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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# He means business: Cimatu gives stern warning to fake DENR agents

Published February 11, 2021, 1:41 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu is not amused by the actions of an alleged group of persons in Surigao del Sur that has been carrying out fake and unauthorized operations against logging and mining companies in the province.



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (RTVM / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Cimatu, a former Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief, warned that anyone or any group who will try to use the name of the DENR for illegal operations will be made liable to the full extent of the law.

“We will make sure that these people will face the legal repercussions of committing such misconduct,” the Cabinet official said in a statement Thursday, Feb. 11.

Based on the report of the DENR in Caraga region, nine individuals who introduced themselves as members of a DENR task force were arrested by the Carrascal Municipal Police in Surigao del Sur on January 27.

The individuals had conducted two unauthorized operations against logging and mining companies in Surigao del Sur, where they were able to present a letter bearing DENR’s logo. The letter was signed by their supposed leader.

The posers also wore shirts bearing the DENR logo, and carried identification cards that had the signature of several DENR officials, including Cimatu.

Arrested by authorities were Francisco Dagohoy, Arnel Arniego, Roberto Don, Jr., Junie Duero, Melbert Pami, Rogelio Lismoner, Bon Jovi Arreza, Joaquin Lumapguid, and Elma Talip.

The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Cantilan town secured from the group a document saying they were part of the Moral Advancement and Corruption Prevention Advocacy, an organization that allegedly advocates the eradication of graft and corrupt activities.

“We do not condone the use of the name of our Department in any transaction without prior knowledge and consent of any DENR official,” Cimatu said.

“We want to warn the general public to be more cautious in dealing with people who claim to be employees of the Department,” he added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/11/he-means-business-cimatu-gives-stern-warning-to-fake-denr-agents/>



## Public warned against fake DENR workers

posted February 11, 2021 at 11:30 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Thursday warned the public against fake DENR employees targeting mining and logging firms.

The department discovered a group of people in Surigao del Sur using its name in conducting unauthorized operations against logging and mining companies in the province.

“We do not condone the use of the name of our department in any transaction without prior knowledge and consent of any DENR official,” Cimatu said.

“We want to warn the general public to be more cautious in dealing with people who claim to be employees of the department.”

Cimatu threatened to hold liable to the full extent of the law anyone or any group that would try to use the name of the DENR for illegal operations.

“We will make sure that these people will face the legal repercussions of committing such misconduct,” he said.

Citing a report of the DENR in the Caraga region, nine people who introduced themselves as members of a DENR task force were arrested by the Carrascal municipal police in Surigao del Sur on Jan. 27.

The nine conducted two unauthorized operations against logging and mining companies in Surigao del Sur, where they were able to present a letter bearing the DENR’s logo and signed by one of them who posed as the leader of the group.

They wore shirts with a DENR logo and identification cards bearing the signature of several agency officials, including Cimatu.

Arrested were Francisco Dagohoy, Arnel Arniego, Roberto Don Jr., Junie Duero, Melbert Pami, Rogelio Lismoner, Bon Jovi Arreza, Joaquin Lumapguid and Elma Talip.

Marslou Bonita, Cantillan’s community environment and natural resources officer, was able to secure a document from the group identifying them as part of the Moral Advancement and Corruption Prevention Advocacy, an organization that allegedly advocates the eradication of graft and corrupt activities.

But he denied deputizing the group to enforce environmental laws.



# Cimatu hails Pampanga wetland as country's 8th Wetland of International Importance

By DENR Published on February 11, 2021



Photo by DENR.

QUEZON CITY, Feb. 11 -- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu hailed the inclusion of the Sasmuan Pampanga Coastal Wetlands (SPCW) in the Ramsar Convention's List of Wetlands of International Importance as a demonstration of the country's commitment to protect wetland ecosystems.

"The Sasmuan Pampanga Coastal Wetlands fulfills four criteria of the Ramsar Convention, which confirms the international significance of its biodiversity and its services both at the species and ecosystems level," Cimatu said in his keynote speech delivered by Undersecretary for Attached Agencies and Chief of Staff Rodolfo Garcia.

Usec Garcia delivered the speech during the virtual celebration of the 50th World Wetlands Day that was organized by the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) on Tuesday, February 2.

"Wetlands are not wastelands. The success stories of the wetlands of Boracay Island, Manila Bay Rehabilitation as well as the Pasig River, are testament to that," Cimatu said. "Wetlands, like water, play a vital role not only in our planet's health but also in our life and wellbeing."

Cimatu expressed his commendation to DENR-Region 3, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Pampanga and the local governments of Sasmuan and Pampanga for their hardwork and dedication to make SPCW's recognition happen.

"We are honored and fortunate that the annual celebration of World Wetlands Day has become more significant and special because the SPCW is now officially declared as a Wetland of International Importance," DENR-Region 3 Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said.

Moreno said SPCW, which covers over 3,500 hectares of coastal waters and four barangays in Sasmuan town in Pampanga province, is the first Ramsar Site in Central Luzon.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretary General Martha Rojas-Urrego also congratulated the Philippines on the inclusion of the SPCW to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance or as a Ramsar Site.

The SPCW joins the roster of officially declared Ramsar Sites around the world as Ramsar Site No. 2445.



"Today, 171 Contracting Parties, including the Philippines have signed the Convention. Collectively these countries have designated a total of 2,414 Wetlands of International Importance, known as Ramsar Sites. On February 2, 2021, Sasmuan Pampanga Coastal Wetlands joins this prestigious list of wetland-protected sites as the 8th Ramsar Site in the Philippines," Urrego said. The Convention on Wetlands is an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Also known as the Ramsar Convention, it is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran where the convention was signed in 1971.

Since the accession to the Convention on November 8, 1994, the Philippines has designated eight Wetlands of International Importance.

World Wetlands Day is being celebrated every February 2 to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.

Presidential Proclamation no. 74 series of 1999 also declares February 2 of every year as National Wetlands Day in recognition of immense importance of wetlands to the welfare of the Filipino people and the protection of global biodiversity.

The theme for this year's World Wetlands Day celebration is "Wetlands and water." (DENR)



# 94 sea turtle hatchlings released to Sarangani Bay

By Allen Estabillo February 11, 2021, 4:39 pm



**BABY TURTLE.** Photo shows one of the newly hatched Olive Ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) found by a resident early Wednesday (Feb. 10, 2021), emerging from a nesting site in the shores of Purok Islam, Barangay Glan Padidu in Glan town, Sarangani province. The baby turtles were released to the sea around 3 p.m. of the same day by environment workers and residents. (*Photo courtesy of Cenro-Glan*)

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY** – Around 94 baby turtles “made their way home” to the Sarangani Bay on Wednesday afternoon after hatching at a protected nesting site in a coastal village in Glan town, Sarangani province.

Forester Abdul Cariga, head of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in Glan, said the Olive Ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) were found by a concerned resident early Wednesday crawling in the shores of Purok Islam, Barangay Glan Padidu.

He said the baby turtles were noticed by former Bantay Dagat member Ismael Dante emerging from a nesting site in the area and appeared to have been newly hatched.

Dante reported the matter to Cenro-Glan and the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (Menro), which immediately dispatched a team to the site, he said.

Cariga said the team, along with the barangay officials, documented the hatchlings and assisted their release to the sea around 3 p.m.

“They provided them with technical assistance for the proper handling and care of the hatchlings,” he said in a report released on Thursday.

The official said the response team conducted a brief information and education activity among community residents regarding the importance of the sea turtles or “pawikan” and their vital role in the ecosystem.

They also discussed the concepts of imprinting, natal homing, and the measures to protect the area’s sea turtle nesting site.

The village was among the areas in Glan that have thriving nesting sites of sea turtles based on the monitoring of Cenro, Menro, and the Environmental Protection and Conservation Center of Sarangani.

According to residents, the shores of Barangay Glan Padidu and nearby areas have long been hosting a number of nesting sites of sea turtles.

Female turtles that were released reportedly return to their birthplace in 20 to 25 years to lay their eggs.

“They imprint on the unique magnetic field of their birthplace and the female ones use this information to later return to the nest,” an earlier report from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Region 12 said.

Based on DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09 or the “Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and their Categories,” marine turtles are considered as endangered species.

The catching and hunting of marine turtles, like all wildlife species, are prohibited under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. (**PNA**)

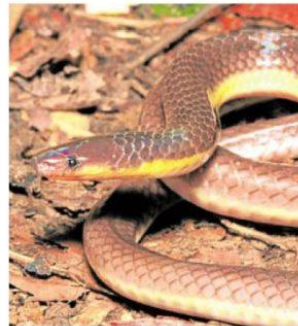
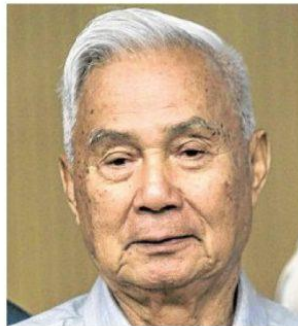
Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1130393>



# Snake named after national scientist and ex-DENR chief Alcala

By: [Jheset O. Enano](#) - Reporter / [@JhesetEnanoINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:36 AM February 11, 2021



ALCALA'S SNAKE Scientists have honored National Scientist Angel Alcala (left) for his contributions to the study of amphibians and reptiles, and biodiversity conservation in the Philippines by naming after him a new species of reed snake (right) discovered in Mindoro. —INQUIRER FILE PHOTO/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines — A new species of reed snake discovered in Mindoro was named after National Scientist Angel Alcala in honor of his contributions to the study of amphibians and reptiles in the Philippines, and his work in promoting the conservation of the country's rich biodiversity.

