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Stricter rules on marine vessel sewage urged

By Eireene Jairee Gomez

July 10, 2021



Manila Bay rehabilitation project led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
PHOTO BY RENE H. DILAN

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is calling for stricter guidelines in the monitoring and reporting of sewage discharge of marine vessels to ensure the effective implementation of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force head Benny Antiporda suggested this to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to prevent pollution from sewage during a recent meeting along with the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), shipyard associations, and marine vessel owners.

"In six years, a lot has changed already. Marine vessels have already increased in number and our population has grown. Maybe it would be better if we talk about the solution, which is coming up with a suited policy on how to control or stop the pollution in Manila Bay," Antiporda told the PCG.

He suggested the need to have a more thorough data monitoring and reporting of sewage from the source, treatment, collection, coordination with agencies, and disposal to sufficiently support the Manila Bay rehabilitation.



Stricter rules on marine vessel sewage urged

"We cannot track the vessels if they discharge it within Manila Bay or outside the bay. Maybe we could come up with something that could safeguard the bay from discharges," Antiporda explained.

PCG National Capital Region-Central Luzon Commodore Leovigildo Panopio said, "the PCG takes the task of marine environmental protection seriously."

He added the agency is currently formulating programs and policies concerning the enforcement of various laws and regulations aimed at the protection of the marine ecology.

Panopio also mentioned that there is an ongoing review of their memorandum circulars (MCs).

According to PCG Lieutenant Precious Omalsa, there should be no discharges of sewage from the vessels in the Manila Bay region since it will not satisfy the ruling under the PCG MC 10-14.

In the ruling, ships discharging comminuted and disinfected/treated sewage should be at a "distance of more than four nautical miles from the nearest shoreline."

Meanwhile, ships discharging sewage that is not comminuted or disinfected/treated should be at a "distance of more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline."

Omalsa cited vessels that are four nautical miles from Metro Manila but are two or three nautical miles from Bataan, which means discharges are still within the Manila Bay region.

"Cleaning up the bay is not literally getting a pail of water and filtering it. It is more of stopping or minimizing the pollution, for the environment, for nature to heal itself. But sad to say, due to too much pollution, it cannot heal itself anymore," Antiporda added.

The meeting was held to ensure the compliance of marine vessel owners and organizations to the memorandum and to come up with measures on how the maritime sector can help the government in its ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.



Illegal wildlife trade sa bansa tututukan ng DENR

July 9, 2021 3 min read

Ni Janus Ochoda



MANILA — Bilang paghahanda sa nalalapit na 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit sa Hulyo 14 hanggang 16, 2021, nagsagawa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng pre-event noong Hulyo 7, Miyerkules upang matutukan ang masamang epekto ng illegal wildlife trade sa bansa.

Tinalakay sa nasabing event nina DENR undersecretaries Benny Antiporda, Edilberto D. Leonardo, at Benito de Leon, kasama si Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Wildlife Resources Division Chief Atty. Theresa Tenazas ang iba't-ibang aspeto at lawak ng illegal wildlife trade.

Kabilang sa pinag-usapan ay ang mga hamon sa DENR wildlife enforcement officers, online illegal wildlife trade, at mga salient points upang maging mas mahigpit ang Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resource Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 kasama na ang mga “context and threats, policy gaps, and its proposed revisions for amendment.”

Napagusapan din ang madalas na kinakalakal na species kasama na ang illegal wildlife trading hot spots at strategies for combating illegal wildlife trade.

Ipinaliwanag ng mga opisyal ng DENR ang kahalagahan ng nalalapit na NELE Summit at binanggit na isang workshop ang ginanap noong Marso 11-12 upang pag-aralan ang enforcement of green laws (forestry, flora and fauna), blue laws (water bodies such as estuaries, rivers, lakes, bays and oceans), brown laws (mining, land, and solid waste management), prosecution, and the roles of supporting agencies before the actual event.



Ilegal wildlife trade sa bansa tututukan ng DENR

“Hopefully, during this pre-event for the upcoming environmental law enforcement summit, we can make the Filipino people realize the magnitude of what we are lobbying and continuously advocating,” saad ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Layunin ng NELE Summit na makapagpresenta ng mga nagawa ng environmental law enforcement tulad ng “laws and policies, implementing guidelines, programs, and tools, and come up with a new NELE Action Plan for 2021-2028.”

Magsisilbi rin itong lugar upang matiyak na patuloy ang koordinasyon at kooperasyon ng mga environmental law enforcement agencies at pagbibigay ng pagkilala sa partner agencies at institusyon maging sa bawat indibidwal.

“The sophistication of these illegal wildlife traders gives us the sense of urgency to clamor for the immediate legislation of the Senate bills concerning this matter,” saad ni Cimatu.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang illegal wildlife trade sa Pilipinas ay tinatayang aabot sa halagang P50 billion kada taon, kabilang na dito ang market value ng wildlife at ng resources nito, ecological role at value, pinsala sa habitat na nagawa sa paghuli at pagkawala ng potential ecotourism revenues.

Sa nakalipas na sampung taon, ang DENR ay nakakumpiska ng P248-million halaga ng wildlife specimens.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na ang bilang na ito ay nakaaalarma at “could invite more criminal minds and unscrupulous individuals, especially during this time of crisis—if they are left with merely a slap in the wrists.”

Noong Mayo 26 nang pumasa na sa House Committee on Appropriations ang substitute House Bill na pinamagatang “An Act Providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats, and Appropriating Funds Therefore, Repealing for this Purpose Republic Act No. 9147” or the “Wildlife Resources Conservation And Protection Act,” na inisponsoran ni Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato at labing-limang iba pang representante.

Kasalukuyan namang tinatalakay sa public hearing ng Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change kasama ang Committee on Finance at Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking ang Senate Bills 2078 at 2079 na iniakda nina Senators Cynthia Villar at Juan Miguel Zubiri, ayon sa pagkakasunod. (AI/MTVN)



Citing need for inclusivity, climate change body revamps expert panel

By Gaea Katreena Cabico(Philstar.com) - July 9, 2021 - 4:59pm



MANILA, Philippines (Updated 5:31 p.m.) — The Climate Change Commission is replacing its panel of climate experts in a move it says is meant to improve regional and sectoral representation in the body.

The CCC announced on Wednesday its call for nominations for the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE), which is tasked to provide the commission technical advice in climate science and technologies.

The panel also recommends best practices for risk assessment and enhancement of the adaptive capacity of the vulnerable population to climate impacts.

“With the objective of ensuring institutional, regional, and sectoral representation in its composition with special consideration for gender balance, the Climate Change Commission believes that it is an opportune time to call for new nominations,” CCC’s Information and Knowledge Management Division told Philstar.com in an email exchange Friday.



Citing need for inclusivity, climate change body revamps expert panel

The deadline for the submission of nomination is on July 15, only a week after the call was announced.

A scientist familiar with the NPTE and who approached Philstar.com about the looming reconstitution of the panel said it "already gender-balanced" but acknowledged that there could be more more members from Visayas and Mindanao.

