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### Tarlac residents get DENR patents

By<u>Jerry Hernandez</u>

February 17, 2021

TARLAC: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) awarded 152 residential patents in Tarlac to legalize the occupants' rights over the lots.

The figure is a chunk of the 261 total prepared residential free patents that were distributed to Barangay Cristo Rey in Capas town during a Handog Titulo activity.

"We have prepared 261 residential free patents but due to the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic, only 152 patents were awarded," Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Celia Esteban said.

Under DENR's Land Disposition and Management Program and by virtue of Republic Act 10023 ("Residential Free Patent Act"), qualified applicants shall receive administrative confirmations of imperfect title to legalize their land rights over residential lots.

Source: <a href="https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/17/news/regions/tarlac-residents-get-denr-patents/841728/">https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/17/news/regions/tarlac-residents-get-denr-patents/841728/</a>





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### **Tarlac patents**

A total of 152 residential patents and one special patent was awarded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Barangay Cristo Rey in Capas, Tarlac.

DENR officer Celia Esteban said the "Handog Titulo" activity was made possible via the Land Disposition and Management Program, by virtue of Republic Act (RA) 10023 (Residential Free Patent Act).

Qualified applicants received administrative confirmation of imperfect titles to legalize their rights on residential lots, giving them security of tenure.

The Special Patent for Public School Site was awarded to Sinait Elementary School. Under RA 10023, public land actually occupied and used for public schools, among others, may be issued Special Patents.

The program involved processing, approval and issuances of concessions pertaining to public and government-owned lands in favor of qualified individuals.

J. REYES





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TINGNAN: Natagpuan ng 5 bata ang isang lawin na hirap makalipad sa bahaging ilog ng Purok Silangan, Barangay Ibabang Dupay, Lucena, Quezon Linggo.

Kuwento ni Sangguniang Kabataan Chairman Rolden Garcia, agad dinala ng mga bata ang lawin sa bahay ng isang kabarangay at itinawag sa Tanggol Kalikasan para maipasa sa pangangalaga ng Community Environment and Natural Resources.

Kung maayos na ang lagay ng ibon, saka ito pakakawalan, ayon sa CENR. | via Sarah Sales, Bayan Mo, Ipatrol Mo

BASAHIN DITO ang kaugnay na ulat: https://bit.ly/2N1cw53



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## EDITORYAL - Palalimin ang Marikina River at ipatigil ang quarrying

(Pang-masa) - February 17, 2021 - 12:00am

NGAYONG araw na ito sisimulan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagpapalalim (dredging) sa Marikina River. Sabi ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, ang Task Force Build Back Better ang magsasagawa ng dredging. Itinatag ang task force makaraan ang malawakang pagbaha sa Marikina at iba pang siyudad sa Metro Manila noong nakaraang Nobyembre 2020. Ayon kay Cimatu, uumpisahan ang dredging sa malapit sa Marcos Highway sa Bgy. Calumpang.

Itinuturo na ang mababaw na Marikina River ang dahilan ng pagbaha hindi lamang sa Marikina kundi pati na rin sa Quezon City, Pasig, at ibang bayan sa Rizal. Taun-taon ay lagi nang may pagbaha sa Marikina. Pinakamatindi ang pagbahang naranasan noong 2009 nang manalasa ang Bagyong Ondoy. Maraming residente ang nag-akyatan sa bubong ng kanilang bahay. Madali nang umapaw ang Marikina River kaya apektado ang mga nakatira malapit sa ilog. Dapat nang hukayin ang ilog para hindi lumubha ang baha.

Maaring ang kababawan ng Marikina River ang dahilan nang pagbaha pero dapat ding tingnan ng DENR ang talamak na quarrying sa Rizal. Ayon sa report, maraming quarrying companies ang nag-o-operate sa Rizal at ilan dito ay pag-aari ng pulitiko. May quarrying sa mga bayan ng Rodriguez (dating Montalban), Antipolo City, Baras at Tanay. Noong 2018, inireklamo na sa DENR ang mga quarrying companies sa Rizal dahil sa pagbaha rin sa Marikina at Taytay subalit wala umanong ginawang aksiyon ang departamento. Dumaan lang umano sa kanang taynga at lumabas sa kaliwa ang reklamo.

