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The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will trace the illegal pipes that directly drain wastewater to Manila Bay, Cimatu said.

STAR/Edd Gumban, file

DENR probes wastewater discharge in Manila Bay

Elizabeth Marcelo (The Philippine Star) - January 11, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu yesterday ordered an investigation to determine the establishments responsible for the recent discharge of untreated wastewater in Manila Bay amid the government's rehabilitation efforts.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will trace the illegal pipes that directly drain wastewater to Manila Bay, Cimatu said.

"We will study the legal actions against these establishments to ensure that they are made accountable for their violation of environmental laws," he said.

Cimatu issued the statement after a culvert or drainage pipe, hidden behind boulders at Station 640 along Manila's Baywalk, was found to be discharging untreated wastewater directly into the bay.

The DENR said a water sample analysis showed a high fecal coliform count at 50 million most probable number per 100 milliliters.

Further inspection by the DENR led to the discovery of three more culvert pipes along the Baywalk, specifically beside the Remedios drainage outfall across Aristocrat Restaurant, Station 240 beside the Padre Faura outfall and near the Estero San Antonio de Abad outfall.

The coliform level, specifically at the Remedios outfall, measured 32 million MPN/100 ml, the DENR said.

The standard coliform level for coastal waters to be considered safe for swimming and other recreational activities is between 200 and 100 MPN per 100 milliliters, according to the DENR.

The DENR said a total of 33 intake drainages were also observed from the US embassy to the Manila Yacht Club.





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"We will continue to examine these culverts, illegal connections and outfalls. Otherwise, these will continue to spew out pollutants that can impede the progress in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay," Cimatu said.

He also ordered the immediate plugging of illegal outfalls to stop the flow of untreated water and for the establishments to connect to official sewer lines.

Cimatu instructed the Manila Bay task force to conduct desiltation and rehabilitation of line drainage canal to improve water flow in the Padre Faura and Remedios outfalls.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/01/11/2069569/denr-probes-wastewater-discharge-manila-bay





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DENR to provide local governments with shredders, composters

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:12 AM January 10, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — To help them comply with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) plans to provide all local governments within the Manila Bay area with shredding and composting machines which will process biodegradable wastes from dumps and landfills.

"Sad to say, compliance is slow particularly where local governments lack the means for full and prompt compliance," said Benny Antiporda, DENR undersecretary for solid waste management and local government concerns.

"This is where the DENR steps in," he said.

The DENR plans to provide industrial grade machines to local governments in the Manila Bay area, including cities in the National Capital Region and the provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Rizal and Tarlac. Each set will include a composter and a shredder.

—Jhesset O. Enano

Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1381673/denr-to-provide-local-govts-with-shredders-composters





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TODAY: DENR Undersecretary Edilberto Leonardo with Bucor Chief Bantag, RED Nonito Tamayo, other gov't officials and units, with local community members and advocates, launch renewed protection drive for Masungi and the Upper Marikina Watershed, following a year full of environmental challenges, attempted land grabs, quarry interests, and tree cutting. Focus will be on land conservation and enforcement of environmental laws so that the forest can eventually regenerate by itself. Usec Ed underscores that our forests are for everyone, and vested interests in the land must STAY AWAY so that Masungi can stay WILD. To restore our forests, different sectors of society and communities need to work hand-in-hand!
#RestoreTogether

Join the movement: bit.ly/savemasungi **

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) DENR CALABARZON Penro - Rizal Philippine National Police Bureau of Corrections Bureau of Fire Protection Armed Forces of the Philippines 2nd Infantry Jungle Fighter Division 80th Infantry "Steadfast" Battalion Municipality of Baras, Rizal DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force - EPETF



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SMC rids Tullahan of 83,600 MT of trash and silt, to intensify cleanup before rainy season

ByThe anila Times

January 11, 2021

SAN Miguel Corporation (SMC) eyes to accelerate its dredging operations at the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System in the first two quarters of the year, before the rainy season sets in, to help reduce flooding at areas near the 27 kilometer-long tributary stretching from La Mesa Dam to the Manila Bay.

This, after SMC President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon Ang reported that the company was able to extract 83,600 metric tons of silt and solid waste from the river in 2020, despite limitations brought on by the Luzon-wide lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The dredging complemented the flood mitigation measures implemented by the cities of Navotas and Malabon.

"We extract about 600 metric tons of waste daily from the Tullahan, and at this rate, we expect to extract 100,000 metric tons in a month's time. The relatively dry months of January to May gives us an opportunity to intensify the cleaning, deepening, and widening of the river so that more areas can avoid flooding risks during the rainy season," he said.

Launched together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in early 2020, the project is a P1 billion corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative of SMC to help address flooding in parts of Metro Manila and Bulacan. SMC resumed the P1 billion dredging project in June, following the lifting of strict quarantine restrictions.

"Although we resumed only last June, we were able to gradually expand our operations even during the rainy season. By conducting operations during rainy season, we were able to immediately see the benefits of the dredging and even determine the areas where more dredging needs to be done. We will cover more areas in the coming months," Ang added.

SMC is currently dredging the initial 5.25-kilometer Tullahan river section from Barangay Tanong in Malabon City, to the mouth of the river leading to Manila Bay in Navotas City. In two years, SMC is looking to dredge a total of 1 million cubic meters from the Navotas-Malabon section alone.

SMC also plans to dredge, clean, widen, and deepen the Alipit or Taliptip River, Sta. Maria River, and the Meycauayan River as part of its flood mitigation strategy for the Manila International Airport that will also benefit the whole of Bulacan.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/01/11/public-square/smc-rids-tullahan-of-83600-mt-of-trash-and-silt-to-intensify-cleanup-before-rainy-season/826205/





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1st Philippine eagle bred in captivity dies

Saturday, January 9, 2021 People's Tonight



This file photo taken on February 17, 2016 shows Pag-asa (Hope), the first to be bred and hatched in captivity, inside an enclosure at the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) center in Davao City on the southern island of Mindanao. The first Philippine eagle bred from artificial insemination has died from infections just days short of its 29th birthday, conservationists said on January 8, 2021. – / AFP / Ted ALJIBE

THE first Philippine eagle bred in captivity in an effort to save one of the world's most endangered birds has died from infections, conservationists said Friday.

