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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Women Empowerment Key to Addressing Climate, Health Crisis

BY [VILLAGE CONNECT](#) ON MARCH 8, 2021 [LIFESTYLE](#)



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) underscored the need for women's active participation on the policies and programs designed to address challenges emerging from climate change and current and future pandemics, during the kick-off ceremony in celebration of the National Women's Month.

"Our women, especially those in low-income communities, are among the most affected by climate change and COVID-19 because they have limited resources and information to combat the impacts of these crises," DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information System and Climate Change Analiza Rebueta-Teh said.



Women Empowerment Key to Addressing Climate, Health Crisis

Citing a 2020 report by international climate research organization *Project Drawdown*, Teh said that empowering women and girls in developing countries, like the Philippines, ranked second among 76 solutions for curbing global warming to 2 degrees Celsius.

“Women have the natural capability to adapt to climate change. Educating women and girls will also help raise their resilience from disasters,” said Teh, quoting the report.

“Our Department plays a very significant role to address this problem. Our programs in the coastal areas, land, cities, forests, mines, and others should be geared to protect and nurture not only our environment and natural resources but also the well-being of our communities, including men and women, from the climate crisis and the current and future pandemics,” she added.

In this year’s National Women’s Month celebration, DENR shines light on the importance of women making change amid the climate crisis and COVID-19.

The month-long event focuses on the equal and active participation of women in issues concerning the environment, particularly climate change, disaster risk reduction, and health crisis.

“For women’s month this year, we highlight on expanding and upscaling transformative actions of individuals, women, men, groups and communities, that is why we are taking centerstage a climate and disaster resiliency recognition awards scheme, dubbed as, ‘*Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan*’ (Stories on climate-environment towards stability),” Teh said.

The DENR, through the Gender and Development Office and Climate Change Service (CCS), aims to highlight the stories of individuals, both women and men, and groups on the impacts of climate change in their communities and on how they are addressing them through relevant programs on environmental protection and conservation, climate change and disaster-risk reduction.

The “*Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards*” is in support to the Good Stories Movement led by environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa, Jr.

“We share the common belief that we can change the story of the world by changing the storyline. We aim to spot and highlight the good stories, and in doing so, encourage more to pursue good stories of behavior changes in environment, care for the Earth, and addressing impacts of climate change in their communities,” Teh said.

“I urge all our DENR offices, at the Central Office, bureaus, attached agencies, regional, provincial, and community offices to help us spot the good stories at the ground level. These initiatives should have been existing up to now and at least, for the last three years. If such good stories also need assistance in documentation from our local stakeholders, I urge our various offices to extend such assistance,” she added.



Women Empowerment Key to Addressing Climate, Health Crisis

The DENR will also conduct webinars and radio programs throughout the month in line with this year's theme, "Women can make change amidst the climate crisis and COVID-19."

For the schedules, interested individuals may visit the DENR-CCS social media page at facebook.com/DENRCCS.

The National Women's Month is celebrated every March as "Women's Role in History Month" under Proclamation No. 227 s. 1988.

March 8 of every year has been declared National Women's Day under Republic Act 6949, Series of 1990, and Women's Rights and International Peace Day under Proclamation No. 224, Series of 1988.



Empowering women

[Monday, March 8, 2021](#) [People's Tonight](#)



FILIPINOS marked yesterday, March 8, "National Women's Day" as mandated by Republic Act (RA) No. 6949, a landmark law aimed at promoting women empowerment.

President Rodrigo Duterte had earlier urged the people to support advocacies promoting women empowerment while efforts are being exerted to ensure equal opportunities for women.

"The government recognizes the role of women in nation-building and upholding the fundamental equality before the law of both genders," said Duterte on March 3.

He added: *"This is why we are working relentlessly to ensure that they will have access to education, economic opportunities, health care and social services, and growth opportunities."*

But like other Filipinos across this impoverished Southeast Asian nation, we share the view of the tough-talking Chief Executive from Mindanao that the work is far from over.

In the Philippines, National Women's Month is celebrated every March as provided by Presidential Proclamation No. 227, series of 1988.

This year's monthlong celebration focuses on the equal and active participation of women in issues concerning the environment, notably climate change, disaster risk reduction and health crisis.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) underscored the need for women's participation in addressing the challenges emerging from climate change and health crisis.

DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information System and Climate Change Analiza Rebueta-Teh made the statement during the kickoff ceremony celebration of National Women's Month.

"Our women, especially those in low-income communities, are among the most affected by climate change and COVID-19 because they have limited resources and information to combat the the impacts of these crises," said Rebueta-Teh.

In our view, the celebration of "National Women's Day" and "National Women's Month" should remind the people that, as President Duterte said, *"the work is far from over."*

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/editorial/opinion/empowering-women/>



Police nab 4 illegal wildlife traders in Guagua town



ILLEGALLY TRADED. Four suspected illegal wildlife traders, including two minors, were arrested on Saturday (March 6, 2021) in Barangay San Rafael, Guagua, Pampanga for selling a monitor lizard (*Varanus marmoratus*), locally known as bayawak. (Contributed photo)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

March 08, 2021

FOUR suspected illegal wildlife traders, including minors, were arrested over the weekend in Barangay San Rafael, Guagua for selling monitor lizards (*Varanus marmoratus*) locally known as bayawak.

The arrests were made after a joint operation conducted by operatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the local police of Guagua in Pampanga.

Guagua Municipal Police chief Lieutenant Julius Javier said their agents, who posted as buyers, were able to buy one live bayawak worth P1,000 from a certain Raymond Sto. Domingo, 27, resident of Barangay Tokwing, and Marlon Dacani, 37, from Barangay Babo Sakan, both of Porac town.

The suspects, including the two minors aged 15 and 17, and both residents of Barangay San Pedro in Sasmuan, Pampanga, were immediately arrested.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Penro) Laudemir Salac said the DENR already filed charges against the suspects for violating Republic Act 9147, or the wildlife law, while the two minors will be referred to the appropriate Municipal Social Work Development Office.

"Collecting, hunting, or possessing and trading of wildlife is punishable by a maximum imprisonment of one year and a fine of up to one million pesos, depending on the species, under the law," he said.



Police nab 4 illegal wildlife traders in Guagua town

He said the bayawak has already been rescued and will undergo rehabilitation in a wildlife center before being released back into its natural habitat.

Meanwhile, Paquito Moreno Jr., executive director of the DENR in Central Luzon, warned the public to refrain from catching and selling wildlife, and even eating its bushmeat to prevent the spread of other diseases.

"If Covid-19 pandemic held a lesson for us, it's that when it comes to wildlife, we have to live and let live," he said, adding that consumption of wildlife is not just illegal but also exposes people to the dangers of catching and spreading zoonotic diseases.

Moreno expressed his gratitude to the public including netizens who continue to be vigilant in monitoring and reporting wildlife and other environmental crimes.

He also appealed to the public to report to the nearest DENR office or the official social media page and e-mail address of the DENR any illegal wildlife activities.

Last year, DENR Pampanga has also rescued 11 monitor lizards from two illegal wildlife traders in Lubao town.

Since 2015, DENR-Central Luzon has saved 300 various wildlife species from illegal trade and filed criminal charges against 20 individuals.



Upland farmers band together to restore forests in Kaliwa watershed

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - March 8, 2021 - 1:32pm

RIZAL, Philippines — Some residents of Mamuyao, an upland village in Tanay, Rizal province, used to engage in slash-and-burn agriculture, more commonly known as *kaingin*. After all, they were farmers who needed to clear plots of land where they could grow crops.

“If they didn’t do slash and burn, they would not be able to plant rice and ginger,” Arnel Silao, a 39-year-old village official, says, referring to the crops that many in the community plant.

The agricultural practice also produced charcoal, which provided livelihood for some residents as well.

But, in 2013, some villagers of Mamuyao decided to establish a farmers’ association that would be a first step in changing their relationship with the land that they till.

It was two years after the government launched the country’s most ambitious reforestation effort: the National Greening Program (NGP). Its main objective is to increase forest cover in one of the most severely deforested countries in the tropics.

As of 2015, the Philippines had approximately 7.014 million hectares of forests, data from the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) showed. Ninety percent of the country was believed to be covered by forests in the 16th century but it declined to about 70% in the early 1900s. Between 1934 and the mid-1980s, around 10 million hectares of forests were lost.

NGP is also meant to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation while addressing the socio-economic needs of upland communities like Mamuyao.

The farmers of the remote village have had problems marketing their harvest; their village is located about an hour and several stream crossings from the highway. Therefore, they needed assistance provided under the program.

They had to organize to participate in the NGP. So, in 2013, they established the Upland Farmers Association of Brgy. Mamuyao (UFABM).

NGP tasks people’s organizations (POs) like UFABM to prepare reforestation sites, plant the seedlings, and maintain and protect established plantations.



Upland farmers band together to restore forests in Kaliwa watershed

Restoration efforts



A member of Upland Farmers Association of Brgy. Mamuyao (UFABM) walks toward the restoration site on February 16, 2021.