Scientists from University of Kansas and California Academy of Sciences described the snake, *Calamaria alcalai*, in their article that was recently published in the *Philippine Journal of Systematic Biology*.

They said the species name was in recognition of Alcala's "numerous contributions on the systematics, biogeography and ecology of amphibians and reptiles in the Philippines—and in general, for his influential promotion of conservation and sustainable management of the archipelago's terrestrial and marine biodiversity."

Alcala was named national scientist in 2014 in recognition of his research on Philippine amphibians and reptiles and on marine biodiversity. From 1992 to 1995, he served as head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and later became the first chair of the Commission on Higher Education.

His work has led to the discovery of 50 species of amphibians and reptiles, more than 10 percent of some 400 known species in the country.

## Longer tail

The new reed snake is the second known *Calamaria* species on Mindoro Island and the eighth in the Philippines.

According to the scientists, Alcala's reed snake is small, measuring only 374 millimeters or roughly 14 inches. It has shiny scales all over the body, a relatively longer tail and more subcaudal (under the tail) scales than other *Calamaria* species.

While most reed snakes spend their time burrowing in the forest floor, the scientists said the relatively long tail of the *Calamaria alcalai* suggested that it might not be tunneling as much as the other species in its family.



### Likely nocturnal

“Nothing else is known about the natural history of the new species, but other Calamaria are exclusively worm-eaters,” the scientists said.

Among the other reed snakes, the newly discovered species was most similar to the Calamaria schlegeli, scientists noted. But since the alcalai is known to be only from Mindoro and the schlegeli is widespread throughout Borneo, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore, the researchers said a related yet still undiscovered lineage of these snakes might be found in Palawan province.

In their article, the scientists—Jeffrey Weinell, Alan Leviton and Rafe Brown—said the snakes they studied were collected in a primary dipterocarp forest and were likely nocturnal.

They are currently known to inhabit two nearby forested sites in Sablayan town, Occidental Mindoro province, suggesting they could be endemic in the area, they said.

“We anticipate that the new species will remain a Mindoro endemic, but if proper faunal inventory efforts on Mindoro are ever forthcoming, it will be interesting to determine if the new species’ distribution extends to the eastern half of the island, beyond the central mountain range that bisects this island from north to south,” they said.





# Coast Guard confiscates 90 giant clam shells in El Nido, Palawan

Marje Pelayo • February 11, 2021



**MANILA, Philippines** — The [Philippine Coast Guard \(PCG\)](#) reported on Thursday (February 11) that they have confiscated 90 pieces of giant clam shells in El Nido, Palawan, after receiving a tip from a concerned citizen. According to the PCG, the giant clam shells were discovered on February 6 in Sitio Buluang, Barangay Sibaltan, and were found camouflaged with foliage and trees in the area.

The giant clam shells have been turned over by the PCG to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) for further investigation of the incident.

Giant clams are listed as endangered species on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The Republic Act 10654 or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 indicates that: "It shall be unlawful to fish, take, catch, gather, sell, purchase, possess, transport, export, forward or ship out aquatic species listed in CITES Appendices II and III."

A fine equivalent to three times the value of the species or P300,000 to P3-M can be imposed on offenders, and imprisonment of five to eight years if convicted by a court of law. **—MNP/Raymund David**



## Malacon: Dredging will not affect livelihoods



EB MAGALONA. First Terradev Corp. deploys dredging equipment in EB Magalona. (Photo by Teresa D. Ellera)

[TERESA D. ELLERA](#)

February 11, 2021

EB MAGALONA Mayor Marvin Malacon on Thursday, February 11, 2021, said the claims of environmental groups that dredging activities in the town will threaten livelihood are “baseless.”

Green Alert, who are opposing the project, claimed that the activity will threaten the blue crab industry of the town.

Malacon on Thursday said the project, which was approved first by the national government and passed on to local government units, aims to unclog and desilt the river mouths of town major rivers that caused flooding for years.

Malacon said he will be the first to oppose if the project will affect livelihood, especially of poor residents of EB Magalona. He lambasted those behind propagating false information regarding the project.

He said dredging is the main solution to the flooding, which is also being experienced by other low-lying local government units in Negros Occidental, as recommended also by the provincial government, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as well as Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The tapping of the private firm by the local government unit of EB Magalona in dredging its heavily silted rivers was an offshoot of Joint Memorandum Circular no. 2019-01 of the DENR, DPWH, DILG, and DOTr, that rationalizes dredging activities in heavily silted river channels.

"We, Saraviahans, are fortunate that the national government, through First Terradev Corp., will clear our waterways for free," he stressed.

Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson earlier said the provincial government cannot afford massive dredging in the province

All the waste materials from the heavily silted waterways will be collected and transported by the private firm outside of the province, Malacon said, as he emphasized that the provincial government, municipality of EB Magalona and its coastal barangays will get a percentage of whatever income is derived from the selling of said materials.

"It will augment the livelihood of the poor people, contrary to claims," he added.

Malacon also said the nine coastal barangays, as well as those recently hit by flash floods, including barangays of Tanza, San Jose, Santo Nino, Tabigue, Damgo and Alicante, and even sugar planters, are demanding the clearing of their respected waterways.



A study made by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) in 1996 showed that EB Magalona is below sea level.

Malacon said heavy siltation in the town coastal barangays had already affected 600 hectares and also led to riverbank erosion and deposits from the rivers of Malogo, Madalag and Imbang.

He also disputed claims of black sand mining, stressing that it only comprises four percent of dredged materials, based on the soil testing and analysis conducted by a Singaporean firm.

In a related development, Merck Salazar, a representative of First Terradev Corp., who is supervising the initial deployment of dredging equipment at the Tuburan port in EB Magalona, on Thursday said they have nothing to hide in the implementation of the project.

He said all their activities are in accordance with the governing laws and regulations of involved government agencies.

Salazar said they will start the cleaning of the Malogo River mouth, which is located at the boundary of EB Magalona, to be followed by the Imbang River at the boundary of EB Magalona and Silay City in north, as well as the Madalag River.

This will also benefit the city governments of Silay and Victorias, he added.

Salazar said they have requested the DPWH and DENR to allow them to create navigational channels to accommodate dredging ships and cargo vessels to haul wastes and garbage from the dredged waterways.

As to fears of possible erosion, Salazar said they will establish 200 to 500 meters as a buffer zone from the coastline.



## 3 major flood control structures in Cagayan, underway

By DPWH Published on February 11, 2021



CAGAYAN, Feb. 11 -- Residents along coastal areas in Cagayan will soon benefit from the three (3) major flood control structures being constructed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Based on a report submitted to Secretary Mark A. Villar by DPWH Cagayan 2nd District Engineering Office (DEO), a 393-lineal meters flood control structures will be constructed in the Municipality of Lasam particularly the Cagayan State University – Lasam Flood Control along Kikkinig River and Cagayan River Flood Control in the barangays of Aggunetan and Calao Sur.

“We deem these developments imperative in order to prevent flood-related casualties and even destruction to properties and livelihood in the occurrence of flashfloods brought by typhoons and heavy rains,” said Secretary Villar.

“Aside from serving as the communities’ first line of defense against the overflowing of water from the river, the project will also encourage locals to engage in recreational and outdoor activities,” added Secretary Villar.

The P25-million project is part of the Build, Build, Build program with funding under the 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA). (DPWH)



# DPWH constructing 3 major flood control projects in Cagayan

Published February 11, 2021, 12:54 PM

by [Liezle Basa Iñigo](#)

LASAM, Cagayan – The Department of Public Works and Highways-Cagayan Second District Engineering Office is constructing three major flood control projects here.



(DPWH-CSDEO/ MANILA BULLETIN)

These aim to minimize flood-related casualties and damage to properties during the rainy season and tropical cyclones.

In her report to DPWH Region 2 OIC Regional Director Loreta M. Malaluan, District Engineer Lorna B. Asuten said that these flood control structures on the banks of the Lasam River will help protect the lives of thousands of residents and their properties against the threat of flooding.

Two of these are the Cagayan State University (CSU)-Lasam River Control on Kicking River and the Cagayan River Control in Barangays Aggunetan and Callao Sur.

With a total length of 393 linear meters, these projects will serve as the first line of defense for communities to mitigate the effects of flooding.

The projects will not only serve as a protective structure from flood but will also serve as a venue for recreational and outdoor activities.

Wilson Valdez, DPWH Region 2 information officer, said that these projects are part of the “Build, Build, Build” program funded under the General Appropriations Act of 2020 (GAA 2020) Flood Management Program.



