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### Cimatu: Beware of fake DENR employees

Friday, February 12, 2021 Cory Martinez

**BE** wary of unscrupulous individuals posing as employees of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) employees.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu aired this warning after receiving reports that a group of persons in Surigao del Sur are using the name of the agency 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. We want to warn the general public to be more cautious in dealing with people who claim to be employees of the department," Cimatu stressed.

Cimatu 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," Cimatu added.

Based on the report of the DENR in Caraga, 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 and signed by one of them who posed as leader of the group.

They also had shirts with DENR logo and identification cards bearing the signature of several DENR 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.

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

CENRO Marslou Bonita stressed that they have not deputized the group to enforce existing environmental laws.

Source: <a href="https://journal.com.ph/news/nation/cimatu-beware-of-fake-denr-employees/">https://journal.com.ph/news/nation/cimatu-beware-of-fake-denr-employees/</a>





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### Hikers na namitas ng endangered na halaman, pwedeng kasuhan — DENR



February 12, 2021 @ 6:29 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Ipinatawag na Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang isang grupo ng hiker makaraang mahuling pumitas ng endangered pitcher plant sa Marinduque.

Sa Facebook post ng DENR Office sa Marinduque ang iba't ibang uri ng mga halaman na pinitas ng mga naturang hiker partikular na ang isang bungkos ng endangered na pitcher plant.

"Based on the post sa internet, nakita natin 'yung species na very rare na pitcher plant. Ito 'yung talagang nasa top 10 natin na ipinagbabawal na kunin dito. 'Yun 'yung nakita nating mga ebidensiya na puwedeng gamitin when we file our case against them," saad ni ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

Ipinatawag na ng ahensiya ang mga hiker para makapagpaliwanag.

Sa kabila nito, humingi na ng paumanhin sa DENR ang mga magkakabarkadang hiker.

"Humihingi po ako ng pasensiya at paumanhin, sadyang nadala lang po kami sa mga kagandahan ng halaman."

"Ako po'y humihingi talaga ng sorry, pinagsisisihan po naming lahat. Hindi ko rin po alam," abiso pa ng grupo.

Ibinalik ng mga hiker ang mga pinitas na halaman, pero nanuyo at nalanta na ang iba.

"We are consolidating our information and soon we will be filing cases against these illegal collectors ng wildlife," paalala ni Leones.

Maaaring maharap sa kasong paglabag sa Wildlife Act of 2001 na may katumbas na multang P10,000 to P1,000,000 at pagkakakulong ng 10 araw hanggang 12 taon. RNT/FGDC

Source: <a href="https://www.remate.ph/hikers-na-namitas-ng-endangered-na-halaman-pwedeng-kasuhan-denr/">https://www.remate.ph/hikers-na-namitas-ng-endangered-na-halaman-pwedeng-kasuhan-denr/</a>





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# Hikers na pumitas ng endangered na halaman, maaaring kasuhan —DENR

Pebrero 12, 2021 3:08pm GMT+08:00 SINULAT NI: JAMIL SANTOS,GMA News

Ipinatawag ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang isang grupo ng mga hiker matapos silang mahuli na pumitas ng endangered pitcher plant sa Marinduque. Ang grupo, posibleng makasuhan.

Sa ulat ni Oscar Oida sa GMA News TV "Balitanghali" nitong Biyernes, makikita sa Facebook post ng DENR Office sa Marinduque ang iba't ibang uri ng mga halaman na pinitas ng mga naturang hiker.

Sa larawan, isang lalaki ang makikitang may hawak ng isang bungkos ng endangered na pitcher plant.

Bibihira lamang ang ganitong halaman kaya bawal itong kunin mula sa mga kagubatan.

"Based on the post sa internet, nakita natin 'yung species na very rare na pitcher plant. Ito 'yung talagang nasa top 10 natin na ipinagbabawal na kunin dito. 'Yun 'yung nakita nating mga ebidensiya na puwedeng gamitin when we file our case against them," paayag ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

Ipinatawag na ng ahensiya ang mga hiker para makapagpaliwanag.

Humingi na ng paumanhin sa DENR ang mga magkakabarkadang hiker.

"Humihingi po ako ng pasensiya at paumanhin, sadyang nadala lang po kami sa mga kagandahan ng halaman," sabi ng isang nasangkot na hiker.

"Ako po'y humihingi talaga ng sorry, pinagsisisihan po naming lahat. Hindi ko rin po alam," anang isa pang hiker.

Ibinalik ng mga hiker ang mga pinitas na halaman, pero nanuyo at nalanta na ang iba.

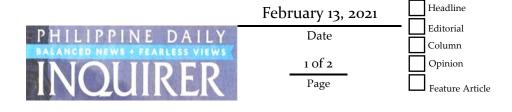
Patuloy na tinutukoy ng DENR ang iba pang halaman na nakuha ng grupo kapag naibalik na ang mga ito.

"We are consolidating our information and soon we will be filing cases against these illegal collectors ng wildlife," pahayag ni Leones.

Maaaring maharap sa kasong paglabag sa Wildlife Act of 2001 na may katumbas na multang P10,000 to P1,000,000 at pagkakakulong ng 10 araw hanggang 12 taon. —LBG, GMA News

Source: <a href="https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/775718/hikers-na-pumitas-ng-endangered-na-halaman-maaaring-kasuhan-denr/story/">https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/775718/hikers-na-pumitas-ng-endangered-na-halaman-maaaring-kasuhan-denr/story/</a>





# Black sand mining opponents, operator face off in Leyte provincial board

By: <u>Joey Gabieta</u> - <u>@inquirerdotnet</u> <u>Inquirer Visayas</u> / 05:29 PM February 12, 2021

TACLOBAN CITY—The provincial board of Leyte is hearing both sides in the mining controversy now gripping the town of MacArthur involving a company that ships black sand, a key ingredient in steel-making, to China and a Church official protesting its operations.

On Thursday (Feb.12), the committee on natural resources, chaired by Board Member Mecias Arevalo, conducted a hearing with both protesters and officials of the mining firm MacArthur Iron Sand Project Corp. (MIPC).

Fr. Amadeo Alvero, the town parish priest who is leading the fight against the mining operations, pleaded with provincial legislators to intervene and stop black sand mining at the village of Maya.

"I am appealing to the benevolent institution of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to please stop the mining activity in MacArthur," he said at the hearing that lasted for almost two hours.

The committee, through presiding officer Vice Governor Carlo Loreto, asked the MPIC and mining protesters to submit documents to substantiate their claims for and against the mining operations.