Philstar.com/EC Toledo

A year after it was organized, the association was awarded a contract to reforest and maintain a 79-hectare patch of open forestland within the Kaliwa Watershed—a declared forest reserve and natural park, and wildlife sanctuary.

They planted indigenous tree species such as narra, molave and lauan to help bring back biodiversity to that area of the Sierra Madre, where logging and harvesting of timber is now prohibited.

In 2016, they secured another project to turn a 50-hectare patch of land into a rattan plantation.

They planted the seedlings during the rainy season. As part of their three-year contracts with the government, members of the association went to the reforestation sites at least twice a year to maintain them.

Going up the mountains is not an easy task, even for villagers who have lived in Mamuyao all their lives, as it takes half a day to reach some of the sites.

Members of the association would stay there for a week to take care of each tree that they planted. They conducted ring weeding and strip brushing to ensure the trees would survive and grow into robust foliage.

Their hard work has so far paid off. The two sites that they managed and maintained had survival rates of 85% and 86%, meeting the success rate for planted tree seedlings that the greening program had contracted to POs.

“We are really proud that we took part in the implementation of the reforestation program because the first ones who will benefit from its impacts are our community members,” Silao, who also serves as the board member of UFABM, says.



Upland farmers band together to restore forests in Kaliwa watershed

“We believe the new forest will help lessen the impacts of, if not totally avert, flooding events and landslides.”

But a China-backed dam project in the Sierra Madre mountain range is feared to threaten communities within the watershed, including Mamuyao.

Fruit of their labor



Rollie Velasco, a community organizer from Prelature of Infanta Community Organization of the Philippines, takes a photo of the fruit-bearing trees in the reforestation site.

[Philstar.com/EC Toledo](http://Philstar.com/EC>Toledo)

After two successful reforestation efforts, the UFABM was awarded another contract in 2017; this time to grow fruit-bearing trees. The 100-hectare NGP site was closer to their homes, just a 30-minute trek from the village.

There, they planted guyabano, caimito, calamansi, rambutan, cacao and coffee. The plantation aims to guarantee food security for the community and provide them a source of income.

The trees planted there have not yet reached the stage of harvesting.

But Silao is confident most of the trees will survive. Unlike the previous two restoration projects, the maintenance of the area continues to this day, with UFABM members hoping to earn money when they harvest the fruits.

Under the NGP agreement, UFABM has rights to the produce from the plantation.

“The community is glad that we planted fruit-bearing trees there because they will receive direct benefits from the fruits that will grow,” Silao says.

But it has not been without problems. Members of the association lamented the planting of *Flemingia macrophylla* because it did not provide the community direct benefits save for erosion

Upland farmers band together to restore forests in Kaliwa watershed

control. They were told the plant can be fed to the farmers' cows and goats but they said the animals do not eat it.

Still, Conrado Vargas, executive director of the Prelature of Infanta Community Organization of the Philippines (PI-COPI), lauded the performance of the UFABM.

PI-COPI was tapped to assist the organization in the project and is still in touch with Mamuyao residents.

"We witnessed their perseverance and majority of the members were actively participating in the activities. During site visits, they always asked us what should be done for the continuous implementation of the NGP," Vargas says.

Ambitious reforestation effort



Mountains within the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve are seen in this February 16, 2021 photo.
Philstar.com/EC Toledo

NGP, the biggest environmental program of the Aquino administration, aimed to restore 1.5 million hectares of land with 1.5 billion trees from 2011 to 2016.

In the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment report, the Philippines ranked fifth among countries reporting the biggest annual forest area gain, which reached 240,000 during the 2010 to 2015 period.

The flagship reforestation program has been extended until 2028. The Enhanced National Greening Program (eNGP) was expanded to restore all remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands in the Philippines, which is estimated at 7.1 million hectares.

So far, 1.7 billion seedlings have been planted in over 2 million hectares, according to the FMB, an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

But the implementation of the initiative is fraught with challenges.

Upland farmers band together to restore forests in Kaliwa watershed

A 2019 report of the Commission on Audit (COA) found the move to fast-track NGP without adequate preparation and stakeholders' support "opened the program to waste."

Five years after the implementation, forest cover saw a small increase of 177,441 hectares.

The state auditors also noted the seedlings that survived hardly made any dent in reforestation efforts since most of the planted agroforestry species do not contribute to forest cover.

The DENR, however, said these contribute to carbon sequestration or the process of capturing or storing carbon dioxide. It has yet to develop a framework to measure that.

POs also tend to leave NGP sites when their maintenance and protection contracts end, the COA report found.

That was the case for the Mamuyao farmers in their first two projects. Silao said the three-year period covered by NGP contracts was not enough for the maintenance and protection of reforestation sites.

The short contract also means an end to funding needed to make sure the trees live as the organization could not afford to finance the maintenance of sites on their own.

"DENR's implementation of the program is good but there is no sustainability of the site. Reforestation is not enough, it must be sustainable," Silao says.

From 'target-driven' to 'community-centered'



Members of the Upland Farmers Association of Brgy. Mamuyao and community organizer Rollie Velasco are pictured on February 16, 2021.

Philstar.com/EC Toledo

FMB said numerous aspects such as biophysical and climatic conditions in an area, availability of seedlings, natural hazards, presence of grazing animals, preferred land use, support from local

Upland farmers band together to restore forests in Kaliwa watershed

governments and communities, funding, and existing laws and regulations contributed to the “success” of eNGP.

It said that “eNGP is an ever-growing program. It has come a long way since its implementation in 2011. Numerous policies and methodologies have been introduced in order to improve eNGP’s implementation and we see more interventions and innovations in the future.”

The bureau acknowledged it is necessary to continuously work and strengthen coordination with its partners and field offices to effectively achieve the goals of the program “as there are situations in the field which the FMB is not aware of.”

While reforestation remains an urgent concern, the COA advised the government to slow down the implementation of NGP.

“The DENR must pace the implementation of the program according to available resources [and] needs to shift its strategy from being ‘target-driven’ to becoming ‘community-centered’. Forcing the POs to deliver when they are not yet ready would only lead to waste,” it said.

The Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP) said the government must continue supporting people’s organizations for the maintenance of plantations.

“If it’s a greening program, if it’s a ‘bringing back your forests’ program, it’s not just planting. It has to take into consideration maintenance and nurturing,” says Jose Andres Canivel, FFP executive director.

More opportunities



Members of Upland Farmers Association of Barangay Mamuyao, Inc. pose for a photo on February 16, 2021.



Upland farmers band together to restore forests in Kaliwa watershed

One of the factors that helped UFABM succeed was the members' willingness to learn and continue the partnership they forged with PI-COPI even after the end of their NGP contract, Vargas said.

Even under one of the world's longest coronavirus lockdowns, the upland farmers continue to look for opportunities to reforest areas near their village and provide additional sources of income to its members. They are also seeking assistance in processing and finding markets for their products, which are mostly root crops.

In mid-February, the organization met to discuss their application to a new grant program. Silao said UFABM would propose a cacao and coffee plantation.

"We are always looking for assistance. We want to do many things, we want to implement many projects but our funding is limited," he said.

The story is part of the Climate Tracker's Southeast Asia Forest Recovery Collaborative Journalism project, produced with support from the Rainforest Journalism Fund in partnership with the Pulitzer Center.



Tarlac police collaborate with DENR for greening program



Mar 8, 2021 @ 20:54

The Tarlac Police Provincial Office has partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to boost the government's forest protection and greening program in Tarlac province.

Under the agreement, DENR will work with the 10 Tarlac municipal police stations (MPS) in the first district and the 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company in protecting and developing the established forest plantations under the National Greening Program (NGP), according to the Philippine Information Agency.

In a PIA report, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Celia Esteban said the police committed to protect and develop some 20 hectares NGP plantations found in Sitio Canding and Sitio Libag in Barangay Maasin of San Clemente town.

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

The MPS shall also act as the overall project manager and shall take charge in the mobilization of personnel prioritizing in hiring the people's organizations within the area, according to the report.

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

DENR, on the other hand, shall provide technical assistance.

Source: <https://centralluzon.politics.com.ph/tarlac-police-collaborate-with-denr-for-greening-program/>



Tree-planting ng MWSS, matagumpay!

By [Non Alquitran](#) (Pang-Masa)

- March 8, 2021 - 12:00am

UMAABOT na sa 4,021,626 sari-saring kahoy ang naitanim sa watersheds sa bansa bilang tugon ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) sa socio-economic development agenda ni President Digong. Ang pagtanim ng mga kahoy sa 9,509,375 hektarya ng reforested areas ng bansa ay sa ilalim ng 5-year Annual Million Trees Challenge (AMTC) ng MWSS na inumpisahan noong 2017, ayon kay MWSS administrator at ngayon MWSS Chairman of the Board Reynaldo Velasco.

Sinabi ni Velasco na ang mga reforested areas ay sa Ipo-Angat watershed sa 5,035.9 hectares; sa La Mesa dam 1,723.39; Laguna de Bay, 347.83; Kaliwa-Umiray, 150.84; Upper Marikina, 1,928.99, at sa Manila Bay sa 323.135. Ang plano ng ATMC ay ang pagtanim ng isang milyon na kahoy sa pitong watershed sa bansa para maiwasan ang kung anu-anong delubyo na dumarating sa Pinas, lalo na ang malimit na pagbaha.