The raptor named "Pag-asa" or "Hope" was hatched in 1992 at a sanctuary run by the Philippine Eagle Foundation on the outskirts of the southern city of Davao. Pag-asa would have turned 29 next week.

The Philippines' national bird, known for its elongated nape feathers that form into a shaggy crest, has seen its population devastated by the destruction of rainforests and hunting in the archipelago.

The centre has spent decades trying to ensure the survival of the critically endangered bird through a breeding programme and rehabilitating wounded raptors brought in from the wild.

Only around 800 are believed to be left in the wild, the centre's spokeswoman, Nelizza Marzo, told AFP.

Pag-asa died Wednesday from infections associated with diseases trichomoniasis and aspergillosis, which the centre said were fatal in raptors.

"Although treatment was done over a week ago, he continued to deteriorate and died," it said in a statement.

The centre has 33 Philippine eagles in its care. They can live for more than 40 years in captivity.

The eagles are notoriously hard to pair, with the larger female known to attack and even kill an unwanted suitor in the wild. In more than three decades, the centre has managed to breed 28 eaglets.

Seven of them were through artificial insemination, including Pag-asa and his only offspring Mabuhay. The rest were bred through natural pairing.

The raptor, whose wingspan can reach more than two metres (seven feet), is endemic to the Philippines. Killing or wounding the species incurs a jail sentence and fine.

The successful breeding of Pag-asa using artificial insemination had "heralded hope for the critically endangered species", the centre said.





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"Even after he retired from breeding, Pag-asa lived his life as an icon of hope for Filipinos, young and old, and was a constant inspiration to the people working tirelessly to save our National Bird from extinction," the spokeswoman said.

"Pag-asa was gone too soon indeed, but his legacy lives on."

Source: https://journal.com.ph/news/nation/1st-philippine-eagle-bred-in-captivity-dies/





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Paalam, 'Pag-asa'

January 9, 20213 min read

File photo ng eagle handler na si Lohwana Halaq at ang agilang si Pag-asa. (Philippine Eagle Foundation Photo)

DAVAO CITY, MINDANAO — Kumakatawan siya sa pag-asa ng kalikasan subalit kahit sa pagpanaw niya'y nagbigay si Pag-asa—ang kauna-unahang Philippine eagle na pinalaki nang layo sa kagubatan—ng ligaya sa kanyang mga tagapangalaga na tumuring na rin sa agila bilang sariling supling.

Ayon sa Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), binawian ng buhay si Pag-asa sanhi ng mga impeksyon ng trichomoniasis at aspergillosis, parehong nakamamat ay sa mga ibong mandaragit.

Magdiriwang sana siya ng ika-29 niyang pagsilang nitong darating na Enero 15. "Nakakalungkot. Nawala sa atin ang isang kayamanan ng ating bansa," ani PEF executive director Dennis Joseph Salvador sa kanyang pahayag ukol sa pagpanaw ng kanilang alaga.

Simula noong Disyembre 28 ng nakaraang taon, sumailalim na si Pag-asa sa pagpapagamot ng kanyang sakit subalit nagpatuloy ang masamang kalagayan hanggang sa kanyang pagyao nitong Miyerkoles, Enero 6.

Isinilang si Pag-asa sa Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) sa Malagos sa pamamagitan ng 'cooperative artificial insemination' na kung saan ang semilya ng isang lalaking agila ay kinokolekta para gamitin sa mga babaeng agila.

Itinuring ang pagsilang ni Pag-asa noong Enero 15, 1992 bilang biyaya ng 14 na taong pagpupunyagi ng PEC para masagip ang Philippine eagle mula sa extinction o habambuhay na paglaho. Makalipas ang siyam na buwan, isinilang din ang kapatid ni Pag-asa na si Pagkakaisa.

Nakaagaw ng pansin ng daigdig ang dalawang agila, mga supling nina Diola at Junior, para makapagbigay ng pag-asa sa mga siyentista na mapangalagaan ang naglalahong populasyon ng Philippine eagle, o Haribon.

"Naging isang magical moment ang pagsilang nila sa gitna ng aming paghihirap para maging matagumpay ang aming breeding program work. Pinangalanan ko siyang Pag-asa dahil kumakatawan siya sa pag-asa para sa critically endangered na Philippine eagle, at pag-asa din para sa iba pang mga species at kagubatang mabilis nang naglalaho hanggang sa ngayon," pinunto ni Salvador.





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Kabilang ang Philippine eagle, na kilala din bilang monkey-eating eagle, sa pamilyang Accipitridae, na matatagpuan lamang sa Pilipinas.

Sinasabing ito ang pinakamalaking agila sa mundo kaugnay ng haba nito at wing surface. Napalista ito bilang 'critically endangered', sanhi na rin ng pagkawala ng tirahan nito sa kagubatan.

Ang pagpatay ng isang Philippine eagle ay may kaparusahan sa ilalim ng batas na umaabot sa 12 taong pagkakakulong at malaking multa.

Sa kasalukuyan, mayroong 400 na pares lamang na nalalabi sa kagubatan ng bansa, ayon sa International Union for Conservation of Nature. (T. Cabrera/AI/MTVN)





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Creation of a Department of Climate Change pushed

Published January 10, 2021, 4:04 PM by Charissa Luci-Atienza

Camarines Sur 2nd District Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. has sought the creation of a Department of Climate Change that would work all-year-round to build the country's capacity to manage climate change, keenly monitor and assess climate change policies and activities, and put in place effective mechanisms even before disasters occur.



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

He filed House Bill No. 8181 or "the proposed Department of Climate Change Act" to promote a simplified, strategic, systematic, continuous, comprehensive, inclusive, and integrated approach to climate change, and prevent or deter the loss of lives and the social, economic, cultural, and environmental assets of the country.

"The Philippines is described as 'ground zero for climate disaster,' as the World Bank identified the country as one of the world's most 'vulnerable' countries in terms of susceptibility to natural disasters attributed to climate change," the former deputy speaker said.

He noted that, in the 2016 Climate Change Vulnerability Index, the Philippines was ranked as the 13th most climate-vulnerable country.

"Climate change is thus considered a national security as it endangers the safety of the Filipino people, food supply and economic stability," he said.

According to Villafuerte, statistics show that 62 percent of Filipinos live in coastal municipalities and 50 percent of those 1, 490 municipalities are vulnerable to storms and typhoons.