Hiniling umano ng grupong Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) kay DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu na itigil ang lahat nang quarrying operations sa Rizal pero patuloy pa rin ang mga ito. Maski ang mga residente ng Taytay ay umapela na rin kay President Duterte na ipatigil ang quarrying operations sapagkat apektado sila kapag umapaw ang Marikina River.

Pinalalalalim na ng DENR ang Marikina River. Magandang hakbang ito at maaaring masolusyunan kahit paano ang pagbaha sa Marikina. Pero mas magiging epektibo at maaaring solusyon sa pagbaha ang pagpapatigil sa mga nagku-quarry sa Rizal.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2021/02/17/2078270/editoryal-palalimin-ang-marikina-river-ipatigil-ang-quarrying





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## River dredging smells — Teodoro

It used to be a flood plain area. Now there are almost 10-15 meters backfilling of soil and other construction debris in the area

Published 6 hours ago on February 17, 2021 12:20 AM

By Neil Alcober



The local government of Marikina City has warned the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that its project to dredge the Marikina River with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) may aggravate and not lessen flooding in the city.

In an exclusive interview with Daily Tribune, Mayor Marcy Teodoro insisted on the city's "understanding" with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu that the dredging should widen and not reduce further the river's width.

Teodoro charged that the project is tainted with "conflict of interest" as Rep. Bayani Fernando, as chairperson of the House Public Works Committee, holds influence over the DPWH.

The dredging was scheduled to start today, 17 February, but was put on hold, according to the mayor, given the city's expressed opposition to reducing the river's ideal width of 100 meters to 70-80 meters.

Insisting that he holds no personal grudge against Fernando, Teodoro revealed they have already issued a notice of violation against BF City, parts of which have allegedly encroached on the riverbank.

He emphasized that the dredging should be made before the onset of the rainy season but in a manner that will follow the national topography of the body of water.

"It's just that we were flooded and there's a need to rectify the alignment done to the river. We're not attacking the person, but we simply want to regain the natural topography of the area," Teodoro said.

He said that if the DENR and DPWH will follow the proper alignment of the river, the reclamation project of Fernando at BF City will be hit by the government's dredging project.

The mayor hinted the 70- to 80-meter proposed width of the river may have been intended to ensure that BF City would not be touched.

"There's a conflict of interest," Teodoro said, adding that the DPWH has not consulted with the local government on the proper alignment.

City officials formally objected to the DPWH when they learned that it will not follow the original alignment and the natural course of the river, as well as its ideal width of 100 meters, Teodoro said.





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"It was decreased accordingly (to 70-80 meters) as per the suggestion of Congressman BF. So, we are objecting also to the suggestion of Congressman BF. The narrower the river is, the lower is its water-carrying capacity.

"We have an understanding with (Environment) Secretary (Roy) Cimatu that all the reclaimed areas along the Marikina River will be removed and we will widen and deepen the river to increase the water carrying capacity," the mayor said.

"If these things will happen, we expect that flooding will be mitigated particularly in low-lying communities along the Marikina River," Teodoro said.

Sought by the Daily Tribune for reaction, Rep. Fernando refused to comment on the issues hurled against him by the city government which he used to head as mayor.

Fernando said in a phone interview that he would just let the DPWH answer all the questions as it would be seen as self-serving whatever he might say.

He assured though that he is concerned with the flood since pointing out in 2007 that developments in the Manggahan Floodway project in Pasig City may be contributing to the flood.

Marikina residents on Monday impressed on visiting DENR officials their desire for the restoration of the natural topography of the river as a flood plain while removing all artificial backfilling of its easement.

They said Fernando's reclamation projects along the riverbank have contributed to the heavy flooding in Marikina during typhoon "Ulysses" last November.

"That's a common observation of people living in the area. There's an alteration of the embankment particle on the side of BF City," Teodoro said. "It used to be a flood plain area. Now there are almost 10-15 meters backfilling of soil and other construction debris in the area."