Alvero said the extraction of black sand at the village could lead to environmental destruction and harm the town's food security.

In his pleading, Alvero said he opposed black sand mining in MacArthur to be consistent with the Church advocacy of protecting the environment.

"MacArthur has experienced irresponsible mining activities. None of these mining companies conducted rehabilitation," Alvero said at the board hearing.

But Januar Ong, communications officer of MIPC, maintained that the company was practicing "progressive mining operation."

He said after MPIC extracts black sand in the area, it quickly replaces the sand that had been removed.

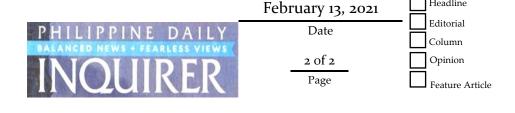
Ong said destruction in the area could have been caused by mining companies that operated previous to MPIC.

"We cannot be held answerable to the sins of the previous mining companies," said Ong. "We are not connected to any of these mining companies," he said.

"I think it is not fair for us to be labeled as irresponsible," Ong told the board. "We have just started our operations and, in fact, we are now in the process of rehabilitation," he said.

He asked those who opposed to give MIPC a chance to prove sincerity in its commitment to rehabilitate its mining area.





# Black sand mining opponents, operator face off in Leyte provincial board

The MIPC has a 25-year mining permit from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for more than 2,000 hectares of land located mostly in MacArthur town.

Last January, the MIPC made its first shipment of black sand involving 39,000 metric tons to China.

**TSB** 

 $Read\ more: \underline{https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/i395202/black-sand-mining-opponents-operator-face-off-in-leyte-provincial-board\#ixzz6mIFUgY6b}$ 

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# Manila, DENR to install water quality monitoring device in Baseco beach

By Susan G. De LeonPublished on February 12, 2021

CALOOCAN CITY, Feb. 12 (PIA) -- To further boost the government's efforts in rehabilitating Manila Bay, the Manila City Government has partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the installation of a water quality monitoring device in the Baseco beach area.

This was announced by Manila City Mayor Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso after a memorandum agreement ceremony on Tuesday, Feb. 9, for the installation of a Water Quality Monitoring Equipment or WQME in line with the rehabilitation efforts at the Manila Bay.

According to the DENR, the device would be placed on a buoy for authorities to gather data, as well as detect and record levels of the following:



The City Government of Manila partners with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to build a water quality monitoring device in Baseco beach. (Manila PIO)biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)

- dissolved oxygen (DO)
- pressure
- chloride
- pH
- temperature
- optical brighteners
- nitrate
- fecal coliforms
- refined oils



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# Manila, DENR to install water quality monitoring device in Baseco beach

- ammonium
- electrical conductivity
- salinity
- total dissolved solids (TDS)
- turbidity
- crude oils
- colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM), and
- total organic carbon (TOC)

The installation of the device is only one among the plans of actions specified in the Writ of Mandamus issued by the Supreme Court (SC), which directs various government offices to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

"Today is a testament to our commitment to the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay. Both the national government and the local government stepped up the efforts to make this happen," Domagoso said in his speech before officials of the city government and DENR.

"Now, we submit ourselves to this machine which can monitor if what we are doing is effective. Malalaman natin kung nagbunga ang ating ginagawa. Seryoso po ang gobyerno sa paglilinis ng Maynila," he added. (PIA NCR)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1066690





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#### NWRB NAGSASAGAWA NG ONLINE VIRTUAL INSPECTION



February 13, 2021 @ 12:15 AM 7 hours ago

IPINAGBIBIGAY-alam ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa pamumuno ni executive director Sevillo David, Jr. na ang ahensya ay nagpapatupad ng Online Virtual Inspection sa mga nagre-request ng Certificate of Public Convenience at iba pang may kaugnayan sa kanilang aplikasyon at sa pag-conduct ng Asset Validation para sa CPC Grantees habang nasa panahon ng COVID 19 Pandemic.

Inaprubahan ng Board of Directors ang Resolution No. 07-0720 sa isang pagpupulong, na ginanap sa NWRB conference room na nagbibigay-pahintulot sa mga inspector na magsasagawa ng online virtual inspection sa on-site technical at ocular inspection.

Para ito sa existing waterworks system facilities.

Ang pag-isyu ng CPC at sa iba pang may kaugnayan sa kanilang application at sa pag-conduct of asset validation para sa CPC Grantees, dapat naaayon sa kasalukuyang protokol na pangkalusugan at kaligtasan sa mga nagsasagawa ng inspection, bilang bahagi ng pag-iingat sa Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic.

Ang opisina ng NWRB ay matatagpuan sa 8th floor, National Irrigation Authority Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Pero para sa mga urgent concern ng ating mga kliyente, maaari kayong magpadala ng inyong mensahe sa mga sumusunod na email address –

nwrbphil@gmail.com para sa general NWRB concerns and queries;

wrd@nwrb.gov.ph para sa issuance of conditional water permit, resolution of cases, resolution of petitions, issuance of permit to drill for observatory monitoring wells, registration of water use for domestic, at issuance of NWRB indorsement as requirement for registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).





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#### NWRB NAGSASAGAWA NG ONLINE VIRTUAL INSPECTION

wud@nwrb.gov.ph para sa issuance of provational authority for Certificate of Public Convenience and other related applications and petitioners;

ppd@nwrb.gov.ph para sa Certificate of Water Availability at issuance of NWRB certification to the Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA);

med@nwrb.gov.ph, billing@nwrb.gov.ph at afd@nwrb.gov.ph para sa application or renewal of registration of well driller, issuance of groundwater table depth for proposed memorial park, calibration of water meter, issuance of Statement of Accounts, at other administrative concerns; at

foi@nwrb.gov.ph at 8888@nwrb.gov.ph para sa Freedom of Information (FOI) at complaints.

Sasagutin at paglingkuran ang mga inquiry ng Office of the Executive Director, Water Right Division, Water Utilities Division, Policy and Program Division, Monitoring and Enforcement Division, Administrative and Financial Division.

Source: <a href="https://www.remate.ph/nwrb-nagsasagawa-ng-online-virtual-inspection/">https://www.remate.ph/nwrb-nagsasagawa-ng-online-virtual-inspection/</a>





# Congress should pass 'Dept of Water' bill



By <u>The Manila Times</u> February 13, 2021

THE creation of a single agency to oversee the management of water utilities in the country is an idea that, at least at one time, was obviously quite popular in Congress. In 2019, representatives filed 35 separate bills that would create a "Department of Water Resources" (DWR), resulting in a consolidated bill — House Bill (HB) 4944, authored by Albay Rep. Jose Maria Clemente "Joey" Salceda — that was approved by the House committees on government reorganization and public works and highways in November 2019.