"At present, the country has two existing legislation concerning climate change, namely the Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, and the Climate Change Act of 2009. However, these laws need to be correlated and strengthened to achieve a common purpose," he said.

Villafuerte said he filed HB No. 8181 to create "an accountable, independent, focused, and specialized" single government agency that will function not only after the occurrence of disasters, but will also keep an eye on the country's capacity to manage climate change. The new department shall be led by a Secretary.

He said his proposed Department of Climate Change is also tasked to strengthen the planning, execution, and financing framework for climate change; to enhance leadership and accountability through monitoring, evaluation, and review of climate change policies and activities; and to ensure effective mechanisms even before disaster strikes.





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The bill calls for the abolition of the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC), while it places the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services (PAG-ASA) and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) under the supervision of the new Department.

The new agency will also integrate the CCC, National Disaster Risk Reduction, People's Survival Fund (PSFP), Yolanda Recovery and Rehabilitation Efforts, and Office of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery (OPARR), Villafuerte said.

"This bill will emphasize the importance of climate change residency and adaptation measures such as building flood defenses and raising the levels of dykes; developing roughtolerant crops; choosing tree species and forestry practices less vulnerable to storms and fires; stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations, and the like," Villafuerte said.

"Due to the varying severity and nature of climate impacts in different areas of the country, most adaptation initiatives will be taken at the regional or local levels. It has been shown that well-planned, early adaptation action saves money and lives later," he stressed.

Under HB 8181, the new Department is mandated to prepare, integrate, coordinate, supervise, and control plans, programs, projects and activities of the government relative to mainstreaming of climate change, DRRM, and climate change adaptation.

Whenever warranted by circumstances, it shall recommend to the President of the Philippines the declaration of a state of national calamity and the lifting thereof.

The new agency is mandated to issue the implementing rules and regulations of the proposed Act within 90 days after its approval.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/10/creation-of-a-department-of-climate-change-pushed/





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CCC on financing the earth's assets: Support sustainable finance based on natural wealth

By CCCPublished on January 10, 2021

MANILA, Jan. 10 -- A report titled, "Financing the Earth's Assets: The Case for Mangroves as a Nature-based Climate Solution" reveals that regeneration of mangrove forests around the world could result in an \$11.8 billion return by 2040 if carbon markets reflected the true value of nature.



Part of the 4,871 hectares of contiguous mangrove stand in the municipality of Del Carmen in Siargao. (Photo by https://www.visitdelcarmen.com/)

The report, issued by Earth Security in December 2020, makes a strong investment case for tapping the potential of mangroves in the fight against climate change. As a carbon asset, mangrove forests have the potential to unlock 380 million tCO2 of sequestration by 2040. Five key markets that were identified for mangroves are nature-based investment funds, blue bonds (a subset of the green and climate bonds market), insurance, carbon market investors, and philanthropy.

Long valued as a natural defense on the coastline, mangroves help communities reduce the impacts of climate change, specifically in slowing down global heating, shielding communities against extreme weather conditions, halting the extinction of biodiversity, and supporting local economies.

The report identifies 40 locations across the world to form the "Mangroves 40 Cities Network", including Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. This network will support the regeneration of mangrove forests through different projects within the locations chosen for their proximity to existing mangroves. Siargao Islands in Surigao Del Norte is also recognized in the report as an example of best practices in local mangrove regeneration, with key insights from the Municipality of Del Carmen.

Earth Security also proposes the development of a Municipal Mangrove Bond Fund to finance nature-based adaptation and provide the opportunity to pool different levels of investment risks across developed and emerging markets, creating a product that is viable in global fixed income markets.

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) welcomed the findings of the report, as it puts emphasis on nature-based solutions in the fight against climate change. The CCC further supports the call for collaboration among cities and towns worldwide that are home to mangrove forests, to enable a financing and regulatory environment that will ensure the advancement of programs and policies that aim to build climate and disaster resilience in local communities. As countries continue the difficult work to recover from the economic setbacks caused by COVID-19 pandemic, both human and natural systems must be strengthened to lessen the environmental, humanitarian, and economic impacts of climate change. (CCC)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1063492





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Litter-free Quiapo fiesta sets benchmark

After bearing witness to the most regretful trashing of the Black Nazarene feast year after year, we cannot help but think of the waste-less streets as a kind of miracle

Published 3 hours ago on January 11, 2021 02:30 AM

By TDT @tribunephl



Photograph by Alfonso Padilla for the daily tribune @tribunephl_al Police assigned at Bonifacio Global City receive instructions before they go on duty to ensure that health and safety guidelines are followed, apart from securing peace and order in the area.

A waste and pollution watchdog group lauded the tens of thousands of ardent devotees who flocked to Quiapo Church on Saturday for a waste-less manifestation of their undying faith and gratitude to the Black Nazarene.

Jove Benosa, a zero waste campaigner, said the almost litter-free surroundings of Quiapo Church and its adjacent streets were a far cry from the massive trash and filth that had tainted the observance of this grand Catholic feast in previous years.

"We congratulate and thank the devotees and the organizers for this gift of a waste-less feast in honor of the Black Nazarene and of Mother Earth. You all deserve a pat on the back," Benosa said in a statement.

"The respect for the environment shown by most devotees prevented yet another 'trashlacion' from degrading the time-honored feast of faith," he added.

To recall, the group coined the term "trashlacion" many years ago not to mock the annual reenactment of the traslacion, but to draw attention to the reckless disposal of garbage that is incompatible to the revered celebration of faith.

Benosa said despite the absence or lack of signs and garbage bins, most devotees who gathered in Quiapo chose not to leave any trash behind.

While admitting there were pockets of trash left in some places, mostly empty boxes of face shields, used masks and food containers and wrappers, the group said the vicinity of Quiapo Church and its satellite churches was generally clean.

We hope that a zero waste faith celebration will now become the new normal.

"After bearing witness to the most regretful trashing of the Black Nazarene feast year after year, we cannot help but think of the waste-less streets as a kind of miracle," Benosa said.





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"It's clear proof that preventing garbage even in a huge gathering that still attracted hundreds of thousands of people despite Covid-19 risks is doable," he added.

He explained the devotees themselves have set a benchmark by which the celebration of the Feast of the Black Nazarene in the future may be measured.