# DA to utilize dams, protected areas for aquaculture, fisheries

By Christine Cudis February 11, 2021, 4:51 pm



**HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE.** The newly-created Sub Task Group on Aquaculture and Fisheries plans to open 15 hectares nationwide to boost aquaculture and fisheries production. Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Cheryl Caballero said the DA wants to introduce a non-pork dependent diet for Filipinos amid concerns on lack of supply. *(Photo courtesy of DA-SAAD)*

**MANILA** – The Department of Agriculture (DA) is laying the groundworks to expand aquaculture and fish production sites via untapped water dams and even protected areas.

DA Undersecretary for Agri-Industrialization and Fisheries Cheryl Caballero shared it is one way to introduce a healthier Filipino diet amid the rising concern on low pork supply as well as addressing the challenges of the pandemic.

“We are looking at nutrition na dapat (that is appropriate) and regular Filipino diet which is not so pork-dependent unlike other countries,” Caballero told Philippine News Agency in an interview on Thursday.

Caballero, who also leads the newly-created Sub Task Group (STG) on Aquaculture and Fisheries under the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Food Security, said they are opening 15 hectares as pilot areas nationwide to boost aquaculture and fisheries production.

Part of their framework is to put up around 80 fish cages in Laguna de Bay for the first and second quarters of the year to increase fish production.

With regards to setting up aquaculture sites within protected areas and dams across the country, Caballero said this is in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and concerned local government units (LGUs).

About 10 percent of the dam's area can be utilized for aquaculture production. This will give income to residents near the dam as well.

Apart from Laguna de Bay, the STG is looking into the Pantabangan Dam, San Roque Dam, Lake Lanao, Lake Mainit, among others, for aquaculture and fisheries production.

The creation of STG on aquaculture and fisheries was welcomed by the food security advocacy group, Tugon Kabuhayan, as necessary to identify potential sites and private sector investments.

“We appreciate IATF’s initiative to ensure food security during the pandemic and beyond. Industry stakeholders are ready to work with STG to create a policy framework for sustainable growth of the aqua and fisheries sector,” the group said in a statement on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Caballero said that on February 26, the DA will turn over to the Quezon City government the aquaculture facility for tilapia (St. Peter’s fish) located on previously converted piggeries for tilapia production.

“We also have other sites being lined-up,” she added.

The local government of Quezon City and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) will soon sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the repurposing of the illegally operated pig pens to aquaculture production for tilapia -- “a miracle fish and isda ng masa (fish for the masses),” the DA official said.



The government is looking at fish consumption per capita and vegetable consumption.

“Filipinos and government agencies, in particular, should now highlight the DOST (Department of Science and Technology)- Food and Nutrition Council Institute’s guide for a healthy diet,” Caballero said.

The DOST Nutritional Guidelines for Filipinos (NGF) is a set of dietary guidelines based on the eating pattern, lifestyle, and health status of Filipinos.

The NGF contains all the nutrition messages to healthy living for all age groups from infants to adults, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly.

“Agriculture and fisheries will remain at the forefront in bringing accessible, affordable, and available agricultural commodities to the public. Given the challenges caused by pandemic, we have to look at innovative ways to feed our population,” Caballero said. (**PNA**)



# Los Baños seeks Phivolcs help on steam from village

By Ivan Stewart Saldajeno [February 11, 2021, 9:09 pm](#)

**LOS BAÑOS** – The mayor in this town has sought for assistance from the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) regarding a strange white smoke coming from a village here.

Mayor Tony Kalaw on Thursday said he already sent a letter to Phivolcs officer in charge Renato Solidum to take a look at the steam coming out from under the road of Lakewood Subdivision in Barangay Tadalac.

Kalaw believed the white smoke has something to do with the volcanic activity within Mt. Makiling.

"There appears to be white smoke coming out of the drainage canal," he said in his letter. "I am writing to ask your assistance as regards [to] these matters. We need your expert opinion to quell the demand of our community for a valid explanation."

Kalaw personally went to Lakewood to inspect the smoke.

He then met with the Tadalac's barangay council, officials from Laguna's Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Office, Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), and the homeowners association of Lakewood Subdivision to discuss the immediate plan of action.

## Slight panic

In his video statement, Kalaw admitted that the steam coming from the drainage canal of Lakewood is a thing of concern for everyone.

*"Merong konting kaba. Hindi mo masasabing walang kaba. Talagang magkakaroon ng kaba dahil sa usok* (There is some panic. You cannot say there is no panic. There will really be panic because of the smoke)," he said.

But he said, "Sa tingin ko, wala naman ako makitang danger. Usok lang na gayon (I think there is no danger. Just a mere smoke)."

He said the underground steam even helped him cook fried eggs during his childhood days.

Still, Kalaw called on those who have knowledge about the situation to impart it to the local government to help them resolve the matter.

*"Kung meron pong mga tao na nakakaintindi, mag-share po kayo sa Los Baños kung ano ang masasabi niyo. Welcome na welcome po kayo sa Los Baños* (If anyone of you has an understanding about this, share to Los Banos what you can say about it. You are very welcome here in Los Banos)," he said.

## 'It's normal'

Solidum, in a radio interview, affirmed Kalaw's statement that there is nothing to worry about regarding the underground smoke in Lakewood.

"Yung mga thermal area ay normal sa isang bulkan (These thermal areas are normal in a volcano)," Solidum said.

He said Makiling remains an inactive volcano at the moment and that the underground steam is not a sign of a legitimate volcanic activity within the said mountain.

*"Kung meron na dating thermal area dyan na tinabunan, syempre, yung tubig na mainit, pupunta sa culvert, at yung init, pupunta doon sa* (If a thermal area existed there before the land was developed, of course, the hot water will go to the culvert, and the steam will go to the) drainage. [There is] no cause for alarm," Solidum said.





In a statement, Phivolcs said, "*Ang nakitang steaming ay mula sa hot springs katulad ng hot spring resorts na pinupuntahan sa Laguna. Ang hot springs ay normal na makikita sa mga bulkan* (The steaming that was seen came from hot springs similar to the hot spring resorts that are being frequented in Laguna. The hot springs are normally seen in a volcano)."

Los Baños is home to some popular hot spring resorts and even private pools.

Some private pools are actually situated inside Lakewood Subdivision. **(PNA)**



## Mt. Makiling 'di sasabog – DOST, PHIVOLCS



February 11, 2021 @ 5:54 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nilinaw na walang indikasyong sasabog ang Mt. Makiling sa Laguna sa kabila ng pangamba ng mga residente dahil sa nakikitang usok.

Binista ni Los Baños Mayor Tony Kalaw ngayong Huwebes ang Lakewood Subdivision sa Barangay Tadalac kung saan nagmumula ang misteryosong usok na sinasabing mula sa Mt. Makiling.

Batay sa Department of Science and Technology-CALABARZON, makaraan ang konsultasyon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) at miyembro ng Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council, inactive na ang Mt. Makiling.

Sinabi naman ng lokal na pamahalaan na magsusumite sila ng liham sa DENR-MGB.

Nanawagan na rin ang Los Banos local government sa imbestigasyon sa PHIVOLCS maging ang scientific explanation ng pinagmulan ng usok. **RNT/FGDC**



# Residents alarmed as sewers emit steam in Los Baños subdivision

**Published** February 11, 2021 9:09pm

Residents of a subdivision in Los Baños, Laguna were alarmed after thick steam emitted from several sewers in the area while water could be heard boiling.

According to Jun Veneracion's report on "24 Oras," the barangay captain of Barangay Tadalac, Bobit Meneses, was surprised when he saw the steam.

"Ito po 'yung mga nireport na lumabas na nagbibigay ng steam. Kung lalapit po kayo, madirinig niyo na kumukulo ang tubig. Pati rin po sa bandang doon. Ayan po maliwanag na napakalakas ng usok. Ngayon lang po nangyari ito," Meneses said in his video.

The video quickly became viral and Meneses explained that he posted it to urge authorities to take action.

"Gusto ko sana kunin ang atensyon ng lahat na ito ay hindi magandang senyales," he said. Residents were concerned as the area is near Mt. Makiling, a dormant volcano.

"Ang kinakatakot po kasi ng mga resident dito baka nga magkaroon ng biglang pumutok," a resident said.

"Tayo po ba ay nalalagay sa alanganin, sa peligro? Ang ating mga anak, ating mga susunod na henerasyon ay wala po bang magiging problema? 'Yun po ang layunin ng aking bidyo," he said.

The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and local offices have looked into the sewers.

Authorities said the steam was due to a hot spring.

"Most likely doon lumalabas kasi sarado, may pavement. Humahanap siya kung saan siya sisingaw. So singaw lang talaga siya," Provincial Environment and Natural Resources officer Ronilo Salac said.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) also explained that a hot spring may have been covered, leading it to emit steam somewhere else.

PHIVOLCS said that the sewers should not be tampered with as much as possible.

"Kunwari mayroong dating thermal spots diyan o springs na natabunan, posible namang dumaan ito sa iba pang lugar," PHIVOLCS director Renato Solidum said.

Solidum also advised residents not to panic, saying that no abnormal activity was monitored at Mt. Makiling.

