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TT 11:

Cimatu orders engineering measures, strict law enforcement to stop illegal wastewater discharge in Manila Bay

By DENR Published on January 12, 2021



An illegal culvert discovered hidden behind boulders at Station 640 along the Manila Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard was found to be discharging untreated wastewater directly into the bay. (DENR)

QUEZON CITY, Jan. 12 -- Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has ordered the establishment of engineering interventions and strict enforcement of environmental laws to stop illegal wastewater discharge along Roxas Boulevard amid the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"In order to solve the pollution in the waters of Manila Bay, we at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should trace all the illegal pipes that directly drain polluted wastewater to the bay," Cimatu said.

The DENR chief issued the statement after a culvert or drainage pipe discovered hidden behind boulders at Station 640 along the Manila Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard was found to be discharging untreated wastewater directly into the bay.

Based on water analysis, fecal coliform count in the area was significantly high at 50 million most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100ml).

After further inspection, three more alleged culverts along the baywalk were discovered. Pipes were found 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, was measured at 32 million MPN/100 ml. A total of 33 intake drainages were also observed from the US Embassy to the Manila Yacht Club.

Water coming from these drainages flow into a line drainage canal along the baywalk, drain towards the Remedios outfall, and eventually to Manila Bay.

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



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He added that the DENR will conduct further investigation to determine which establishments are connected to the illegal pipes.

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

"We want to make all violators realize that laws shouldn't be taken lightly if we want to see a behavior change in the next generations."

At the same time, Cimatu ordered the immediate plugging of these illegal outfalls in order to stop the flow of untreated waters that continue to pollute the bay, and for concerned establishments to connect to official sewer lines.

He also 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. (DENR)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1063588





Environment Sec. Cimatu, iniutos na barahan ang natuklasang illegal wastewater discharge sa Manila Bay

By <u>RadyoMaN Manila</u>
-Jan. 11, 2021 at 10:37am



Iniutos ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang pagpapatupad ng engineering interventions upang mapigilan ang illegal wastewater discharge sa Manila Bay.

Kasunod ito ng pagkakadiskubre ng DENR ng culvert o drainage pipe na patagong pinadaan sa mga malalaking bato sa kahabaan ng Manila Baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard na nagtatapon ng untreated wastewater patungo sa lawa.

Nais ni Cimatu na mabarahan ang illegal outfalls upang hindi na dumaloy ang dumi galing sa mga establisyimento patungo sa Manila Bay.

Base sa isinagawang water analysis, ang fecal coliform count sa lugar ay nasa 50 million most probable number per 100 milliliters.

Inaatasan din ang mga establishment owner na kumokonekta sa mga otorisadong sewer lines.

Pinag-aaralan ni Cimatu ang pagsasampa ng legal case laban sa mga may-ari ng mga establisyemento dahil sa posibleng paglabag sa environmental laws.





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Cimatu: Batas vs illegal wastewater discharge sa Manila Bay higpitan



January 11, 2021 @ 7:26 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang maging matagumpay ang isinasagawang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay, ipinag-utos ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na magkaroon ng engineering interventions kasabay ng mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng environmental laws upang matigil ang iligal na pagtatapon ng wastewater sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard sa gitna ng rehabilitasyon sa baybayin.

"In order to solve the pollution in the waters of Manila Bay, we at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should trace all the illegal pipes that directly drain polluted wastewater to the bay," sabi ni Cimatu.

Sinabi ito ni Cimatu matapos madiskubre ang daluyan ng tubig o drainage pipe na nakatago sa boulders ng Station 640 sa kahabaan ng Manila Baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard na direktang nagtatapon ng untreated wastewater sa baybayin.

Base sa DENR base sa water analysis, ang fecal coliform count sa naturang lugar ay mataas at umaabot sa 50 million most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100ml).

Sinabi pa ng DENR matapos ang isinagawang inspeksiyon, tatlo pang culvert ang nadiskubre sa baywalk.

Natuklasan ang pipes sa tabi ng Remedios drainage outfall sa tapat ng Aristocrat Restaurant, sa Station 240 sa tabi Padre Faura outfall at isa pa malapit sa Estero San Antonio de Abad outfall.

Sa Remedios outfall, ang coliform level ay umabot sa 32 million MPN/100ml. Mayroon namang 33 intake drainage ang nakita mula sa US Embassy hanggang Manila Yacht Club.

Nabatid pa sa DENR na ang tubig na nagmumula sa mga drainage ay dumadaloy sa line drainage canal sa baywalk patungo sa Remedios outfall hanggang sa Manila Bay.





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

Dagdag pa nito, patuloy na nagsasagawa ng imbestigasyon ang DENR upang matukoy kung alin sa mga establisiyamento ang nakakonekta sa illegal pipes.

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

"We want to make all violators realize that laws shouldn't be taken lightly if we want to see a behavior change in the next generations," dagdag pa nito.

Kasabay nito, ipinag-utos din ni Cimatu ang agarang pagsara o plugging ng illegal outfalls upang matigil ang pagdaloy ng untreated water na patuloy na nagpapadumi sa baybayin. Layon din nito na kumunekta ang mga establisiyamento sa mga opisyal na sewer lines.

Ibinilin pa nito sa Manila Bay Task Force na magsagawa ng desiltation at rehabilitasyon ng line drainage canal upang maisaayos ang daloy ng tubig patungo sa Padre Faura at Remedios outfalls. (Santi Celario)

Source: https://www.facebook.com/205833712770051/posts/3801205513232835/?app=fbl



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DENR-EMB lines up activities to mark Zero Waste Month

By DENR Published on January 12, 2021



QUEZON CITY, Jan 12 -- The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has lined up activities this January to celebrate Zero Waste Month and the 20th anniversary of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"Solid waste management ranks among the priority programs of the DENR especially in the context of our cleanup efforts in Manila Bay," Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said.

"Proper disposal of solid waste will avoid the clogging of tributaries and prevent trash from being washed into the rivers and seas that affect aquatic ecosystems, livelihood and health," the DENR chief pointed out.

The DENR has also been at the forefront of the disposal of household healthcare wastes at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), chaired by the DENR Secretary, issued Resolution No. 1364 series of 2020 on the "Interim Guidelines on the Management of COVID-Related Health Care Waste" in April 2020.

The guidelines cover the proper handling and management of all COVID-19 related health care wastes generated by households and other facilities. It also ensures the occupational health and safety of waste workers.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns and NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny D. Antiporda said solid waste management has now been given the priority and the importance it needs.

This continues, he said, with the activities with LGUs and concerned government agencies and stakeholders.

"We will shatter the notion that solid waste management is the last and the least. Its relevance to the environment, our natural resources, and well-being of the people is primary," Antiporda said.



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DENR-EMB lines up activities to mark Zero Waste Month

The month-long celebration will kick-off with a blended virtual and face-to-face seminar on the management of household health care wastes and special wastes on January 8.

A lecture on the Guide on the Conduct of Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS) and guidelines on waste to energy for local government units (LGUs) will be also held on January 13.

DENR has also scheduled public consultations for the month of January on the possible list of Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products (NEAP).

This is in line with RA 9003 that the NSWMC "shall, after public notice and hearing, prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable products as defined in the Act that shall be prohibited according to a schedule to be prepared by the Commission. The NEAP shall not be prohibited until the Commission finds there are alternatives available to consumers at a cost that is no more than ten percent (10%) greater than the disposable product."

Likewise, a consultation on the Policy on the Procedural Guidelines for the Clustering of Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) Among LGUs to Cater Household Hazardous Wastes (HHWs) and Health Care Wastes (HCWs) in an Environmentally Sound Manner will be conducted this month.

The procedural guidelines shall cover facilities deemed as safe shelters of front liners as well as residential units involved in the generation, management and handling of healthcare wastes and household hazardous wastes.

The third meeting of Sanitary Landfill Operators will be held on January 22 to finalize the procedures and strategies in the creation of the Sanitary Landfill Operators of the Philippines. The organization shall support the government in providing the proper disposal facilities to the LGUs in accordance with the provisions of RA 9003.

On January 25, EMB and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) will roll-out the TESDA E-Learning Material on Practicing Solid Waste Management in the Workplace for public use. The material was developed by EMB-Solid Waste Management Division and TESDA.

A culminating activity will be held on January 26 to mark the 20th year of RA 9003 and to highlight the accomplishments of the national agencies which include the NSWMC members, and LGUs in the implementation of the Act.

In December last year, Antiporda and the EMB turned over the first batch of shredder-composter equipment to the local governments of Pampanga including San Fernando City and the towns of Apalit, Candaba, Guagua and Magalang.

EMB targets to distribute initially one unit each of the equipment to the 178 LGUs within the Manila Bay region in 2021. (DENR)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1063584



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TAMANG PAGTATAPON NG HOUSEHOLD HEALTHCARE WASTE TUTUTUKAN NG DENR-EMB



January 12, 2021 @ 12:20 AM 6 hours ago

IPAGDIRIWANG ng Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ngayong Enero ang Zero Waste Month kasabay sa paggunita sa ika-20 taong anibersaryo ng Republic Act (RA) 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"Solid waste management ranks among the priority programs of the DENR especially in the context of our cleanup efforts in Manila Bay," sabi ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

"Proper disposal of solid waste will avoid the clogging of tributaries and prevent trash from being washed into the rivers and seas that affect aquatic ecosystems, livelihood and health," pahayag pang DENR chief.