"The question there is, won't that compromise quality? I'm sorry to say that the bulk of high-level climate work is really concentrated in Luzon."

The source initially raised the alarm over the members of the NPTE being dismissed "unceremoniously", adding the period of nomination for the new members of the new panel is short.

Asked to confirm the supposed move to replace the members of the panel, Dr. Carlos Primo David, NPTE chair, said he had heard about it but that, as of July 7, "there is no resolution that has been signed [or] passed insinuating this."

Current members

The NPTE was created in accordance with Republic Act 9729, or the Climate Change Act of 2009. The panel was constituted in 2015 with the appointment of 14 members

CCC said all members were reappointed in 2017, while 13 were reappointed in 2019.

Aside from David, the panel comprises:

Leoncio Amadore – climate science and Earth science

Leandro Buendia – greenhouse gas inventory (agriculture and land use, land use change and forestry)

Rex Victor Cruz – environment and ecology

Laura David – oceanography

Felino Lansigan – environment and ecology

Rodel Lasco – environment and ecology



Citing need for inclusivity, climate change body revamps expert panel

Glenn Roy Paraso – health

Rosa Perez – meteorology

Juan Pulhin – environment and ecology

Fernando Siringan – Earth science and environment

Lourdes Tibig – meteorology

Jose Ramon Villarín – climate science

The appointment of the current members was renewed through the commission's Resolution 2020-001. Their term would have ended in 2022.

"Once the nomination process is completed and a new set of experts are appointed, the services of the outgoing set of experts will naturally end," CCC said.

"The commission views it timely and beneficial to reconstitute new members representing various sectors related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as experts from the three major island groups of the country, to further strengthen regional and sectoral climate interventions," it added.

In a statement, NGO network Aksyon Klima Pilipinas commended the current members of the panel for their "reputable expertise, tremendous track records in their respective fields, and their significant contributions to building a scientific foundation for climate action in the Philippines."

It said it expects the current NPTE members will have an option to renew their services "as deemed relevant respective of the climate risks."

Aksyon Klima Pilipinas stressed inclusivity must be reflected in numerous aspects once the NPTE is reconstituted.

"We call on the CCC to ensure that there will be sectoral representation in the NPTE including indigenous peoples, grassroots movements, CSOs, young people, women and local communities who have tremendous knowledge and skills in local climate action as duly recognized by the Paris Agreement, but who, on the other hand, are likely to lack access or opportunities to earn a credible academic reputation."



Citing need for inclusivity, climate change body revamps expert panel

The CCC is tasked to coordinate and evaluate the government's programs and action plans on climate change. Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, a former environment secretary, was named the chairperson-designate of the commission.



Nickel group sees progress following mining ban lifting

posted July 09, 2021 at 09:05 pm

by [Jennifer B. Austria](#)

The Philippine Nickel Industry Association expects the mining industry to maintain its growth trajectory following the government's move to lift the suspension on new mining agreements, a top executive said Friday.

"We are hopeful to maintain this growth momentum especially after the issuance of EO 130 that lifted the ban on new mineral agreement as it will pave the way for new mining projects and entice more investments in the mining industry," PNIA president Dante Bravo said in a statement.

Bravo attributed the significant growth in the mining industry largely to higher nickel prices and the robust demand from China's stainless steel producers.

Citing data from Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Bravo said nickel mining firms supplied half of the 2020 mineral production and 31 percent of total production in the first quarter.

"Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the country's nickel industry remained resilient with a reported increase of 4 percent in production growth and 22 percent in export value citing a comparison of year-on-year data for 2019 and 2020 as posted in a recent report of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau," Bravo said.

The MGB data also showed that the industry's total direct shipping ore production was P38.86 billion in 2020, higher than P31.79 billion in 2019.

Data also revealed that in 2020, the nickel industry produced 27.17 million dry metric tons of nickel ore, higher than the previous year's total production of 26.21 million DMT.

Bravo said the PNIA has collective commitment to industry sustainability efforts. He said the group would release before the end of the year their performance report on alignment with United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

PNIA members jointly spent over P167 million on their social development and management programs in 2020, P49 million on COVID-19 assistance, and P532 million on their environmental protection and enhancement programs. They also planted over 7 million trees.

"PNIA members are equally committed to ensuring sustainability in our communities through community and environmental preservation efforts. The projects we implement for the community and the environment are as equally important to PNIA members as their operations," Bravo said.



Oceana works with DILG to remind LGUs to follow environmental laws

July 09, 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL group Oceana Philippines is working with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on policy issuance enjoining the local government units (LGUs) to strictly follow environmental laws.

This way the campaign to protect the environment, particularly the country's marine resources, will reach local officials at the grassroots level.

"Oceana is trying to work on policies like making sure LGUs that are approving or implementing coastal development projects are fully compliant with environmental laws," said Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio, Legal and Policy director of Oceana Philippines, noting the planned reclamation projects in Cebu.

She said the group is worried about the reclamation projects that are sprouting all over Cebu, which may pose risks to the province's rich reserve of marine resources.

"We should veer away from these hard solutions and look into more nature-based solutions. In fact, this was the direction advised to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. I think we have to change the paradigm," said Osorio.

Osorio said Oceana is against any dump-and-fill projects in the country because of its threat to marine life and the negative impact it will have on the livelihoods that depend on it.

"It doesn't take into account the (marine) resources. What they only focus on is the additional land area. Maybe for the short term, we can benefit (from this), but in the long term we will lose the productivity of the marine resources," she added.

Osorio knows of four big reclamation projects in Cebu, two of which are across each other which may narrow the Mactan Channel.

Recommendation

Gordon Alan Joseph, chairman of the Infrastructure Development and Power Sub-Committees of the Regional Development (RDC) Council 7, earlier recommended careful studies of these reclamation projects.

While joint venture reclamation projects do not require RDC approval unless required by the Philippine Retirement Authority, Joseph hopes "that these projects have sound financial, social and environmental studies to justify the projects."



Oceana works with DILG to remind LGUs to follow environmental laws

Coastal greenbelts

Besides working with the DILG, Oceana Philippines is also supporting the bill that seeks the creation of “coastal greenbelts” to protect vulnerable shoreline communities and marine resources.

“One policy reform we are eyeing is the Coastal Greenbelt Bill because we recognize that coastal greenbelts are important, especially for resiliency against climate change and safeguards against these kinds of coastal projects. These are the kind of reforms we want, so we can continue to protect our remaining mangroves and other marine resources,” said Osorio.

In October 2019, Sen. Nancy Binay filed Senate Bill (SB) 1082 or an “Act Establishing the National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan” to reduce the impacts of cyclones in the coastal communities of the country with an environmentally friendly and cost-effective initiative.

The bill defines “coastal greenbelts” as strips of natural or planted coastal vegetation, stretching at least 100 meters in width from the sea towards land, primarily of mangrove and beach forest species, which are designed to prevent coastal erosion and mitigate the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property.

According to a study made by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, more than 50 percent of Philippine municipalities are coastal while all major cities lie in coastal areas.