Kaya komendado ni Velasco, na isang retired police general, ang pag-incorporate at registration ng bagong tatag na Million Trees Foundation Inc. sa Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) para isulong at i-sustain lalo ang ATMC bilang kasama sa Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 ni President Digong. Get's n'yo mga kosa? Hak hak hak! Kailangan ng todong suporta ng lahat ng Pinoy itong proyekto ng MWSS! Mismooooo!

Ang beteranong author at publisher na si Melandrew Velasco, na nagbuo ng AMTC project para sa MWSS ang siyang magsisilbing Presidente at Executive Director ng Million Trees Foundation Inc., na ang pangunahing layunin ay ang pag-preserve at pag-restore ng ecosystem functions ng watersheds sa bansa. May 142 critical watersheds sa bansa, ayon sa River Basin Control Office ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sinabi ni kosang Mel Velasco na ang rehabilitation ng mga watersheds sa bansa ay imodelo sa La Mesa Dam rehabilitation project. Kasama sa programa ng ATMC, ani kosang Mel Velasco ay ang pagbigay ng livelihood sa mga residente kung saan magkaroon ng tree-planting ang MWSS. Dahil sa matagumpay na watershed program sa bansang Australia, New Zealand at Africa, idinagdag pa ni Mel Velasco na gagamit sila ng drones sa kanilang tree-planting activities, lalo na sa Rizal at Wawa watersheds, para mapadaling makamit ang target nilang 1 milyon. Hak hak hak! Nasa tamang landas lang si Mel Velasco, ano mga kosa?

Balak din ng Million Trees Foundation na magtanim ng kawayan, narra at Ylang-ylang sa river banks at iba pang areas para maiwasan at ma-minimize and soil erosion. Siyempre ang unang nasa isipan ni Mel Velasco kung saan gagawin ito ay sa river banks ng Marikina at sa Laguna Lake. Ang pagtanim ng kawayan sa river banks ng Marikina ay alinsunod sa reforestation project ng Fr. Benigno Beltran's Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig group na sumasakop sa 600 hektarya.

Nakipag-coordinate din si Velasco sa Dep-Ed para taniman ng narra ang mga bakanteng lote sa mga eskuwelahan, kasama na ang expressways at parks. Kung sabagay, maliban sa contribution nito sa ecosystem, ang narra ay magdadala din ng livelihood sa mga Pinoy, tulad ng paggawa ng mga kasangkapan. Abangan!



Experienced, capable SMC to take on daunting Pasig River cleanup

Published March 8, 2021, 6:19 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Six hundred thousand tons—that's how much garbage San Miguel Corporation (SMC) plans to extract from Pasig River annually for the next five years once it kicks off its cleanup campaign at the river this April.

A statement from SMC Monday, March 8 revealed that two new dredging equipment capable of pulling such amount of silt and solid waste out of the river had just arrived.

“Through the years, Pasig River has become narrower and shallower because of accumulated silt and waste. By cleaning and widening it, we will be able to increase its capacity to keep water flowing within its banks especially during heavy rains,” SMC President Ramon S. Ang said. SMC, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other concerned government units, is targeting to extract 50,000 tons of waste per month from the river.

“After a thorough assessment of Pasig River, we identified sections where the depth of water has been reduced to as little as one meter. These are the most critical portions of the river that cause widespread flooding,” Ang said.

For the Pasig River to effectively serve its purpose of channeling flood waters out to the Manila Bay, its depth should at least be 10 meters, Ang said.

“But garbage and silt over the many decades have reduced this to just one meter in these areas, clogging the river and causing water to overflow everywhere.”

SMC is already in the middle of another major river cleanup—its five-year, P1-billion corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative to dredge and clean the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River System, which benefits other flood-prone areas such as Malabon and Navotas.

“We have had considerable experience in cleaning up rivers, primarily because of Tullahan, and also our successful initiatives to clean up rivers below Skyway 3. (We) are even putting in more resources and buying more equipment for the Tullahan initiative. We are also looking to do this for rivers in Bulacan. Naturally, cleaning up the Pasig River is a big goal that we do not take lightly,” Ang said.

“There have been many noteworthy efforts that have been initiated in the past, in order to rehabilitate the Pasig River. Unfortunately, it has always been a very costly undertaking. Now that San Miguel has a chance to help, we will give it our all,” added the SMC head honcho.

Launched in early 2020, with work only fully commencing following the lifting of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), the Tullahan project is seen to help solve flooding in Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Caloocan, Quezon City, as well as Bulacan province, for the long-term.



Experienced, capable SMC to take on daunting Pasig River cleanup

At the end of 2020, SMC reported that it had extracted a total of 83,600 metric tons (MTs) of garbage and silt from the section of the river located in Malabon and Navotas.

SMC has since committed to put in more resources and acquire more heavy machinery for the effort.

During the series of typhoons that hit Luzon and Metro Manila at the tailend 2020, both flood-prone cities reported no major flooding incidents despite increased water volume.

This is largely seen as the combined result of having effective pumping stations and the ongoing Tullahan cleanup by SMC.



SMC to dredge 600,000 tons of silt, waste from Pasig River

March 9, 2021 | 12:05 am



PASIG RIVER ferry station — BW FILE PHOTO

DIVERSIFIED conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) said that it is targeting to annually remove 600,000 tons of silt and solid waste from Pasig River over the next five years, as it awaits the arrival of two units of dredging equipment.

“Through the years, Pasig River has become narrower and shallower because of accumulated silt and waste. By cleaning and widening it, we will be able to increase its capacity to keep water flowing within its banks especially during heavy rains,” SMC President Ramon S. Ang said in a press release on Monday.

The two new units of dredging equipment are said to be capable of pulling 600,000 tons of silt and garbage out of Pasig River’s waters per year for the next five years, SMC said.

It added that it would be partnering up with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Public Works and Highways, and other concerned government units in extracting 50,000 tons of waste per month from the river.

Mr. Ang said that they were able to identify sections of the river where the depth has been reduced to as little as one meter. According to him, these were the areas which caused widespread flooding.

For the Pasig River to channel flood waters to Manila Bay, it should be at least 10 meters deep, he explained.

SMC said that it plans to begin the river’s clean-up operations by April.

SMC is also undertaking a P1-billion dredging and clean-up initiative in the Tullahan River system, which is seen to benefit flood-prone areas like Malabon and Navotas.

In March 2019, the conglomerate inked a deal with the DENR to implement a comprehensive dredging and clean-up program for the 59.24 kilometer river.

SMC shares in the local bourse were unchanged at P125 apiece on Monday. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/smc-to-dredge-600000-tons-of-silt-waste-from-pasig-river/>



SMC to start Pasig River cleaning, widening in April

posted March 08, 2021 at 10:20 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

San Miguel Corporation is gearing up to clean and widen Pasig River with the arrival of two new dredging equipment capable of pulling 600,000 tons of silt and solid waste out of its waters per year for the next five years.

“Through the years, Pasig River has become narrower and shallower because of accumulated silt and waste. By cleaning and widening it, we will be able to increase its capacity to keep water flowing within its banks especially during heavy rains,” SMC president Ramon Ang said.

SMC, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and other concerned government units, is targeting to extract 50,000 tons of waste per month from the river.

“After a thorough assessment of Pasig River, we identified sections where the depth of water has been reduced to as little as one meter. These are the most critical portions of the river that cause widespread flooding,” Ang said.

For the river to effectively serve its purpose of channeling flood waters out to the Manila Bay, its depth should at least be 10 meters, he said.

“But garbage and silt over the many decades have reduced this to just one meter in these areas, clogging the river and causing water to overflow everywhere,” Ang added.

At present, SMC is already undertaking a major river cleanup – its five-year, P1 billion corporate social responsibility initiative to dredge the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River System which benefits other flood-prone areas such as Malabon and Navotas.

“We have had considerable experience in cleaning up rivers, primarily because of Tullahan, and also our successful initiatives to clean up rivers below Skyway 3. We are even putting in more resources and buying more equipment for the Tullahan initiative. We are also looking to do this for rivers in Bulacan. Naturally, cleaning up the Pasig River is a big goal that we do not take lightly,” Ang said.

“There have been many noteworthy efforts that have been initiated in the past, in order to rehabilitate the Pasig river. Unfortunately, it has always been a very costly undertaking. Now that San Miguel has a chance to help, we will give it our all,” he added.