Isa rin sa pangunahing tinututukan ng DENR ngayon ang tamang pagtatapon ng household healthcare waste dahil na rin sa COVID-19 pandemic.

Naglabas na rin ng Resolution No. 1364 series of 2020 ang National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) na pinamumunuan ng DENR Secretary na may pamagat na "Interim Guidelines on the Management of COVID-Related Health Care Waste" noong Abril 2020.

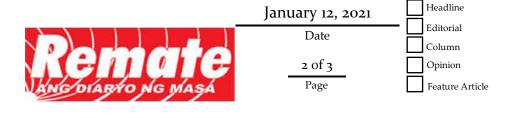
Kabilang sa sakop nito ang tamang pagtatapon at pangangasiwa sa lahat ng healthcare wastes na may kaugnayan sa COVID-19 mula sa mga kabahayan at iba pang pasilidad.

Tinitiyak din nito ang kaligtasan at seguridad ng waste workers.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns at NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny D. Antiporda, ang tamang pangangasiwa sa solid waste ay nabibigyan na ngayon ng kaukulang pansin at prayoridad.

Aniya, patuloy rin ang mga aktibidad katuwang ang LGUs at iba pang government agencies maging ng mga stakeholder.





TAMANG PAGTATAPON NG HOUSEHOLD HEALTHCARE WASTE TUTUTUKAN NG DENR-EMB

"We will shatter the notion that solid waste management is the last and the least. Its relevance to the environment, our natural resources, and well-being of the people is primary," anang Antiporda.

Ang month-long celebration ay sinimulan sa pamamagitan ng pagkakaroon ng virtual at face-to-face seminar tungkol sa pangangasiwa ng household health care wastes at special waste nitong Enero 8.

Magkakaroon naman ng lecture na Guide on the Conduct of Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS) at guidelines sa waste to energy para sa local government units (LGUs) sa Enero 13.

Magsasagawa rin ng public consultations para sa buwan ng Enero sa posibleng listahan ng Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products (NEAP).

Ito ay kaugnay na rin ng RA 9003 na ang NSWMC "shall, after public notice and hearing, prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable products as defined in the Act that shall be prohibited according to a schedule to be prepared by the Commission. The NEAP shall not be prohibited until the Commission finds there are alternatives available to consumers at a cost that is no more than ten percent (10%) greater than the disposable product."

Bukod dito, gaganapin din ngayong buwan ang konsultasyon tungkol sa Policy on the Procedural Guidelines for the Clustering of Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) among LGUs to Cater Household Hazardous Wastes (HHWs) and Health Care Wastes (HCWs) in an Environmentally Sound Manner.

Kabilang sa saklaw ng "procedural guidelines" ang mga pasilidad na itinuturing na ligtas para sa mga frontliner, maging ang residential units na kasama sa "generation, management at handling" ng healthcare wastes at household hazardous wastes.

Sa Enero 22 ay gaganapin naman ang ikatlong pulong ng Sanitary Landfill Operators upang mafinalize ang "procedures at strategies" sa pagbuo ng Sanitary Landfill Operators of the Philippines.

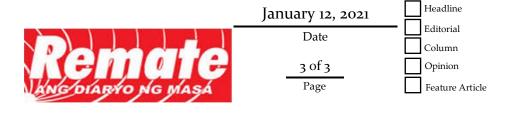
Ang organisasyon na ito ang magbibigay ng suporta sa gobyerno upang magkaroon ng tamang tapunan ng basura sa LGUs base na rin sa probisyon ng RA 9003.

Magiging magkatuwang naman ang EMB at ang Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) sa paglulunsad ng TESDA E-Learning Material on Practicing Solid Waste Management in the Workplace sa Enero 25.

Ang gagamiting materyales dito ay binuo ng EMB-Solid Waste Management Division at ng TESDA.

Magtatapos ang mga aktibidad sa Enero 26 kung saan ipagdiriwang ang 20th year ng RA 9003 at magiging highlight dito ang mga nagawa ng national agencies kabilang na ang NSWMC members at LGUs para sa implementasyon ng batas.





TAMANG PAGTATAPON NG HOUSEHOLD HEALTHCARE WASTE TUTUTUKAN NG DENR-EMB

Noong Disyembre ng nakalipas na taon, ipinagkaloob ni Antiporda at ng EMB ang unang batch ng shedder-composter equipment sa local government ng Pampanga kabilang na rito ang San Fernando City, Apalit, Candaba, Guagua at Magalang.

Plano ng EMB na makapagbigay ng tig-isang unit ng naturang gamit sa 178 LGUs na bahagi ng Manila Bay region ngayong 2021.



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Sindikato sa basura!

Monday, January 11, 2021 Marlon Purificacion

ALAM ng lahat na malaki ang pera sa basura!

Open secret din na malaki ang kita ng ilang local government units (LGU) sa basura dahil dito sila nakakakulimbat ng limpak-limpak na salapi kada-buwan.

Kasama na rito ang tongpats, komisyon o tinatawag na SOP.

Kalimitang sumbong sa basura, bukod sa pangit na serbisyo ay ang pandaraya sa paghahakot ng basura sa mga kabahayan.

Papalitawin nila kunwari na dalawang beses isang araw ang ginagawa umanong paghahakot sa basura, pero ang totoo, isang beses lamang ito sa isang araw o kung minsan ay makailang beses lamang isang linggo.

Kung baga, para itong 'ghost employee' o 'ghost delivery,' pero iyon pala ay 'ghost na paghahakot' sa basura.

Eto ngayon ang bagong kuwento, mga ate at kuya!

Isang kontratista mula sa Marikina at Quezon City ang nag-iikot sa lahat ng LGU sa Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao.

Ipinagmamalaki nito ang kanyang bagong 'produkto' na diumano'y gawang Pinoy.

Ang kanyang produkto ay may kinalaman sa bagong technology kung paano maibsan ang problema sa mga gabundok na basura.

Ipinagyayabang ng kontratista na ang produkto niya ang sagot para maging maayos ang sistema sa paghahakot ng basura.

Pati nga ang pag-segregate sa nabubulok at hindi nabubulok ay kaya raw nitong ikamada dahil sa kanyang teknolohiya.

Ang problema, palpak ito at walang kasiguruhan na tatagal ang kanyang produkto.

Ang masaklap pa, masyadong mataas ang sinisingil nitong presyo at kinukuntsaba na lamang ang ilang local government officials para makakuha ng kontrata.

Kung ang puhunan ng ipinagmamalaki niyang makina ay P3 million lamang, ginagawa niya itong P12 million hanggang sa P50 million.

Ang catch dito, kapag nasira na ang produkto, papabayaan na niya sa ere ang mga nagoyong LGU at ang pangakong hanggang 'maintenance provider' ay sakop ng kompanya ng kumag ay hindi na nangyayari.

Buhay na halimbawa rito ay ang nagoyong LGU sa Bulacan at Albay.

May bago itong nabiktima sa Southern Tagalog kamakailan na sigurado kong sasakit ang ulo sa mga darating na araw ng nagoyong LGU dahil mabubuko nila na ang ipinagmamalaking Philippine-made na produkto ay mula pala sa bansang China.



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Sindikato sa basura!

Kahit ipa-check pa natin ang kanyang mga makina, halatang 'dyapeyks' ang mga ito!

Ang abangan natin dito ay sakaling dumating ang panahon na busisiing mabuti ng Commission on Audit ang kanilang produkto at multimillion-peso transactions, siguradong hindi lang Ombudsman ang aabutin nilang kaso kundi hanggang Sandiganbayan pa.

Mahina ang kasong plunder at graft and corruption case na nag-aantay dito sa ginagawa nilang panloloko sa taumbayan. Iyong tipong niloko na ang mga kababayang lokal – pinagnanakawan pa ng multimillion-peso.

Sa nagtatanong kung magkano ang 'naholdap' ng iskamer na kontratista? Tumataginting na aabot na sa Pioo million na ang balita ko'y mismong financier niya ang binukulan ng kumag!

Kung sino ang kontratistang ito, abangan n'yo sa mga susunod nating istorya ng #Basurakot at #SindikatoSerye!

Dumulog sa atin ang ilang empleyado laban sa amo nilang pekeng imbentor. Salbahe raw ito at hindi parehas kung magpasweldo.

Antabayan n'yo rin po ang kuwentong ito dahil marami pang mabubunyag na kuwento tungkol sa pekeng imbentor – labas pa riyan ang pagiging sex addict, este tsikboy, ng isinusuka nilang boss.

Ang malinaw lang ngayon, plano na rin nilang mag-file ng labor case sa DOLE at bukas makalawa ay gusto na rin nilang magpa-Tulfo!

Araykupu!





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Masungi Georeserve cries for help vs. 'professional squatters' but energy firm exec claims protecting IPs

Published December 10, 2020 7:02pm

The Masungi Georeserve, a conservation area in Rizal, on Thursday sought the help of the government in addressing the alleged harassment perpetrated by "professional squatters" who are claiming large tracts of lands in the site.

During a Senate hearing led by the committee on environment, Masungi Georeserve project manager Ann Dumaliang said that last October 20, a former police general fenced out the forest rangers from up to 1,000 hectares of the watershed.