"Huwag po kayong mag-panic dahil ito po ay normal na mga pangyayari dahil nga ang Bulkang Makiling, kahit hindi po siya aktibo ay mainit ang bato," he said.—**Joahna Lei Casilao/LDF, GMA News**  
Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/775637/residents-alarmed-as-sewers-emit-steam-in-los-banos-subdivision/story/?utm\\_source=GMANews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1dBHeMyTFGtSum5JY3NGKA6yn0typSZBml35cd10NNifxAWgIssREHH7g](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/775637/residents-alarmed-as-sewers-emit-steam-in-los-banos-subdivision/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1dBHeMyTFGtSum5JY3NGKA6yn0typSZBml35cd10NNifxAWgIssREHH7g)



17h · 🌐

Nabahala ang ilang residente ng Lakewood Subdivision sa Barangay Tadalac sa Los Baños, Laguna kung saan may sumisingaw na usok na hinihinalang mula sa Mt. Makiling.

Nag-inspeksyon si Los Baños Mayor Antonio Kalaw sa nasabing lugar. Sasangguni rin sila ngayong araw sa DENR-MGB at Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) para higit pang pag-aaral sa insidente.

Ang Mt. Makiling ay isang inactive volcano. Ang mga spring at steam ay ebidensiya ng mga old magma sa lugar, ayon sa DOST Calabarzon.

🏠: Municipal Government of Los Baños



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# Group offers \$200M waste management deal

By **Malaya Business Insight** -February 12, 2021



P300M investment. Metro Clark Waste Management, m continues to expand its facilities to further service their LGU and corporate clients.

A consortium composed of Metro Clark Waste Management (MCWM) and partners from Germany and the United Arab Emirates has submitted an unsolicited proposal to the government for a \$200-million integrated waste management system to serve the waste management requirements of Central Luzon under a long-term contract.

MCWM in a statement said the project will be built on the current Sitio Kalangitan site of its facility and will be fully funded by the consortium.

The company did not elaborate but said its proposal will expand the landfill's capacity for another 50 years.

MCWM said the project will employ proven globally proven technologies involving waste sorting and involves the construction of a 35MW waste-to-energy plant  
MWCM, the only ISO-certified waste management company in the Philippines, is currently undergoing a P300-million expansion to its engineered sanitary landfill which is set to be completed this year.

The company is the exclusive developer of the solid waste management system of the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone, including New Clark City. The 100-hectare landfill can handle waste of up to 4,000 tons per day, which services leading multinationals in the consumer products and petroleum industries as well as over 90 local government units including the capital cities of Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, and Pangasinan.



# Metro Clark Undergoes P300-Million Expansion, Enforces Stricter Protocols Post-Pandemic



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#)  
February 11, 2021

As the country enters the new year continuing to navigate the challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, good public health and sanitation has become more important than ever before. Metro Clark Waste Management (MCWM) pushes forward with the expansion of its facilities to ensure continued service for the ever-growing waste management needs of its local government units (LGUs) and corporate clients, while maintaining stricter protocols for the safety of its employees and partners.

Situated in Sitio Kalangitan, Clark Special Economic Zone, MCWM is currently undergoing a P300-million expansion to its engineered sanitary landfill and is set to be completed this year. Multiple local and international studies have projected that the volume of Philippine household waste is expected to far exceed available disposal capacity. The additional seven hectares being developed by MCWM is part of the company's mission to serve the country's ever-growing waste disposal requirements.

Where many other companies are adopting a conventional stance and conserving resources during the pandemic, MCWM is accelerating investment; building an additional leachate treatment plant to ensure proper treatment of waste by-products, as well as a separate disposal cell for industrial waste. The company also said it was investing in additional vehicles, and other equipment and infrastructure.

Its efficient waste management operations in Central Luzon, relentless focus on client service, and strict compliance with DENR standards, have allowed MCWM to maintain its growth trajectory. Despite the effects of the pandemic, the company managed over 20 percent more waste in 2020 versus the previous year.

DENR recently reported its aim to close all open dumpsites, which are considered illegal, this year.

"At a time when many of our countrymen are facing so many challenges due to the pandemic, it is very gratifying to us that we can continue to provide such an essential service to our clients; and that they don't need to worry about the proper disposal of their waste," said Vicky Gaetos, MCWM's Executive Vice President and General Manager.

"We commit to effectively fulfill our role by investing in new technology, equipment, and infrastructure that will allow us to serve our LGUs and industrial clients, all of whom also acknowledge the need for proper waste management that is safe for the public and the environment," continues Gaetos.



MCWM also continues to implement stricter on-site protocols to maintain regular operations and ensure its employees' safety. These measures include regular and frequent disinfection of its waste collection trucks and official company vehicles, deployment of personal protective equipment for all staff including hospital-grade gear for trained personnel inspecting medical waste, use of only company-provided footwear inside the premises, and implementation of comprehensive protocols for suspected, confirmed, and recovering cases. Moreover, MCWM continues to support the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ongoing thrust to ensure the strict compliance to the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (RA 9003) of waste disposal sites in the Philippines.

With proper, environmentally sound and technology-driven waste processing at the core of its 20-year experience, MCWM remains to be the only waste management company of its kind in the Philippines. It is the first and only waste management firm in the country that utilizes European environmental protection technology and equipment. It is also the only ISO-certified (9001-2015/ 14001-2015/ 45001-2018) waste management company in the Philippines. MCWM is fully compliant with RA 9003 and, in serving them, allows its LGU and industrial clients to comply with the same.

MCWM, as part of a consortium with partners from Germany and the United Arab Emirates, has also submitted an unsolicited proposal to the government for a \$200-million integrated waste management system to serve the waste management requirements of the entire region for decades to come. The project will be built on the current Sitio Kalangitan site and will be fully funded by the consortium. The system will employ proven globally proven technologies involving waste sorting, and the construction of a 35MW waste-to-energy plant, all of which will effectively expand the landfill's capacity for another 50 years.



# Ifugao town opens eco-tourism sites

By Liza Agoot February 11, 2021, 12:35 pm



**BIRD WATCHING.** The town of Alfonso Lista in Ifugao province has been included in the annual Asian water bird census. The municipal government has opened bird watching as an eco-tourism destination and activity to provide relaxation to locals and residents of neighboring provinces while still complying with the health and safety requirement to prevent the coronavirus disease 2019 from spreading. The activity coincides with Ifugao's thrust in preserving the environment. (PNA photo by Liza T. Agoot)

**ALFONSO LISTA, Ifugao** – This town has opened its outdoor tourism destinations to Ifugaos and neighboring provinces to provide a respite for people who have been locked in their homes for several months due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

Lorena Dulnuan, municipal tourism officer, in a text message on Wednesday, said their outdoor destinations include the 1.5-kilometer 1,000 Steps, bird watching, and the Domingo Ranch agri-tourism destination. These are available to residents from the different towns of Ifugao and the neighboring provinces such as Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela, and Cagayan in Region 2, and Mountain Province in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

“Both destinations are open spaces, large spaces where people can have free movement and breath freely aside from observing physical distancing. We still provide an opportunity for people to have a refreshing environment, to unwind after staying in their homes for several months due to the pandemic,” Dulnuan said.

The 1,000 Steps and the bird watching attractions are located in Barangay Sto. Domingo, on the side of the Magat reservoir managed by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), both on the side of Ifugao.

The 1,000 Steps lies on a 497-meter concrete pathway that stretches 1.56 kilometers towards a hill that is lined with a canopy of trees. The trail has a number of panoramic viewpoints where people can take photos, sit, rest or just enjoy nature.

The bird watching features the white egrets flying in and out of their sanctuary and the Philippine ducks enjoying the warmth of the sun. The site is also ideal for picnics and relaxation, sunset and sunrise viewing, and photography.

On the other hand, the Domingo Ranch is an agri-tourism destination that has a variety of edible plant species, chicken species that include the easter chicken which lays colored eggs, and the PHP1,500-per kilo silk chicken that the Chinese believe to be medicinal.

The ranch is a self-sustaining place where visitors are fed with food mostly obtained from the farm.

“We all know that when we are in a place like this, *nakaka-relax sa ating mind at* (relaxing to the mind and) soul,” she said.

Dulnuan said their town was included in the Asian waterbird census in 2013 which prompted the local government to start developing the area where people can stay while watching the birds. From then on, the place became part of the annual count of waterbirds, an international activity of environmental advocates.

“These birds are important to the environment, the eco-system because if we do not take care of them, it's like removing a part of the ecology. Here, we can watch nature with the bird, we can commune with the beauty of the birds,” she said.

Dulnuan said that Ifugao's thrust in preserving the environment is still focused on heritage sites, biodiversity preservation, and the town's promotion of its destination is not veering away from the concept of Ifugao culture and environment.





Sylvia Chinayog of the Department of Tourism-Cordillera Administrative Region (DOT-CAR), in a separate interview, said the department is helping in the promotion of eco-tourism and agri-tourism destinations, especially with their big potential.

She said that aside from being compliant to the “outdoor” requirement of the Inter-Agency Task Force for emerging diseases, it also maximizes the potential of the areas for preservation and economic activity and farmers getting more value from producing food.

“We are doubling the benefit from the destination and providing an opportunity for locals to have an employment,” Chinayog said.