One of the agencies that would be significantly affected by the creation of the DWR, the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), is evidently frustrated by the apparent lack of legislative progress since then, as LWUA Acting Administrator Jeci Lapus shared during a discussion of his agency's recent accomplishments with a small group of media, including The Manila Times, last week. Although there are a few potential pitfalls in the creation of an umbrella agency such as the DWR, we agree that the potential benefits far outweigh the risks and that Congress should complete the work of passing the measure.

According to the terms of HB 4944, the number of agencies dealing with water policy and management would be reduced to just two, the new DWR and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), which is primarily responsible for the allocation of water resources and would continue in its current form. At least 10 other agencies would either be transferred to the new department or have their functions absorbed by it, including the River Basin Control Office; the Manila Bay Coordinating Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); the Flood Management Planning and Sediment Functions of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH); the Water Supply Sanitation Unit of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); the Water Quality Management Section of the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR; the Metro Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS); LWUA; the Laguna Lake Development Authority; the National Irrigation Administration (NIA); and, although it has already been abolished by order of President Duterte and therefore may be irrelevant in any new arrangement, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

According to HB 4944, the proposed DWR will be the primary national agency responsible for the comprehensive and integrated planning, policy formulation and management of water resources in the Philippines and will work with the NWRB to establish a "National Framework for Water Resource Management."

There are several things about the proposed DWR that are appealing. First and perhaps most practically, the new department would greatly streamline management of the critical water sector. Philippine governing style has always favored inefficiency, creating an endless number of discrete agencies to handle similar activities, multiplying budgets and creating unnecessary overlapping





# Congress should pass 'Dept of Water' bill

jobs. Cutting the excess, or at least gathering it all in one place, will help to cut down expenses and speed up the pace of government action.

The proposed DWR can also help to improve regulation of privatized water infrastructure, since resources can be shared, and indirect impacts can be quickly identified. Part of the reason water concessionaires like Maynilad and Manila Water have been able to dictate terms to their captive markets for so long is the inherent weakness in the regulatory structure. They are answerable to one agency, the MWSS, which in turn has essentially one practical function, the supply of bulk water. With the formation of the DWR, some of the regulatory cracks water concessionaires have become adept at slipping through conceivably will be filled, which will benefit their long-suffering customers.

Of course, much of this is speculative at this point. The measure creating the DWR still needs to pass muster in the full House and Senate, and what will follow will be a lengthy process of developing the actual details of the legislation through the implementing rules and regulations (IRR), so some of exactly what the DWR will look like and how it will work is still unclear.

Even so, the proposal to create the DWR is a promising development and could greatly improve the management and sustainability of this vital infrastructure. Congress should make its passage a priority.

Source: <a href="https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/13/opinion/editorial/congress-should-pass-dept-of-water-bill/840266/">https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/13/opinion/editorial/congress-should-pass-dept-of-water-bill/840266/</a>





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#### BMB, private groups partner to expand green areas



By <u>Eireene Jairee Gomez</u> February 13, 2021

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) has entered into a partnership with the private sector for the creation of more green spaces in urban areas across the country.



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Biodiversity Management Bureau and the private sector sees the need to preserve and expand areas devoted to trees and forests in cities, like the Arroceros Park in Manila. THE MANILA TIMES PHOTO

The Urban Forest Bathing Project, which is part of BMB's Urban Biodiversity Program, aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity, and develop and maintain green spaces within cities to provide ecosystem services to Filipinos.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the project is "a win-win for both the environment and the people," noting its many benefits to the mental and emotional well-being for people living in urban areas.

"The Urban Forest Bathing Project not only will help the environment, as more trees and land spaces will be used for this if deemed successful; it will also help the people nourish their mental and emotional well-being," Cimatu said.

Forest bathing is based on a Japanese concept called shinrin-yoku, with shinrin meaning "forest," and yoku meaning "bathing."





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#### BMB, private groups partner to expand green areas

Developed in Japan during the 1980s, forest bathing means taking in the forest atmosphere during a leisurely walk.

Cimatu said that he looks forward to BMB's promotion of forest bathing in urban areas as health is increasingly becoming a priority for people living in cities.

"I firmly believe that forest bathing can also be a hit in the Philippines as long as we protect and conserve our forests especially our protected areas and our wetlands," he said.

The project, which is covered by a memorandum of understanding, will be undertaken in collaboration with the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF), the Philippine Association of Landscape Architects (PALA), and the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP).

Under the agreement, the BMB shall lead the implementation of the project with concerned DENR regional and field offices and local government units (LGU); issue policy recommendations and guidelines on its establishment; and assist in the formulation of the detailed site development plan of each area identified for urban forest bathing.

It shall also monitor and evaluate periodically the progress of the implementation of urban forest bathing.

The PTFCF shall conduct scientific and technical research to generate knowledge on urban biodiversity conservation, and support to urban forest bathing and the formulation of policy guidelines for the establishment of urban forest bathing. It shall collaborate with BMB for the preparation and implementation of the project.

Meanwhile, PALA is tasked to lead in the formulation of the detailed site development plan of each area identified for urban forest bathing by providing technical specifications, requirements, and directive for the design, among others.

PIEP shall provide technical recommendations for the land use, zoning and strategic development plan for the establishment of urban forest bathing sites, and identify applicable codes and regulations to the development of the areas for urban forest bathing.

It shall also support the formulation of policy guidelines for the establishment of urban forest bathing.

Source: <a href="https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/13/business/green-business/bmb-private-groups-partner-to-expand-green-areas/840249/">https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/13/business/green-business/bmb-private-groups-partner-to-expand-green-areas/840249/</a>





### 'Green spaces'

Friday, February 12, 2021 People's Tonight



IT is certainly distressing and revolting that the remaining forests are rapidly decreasing across the globe, including the Philippines, threatening many plant and animal species with extinction.

In the country, home to the endangered monkey-eating eagle and the tamaraw or Mindoro dwarf buffalo, government authorities and the public are worried because of the retreating wilderness.

Thus, we commend the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for entering into a partnership with the private sector for the creation of more "green spaces" in urban areas.

The setting up of "green spaces" is part of the Biodiversity Management Bureau's "*Urban Biodiversity Program*," said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The establishment of "green spaces" in cities is similar to the forest bathing concept developed in Japan in the 1980s.

The DENR-BMB's "*Urban Biodiversity Program*" aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity and develop and maintain "*green spaces*" in urban centers to provide ecosystem services to the people.