"Right now, they are still here. Nagdadagdag pa sila ng armed guards [who are] continuously harassing us on the ground and making it difficult for us to pursue reforestation efforts," she said.

Senator Risa Hontiveros asked if Dumaliang was referring to a certain retired General Luizo Ticman who owns the energy company Green Atom. The resource person answered in the affirmative.

"They come to patrol the areas regularly. Sometimes they come at night and they do not speak with us. They just move around the area. When we do try to talk to them, napaka-harsh po ng kanilang words. Ako po mismo sinabihan nila na kakaladkarin nila ako pag nakita nila ako," Dumaliang said of the armed guards.

"Their president actually told me na when we go past a certain area, they will not hesitate to hunt us down... Kailangan po namin ang tulong niyo para matigil na po ito," Dumaliang added.

Green Atom president's side

Green Atom President Rex Recarro vehemently denied that the company is involved in the alleged harassment against the rangers of the Masungi Georeserve.

He admitted that he personally spoke with Dumaliang, but as a local who was close to the indigenous community in the area, and not as a representative of the firm.

"Ang sabi ko sa kaniya, makipag-usap sila sa mga katutubo. And ang sinabi ko sa kaniya, sa oras na niloko nila ang mga katutubo, hahanapin ko sila para ipamukha sa kanila 'yung kanilang sinasabi na sila'y maaayos na tao," he told GMA News Online in a phone interview.

He turned the tables at the management of Masungi Georeserve and said it was them who were engaged in land-grabbing in the eyes of the indigenous people because of the "gates" they were putting up.

"Lugar na puntahan din, 'di na sila (mga katutubo) makapunta dahil may gate na. Anong tawag doon?" Recarro said.

He also said the "baseless accusations" against Green Atom chairman Luizo Ticman should stop as all the lands in the area that had been previously linked to the latter had already been subsumed when the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act took effect in 1997.

"Ipina-subsume na niya. Walang may-ari ng lupang iyan kasi ang may-ari ng lupang iyan ay ang susunod na mga henerasyon," Recarro said.





Masungi Georeserve cries for help vs. 'professional squatters' but energy firm exec claims protecting IPs

Moreover, he said the security guards were not deployed by Green Atom. He said these forces have a contract with the indigenous people's organization that is in touch with the community, and are there to protect ancestral domain.

"Pine-prevent na ipasok nila (Masungi management) 'yung arko nila doon kasi holy area 'yun, sagradong lugar 'yun... 'Yung mga mga 'yun ay security guards na may lisensyadong baril," he added.

Recarro said the management of Masungi Georeserve needs more dialogue with the IP community to settle these issues.

DENR's action

During the hearing, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said his agency will take immediate action on the matter.

"We have a memorandum of agreement sa PNP at AFP na magbigay sila ng support sa amin. I can ask some personnel from the army and the PNP para matulungan din ang aming presence doon, in support sa management ng Masungi para matulungan sila," he told senators.

He also urged the lawmakers to fast-track the passage of the bill that would create an enforcement bureau within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Senator Nancy Binay said she already filed Senate Bill No. 1878 bill in the upper chamber.

Senate committee on environment chairperson Cynthia Villar said she would hear the measure as soon as possible, and committed to help set up a temporary office of the DENR and of state forces in Masungi Georeserve to prevent the alleged harassments in the area. -MDM, GMA News

Tags: Masungi Georeserve, Rizal, DENR, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Source: https://www.facebook.com/116724526976/posts/10159639249656977/





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SMC to intensify Tullahan clean-up before rainy season sets in

By <u>CNN Philippines Staff</u> Published Jan 11, 2021 10:13:57 PM



(FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 11) — San MIguel Corporation is looking to ramp up its clearing operations of the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System this year, in a bid to reduce flooding in the area.

So far, SMC has removed 83,600 metric tons of trash and silt from the river since 2020, despite the challenges brought about by quarantine restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"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 more areas can avoid flooding risks during the rainy season," said SMC president and Chief Operating Officer Ramon S. Ang.

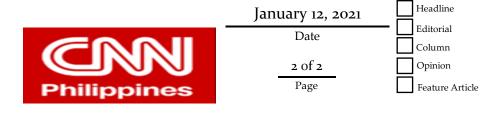
In 2019, SMC <u>inked a deal</u> with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to clean up the river system, which empties out to Manila Bay.

The clean-up project was <u>launched</u> in 2020, a <u>P</u>1-billion dredging project seen to solve flooding in parts of Metro Manila and Bulacan. SMC resumed the project in June, following the lifting of strict quarantine restrictions.

SMC is currently dredging the section from Barangay Tanong in Malabon City, to the mouth of the river leading to Manila Bay in Navotas City. A total of 1 million cubic meters is expected to be dredged in two years from the Navotas-Malabon section alone.

In parts of the river, depth has been reduced to only one or two meters because of debris, however, this is seen to ease because of the project, allowing it to receive a heavier volume of rain water.





SMC to intensify Tullahan clean-up before rainy season sets in

"With Navotas and Malabon, we found out that the greater handling capacity of the Tullahan River — the result of our dredging activities — has allowed water from these cities' pumping stations to be easily channeled to the river going to Manila Bay. This has reduced large-scale flooding in these areas even during the previous typhoons that inundated many parts of Metro Manila and Luzon," Ang said.

SMC 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.





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School-in-a-bag promotes biodiversity conservation

posted January 11, 2021 at 06:40 pm by Manila Standard Lifestyle

Smart Communications and Protect Wildlife jointly funded 20 portable digital classrooms, dubbed as School-in-a-Bag, in a bid to educate off-grid localities on wildlife and biodiversity conservation.



From left: Smart School-in-a-Bag program head Mary Jane Francisco, Protect Wildlife deputy chief of party Joey Manfredo, Smart AVP for community partnerships Stephanie V. Orlino, and Protect Wildlife chief of party Rebecca Paz at the turnover of 20 portable digital classrooms for USAID's Protect Wildlife learning communities.

School-in-a-Bag is part of the partnership between Protect Wildlife, a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development, and Smart's parent company PLDT, Inc.

Together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Protect Wildlife project aims to reduce threats to biodiversity and illegal trade of wildlife in ecologically significant areas in Palawan, Region 3, Region 9, and Region 12, while also promoting social and economic development in local communities.

Each water-resistant backpack contains a laptop, tablet, and DVD player for the teacher, as well as 10 tablets for students that are all pre-loaded with interactive, multimedia content accessible offline.

The portable digital classrooms to be deployed will also include educational materials on wildlife and biodiversity conservation, such as flashcards, worksheets, and storybooks. Since the bags will be going to off-grid learning communities, solar panels and battery charging units are also included in the package.

Teachers of School-in-a-Bag beneficiary communities are also trained on the CVIF-Dynamic Learning Program (CVIF-DLP), a pandemic-resilient strategy that supports distance learning and works in both online and offline delivery modalities.

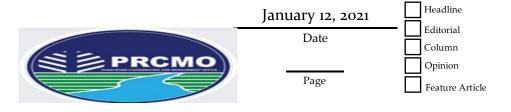


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School-in-a-bag promotes biodiversity conservation

Supported by Smart and PLDT-Smart Foundation for over a decade, CVIF-DLP is one of only three supplemental learning materials endorsed by the Department of Education for school year 2020-2021. Ready-to-use Junior and Senior High School Learning Activity Sheets can be downloaded for free at www.commons.deped.gov.ph.







Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office - PRCMO

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LOOK: PRCMO IN ACTION IN PASONG TAMO CREEK

Happy Monday! 💚

Here are the River Warriors in their cleanup and maintenance activities in #PasongTamoCreek in Barangay Bahay Toro, Quezon City.

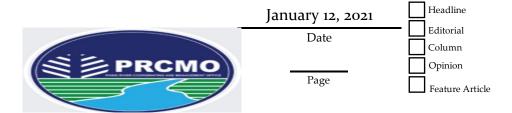
Their efforts yielded 37 sacks of mostly biodegradable plant materials from the linear park easement.

This National Zero-Waste Month, let's live by the motto #TayoAngKalikasan and do our shared responsibility and commitment to free the Pasig River, esteros, Manila Bay and our environment from solid wastes and other pollution problems towards a clean, healthy, and safe nation and a sustainable future for all!

#PRCMO #DENR #PasigRiver #PusoParaSallogPasig









Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office - PRCMO

LOOK: PRCMO IN ACTION IN ESTERO DE SAMPALOC

Here's the situation before and after the cleanup operations in #EsteroDeSampaloc in Manila.

The River Warriors amassed a total of 84 sacks of mostly nonbiodegradable waste from the waterway's portion along Legarda Street.

PRCMO continuously enjoins everyone to be warriors of our waterways and environment and give our stronger bayanihan as one nation and family to win our battle for the Pasig River, esteros and Manila Bay!

#PRCMO #DENR #PasigRiver #PusoParaSallogPasig





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Iconic Philippine Eagle Pag-asa passes away



By <u>Ruth Palo</u> January 12, 2021

DAVAO CITY: The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) announced the passing of 28-year-old Philippine eagle Pag-asa on Jan. 6, 2021 at 8:03 p.m.



