersecretary for Curriculum and instruction Diosdado San Antonio and Undersecretary for Administration Alain Del B. Pascua shared their appreciation for the creation of the biodiversity toolkit.



DepEd, BCSP unveil biodiversity toolkit for teachers and learners

"We are thankful to have this toolkit so our schools and teachers can help heighten our advocacy for quality education, quality health and quality life," San Antonio said.

Pascua added: "In line with the Department's core value, Makalikasan, this tool kit, put together by advocates for the Philippine environment from different agencies and organizations, is a way of ensuring the continued protection and conservation of our natural resources. We do this by empowering our Filipino youth through education and appreciation of our country's biodiversity."

Produced by the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) under the Administration Strand, the toolkit can be downloaded for free through various DepEd platforms like DepEd Commons, DepEd LMRDS and Microsite on created resources for teaching climate change.



Private car ownership and climate change



BY [THOMAS M. ORBOS](#)

JUNE 7, 2021

3 MINUTE READ



IN just a matter of one month, we had temperatures rising to the high 40s to 50s, which was never heard before, and then we experienced heavier rains than usual at the start of the rainy season. Our energy policy-makers even blamed the rising temperatures for the power outages, allegedly because of so many air conditioners running on full capacity. Whether this is true or not, it just goes to show that global warming is real and we are now experiencing its adverse effects. We need to do something about it immediately and not just plan for the long term.

The Philippines is one of the more vulnerable countries seen suffering the impacts of climate change. Recently, the government announced that it was revising its target to cut greenhouse emissions by 75 percent by 2030 as part of our commitment to the Paris agreement. This will be in the form of nationally determined contributions, mostly in the transport sector, which contributes a third of GHG emissions in the country. Currently being implemented by the government is the public transport modernization that includes the push for clean energy public transport vehicles. On the private transport side, what could have been instrumental in pushing for cleaner air was the shelved mandatory roadworthiness testing of all vehicles. There is also the proposed policy on embracing electric vehicles, but that is taking its time in the legislature.

In the meantime, an area that could be implemented now would be to limit the ownership of private vehicles. Currently, there is no limit to the number of vehicles one can own so long as one can afford them. Although there were calls from previous administrations to implement this, it was a politically sensitive policy to undertake. This was primarily due to the lack of public transport available and the imposition of motor vehicle reduction program, or more popularly known as the “number coding” as a traffic decongestion measure. Middle-income families normally have two to three vehicles, notwithstanding their lack of parking space, just to address their transport needs.



Private car ownership and climate change

But this is a good time to revive such discussions. While the problem of public transport still remains to be fully resolved, the pandemic has somewhat softened the environment for such discussion on vehicle ownership barriers to be revived. One, private vehicle usage has gone down with more office work and schoolwork being done at home. MMDA estimates that present traffic is still half of its numbers before the pandemic. This, despite the continuing suspension of the motor vehicle reduction program or the number coding. Two, the push for micro-mobility as a viable alternative transport mode has escalated, with many people turning to biking, e-scooter use and even walking. This will continue to grow with the government's efforts to build more bikeways and green lanes. Three, the infrastructure and transport programs of the government that commenced at the beginning of this administration will soon be completed. This will lead to a more efficient commuting with pre-determined schedules and more predictive nature, further lessening the time needed to be on the road.

What are some of the ways to limit car ownership? The most practical one would be equating ownership to garage availability. Only those with proof of parking space would be allowed ownership of vehicles. This would discourage curbside parking that contributes to traffic. There are proposed legislations that can now be reviewed and hastened. Another way would be to do vehicle ownership classification, somewhat similar to gun ownership. One can either just be a regular owner or a collector of several private vehicles. Collectors would be allowed to buy more cars, but with significantly higher registration fees.

In other countries like Singapore, car ownership is even acquired through an auction, precisely to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. We need not be too drastic on this. But we also need to do something about this problem. There are too many private vehicles crowding our roads and they contribute substantially to our GHG emissions. Reducing their number on the road can be one way that private individuals can help make our overall efforts to fight climate change succeed. It is now high time to review our private vehicle ownership policies.

The author can be reached via his e-mail: thomas_orbos@sloan.mit.edu

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/06/07/private-car-ownership-and-climate-change/>



Face masks add to sea pollution at popular Batangas dive site

Peter Blaza, Reuters

Posted at Jun 07 2021 09:34 PM | Updated as of Jun 07 2021 10:03 PM



Resort owner and dive instructor Carmela Sevilla shows plastic trash she recovered underwater during a scuba diving activity in Bauan, Batangas on June 6, 2021. *Peter Blaza, Reuters*

BAUAN - The coronavirus pandemic is adding a new unwelcome element to sea pollution off the town of Bauan, a popular dive site in the Philippines' Batangas province.

Regular visitors and locals have reported a rise in the number of face masks and PPE shields being collected from the seabed.

"It might be because some people who get on the boat just loop their masks on one end and it comes off, or others just do not throw them away properly," said Arnel Vergara, a Filipino professional diver who has been diving in the area for the past decade.

Carmela Sevilla, a resort owner and diving instructor, said the masks were adding to plastic bags, sachets, diapers and packaging materials that plague local waters during the monsoon season.

"I think we'll be seeing more of the face masks," said Sevilla. "I think we'll be wearing face masks for a while."

Girro Maranan, an official at the Batangas tourism office, said officials were aware of the issue and spearheading clean-up drives.

"Our marine diversity is the most affected," Maranan said.

Marian Ledesma, a campaigner for Greenpeace in the Philippines, said poor management of the country's waste disposal strategy had led to rubbish accumulating in its tributaries.