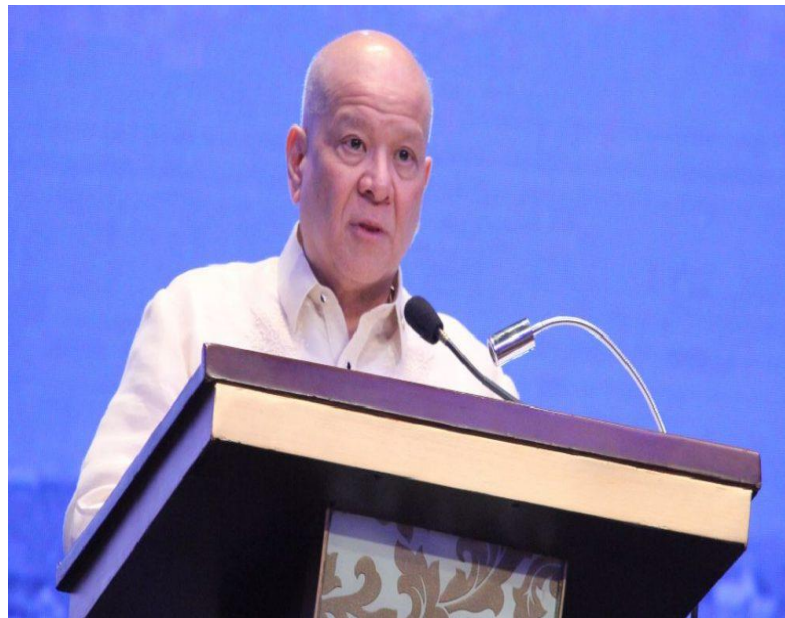


SMC starts Pasig River cleanup in April

For Pasig River to effectively serve its purpose of channeling flood waters out to Manila Bay, its depth should at least be 10 meters.



Published 6 hours ago
on March 9, 2021 01:20 AM
By [TDT @tribunephil](#)



San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is gearing up to clean and widen Pasig River with the arrival of two new dredging equipment capable of pulling 600,000 tons of silt and solid waste out of its waters per year for the next five years.

“Through the years, Pasig River has become narrower and shallower because of accumulated silt and waste. By cleaning and widening it, we will be able to increase its capacity to keep water flowing within its banks especially during heavy rains,” SMC president Ramon S. Ang said.

SMC, together with the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, and Public Works and Highways and other concerned government units, is targeting to extract 50,000 tons of waste per month from the river.

He added that for Pasig River to effectively serve its purpose of channeling flood waters out to Manila Bay, its depth should at least be 10 meters.

“But garbage and silt over many decades have reduced this to just one meter in these areas, clogging the river and causing water to overflow everywhere,” the SMC chief explained.

Currently, SMC is already undertaking a major river cleanup — its five-year, P1 billion corporate social responsibility initiative to dredge and clean up the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River System. which benefits other flood-prone areas such as Malabon and Navotas.



SMC starts Pasig River cleanup in April

Launched in early 2020, with work only fully commencing following the lifting of enhanced community quarantine, the project is seen to help solve flooding in Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Caloocan and Quezon City, as well as Bulacan province, for the long-term.

At the end of 2020, SMC reported it extracted a total of 83,600 metric tons of garbage and silt from the section of the river located in Malabon and Navotas. It has since committed to put in more resources and acquire more heavy machinery for the effort.

“We have had considerable experience in cleaning up rivers, primarily because of Tullahan, and also our successful initiatives to clean up rivers below Skyway 3. We are even putting in more resources and buying more equipment for the Tullahan initiative. We are also looking to do this for rivers in Bulacan. Naturally, cleaning up the Pasig River is a big goal that we do not take lightly,” Ang said.

“There have been many noteworthy efforts that have been initiated in the past in order to rehabilitate the Pasig River. Unfortunately, it has always been a very costly undertaking. Now that San Miguel has a chance to help, we will give it our all,” he added.



Ping bilib sa SMC: Nababoy na Pasig River lilinisin

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Mar 8, 2021

NEWS



Photo courtesy of facebook.com/senateph



Pinasalamatan ni Senador Panfilo 'Ping' Lacson ang San Miguel Corporation (SMC) at presidente nitong si Ramon S. Ang sa layunin nitong linisin ang Ilog Pasig.

"What many past administrations launched with a big bang, then abandoned with less than a whimper, SMC will turn into reality. Thank you all and God bless RSA," reaksyon ni Lacson sa ulat hinggil sa Pasig River cleanup ng SMC.

Nakatakdang simulan ng SMC ang clean-up operation sa Pasig River sa Abril at target nitong matanggal sa ilog ang tinatayang 600,000 tonelada ng basura kada taon, sa susunod na limang taon.

Sa isang press release nitong Lunes, sinabi ng SMC na makikipagtulungan ito sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources at Department of Public Works and Highways upang malinis ang nabanggit na ilog.

Ani Ang, lumabas sa isang pagsusuri sa ilog na may mga bahagi ito kung saan ang tubig ay may isang metro lamang ang lalim. Ito aniya ang mga 'most critical portion' ng ilog na sanhi ng malawakang pagbaha.



Ping bilib sa SMC: Nababoy na Pasig River lilinisin

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NEWS

“There have been many noteworthy efforts that have been initiated in the past in order to rehabilitate the Pasig river. Unfortunately, it has always been a very costly undertaking. Now that San Miguel has a chance to help, we will give it our all,” pahayag ni Ang. (Eileen Mencias/Issa Santiago)

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/ping-bilib-sa-smc-nababoy-na-pasig-river-lilinisin/>



THPAL snags Presidential environmental award

By Danilo Adorador, III March 8, 2021, 7:33 pm



SURIGAO CITY--Mineral processing plant Taganito HPAL Nickel Corporation (THPAL) has scored its first Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a statement Monday, THPAL said the MGB and the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) have announced the company as the winner of the Best Mining Forest Award in the mineral processing plant category for 2020.

THPAL said it also placed runner-up in the safest mines award in the same category.

Established by Executive Order 399 in 1997, the annual awards seek to recognize mining industry players for "outstanding levels of dedication, initiative, and innovation in the pursuit of excellence in environmental management, development of host and neighboring communities, land use improvement, exploration, and mining site rehabilitation and final decommissioning."

According to MGB, the awards pushed through despite the coronavirus disease pandemic, with the awards committee conducting offsite validations on 18 contenders through the use of technology and with the help of the MGB's regional offices.

The PMIEA evaluation committee is composed of the DENR secretary and the president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines as co-chairpersons, with the secretaries of the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology, and presidents of the PMSEA and the Philippine Mineral Exploration Association as members.

"This recognition speaks of THPAL's commitment towards community transformation, environmental protection, and promotion of safety culture. This is in line with the philosophy of total development by improving the quality of life while caring for the wealth of creation given to mankind. The Management is grateful to all employees who exerted their tireless effort to make THPAL's commitment possible, and this award is just an outcome of such relentless dedication,"



THPAL snags Presidential environmental award

THPAL Plant Manager Osamu Nakai said.

Based in the Surigao del Norte town of Claver, THPAL is a hydrometallurgical processing plant that uses the "high-pressure acid leach" method to convert the low-grade nickel laterite ore to produce nickel and cobalt mixed sulfide. The product is exported to Japan, where it is processed further to manufacture medical tools and equipment, electronic batteries, and other industrial materials. *(PNA)*



Waste-to-energy plant to rise in Sablan



By [Dexter A. See](#)
March 9, 2021

BAGUIO CITY: A renewable energy company wants to put up a multi-billion waste-to-energy plant that aims to convert some 500 tons of garbage to 10 megawatts of power to be sold to the Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco), a local power distributor.

Robert John Sobrepeña, chairman of the Metro Global Renewable Energy Corp., said that the waste-to-energy plant will be constructed within an 8,000-square-meter private property in Sablan, Benguet to address the garbage disposal woes of the Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tuba-Tublay (Blistt) local governments.

Currently, most of the local governments comprising the Blistt are hauling their generated residual waste from their respective areas of jurisdiction to Urданeta engineered sanitary landfill in Urданeta City, Pangasinan.

Sobrepeña said his company will submit to the city government the results of the pre-feasibility study it conducted for the proposed put up of the waste-to-energy plant to contribute in the overall efforts of the concerned local governments to come up with long-term solutions to their garbage disposal problems that have confronted them for more than a decade now.

However, Sobrepeña proposed there is a need for the company, the concerned local governments, and Beneco to discuss emerging issues and concerns surrounding the planned put up of the waste-to-energy plant to formulate the appropriate safety measures to solve the problem in case the local governments cannot provide the minimum volume of 500 tons to be able to produce the required 10 megawatts of renewable power.

According to him, the technology that will be used involves a combination of the latest technologies from various foreign companies that were proven to be environmentally-friendly with the least emissions to address environmental issues that may be raised against the project.

He claimed that the private property where the waste to energy plant can be constructed has been found to be suitable for the purpose by the company, and can be the site of the plant once the people and officialdom of Sablan will agree to the multi-billion project.

The project could be undertaken through a joint venture with the municipal government of Sablan or whatever feasible agreements that will guarantee the smooth implementation of the put up of the waste to energy plant.

For his part, Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong requested the company to consider the 139-hectare city-owned property within the Mount Sto. Tomas area as a possible site for the proposed plant.



Sarangani waste treatment plant eyed as income source

By Allen Estabillo March 8, 2021, 7:26 pm



The provincial capitol building of Sarangani. *(File photo courtesy of the provincial government)*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The Sarangani provincial government plans to develop its medical waste treatment facility in Alabel town into a sustainable local economic enterprise (LEE).