Cimatu described the project as a "win-win" for both the environment and the Filipinos, noting its many benefits to the people's mental and emotional well-being in urban centers across the country.

Forest bathing, which is based on a Japanese concept called shinrin-yoku, with shinrin and yoku meaning forest and bathing, respectively, is taking in the forest atmosphere during a leisurely walk.





# 'Green spaces'

The project will be undertaken in collaboration with the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation, Philippine Association of Landscape Architects and Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners.

Backing the project are the regional and field offices of the DENR and local government units.

In supporting the creation of "green spaces" in urban centers, various quarters lamented that the country's remaining forests are being destroyed for no good reasons at all.

Source: <a href="https://journal.com.ph/editorial/opinion/green-spaces/">https://journal.com.ph/editorial/opinion/green-spaces/</a>





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## Nearly 100 baby 'pawikans' released in Sarangani Bay

Published February 12, 2021, 12:06 PM by Richa Noriega





DENR releases sea turtle hatchlings in Sarangani Bay

GLAN, SARANGANI PROVINCE – Nearly a hundred hatchlings of Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (Lepidochelys olivaceae) also known as "Pawikan" were released Wednesday (February 10) in Sarangani Bay by the DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Glan and its partner local government unit (LGU).

CENR Officer Abdul D. Cariga said that Ismael Dante, a former Bantay Dagat, reported yesterday the emergence of the s...... 查看更多



Nearly 100 hatchlings of the Olive Ridley sea turtle, known locally as "pawikan," were released on Wednesday, Feb. 10 in Glan, Sarangani Bay.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Community Environment and Natural Resources (DENR – CENR) officer Abdul Cariga said former sea patrol Ismael Dante reported the emergence of the sea turtle hatchlings.

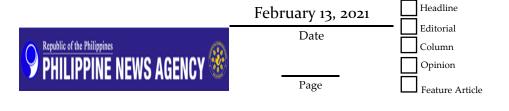
Cariga said 94 pawikan hatchlings were released by the personnel of CENRO in Glan, Sarangani in coordination with the representatives of local government unit (LGU).

During the event, a brief information drive on the importance of marine life was conducted to raise the community's awareness towards a balanced ecosystem.

The DENR underscored that all wildlife species in the Philippines are protected under the Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Source: <a href="https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/12/nearly-100-baby-pawikans-released-in-sarangani-bay/">https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/12/nearly-100-baby-pawikans-released-in-sarangani-bay/</a>





### S. Kudarat locals get aid for turtle hatchlings rescue

By Edwin Fernandez February 12, 2021, 6:06 pm



ACKNOWLEDGED. Lebak Mayor Frederic Celestial (right) hands over aid to locals who rescued nine turtle hatchlings and turned them over to the DENR on Thursday (Feb. 11, 2021). The hatchlings (inset) will be released back to the sea after the DENR checks on their condition. (*Photo courtesy of MENRO-Lebak*)

**COTABATO CITY** – The local government of Lebak and the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) lauded on Friday the locals for helping save marine wildlife.

Four residents of Barangay Tibpuan, a coastal village of Lebak, Sultan Kudarat were given citations and food packs by the local government and MENRO for their contribution to the campaign to protect marine life.

The four, identified as Windy Tibod, Solidad Dubduban, Irene Mae Padasas, and Anther Iwag have rescued nine turtle hatchlings from the Ramirez Beach Resort in Barangay Tibpuan on Thursday.

Lebak Mayor Frederic Celestial has launched a program that provides incentives to anyone who helps or turns over marine wildlife they found on high seas or in distress to the local DENR office.

Celestial said he fully supports the MENRO slogan "protect wildlife, protect the environment". (*PNA*)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1130504





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# 90 giant clam shells confiscated in Palawan

Published February 12, 2021, 10:11 AM by Richa Noriega

At least 90 pieces of giant clam shell were confiscated in El Nido, Palawan, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported on Thursday, Feb. 11.



PCG, NAKUMPISKA ANG 90 PIRASO NG GIANT CLAM SHELL SA EL NIDO, PALAWAN Nakumpiska ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ang 90 piraso ng giant clam shell sa El Nido, Palawan noong ika-06 ng Pebrero 2021.

Matapos matanggap ang report mula sa isang concerned citizen, agad na hinalughog ng Coast Guard Station El Nido ang Sitio Buluang, Barangay Sibaltan sa El Nido kung saan natagpuan ang mga giant clam shell na naka-camouflage sa mga dahon at sanga ng puno. ...... 查看更多



After receiving a report from a concerned citizen, the giant clam shells were found hidden in leaves and trees in Barangay Sibaltan, El Nido on February 6.

The Coast Guard turned over the giant clams to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD).





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# 90 giant clam shells confiscated in Palawan

The PCG also coordinated with the DENR and PCSD for further investigation of the incident.

Under the Republic Act 10654 or Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, any individual who illegally took giant clams that is considered an "endangered species" will be fined up to three million pesos and can be jailed for up to eight years.

Source: <a href="https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/12/90-giant-clam-shells-confiscated-in-palawan/">https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/12/90-giant-clam-shells-confiscated-in-palawan/</a>





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# 90 giant clam shells nakumpiska sa Palawan



February 12, 2021 @ 2:43 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tinatayang 90 piraso ng giant clam shell ang nakumpiska sa El Nido, Palawan, batay sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

Natagpuan itong nakatago sa mga dahon at punuan sa Barangay Sibaltan, El Nido noong Pebrero 6.

Ibinigay na ng Coast Guard ang giant clams sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

Nakipag-ugnayan na ang PCG sa DENR at PCSD para sa imbestigasyon. RNT/FGDC

Source: <a href="https://www.remate.ph/90-giant-clam-shells-nakumpiska-sa-palawan/">https://www.remate.ph/90-giant-clam-shells-nakumpiska-sa-palawan/</a>



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### EVs, home appliances to push demand for nickel

By Malaya Business Insight

-February 12, 2021

The nickel industry is optimistic of this year's prospects due to rising demand from foreign markets driven by infrastructure, electric vehicle (EV) and home appliance equipment manufacturing.

This is despite a14-percent decline in production in 2020 brought about by the enhanced community quarantine between March and May 2020 where movement of mineral products were limited throughout the country.

.The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said nickel production stood at 18.5 million dry metric tons (DMT) in 2020 from 21.6 million DMT in 2019

But as of the third quarter in 2020, export value was slightly higher at P25 billion from P24 billion in the same period in 2019.