Face masks add to sea pollution at popular Philippines dive site

June 8, 2021 2:52 AM by [DZRH News Online](#)



Filipino diver Arnel Vergara picks up a plastic trash buried under the sand during a scuba diving activity in Bauan, Batangas, Philippines, June 6, 2021. Picture taken June 6, 2021. REUTERS/Peter Blaza

By Peter Blaza

BAUAN, Philippines (Reuters) – The coronavirus pandemic is adding a new unwelcome element to sea pollution off the town of Bauan, a popular dive site in the Philippines' Batangas province.

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(Reporting by Peter Blaza; Editing by Jane Wardell)

Source: <https://dzhnews.com.ph/face-masks-add-to-sea-pollution-at-popular-philippines-dive-site/>



Algo: No to sidesteps: avoiding natural gas

[JOHN LEO ALGO](#)

June 07, 2021

THE shift away from coal is gaining momentum in recent weeks. At the global level, the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan collectively agreed to halt funding of coal projects by the end of 2021, and phase out further support for dirty energy. The International Energy Agency recently released the world's first comprehensive roadmap to a net-zero energy system by 2050, which includes a call for no further investments in new fossil fuel facilities.

This development is also slowly but surely taking effect in the Philippines. Banks such as BPI and RCBC are announcing their plans to phase out coal from their loans and portfolios within the next few decades. Along with a coal moratorium issued by the Department of Energy last October and the beginning of the full implementation of the Renewable Energy Act after 12 years, the stage is seemingly set for a boom of clean energy in the country.

However, a new roadblock is emerging for building the Philippines's energy-secure future: the push for the growth of natural gas.

Why not?

There is currently lobbying in both houses of Congress for the development of the natural gas industry in two phases: midstream, or the transportation, storage, and wholesale marketing of said fuel; and downstream, which involves its processing, purifying, and selling.

The lack of focus on the upstream phase, or exploration and extraction of local sources of natural gas, implies that the current strategy is to rely on imports to enhance the national energy supply. Similar to coal, another fossil fuel, this set-up could result to local electricity rates being vulnerable to volatile prices at the international market. This, in fact, is one of the reasons why Filipinos shoulder the second highest electricity rate in Asia.

The Covid-19 pandemic has already exposed the flaws of the current baseload-centric system. Issues such as grid inflexibility, overdependence on soon-to-be-outdated dirty energy, and a failure to account for externalities such as the social costs of pollution on the true cost of coal are not addressed by the bills.

Another reason for pushing for natural gas is due to its lower emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) than coal, which is beneficial for addressing the climate crisis. As a result, its proponents would view it as a necessary "bridging fuel," or a stopgap during the transition from coal to renewable energy (RE).

However, this strategy poses significant problems. Firstly, natural gas still emits more GHGs than any renewable energy source. The World Meteorological Organization reports that global warming could breach 1.5 degrees Celsius within the next five years. This places the Philippines, one of the most vulnerable countries to the climate crisis, in even more potential harm. In an era when climate change impacts become more extreme with each passing year, avoiding further emissions should be a priority for policymakers.



Algo: No to sidesteps: avoiding natural gas

Secondly, the Congressional bills as currently written could result in the nation being in prolonged dependence on fossil fuels, which would affect sustainable development. Instead of being a bridging fuel until the further development of the RE industry, there is a lack of a phase-out plan or presence of policies that would prevent the growth of natural gas to the point of hindering RE development.

Without measures such as establishing a maximum capacity for natural gas in the country's energy mix, the needed investments and other modes of support for finally fully enforcing the RE Act after a decade-long delay would instead be diverted to natural gas. A longer dependence on fossil fuels, whether it is coal or natural gas, would result in a more costly transition decades from now than if done more urgently.

What to do

In its first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), a self-determined pledge to help achieve the goals of the Paris climate agreement, the Philippines aims to reduce its GHG emissions by 75 percent by 2030. However, there was no stated decarbonization pathway to achieve this target, let alone align with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Considering this commitment is made with the goals of achieving energy security and sustainable development, the national government must establish targets and timelines for phasing out power plants, terminals, and other facilities related to natural gas. Doing so would discourage energy developers from simply switching their focus from coal to natural gas, and finally initiate the just transition to RE that is necessary for national sustainable development.

This must be complemented by an urgent phase-out of coal, which could be achieved through measures such as a carbon tax to disincentivize both fossil fuels and strengthening the existing coal moratorium to prevent new coal plants from being built.

Furthermore, the Department of Energy must lead the coordination among agencies, with inputs from non-government actors, to ensure that all plans and policies related to the energy sector are aligned with the imperative of climate action.

If the Philippine government truly wants to bring its citizens closer to sustainability, it must avoid side-stepping through committing to natural gas. Instead, Filipinos need it to lead in taking steps forward towards a healthier and more secure future, fueled by RE.



Silence on Japan's dumping nuclear wastes and historical revisionism risks world environment

June 8, 2021

Re: columnist Marlen Ronquillo's "Who are PH's true friends?" (Manila Times, May 23, 2021)

JAPANESE Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's recent announcement of Japan's unilateral decision to dump 1.2 million tons of nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean should be of real concern to everyone. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken tweeted that the US supported Japan's announcement, but the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) extended its import ban on major foodstuff from the Fukushima region that has been in effect since 2011.

More worrisome is Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr.'s announcement in January 2020 during the visit of Japan Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu, that the Philippines had lifted all import bans of food products from Japan without reporting whether any proper scientific tests had been done. Were there safeguards established to protect Filipino consumers, or were we made to be the dumping ground of rejects again just to extend goodwill to a "friend?" Is the Philippine FDA more capable of testing radioactive foodstuff than the US FDA?

Is the writer aware that most of the Filipino OFWs in Japan are working in the entertainment industry as 'guest relations officers,' both female and male? Modern-day 'politically correct' evolution of what used to be called comfort women!