Under SB 1082, the Climate Change Commission “shall identify and convene all national agencies responsible for foreshore management, mangrove and beach forest protection and utilization, coastal land and sea-use planning, coastal tourism development, social welfare of coastal communities, and other relevant mandates, to prepare an integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan (NCGAP).

The NCGAP shall also contain the operational plan for the removal of illegal structures such as breakwaters, permanent residential/commercial structures, and the like in the identified priority coastal greenbelts. (KOC)



Cebu reclamation project in many ways a mess

By Mauro Gia Samonte
July 10, 2021

JUDGE Allan Francisco Garciano of the Mandaue City Regional Trial Court Branch 83 has issued a status quo ante order, requiring Mayor Joannes Pepito Alegado not to close the shipyards in La Consolacion, Cebu before December 31. With that order, the judge brought a lull in the stormy controversy that has wracked the local government unit the minute it approved the project called Seafont City in Barangay Tayud in the locality. The project involves the reclamation of more than 235.80 hectares of a coastal area that has been home to a thriving shipyard industry, servicing the anchoring, maintenance and repair needs of ships in the Visayan region and Northern Mindanao. The industry has been the lifeblood of the village's some 25,000 residents.

With the order, the judge has put to rest, albeit in a temporary manner, a number of controversial issues that have attended the approval of the project. Foremost among such issues are the facts that the project proponent, La Consolacion Seafont Development Corp. (LCSDC), is Luzon-based and its starting capital is a measly P10 million.

Moreover, it is said that La Consolacion Mayor Alegado failed to produce standard documents normally required of such endeavors, like the project proposal of LCSDC and other attachments; the proposed joint venture agreement of the municipality with LCSDC; the notice of award; and the proposed ordinance of the municipality relative to the project approval. It is beyond us to determine why the mayor failed to do so but it certainly should be obvious that you don't approve such a gargantuan project as a Seafont City without those basic requirements being satisfied first.

Is something being hidden from the public?

It is asked of the mayor, for instance, why shipyards are required to secure a business permit for a shorter period of six months when they had earlier paid for a one-year business permit.

A P1.3-B embarrassment

Also, Mayor Alegado allegedly required the shipyards to get a lease agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the use of the foreshore areas in Barangay Tayud, although this was never required for the previous business permits.

Under normal circumstances, projects of this magnitude take time for studies in terms of legalities, technical considerations and impact on community and social welfare, among other concerns.



Cebu reclamation project in many ways a mess

In the case of the LCSDC, there appears to be an extraordinary rush. The regular requisite documents have been dispensed with, parliamentary protocol (the passage of implementing municipal ordinances), disregarded, and institutionalized procedures modified evidently to suit some special purpose.

To wit, the tenure of business permits hitherto governed by accepted norms suddenly become subject alone to the discretion of the municipal executive.

And to top it all, elections are coming soon. In a while, an election ban on projects like this will be in place. Is the rush manifest in the approval of the Sea Front City project a desperate effort to escape this ban?

Has then the mayor then not been actually facilitating things for the ultimate rise of the Seafont City?

But no, let's not speculate.

On the level, it may be admitted that the La Consolacion seafront development project could result in some nice thing for the folks out there. We got information that the proposed Seafont City is envisioned to generate an estimated 57,000 to 60,000 jobs and an annual income of P600 million for the local government.

Govt assures progress for infra projects

Which local government would not appreciate such enormous development?

It is this potential of betterment for the people and the municipality against which any judge would weigh what could be a real disaster otherwise.

One local shipyard entity has this to say on the issue: "Shipyards will lose an area wherein they can stay during storms. The project does not propose a plan on how to address this issue. Maintenance facilities for these shipyards will be displaced, and the reclamation project does not propose a plan on how to address these. In addition to all these, 60 percent to 70 percent of the repair and maintenance of ships from Cebu and Northern Mindanao are being done in the shipyard in Tayud, Consolacion. That's too many jobs and too much income lost for the folks and the local government of La Consolacion."

According to one source, Cebu is the shipping hub of the Visayas. The displacement of the shipyards in La Consolacion would result in a veritable crippling of the entire shipping industry in the region.

Some observers fear that the Sea Front City project offers the potential of a powder keg that could explode massively once put into place.

"Imagine the rage of seafarers, commercial passenger ferries and vessels as well as cargo ship owners who will be up in arms over a project that would threaten their existence," they said.



Cebu reclamation project in many ways a mess

"These businesses stand to lose millions of pesos in their investments. If they would lose them, it is possible that they could stop operating forever."

"If the Consolacion mayor really cares about his citizens, then he should never allow the reclamation project to proceed as it is," he said.

Anyway, it is better to just keep faith with the wisdom of the judicial process. Judge Garciano has ordered no disturbance of the shipyards of La Consolacion until December 2021. This means all actions of the mayor to the contrary are put on hold. All stakeholders in the undertaking can take time gathering legal weapons with which to counter the ones unleashed by Mayor Alegado and hope for the best.



Bicycle policies: Creating a safe and welcoming environment

By Robert Siy
July 10, 2021

WITH the increasing numbers of cyclists in every city and municipality, national and local government units are in the process of issuing new laws, ordinances and regulations to apply to this fast-growing mode of travel. More people cycling leads to a more livable environment for all of us. How can Philippine cities create a safe and welcoming culture for bicycle use, so that more Filipinos of all ages take up cycling?

Many people are turning to cycling out of necessity. Public transport may be unavailable, insufficient or unreliable. Without cycling, many would lose their jobs; enterprises with employees unable to get to work would go out of business. For some, cycling is the only dependable travel option.

The growing numbers of cyclists come from all income groups and ages. For some, cycling enables much faster travel under congested rush hour conditions. Others are recent converts to cycling because of the availability of protected bike lanes in some cities.

For the less privileged, cycling offers low-cost mobility and allows access to economic opportunities within a wider geographical area. Many have turned to bicycles because they cannot afford the cost of public transport. Those who are poor may also lack the means to pay for safety equipment and accessories.

There are many good reasons for why it makes sense to attract as many people as possible to cycling. If some users of public transport shift to cycling, it means less crowding on buses, trains and jeepneys. If car users decide to cycle instead, it means fewer motor vehicles on congested roads, less air and noise pollution, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Next to walking, the travel mode with the lowest climate impact (in terms of carbon emissions per person-kilometer) is cycling.

Traveling regularly by bicycle is a great form of exercise and leads to improved health outcomes. If a million more Filipinos shift to regular cycling, billions of pesos will be saved in public health care costs. On this point, cycling is reputed to improve mental health and stave off depression. One explanation is that people who bike to work or to school feel empowered because they are able to predict and manage their travel times.

Just the joy of keeping balanced on two wheels while moving forward is highly motivating. There is also the example of children in the Netherlands being the happiest in the world, according to a United Nations Children's Emergency Fund study in 2017; many attribute it to the freedom and independence that Dutch children on bicycles have from a very early age.



Bicycle policies: Creating a safe and welcoming environment

How do we encourage more Filipinos to take up cycling for their everyday travel while keeping themselves safe? How do we avoid becoming too restrictive or punitive in our bicycle policies?