Dante Bravo, president of the Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) attributed this to the increase in prices of nickel in the market due to a steady demand in China.

PNIA members accounted for almost half of total nickel production at 7.9 million DMT with an export value amount of P11.6 billion in 2020 from 9.6 million DMT and an export value of P10.6 billion the previous year.

"We are hopeful there will be a continuous demand for the year so that we can also keep our performance and help our local communities by providing them jobs that they can keep. The mining industry has kept to employ 190,000 people in the entire country and this is very important especially that the government is trying to implement economic recovery efforts from the impact of the pandemic," Bravo said.

Source: <a href="https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news">https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news</a> business/evs-home-appliances-to-push-demand-for-nickel/





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# Higanteng oarfish napadpad sa baybayin ng Albay

Pebrero 12, 2021 4:29pm GMT+08:00 SINULAT NI: PEEWEE BACUÑO

Isang oarfish ang napadpad sa baybayin ng Barangay Talin-Talin, Libon, Albay umaga nitong Biyernes.

Ayon sa mga barangy official may habang apat na metro ang oarfish.



Photos courtesy of Elmer Aviso Cañeta

Bago magtanghali ay itinaboy na pabalik sa malalim na parte ng dagat ang oarfish. Nagawa pa ng ilang residente na makapagpa-picture sa oarfish.







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# Higanteng oarfish napadpad sa baybayin ng Albay



Taong 2019 ay isang oarfish din ang napadpad sa parehong lugar. May habang pitong metro ang Oarfish na namatay naman. —**LBG, GMA News** 

Source: <a href="https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/775730/higanteng-oarfish-napadpad-sa-baybayin-ng-albay/story/">https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/775730/higanteng-oarfish-napadpad-sa-baybayin-ng-albay/story/</a>



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# ASEAN oxen symbolizing strength, fragility in biodiversity - ACB chief

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on February 12, 2021



ASEAN Heritage Parks Taman Negara National Park in Malaysia and Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex in Thailand host gaurs, one of the largest cattle species in the world. (Photo courtesy of the ASEAN Heritage Parks programme)

CALOOCAN CITY, Feb. 12 (PIA) -- The chief of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) has highlighted the crucial role of the wild large-horned mammals belonging to the family of bovine species across the ASEAN region in line with the Lunar New Year observance today celebrating the Year of the Ox.

"Today, we also take the opportunity to highlight the crucial role of the wild large-horned mammals belonging to the family of bovine species across the ASEAN region. While their contribution to the people's nutrition and livelihood are invaluable, the presence of these herbivores contributes to the health and productivity of ecosystems,"said ACB Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim.

"Apart from adding balance to the food chain as prey for predators, wild ox or wild cattle species help disperse seeds and cycle nutrients in the soil," Lim added.

To recall, the Lunar New Year is widely celebrated in the ASEAN region, particularly in member states where the event is declared a national holiday.

"With optimism and renewed hope for healing and recovery, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity joins the ASEAN Member States (AMS) in celebrating the start of the Lunar Year of the Ox," Lim said.

"At this time, we couldn't help but think of the forest-dwelling kouprey, or grey ox (Bos sauveli) of Cambodia, which is a critically endangered and possibly extinct species. This species remains a mystery as no sightings have been reported since the 1980s. Other bovine species in the ASEAN need not suffer the same fate as the kouprey," she added.



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# ASEAN oxen symbolizing strength, fragility in biodiversity - ACB chief

"Wild ox species can still be saved from extinction by implementing species conservation programmes and conservation and protection of the species' natural habitats. Among these notable endangered species are saola (Pseudoryx nghetinhensis) of Viet Nam and Lao PDR; dwarf buffalo species, anoa (Bubalus depressicornis and B. quarlesi), of the Sulawesi and Buton islands of Indonesia; tamaraw (Bubalus mindorensis), another dwarf buffalo species endemic to the island of Mindoro, Philippines; and banteng (Bos javanicus), which is found across Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia (Sabah), Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The largest cattle species in the world, the gaur (Bos gaurus) is also found in South and Southeast Asia. However, its population has declined in recent years," the conservation expert enumerated.

Lim said, however, some of the ASEAN Heritage Parks are also home to wild cattles.

"For instance, Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park in the Philippines serves as a refuge for the iconic tamaraws. Gaurs can be seen in Taman Negara National Park in Malaysia and Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex in Thailand. Vu Quang National Park in Vietnam is home to saolas. Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex, on the other hand, hosts a population of banteng," she said.

Lim noted that the ACB and the AMS acknowledge the importance of well-managed protected and conserved areas as critical habitats for endangered species survival and have been supporting the conservation of these species through initiatives under the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme.

The programme, she said, include assistance in capacity development, patrolling and monitoring, taxonomy, and other work related to ensuring the protection of the region's most representative wildlife and promoting the nexus between biodiversity and well-being.

"This Year of the Ox, may we embrace the strength that the wild oxen of Southeast Asia symbolise in order to weather and recover from the adversities that we are facing. Let us be reminded that part of this strength is drawn from our harmonious relationship with nature," she said.

"From the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Gong xǐ fā cái! Chúc Mừng Năm Mới! Happy Lunar New Year!" she added. (PIA NCR)

Source: <a href="https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1066720">https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1066720</a>





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### Lone legume



Published 4 hours ago on February 13, 2021 12:20 AM By **WJG** 



Protecting trees obstructing infrastructure projects from getting cut is one of the most challenging tactics of environmental activists.

In Yellow Finch Lane, Montgomery County, Virginia, USA, anonymous conservationists have been sitting in rotation on top of pines and oaks for more than two years to prevent the trees from getting felled by builders of a natural gas pipeline.

They stay on wooden platforms fixed on branches risking fatal fall and exposure to the cold.

Anonymous supporters on the ground provide them with food and water.

A local court already ordered the removal of the tree sitters in November, but the activists are defying the order, exposing themselves to fines and possibly jail terms once they are identified.

The tree-sitters could not be removed safely by police, thus obstructing and delaying the clearing of the area.

In the Philippines, singer-composer Dong Abay tied himself to a pine tree in Session Road, Baguio City in 2012 to prevent it from getting cut.

At the time, the pine was among 182 trees to be cut to make way for a parking lot of a shopping mall.

The ploy, however, failed as a court allowed the earth-balling and removal of the trees.

Meanwhile, one tree that stands in the way of a highway construction project in Sri Lanka needed to be saved.

The eight-meter-tall Sri Lanka Legume (Crudia zeylanica) is the only one of its kind remaining, according to local conservationists.