LEGACY OF HOPE Pag-asa soars no more, having succumbed to fatal diseases on Jan. 6, 2021. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PEF Executive Director Dennis Salvador said Pag-asa succumbed to infections associated with Trichomoniasis and Aspergillosis, which are both fatal to raptors.

He added that treatment was done over a week ago, but Pag-asa continued to deteriorate until it died.

Pag-asa was born on Jan. 15, 1992 and became a widely known symbol of hope, as his name translates as "hope."

He was the first Philippine eagle bred and hatched in captivity, using cooperative artificial insemination (CAI) techniques.

Pag-asa's birth, the culmination of 14 years' of research, heralded hope for the critically endangered species and the entire conservation mission.

Years later, the PEF reached yet another milestone with Pag-asa in the form of its first and only offspring named "Mabuhay," which was also bred and hatched through CAI.



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Iconic Philippine Eagle Pag-asa passes away

Even though the eagle retired from breeding, according to Salvador, "Pag-asa lived his life [as] an icon of hope for Filipinos and was a constant inspiration to the people working tirelessly to save our national bird from extinction."

"The conservation work will still continue, and so [will] his legacy," he said.

The Philippine eagle is a giant bird of prey that can only be seen on four islands in the Philippines: Luzon, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao.

It is considered to be one of the largest and most powerful among the forest raptors.

The Philippine Eagle is also listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature with only an estimated 400 pairs left in the wild.

It can live up to more than 40 years in captivity but probably much less in the wild.





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Three wild birds rescued from a suspected illegal wildlife trader

BALIWAG, Bulacan---The Wildlife Enforcement Team of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) based in Baliwag, Bulacan recently rescued two raptors and a water bird from an alleged wildlife poacher in an effort to save the remaining biodiversity in the province.

According to Dennis Vergara, head of CENRO Baliwag, they have received a complaint from a concerned citizen that two Crested Serpent Eagles (Spilornis cheela) and a White- Breasted Waterhen (Amaurornis phoenicurus) have been captured and kept by the suspect in his house in Barangay Pasong Callos in San Rafael, Bulacan.

CENRO Baliwag immediately conducted an operation and the birds were found inside the residence of the suspect. Upon verification, they found out that the suspect has no documents or permit from the DENR to keep the raptors, and have identified the suspect as Arnold Santos.

"We will file criminal charge against the suspect for violating Republic Act (RA) No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001. Remember, it is illegal and against the law to possess and collect wildlife species without necessary permit from the DENR," Vergara explained.

He also urged the public to report to the nearest DENR office in their area any illegal wildlife trade and online selling.

The two serpent eagles are now under the custody of the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in Quezon City to undergo care and treatment before it will be released back to the wild.

The White-Breasted Waterhen has been released in the wild since it was healthy upon assessment of CENRO Baliwag wildlife personnel.(-30-)



Source: https://www.facebook.com/651408801669098/posts/2044434929033138/?app=fbl





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Package with 28 live tarantulas, scorpions seized at CMEC

Published January 11, 2021, 4:35 PM by Ariel Fernandez

The Bureau of Customs-Port of NAIA has intercepted a package with 20 endangered tarantulas and eight scorpions at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) in Pasay City.



(NAIA customs / MANILA BULLETIN)

Twenty-eight plastic containers individually housing the tarantulas and scorpions were found upon opening of the package.

Records showed that the package from Samut Parakain, Thailand was misdeclared as teaching equipment and imported without the necessary import permits.

The tarantulas and scorpions were immediately turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (DENR-WTMU) for rehabilitation and care.

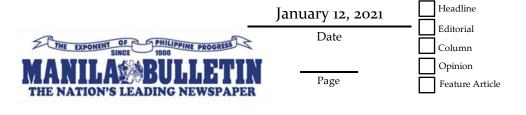
In October last year, BoC-NAIA also intercepted 119 tarantulas from Poland concealed in a pair of rubber shoes.

Illegal importation, collection, and trade of endangered wildlife are punishable by imprisonment of six years and a fine of P200,000 under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act.

Under Section 1401 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, unlawful importation of goods with appraised value of more than P250,000, including duties and taxes, is penalized by imprisonment of not less than 30 days but not more than six months or a fine of not less than P25,000 but not more than P75,000.

According to District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan, in compliance with the directive of BoC Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero to intensify border protection, they continue to man air



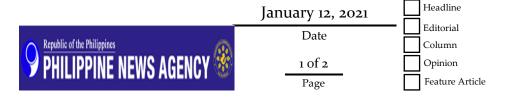


Package with 28 live tarantulas, scorpions seized at CMEC

cargo terminals and warehouses round-the-clock to check on illicit goods and those which require necessary permits.

Bureau of Customs-NAIA said they are one with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in upholding the conservation and protection of wildlife and deterring wildlife smuggling.





BOC intercepts package with 28 live scorpions, tarantulas

By Ferdinand Patinio January 11, 2021, 9:46 pm



File photo

MANILA – The Bureau of Customs (BOC)-Port of NAIA on Monday reported the seizure of a package containing 28 endangered species of insects in Pasay City.

In a statement, District Collector Carmelita Talusan said the species are composed of 20 tarantula spiders and eight scorpions illegally smuggled through Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) on Jan. 6, 2021.

Records show that the package came from Samut Parakain, Thailand and was misdeclared as "teaching equipment" with no necessary import permits.

The 28 plastic containers individually housing the tarantulas and scorpions were found upon opening of the package.

Both tarantulas and scorpions were immediately transferred and turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (DENR WTMU) for rehabilitation and care.

Illegal importation, collection and trade of endangered wildlife are punishable by imprisonment of six years and a fine of PHP200,000 under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act.

On the other hand, under Section 1401 of the CMTA, unlawful importation of goods with appraised value of more than PHP250,000 including duties and taxes, is penalized by imprisonment of not less than 30 days and one day but not than six months, or fine of not less than HP25,000 but not more than PHP75,000.

Talusan said that in compliance with the directive of BOC Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero on intensified border protection, they continue to man the air cargo terminals and warehouses 24/7 to check on illicit goods and those which require necessary permits.



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BOC intercepts package with 28 live scorpions, tarantulas

She added that the Port is one with the DENR in upholding the conservation and protection of wildlife and deterring wildlife smuggling.

Last October, the BOC NAIA intercepted 119 tarantulas from Poland concealed in a pair of rubber shoes. (*PNA*)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1127010





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Mas mababang pag-atake ng mga buwaya, naitala sa Palawan



January 11, 2021 @ 7:08 PM 12 hours ago

Palawan – Naitala ng Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Incorporated (CPPI) ang mas mababang insidente ng mga pag-atake ng buwaya.

Batay kay CPPI Researcher and Education Officer Meljory Corvera, bumulusok na ito partikular sa Palawan kasama ang Balabac at wala namang naitalang nasawi.

"Last year (2020) mayroon tayong six non-fatal attacks, which is pinakamababa sa record natin. Nong 2019 kasi ang mayron tayong 12 attacks," lahad ni Corvera.

Aniya, posibleng dahil ito sa pagsasagawa at pagpapakalat ng impormasyon sa lugar.

Katulong ng CPPI ang Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) at Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center (PWRRC).

"Tingin namin ay effective ang ginagawa natin na information and education campaign sa lugar lalo na sa southern Palawan. Mayron din tayong mga signages doon regarding sa pagiingat sa mga crocodiles," lahad pa nito.

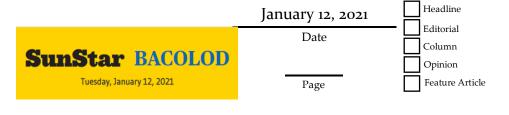
Kwento pa ni Corvera, nag-aantay pa sila sa pagtanggap ng Sangguniang Bayan ng Balabac sa kanilang management plan para sa proteksyon ng mga residente at buwaya.

"Sana ma-adopt ng Sanggunian kasi dito nakalagay ang short and long term solutions [para maprevent ang crocial attack]. Mas magiging maganda kung i-adopt nila, hopefully," punto pa ng opisyal.

Batay sa kanilang pag-aaral, tinatayang 346 buwaya ang nasa southern Palawan. RNT/FGDC

Source: https://www.remate.ph/mas-mababang-pag-atake-ng-mga-buwaya-naitala-sa-palawan/





Negros Occidental governor eyes review of quarry permits



RIVER DREDGING. DPWH undertakes dredging operation at the Carugiat river in Victorias City following recent flash floods affecting the area. (Carla Canet photo)

TERESA D. ELLERA

January 12, 2021

NEGROS Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson plans to conduct a review of all quarry permits as part of the efforts to find solutions to the flooding that plagued the province's low-lying areas.

Lacson said the review will be in coordination with all concerned local government units to determine if it contributed to the flooding.

The governor's statement came after two massive flash floods hit northern Negros Occidental, first on New Years Day, January 1 and Friday night, January 8.

The two floods forced the evacuation of thousands of residents from Talisay City in the 3rd District to Escalante City in the 1st District.

Lacson noted that with the construction boom in Negros Occidental and Bacolod City, there has been an increase in quarrying for sand and gravel.

"It only means progress in Negros Occidental and we can see that with the construction of more hotels, condominiums and public works such as roads," Lacson said.

Lacson added there is also a need for serious maintenance work on waterways to mitigate flooding.

Because many areas are now made with concrete and impermeable materials, he said there is limited ground for water to sink in when there is heavy rain.