First, we need to clarify that cyclists and pedestrians have as much, if not more, of a right to urban road space as people in motor vehicles. In fact, nationwide, Filipinos who don't have cars outnumber car owners 10-to-one (in Metro Manila, only 12 percent of households own cars). Therefore, urban roads, as public assets and in line with social equity principles, should prioritize those in the majority (pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users) over private motor vehicles. Setting this policy also delivers a clear message to motor vehicle users that they do not enjoy any superior entitlement to road space.

Attracting more Filipinos to cycle is about making the road environment safe for cyclists; it should not be about requiring the cyclist to have more protective gear. Regulations should recommend the use of protective gear (e.g., helmet, lights, etc.), but not make it mandatory. A cyclist should have the option to use a bicycle even without protective gear. Those without the financial means to acquire the protective gear should not be deprived of their basic right to mobility.

A better strategy to keep cyclists safe is to give them their own protected space - this means creating a bicycle lane separated by barriers or by grade (placing bike lanes at a different level than the roadway). Moreover, cyclists should be able to use the road space outside the confines of the bike lane. While protected bike lanes offer a safe corridor for cyclists, bike lanes should not become a "prison" for bicycles. Cyclists should be able to travel on other parts of the roadway. There are many situations when a cyclist may need to go outside the protected bike lane such as when they are negotiating a left turn, when bike lanes are too crowded or if there is some hazard or obstruction on the bike lane.

There should be a parallel effort to educate motorists about the risk cyclists face. Motor vehicle collisions are the usual reason cyclists are killed or injured. In a crash, the "deadly weapon" is the motor vehicle rather than the bicycle. Those who use and control the "deadly weapons" need to be the targets of education, enforcement and penalties. Car users are already privileged to be traveling in isolation within a sturdy metal box; the priority of the government should be to protect the cyclist who is the more vulnerable and less privileged road user.

Bicycle parking is also important. Without assurance of secure parking at destinations, cyclists will be hesitant to venture out. Bicycle parking in public buildings, schools, markets, commercial establishments, service institutions and other places of interest make a lot of sense. Parking needs to be conveniently located for cyclists and secure (within sight of mall guards and CCTV cameras).

Protect vulnerable road users with 30-kph speed limit



Bicycle policies: Creating a safe and welcoming environment

Some local governments are considering the registration or licensing of bicycle users. This should be avoided as it is likely to be seen as a bureaucratic hurdle to using a bicycle and will discourage many. If certain local government units want to try it, registration should be entirely optional and be solely for the benefit of the user (such as to safeguard the bicycle from theft).

Bicycle policies should also welcome the use of electric bicycles and light mobility devices (e.g., electric kick scooters). Today, electric bicycles are globally the most popular type of electric vehicle. With a small electric motor to augment human energy, an electric bicycle enables people to cycle who would otherwise reject it outright. It is allowing the elderly or those with physical disabilities to remain active and mobile. Many of today's car users will see electric bicycles as an attractive low-cost, zero-emission alternative to using an automobile.

We need to introduce rules and policies that will make cycling attractive to Filipinos of all ages while reducing as much as possible the disincentives. The creation of a bicycle-friendly culture should be among the priorities of our leaders - making our cities livable, curing traffic, reducing pollution, promoting public health and fighting climate change.

Robert Y. Siy is a development economist, city and regional planner, and public transport advocate. He can be reached at mobilitymatters.ph@yahoo.com or followed on Twitter @RobertRsiy.



Mangrove conservation bill umarangkada na sa Kamara



July 9, 2021 @ 7:02 PM 10 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Isang panukalang batas para sa pangangalaga at pagpaparami ng mangrove forests ang pasado na sa committee level sa House of Representatives.

Ayon kay House Committee on Natural Resources chairman Cavite Representative Elpidio Barzaga lusot na ang substitute bill para sa House Bills 1686, 5442 and 4052, o National Mangrove Forests Protection and Preservation Act.

Sa ilalim ng panukala ay magestablisha ng reservation areas para lamang sa mangrove forests gayundin ang pagbuo ng National Council for the Preservation of Mangrove Forests na syang mangangsiwa para magkatoon ng comprehensive program para sa preservation, reforestation, afforestation, at sustainable development ng mangrove forests.

Sinabi ni Agusan del Norte Rep Lawrence Fortun na sa oras na masimulan ang programa ay magkakaran na productive ecosystems.

“Mangroves serve as effective disaster risk reduction tool that protects lands from inundation and erosion,” ani Fortun.

Ani Fortun ang Pilipinas ay isa sa 15 bansa sa mundo na mangrove-rich kung saan may 65 na species.

“The Philippines was home to an estimated mangrove forest cover of more than half-a-million hectares. But as early as year 2000, forest cover diminished by 250,000 hectares, an extremely alarming decline,” dagdag pa niya.



Mangrove conservation bill umarangkada na sa Kamara

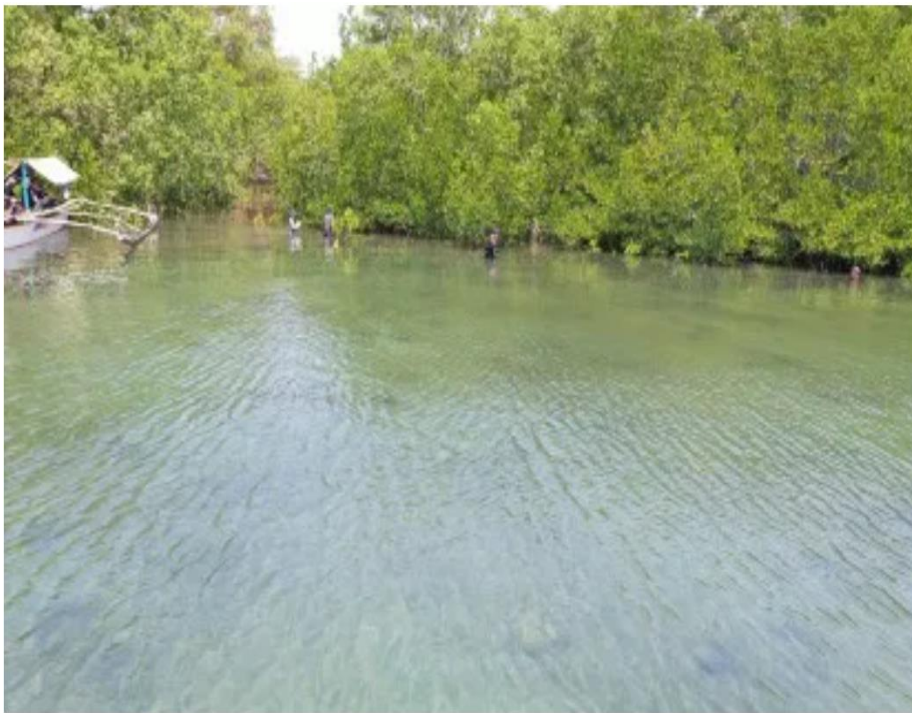
Simabi ni AMIN Party-list Rep Amihilda Sangcopan na sakop ng mangrove forests ang lahat ng wetlands kabilang ang inland, coastal, marine, at man-made wetlands sa bansa.