She said that people have learned to enjoy experiential tourism where they get to be part of protecting the place and harvesting the food they will eat while enjoying the activity. (**PNA**)

# Eco group calls for subsidized vehicle inspections at MVICs

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz February 11, 2021, 7:59 pm



Clean Air Philippines Movement Inc. president Dr. Leo Olarte. (Screenshot)

**MANILA** – An environmental group on Thursday called for subsidized vehicle inspections at motor vehicle inspection centers (MVICs) to retain the environmental, health, and safety advantages of MVICs over Private Emission Testing Centers (PETCs) while easing the economic burden on vehicle owners.

In a statement, Clean Air Philippines Movement Inc. (CAPMI) president Dr. Leo Olarte has asked Congress to sponsor a bill authorizing government subsidy for MVICs to lower vehicle inspection fees during the Covid-19 pandemic instead of stopping mandatory inspections at these establishments.

“Our life-threatening problems on respiratory and cardiovascular diseases due to unabated motor vehicle emissions, the needless Filipino deaths yearly due to road accidents or crashes, and of course the equally urgent global problem on climate change cannot wait to be addressed anymore,” Olarte said.

Olarte said operation of MVICs is mandated under the Clean Air Act of 1999 and other land transportation laws, noting that health and safety risks brought by non-roadworthy vehicles “are more dangerous than Covid-19.”

“Let us help mitigate the pain and suffering of our people due to Covid-19 as we seriously fight an equally deadly and continuous threat to human health, life, and limb plus the global climate emergency brought about by air pollution from unabated motor vehicle emissions worldwide,” Olarte said.

During an online presser, Transportation Assistant Secretary Giovanni Lopez said the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) will look into providing assistance to MVICs.

This, after President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ordered not to make mandatory vehicle inspections at MVICs as a requirement for vehicle registration at the LTO due to its expensive fees and complaints on its results.

“Susuriin po natin ang libro, susuriin po natin ang ating budget, at kung meron po, ay handa kaming tumulong po (We will look into our books, our budget, and if we find enough funds, we are ready to help),” Lopez said.

Meanwhile, Inigo Larrazabal, president of the Vehicle Inspection Center Operators Association of the Philippines (VICOAP), said their group will not ask “for a single peso from this government” and instead asked critics of their operations both in Congress and the Senate to inspect their facilities and have MVICs “remembered as partners.”

“What we are seeking for is the understanding of our congressmen and senators that we hear you, we hear the people, and we are willing to work with each and everyone for transparency,” Larrazabal said.

In the same virtual presser, the DOTr and other stakeholders also announced that MVICs will lower inspection fees aside from waiving re-testing fees for a year. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1130417>



## Week 38 of coronavirus quarantine: Protect Nature, protect yourself

By [Ma. Isabel Ongpin](#)

February 12, 2021

THIS pandemic, the Covid-19 affliction that is universal on planet Earth, has brought thoughts of why, how and where things or events conspired to bring it about. The World Health Organization is currently investigating the details of Covid-19's origins in Wuhan, China, but that will bring out only particulars, not the universal answer.

One of the major views about the origins of the pandemic is that abuse of the environment through human activity with no regard for the consequences to Nature could be a large and resonating factor.

The rise in global temperature; the pollution of the air we breathe; the decimation of trees, marshes, animals and insects are all in the mix of human activities that have been the doom of the environment. Further, the despoliation of the oceans and seas through the use of fossil oil and its products, i.e., plastics and other such materials that are inorganic and therefore do not decompose but remain as trash that pollute, is by now a given. Not to mention manmade activities in the oceans like dynamite fishing that hurts sea creatures, and toxic effluents. Then there is the very visible and palpable climate change which everyone has noted and experienced for the worse. Icebergs of time immemorial are melting, oceans are rising, animals and plants are on the road to extinction. The balance of Nature is imperiled.

All of these events are impacting severely, seriously and disastrously on human life. They affect our food sources and our health and the future generations negatively. Diseases like respiratory illnesses that shorten human lives are one example. They can also bring about cancer, a major cause of death everywhere. Then we wonder where Ebola, SARS and coronavirus come from because they are here and cannot be ignored but must be fought as a matter of self-defense. We are now having to stand up to Nature gone amok because of our tampering with it resulting in its imbalance.

Maybe all this devastation will make us change our behavior. At least the organized world is now designing protocols, rules and attitudes that should revere Nature by understanding it, protecting it and giving way to its needs over our own habits. There is a long way to go, but there seem to be some beginning steps that promise change. More information and examples of better environmental behavior should be spread. And individuals, not just organizations, nations, specialized agencies should take responsibility and do their part.

Here in the Philippines, we now think of valuing our Philippine Eagle. No more wantonly hunting it down, and for that matter any other birds among us. It was not too long ago that adults and boys would go around with guns to shoot neighborhood avians for the fun of it. We have stopped tamaraw hunting and recognized the tamaraw as an endangered species that is endemic to this country. Cutting trees is now viewed with disapproval and opposition. Wood products are now acceptable only if they come from managed and sustainable tree farms. People going to Palawan are no longer allowed to bring back any birds from there on public transportation as was practically a custom. In fact, the bringing of wildlife, even plants from their native habitat is now controlled. You have to have permits and good reasons to acquire them. Zoos are being monitored for competent and humane treatment of animals. At least that is the rule. In the past, vendors of wildlife would publicly offer them for sale in streets, markets, wherever people congregated. That is no longer allowed. The single use plastic is under siege with many towns outlawing them though there is as yet no critical mass to completely stop their use.

Nevertheless, there are still too many wildlife contraband traders in this country exporting reptiles, birds, insects and anything that commands a price. There should be a clampdown on these tribes, with jail term as a consequence.



The present moves to reverse human activity that is affecting the balance of Nature are still not enough. Even if there are laws stipulating such, they are more honored in the breach than in observance. Every nation and every person must understand and cooperate to achieve what is needed. So far, the world has not yet reached that point. Poverty and ignorance have to be addressed to bring it about as environmental damage comes from them. Rules, information, models and education, everything that is needed should be put in place and the hour is getting late.

On the bright side though, in small individual ways, with the pandemic lockdown people have noted and begun to appreciate their surroundings now that they are not hurrying to and fro. Those who have gardens are tending to them and appreciating the rewards of their efforts. Those who do not, make their own, be it in containers, big and small, where the sun shines through the windows of their homes and apartments. Or make flower and or plant arrangements to bring Nature into their homes and lives. Could it be that people are now appreciating and taking more care of household pets? Let us hope so because they too are Nature and can help us get through these days of lockdown and stress. Let us hope that this will be a trend that will become permanent.

Some privately initiated nongovernment organizations have come up to work for the environment by teaching and showing examples of how to carry out human activities with a respect for it. They are now part of the everyday scene. They give information and actually help bring about environmental measures like how to dispose of garbage, avoid plastic and non-organic material, recycle, reuse items in business and everyday life. Sustainability has to be the norm.

There are, too, in general personal observations and appreciation of a sunny day, even a rainy day, cloud formations, the sky at night with the stars and planets that reveal themselves to us if we take the time to look, as well as seeing and appreciating plants and trees, birds and wildlife in our world. Now there is time to do it.

Look at our sunsets. They are glorious, colorful and varied. They are so stunning they seem unreal. But they are real with a distinct Philippine brand. Last Friday I received photos of beautiful sunsets from Batangas, Bataan, Zambales and Manila from friends looking and admiring them, noticing them and sharing their experiences with others. The sunset over Manila Bay is famed and indeed when you see it, it deserves to be so. But Batangas, Bataan, Zambales, and probably Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Jolo can give it a run for its beauty.

Protect Nature, Protect yourself. Live a balanced life for a better world.



# Dangers of individualism in environmentalism

By [Gab Meija](#)

February 12, 2021

ONE of the greatest struggles of being an environmentalist is undoubtedly the implications of our individual actions. A person practicing veganism may find himself at a crossroads when faced with limited choices for the food that he eats — from the inaccessibility of plant-based food servings due to the lack of restaurants that offer such fare, to the financial constraints of costlier options. Poverty-stricken citizens are left with no choice but to choose food that is cheaper, such as processed meat and canned goods, when faced with survival. The same goes with the story of single-use plastic. How toiletries, sachets and plastic packaging are just much cheaper than the alternative modern eco-packaging made out of seaweed, decomposable starch or sugarcane containers. Majority of people are left with no choice but to save that extra peso, as it is more often than not a question of having to eat for the day. Everything that we do, and everything we will do, will have consequences one way or another. Even the use of our smartphones and computers that power our whole developed world could have such great implications since the lithium, copper and other metals found in each of such technological products are being mined in lands that were once full of trees and life. It is as if it is a sin in the name of environmentalism to live as an ordinary human being in today's world.