Engr. Gerald Faciol, assistant provincial administrator, said Monday they are working on the necessary mechanisms that would enhance the operations of the facility and eventually transform it into an income-generating entity.

Dubbed Sarangani Waste Treatment Facility, the project was initially commissioned by the local government last month after getting approval from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Region 12.

The provincial government completed late last year the construction of the PHP19 million facility, which uses the pyroclave technology.

“It’s a sure income-generating project. Definitely, it will be subjected to LEE,” Faciol said in a statement.

Rolando Tuballes, head of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, said the facility managed to process 150 to 400 kilos of medical wastes per hour based on its test run last month.

With such an efficiency rate, Tuballes said it would only operate two days each week to process wastes generated daily by the six provincial government-run and supported hospitals.



Sarangani waste treatment plant eyed as income source

The province's six hospitals produce an average of 120 kilos of medical waste daily, with 20 kilos considered as infectious.

“(This) is an opportunity for us to offer our services to the hospitals in General Santos City,” Tuballes said.

The official said they are fast-tracking the construction of a temporary disposal site to allow the facility, situated in Barangay Bagacay in Alabel, to fully operate.

Based on the guidelines issued by the Department of Health, he said the provincial government is allowed to establish a temporary disposal facility and use it for a maximum of two years.

“That will give us enough time to complete the construction of our sanitary landfill,” he said.

The modified category 3 sanitary landfill will be built in a 2.8-hectare area following a recommendation from EMB and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, he said.

The provincial government started the project in July last year through the Davao City-based clean technology firm RAD Green Solutions, the developer of proprietary technology Pyroclave Optima.

Pyroclave Optima -- considered as one of the best non-incineration technologies available in the market -- is a medical waste processor that uses pyrolysis, the process of decomposing waste materials using extreme heat without direct contact with the waste materials. **(PNA)**



CDC recycling event yields P1.2M



TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK. Clark Development Corporation (CDC) Environmental Permits Division Manager Engr. Rogelio Magat (7th from right) poses with some participants of the 25th Recyclables and Hazardous Waste Collection Event in Clark Freeport. (CDC-CD)

[CHARLENE A. CAYABYAB](#)

March 08, 2021

CLARK FREEPORT -- A recycling event spearheaded by Clark Development Corporation (CDC) has yielded more than P1.2 million worth of waste materials.

The waste materials were collected during the 25th Recyclables and Hazardous Waste Collection Event (RHWCE) led by CDC, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Environmental Practitioners' Association Inc. (EPA), and other environmental service partners.

At least 74 businesses, institutions, residents, as well as representatives from the Bureau of Customs participated in the event.

CDC-Environmental Permits Division (EPD) Manager Engineer Rogelio Magat said the event is by far the highest grossing RHWCE since it first started in June 2003.

"The recyclables event has been a resounding success. This has been the top-grossing event that we have conducted since its inception. We hope to learn from the safety strategies we've tested, and implement them in future iterations," Magat said.

Among the biggest haul in this year's recyclable collection event are the 1,462 pieces of used lead-acid batteries worth over P515,000; followed by acid, alkali wastes and organic solvent about 26,830 kg worth over P276,000.

Magat also said that 12,057 pieces of busted fluorescent lamps worth about P120,000; 75 kg of inks, dyes and paint sludge worth P2,400; and some 5,558 liters of used oil worth P51,000. Other waste products such as used waste tires, grease trap waste, oil-contaminated materials and electronic wastes and special wastes were also collected during the event.



CDC recycling event yields P1.2M

CDC-EPD has also expanded the event's collection coverage by including acid and alkali wastes, inks and paints, and waste tires among others. Scheduled pickups for bulk collection were also arranged for the safety and convenience of other participants.

Magat, who is also the president of the EPA, is committed to keeping Clark an environmentally sustainable zone even during the pandemic.

"Extending the event to three days allows us to ensure the health and safety of our service providers and locators, as well as giving them ample time to plan their recycling trip," Magat said.

Despite the delays due to the pandemic, the said event was successfully conducted in cooperation with the ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation Inc. through their Bantay Baterya and Bantay Langis Projects.

SFA Semicon Philippines Inc., a locator here, is among the top donors of the Bantay Baterya program that pledged half of their donation to ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation and to the EPA.

CDC was also supported by other environmental service partners namely, Joechem Environmental Corp., Dolomatrix Philippines Inc., Oriental & Motolite Marketing Corp., Soliman EC Septic Tank Disposal and General Services, Far East Fuel Corp., and Semirecycling Co, Inc.

Its success was also made possible through the support and three-day clearance issued by Directors William Cuñado and Wilson Trajeco, from the Environmental Management Bureau Central Office and Regional Office III, respectively.

The large amount of hazardous waste properly collected and treated by reliable environmental partners ensures a healthier and safer environment for the Clark Freeport Zone and beyond.



Volunteers' cleanup trek nets 200 kilos of trash from Mt. Apo

By Edwin Fernandez March 8, 2021, 2:10 pm



CLEANUP DRIVE. Environmentalists gather trash left by irresponsible mountain climbers on top of the country's highest peak -- Mt. Apo. A weekend climb led to the collection of 200 kilos of garbage (inset), mostly empty plastic water bottles, and other non-biodegradable items. *(Photos courtesy of Karl Tanaid and King Bacamante)*

KIDAPAWAN CITY, North Cotabato – Environmentalists and tourism officers, including guides and porters, trekked Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak, and collected almost 200 kilos of garbage over the weekend.

On Monday, Karl Tanaid, Magpet town tourism officer, said about 130 volunteers from mountaineering groups and other organizations climbed Mt. Apo for a cleanup activity.

"We collected mostly emptied plastic bottle water container and other non-biodegradable materials that litter the surroundings of Lake Venado," he said in an interview.

Lake Venado is an endorheic (interior) body of water located along the Mt. Apo trail in the province.

The cleanup trek from Saturday to Sunday was organized by the Department of Natural Resources-North Cotabato and the Mt. Apo National Park Protected Area Management Board, with the support of the local tourism offices of Magpet town and Kidapawan City.

Aside from trash, Tanaid said climbers also removed spray-painted vandalism on large boulders at the peak.

"Every year we see different vandals on huge rocks, this is not right," Kidapawan-based photographer King Bacamante, one of the climbers, said.

Both Tanaid and Bacamante said most of the violators of trek protocols were climbers who used the Sta. Cruz, Digos, and Bansalan trails in Davao Del Sur.

They said the trail had been opened since 2020 due to the pandemic and nobody was regulating the trekkers during climbs to the mountain peak.



Volunteers' cleanup trek nets 200 kilos of trash from Mt. Apo

Also, the DENR-Davao Region team that went up via the Kapatagan trail noticed the non-observance of guidelines issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases on social distancing.

Both Tanaid and Bacamante have urged climbers to observe both the health and environmental protocols to preserve the mountain forests while preventing the spread of Covid-19. (*PNA*)



UNEP: Over 930 million tons of food wasted in 2019

By [Pia Lee-Brago](#) (Philstar.com)

-March 9, 2021 - 12:00am



The UN Environment Program (UNEP) and partner organization WRAP said the Food Waste Index Report 2021 showed that among food wasted in homes, restaurants and shops, 17 percent was dumped.

The STAR/Ernie Peñaredondo, File

MANILA, Philippines — More than 930 million tons of food sold in 2019 landed in waste bins, according to a United Nations research.

The UN Environment Program (UNEP) and partner organization WRAP said the Food Waste Index Report 2021 showed that among food wasted in homes, restaurants and shops, 17 percent was dumped.

Some food was also lost on farms and in supply chains, indicating that overall a third of food was never eaten, the report said.

Although food waste had been thought of as a problem affecting mostly rich countries, the report found levels of waste surprisingly similar in all nations, although data was scarce in the poorest countries.

The study revealed that households discarded 11 percent of food at the consumption stage of the supply chain, while food services and retail outlets wasted five and two percent, respectively.

This has substantial environmental, social and economic impacts, according to the report, which points out that eight to ten percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are associated with unconsumed food.

“Reducing food waste would cut greenhouse gas emissions, slow the destruction of nature through land conversion and pollution, enhance the availability of food and thus reduce hunger and save money at a time of global recession,” said UNEP executive director Inger Andersen.



UNEP: Over 930 million tons of food wasted in 2019

In 2019, some 690 million people were impacted by hunger while three billion were unable to afford a healthy diet.

Against that backdrop and with COVID-19 threatening to exacerbate these numbers, the study urged consumers not to waste food at home. It also pushes for food waste to be included in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) plans through which countries commit to increasingly ambitious climate actions in the Paris Agreement.

Meanwhile, target 12.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims to halve per capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels and minimize food losses along production and supply chains.

“The UN Food Systems Summit this year will provide an opportunity to launch bold new actions to tackle food waste globally,” Andersen said.

Of the growing number of countries measuring food waste, 14 have collected household data in a way that is compatible with the Food Waste Index, while a further 38 countries use methods similar to the SDG 12.3 compatible estimate.