“Our wetlands are the kidneys that regulate water and filter waste from the landscape as with the forests as the lungs of the Earth. It is but right that we take care of our environment the exact way it takes care of us,” pagtatapos pa ni Sangcopan. Gail Mendoza



Mangrove conservation bill hurdles House committee

[July 9, 2021](#) 3 min read



MANILA – Stronger measures for the preservation and protection of mangrove forests hurdled the committee level at the House of Representatives.

In a virtual hearing Wednesday, the Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Cavite Representative Elpidio Barzaga approved the substitute bill to House Bills (HBs) 1686, 5442 and 4052, or the proposed National Mangrove Forests Protection and Preservation Act.

The bill proposes the establishment of reservation areas exclusively for mangrove forests.

It also provides for the creation of the National Council for the Preservation of Mangrove Forests that shall introduce and implement a comprehensive program for the preservation, reforestation, afforestation, and sustainable development of mangrove forests.

Agusan del Norte Representative Lawrence Fortun, author of HB 4052, said mangrove forests provide unique habitats for countless species and are among the most productive ecosystems.

“Mangroves serve as effective disaster risk reduction tool that protects lands from inundation and erosion,” Fortun said.

He cited a 2017 World Bank study showing that mangroves lost between 1950 and 2010 resulted in flooding and affect more than 267,000 people every year, based on the Philippines’ current population.

Fortun highlighted that the Philippines is one of the 15 most mangrove-rich countries in the world, holding at least 50 percent of the approximately 65 known species.



Mangrove conservation bill hurdles House committee

“The Philippines was home to an estimated mangrove forest cover of more than half-a-million hectares. But as early as year 2000, forest cover diminished by 250,000 hectares, an extremely alarming decline,” he said.

The committee also approved the consolidated version of HBs 3460 and 8925, which seeks to institutionalize the national wetlands conservation policy.

The bill seeks to establish measures for the conservation and responsible use of the country’s wetlands and its resources aligned with the principle of sustainable development, food security, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction and management among others.

AMIN Party-list Representative Amihilda Sangcopan, one of the authors of HB 3460, said the policy covers all types of wetlands including inland, coastal, marine, and man-made wetlands in the country.

“The protection of our wetlands and ecosystem is not just timely but also necessary, especially during these times where clean, potable water is extremely important. More directly, wetlands are also a source of livelihood and food, it is also home to biodiversity. Wetlands are the primary sources of our freshwater, it buffers off floods and droughts, our recycler of nutrients and chemicals,” she said.

Under HB 3460, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), along with other government agencies and sectors, shall create a National Wetland Conservation Program and Action Plan tasked to conduct assessments, rehabilitation, protection, promote, and development through research and knowledge management of the country’s wetlands.

All government agencies, offices, and local government units (LGUs) shall integrate and mainstream conservation and wise use of wetlands into their policies, rules and regulations, programs, projects and development planning processes.

They shall also directly consult with the DENR and affected LGUs in the development and implementation of their plans, programs and projects having an impact on wetlands.

“Our wetlands are the kidneys that regulate water and filter waste from the landscape as with the forests as the lungs of the Earth. It is but right that we take care of our environment the exact way it takes care of us,” Sangcopan said. (PNA)



House panel OKs bill protecting portion of Benham Rise

By Edu Punay(Philstar.com) - July 10, 2021 - 12:00am

At a hearing last Wednesday, the committee on natural resources chaired by Dasmariñas, Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. approved the substitute bill to House Bill 36 or the proposed Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve Act that seeks to declare part of the area also known as Benham Rise as a protected area with the category of marine resource reserve under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

MANILA, Philippines — A House panel has approved a measure seeking to mandate the protection of a portion of the Philippine Rise following intrusion by a Chinese vessel earlier this year.

At a hearing last Wednesday, the committee on natural resources chaired by Dasmariñas, Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. approved the substitute bill to House Bill 36 or the proposed Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve Act that seeks to declare part of the area also known as Benham Rise as a protected area with the category of marine resource reserve under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

The measure filed by House national defense committee vice chairman Ruffy Biazon specifically mandates the protection of natural resources in Benham Bank and its surrounding waters through sustainable and participatory management.

The bill takes into consideration applicable laws and international conventions to which the Philippines is a signatory.

The areas outside of the strict protection zone shall be designated as the Multiple-Use Zone and the Special Fisheries Management Area (SFMA) pursuant to NIPAS under Republic Act No. 11038.

Under the measure, there shall be a Special Fisheries Management Area within the reserve under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR).

The DA-BFAR shall be tasked to monitor all fishing activities within the SFMA as well as ensure coordination and harmonization of the reserve management plan and provide technical and financial aid, if necessary.



House panel OKs bill protecting portion of Benham Rise

Biazon cited the importance of protecting the Philippine Rise, a 13-million-hectare undersea plateau off Aurora province in the Philippine Sea facing the Pacific Ocean, which is part of the country's exclusive economic zone.

“According to marine conservationists and experts in the field of marine biology and biodiversity, Philippine Rise is a rare exception. Its reefs have dodged fishing pressure and pollution because these are so far offshore. It is virtually untouched and undisturbed by human presence. The same experts say that to find a reef this healthy and intact is indeed very special,” the Muntinlupa congressman revealed.

“However, special does not mean protected. Philippine Rise has yet to be given legal protection. It is vulnerable to the same pressures that have devastated other reefs worldwide,” Biazon stressed.

“This is why scientists are racing to study the said area while it remains intact and pristine. Without legal protection, this unique place screams with an open invitation to be exploited, destroyed and ultimately be lost forever. Clearly, there is a very urgent need to enact a law that would protect Philippine Rise,” he pointed out.

The House panel approved the measure after Chinese research vessel Jia Geng reportedly intruded into the Philippine Rise area last January as part of China's research expedition in the Pacific Ocean.



Tree for tomorrow

One day many children will have memorable playtime moments running, laughing, telling stories and sitting by the shade of the trees we plant today.



5 hours ago on July 10, 2021 03:00 AM

I have a cherished photograph of my maternal grandfather lifting me up so I could touch and hug a gum tree. I was four years old when that photo was taken.

It was one of many trees he and my grandmother planted and cared for with the help of Nong Imo and our other trusted staff back in the day.

Some of the trees were planted a few years before I was born, others when I was born and some more during my growing up years.

I remember many breezy and cool afternoons in my grandparents' garden running around eucalyptus and other types of trees, squatting comfortably and curiously investigating the growth of newly planted seedlings while admiring the warm hue of the soil surrounding them.

Fast forward to 1991 when I served as External Vice President of the student council of my alma mater, the Ateneo de Manila University. My main projects were geared toward environmental care and protection.

Something about running around trees and hugging them when I was little must have left a deep and lasting impact on me.



Tree for tomorrow

A few years after when I was already a broadcast journalist for the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), I was fortunate to have also worked with the late Gina Lopez in her admirable efforts in caring for the environment.