However, the greatest danger that comes with all these intertwining implications is that the burden has always been put on the individual. Buy a metal straw so that a sea turtle would not have a plastic straw hinged to its nose. Where once you would indeed have bought a metal straw, you are forced to reckon with the idea that you are supporting the mines destroying precious lands and forests to make this metal straw. Even the choice of the type of milk you consume for breakfast, whether dairy, soy or almond — articles and studies show that even plant-based milk may be a worse substitute since swaths of lands are needed to plant these crops. Where now it all depends on what environmental issue you think is graver, choosing whether climate change and animal cruelty for cow's milk is worse than land conversion and biodiversity loss for soy milk. Why does it seem that our simple choices even with the plethora of solutions and alternatives in saving our environment are far more complicated than it should be? And why does it even have to be so? Why aren't the companies, corporations and businesses that have left us with such frustrating situations aren't doing much, or rather anything at all? It is as if our environment depends solely on the good of the individual, when in truth we all depend on the environment.

Thousands to millions of people are marching on the streets to fight against climate change, changing their lifestyles and sacrificing much more than they already have, where companies and corporations with much more greater capacity and power are left to only save themselves. It cannot be denied that millions of livelihoods also depend on them, but it is difficult to believe that it is harder for such powerful entities to change themselves when many individuals have already changed. Amsterdam, the capital city of the Netherlands, is already on its way to embracing a new economic model, the "doughnut" model, which is a breakthrough economy meant to consider such environmental implications in achieving a planet in balance. From considering the effects of ocean acidification, climate change to waste production and pollution. Now we only need pose the question — when will the others follow suit?

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Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/12/opinion/columnists/dangers-of-individualism-in-environmentalism/839810/>



## Brgy. kapitan, 8 pa naaktuhan nagkakarga ng nilagareng kahoy sa truck

On Feb 11, 2021



ARESTADO ang isang punong barangay at 8 kasamahan nito nang maaktuhang nagkakarga ng mga iligal na pinutol na kahoy sa isang truck sa Barangay Cataguing, San Mariano, Isabela. Kinilala ang mga naaresto na sina Harley Deolazo, 54 anyos, kapitan ng Brgy. Cataguing; Helbert Martinez, 30; Donald Cachuela, 37; Jeffrey Deray, 31; Michael Bacani, 19; at Jomari Palattao, 29, pawang residente ng Brgy. Buyasan, San Mariano; Jerold Malsi, 34; Jerry mi Malsi, 29; at Jackson Malsi, 37, pawang residente ng Brgy. Cataguing.

Nagsagawa ng anti illegal logging operation sa Pinacanauan River sa Brgy. Cataguing ang magkasanib na puwersa ng Police Intervention Unit, Isabela Police Provincial Office, San Mariano Police Station, at 1st Isabela Police Mobile Force Company na nagresulta ng pagkakaaresto sa punong barangay at walong kasamahan.

Nasamsam ang humigit kumulang 2,000 board feet ng nilagareng kahoy na isinakay sa 6X6 truck (BCJ 617) na pagmamay-ari ni Deolazo .

Ang mga dinakip at sasakyan na naglalaman ng mga kahoy ay dinala sa San Mariano Police Station para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon .

Source: <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2021/02/11/brgy-kapitan-8-pa-naaktuhan-nagkakarga-ng-nilagareng-kahoy-sa-truck/?fbclid=IwAR2ufLRqka23FXd8Jsf5cOk-haj3hKwL5TbURT7DYGQRJz6gvyqFN-2GrMk>



## China vaccines darating sa Pinas sa Pebrero 23

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - February 12, 2021 - 12:00am



“Ang bakuna na Sinovac na galing sa China, nakaukit na sa bato ang pagda-ting, ito ay sa 23 ng Pebrero,” pahayag ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque. Ayon pa kay Roque, 100,000 doses ang donasyon ng gobyerno ng China sa Department of National Defense (DND).

Sinovac, file

MANILA, Philippines — Aabot sa 600,000 doses ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19 na gawa ng Sinovac Biotech ng China ang darating sa bansa sa Pebrero 23.

“Ang bakuna na Sinovac na galing sa China, nakaukit na sa bato ang pagda-ting, ito ay sa 23 ng Pebrero,” pahayag ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque.

Ayon pa kay Roque, 100,000 doses ang donasyon ng gobyerno ng China sa Department of National Defense (DND).

Ang 500,000 doses naman ay ilalaan para sa medical frontliners.

“Iyon po iyong donated, 600,000 – 500,000 para sa ating mga frontliners, 100, 000 para sa ating kasundaluhan. Iyan po kasi iyong desisyon ng donor, bansang Tsina. So, wala po tayong magagawa doon sa 100,000 na nilaan talaga ng Tsina para sa kasundaluhan,” ani Roque,

Ang Sinovac ay wala pang emergency use authorization (EUA) mula sa Food and Drug Administration na kaila-ngan upang legal na magamit sa bansa.

Matatandaan na tanging ang COVID-19 vaccine ng Pfizer-BioNTech at AstraZeneca ng United Kingdom ang nabigyan ng EUAs ng Food and Drug Administration.



# Target: Zero waste

(The Philippine Star) - February 12, 2021 - 12:00am

When we put our minds to it, efficiency is possible.

Watching the simulations of the series of actions planned upon arrival in the country of the initial batch of COVID vaccines (slightly delayed, but still within the month), it looks like the inoculation rollout will have minimal glitches.

It helps that the initial batch will be only 117,000 doses. The volume will allow the testing of vaccination capabilities. It also makes documentation of the targeted recipients easier, with the priority list strictly followed and no one jumping the line.

And it helps that it looks like the first doses – delivered under the aegis of the World Health Organization's COVAX Facility – will be from US firms Pfizer and Moderna (some reports say there will be AstraZeneca-Oxford jabs as well). In this case, the government's problem will not be vaccine hesitancy but jumping the inoculation queue. Those 117,000 shots will be used up in the blink of an eye.

Another possible problem will be the proliferation of fake vaccines, once the genuine articles arrive. Any shots that aren't part of the national government's centralized procurement could be fake – mere placebos, or worse.

Fortunately, the victims of such scams will likely be those who want to jump ahead of the line. So if they do get their hands on fake jabs, they fully deserve to suffer the consequences.

\* \* \*

Vaccine hesitancy among Filipinos – as informal consultations and surveys have shown – is directed mainly at vaccines made in China. This is where it is suggested that top government officials lead by example and get the shots in public.

Since the announcement of the availability of 44 million doses under the COVAX Facility, however, the government's interest in the Chinese vaccines seems to have flagged somewhat.

There's still that donation of 500,000 CoronaVac doses from Beijing, developed by private Chinese pharma Sinovac. We can't be ungrateful and let vaccine hesitancy lead to the waste of half a million precious doses. But who will accept the Chinese vaccines, when the Western ones are already being rolled out here?

Not surprisingly, the answer is, give the shots to members of the military and police. The donation is enough for 250,000 soldiers and cops, at two doses each. Acceptance of the Sinovac shot could turn into a test of loyalty to the President and commander-in-chief, who looks like he's getting the Pfizer jab.

That leaves the duty of leading by example (by getting the Sinovac shots in public) to the chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police.

To ensure no wastage, the AFP and PNP should register its members who are willing to get the Sinovac shots, before the donated vaccines arrive. Who knows, if reliable tests show that the vaccine in fact works well, with high efficacy and no severely adverse side effects, the AFP and PNP vaccination could turn into an effective endorsement of China-made vaccines.





But at this point, thanks largely to the secrecy surrounding the development of the vaccines, plus their smuggling into the Philippines and hush-hush use by the Presidential Security Group (PSG) in September last year, Filipinos' distrust of jabs made in China is as deep as ever.

\* \* \*

President Duterte had blabbed that the vaccine used in September was the one made by Chinese state-owned Sinopharm. To this day we don't know who smuggled the vaccines and who got them; omerta is prized in this administration. But they must have worked well; yesterday Malacañang announced that the PSG was procuring 10,000 Sinopharm doses, after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the shots for compassionate use.

The PNP, AFP and PSG members who will accept the Chinese jabs aren't considered to be jumping the vaccination line. Instead they are seen as guinea pigs who can't afford to be choosy.

The 44 million doses under COVAX will need to be augmented with about 90 million more to cover at least 70 percent of our population for herd immunity.

Faced with resistance to Chinese vaccines, we may turn to the Russians.

\* \* \*

The Russian jab, Sputnik V, received a major confidence boost with the publication of a peer-reviewed study in the respected medical journal The Lancet, which reported that the vaccine developed by Gamaleya Research Institute in Moscow had a 91.6 percent efficacy against COVID.

Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of Russia's sovereign wealth fund, the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which financed the Sputnik V project, is proud to report that the vaccine uses the long-tested conventional methodology in vaccine development rather than the untested messenger RNA technology, which allowed Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca to roll out their jabs in record time.

Sputnik V also requires only regular refrigeration temperature for storage, Dmitriev told us Tuesday night on "The Chiefs" on Cignal TV's OneNews. Russia also says the vaccine provides long-term immunity, although this can be established with certainty only after the passage of time.

The Russians have filed for emergency use authorization for Sputnik V from the Philippines' FDA. Recent reports said the FDA is still waiting for the submission of certain documents. Dmitriev, however, told us that as far as they are concerned, all the necessary documents have already been submitted and are in order.

He says Russia is capable of large-scale production of Sputnik V, which will cost only about half the price of Western vaccines. I'm not sure if he was referring to the no-profit, no-loss price of P500 we're paying for the UK's AstraZeneca-Oxford jab.