"We hope that a zero waste faith celebration will now become the new normal," Benosa said. "What a nice way to mark January as Zero Waste Month," he concluded.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/01/11/litter-free-quiapo-fiesta-sets-benchmark/





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Bugkalot at LGU nagsanib kontra renewal ng minahan

By Victor Martin(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 11, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Nagtipunan, Quirino- Nagsanib pu-wersa ang pamahalaang lokal ng bayang ito at mga katutubong Bugkalot para tutulan ang pag-renew ng operasyon ng OceanaGold (Philippines), Inc. (OGPI) para sa pagmimina sa Barangay Didipio.

Ayon kay Nagtipunan Vice Mayor Amel Fiesta, suportado ng buong konseho ang ipinaglalaban ng mga grupong Bugkalot-Ilongot lalo na ang kanilang karapatan sa kanilang ancestral domain, kabilang na ang Barangay Didipio kung saan nakabase ang operasyon ng pagmimina ng OceanaGold.

Inindorso ng mga miyembro ng municipal council kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang petisyon mula sa Bugkalot-Ilongot IP communities na humihiling sa huwag nang aprubahan ang nakahaing "renewal" sa Financial Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) ng OGPI at ng pamahalaan matapos mapaso ang 25-year right-to-operate ng nasabing Australian mining giant.





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Bentahan ng isla sa Cagayan, Subic sa Chinese investors, pinaimbestigahan ni De Lima



January 10, 2021 @ 1:41 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nanawagan si Senador Leila De Lima sa Senado na imbestigahan ang sinasabing maanomalyang bentahan ng isla sa Subic at Cagayan sa mga Chinese investors na lubhang mapanganib sa pambansang seguridad at paglabag sa Saligang Batas.

Sa pahayag, gustong paiimbestigahan ni De Lima ang mga aktibidad ng mga Chinese investors sa Fuga Island sa Cagayan at Grande at Chiquita Island sa Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

Kasunod ito ng panawagan ng Pinoy Action for Governance and the Environment's (PAGE's) na imbestigahan ang bentahan kaya naghain si De Lima ng Senate Resolution No.93 na nanawagan ng kanselahin ang Chinese investor project sa mga naturang isla.

"Anong petsa na? Aantayin pa ba natin masimulan ang mga proyektong ito bago tayo kumilos," ayon kay de Lima.

Sinabi ni De Lima na nilabag ng proyekto ang Saligang Batas dahil pinayagan ang manghimaosk ang dayuhang sa teritoryo ng Pilipinas at exclusive economic zones.

"Hindi dapat hayaang mapasakamay ng mga dayuhan ang kahit anong parte ng bayang ito na dugo ng mga bayani ang naging puhunan," ayon kay de Lima.

"Jurisprudence is clear: the characteristics of sovereignty are permanence, exclusiveness, comprehensiveness, absoluteness, indivisibility, inalienability and imprescriptibility. And under the Constitution, the goal of civilian supremacy is to always secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of our national territory. Just in case these lapdogs of China have forgotten!" patuloy niya.

Naalala ni De Lima na noong 2019, tinatarget ng China ang naturang isla upang magtayo ng economic at tourist zones.

"Huwag niyo sanang gawing oportunidad ang pagdurusa ng mamamayan dahil sa COVID-19 upang maisanla at maibenta ang ating soberanya sa mga dayuhan. Sinaid na nga ng korapsyon ang bulsa ng bayan, ipapaubos niyo pa ang ating mga natural na yaman sa mga dayuhan? Ganyan na lang ba kayo kalapastangan?," aniya.

"We must assert our sovereign rights over these strategic islands. Tindigan, ipaglaban at ipagsigawan: ATIN ANG PILIPINAS!,"dagdag ng senador. **Ernie Reyes**

Source: https://www.remate.ph/bentahan-ng-isla-sa-cagayan-subic-sa-chinese-investors-pinaimbestigahan-ni-de-lima/





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PHOTOGRAPH BY AL PADILLA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephl_al Art grows on walls Trees show their age through their growth rings, which we see in trunks that have been cut. In this age of extreme natural calamities, people are reminded to care for the environment better.

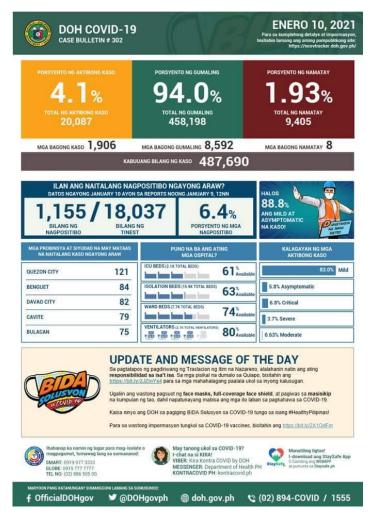




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BREAKING: Mga gumaling sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, nasa 458,198 na

By Angellic JordanJanuary 10, 2021 - 04:15 PM



Nasa halos 2,000 muli ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Linggo (January 10), umabot na sa 487,690 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 20,087 o 4.1 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,906 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

83.0 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 5.8 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.63 porsyento ang moderate; 3.7 porsyento ang severe habang 6.8 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa walo naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 9,405 o 1.93 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 8,592 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 458,198 o 94.0 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: https://radyo.inquirer.net/282633/breaking-mga-gumaling-sa-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-nasa-458198-na





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Pfizer vaccines mapapaaga ang dating sa Pinas

By Gemma Garcia(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 11, 2021 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Jose Manuel Romualdez, Philippine Ambassador sa Estados Unidos, na nakausap na niya si Secretary Carlito Galvez at mukhang may pag-asa ang bansa na makuha agad ang bakuna, subalit hindi lang alam kung anong eksaktong buwan. AFP/Joel Saget

MANILA, Philippines — Posibleng mapaaga ang pagde-deliver sa bansa ng bakuna kontra COVID-19 mula sa Pfizer.

Sinabi ni Jose Manuel Romualdez, Philippine Ambassador sa Estados Unidos, na nakausap na niya si Secretary Carlito Galvez at mukhang may pag-asa ang bansa na makuha agad ang bakuna, subalit hindi lang alam kung anong eksaktong buwan.

Nauna nang sinabi ni Romualdez na dahil sa na-delay ang pagproseso sa pagbili ng bakuna ng Pfizer kaya posibleng sa kalagitnaan nitong taon ma-deliver dito sa Pilipinas ang bakuna.