I recall being so pleased when Gina got in touch with me to join her in campaigning for the Clean Air Act in Congress, when I became one of the staff tasked to help gather funding for reforestation efforts and when I was chosen as one of three hosts of the ABS-CBN Foundation's environmental show Bantay Balikatan (BK).

I did these while continuing work as news anchor and host for varied news and current affairs shows for ANC.

In moments where climate change and environmental challenges were in the headlines, I could sense Gina's and our whole BK team's dogged determination to make a positive difference for Mother Earth.

I was witness to Gina's passion for the reforestation of La Mesa Watershed and am grateful to have been part of a number of tree planting and EcoPark activities there together with my family.

The foundation continues on the mission of reforestation and environmental preservation to this very day. Glad I played my small part in its early days.

Just this week I visited a few newly planted trees close to my current home. They are part of over 100 trees that have been planted so far.

It's an impressive endeavor my husband Harlan is spearheading, and the plan is to plant more in the coming days and months.

1 July marked the beginning of the new Rotary International year and District 3870, the one my club is a part of, has kicked off the new year with its tree planting and tree-growing project promoted under the hashtags "TREE for Tomorrow," "Each One Plant One" and "Rotary 3870." For this particular campaign, TREE is the acronym for Taking Responsibility for Earth and Environment.

I am inspired by this project. One day many children will have memorable playtime moments running, laughing, telling stories and sitting by the shade of the trees we plant today.

I know this with full confidence and certainty because I, myself, was once that child.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/10/tree-for-tomorrow/>?



Sukat ng katawan ng tao, binago ng climate change



July 9, 2021 @ 3:50 PM 13 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Nakitaan ng mga mananaliksik ng malaking pagbabago ang average na sukat ng katawan ng isang tao sa nakalipas na milyun-milyong taon na inuugnay sa pabago-bagong klima.

Isang grupo ng mga researcher na pinangunahan ng University of Cambridge sa United Kingdom at ng University of Tübingen sa Germany ang nakakalap ng mga sukat ng utak at katawan ng mahigit 300 fossils mula sa Homo genus o Homo Sapiens kung saan nabibilang ang mga modernong tao.

Ginamit nila ang datos na ito, na sinamahan ng pagbabago sa mga regional climate sa Earth mula sa huling milyong taon at kinalkula ang klima na posibleng naranasan ng bawat fossil noong sila ay nabubuhay pa.

Dito ay nadiskubre ng mga researcher na ang klima, partikular ang temperatura, ang siyang pangunahing dahilan ng mga pagbabago sa sukat ng katawan ng tao sa nakalipas na milyong mga taon.

Mas malaki ang katawan ng mga taong na nabuhay sa mas malamig na klima ha bang mas maliit ang katawan ng mga taong nabuhay sa mas mainit na klima.

“Larger bodies can buffer individuals from cold temperatures — the larger you are, the smaller your surface compared to your volume, so you conserve heat more efficiently,” paliwanag ni Andrea Manica, propesor ng evolutionary ecology sa University of Cambridge.

“This is a relationship that is found in many animals, and even among contemporary humans, but we now know that it was a major driver behind the changes in body size over the last million years.”



Sukat ng katawan ng tao, binago ng climate change

Samantala, nadiskubre din nila na may papel ang klima sa sukat ng utak ng tao.

Lumabas din kasi sa pananaliksik na 50% na mas mabigat at tatlong beses na mas malaki ang utak ng mga Homo sapiens kumpara sa mga naunang human species gaya ng Homo habilis.

“Interestingly, brain size changes were completely unrelated to temperature, so body and brain size evolved under distinct pressures,” paliwanag ni Manica.

“For brain size, we found that larger brains were found in stable environments — brains are expensive, so you can’t sustain them if you lack resources.”

Nailathala ang pagnanaliksik na ito sa journal na Nature Communications. RNT



Dumaguete puts up machines for solid waste management

[July 9, 2021](#) 1 min read

DUMAGUETE CITY – Following the closure of the decades-old, the city government here is now transitioning to the use of technology that will convert trash to construction materials.

A media release Friday said Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo inspected on Thursday the installation of equipment and machines for the pyrolysis gasification process.

This after Remollo shut down the more than 35-year-old dumpsite in Barangay Candauay here.

The pyrolysis machines, once operational, will convert the collected solid wastes into pavers, hollow blocks, and other construction materials for use in various infrastructure projects and road maintenance.

While unable to find a suitable sanitary landfill as required by law, the city now operates its materials recovery facility (MRF), with biodegradable wastes processed to become organic fertilizers.

The mayor hopes to achieve a Zero Waste Dumaguete and is calling for people's cooperation to practice waste segregation and recycling at home. *(PNA)*



‘Minimal’ oil sheen seen around half-sunken ship off Manila: PCG

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz July 9, 2021, 6:29 pm



MONITORING. Personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) inspect the half-sunk MV Palawan Pearl off Baseco Beach on Thursday (July 8, 2021). The PCG said oil sheen is seen around the distressed vessel on Friday (July 9), with an oil spill boom placed around the vessel. (Photo courtesy of PCG)

MANILA – Waters surrounding MV Palawan Pearl, the half-sunk vessel off Baseco Beach after a ship collision on Thursday, are showing “minimal traces of oil sheen”, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said on Friday.

In a Facebook post, the PCG said the Marine Environmental Protection (MEP) group of the PCG Station Manila continues to monitor the status of the distressed vessel located about 100 meters from the Baseco beach shoreline.

“They also fixed the displaced segments of oil spill boom to effectively collect oil in thick surface layers for easy recovery, thereby reducing the possibility of marine pollution,” the PCG said.

Based on initial investigation, MV Palawan Pearl (345 GT) was traveling from the Commander’s Wharf at the Baseco Compound towards El Nido, Palawan while Cyprus-flagged utility ship BKM 104 (375 GT) was headed towards the Manila Bay Anchorage area and Bulacan when the incident occurred.

Based on witness accounts, it said MV Palawan Pearl was sailing at around 7 knots and was three kilometers from the mouth of Pasig River when it noticed BKM 104 around 100 meters away from its port (left) side and was sailing at 10 knots.



‘Minimal’ oil sheen seen around half-sunken ship off Manila: PCG

“Agad na nagmaneobra ang MV PALAWAN PEARL para iwasan ang BKM 104, pero dalawang beses ito bumangga sa kaliwang bahagi ng cargo vessel kaya naman halos lumubog ito sa tubig (The MV Palawan Pearl immediately attempted to evade BKM 104, but it was hit twice on its left side, causing the vessel to almost sink),” the PCG said.

It said that BKM 104 only sustained minimal paint damage, while no injuries were reported from both ships.

“Patuloy ang pakikipag-koordinasyon ng PCG sa dalawang sasakyang pandagat, lalo na sa BKM 104, para malaman ang bilang ng mga tripulante nito. Ayon sa MV Palawan Pearl, 18 marino ang sakay ng kanilang barko, kabilang ang kapitan nito (The PCG continues its coordination with both vessels, especially with BKM 104, to find out the number of its crew. According to the MV Palawan Pearl, they were carrying 18 seafarers including its captain),” the PCG said. (PNA)



Underwater garbage: Over 300 kilos of trash, marine debris collected in Boracay clean-up drive

Published July 9, 2021, 12:30 PM
by Richa Noriega



More than 300 kilograms of assorted trash and marine debris were collected by divers of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in a simultaneous underwater clean-up drive in Boracay Island, Aklan, it said on Thursday, July 8.