Procuring from different sources, we might yet have a COVID-free, merry Christmas 2021, and a truly happy New Year in 2022. That is if the vaccine rollout is efficient, and no jab is wasted.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/02/12/2077133/target-zero-waste>



## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL, KUNG HEI FAT CHOI



February 12, 2021 @ 12:30 AM 6 hours ago

PARA sa mga Chinese sa buong mundo, kasama ang mga Chinoy, Bagong Taon ngayon, Pebrero 12, 2021.

Kaya naman, binabati natin ang lahat ng Mapagpala at Maunlad na Bagong Taon.

Chūn Jiē Yú Kuài at Kung Hei Fat Choi.

Kahit nasa gitna tayo ng pandemya, ang panahong ito para sa mga Chinese ay spring at nangangahulugan ng malaking pag-asa sa buhay.

Ipinagbubunyi ang pagdating ng spring dahil ito ang panahon ng pagtubo at paglago ng mga halaman at punongkahoy.

At mula sa paglago ng mga ito, umaasa tayo ng magandang ani at kung ganun, naririyang ang pag-asa natin para mapawi ang kagutuman, maganda at luntiang kapaligiran at pag-unlad.

Kaya naman, muli, Kung Hei Fat Choi.

### DOBLENG MASK AT HEALTH PROTOCOL

Para higit na magkaroon ng kabuluhan ang Chinese New Year na kinilala na mismo ng ating pamahalaan para ipagdiwang taon-taon, dapat na hindi tayo mahawa at makahawa ng sakit, lalo na ang coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Ito palang double mask, mga Bro, ay magandang panangga laban sa COVID-19 at mismong ang Centers for Disease Control sa United States ang nagsabi nito makaraan itong magsagawa ng mga eksperimento.

Sabi ng CDC, kung mag-double mask lang ang 95 porsyento ng mamamayan na pumupunta sa mga pambublikong lugar, hindi lang libo-libo kundi daang libo ang maliligtas sa hawaan at kamatayan.

Sa double mask kasi, ayon sa CDC, mapipigilan ang droplet o talsik ng laway sa isa't isa.

Pero ang sinasabing double mask ay pagsusuot ng surgical mask at nakaibabaw rito ang mask na gawa sa tela.

Kaya lang, dapat umanong nakalapat sa buong ilong at bunganga ang double mask na ito upang hindi makapasok ang mga droplet sa ilong at bunganga ng tao na kabilang sa mga pasukan patungo sa katawan ng tao ng virus ng pandemya.



May babala ang ilang doktor natin sa Pinas na baka maubusan naman tayo ng nilalanghap na oxygen.

Pero sa nasabing eksperimento, hindi naman ito napag-usapan kundi ang ganda ng resulta ng double mask laban sa COVID-19 ang napatunayan.

Pero hindi umano sapat ito.

Dapat kasama umano ang double masking ng physical distancing, pag-iwas sa maramihang pagtitipon ng mga tao, pag-iwas sa mga kulob na lugar, palagiang paghuhugas ng kamay at iba pa.

Magagawa ba natin ang lahat ng ito para naman maging happy tayo sa Chinese New Year?

Sa totoo lang, hindi mahirap gawin ang mga ito.

Para na rin sa ating mga sarili at sa iba, kasama na ang ating mga pamilya at buong bayan.

### **THIRD WAVE SA EUROPE**

Grabe ang nagaganap sa Europa ngayon.

Sinasalakay sila ng luma at mga bagong anyo ng COVID-19 na United Kingdom variant, South Africa variant at Brazil variant.

Itong mga bagong anyo ay higit na nakahahawa kumpara sa lumang virus at dahil bilis nitong makahawa, mas marami ang nagkakasakit at darami rin ang mamamatay.

At may mga namamatay na nga.

Kaya naman, upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng virus sa Europa, tinuloy-tuloy na ang mga pambansang lockdown hanggang Abril, gaya ng ginawa ng Germany.

Mismong ang World Health Organization na rin ang nagsabing hindi mapipigilan ng Europa ang magkaroon ng third wave o ikatlong sigwada ng pandemya hanggang nagrereleks ang mga ito.

Matatandaang ang Europa na binubuo ng 27 bansa ang ngayo'y pukpukan ang pagbabakuna at maraming mamamayan ang umaasang hindi na sila dadapuan.

Subalit heto na nga ang mga bagong anyo ng COVID-19 na sinasabing maaaring hindi makayanang talunin ng mga bakuna ngayon, gaya ng AstraZeneca na pinatigil ang paggamit nito sa South Africa dahil waepek ito sa South African variant.

Ang masamang balita pa, mga Bro, maaaring abutin ng anim na buwan o kalahating taon bago makagawa ang mga kompanya ng gamot ng nababagay na bakuna laban sa mga variant.

### **BABALA NOONG UNA NAGKATOTOO NA**

Noong kalagitnaan ng nakaraang buwan, nagbabala ang CDC na baka titira ang UK variant sa US nang todo.

Ngayon nga ay natataranta na ang mga Kano sa napakabilis umanong paglawak ng lugar na inaatake ng UK variant sa kanila.



Kung paisa-isa noon, ngayon ay daan-daan na ang nagkakasakit sa bagong anyo ng pandemya at maaari umanong manalasa ito hanggang buwang ng Marso.

Kaya naman, panay na ang pakiusap mismo ni Pangulong Joe Biden sa mga Kano at lahat ng naninirahan sa US na magsuot ang mga ito ng mask para mabawasan ang hawaan, pagkakasakit, pagkakaospital at pagkamatay.

Humuhupa na ang COVID-19 sa US at makikita sa mga rekord na bumagsak na ang biktima mula sa mahigit 200,000 araw-araw sa mahigit 100,000 na lang ay meron pa ngang dalawang araw na nasa 80,000 na lang.

Bumagsak pa nga rin ang bilang ng mga patay mula sa nasa 3,000-5,000 araw-araw sa nasa pagitan ng 1,000-2,000.

Pero bumabalik ang dami ng mga patay sa bilang na 3,000 araw-araw.

At sinasabing ang UK variant ang isang salarin.

Hindi umano gaanong tumitira sa mga bata-bata ang UK variant pero kung tumama sa mga senior citizen ay gayun na lamang.

## SA PINAS

Magpasalamat tayo at kahit papaano, hindi kasintindi ng nagaganap sa Europa at US ang problema sa COVID-19 na talaga namang 10,000-40,000 hanggang sa mahigit 100,000 araw-araw ang nahahawaan.

Magpasalamat din tayo na hindi katulad ng Pinas ang Mexico at Brazil na may 1,000 ding namamatay araw-araw.

Pero ang pagpapasalamat natin ay nakaugat siyempre sa pikit-mata sa hirap na pagdedesisyon ng ating pamahalaan na pairalin ang mga health protocol at community quarantine kung saan kinakailangan.

Lalo na ngayong nakarating na nga ang UK variant sa mahal kong Pinas.

At may napatay na nga nito, ang isang senior citizen sa Benguet.

Pero ito ang dapat nating pansinin.

Ilang linggo rin tayong pang-32 lamang sa rami ng may biktima at nagmula tayo sa pang-18.

Sa nakaraang dalawang araw, naging pang-31 o sumama ang kalagayan natin.

Ano sa palagay ninyo ang dapat gawin, mga Bro?



## Hidden costs of climate emergencies

By [Ben Kritz](#)

February 11, 2021

On Sunday, a flash flood in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand destroyed two hydroelectric projects under construction, washed away several small settlements and killed at least 150 people. The source of the flood was a glacial lake on or just below the Nanda Devi glacier, which falls from the mountain of the same name, India's second-highest peak.

What exactly happened is still unclear. Some reports say a part of the glacier collapsed while others pin the blame on the failure of a natural moraine dam. As the area is quite remote, Indian authorities are still conducting rescue-and-recovery operations, and have not yet been able to make a proper geological investigation.

The Indian government and sensible observers elsewhere are, at least, under no illusion as to why the flood occurred. In case it is not immediately obvious, it should be pointed out that a massive flood of meltwater — estimated at more than 2.3 million cubic meters — coming down a glacial valley at an elevation of above 4,000 meters in the Himalayas in February, the coldest month of the winter, is not normal.

Global warming is causing the Himalayan glaciers — the third-largest depository of fresh water on Earth, after the polar regions — to melt at a frightening rate; a study based on spy satellite data and cited by several Indian media outlets in the past couple of days estimated that the glaciers are losing half a meter of ice depth annually. Between 1980 and 2017, the glaciers of the upper Rishiganga catchment basin — the source of the Rishiganga is the Nanda Devi glacier, and it is one of the headwaters of the Ganges River — lost 217 percent of their surface area. The loss of the glaciers is likely irreversible; by 2035, the glaciers in this region will be gone, along with those in most of the rest of the Himalayas.

As the glaciers retreat, they create lakes of meltwater, either on the surface of the glaciers themselves, or more often behind moraines, loose ridges of rock and soil scraped up by the glaciers as they slowly flowed down the valleys in the past. The lakes are highly unstable and prone to suddenly bursting out of whatever contains them in what is called a glacial lake outflow (GLOF). For its part, the Indian government regards the lakes as guns aimed at the rest of the country, and there are a lot of them. The most recent survey, which is already six years out of date, of the headwaters basins of India's three great rivers — the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra — cataloged a total of 2,028 glacial lakes, virtually every one capable of causing a disaster similar to last Sunday's, or worse.