122 baby pawikan pinakawalan sa Aklan

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 08 2021 11:36 PM

Nasa 122 mga baby pawikan ang pinakawalan sa dalampasigan ng Barangay Camanci Norte sa Numancia, Aklan Lunes ng umaga.

Ayon kay John Alcazarin, Technician-Fishery official ng Numancia, kilala ang nasabing mga pawikan bilang green sea turtle na madalas na makikita sa baybayin ng Numancia.

Dagdag pa ni Alcazarin, nakolekta nila ang mga itlog ng pawikan noong January 5, 2021, at Lunes ng madaling araw nang mapisa ang mga ito.

Dahil sa malalakas naman ang mga baby pawikan ay agad nilang pinakawalan ang mga ito dahil sa kakulangan sa pasilidad upang maalagaan ang mga ito.

Sa isang conservation area sa Numancia kinokolekta ang mga itlog ng pawikan ng mga mangingisda at sa tulong ng lokal na pamahalaan ay dito inaalagan hanggang sa mapisa at pagkatapos ay pinapakawalan sa babayin ng nasabing lugar.

Panawagan ni Alcazarin sa iba pang mangingisda at mga residente sa lugar na kung may makita silang nangingitlog na pawikan ay pabayaan lang nila at ipagbigay alam kaagad sa mga awtoridad.

- ulat ni Rolen Escaniel



CDN Digital ✓

11h · 🌐



LOOK: A rare find comes out of hiding!

For almost three decades of not being spotted, a rare Guttman's Stream Frog was seen by a young wildlife biologist deep in the forest of Mt. Busa in southern Mindanao, one of the Philippines' least studied forest areas. | via [INQUIRER.net](https://www.inquirer.net)
[#CDNDigital](#)



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/55431914588/posts/10159534206204589/?app=fbl>



Marine ecozones mulled

By ...
-March 9, 2021



The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) is pushing for the development of so-called aqua-marine and renewable energy parks, one the new types of ecozones that will promote the integrated development of marine parks in viable marine protected areas (MPAs) all over the country.

PEZA deputy director-general Theo Panga said these ecozones will host ocean-based industries/activities such as mariculture, marine energy (e.g., solar, wind, tidal and ocean current), marine regeneration and marine ecotourism.

Panga said this pioneering initiative can generate incremental employment especially in rural areas, increase and diversify national exports through aquatic products.

According to Panga, AMREP is also envisioned to contribute significantly to the country's food security and energy self-sufficiency.

Panga said AMREP is different from the traditional marine/mariculture parks as this an integrated, green and sustainable ecozone development which will focus on responsible marine cultivation and ocean farming.

It will utilize modern mariculture enclosures to allow for a "farmhouse on water" complete with waste management system and floating work space/accommodations for divers, as opposed to the conventional unmanned fish cages.

Panga said PEZA would like to pursue a more inclusive marine park that will allow for fishing by the local fishing communities within the ecozone maritime area in order to protect their jobs and provide food for the host communities.

The AMREP will also engage the community and fisherfolks for the protection and conservation of the marine environment.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/marine-ecozones-mulled/



Mga hayop na isinasailalim sa testing bago ibiyahe sa probinsya



March 8, 2021 @ 2:53 PM 16 hours ago

MAGING sa mga alagang manok o anumang hayop na ibinabyahe patungong iba't ibang probinsya ay kinakailangan pa ring sumalang sa samu't saring pagsusuri gaya na lamang ng pagkuha ng dugo, swab test, at injection upang maiwasan ang mga posibleng sakit na galing sa hayop. **JOJO RABULAN**



Volunteers for Mayor Sara plant 1K mangroves in La Union

By Gigie Arcilla March 8, 2021, 2:27 pm

TUGUEGARAO CITY – One month ahead of the world’s annual celebration of Earth Day in April to support environmental protection, members of a volunteer group participated in a mangrove planting in La Union on March 7.

Around 1,000 mangrove propagules of Bakauan species were planted in Bauang town by more or less 40 volunteers belonging to Inday Sara Duterte Ako (ISDA).

It may be recalled that the group joined other volunteers from Region 1 in simultaneous motorcades in Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, and La Union on Jan. 31 onboard close to 300 private vehicles, public utility vehicles, motorcycles, and bicycles, to prod Davao City Mayor Inday Sara Z. Duterte to run for president in the 2022 national elections.

In late February, another group of ISDA volunteers distributed 200 packs of Pangasinan Bangus to residents affected by the coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic in Barangay Linao West, Tuguegarao City on Feb. 27. They likewise distributed food packs along the way to Tuguegarao City from Ballesteros and Aparri.

The activity dubbed “ISDA Food on Wheels Cagayan” benefitted tricycle drivers, barangay *tanods*, front-liners, among others.





Volunteers for Mayor Sara plant 1K mangroves in La Union



The group heeded the call of Mayor Sara to use their resources to give food to the needy and short of money.

Mayor Sara, in a news report on March 1, said the "show of strength and unity" of her supporters was enough to mobilize Filipinos to address poverty.

"There is no need for you to keep on calling my attention [to run for president] through motorcades and tarpaulins. I heard you, and I understand what's in your heart. Because that is also what I felt," she said.

Around 250 ISDA volunteer-riders held a motorcade in Montalban, Rizal on Feb. 25 capped with a feeding activity on Wawa grounds in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Despite Mayor Sara's earlier statements that she has no intention of running for president nor would be a late entry as his father, President Rodrigo R. Duterte, was in 2015, the group urged the former to run for president in 2022 and vowed to continue their advocacy to convince the presidential daughter to accept the challenge.

Mayor Sara, in December 2020, led an early preference poll for the 2022 presidency.

Results of the Pulse Asia survey conducted from November 23 to December 2 showed that one of four Filipinos would support a probable presidential bid by Mayor Sara. (PR)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1132912>



DepEd intensifies climate literacy, creates microsite for teaching climate change

Published March 8, 2021, 10:02 PM

by [Merlina Hernando-Malipot](#)

A Climate Change Education microsite which contains curated reference and supplementary learning materials has been created and launched by the Department of Education (DepEd) to enhance the integration of climate change in the basic education curriculum.



(Screenshot of the site)

The Climate Change Education microsite is an initiative led by the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DepEd-DRRMS) as a response to the immediate need for proactive response to the effects of climate change.

Education Secretary Leonor Briones praised the initiative.

“The urgency of protecting the environment has become much more evident,” she said.

“We have been surviving on a yearly basis; floods, earthquakes, storms have led to the destruction of our infrastructure, of buildings, and of course, the loss of lives,” she added.

The initiative, DepEd noted, is part of its commitment to intensify climate literacy and support climate action in the basic education sector by “honing learners and personnel who are climate literate and proactive in championing resilient and sustainable schools.”

The microsite is a repository of learning resources and references on climate change from partner organizations and institutions – including the Climate Change Commission (CCC), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Association (PAGASA), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation Inc. (OML Center).



DepEd intensifies climate literacy, creates microsite for teaching climate change

The said microsite, found at <https://www.deped.gov.ph/climate-change-education/>, is divided into four main sections: DepEd-Developed Learning Resources (DDLRs); References for Teachers; External Learning Resources; and DepEd's Program on Climate Change Education.

It also adheres to the fair-use policy on educational materials. DepEd said microsite also offers references on climate science, climate change in the Philippines, adaptation and mitigation, sample learning activities, and free online courses.

The references featured in the microsite are Open Educational Resources and can be used and redistributed these materials for free with proper citation.

epEd added that the APA citations were already provided on the microsite for the convenience of its users.

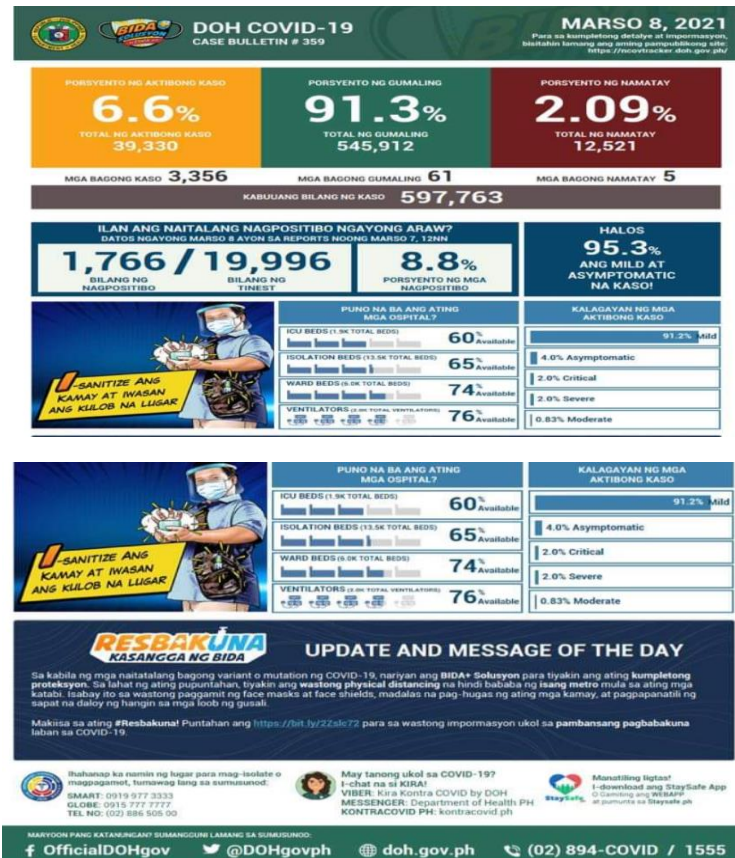
DepEd-DRRMS also created a manual on how to navigate the microsite to guide the teachers. This can be can be accessed through bit.ly/micrositemanual.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/08/deped-intensifies-climate-literacy-creates-microsite-for-teaching-climate-change/>



BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, nasa 597,763 na

By Angellic Jordan March 08, 2021 - 04:06 PM



Lagpas 3,000 muli ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (March 8), umabot na sa 597,763 confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 39,330 o 6.6 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 3,356 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

91.2 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 4.0 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.84 porsyento ang moderate; 2.0 porsyento ang severe habang 2.0 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa lima naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 12,521 o 2.09 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 61 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 545,912 o 91.3 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/286516/breaking-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-nasa-597763-na#ixzz60Ydzk9tb>

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Local execs can help prevent Covid-19 cases surge: PRRD

By Azer Parrocha March 9, 2021, 12:21 am



LGUS ROLE. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte talks to the people after holding a meeting with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) core members at the Arcadia Active Lifestyle Center in Matina, Davao City on Monday night (March 8, 2021). Duterte said the role of local officials, particularly barangay captains is crucial in preventing the Covid-19 cases surge within their respective jurisdictions. *(Presidential photo by Richard Madelo)*

MANILA – President Rodrigo R. Duterte on Monday said local government officials, particularly barangay captains, are crucial in preventing a rise in Covid-19 cases within their respective jurisdictions.

In a pre-recorded public address, Duterte reminded barangay captains of their role in implementing minimum health standards amid Covid-19 cases surge in Metro Manila.

“It is really very important that the [Department of the Interior and Local Government] plays its role. *Ang gobyerno natin ganito, ako ang pinaka-ulo, ang pinaka buntot ko yung barangay captain. Ang barangay ang pinaka importante sa lahat at kung talagang ginusto, kung ginusto ng lahat ng mga barangay captains magtrabaho, really work at it, baka talagang ma-decrease the number of transmission (Our government is structured like this, I’m the head, my tail is the barangay captain. The barangay is most important and if they really want it to happen, if all barangay captains really work, maybe they can decrease the transmission),”* he said.

Duterte added that preventing the spread of Covid-19 would only be possible if a barangay captain has “political will”.

He also reminded the public to observe minimum health standards such as wearing of face masks and face shields, frequent hand-washing, and physical distancing.

“You have only one life to live so please guard yourself,” he added.

He said following these health protocols would be a huge help to the country.



Local execs can help prevent Covid-19 cases surge: PRRD

“Sana kung makatulong lang kayo sa bayan, sumunod lang kayo at medyo mapababa natin ang kaso ng Covid (I hope you can do your share for the country. Just follow protocols to help reduce Covid cases),” he said.

He also reassured that the government is monitoring new Covid-19 strains in the country.

“We’re trying to find out a way of effectively combatting these new developments sa mga variant sa Covid-19 (in the Covid-19 variant),” he said.

On Sunday, the OCTA Research group warned that Philippines may see 6,000 new Covid-19 cases daily by March 31 if the surge is not managed.

As of Monday, health authorities recorded 3,356 additional Covid-19 cases bringing the total number of cases in the country to 597,763.

This is the fourth consecutive day that more than 3,000 new cases of Covid-19 were reported in the country.

Recoveries reached 545,912 after six more people got well while five more deaths brought the mortality toll to 12,521. *(PNA)*



MAGPABAKUNA, IWASANG MASAMA SA 594,412 NAGKASAKIT, 12,516 PATAY SA COVID-19



March 8, 2021 @ 12:22 PM 19 hours ago

KUNG hindi makontrol o masasawata ang pagkalat ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19 at mga variant o bagong anyo nito, nanganganib ang marami sa atin na magkasakit, maospital at mamatay.

Sa rekord sa nagdaang mga araw, anak ng tokwa, bumaba muli ang ranggo ng Pinas mula sa pang-32 sa may pinakamaraming kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo sa pang-31 at ngayo'y pang-30 naman.

Noong pang-32 tayo, naglalaro lang sa pagitan ng 1,000-2,000 ang nagkakasakit at matagal na nasa 6-30 ang namamatay araw-araw.

Sumama ang kalagayan natin nitong nagdaang tatlong linggo nang unti-unting lumagpas sa 2,000 ang nagkakasakit hanggang sa umabot na ngayon sa mahigit 3,000 araw-araw at magkaroon na tayo ng nasa 40-50 patay araw-araw rin.

Sa kabuuan, may 594,412 nang nagkasakit at 12,516 na namatay dahil sa pandemya sa Pinas na sa ngayo'y mahigit isang taon na.

Napakahalagang tanong: Gusto ba nating mapasama sa mga nagkakasakit at namamatay sa COVID-19?

PINAKAMAGANDANG BAKUNA

Dumarami ang mga bakuna na epektibo at ligtas laban sa COVID-19 bagama't may mga masasama ring epekto na humahantong sa pagkakaospital at kamatayan.

Nariyan ang mga gawang Amerikano na Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson at Novavax, ang gawang United Kingdom na AstraZeneca, ang gawang Russia na Sputnik V, ang gawang China na Sinovac o Coronavac, Sinopharm, Cansino at gawang India na Covishield (AstraZeneca) at Covaxin.



MAGPABAKUNA, IWASANG MASAMA SA 594,412 NAGKASAKIT, 12,516 PATAY SA COVID-19

Noong una, kanya-kanya tayo ng pili sa kung ano ang gusto nating bakuna at gusto nating mabakunahan kaagad.

Gusto nating lahat ang 'da bes' na bakuna.

Pero sa kalaunan, lumabas ang katotohanan na lahat ng gusto natin ay hindi masusunod dahil sa kakapusan ng suplay ng bakuna, patakaran ng pamahalaan at suplayer ng bakuna kung sino ang mga dapat na mauna at gusto ng mga suplayer, kasama ang mga bansang kumokontrol sa kanila, kung sino ang bibigyan nilang bansa.

Sa ibang salita, mga Bro, tanging ang Coronavac o Sinovac na dumating noong Marso 1, 2021 at AstraZeneca na magkasunod na dumating nitong mga huling araw lamang.

Ang katotohanan ngayon, wala tayong mapagpipilian kundi dalawa lamang.

Ano ngayon sa dalawa ang best vaccine o da bes?

Ang diin ng mga health expert, lalo na ang libo-libo nang doktor, nurse, midwife at iba pang mga health frontliner, ay ito: Kung ano ang nandiyan na bakuna, siya ang best vaccine o da bes.

Aanhin mo nga naman ang bakuna na sa paniniwala mo ay pinakamagandang bakuna kung wala naman ito?

Isa pa, pumasa sa sarili nating Food and Drugs Administration ang mga nabanggit na bakuna at nangangahulugan na ligtas at epektibo ang mga ito.

Kaya, dapat na tayong magpabakuna bago tayo abutan at kalawitin ng sakit at kamatayang dala ng COVID-19 at mga variant o mutant o bagong anyo nito na higit na mabagsik at nakahahawa.

Sa ibang bansa, katwiran ng mga gobyerno, gaya ng Hungary, kapag may naturukan nang isang milyon at mahigit pa sa isang bakuna, awtomatikong kikilalanin ito bilang mabisa at ligtas at sampol ang pag-apruba nito ng Sinopharm na nasa 10M na ang naturukan sa loob ng China at ginagamit na rin ito sa ibang bansa.

Hindi importante ngayon sa Hungary ang pag-apruba ng World Health Organization o ng European Medicines Agency dahil inaatake sila ng pandemya at kailangan na kailangan nila ang mga bakuna.

NAGAGANAP SA IBA, MAGANDANG TINGNAN

Sa pangkalahatan, sinasabi nating ligtas at epektibo ang available o narito na sa atin na bakunang Sinovac o Coronavac at AstraZeneca.

'Yung bang === meron ding sumisingit-singit na masasamang epekto.

Kaya naman dapat meron tayong pipiliin pa rin sa dalawang ito depende kung sino tayo.



MAGPABAKUNA, IWASANG MASAMA SA 594,412 NAGKASAKIT, 12,516 PATAY SA COVID-19

Sa Sinovac o Coronavac, 19-59 anyos lang ang sinasabing dapat mabakunahan samantalang sa AstraZeneca, pupwedeng 19-anyos hanggang sa mga senior citizen.

Pero sa mga adverse effect o masasamang epekto, lalo na ang kamatayan, lumalabas na may problema tayo sa AstraZeneca.