Over 300 kilograms of assorted trash and marine debris were collected by divers of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in a simultaneous underwater clean-up drive in Boracay Island, Aklan on July 3, 2021. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)

In celebration of the 38th founding anniversary of the PCG District Western Visayas last July 3, personnel of PCG Station Aklan, Special Operation Unit (SOU) – Aklan, PCG Sub-Station Boracay, and volunteer divers of Boracay Business Administration of Scuba Shops have joined the marine environmental protection initiative held at approximately 1,500 square meters of Boracay's coastline.

The PCG said the initiative contributed to the preservation of biodiversity and raising environmental consciousness among locals.

Over 300 kilograms of assorted trash and marine debris were collected by divers of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in a simultaneous underwater clean-up drive in Boracay Island, Aklan on July 3, 2021. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)



Underwater garbage: Over 300 kilos of trash, marine debris collected in Boracay clean-up drive

“It also served as an opportunity to make a difference in the global movement of reducing waste thrown to bodies of water by getting rid of trash and/or debris at the shoreline and at the bottom of the sea as these compounds cause harm to marine animals through ingestion and entanglement.,” the PCG said.

The Coast Guard also encouraged the public to support marine environmental protection initiatives to fight against climate change, biodiversity loss, and health risks amid coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.



NCIP spearheads celebration of Cultural Communities week

BY
BMPLUS
JULY 9, 2021
1 MINUTE READ



Photo from the NCIP official webpage.

The NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NCIP) is spearheading the celebration of the Cultural Communities Week 2021 on July 9, 2021.

The theme for this year's celebration is inspired by a quotation. "A people without knowledge of its past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots" by Marcus Garvey. The celebration aims to increase public awareness on the importance of Indigenous People (IPs) as one of the pillars in achieving national unity and development and to promote and preserve their rich cultural heritage locally and internationally. Moreover, through this celebration, the Philippine IPs commemorate and recognize the existence and contribution of the cultural masters, workers, keepers, and bearers not only to their cultural communities but to the nation as a whole.

The NCIP, being the primary agency mandated to recognize, respect, promote, and protect the interest and well-being of the ICCs/IPs with due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions, and institutions, observes the celebration in support to Proclamation No. 250, series of 1988, "Declaring the period July 3-9, 1988 and, thereafter, the second week of July of every year "Cultural Communities Week".



NCIP spearheads celebration of Cultural Communities week

In view of the foregoing, the NCIP invited the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) to deliver solidarity messages during the program. The event highlights the involvement and engagement of our IP Youth in sharing the history and identity of the ICCs/IPs to the next generations. All government agencies, private organizations, the mass media, and other stakeholders are invited to join the observance of the “Cultural Communities Week”.

10 JULY 2021, Saturday



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PH posts 3K new Covid-19 recoveries: DOH

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz July 9, 2021, 5:27 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday reported 3,003 new recoveries from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), with the country’s total recoveries now at 1,383,833 or 94.7 percent of all reported infections.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH also reported 5,881 new cases, bringing the country’s active cases to 51,902 or 3.6 percent of all cases.

Of these active cases, 90.3 percent are showing mild symptoms, followed by the asymptomatic at 4.4 percent, those with severe symptoms at 2.2 percent, those with moderate symptoms at 1.56 percent, and those in critical condition at 1.5 percent.

About 70 new deaths were also reported, bringing the country’s total casualties against Covid-19 at 25,720 or 1.76 percent of all cases.

Based on DOH’s latest data, a total of 50,572 Covid-19 tests were administered on Wednesday, with 11 percent returning positive for the disease.

In the National Capital Region (NCR), many health care facilities remain available for Covid-19 cases with its 1,100 beds at intensive care units (ICU) at 41 percent occupancy, 4,700 isolation beds at 37 percent occupancy, 3,500 ward beds at 33 percent occupancy, and 31 percent of its 1,000 ventilators are in use.



PH posts 3K new Covid-19 recoveries: DOH

For the entire country, there are 3,400 ICU beds at 57 percent occupancy, 19,400 isolation beds at 45 percent occupancy, 12,200 ward beds at 42 percent occupancy, and 35 percent of its 2,800 ventilators are in use. (PNA)



PATAKARAN NG EU SA VACCINE CERTIFICATE TUTULAN



July 9, 2021 @ 6:42 PM 11 hours ago

DAPAT bantayan at tutulan ng Pilipinas ang hindi makatao at madiskriminasyong patakaran ng European Union kaugnay ng coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19 vaccine certificate.

Gusto man natin o hindi, marami ang matatamaan sa atin ng nasabing vaccine certificate, lalo na ang mga overseas Filipino worker at negosyante na kailangang bumiyaha sa labas ng bansa para magtrabaho o maghanap ng mamumuhuan mula sa ibang bansa.

Matatamaan din ang biyahe maging ng mga taga-pamahalaan na maghahanap sa ibang bansa ng anomang mapakikinabangan ng Pilipinas.

Magkakaroon din ng problema ang turismo, kalakalan, edukasyon, relihiyon at iba pa na papasok at palabas ng bansa.

ANG PROBLEMA

Sa ngayon, higit na nakararami sa 27 miyembrong bansa sa European Union ang nagbabawal na pumasok sa kanila ang sinomang dayuhang hindi bakunado ng mga gawang bakuna ng United States, European Union at United Kingdom na inaprubahan ng European Medicines Agency.

'Yun bang === kung bakunado ka ngunit gawa ang bakuna sa China, Russia, India at iba pang bansa, itsapwera ka sa nasabing mga bansa sa EU.



PATAKARAN NG EU SA VACCINE CERTIFICATE TUTULAN

Sa ibang salita, mga Bro, kung OFW ka o estudyante o negosyante o opisyal ka ng ating pamahalaan o siyentista o turista, haharangin ka sa mga border kapag nandoon ka na.

Maaaring mangyari rin na mismo sa loob ng bansa, hindi ka na iisyuhan ng Schengen visa o kanya-kanyang visa ng mga bansa sa EU.

Tatanggihan kang magkaroon ng nasabing visa ng mga embahada na nakatayo sa Pilipinas.

Ang tingin ng EU, isa kang tagadala o carrier ng COVID-19 o mga variant nito, kasama na ang India o Delta variant na mas mabagsik at nakahahawa ng higit na marami kaysa sa orig na virus o iba pang variant nito.

Duda ang mga taga-EU sa bisa at kaligtasan ng mga bakunang 'di aprubado ng EMA.

WHO PUMALAG

Unang pumalag dito ang World Health Organization.

Katwiran ng WHO, dapat lahat ng mga bakunang inaprubahan nito para magamit laban sa COVID-19 ay kilalanin din ng EU at EMA.