He may have forgotten Japan forced as many as 200,000 Filipino, Korean and other Asian women to work in Japan as wartime sex slaves. Many of the comfort women lolas died without getting their due compensation, languished in shame, disowned by their families. Japan's lobby in the Philippines was so strong even the late former president Corazon Aquino and her son former president Benigno Simeon Aquino 3rd ignored the repeated requests of the Filipino comfort women to be recognized by their own government. 'Friends' at the expense of our own women!

Fast forward to 2018 and 2019. Due to the strong lobby of Japan, some local government agencies were pressured to abet the removal of the comfort women statues that were installed on Roxas Boulevard and Laguna, the only country in the world to succumb to Japan's worldwide efforts to whitewash history. Was the removal of these statues included as conditions for Japanese ODA?

ODA does help in the country's development, but to paint it as purely philanthropic is also an attempt at whitewashing. Japan-funded ODA projects require the hiring of Japanese consultants and engineers and purchasing of Made in Japan components that are multiple times more expensive than available Filipino counterparts. It's like receiving a gift certificate but the giver tells you how and where to spend it, in this case, only from the giver's store! A smart friend indeed!

Jen Santos

08 JUNE 2021, Tuesday



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

WHO warns vs relaxing health protocols

By [Sheila Crisostomo](#)(Philstar.com)

- June 8, 2021 - 12:00am



At a public briefing, WHO country representative Rabindra Abeyasinghe said it is not advisable to reduce compliance with basic health protocols since the Philippines' vaccine coverage is still low.

MANILA, Philippines — Amid proposals to stop requiring the use of face shields, the World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday cautioned against relaxing the country's minimum public health standards against COVID-19.

At a public briefing, WHO country representative Rabindra Abeyasinghe said it is not advisable to reduce compliance with basic health protocols since the Philippines' vaccine coverage is still low.

"We know that it's way too early with coverage so low to go there as yet. So we have to be very careful in the messaging," he noted.

Abeyasinghe added that in "reality," the supply of COVID-19 vaccines is "still a challenge," but they are expecting to see "increasingly larger quantities" in the next two to three months.

He gave assurance that the WHO remains committed to providing vaccines to 20 percent of the country's population through the COVAX Facility.

"As we've said from the beginning, the COVAX Facility is committed to adding vaccines to protect 20 percent of the Philippine population. And we are optimistic, particularly (during) our last donors' meeting," he said.

Abeyasinghe added that "subject to manufacturing capacities," COVAX will be able to honor this commitment and "deliver vaccines to protect the most vulnerable 20 percent in the Philippines."

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) meanwhile is pushing for easing of restrictions for fully vaccinated senior citizens or those 65 years old and above, and shorter quarantine period for vaccinated travelers.



WHO warns vs relaxing health protocols

During the commitment ceremony to mark the start of the vaccination of A4 priority group or economic frontliners yesterday, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said the government would want individuals who have been inoculated against COVID-19 to enjoy some benefits.

He said the DTI would want fully vaccinated senior citizens or those 65 years old and above to be allowed to step outside their residences.

In an interview with dzBB yesterday, he said this has been proposed to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease and is currently being studied.

He said it could be allowed initially only in the morning and further easing may be considered.

"If the health experts say that the benefit of getting vaccinated is that if ever one is infected by COVID-19, the person's case won't get severe and he or she won't die, the risk is more managed," he said in a Viber message to reporters, emphasizing minimum health protocols would still have to be observed.

He said this would also be a good incentive for other seniors to get inoculated.

In terms of domestic travel, he said the government is looking at having a shorter quarantine period for those who have been vaccinated.

As for foreign travelers, he said the government also wants them to have a shorter quarantine when they get a negative swab test result.

"That is a big help also to investors. A lot of investors are really wanting to get in but are discouraged by the long quarantine," he said.

As vaccination of the A4 priority group composed of workers from both the public and private sector has begun, he said the economy is getting its much needed shot in the arm.

Asked when businesses could operate at 100 percent, he said this could happen when herd immunity is achieved or even when 50 to 70 percent of the population has been vaccinated.

He said according to vaccine czar Carlito Galvez, 70 percent of the population could be inoculated within the year.

During the same event, the private sector led by presidential adviser for entrepreneurship and Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion vowed to support the national vaccination program and educate and encourage their employees on the importance of getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

"We commit to help reopen the economy and jumpstart its recovery safely for our workers to go back to their jobs," he said.

Spurring the economy

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian said authorities should consider the relaxation of requirements for COVID-19 testing and quarantine protocols on all fully vaccinated tourists – both foreign and local – to help spur the slow reopening of the country's economy,.



WHO warns vs relaxing health protocols

"If we're easing travel restrictions on fully vaccinated Filipinos returning from trips abroad, I don't see any reason why we should exclude those fully vaccinated foreign and local tourists as they are similarly situated," said Gatchalian, vice chair of the Senate economic affairs committee. "Besides, there's more to gain economically speaking as it will bring back the workers in the tourism sector."

In the new policy announced by the Department of Health (DOH) and the IATF on June 4, Filipinos who were vaccinated in the Philippines and went abroad will now only need to undergo seven-day quarantine when they return home.

An RT-PCR or swab test will only be done if symptoms manifest during the quarantine period. The inbound traveler must carry a vaccination card which must be verified prior to departure and checked upon arrival in the Philippines.

However, the IATF did not mention if this "green lane" policy is applicable to returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and travelers already vaccinated abroad.

Sen. Bong Go for his part urged local government units (LGUs) particularly in the Visayas and Mindanao to come up with creative ideas to ramp up their vaccination efforts and fast-track the rollout in order to reach a wider population in accordance with the prioritization order.