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# Lone legume

The project contractor already has a clearance from authorities to clear obstructions, including the tree, which was overlooked as an endangered species.

But no tree-sitting will be used and neither would anyone be tied to the legume to preserve it.

Instead, a Buddhist monk was called to rescue the tree.

Thangalle Saarada on Wednesday went to the site of the Sri Lanka Legume, blessed the plant with holy water and tied a saffron robe around its trunk while performing sacred chants.

It was not a last rite of sorts for the tree.

The ritual ordained it to become a monk.

In that country of 21 million people who are predominantly Buddhist, monks are respected and revered.

No harm is expected to befall on the rare tree now that it is a sacred plant.





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### Emission test or motor inspection clearance still needed: Palace

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos February 12, 2021, 2:41 pm



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque. (File photo)

**MANILA** – Motorists still need to secure either a certificate from emission testing centers or private motor vehicle inspection centers (PMVICs) for vehicle registration, Malacañang said on Friday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque issued the clarification a day after he announced President Rodrigo Duterte's decision not to make the Motor Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS) mandatory.

"Bagama't ang Pangulo po ay nagsabi na hindi dapat ipatupad ang motor vehicle inspection, kinakailangan pa rin po na mag-submit ng either 'yung emission clearance or MVIS (While the President has decided not to make motor vehicle inspection mandatory, motorists should still submit either emission clearance or MVIS)," Roque said during the Laging Handa briefing.

On Thursday, Roque announced Duterte's move to make MVIS non-mandatory, considering the current situation in the country due to the coronavirus pandemic.

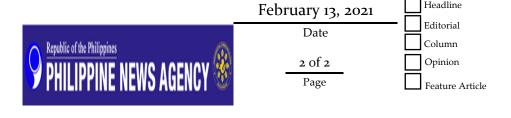
Duterte's fresh directive came amid questions over the implementation of MVIS which aims to ensure the roadworthiness of vehicles and prevent road accidents.

Roque, however, said private vehicles should still undergo inspection prior to registration.

"Dalawa po 'yang pupuwede ninyong isumite, yung emission na dati na po yan or MVIS. Hindi pupuwede na wala ang pareho (You could submit either of the two, the emission clearance or the MVIS. You have to present any of the two)," he said.

The MVIS program mandates motorists to pass a stringent 73-point inspection system that will be conducted by MVICs using advanced technology.





# Emission test or motor inspection clearance still needed: Palace

Under the new policy, the inspection will be conducted in three stages with the use of state-of-the-art equipment that sends, automatically and in real-time, the results to the Land Transportation Office's (LTO) information technology system.

The LTO authorizes PMVICs to collect an inspection of PHP1,800 from motor vehicles weighing 4,500 kilograms or less.

If the vehicle fails the test, it will be required to undergo necessary repairs and be brought back to the PMVIC, forcing the motorist to pay an additional PHP900 reinspection fee to obtain clearance.

On the other hand, motorcycles and tricycles are charged PHP600 for the inspection fee and PHP300 for reinspection, if necessary.

Prior to the implementation of the new inspection procedure, motorists are required to pay an average of PHP500 for the emission testing fee.

Roque said there was a commitment from PMVIC owners to lower their testing fee to PHP600.

"Alinsunod sa naging order ng ating Presidente, ang mga operator ng private motor vehicle inspection centers ay nagsabi na ang singil nila ay kapareho lamang ng emission test na 600 pesos (In line with the President's order, operators of private motor vehicle inspection centers have vowed to charge PHP600 for inspection, the same as the rate for emission test)," he said. (PNA)

Source: <a href="https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1130478">https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1130478</a>





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# PH confirms 19 more cases of UK COVID-19 variant

By <u>CNN Philippines Staff</u> Published Feb 12, 2021 10:27:38 PM



The Department of Health reported 19 new infections of the more infectious COVID-19 variant first detected in the United Kingdom, raising the total number of cases of this variant in the Philippines to 44. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, February 12) — The Department of Health reported 19 new infections of the more contagious COVID-19 variant first detected in the United Kingdom, raising the total number of cases of this variant in the Philippines to 44.

Three of the patients were from Davao Region — a 10-year-old boy, a 54-year-old female, and a 33-year-old male. They do not have any known link to each other, the DOH noted, and are currently ill with mild symptoms.

Two cases were found in CALABARZON: a 20-year-old female who has since gotten better, and a 76-year-old female who was exposed to a sick patient in January. She is currently experiencing mild symptoms.

Meanwhile, eight of the infected patients — four males and four females with ages between 28 and 53 — were returning overseas Filipinos. Two have recovered while six are in isolation facilities. As for the last six patients, the DOH said it is still verifying if they are local cases or returning overseas Filipinos as well.

Source: <a href="https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/2/12/19-cases-UK-variant.html">https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/2/12/19-cases-UK-variant.html</a>





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### Businesses urged to invest in disaster risk management

By Ehda M. Dagooc(The Freeman)

- February 13, 2021 - 12:00am



DOST Undersecretary and PHIVOLCS OIC Dr. Renato U. Solidum, Jr., hoped to put the spotlight on the environmental risks that businesses in the country are facing by highlighting the "Climate and environmental risk exposures of the Philippines and how to identify and mitigate risks."

File

CEBU, Philippines — The business sector is urged to adopt more comprehensive risk management to avoid disasters in the future.

This urgent call to the business sector was made during the Sustainable Development Finance (SDF) Webinar on Natural Disaster Resilience organized by the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), Thursday, February 11, 2021.

The activity highlighted the need for companies, big and small, to rethink risk management frameworks and make them part of the overall business strategy.

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary and Officer-in-Charge of PHIVOLCS, Dr. Renato U. Solidum, Jr., hoped to put the spotlight on the environmental risks that businesses in the country are facing by highlighting the "Climate and environmental risk exposures of the Philippines and how to identify and mitigate risks."

For his part, Engr. Ed Tongson of the World Wide Fund (WWF) discussed how risks are changing, how businesses can adapt to earthquake and the range of technologies available.

Tongson also discussed how cost-benefit analysis can help owners decide on solutions.

Dr. Solidum and Engr. Tongson both recognized the fact that doing business in the Philippines entails inherent and natural risks as the country sits in the Pacific Ring of Fire, aside from being tied to the Typhoon Belt.

PHIVOLCS records an average of 20 earthquakes daily, alongside other environmental threats such as typhoons that have increased in frequency and intensity due to climate change, flooding, and volcanic eruptions.