Subalit iginiit ngayon ng envoy na posibleng mas mapapaaga na ang pagdadala ng bakuna dito sa bansa na maaaring mga bandang Abril.

Bukod sa Pfizer ay maaari rin makakuha ng bakuna mula sa Janssen na ginawa ng Johnson & Johnson na isang shot lang.

Nauna na rin inaprubahan ng Food and Drug Administration ang Phase 3 ng clinical trial application ng bakuna ng Janssen kontra COVID-19.

Ang Pfizer-BioNTech ay subok na may 95% na epektibo sa lahat ng ginawang human trials.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/01/11/2069581/pfizer-vaccines-mapapaaga-ang-dating-sa-pinas/amp/





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The government's debt payments from January to November 2020 rose by more than 10 percent compared to the P805.26 billion recorded in the same period in 2019.

Bureau of the Treasury FB page

Debt payments reach P889 billion

Mary Grace Padin (The Philippine Star) - January 11, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The national government spent P888.96 billion in the first 11 months of 2020 to settle its debt from domestic and foreign lenders, according to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

The government's debt payments from January to November 2020 rose by more than 10 percent compared to the P805.26 billion recorded in the same period in 2019.

The latest figure also surpassed the full-year 2019 debt payment of P842.45 billion.

The year-to-date tally remained higher even as the figure for November shrunk by nearly 88 percent to P26.79 billion from P221.84 billion in November 2019 due to the timing of maturities in November 2019.

The January to November 2020 total was also adjusted downwards after the Treasury borrowed another P540 billion from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

The government allots a portion of its budget to settle its obligations on a monthly basis, depending on their maturity.

According to Treasury data, the bulk or P533.61 billion of the total debt service from January to November 2020 was used to pay amortization, while the remaining P355.08 billion went to interest payments.

Principal payments rose almost 13 percent compared to the P473.51 billion posted in the same period in 2019.

About P398.89 billion of the total amount was paid to domestic lenders, and another P134.73 billion went to foreign creditors.

Interest payments, likewise, increased seven percent to P355.08 billion from P331.75 billion in the previous year, with P255.45 billion going to domestic debtors and P99.63 billion going to foreign lenders.





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In an earlier statement, the BTr said interest payments as a percentage of total expenditures reached 9.63 percent in November last year, down from 10.4 percent in the same period in 2019.

Interest payments, as a percentage of revenues, increased to 13.57 percent from last year's level of 11.46 percent due to lower revenues.

According to the Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing, the debt servicing program for 2020 was set at P1.005 trillion. The government has already met 88.5 percent of this program.

The Philippines was programmed to borrow P3 trillion last year to plug the deficit in its budget, which was expected to widen to 7.6 percent of gross domestic product.

The BTr said gross financing in the first 11 months of 2020 reached P2.96 trillion, which is almost 99 percent of the program.

As of end-November last year, the national government's outstanding debt also hit P10.13 trillion, 1.1 percent higher than the P10.03 trillion recorded in October 2020.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/01/11/2069508/debt-payments-reach-p889-

billion





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HACKING KAY SEN. GATCHALIAN



January 11, 2021 @ 1:00 AM 6 hours ago

NAPAKARAMI ang nasisira dahil sa hacking sa mga credit at debit card.

Kabilang sa mga nasisira ang buhay ng mga mahihirap na nag-iimpok sa mga bangko at maging sa mga mayayaman din, tulad ni Senator Win Gatchalian.

Nasisira rin ang pagtitiwala sa mga bangko na maaaring makasira sa ekonomiya ng ating bansa at maging sa pananalapi ng pamahalaan.

HACKING KAY SEN. WIN

Malinaw na binababoy ang batas sa pagbabangko at sinisira ang tiwala sa mga bangko ng mga hacker.

Inilalagay rin sa alanganin ng mga hacker ang mga makabagong teknolohiya na sinasabing susi sa mabilis at tiyak na pag-unlad ng ating bansa.

Heto na nga ang isang kontrobersyal na pag-hack sa credit card ni Senator Win Gatchalian.

Noong una, suspetsa ni Sen. Win na pagkain ang pinag-interesang bilhin ng hacker na umubos ng nasa P1 milyon sa kanyang bank account gamit ang hinack na credit card.

Anak ng tokwa, lasinggero pala o negosyante o collector ng mamahaling alak ang tumira.

Sa loob lang ng isang oras, ubos ang P1M ni Sen. Win.

MGA SANGKOT

Ngayon lumitaw ang isang uri ng giyera.

Giyera laban sa mga hacker at sa mga bangko na umano'y nabibigong pangalagaan ang seguridad ng mga bank account ng kanilang mga kostumer, lalo na ang mga ikinokonek sa mga internet transaction.

Pwede ka na kasing bumili, magbayad ng utang, magbayad ng RFID sa mga superhighway, magbayad ng tubig, kuryente, pamasaheng lokal at internasyunal, hotel at iba pa sa pamamagitan ng mga credit card o debit card.

Maaaring may magagaling talaga na hacker pero may suspetsa ring may mga inside job o may kasabwat ang mga hacker sa mga taga-bangko.





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O kaya, mismong ang mga taga-bangko ang hacker.

Dahil sa karanasan ni Sen. Gatchalian, may ikinasa nang imbestigasyon mismo sa Senado para sa pagsasagawa ng batas na maghihigpit marahil sa mga bangko para sa seguridad ng mga bank account, pagtataas ng kaparusahang kriminal, multa at danyos sa mga bangko at hacker.

Anak ng tokwa, kung nanakawin lang nga naman ang mga pinaghihirapan nating salapi na ating idinedeposito sa mga bangko, eh, baka maisipan natin ang mag-impok na lang sa loob ng sarili nating mga tahanan.

Kung mangyari ito, tiyak na manghihina ang mga bangko sa kawalan o kakulangan ng magagamit para sa pautang, pamumuhunan at iba pa at maaapektuhan lahat.

Kabilang sa mga epekto nito ang walang kakayahang magpautang sa pamahalaan at mamamayan at magdudulot ito ng paghina ng serbisyo-publiko at ekonomiya ng bansa.

PAANO ANG MGA OFW?

Paano rin kung hindi gagamit ang mga overseas Filipino worker ng mga bangko para daluyan ng kanilang mga remittance kung maha-hack din lang?