With all due respect to the people and government of India for their losses in lives and property, the Uttarakhand disaster serves as a good example to illustrate just how costly climate-related calamities really are. Even when they are not intentionally trying to downplay the costs of natural disasters — something the Philippine government seems to do as a matter of tradition — governments generally grossly underestimate their true impact.

Disaster costs are usually described in human terms — numbers of people injured or killed — which do not carry a monetary amount, and material terms — property, infrastructure, crops and other quantifiable goods damaged or destroyed. Sometimes, the costs of rescue, relief and recovery efforts are enumerated and included, but more often not, as these are provided for in dedicated budgets, either from the government's own resources or from financial support from other governments, multilateral development banks and other organizations.

These costs, however, although they can be shockingly high — the storms Ondoy and Peping were estimated to have cost between 3 and 5 percent of the country's gross domestic product in 2009, for instance — are only a fraction of the true costs of climate-related emergencies.



Let's take a look at India's recent disaster as an example. So far, the Indian government has only estimated the loss due to the destruction of the two new hydroelectric facilities, which was reported to be about 15 billion rupees (about \$210 million or P10.1 billion). They will undoubtedly also be able to put a monetary value on houses, roads, utility networks, livestock and other material goods lost, but that estimate has not yet been offered. They might even detail the costs involved in deploying hundreds of military and other rescuers, and providing relief in the form of food, shelter and financial assistance to displaced inhabitants of the affected area. It is fortunately a sparsely populated region, but people do live there, and some expense will be incurred in keeping them from starving or freezing to death.

What the government almost certainly will not calculate are the longer-term costs, which are more difficult to define, but are nevertheless very real. For starters, even though it is considered a morbid thought by non-economists, it is possible to assign a financial value to a human life. Whatever the 150 or so people killed in the flood would have produced in their lifetime is a sort of opportunity cost, and it is not insignificant. We can add to that the loss of income, at least temporarily, of the several hundred workers who were building the two hydroelectric projects, as well as the lost incomes of local inhabitants who have been displaced. A bigger loss than that, however, is the opportunity cost of lost potential productivity that those two power plants would have enabled. That might also only be temporary, a setback of year or a couple of years, but it still has an impact.

Likewise, there is an opportunity cost from diverted government resources, not only from the immediate need to respond to the disaster, but from longer-term climate adaptation efforts to deal with the threat from glacial lakes, efforts the Indian government has said it would need to accelerate. This involves pumping out or draining the lakes in a controlled manner, or where feasible, stabilizing the natural dams keeping them in place; and it will all need to be done in some of the most challenging, inhospitable terrain on Earth. That will take money, a lot of it, and while it might result in some productivity opportunities down the line, in the medium term it is simply money that cannot be spent on some other value-generating projects or services.

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## New efforts to clean the polluted air around the world

February 11, 2021 | Filed under: Editorial, Opinion | Posted by: Tempo Desk

**SINCE** the historic Paris Climate Agreement of December, 2015, many nations around the world have taken concrete steps to carry out its goal of reducing carbon emissions – mostly from industries and from motor vehicles cars – around the world so as to limit the rise in world temperatures that are now melting polar glaciers, raising ocean levels, and generating more and more powerful typhoons and hurricanes.

Early this week, the United States announced concrete steps it taking to help achieve its goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. We in the Philippines should see how we too can make our contributions and see which of these steps we too can adopt,

The US, now under new President Joseph Biden, announced it will:

- Offer new tax incentives to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles, on top of the present \$7,500 tax credit.
- Electrify the fleet of 650,000 government cars, as well as the nation's 500,000 school buses.
- Build an additional 500,000 public charging stations for electric vehicles by 2030.
- Invest \$5 billion in battery research to further reduce electric vehicle prices.
- Ensure every American city has high-quality zero-emissions public transport options.



The US states of California and Massachusetts have announced they will ban the sale of fossil fuel (gasoline and diesel) cars by 2040.

General Motors has committed \$27 billion in developing 30 new electric car models by 2025 while Ford Motor Co. will double its investment in vehicle electrification to \$22 billion

Another country, Australia, is now the world leader in manufacturing electric buses and trucks and in building fast-charging equipment.

Last March, 2020, the European Union called on all European nations to enact laws to meet the target of net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050. Last October, President Xi Jin Ping announced before the United Nations that China will be carbon-neutral by 2060, followed a week later by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga pledging that Japan will be too by 2050.



These are the world's top industrial nations and top sources of industrial emissions and it is only right that they now take the lead in cleaning up the atmosphere. But the rest of the world must join in the overall effort, including our own, the Philippines.

Right now, we are largely concerned with recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, but so are the other nations of the world. In the midst of all their efforts for recovery, they are carrying on their long-term plans and doing their part to clean up the pollution in the world's atmosphere. We too must do our part.





## Moscow battles brutal winter

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

February 12, 2021

**MOSCOW:** This Russian capital is bracing Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) for record snowfalls over the weekend, as weather experts predicted a record-breaking “snow apocalypse” in the Russian capital.

Top expert of the Fobos weather center Yevgeny Tishkovets said that the snowstorm would strike Moscow with “very high intensity” from the early hours of Friday and last for the next 36 hours.

He added that winds would reach speeds of 15-20 meters per second while temperatures would drop to as low as -15 degrees Celsius (5 degrees Fahrenheit).



*Moscow: A man removes snow from the roof of a building during a light snowfall in Moscow on February 11, 2021. Weather experts predicted record snowfalls in the Russian capital from Friday through to Sunday totalling up to around 40 centimetres (16 inches). AFP PHOTO*

“This is a real snow storm, snow Armageddon, snow apocalypse, this not a drill, but combat,” Tishkovets was cited by the RIA Novosti news agency as saying.

A spokesman for Russian meteorological service Roshydromet, Marina Makarova, told the Agence France-Presse that the storm is a continuation of the so-called “Beast from the East” that has swept across Europe over the past week.

She said that the agency predicts snowfall in the Russian capital from Friday through to Sunday totaling up to around 40 centimeters.

With some 35 centimeters of snow already blanketing Moscow, she said, the depth of snow in the Russian capital could approach or even surpass the record high of 77 centimeters set in March 2013.

Makarova added that the expected intensity of the storm was a result of a cyclone sweeping down from the north, first picking up cold air that then mixed with hot air over the Black Sea, before turning back up towards central Russia.

Scientists say that as the surface layer of oceans warm due to climate change, cyclones are becoming more powerful and carry more precipitation.

In preparation for the snowstorm, Moscow’s deputy mayor for housing and public utilities, Pyotr Biryukov, was cited by RIA Novosti as saying that 13,500 snowplows and 60,000 workers would be deployed to deal with the fallout of the storm.

“Round-the-clock shifts have been organized,” he said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/12/news/world/moscow-battles-brutal-winter/839894/>

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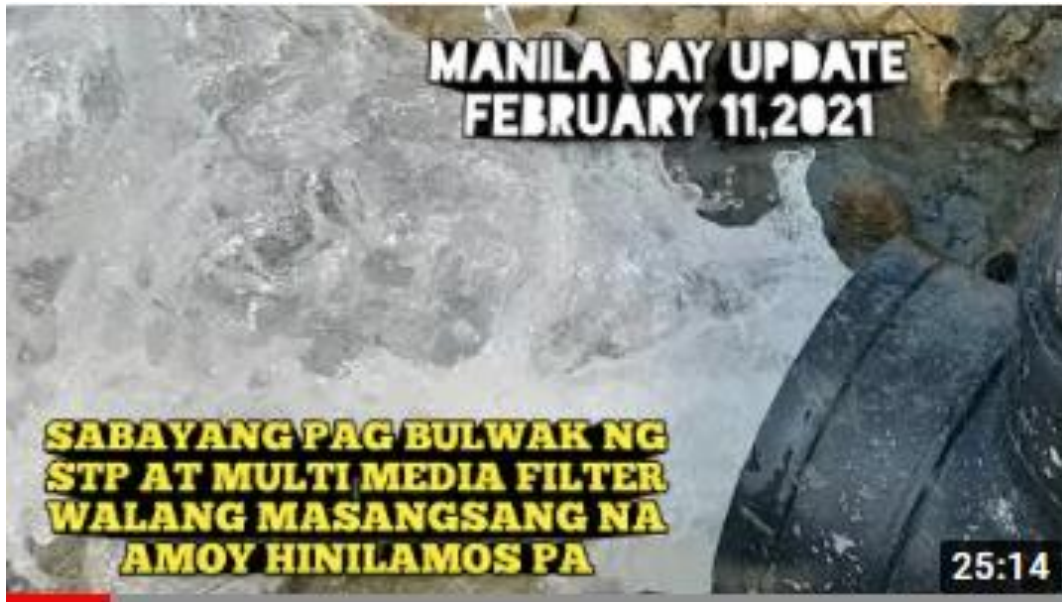
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