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# Businesses urged to invest in disaster risk management

With this, Dr. Solidum and Engr. Tongson explained the need for tools to identify and measure risk exposures. One of the tools they recommend is the Hazard Hunter application, which can help identify and measure the effects of possible natural disasters.

Tongson also advised businesses to have their buildings assessed and to explore the added protection of financing their risks.

"Financing your risk is a partnership between you, your bank and your insurance company. Our advice is for insurance to cover replacement costs for your peace of mind," he said in his call to businessmen.

Meanwhile, BPI Corporate Credit Products Group Head Roland Gerard Veloso, Jr., said businesses should also adapt to these risks to become more resilient.

"We encourage businesses to take the critical steps needed to create a more resilient business, to be able to adapt to the times and pivot when the situation calls for it. This is the key to sustainability. Climate resilience and preparedness are important for most industries as these will help them realize the interventions they need to manage risks," Veloso said.

BPI is the first bank in the Philippines to have engaged in climate and environmental risk preparedness initiatives. It has a dedicated Sustainable Development Finance (SDF) team aimed at helping clients protect their businesses, making them resilient and sustainable.

In addition to helping businesses become more resilient, BPI's SDF portfolio has reported a total of 355 projects financed, with P190.9 billion in cumulative availed loans as of December 2020. Of this number, 158 were energy efficiency projects, 89 were renewable projects, and 108 were climate resilience projects.

From 2008 to 2020, its total greenhouse gas reduction reached a total of 28.6 million tons of carbon, equivalent to growing 472 million trees.

This initiative supports the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) Circular No. 1085 ("Sustainable Finance Framework"), which is a policy framework on sustainable finance that covers banks' sustainability principles on environmental and social (E&S) risk areas, corporate governance, and risk management.

Source: <a href="https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-business/2021/02/13/2077383/businesses-urged-invest-disaster-risk-management/amp/">https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-business/2021/02/13/2077383/businesses-urged-invest-disaster-risk-management/amp/</a>





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# This fish looks like a hedge-trimmer -- but its days could be numbered

**By Amy Woodyatt, CNN** Updated 1452 GMT (2252 HKT) February 12, 2021



Researchers say the sawfish is on the verge of extinction.

(CNN)The <u>sawfish</u> is one of the ocean's stranger sights -- with its unique long, narrow nose lined with teeth, it resembles a hedge-trimmer or chain saw.

But the shark-like rays are on the brink of extinction, having vanished from half of the world's coastal waters, according to a new study.

Sawfish were once found on the coastlines of 90 countries. But now they are some of the world's most threatened marine fish, and are already presumed extinct in some 46 countries, researchers from Canada's Simon Fraser University said.

At least one species of sawfish is missing in 18 countries, and two species have disappeared in 28 countries, the researchers said.

Three of the five species of sawfish are critically endangered, and the other two are endangered, they warned.







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# This fish looks like a hedge-trimmer -- but its days could be numbered

Despite their alarming appearance, the fish are not considered dangerous to humans, but their saws -- which can reach a third of their total length -- are used for feeding, digging out animals, and killing or maiming other fish.

But the teeth on their "saws" -- known as rostra -- mean the creatures are easily tangled in fishing nets, while their fins are valuable in the shark fin market. Their rostra are also sold as novelties, for medicine, and are used as spurs for cockfighting, the researchers said.

"Through the plight of sawfish, we are documenting the first cases of a wide-ranging marine fish being driven to local extinction by overfishing," Nick Dulvy, a professor in marine biodiversity and conservation at SFU, said in a statement.

"We've known for a while that the dramatic expansion of fishing is the primary threat to ocean biodiversity, but robust population assessment is difficult for low priority fishes whose catches have been poorly monitored over time," he said.



Tropical reef fish, 81, is the oldest ever to be discovered by scientists

In a study published in the journal <u>Science Advances</u>, researchers warn that complete extinction is possible if overfishing is not curbed, and if threatened habitats where sawfish live are not protected.

They say they have identified "priority" countries where there is still a chance of saving the species.

Conservation efforts should be made in Cuba, Tanzania, Colombia, Madagascar, Panama, Brazil, Mexico and Sri Lanka, where protections could save the imperiled species. Countries like the US and Australia, which already have adequate protections and some sawfish, should be considered "lifeboat" nations.





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# This fish looks like a hedge-trimmer -- but its days could be numbered

"While the situation is dire, we hope to offset the bad news by highlighting our informed identification of these priority nations with hope for saving sawfish in their waters," Helen Yan, a researcher in marine biodiversity and conservation at SFU, said. "We also underscore our finding that it's actually still possible to restore sawfish to more than 70 per cent of their historical range, if we act now."

 $Source: \underline{https://edition.cnn.com/2021/02/12/world/sawfish-extinction-intl-scli-scn/index.html}$ 







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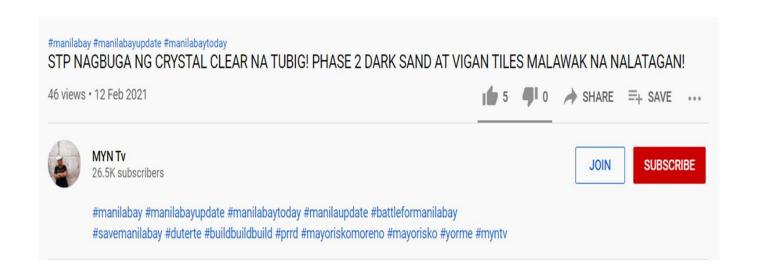




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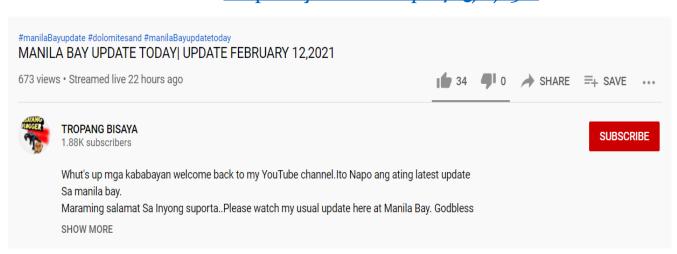




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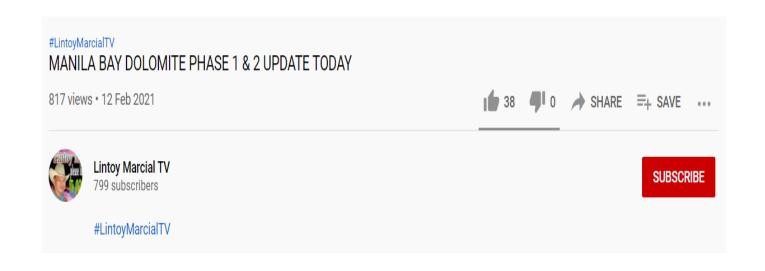