Eh, napakahirap yatang magbayad o mag-reimburse ang mga bangko sa mga ninanakaw sa kanila.

Kailangan mo pang kumuha ng abogado na napakamamahal ang singil at sila naman ang uubos sa salapi o remittance mo.

Alalahaning umaabot sa P1 trilyon ang taon-taong padala ng mga OFW sa kanikanilang mga pamilya at nakikinabang din mismo ang pamahalaan dito dahil sa dolyar na anyo ng salaping pinadadala nila.

Dolyar ang gamit ng pamahalaan sa pangungutang, pagbabayad ng utang at pakikipagkalakalan sa ibang bansa.

DAPAT NA MAHIGPIT, MABILIS ANG BATAS

Tiyak na susunod ang posibleng amyenda sa batas sa pagbabangko, seguridad sa internet, parusa sa mga hacker at iba pa makaraan ang pagdinig sa Senado.

Dapat maghanda na rin ang Kamara para sa pagkakaroon ng kaukulang panukalang amyenda sa batas upang mapigilan at maparusahan ang mga hacker.

Isa pa, dapat na ibangon ng mga kinauukulan ang kumpiyansa sa mga bangko at paggamit ng teknolohiya.

Pero higit sa lahat, hindi dapat na manakawan ang mga nag-iimpok sa bangko.

Isa pang mahalaga dapat sa batas ang mabilis na pagkalutas sa hacking at responde ng mga bangko sa mga biktima sa anyo ng reimbursement o pagsasauli ng mga ninakaw sa kanila.

Source: https://www.remate.ph/hacking-kay-sen-gatchalian/





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Palace vows steady help for Bicol, West Visayas flood victims

Published January 10, 2021 4:51pm

By ERWIN COLCOL, GMA News

Malacañang on Sunday assured continuous government assistance for Region V and Region VI families affected by the flooding brought about by the tail-end of a frontal system.

According to presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, P1.58 million-worth of assistance had been provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, local government units, and private partners to affected families in the two regions as of January 7.

Meanwhile, a total of nine families in Camarines Sur and 4,207 others in Negros Occidental were transferred to evacuation centers amid the flooding, according to the January 9 monitoring report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

At the same time, around 1,100 residents in flooded areas in Talisay City and Victoria City in Negros Occidental had been rescued.

At least two individuals from Sorsogon and Camarines Sur have reportedly died due to the massive flooding brought by the tail-end of a frontal system.

In its early morning forecast on Sunday, Pagasa said that cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms could be expected throughout the day over Eastern and Central Visayas.

The expected moderate to heavy rain may cause flash floods or landslides. — **DVM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/771157/palace-vows-steady-help-for-bicol-west-visayas-flood-

 $\frac{victims/story/?utm_source=GMANews\&utm_medium=Facebook\&fbclid=IwAR3lKda1tYud5wxNUkqvcrF5VmVN2clgFDGtECfEX17QPUCosrTMTdyJec}{}$





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llang lugar sa Samar binaha dahil sa pag-ulan

Posted at Jan 10 2021 01:06 PM



Binaha ang ilang lugar sa Jipapad, Eastern Samar nitong Enero 10, 2021. Retrato mula kay Donelle Pajares

Lubog sa baha ang ilang lugar sa Samar Island ngayong Linggo dahil sa walang tigil na pagbuhos ng ulan.

Sa Eastern Samar, binaha ang ilang barangay sa bayan ng Jipapad matapos tumaas ang tubig sa mga ilog madaling araw ng Linggo.

Bukod sa mga bahay, lubog din ang ilang pasilidad ng munisipyo.

Matatandaang huling nakaranas ng matinding pagbaha ang Jipapad noong manalasa ang Bagyong Ambo noong nakaraang taon.



Baha sa Catubig, Northern Samar nitong Enero 10, 2021. Retrato mula kay Jennifer Acdang

Binaha rin ang ilang bahagi ng Catubig sa Northern Samar.

Sa mga retratong kuha ni Jennifer Acdang, makikitang abot hanggang tuhod ang baha sa bayan at pinasok din ang ilang bahay.

Samantala, sa Allen, Northern Samar, isang lane lang ang maaaring magamit ng mga motorista sa kalsada sa Barangay Calarayan matapos matabunan ng lupa ang isa pang lane.

Bunsod din umano ito ng patuloy na pag-ulan sa lalawigan.

Ayon sa lokal na Department of Public Works and Highways, nagsasagawa naman na sila ng clearing operation sa daan.

-- Ulat nina Ranulfo Docdocan at Sharon Evite

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/10/21/ilang-lugar-sa-samar-binaha-dahil-sa-pag-ulan?fbclid=IwAR0VGbzCvp_sQtVwoMarbhMzRIw7AVJURxjpnbAPNcydlayXs6G0jHxjp50





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Baguio chills at 10 degrees

The coldest temperature in Baguio's history was 6.3 degrees on 18 January 1961

Published 3 hours ago on January 11, 2021 02:30 AM By **Aldwin Quitasol**



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BAGUIO TOURISM BRING out your jackets, sweaters and cardigans for the freezing Baguio weather.

BAGUIO CITY — After a numbing 10-degree Celsius Sunday morning here, temperature for the next 10 days will hover between 11 to 15 degrees.

Health authorities thus reminded residents and visitors to stay warm as they will be vulnerable to colds, influenza and the dreaded coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

At 5 a.m. Sunday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration recorded the temperature at 11°C. By 6:30 a.m., it dropped further to 10.04.

Baguio City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit of the Health Service Office chief Donnabel Tubera-Panes said Baguio will have colder temperatures ahead.

The coldest temperature in Baguio's history was 6.3 degrees on 18 January 1961. The country's Summer Capital experiences its coldest weather from December to March.

Amid restrictions that require tourists to register and be free from Covid-19, Baguio lured 19,242 visitors in December, with the most entries recorded on 30 December at 1,707. Only 1,000 tourists are allowed daily.

The city also welcomed 800 tourists when it reopened in October and 5,535 in November.

From 1 October 2020 until 3 January, 27,143 travel requests out of 28,372 applications have been approved. A total of 628 were disapproved as these were from outside Luzon.

Covid monitoring

As of 9 January, Baguio still has 343 active Covid-19 cases.