"There should be no conflict between economic growth and protection of the environment," he added.

Lacson also appealed to Negrenses to follow proper waste disposal, otherwise, flooding will happen again.



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An impending truck ban in Rizal

Published January 11, 2021, 12:59 AM by Dr. Jun Ynares



Dr. Jun Ynares

THE VIEW FROM RIZAL

"Why are you so strongly opposed to mining?"

"If you stop mining, you will slow down economic development."

"You cannot void an action of a national government agency."

These are some of the text messages we have been getting over the past few weeks. The messages came from both friendly and unfriendly quarters. They poured in after an announcement from the local government of Rizal Province that it is ordering a halt to all mining and quarrying operations in all areas within its jurisdiction. They were also apparently triggered by the statement we read late last year before committees of the Senate, where we echoed the position of the province on the issue of large-scale mining and quarrying operations.

It looks like a clarification needs to be made.

First of all, the moves taken by the Rizal Provincial Government are more about heeding the call of the people of the province rather than just being against the mining and quarrying industries.

For the record, the province recognizes the contribution of this sector to its bid to create and sustain jobs, fuel the growth of businesses that support these industries, and raise revenues from local taxes. The province has not overlooked such contribution. However, the provincial government also recognizes that its primary responsibility and accountability are to its constituents. The provincial leadership is obliged to listen to them, to understand their aspirations for themselves, their families, and their future – the things that constitute their primary interests.

Part of their interest about their future is the protection of the environment and natural resources. They have expressed that these are part of their children's heritage and which they want preserved and protected for future generations of Rizaleños.

Unfortunately, both of these are directly affected by the operations of entities involved in large-scale mining and quarrying.

The Provincial Government also respects the assertion of national government agencies that the products of mining and quarrying operations are vital to major infrastructure development endeavors.



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They continuously point out to the Provincial Government that Rizal province is the closest – and richest – source of the aggregates and other raw materials that are crucial to infrastructure development in Metro Manila.

They have warned the local government that stopping large-scale quarrying in the province would force builders, both government and private, to source raw materials from more distant locations. This, they underscore, would be more costly and that the added cost would always be passed on to the government, and eventually, to Filipino taxpayers.

Again, we respect that viewpoint.

As far as the local government is concerned, however, there is a more pressing viewpoint: that of its constituents.

So, unless and until the national government and the national legislature comes up with new policies and guidelines that would assure the province's constituents that their interests are protected and promoted, the local government is constrained to act in accordance with their mandate.

The new guidelines and policies have not yet been formulated.

So, in the meantime, the Rizal Provincial Council has decided that it must continue to take actions based on the voice of its constituents.

One of its most recent actions is to impose a ban on trucks and other vehicles that are used to haul aggregates, cement, and other products of large-scale mining and quarrying in the province.

This means these vehicles which attempt to transport these products from their point of origin within the province to their destination – and which will use routes within the province's jurisdiction – will be stopped. They will not be allowed to proceed and will be prevented from consummating the delivery of the products.

This truck ban within the province of Rizal will be implemented as soon as the required period for publication of issuances by the local government is completed.

Why has the imposition of a truck ban on vehicles carrying these products become necessary?

The fact is the Rizal Provincial Government cannot unilaterally void the permits issued by national government agencies. It is beyond the purview of its powers and the operators of these entities know that fact.

So, despite the plea of the local government and its memorandum stopping all mining and quarrying operations, these activities have surreptitiously resumed. We cannot fault them for doing so. After all, these business entities carry valid permits issued by national government agencies.



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An impending truck ban in Rizal

The Provincial Government is, therefore, constrained to look for other means to advance the interest of its constituents. After all, this is the local government's mandate.

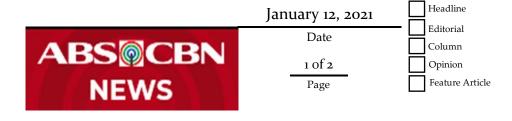
The concerned businesses have been put on notice regarding the impending truck ban.

The interest of the public has been served.

*For feedback, please email it to antipolocitygov@gmail.com or send it to #4 Horse Shoe Drive, Beverly Hills Subdivision, Bgy. Beverly Hills, Antipolo City, Rizal.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/11/an-impending-truck-ban-in-rizal/





61 Philippine cities to spend over P10 billion for COVID-19 vaccines

Pia Gutierrez, ABS-CBN News Posted at Jan 11 2021 11:27 PM



A doctor lifts a vial with a potential coronavirus, COVID-19, vaccine at Novavax labs in Gaithersburg, Maryland on March 20, 2020, one of the labs developing a vaccine for the coronavirus, COVID-19. *Andrew Caballero-Reynolds*, *AFP/File*

MANILA - At least 61 cities in the Philippines have committed over P10 billion to secure their own supplies of COVID-19 vaccines, as local governments move to vaccinate residents against the virus.

The head of the League of Cities reported Monday that as early last December, the league created a committee that will guide local government units (LGUs) in availing COVID-19 vaccines.

"We should be able to talk to all these prospective pharmaceutical firms so that we would be able to get all the specifications, and all the details particularly the efficacy of the vaccines," LCP National President and Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia said.

"When we started, the first that was available was AstraZeneca, but this does not mean that it will be exclusive to them. There are about eight of these different products, and we are supposed to talk to each one of them and be able to relay all these information to city mayors so they can be properly guided which vaccine they prefer," he continued.

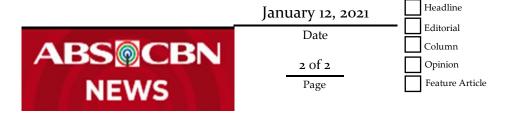
At least a dozen cities have ordered vaccines from the British-Swedish drugmaker after it submitted to the Philippine government its application for emergency use authorization (EUA) of its COVID-19 vaccine.

• AstraZeneca applies for emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine in the Philippines

Bacolod City was among them, signing an agreement with AstraZeneca to procure COVID-19 vaccines worth P300 million.

Though details of the deal are covered by a non-disclosure agreement, Leonardia said the city expects to roll-out the vaccine by the third quarter of the year.





61 Philippine cities to spend over P10 billion for COVID-19 vaccines

The city initially targets to inoculate some 400,000 residents against the virus, he added.

"We have savings. Fortunately for us, we're ready with that money. Of course where we are concerned, we believe it is our commitment, it is our policy to see to it when the health and lives of our people are concerned, the battlecry is 'go for broke.' So it might mean scraping the bottom of our resources," the mayor said.

Leonardia said that the League of Cities is set to have a special general assembly Tuesday afternoon with vaccine czar Sec. Carlito Galvez and Food and Drug Administration directorgeneral Usec. Eric Domingo to discuss the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines with the national government.

"Our target is to see to it that the city mayors are guided," he said.

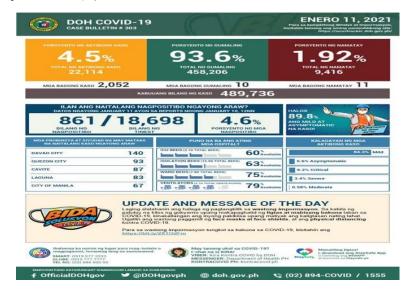




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BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, umabot na sa higit 489,000; Lagpas 2,000 ang nadagdag

By Angellic JordanJanuary 11, 2021 - 04:17 PM



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

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (January 11), umabot na sa 489,736 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 22,114 o 4.5 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 2,052 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

Ito ang pinakamataas na naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 sa isang araw sa taong 2021.

84.3 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 5.6 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.58 porsyento ang moderate; 3.4 porsyento ang severe habang 6.2 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

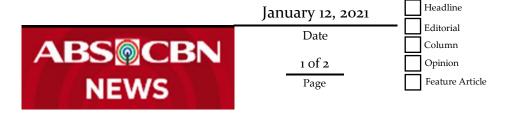
Nasa 11 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 9,416 o 1.92 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 10 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 458,206 o 93.6 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.





Number of COVID-related patients increases in hospitals after holiday season

Vivienne Gulla, ABS-CBN News Posted at Jan 11 2021 09:38 PM

MANILA - The number of COVID-related patients rose in some hospitals after the holiday festivities, but remain within "manageable" levels.

At the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City, confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases occupied 60% to 65% of COVID-dedicated beds after Christmas day, from the pre-holiday utilization rate of 50% to 60%, according to EAMC Officer in Charge- Medical Center Chief II Dr. Alfonso Nuñez III.

"Sa ngayon manageable pa ito for East Avenue Medical Center... Kayang-kaya namin itong tugunan, kasi naghanda kami ng isang building para sa COVID-related patients even before Christmas and New Year holidays," Nuñez told ABS-CBN News, adding that the number of COVID-related patients at the EAMC started declining after New Year's day.

The Philippine Heart Center also saw an increase in the number of admitted COVID-related cases following the holiday season. Dr. Ma. Encarnita Limpin, who works at the PHC, however noted that the figures are still far from those in June, July, and August, when COVID wards and intensive care units were nearly filled.

"For the past week, medyo marami-rami na kaming pasyente ulit na nakikita sa emergency room na kailangan tingnan namin kasi marami sa kanila may mga respiratory symptoms, nilalagnat, masama ang katawan, so lahat ito ay tinitingnan natin, possible na COVID-19, and then medyo dumami na naman ang mga pasyente na naaadmit. Pero hindi pa naman doon sa level noong nakita natin noong June, July, August," Limpin said.