Aprubado ng WHO ang Pfizer, Moderna at Johnson and Johnson na gawang US, AstraZeneca at Pfizer na gawang United Kingdom at Europa, Sputnik V na gawang Russia, AstraZeneca na gawa ng India at Sinovac at Sinopharm na gawang China.

Kaya naman dapat na tanggapin ng EU na pumasok sa kanila ang mga bakunado na ng mga bakunang inaprubahan nito.

Kung hindi, magkakaroon ito ng hindi magandang epekto sa lahat ng bagay sa mundo, lalo na kung may tutulad sa ginagawa ng EU.

INDIA AT UK PUMALAG DIN

Unang pumalag ang nasa limang milyong mamamayan ng UK na bakunado ng AstraZeneca o Covishield na gawang India.

Nitong huli, pumalag din mismo ang India na nagbabakuna ng sarili nilang mga mamamayan ng gawa nila na AstraZeneca (Covishield) at Covaxin.

Nasa 250 milyong Indian ang nabakunahan na ng Covishield samantalang 100 milyon ang sa Covaxin.

Sabi ng India, kung hindi tatanggapin ang mga Indian sa EU na may dalang vaccine certificate na nagmula sa India vaccines, maaari ring hindi tanggapin ng India ang mga bakuandong Europeo na may ibang vaccine certificate.



PATAKARAN NG EU SA VACCINE CERTIFICATE TUTULAN

Malaki ang palitan ng mga kalakal sa pagitan ng India at EU at maging sa turismo at lakas-paggawa o international labor.

Ganito rin ang sa pagitan ng EU at UK.

LUMALAMBOT

Dahil sa mga pagpalag, may pasubali na ang EU mismo sa pagsasabing istrikto lang ang patakaran sa paggamit ng EU vaccination certificate at hinahayaan ang mga miyembrong bansa na magpasya kung sumunod sila o hindi.

Kaya naman, pumayag na ang mga bansang Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Greece, Ireland, Spain, Iceland at Switzerland, maging ang Estonia, na tanggapin ang mga nabakunahan ng AstraZeneca (Covishield).

Maaaring ganito na rin ang mangyari sa limang milyong British na bakunado ng nasabing bakunang India.

PAANO ANG PINAS?

Isang tanong sa mga taga-EU: Sila lang ba ang pupwedeng pumasok sa ibang bansa gaya ng Pilipinas porke bakunado sila ng mga bakunang aprubado ng EMA?

Pero kabaligtaran ito sa mga Filipino na bakunado ng ibang tatak ng bakuna.

Unfair, hindi patas ang ganitong patakaran o sistema.

Tiyak na kabilang sa mga matatamaan dito ang mga bakunadong Pinoy na nagnanais na pumasok sa nasabing lugar para maghanap ng empleyo at iba pang mga layunin.

Naiintindihan natin na isang matinding pag-iingat laban sa pandemya ang kanilang desisyong mangharang subalit magbubunga naman ito ng matinding diskriminasyon at hindi makataong pakikitungo sa iba sa kaduda-dudang basehan.

Magandang samahan natin ang WHO at India at iba pang tumututol sa maling patakaran.

10 JULY 2021, Saturday



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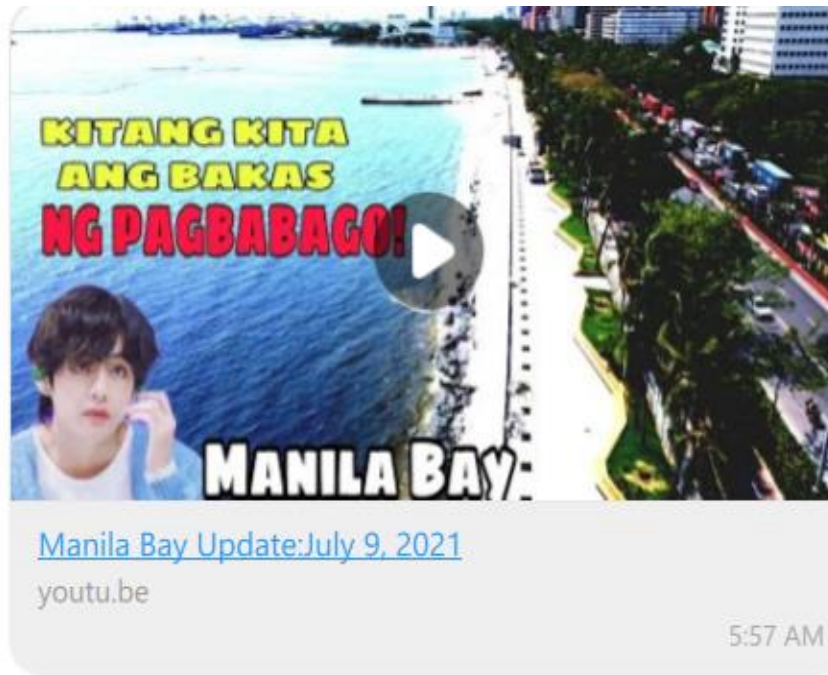
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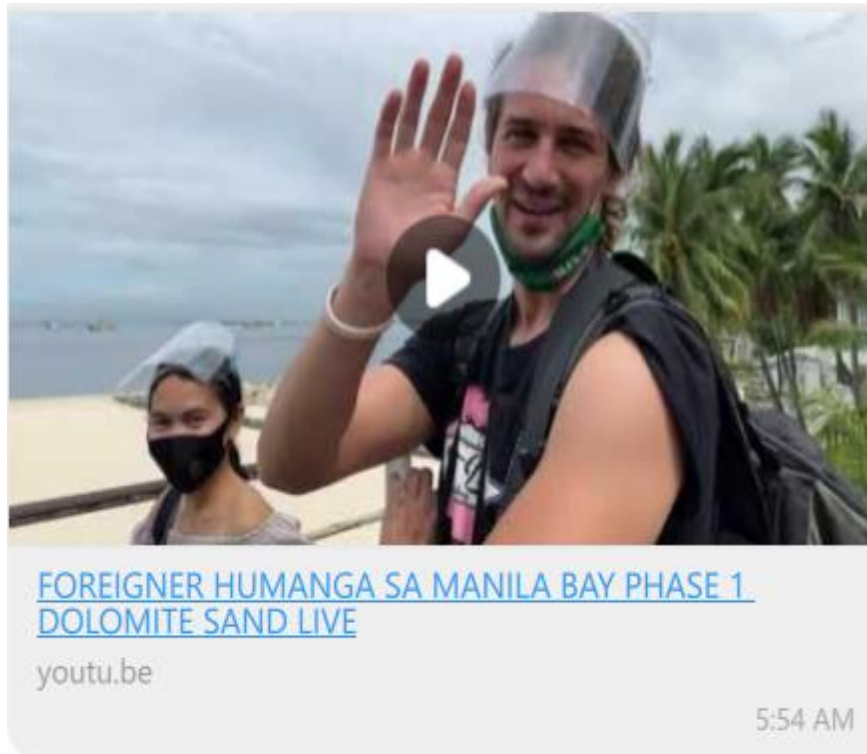
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