The city's isolation capacity in public and private temporary treatment and monitoring facilities increased to 1,104 beds following the release of patients.

For established isolation facilities, accumulated capacity increased from 654 to 875 beds while the bed capacity of private and public hospitals rose to 229.





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As of the weekend, 241 beds or 27.54 percent were occupied in quarantine and isolation facilities, 167 were unavailable while 467 can accommodate incoming cases.

Over 1,000 beds will be available once the renovation of the former Sto. Niño hospital and another temporary treatment and monitoring facility to be funded by the Department of Health are completed.

At the 116-bed Roxas Hall of Teachers Camp, 64 were occupied, 17 unavailable and 35 available. For the 200-bed capacity Quirino Hall and staff house, 53 were occupied, 54 unavailable and 102 available.

Meanwhile, Mayor Benjamin Magalong's father, Severiano Magalong Sr., died, according to a Baguio Public Information Office Facebook post. No other details were provided.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/01/11/baguio-chills-at-10-degrees/





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2020 ties with 2016 as world's hottest year on record, EU climate change service says

Kate Abnett and Matthew Green, Reuters

Posted at Jan 08 2021 03:35 PM



People walk as the sun sets in the background in South Bay, Miami Beach, Florida on July 14, 2020, amid the coronavirus pandemic. *Chandan Khanna, AFP/File*

BRUSSELS/LONDON - Last year tied with 2016 as the world's warmest year on record, rounding off the hottest decade globally as the impacts of climate change intensified, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service said on Friday.

After an exceptionally warm winter and autumn in Europe, the continent experienced its hottest year on record in 2020, while the Arctic suffered extreme heat and atmospheric concentrations of planet-warming carbon dioxide continued to rise.

Scientists said the latest data underscored the need for countries and corporations to slash greenhouse gas emissions quickly enough to bring within reach the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement to avoid catastrophic climate change.

"The extraordinary climate events of 2020 and the data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service show us that we have no time to lose," said Matthias Petschke, Director for Space in the European Commission, the EU's executive arm. The bloc's space programs include the Copernicus earth observation satellites.

In 2020, temperatures globally were an average of 1.25 degrees C (2.7 degrees F) higher than in pre-industrial times, Copernicus said. The last six years were the world's hottest on record.

The Paris accord aims to cap the rise in temperatures to "well below" 2 degrees C and as close as possible to 1.5 degrees C to avoid the most devastating impacts of climate change.

"The key here is to... reduce the amount we emit," Copernicus senior scientist Freja Vamborg told Reuters.

Last year also saw the highest temperature ever reliably recorded, when in August a California heatwave pushed the temperature at Death Valley in the Mojave Desert up to 54.4C (129.92°F).

The Arctic and northern Siberia continued to warm more quickly than the planet as a whole in 2020, with temperatures in parts of these regions averaging more than 6C above a 30-year average used as a baseline, Copernicus said.

The region also had an "unusually active" wildfire season, with fires poleward of the Arctic Circle releasing a record 244 million tons of CO2 in 2020, over a third more than in 2019.

Arctic sea ice continued to deplete, with July and October both setting records for the lowest sea ice extent in that month.

Scientists who were not involved in the study said it was consistent with growing evidence that climate change is contributing to more intense hurricanes, fires, floods and other disasters.





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In the United States, the costs in lives and damage is fast rising, said Adam Smith, a climate scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"We need another dictionary to help us describe how these extremes continue to play out and unfold year after year," said Smith, who tracks climate-related disasters that cause more than a billion dollars worth of damage.

Smith said that the 16 billion-dollar disasters that occurred in the United States in the first nine months of 2020 matched previous annual records set in 2011 and 2017.

A preliminary tally found that 13 of last year's disasters led to at least 188 deaths and costs of \$46.6 billion, Smith said. NOAA was to release a complete survey of damages in 2020 at 1600 GMT on Friday (12 a.m. Saturday in Manila).





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S. Korea to phase out industrial waste imports

The Korea Herald/Asia News Network / 12:45 PM January 10, 2021



This file photo taken on Oct. 5, 2020, shows waste plastics being sorted by a recyclable waste center in Gwangju, southwestern South Korea. Yonhap via The Korea Herald/Asia News Network

SEOUL — South Korea plans to restrict or phase out its imports of 10 kinds of industrial waste to increase the recycling of domestic waste, the Ministry of Environment said Sunday.

The ministry said the importation of half of the 10 waste items, including plastic waste, mixed waste paper and coal ash, will be banned between 2022 and 2023.

According to the ministry's road map, imports of all kinds of industrial waste, excluding metal scraps and a few others, will be banned in principle by 2030, while the 10 waste items with large import volumes will be subject to import restrictions or bans.

The road map calls for prohibiting the imports of three waste items in 2022 — waste plastics, mixed waste paper and waste fibers, which can be replaced with domestic waste or have made the local recycling market unstable due to their collection problems.

Additionally, the imports of coal ash and waste tires will be banned in 2023, the road map said. It also said used corrugated cardboards, dust and sludge, whose imports are expected to negatively affect the nation's recycling market or environment, will be subject to import restrictions beginning in 2023.

It noted that only waste cardboard of a quality superior to domestic waste paper will be permitted to be imported, while standards for tensile and bursting strength will be established for waste cardboard.

Waste batteries, waste metals and waste electrical and electronic products being imported here for the recovery of valuable metals will not be affected by the upcoming import restrictions.

Such items have high value as industrial raw materials and cannot be easily replaced by domestic waste, ministry officials said.

They said the 10 waste items subject to the import bans or restrictions will amount to 3.84 million tons annually, accounting for 96 percent of the nation's total annual waste imports of 3.98 million tons.





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If the road map is enforced, the nation's waste imports will fall 35 percent, or 1.39 million tons, in 2022 and 65 percent, or 2.59 million tons, in 2025, compared to the 2019 volume of 3.98 million tons, they said.

As for the five waste items subject to import bans, the government will make all possible efforts, including increased research and development support, to ensure a stable supply of their alternatives at home, they explained. *Yonhap*

Source: https://business.inquirer.net/315509/s-korea-to-phase-out-industrial-waste-imports





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India nabs 3 dolphin beaters

ByAgence France-Presse

January 10, 2021

UTTAR PRADESH: Police arrested three people in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on Friday for beating an endangered dolphin to death with an axe.