Go asked LGUs and authorities in charge of the vaccine rollout to ensure that the vaccines in their possession are immediately distributed and utilized to those eligible for inoculation.

"To the LGUs, let's intensify vaccination. Don't keep the stocks with you. Many already want to be vaccinated but are waiting. Let's speed up the vaccine distribution system," Go said.

Go also encouraged members of vaccination priority groups, particularly senior citizens, to get vaccinated to sustain the expansion of the national vaccination program.

He reminded vaccinated individuals to complete their COVID-19 doses as he suggested the intensification of the vaccine information campaign to encourage them to get their second dose.

While COVID-19 remains a threat, Go is optimistic about the progress of the country's pandemic response, including its vaccination efforts.

He said Filipinos should not imitate Americans who have no use for face shields, maintaining that stricter health protocols have worked in the Philippines' favor. – Louella Desiderio, Cecille Suerte Felipe



Philippines logs 6,539 new COVID-19 cases, total at 1.27 million

(Philstar.com)

- June 7, 2021 - 4:01pm



This photo taken on April 6, 2021 shows a man wearing personal protective equipment walking into a makeshift ward built for COVID-19 patients at a hospital in Manila. More contagious variants of the coronavirus have been blamed for a record surge in infections in Metro Manila that has overwhelmed hospitals and sent the national capital region into lockdown.

AFP/Jam Sta. Rosa

MANILA, Philippines — Health authorities on Monday reported 6,539 fresh coronavirus cases, with the total count of infections reaching 1,276,004.

Today's development saw active cases down by 483 from June 6's 59,337. The Department of Health said seven laboratories did not submit testing results.

Active cases: 58,854 or 4.6% of the total

Recoveries: 6,969, bringing the number to 1,195,181

Deaths: 71, or now 21,969 in total

What's new today?

The Philippines officially began vaccinating those in its [A4 priority list](#), which counts about 35 million essential workers in government, private and informal sectors.

Vaccine doses administered on the first week of June stood at [5.96 million](#), per DOH data. Some 1.54 million individuals have since completed their shots.

Police Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, Philippine National Police chief, said [cops](#) can also get their COVID-19 jabs from local governments of areas where they are deployed.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/07/2103755/philippines-logs-6539-new-covid-19-cases-total-127-million/amp/>



DOH: Over 1.5 million now fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Published June 7, 2021 4:28pm



Medical frontliners in Manila get their second dose of CoronaVac, the vaccine against COVID-19 manufactured by Chinese pharmaceutical firm Sinovac, at the Sta. Ana Hospital on April 5, 2021. TINA PANGANIBAN-PEREZ

The Philippines has fully vaccinated over 1.5 million individuals against COVID-19 as of June 6, three months since the launch of its vaccination rollout, the Department of Health said Monday.

In its latest bulletin, the DOH said a total of 5,965,651 doses have been administered nationwide. The country's seven-day moving average of daily vaccinated individuals was at 112,621.

A total of 1,544,332 people have been fully vaccinated against the respiratory illness, 827,089 of whom are health workers, 369,387 are senior citizens, 343,297 are persons with comorbidities, and 4,559 are essential workers.

Meanwhile, a total of 4,421,319 individuals have received their first dose. Nearly 1.4 million of whom are medical frontliners, 1.5 million are senior citizens, 1.4 million are persons with comorbidities, and 12,259 are essential workers.

"The government is urging eligible populations belonging to priority groups A1 to A3 to register, get vaccinated and complete the required number of doses as scheduled," the DOH said.

"The vaccinated population are also urged to continue practicing the minimum public health standards as you may still get infected with COVID-19 and infect other people," it added.



DOH: Over 1.5 million now fully vaccinated against COVID-19

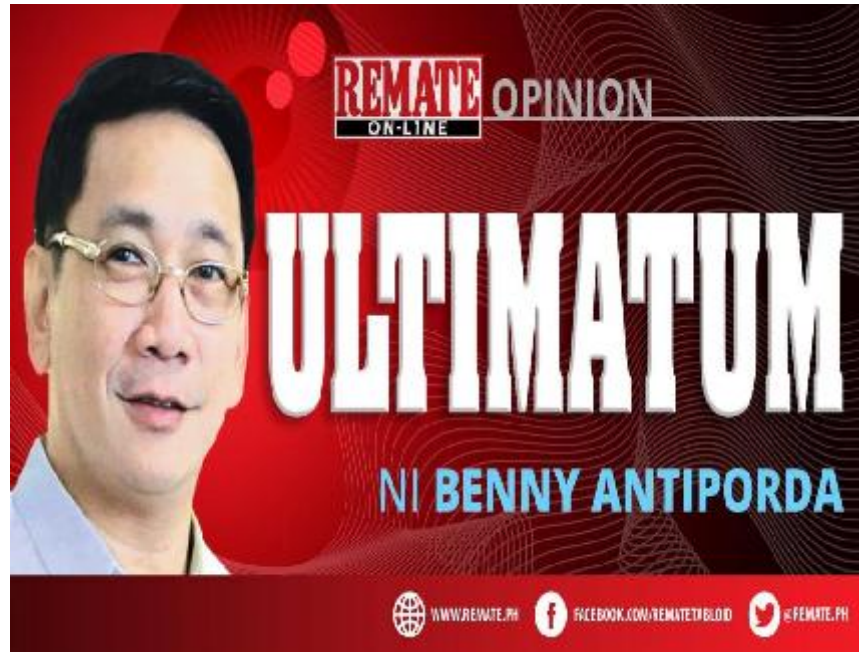
The government started its COVID-19 vaccination program last March 1.

Vaccine brands delivered to the Philippines to date include Sinovac, AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech and Sputnik V.