"Dalawa (na pasyente) na lang ang nasa ICU (before the holidays). Ngayon, pagkatapos ng Pasko, biglang naging lima, naging pito. Sa regular wards, konti na lang din (before the holidays), apat na lang, tapos biglang napuno na naman 'yung isang ward. Ganyan kalaki ang naging epekto. More than 100% ang increase, kung dito sa ospital," she added.

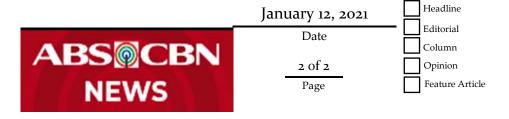
Limpin noted that the Heart Center has five COVID wards, which can accommodate around 12 patients each, and three ICUs, which can accommodate 10-12 patients each.

"Still manageable, pero dahil mayroon tayong event pa noong last week, 'yung (Feast of the Black Nazarene) traslacion, na ine-expect namin can be a super spreader event, inihanda na namin ang aming sarili na dadami ang mga kaso," she said.

Other healthcare workers and hospitals in Metro Manila are also bracing for a possible surge in COVID-cases following the Feast of the Black Nazarene last January 9th, which drew hundreds of thousands of devotees in Quiapo, Manila.

"We are a bit scared. Kinakabahan at naghahanda ang healthcare workforce... 'Yun yung pinaghahandaan natin, systems, the number of beds, even the referral network," Philippine College of Emergency Medicine Dr. Pauline Convocar said.





Number of COVID-related patients increases in hospitals after holiday season

The EAMC, meanwhile, said it is ready to increase its dedicated beds for COVID to 320 from the current 250, should COVID cases spike.

"Ongoing ngayon 'yung hiring ng additional emergency health resources as provided by the Department of Health," Nuñez said.

The Healthcare Professionals Alliance Against COVID-19 urged local chief executives to cancel physical events that may draw crowds in celebration of the Feast of Sto. Niño this January.

"Ayaw naman namin maghihingi pa ulit kami ng MECQ or ECQ sa ating pangulo at sa ating pamahalaan. 'Wag na natin hintayin na dumami pa. Dapat more on the prevention tayo. Kung pwedeng maiwasan na natin itong super spreader events na ito, umiwas na ho tayo," Limpin, HPAAC's co-convenor, said.

"Nanawagan kami sa local chief executives natin diyan sa Cebu, Tondo, at sa Iloilo, 'wag na ho siguro tayo magkaroon ng isang event kung saan kailangan pa ho natin na magkaroon ng maraming pagsasama-sama ng mga tao. Puwede naman siguro natin i-celebrate ang kapistahan ng Sto. Nino virtually," she added.



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One missing, hundreds evacuate due to floods, landslides in Bicol

By Connie Calipay January 11, 2021, 6:15 pm



LANDSLIDE. Police personnel are shown monitoring a landslide area in Barangay Bagumbayan in Bato, Catanduanes in an undated photo. Heavy rains on Saturday and Sunday triggered floods and landslides in Bicol provinces, affecting over 400 people. (*Photo courtesy of the Bato Municipal Police Station*)

LEGAZPI CITY – Heavy rains over the weekend triggered flooding and landslides in some Bicol provinces, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) reported on Monday.

Gremil Alexis Naz, OCD-Bicol spokesperson, said one person was reported missing in Sorsogon.

"Based on our record, a 10-year-old male from Irosin town in Sorsogon has been reported missing by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMC) of Sorsogon. Ongoing search, rescue and retrieval operations are being conducted by the MDRRMCs of Irosin, Juban & Casiguran and Sorsogon PDRRMC," he said in a phone interview.

Also, at least 106 families or 454 people were displaced in Camarines Sur and Sorsogon due to the effects of the weather disturbance.

"Twenty-six families or 104 individuals are inside evacuation centers while 80 families or 350 individuals are outside evacuation centers or private houses," Naz said.

The widespread rainfall spawned by the tail-end of a frontal system caused rivers and streams to swell, causing inundation and rain-induced landslides, he said.

The OCD reported 111 flooded areas in the region.

In Sorsogon province, flooding affected five villages in Matnog town; four in Juban; five in Sorsogon City; nine in Gubat; one in Sta. Magdalena; portions of two barangays in Pilar and eight villages in Prieto Diaz.

In Catanduanes, at least seven villages in Baras were affected by the flooding, five in Bagamanoc; one in Bato town; three in Gigmoto; two in Pandan; 20 villages in Viga and two in Caramoran.



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In Camarines Sur, flooding was recorded in nine villages in Nabua; eight in Caramoan; six in Baao; two each in Cabusao, Lupi and Libmanan and Lagonoy towns; one each in Calabanga, Garchitorwan, San Jose, Sagnay, Presentacion and Buhi.

Also, 20 landslide incidents in 10 municipalities and one city were reported due to the weather disturbance. (*PNA*)

Source: https://www.facebook.com/690282534387523/posts/3602584089824005/?app=fbl





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Floods wreck roads, bridges in 2 northern Negros cities

By Nanette Guadalquiver January 11, 2021, 3:37 pm



BRIDGE WASHED OUT. Residents of Barangay Hawaiian in Silay City, Negros Occidental make an improvised zip line to cross the other side of the river and bring relief goods after bridges in the area were destroyed by floods over the weekend. The floods brought by hours of downpour on Friday night (Jan. 8, 2021) left two persons dead and affected more than 13,500 families in eight localities in northern Negros.

(Photo from Ryan Gamboa-Salandigan Facebook page)

BACOLOD CITY – At least nine roads and bridges in the cities of Silay and Talisay were either destroyed or damaged by the massive floods that submerged several localities in northern Negros Occidental over the weekend.

A list of the affected infrastructures was included in the situational report of the Provincial Disaster Management Program Division as of Monday.

In Talisay, a riprap in Barangay Zone 3 and the Pala-Pala Road in Purok Sigay of the same village collapsed. The road was rendered impassable for vehicles.

The damage to portions of the roads was shown in photos posted by Talisay City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office on Facebook.

On Monday noon, the damaged Bangga Dose Bridge going to neighboring Silay was closed to vehicles.

In Silay, Barangay Bagtic's Hacienda Mariano Bridge was destroyed and became impassable while the Hacienda Bagacay Bridge was damaged as well.

Barangay Guimbala-on's Sangay Bridge was rendered partially impassable and its road barrier was damaged due to a landslide. Ripraps along Magikland to Sitio Cubay road were also destroyed.

The Sitio Marka Road was also left partially impassable due to a landslide.

In Barangay E. Lopez, the Hacienda Napilas 2 Bridge going to Hacienda Violeta was damaged and became impassable while the Hacienda Gaston hanging bridge was also washed out.



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The Malisbog Bridge was damaged and passage is limited to light vehicles, while the Barangays Patag-Hawaiian Hanging Bridge 2 was also washed out.

In a Facebook post, Board Member Ryan Gamboa, president of the Philippine Councilors League-Negros Occidental, said residents of Malisbog-Sitio Pulo area had to make an improvised zip line to cross the other side of the river, and send food and other relief goods to the affected residents.

The floods brought by hours of downpour on Friday night also left two persons dead and affected over 13,500 families in eight localities in northern Negros.

The body of Marvito Lumandog, 43, was found on Saturday morning in Hacienda San German, Barangay Guimbala-on in Silay.

On Sunday afternoon, the remains of Ulyses Escamilla, 50, was recovered in a creek at Purok Santan, Barangay Zone 11 in Talisay.

The floods last weekend struck northern Negros only a week after flash floods hit the same area on New Year's Day, leaving one dead and hundreds of houses damaged and destroyed, and displacing some 15,000 families. (*PNA*)

Source: https://www.facebook.com/690282534387523/posts/3602300593185688/?app=fbl



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Heavy rains trigger floods, landslides in E. Visayas

By Sarwell Meniano January 11, 2021, 11:25 am



FLOODING. A flooded highway in Arteche, Eastern Samar. Heavy downpour has triggered flooding and landslides in Samar and Southern Leyte provinces over the weekend, the Regional Risk Reduction and Management Council reported on Monday. (*Photo courtesy of Department of Public Works and Highways*)

TACLOBAN CITY – Heavy downpour has triggered flooding and landslides in Samar and Southern Leyte provinces over the weekend, the Regional Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) reported on Monday.

Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Regional Director Lord Byron Torrecarion, RDRRMC Eastern Visayas chairperson said there has been widespread rainfall in the region that caused rivers and streams to rise quickly especially in Northern and Eastern Samar provinces.

"So far, there has been no reported casualties or missing persons as of Monday morning, but we have been regularly monitoring the situation since it is still raining in many parts of the region," Torrecarion said in a phone interview.

In a progress report sent to the Philippine News Agency (PNA), the RDRRMC reported floodings within the highway that links the towns of Gandara and Matuguinao in Samar; two villages in Catarman, a community in Catubig, nine villages in Allen, and three areas in Capul town in Northern Samar.

In Eastern Samar, flooding has affected 24 villages in Oras town; 15 communities in Dolores; two villages each in Sulat, Maslog, San Julian, and Can-avid; and one village each in the towns of Arteche and Jipapad.