In a video shared widely in the Indian press and on social media, a group of men are shown beating the Gangetic dolphin with sticks and rods before one of them drives an axe into its body.

"The incident happened on December 31 and we have arrested three people in connection with the assault," local policeman Dinesh Prasad told Agence France-Presse over the phone.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, there are only between 1,200 and 1,800 of the endangered species left in the world.

Prasad said the motive for killing the marine mammal, which is also known as the Ganges River dolphin, remained unclear.

The lifeless dolphin was found next to a canal by officials from the local forest department, according to Indian media reports.

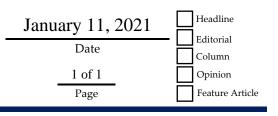
In the video, one of the men in the group can be heard telling the attackers that they "killed the dolphin for no reason."

The dolphin — which can weigh up to 170 kilograms and can only live in freshwater — is only found in Nepal, Bangladesh and India.

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \underline{https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/01/10/news/world/india-nabs-3-dolphin-beaters/825467/}$









How South African police are tackling pangolin smugglers

How South African police are tackling pangolin smugglersClose

Quiet, solitary and nocturnal, the pangolin has few natural enemies, but researchers believe it is the most trafficked mammal in the world. The tough scales covering its body are sought after for use in Chinese medicine, in the erroneous belief that they have healing properties.

The animal has also been of interest to researchers during the coronavirus pandemic. Related viruses have been found in trafficked pangolins, though there is continued uncertainty around early theories that pangolins were involved in the transmission of the virus from animals to humans.

After South African police seized a pangolin from suspected smugglers, BBC Africa correspondent Andrew Harding witnessed how vets tried to save the animal's life.

Published 21 hours ago

Source: https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-55592290





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Six rangers killed in DR Congo's Virunga National Park

Published 4 hours ago



image captionRangers working in the park, which is home to endangered mountain gorillas, have often come under attack (file photo)

Six park rangers have been killed after an attack at the famous Virunga National Park in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Officials have blamed the attack on a militia group known as Mai-Mai, one of many that operate in the region.

The rangers were ambushed while on foot patrol inside the park, a spokesperson told the BBC. Staff working in the park, which is home to endangered mountain gorillas, have often come under attack.

In April last year 13 rangers were killed in a rebel ambush.

Several armed groups operate in the restive eastern region of DR Congo where Virunga National Park - a Unesco World Heritage site - is based.

A statement from the park said preliminary investigations suggested the rangers "were taken by surprise and had no opportunity to defend themselves" during the Sunday morning attack.

It said another ranger who was seriously injured in the attack was receiving treatment and expected to make a full recovery,

A local government delegate Alphonse Kambale told AFP news agency that two Mai-Mai militants had also been killed.

Nearly 700 armed rangers work in Virunga - Africa's oldest nature reserve - where at least 200 have been killed in attacks going back more than a decade, AFP reports.

Source: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55611203







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Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-dfaSZsTPg&ab_channel=MelVie



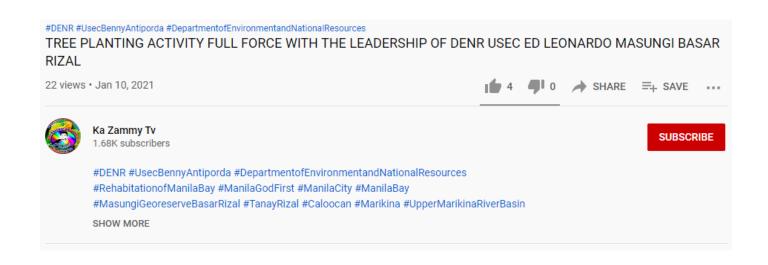




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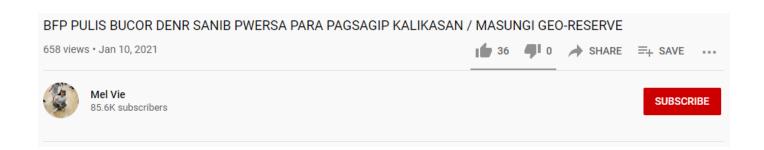




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Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyBOlQt-NyI&ab_channel=MelVie







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Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XWSRKJ-x0c&ab_channel=MikeandMelvieBlogs



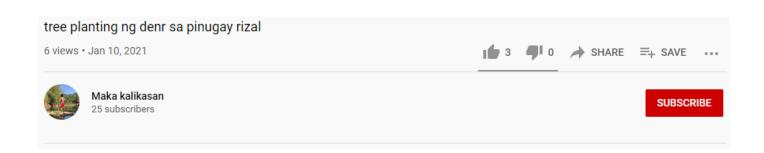




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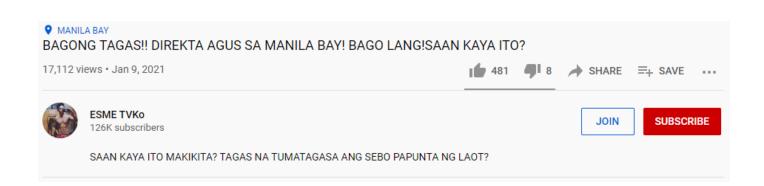




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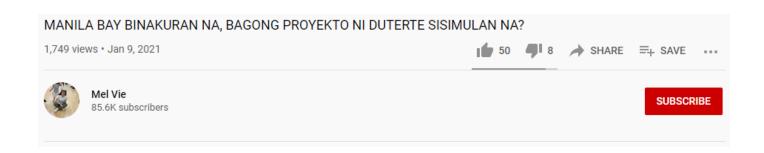




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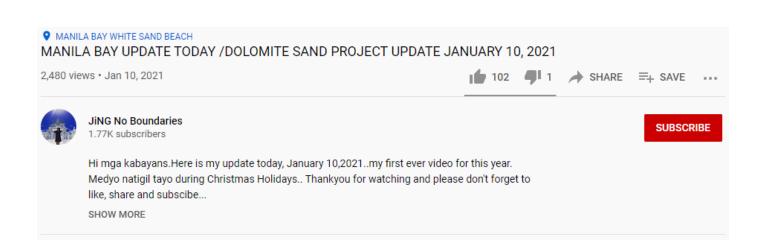




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Source: https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/03/denr-hit-for-planning-to-fill-manila-baywalk-with-white-sand/