The country [has so far recorded 1,276,004 cases of COVID-19, including 21,969 fatalities.](#) — Ma. Angelica Garcia/BM, GMA News



AFGHANISTAN WALANG BAKUNA, NILULUSOB NG COVID-19



June 7, 2021 @ 11:01 AM 20 hours ago

SIPATIN natin ang nagaganap sa Afghanistan at alamin kung bakit rumaragasa ang matinding coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19.

Makaraan nito, pag-aralan din natin ang nagaganap sa Pinas kumpara sa Afghanistan at humalaw tayo ng mga leksyon na pwede o hindi pwedeng gawin.

ANG KALAGAYAN

Noong mga unang araw ng Mayo 2021, nasa 178 lamang ang nagkakasakit subalit nitong nagdaang mga araw, mayroon nang 1,500 araw-araw at siyempre pa, dumarami rin ang namamatay.

Sa kabuuan, mayroon nang 79,224 na nagkasakit at 3,145 na namatay sa pinakahuling tala mula sa 36 milyong populasyon ng bansa.

Sinasabi ng pamahalaang Afghanistan na isa sa mga pangunahing dahilan ng pagragasa ng pandemya ang kawalan na ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

May 3 milyong dosage na ipinangako ng WHO na ididelibar nitong nakaraang Abril ngunit pumalpak at sa darating na Agosto na lamang umano ito matutuloy.

Mayroon namang 600,000 dosage na pinagsamang donasyon ng India na AstraZeneca at biniling Sinopharm mula sa China subalit 35,000 na lang ang natitira.



AFGHANISTAN WALANG BAKUNA, NILULUSOB NG COVID-19

Ilaan ang 35,000 dosage para sa second dose ng mga mayroon nang first dose.

Ngayon punuan na ang mga ospital at kinukulang ang suplay ng oxygen at kinatatakutang matutulad na rin ito sa India sa ganitong problema na dahilan ng daan-daang libong pagkakasakit at libo-libong kamatayan araw-araw.

INDIA VARIANT AT IBA PA

Ang India variant ang sinasabing pinagmumulan din ng mabilis na pagdami ng mga nagkaka-COVID-19.

Napatunayan nang mas mabilis makahawa at mabagsik ang India variant kumpara sa orig na virus ng pandemya.

Ang hindi isinasara na biyaheng India-Afghanistan ang pangunahing daan umano ng pagpasok ng India variant sa Afghanistan.

Punuan ang mga eroplano na may 10 biyahe araw-araw mula sa India, lalo na ng mga estudyante at maysakit na nagpapagamot sa nasabing bansa at dito umano galing ang mabilis na pagkalat ng virus.

Ang matindi pa, mga Bro, sa pribado man o pampublikong lugar, bibihira ang mga nagsusuot ng face mask at pinapayagan pa rin ang maramihang pagtitipon na panrelihiyon, kasal at iba pa.

Isinara na nga ang mga wedding hall at mga kolehiyo at unibersidad bilang bahagi ng giyera.

Matindi rin ang pag-ayaw mabakunahan ang marami at kabilang sa mga pangunahing dahilan nila na ililigtas sila ng kanilang pananampalataya, bukod pa sa pagsasabi ng iba na gawa-gawa lang ang pandemya.

Kaya naman, maging ang pagsasagawa ng mga test ay apektado rin.

Nasa 3,000 lang araw-araw ang nagpapa-test kahit pa nakahanda ang pamahalaan na magsagawa ng 25,000 testing araw-araw.

KUMAKATOK NGUNIT 'DI PINAGBUBUKSAN

Dahil na rin sa kawalan na ng bakuna, inutusan ng pamahalaan ang mga ambassador nito na kumatok sa mga dayuhang embahada ngunit hindi sila pinagbubuksan.

'Yun bang === humihiling sila ng saklolo ngunit hindi sila tinutugunan.

Maging ang United States na kaaalis lang ang mga sundalo nito para lumaban sa terorismo na walang katapusan ay hindi rin nila mahingan ng saklolo.

Lumusong ang mga sundalong Amerikano laban noon sa Russia ilang taon na ang nakararaan at terorismo makaraan para isalba umano ang demokrasya sa Afghanistan at patunay ito ng pagmamahal ng Amerika sa Afghanistan.

Subalit umatras na nga ang mga Amerikano nang walang balita kung kapalit naman ng bakuna ang mga bala bilang tanda ng pagmamahal nila sa demokrasya at mga Afghan.



AFGHANISTAN WALANG BAKUNA, NILULUSOB NG COVID-19

MGA PAGKAKAHAWIG AT HINDI SA PINAS

Sa relihiyon sa Pinas at Afghanistan, malaki ang pagkakaiba sa pagtingin sa COVID-19.

Kinikilala, halimbawa, ang COVID-19 bilang malaking problema ng mga religious sector sa Pinas samantalang minamaliit sa Afghanistan.

Kaya naman, aktibo mismo ang kaobispuhan at kapariang Katoliko at iba pa sa pagsusulong ng pagbabakuna at pag-aalok ng mga simbahan na gawing vaccination site kung kinakailangan.

Kung paano ipinagbabawal ng Pinas ang mga malakihang pagtitipon, pinapayagan pa rin ito sa Afghanistan.

Sa health protocols, may face mask na ang mga Pinoy, may face shield pa na kaiba sa Afghanistan na bibihirang makitaan ng mga taong nagsusuot ng face mask.

Sa huli, nakokontrol na natin kahit papaano ang pagragasa ng COVID-19 sa pangkalahatan pero sa Afghanistan, nakupo, rumaragasa ito.

Kung titingnan din, klarong iginigiit ng pamahalang Pilipinas ang matinding giyera sa pandemya, lalo na ang pagpipilit, sa anomang paraan, na magkaroon ng bakuna at pagbabakuna.

Saan pa tayo?