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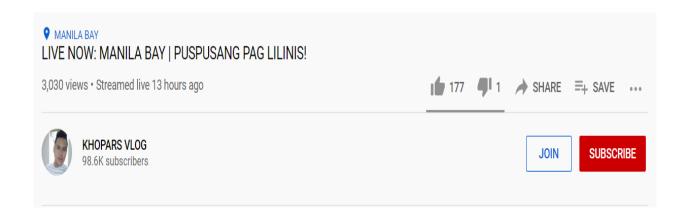




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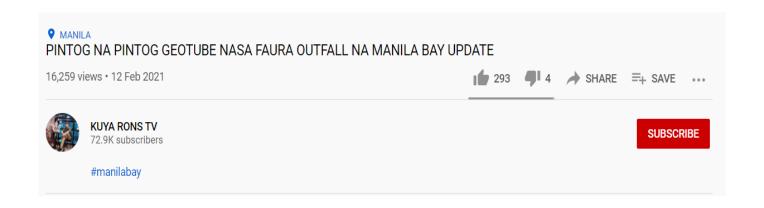




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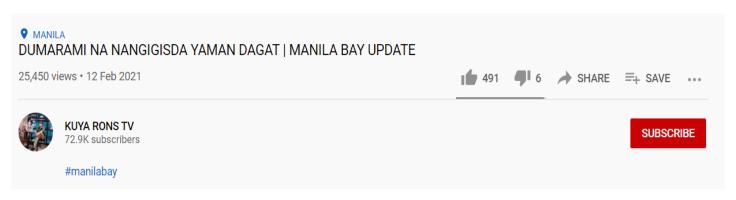




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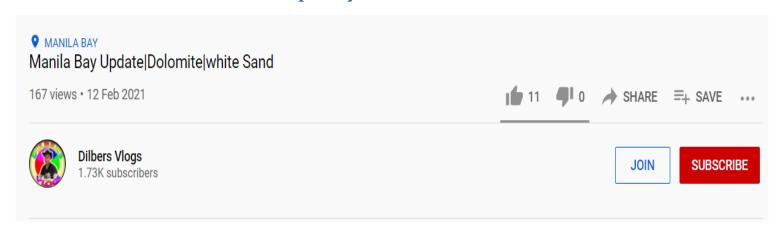




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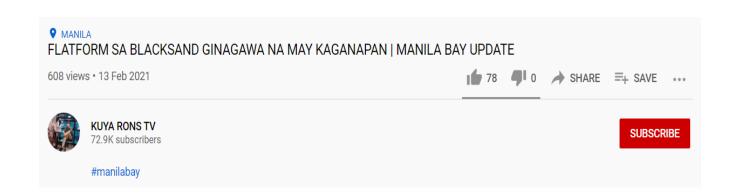




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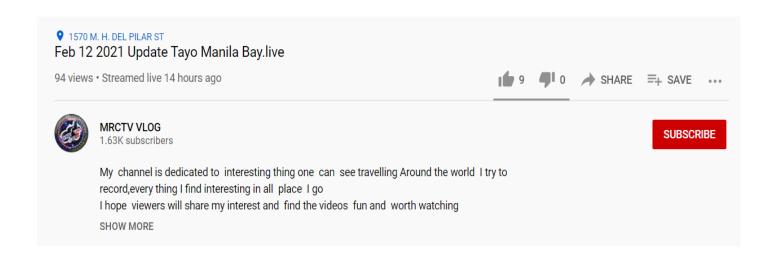




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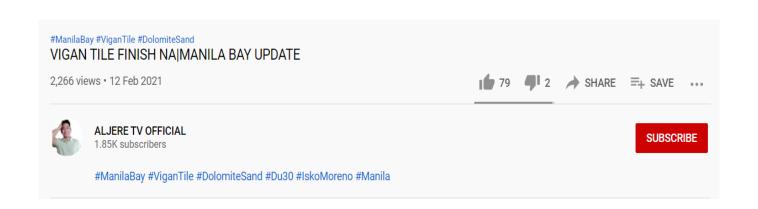




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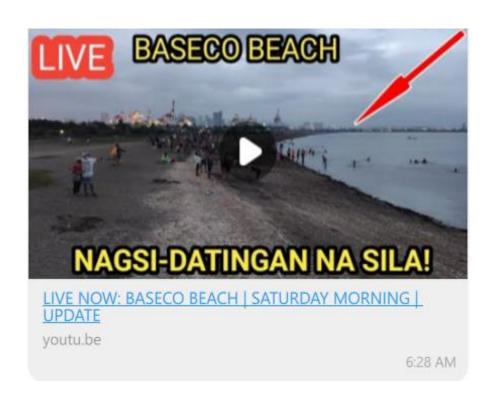
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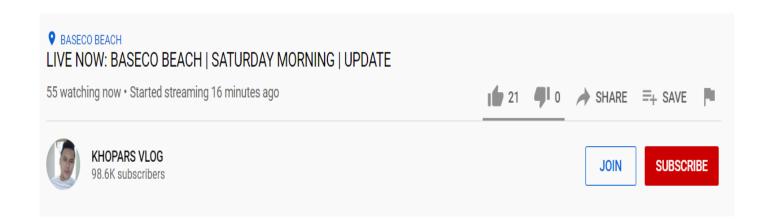




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Source: <a href="https://youtu.be/rAmglGjaFmw">https://youtu.be/rAmglGjaFmw</a>



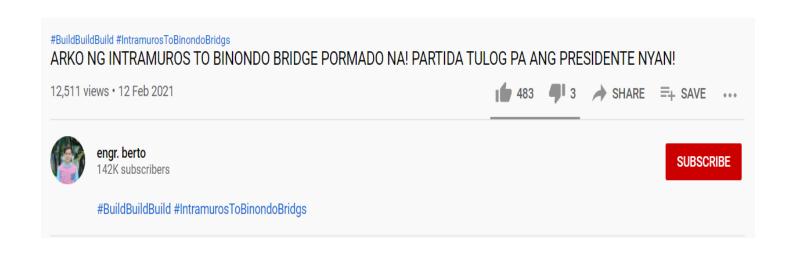




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Source: <a href="https://youtu.be/5YDUIRdB-Fg">https://youtu.be/5YDUIRdB-Fg</a>







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Source: <a href="https://youtu.be/HoU69-hJQiY">https://youtu.be/HoU69-hJQiY</a>