Landslides have been reported along the provincial road sections in Catalina village in Jiabong, Samar; Lawaan village in Paranas; and a major highway in Kahupian, Sogod in Southern Leyte province.

At least 627 individuals have been preemptively evacuated in Catarman and Catubig towns in Northern Samar on Sunday.



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"Since we expect rains to continue in the next two days, all villages identified as high to very-high susceptibility ratings to flooding and landslide were already advised to conduct preemptive evacuation especially those vulnerable groups," Torrecarion added.

In an advisory issued early Monday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said the heavy rains are caused by the tail-end of the frontal system affecting the eastern section of Visayas and intertropical convergence zone affecting Mindanao, and northeast monsoon affecting Luzon. (*PNA*)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1126960



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Bulkang Mayon nag-alboroto, 7 rockfall naitala

By Abante News Online - Last updated Jan 11, 2021

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Muling nagparamdam ang Bulkang Mayon nang magtala ito ng pitong rock fall events sa nakalipas na 24 oras mula Linggo hanggang Lunes.

Ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology o Phivolcs, batay na rin sa kanilang 8 am bulletin, kahapon ay naglabas ang Mt. Mayon ng sulfur dioxide (SO2) sa average na 676 tonelada kada araw noong Disyembre 29, 2020. Ang SO2 ang senyal ng pataas na galaw ng magma sa bunganga ng bulkan.

Dahil sa abnormalidad nito'y nananatili ang Alert Level 1.

Pinaalalahan ng Phivolcs ang publiko na bawal pumasok sa 6-kilometer radius permanent danger zone ng Bulkang Mayon, dahil maaari anilang mangyari ang "perennial life-threatening dangers of rockfalls, landslides/avalanches at the middle to upper slope, sudden ash puffs and steam-driven or phreatic eruptions from the summit."

Source: https://www.abante.com.ph/bulkang-mayon-nag-alboroto-7-rockfall-naitala/





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Palace slams De Lima for saying 3 islands were sold to China

Published January 11, 2021, 5:22 PM by Genalyn Kabiling

The alleged sale of some local islands to China is nothing but a product of detained Senator Leila de Lima's imagination, Malacañang said Monday.



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque (OPS / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque took a swipe at De Lima over her latest allegation, reminding her that foreigners are prohibited from buying land in the country.

"Siguro po talagang marami na pong guni-guni ang ating senador sa kaniyang kulungan. Bawal pong bumili ng kahit anong lupa ang mga dayuhan. (Maybe the senator has too much imagination inside her cell. Foreigners are not allowed to buy any land in the country)," Roque said during a televised press briefing.

Under the Constitution, only Filipinos have the right to own lands in the country. Some Charter change proponents however have suggested easing the limits on foreign ownership of land and other businesses to spur investments.

De Lima recently backed calls for an inquiry into the alleged questionable development of three islands by Chinese companies.

The senator claimed that Chinese investors supposedly wanted to transform Fuga island in Cagayan and Grande and Chiquita islands in Subic Bay into economic and tourist zones but some military officials warned about its possible impact on national security given their strategic location.

She said any intrusion into the country's territory should not be taken sitting down and be addressed swiftly and decisively. The senator previously appealed to the government to scrap such development deals with China.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/11/palace-slams-de-lima-for-saying-3-islands-were-sold-to-china/





Governments urged to push green economics in post-Covid era

By <u>Jonathan L. Mayuga</u> January 12, 2021

Governments have a unique opportunity to prioritize green economics as they plan their post-Covid recoveries, according to United Kingdom (UK) Ambassador to the Philippines Daniel Pruce.

"We have a once-in-a-generation chance to use this recovery for creating sustainable growth and jobs, while addressing the urgent and linked challenges of public health, climate change, and biodiversity," Pruce said in a news statement issued following the launch of a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in support of a more sustainable development plan and strategies for the Philippines from the 2019 coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

The tie up was forged as the Duterte administration gradually reopens the Philippine economy.

The partnership will focus on looking at entry points in key sectors, such as energy and transportation, buildings and infrastructure, waste management, circular economy and tourism.

In the Philippines, the impacts of the pandemic were compounded by the recent typhoons that struck the country, leaving millions of Filipinos homeless in Luzon island. Climate and disaster risks with far worse and massive impacts may be experienced if unsustainable practices will continue on a "business as usual" basis.

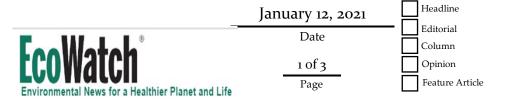
"We recognize that pursuing a greener, sustainable, and resilient recovery pathway potentially offers massive economic, social, and environmental benefits. This can be done by prioritizing recovery and creation of inclusive and green businesses and green jobs, which could help strengthen the overall resilience of the population, environment, and economy," UNDP Resident Representative Selva Ramachandran said.

In the Human Development Report released by UNDP, it was recommended to include two more factors to gauge the Human Development Index of one country. These factors are the carbon dioxide emissions and its material footprints, which show how the global development landscape would change if both the well-being of people and the planet will be at the core in defining global progress.

This emphasizes the need for more progressive climate action from countries signatory to the Paris Agreement, which was recently commemorated after five years of signing the global landmark agreement on climate change.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/12/governments-urged-to-push-green-economics-in-post-covid-era/





Why Plastic Pollution Is a Producer Responsibility

The Revelator

Jan. 10, 2021 12:58PM EST<u>INSIGHTS + OPINION</u> By Alex Truelove



We're all culprits in the plastic pollution crisis — and that's by design.

I was reminded of this recently when I ordered a set of carbon filters for my countertop compost bin. (Like most people, I don't care for smelly kitchens.) The package arrived in a layered-plastic bubble envelope. Inside I found another clear plastic bag encasing the filters. Finally, adding insult to injury, *each* filter was wrapped individually in plastic. That made at least three layers of plastic for each filter.

Frustratingly, in an effort to reduce waste, I had created more. And I'm not alone. A recent <u>landmark study</u> confirmed that the United States is the most plastic-polluting country in the world. Every 16 hours Americans throw away enough plastic to fill a football stadium.

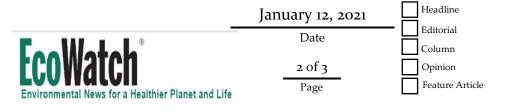
Adding to my frustration was a sense of helplessness. There was no way I could have known or changed the fact that these products were shrouded in layer upon layer of disposable plastic packaging.

I know millions of Americans feel the same way. We want to reduce our waste, particularly our use of disposable plastic, but we're rarely given the opportunity. Even when sustainable products are minimally packaged or designed for reuse, they often must be purchased online (delivered in more packaging, often disposable) or at specialty stores (rarities). Countless times I've wished that I could have avoided buying things that created so much trash.

But what if, in demanding better of ourselves, we're missing the point? The companies that design our products and packaging to be disposable not only created this system but are rewarded by it. Waste equals profit through cost avoidance.

Disposable products are cheap for industry, but costly to the rest of us. As taxpayers we have to pay for trash collection and recycling. As citizens we're exposed to pollutants from excessive manufacturing and <u>microplastics</u> shed from disposable products into our drinking water and food.





Why Plastic Pollution Is a Producer Responsibility

Meanwhile our oceans and waterways are being bombarded with millions of tons of plastic every year, <u>killing wildlife</u> and <u>spreading disease</u>.



Marine litter on a remote stretch of Norway coastline. Bo Eide / CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The cost to the companies making these wasteful products? Zero. In a shareholder profit-maximizing world, making disposable junk wins every time.

But what if these companies were held responsible for their products? Would it prevent the onslaught of plastic junk filling up our landfills and too often ending up in the ocean? History suggests manufacturers would design products to be more reusable, repairable and resilient, because they'd want to limit the waste they would have to manage.

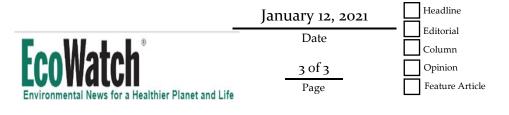
Which brings us to an idea known as producer responsibility.

Producer responsibility programs have existed around the world for decades and have successfully increased collection, recycling and reuse for the products they cover. For the most part these programs regulate hazardous, hard-to-dispose-of products such as batteries, paint, mercury thermostats, carpet, pesticides, tires and pharmaceuticals. Dozens of states already have programs in place for these items.

For example, thermostat makers are required to finance and sometimes run convenient recycling programs to keep mercury, a potent neurotoxin, from escaping and causing damage. Not all programs require producers to collect their own trash, but they all require adequate financing for safe collection. Producers that redesign their products to be less dangerous or more reusable can often avoid higher fees.

Unfortunately we don't have programs in place for single-use packaging and foodware, despite the fact that those products are *also* hazardous and hard to dispose of. That's why <u>we need to create</u> them. British Columbia has already implemented producer responsibility legislation, and a handful of U.S. states — from Washington to Maine — are <u>considering similar programs</u>. If implemented, these programs would create jobs, generate revenue streams for local municipalities





Why Plastic Pollution Is a Producer Responsibility

to further reduce waste and, in the long run, improve human health and help fight climate change.

With support and pressure from residents, we could see laws pass as early as 2021, forcing our product-makers to either be better or pay out.