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



FAKE vs FACTS

Issue 001

We don't need COVID-19 vaccines.



Vaccination from around the world shows that COVID-19 vaccines can protect us from symptomatic disease and subsequently prevent hospitalization and death.



WE NEED VACCINES!

COVID-19 Vaccines are not safe!



COVID-19 Vaccines underwent a series of studies (Clinical Trials) and certifications (Philippine FDA Approval) to ascertain its safety.



VACCINES ARE SAFE!

The COVID-19 vaccines will suppress or alter my immune system.



COVID-19 vaccines help boost the immune system to protect the body from the virus.



IT HELPS OUR IMMUNE SYSTEM!

I don't need to get vaccinated because I can still get sick with the disease even after I get the shot.



One may still be infected after vaccination, but getting vaccinated guarantees protection from severe COVID-19 and death.



VACCINES GIVE ADDED PROTECTION!

RESBAKUNA
KASANGGA NG BIDA



Sama-sama tayo sa BIDA BAKUNATION!

Para sa iba pang impormasyon, bumisita sa:



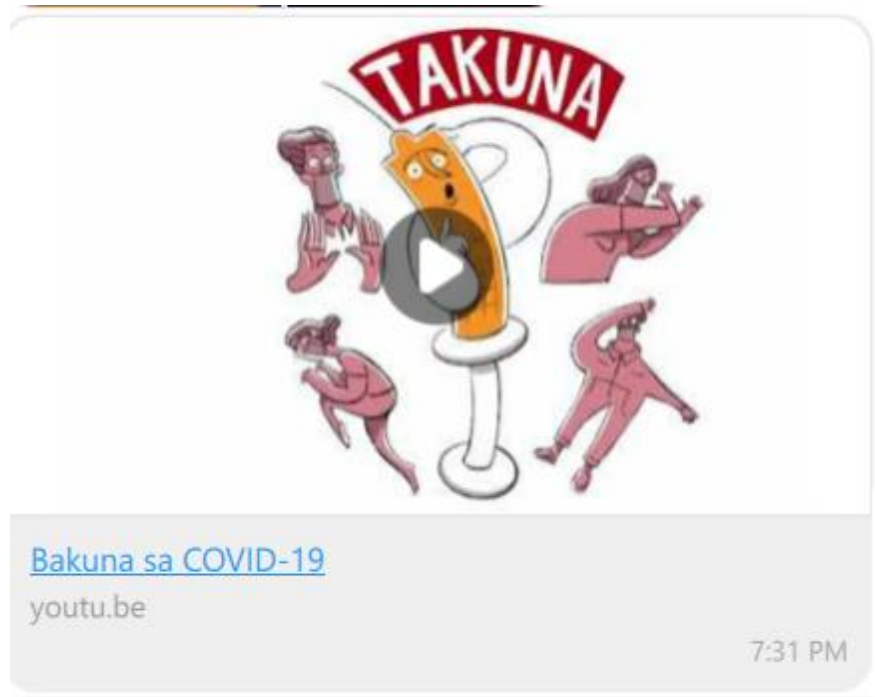
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Bakuna sa COVID-19
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Karagdagan paghiliaw kung sino ang mayaring tumanggap ng bakuna, at kung kailangan ng medical clearance upang masukuhin:
[https://doh.gov.ph/press-release/DOH...](https://doh.gov.ph/press-release/DOH-...)

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How to care for COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms at home: information for health care workers




World Health Organization



WHO Mild COVID-19 HOME CARE BUNDLE FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS*

Instruct patient to stay in isolation, preferably in separate room with adequate ventilation. Ensure good flow of fresh air and open windows where possible. Minimize close contact with others (households and/or visitors). If within 1 m of others, patient should wear a mask, and caregivers should wear PPE. Wash your hands regularly.

If there is fever, treat with antipyretic, such as paracetamol. There is no need for antibiotics unless bacterial infection is suspected. In areas with other endemic infections (e.g. malaria, TB, dengue), follow routine treatment protocols for fever. Advise patient taking medications for chronic conditions (e.g. diabetes or hypertension) to continue with them.



Encourage patient to stay hydrated, eat well and take rest when needed but to try to resume activities at appropriate pace. Support patient's psychosocial needs, such as through listening carefully to their needs and concerns and addressing them.

Advise patient to monitor for worsening of symptoms, such as chest pain, fast or difficulty breathing (at rest or while speaking), fast heart rate, palpitations, confusion, altered mental status, or any other emergency signs*. If present, instruct patient to call for emergency help according to national protocols.



If patient is at risk for severe disease[†], monitor oxygen saturation with pulse oximeter, at least twice a day. If SpO₂ is <90%, instruct patient to call for emergency help. If between SpO₂ is between 90–94%, call for urgent help, as this range may be an early sign for deterioration in someone with previously normal lungs. Oral corticosteroids may be prescribed at this time.



EMERGENCY SIGN:
 Obstructed or absent breathing, severe respiratory distress, cyanosis, shock, coma and/or convulsions.

***Risk factors for severe disease includes:** older age (> 60 years), hypertension, diabetes, cardiac disease, chronic lung disease, cerebrovascular disease, dementia, mental disorder, chronic kidney disease, immunosuppression (including HIV), obesity, cancer. In pregnancy, increasing maternal age, high BMI and chronic conditions are also risk factors.