Halimbawa sa India, inirereklamo ng human rights group ang pagkamatay ng 23 na nabakunahan ng Covishield o AstraZeneca, gayundin ang dalawang namatay sa South Korea na 63-anyos at 50-anyos na nabakunahan AstraZeneca rin.

Kahapon, sinuspinde ng bansang Austria ang paggamit ng AstraZeneca dahil sa pagkamatay ng isang nars, 49-anyos, at pagkakaospital ng kasama rin nitong nars, 35-anyos, makaraang maturukan ng AstraZeneca.

Pinag-aawayan na rin ang kawalan umano ng bisa ng AstraZeneca sa African variant na siyang nagpaparami ng COVID-19 biktima, lalo na sa Metro Manila.

Sa araw namang ito, may namatay na 55-anyos sa Hong Kong makaraang maturukan ito ng Sinovac ngunit bago ito, dati nang mataas ang presyon ng dugo at may diabetes ang biktima.

Isama na natin ang iba pang bakuna na inaasahang darating na rin sa bansa sa mga susunod ng buwan.

Maaaring mauna ang Pfizer at susundan ito ng Moderna.

Higit na marami ang namatay sa Pfizer gaya ng 15 sa The Netherlands, 33 sa Norway 10 sa Germany at iba pang bansa, kasama ang Amerika.

Ang Pfizer at Moderna, may masamang epekto ring nakamamatay gaya ng autoimmune illness na sumisira sa platelet ng dugo.

Kapag nasira ang platelet, hindi na makagawa ang katawan ng tao ng blood clot o para sa mga daluyan ng dugo at kung may sugat ka, tuloy-tuloy ka nang mawalan ng dugo hanggang sa magkita na kayo ni Lord.

Sa kabila ng lahat ng ito, lahat ng manufacturer o gumagawa ng bakuna ay puro itinatatwa na may koneksyon ang mga bakuna sa nasabing mga kamatayan.

Ang mga gobyerno naman ng mga bansang may namatayan, sumasang-ayon sa mga pabrika ng bakuna na walang koneksyon ang mga bakuna sa mga namamatay.

Pero meron ding nagsasabi na hindi maiiwasan na may madidisgrasya habang ilan sa mga namatay ay mamamatay na talaga umano dahil sa kanilang mga sariling sakit o napadali lang ang kanilang kamatayan sa bakuna.



MAGPABAKUNA, IWASANG MASAMA SA 594,412 NAGKASAKIT, 12,516 PATAY SA COVID-19

BALIK-TANONG AT PAGLAYA SA PANDEMYA

Sa gitna ng lahat sa ating talakayan, mga Bro, muli tayong sasalang sa tanong na: Gusto ba nating mapasama sa mga nagkakasakit at namamatay sa COVID-19?

Kung ayaw nating mapasama sa mga nagkakasakit at namamatay, magpalista na tayo sa awtoridad na nangangasiwa ng mga pagbabakuna na nagaganap sa buong bansa ngayon.

Huwag nating katakutan na may may nadidisgrasya o namamatay dahil sa umabot na sa 300 milyon ang nababakunahan sa buong mundo at maliit lang ang bilang ng mga namamatay.

Kahit pa sabihin nating konektado ang mga bakuna sa mga disgrasya.

Bago tayo kasi mabakunahan, hinaharap muna tayo ng mga doktor, ineksamen at kung pupwede tayo sa mga nakalatag na pamantayan, doon tayo papayagang mainiksyunan para iwas-disgrasya.

Isa pa, ang pagpapabakuna ang magbubukas sa ating lahat tungo sa kalayaan.

Kalayaan na kumilos para maghanapbuhay, magpunta sa kung saan natin gusto, mag-aral, manilbihan sa pinili nating larangan, magsaya, magsamba, mag-abroad at marami pang iba.

Lalaya tayo sa mga lockdown at napakaraming bawal na gawin na nagtutulak sa atin sa bangin ng iba't ibang krisis na perwisyo hindi lang sa atin kundi mismo sa pamahalaan na rin.



LPA sa labas ng PAR ‘di lalakas – PAGASA



March 8, 2021 @ 12:13 PM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines — Sinabing hindi lalakas ang namataan low-pressure area (LPA) sa silangang bahagi ng Mindanao na nasa labas pa ng Philippine area of responsibility, batay sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Sa ulat ng Inquirer, sinabi ni PAGASA weather specialist Loredin dela Cruz na namataan ang LPA sa layong 1,695 kilometrong silangan ng Mindanao na posibleng makaapekto sa Southern Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao sa Miyerkoles at Huwebes.

“Sa ating analysis, nananatiling mababa ang tsansa na mabuo ito o mag-progress pa into tropical depression, although pinaghahanda natin ang ating mga kababayan especially sa Visayas, Mindanao at ilang bahagi ng Southern Luzon dahil nakikita natin na malaki ang tsansa na magpaulan ito o magdala ng pag-ulan sa mga nabanggit nating lugar pagdating ng Wednesday at Thursday this week,” aniya.

Gayundin ay makaaapekto ang amihan sa ilang bahagi ng bansa sa norte na magdadala ng panakanakang pag-ulan, kulog at kidlat. *RNT/FGDC*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/lpa-sa-labas-ng-par-di-lalakas-pagasa/>



Solidum urges public to participate in drills, know the hazards

By Ma. Cristina Arayata March 8, 2021, 6:31 pm



(PNA file photo of earthquake drill)

MANILA – Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) Director Renato Solidum Jr. is encouraging the public to participate in earthquake drills and to know the hazards.

In an interview with the Philippine News Agency on Monday, Solidum said there are three things that need one's attention when it comes to earthquake preparedness. These are safe place, safe construction, and safe community.

"People need to help themselves as help from others will not arrive right away during large-scale earthquakes," he emphasized.

Solidum added that people need to make sure they know what to do before, during and after an earthquake, and these can be achieved better through drills by simulating responses at home or offices.

In terms of ensuring a safe place, he said one must locate houses or buildings in areas not prone to faulting (where ground rupture can happen). Other areas that must be avoided are those that are highly vulnerable to hazards like landslides.

Safe construction, on the other hand, can be ensured by following the National Building Code with the right design, right materials and right workmanship, he said.

The public must give focus on the safety of the community or organization, in which preparedness and response plans are developed and tested by conducting drills, he continued.

"Hence participation in drills is important. This will increase the chance of people surviving a strong earthquake," Solidum said.



Solidum urges public to participate in drills, know the hazards

On Thursday (March 11), the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) will conduct the first quarter nationwide simultaneous earthquake drill at 2 p.m.

Despite the drill being held online, Solidum said it will still be based on an intensity VIII earthquake scenario.

"The scenario always considers intensity VIII (earthquake), which is a very destructive shaking where one cannot stand during shaking," he said.

Meanwhile, Solidum said that prior to the nationwide simultaneous drill, Phivolcs participated in a webinar organized by the OCD last March 4.

A speaker from Phivolcs, Jeffrey Perez, talked about understanding common hazards in the house and school.

The webinar had the theme, "Be involved: You are the help until help arrives", and focused on preparedness. (PNA)

09 MARCH 2021, Tuesday



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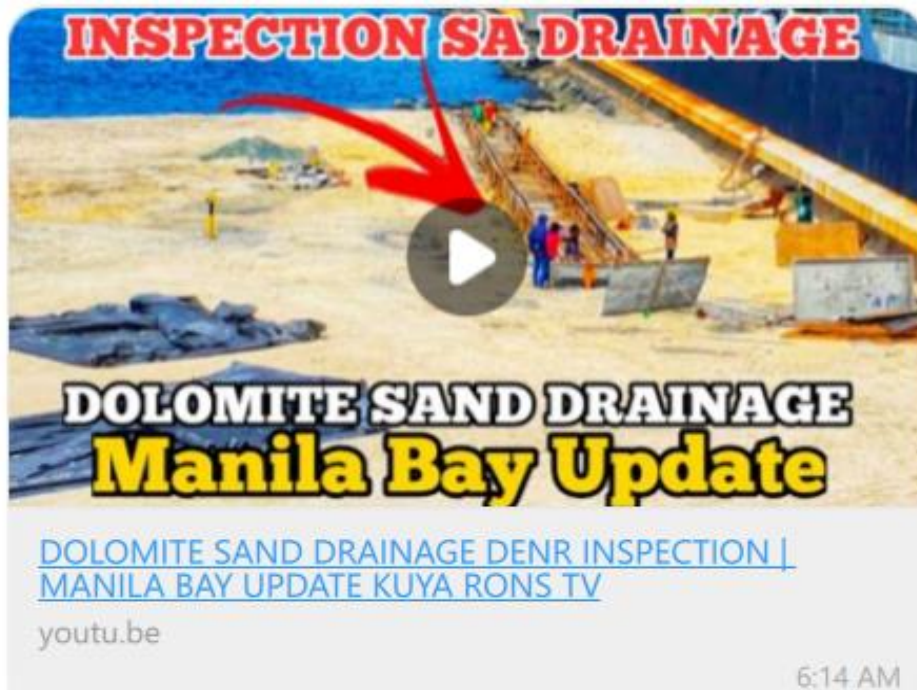
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