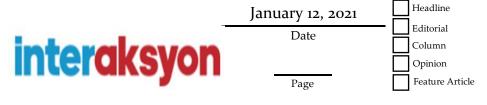
The idea is even gaining support <u>at the federal level</u>, as members of Congress respond to growing calls from constituents to address the plastic pollution crisis. Even the remote possibility of a federal program may push states to establish their own programs first.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, industry groups that represent manufacturers of these products have <u>already opposed</u> efforts to hold their clients responsible, which is why we must continue to push our legislators to support these programs now and into the future. In other words, the jig is up — but only if we say so.

The opinions expressed above are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Revelator, the Center for Biological Diversity or their employees.

<u>Alex Truelove</u> is United States Public Interest Research Group's director of zero waste campaigns.





Swedish teenage climate activist Thunberg turns 18

By Reuters

- January 11, 2021 - 11:01 AM



Activist Greta Thunberg gestures in a photo which was posted with a message thanking her supporters for their well wishes for her 18th birthday, in this undated picture taken from social media. (@GretaThunberg/via Reuters)

Sweden's Greta Thunberg, who pioneered a global climate change campaign as a 15-year-old, turned 18 last January 3 and promised to celebrate by exposing "dark secrets" at her local pub.

"Thank you so much for all the well-wishes on my 18th birthday!," Thunberg said on Twitter.

"Tonight you will find me down at the local pub exposing all the dark secrets behind the climateand school strike conspiracy and my evil handlers who can no longer control me! I am free at last!!."

Thunberg began a climate change campaign that swelled from a one-person school strike to a worldwide movement, drawing in millions of school children, as well as adults.

She criticized world leaders over climate change in a speech to the United Nations in 2019, has clashed with U.S. President Donald Trump, and last month called for urgent action five years on from the Paris Accord.







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Source: https://youtu.be/ntL65EruOuc



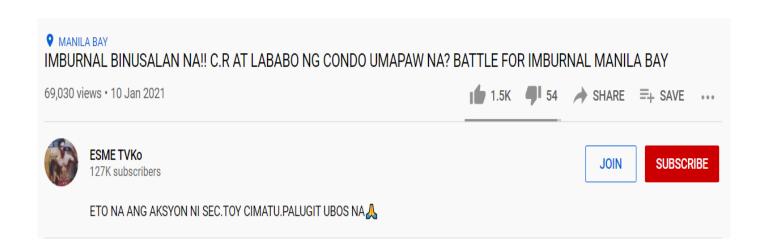




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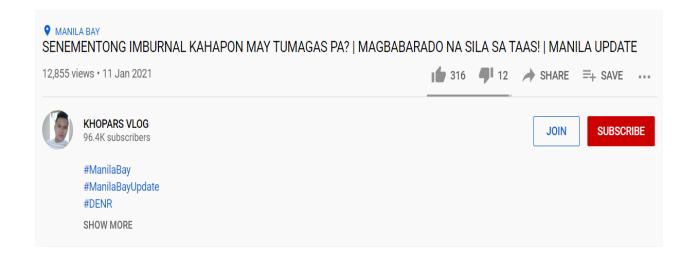




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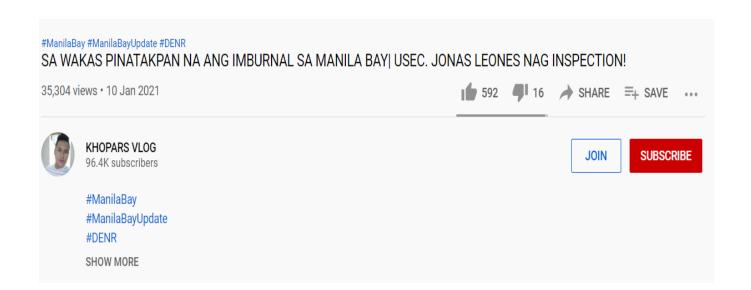




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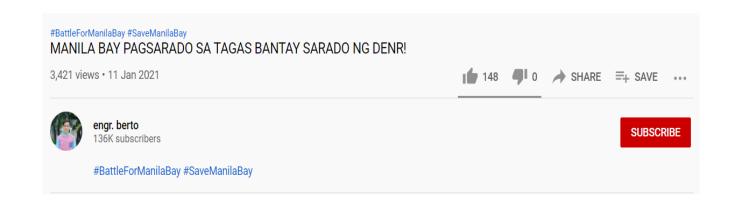




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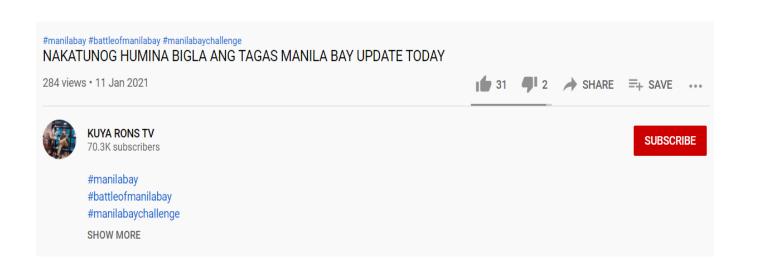




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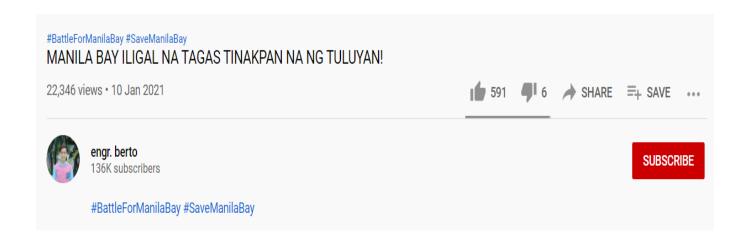




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Source: https://youtu.be/UTJHOWKf-gw

#ManilaBay #DolomiteSand #WhiteSand

Manila Bay| Dolomite Sand KUMIKINANG Sa GANDA

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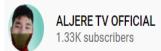












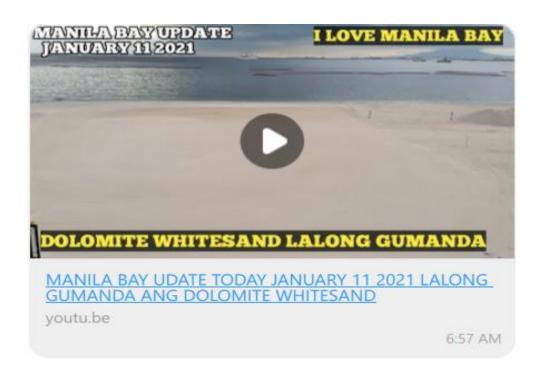


#ManilaBay #DolomiteSand #WhiteSand #MayorIskoMoreno #AljereTvOfficial





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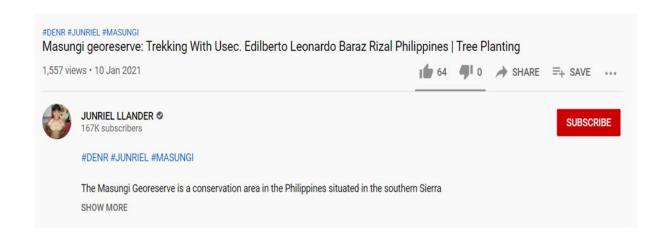




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Masungi georeserve: Trekking With Usec. Edilberto
Leonardo Baraz Rizal Philippines | Tree Planting
youtu.be
6:35 AM

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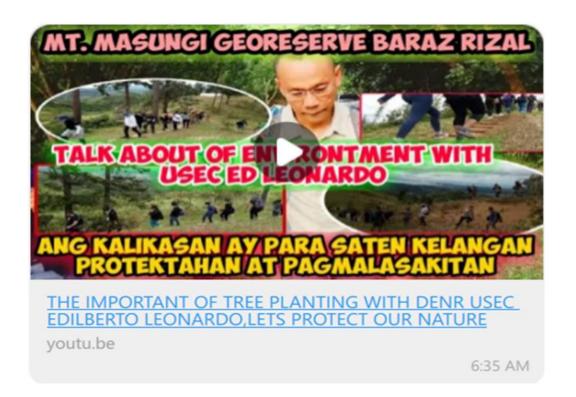
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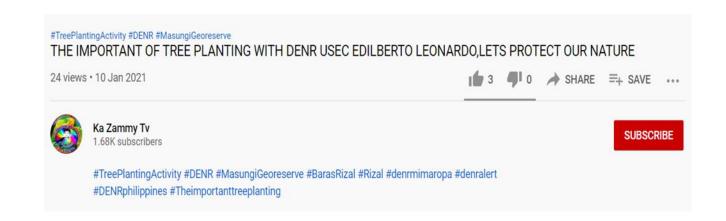




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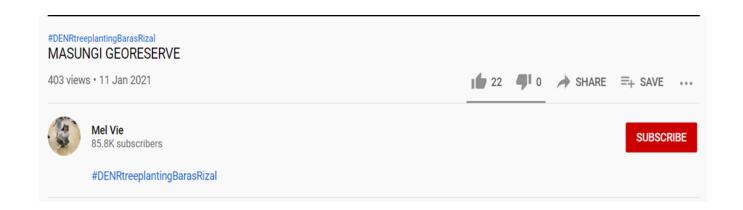




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