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08 JUNE 2021, Tuesday



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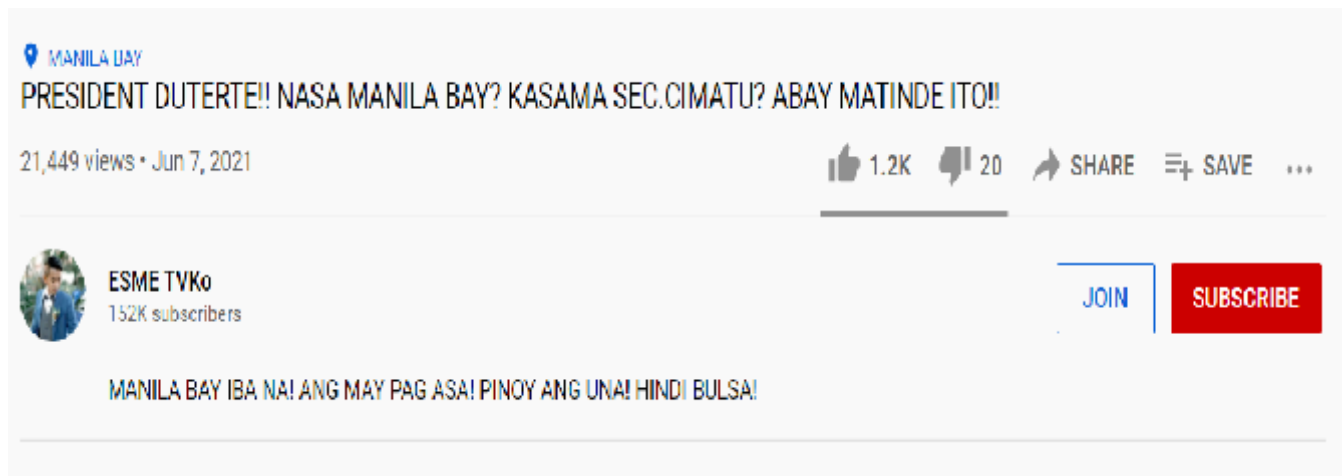
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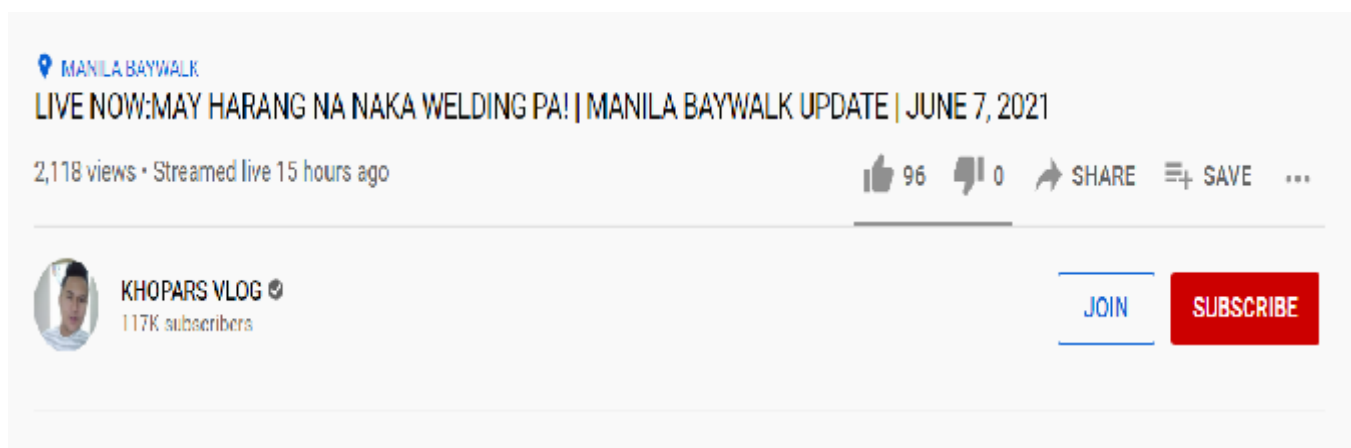
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nag tanung ako TUNGKOL SA BASURA at IBANG issue ng manila bay NGAYON

mula sa pag papalit ng contactor



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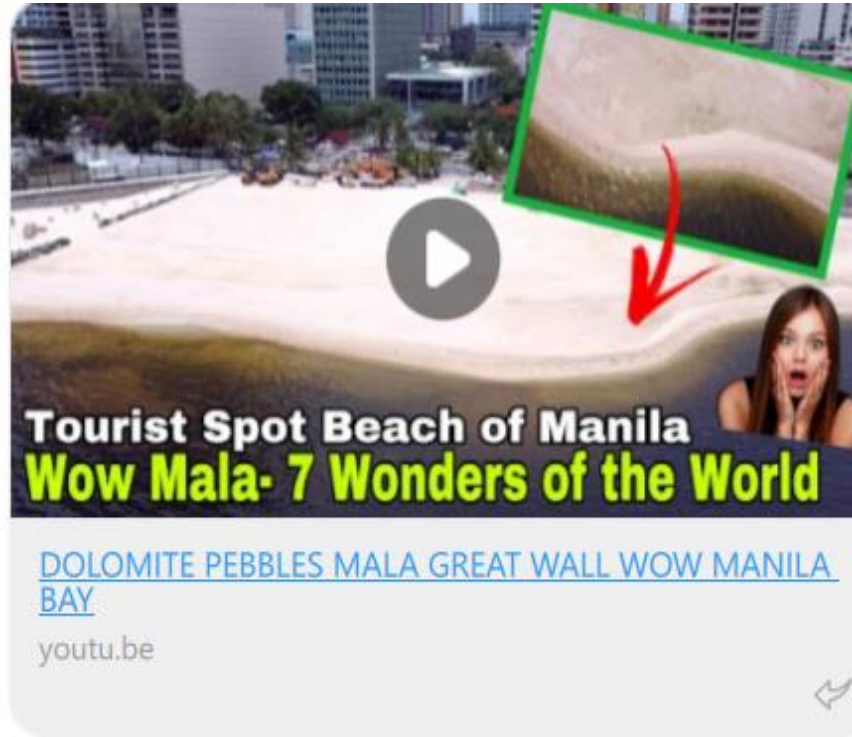
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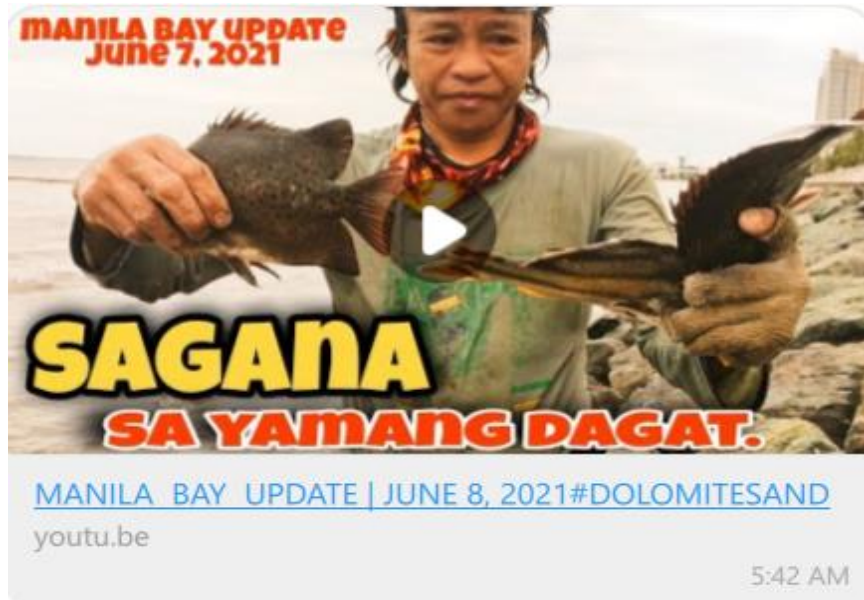
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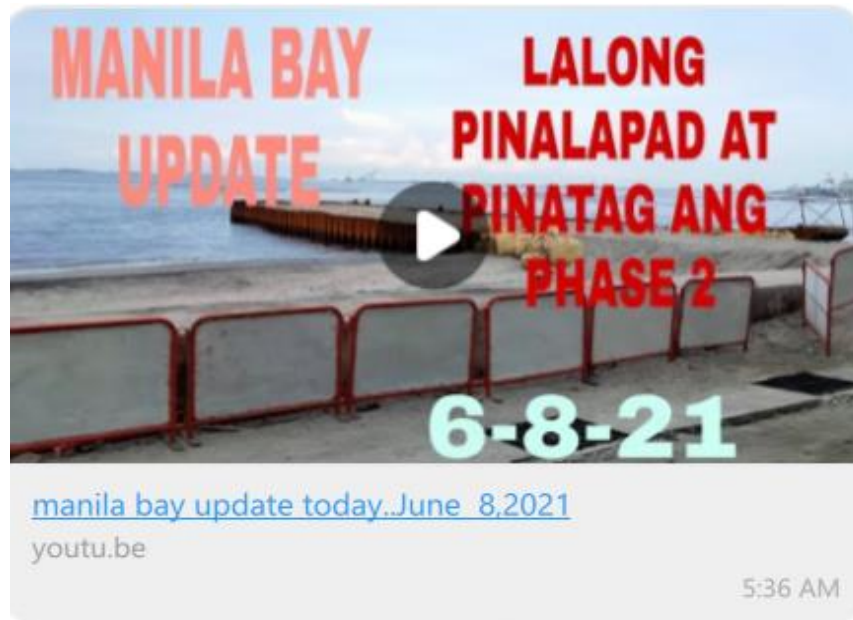
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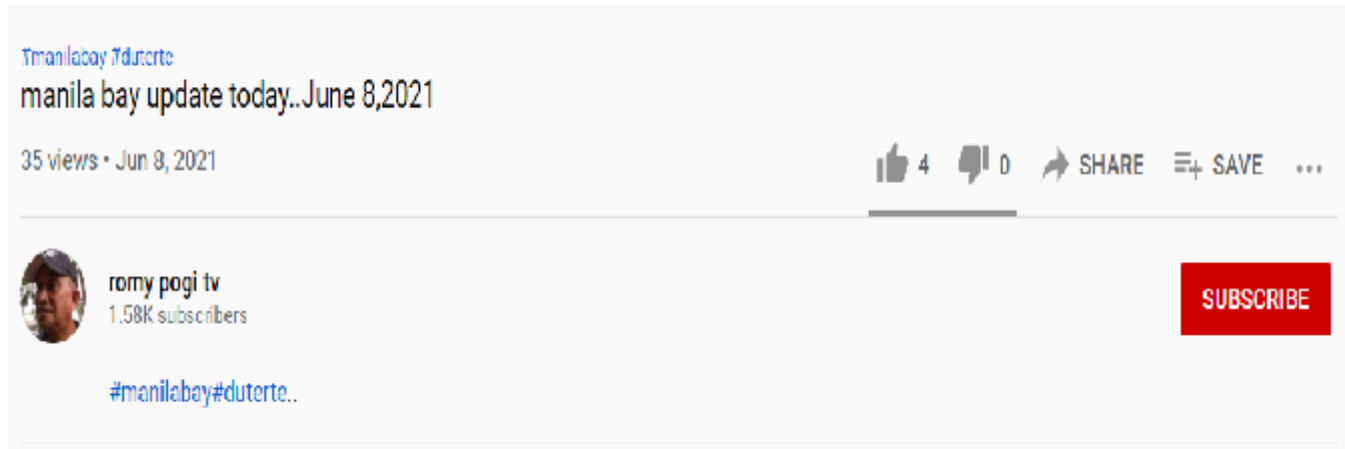
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