"It has increased in elevation, thus, water now rushes toward the direction of Olandes community. The behavior of the water has changed. Actually, they are moving for immediate action on the part of the DPWH to remove all the alterations on the embankment," Teodoro said.

DENR Assistant Secretary Daniel Darius Nicer said they are open to discussing the issue with the city government, saying the DPWH's intention should not be seen negatively as its mandate is to stop the flooding.

The problem, Nicer said, was that they could not determine yet the previous alignment, especially since rivers naturally change their topography.

Source: <a href="https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/02/17/river-dredging-smells-teodoro/">https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/02/17/river-dredging-smells-teodoro/</a>





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### DENR employee shot dead in Tacloban

By Sarwell Meniano February 16, 2021, 2:18 pm



SHOOTING. Policemen examine the body of an employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources who was shot to death Tuesday morning (Feb. 16, 2021) in Tacloban City. The police are still investigating the motive behind the fatal shooting. (Photo courtesy of Charles Vincent Manarang)

TACLOBAN CITY – An employee of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) was shot dead by unidentified gunmen Tuesday morning.

The police identified the victim as Rodolfo Concillo, 59, forest technician of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-CENRO in Palo, Leyte.

Gunmen attacked him just a few meters away from his residence in Apitong village.

Around 7:30 a.m., Concillo was driving a motorcycle heading to the city's downtown area for his medical check-up when the gunmen shot him multiple times.

As a forest technician, he is tasked to conduct forest assessment and inventory of forest occupants and facilitate the conduct of community mapping in the preparation of forest management or development plan.

The CENRO office in Palo town covers the first legislative district of Leyte.

The Tacloban police is still investigating the incident. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1130773





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# DENR employee shot dead in Tacloban, Leyte

Published February 17, 2021 3:53am

A government employee and a businessman were reported shot to death in separate incidents, according to a report on Saksi.

An employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was shot about 20 times in various parts of his body in Tacloban, Leyte.

The authorities identified the victim as 52-year-old Rodolfo Concillo and are currently conducting an investigation to identify the perpetrators of the crime.

In Valencia City in Bukidnon, a businessman was shot dead outside a cockfighting pit was shot dead.

The suspect, after shooting the victim, carted away with a bag containing about P400,00 in cash. -- BAP, GMA News





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## Cops probe 3 shooting incidents in Eastern Visayas

February 16, 2021

POLICE in Eastern Visayas continued to investigate a wave of gun violence that resulted in the death of two persons and the wounding of another victim in less than a week.

On Tuesday morning, February 16, unidentified gunmen shot a 59-year-old government employee who was on his way for medical examination in Tacloban City.

Police identified the victim as Rodolfo Concillo, a forest technician assigned at the Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR)-Cenro in Palo, Leyte.

He died on the spot due to multiple gunshot wounds.

A 63-year-old vendor was also shot in Basey, Samar over the weekend.

Initial investigation disclosed the victim, Artemio Engracia, was walking down the road when he was shot by still unidentified assailants.

The victim suffered a gunshot wound in the head, which led to his death, police said in the report.

In Maasin City, Southern Leyte, a 32-year-old construction worker, identified as Nelson Laran Justan, was hospitalized after he was shot on February 14.

A hot pursuit operation led to the arrest of the suspect, identified as Enrique Sigues, who is also a resident of the city.

Police also recovered from the suspect's possession a caliber .357 Smith and Wesson revolver loaded with two live ammunition and four fired cartridges of caliber .357, according to the report.

Police have yet to determine the motive in the shooting. (Sunstar Philippines)

Source: https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1886164





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## **DENR** employee shot dead in Tacloban

February 16, 20211 min read

TACLOBAN CITY – An employee of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) was shot dead by unidentified gunmen Tuesday morning.

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Gunmen attacked him just a few meters away from his residence in Apitong village.

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As a forest technician, he is tasked to conduct forest assessment and inventory of forest occupants and facilitate the conduct of community mapping in the preparation of forest management or development plan.

The CENRO office in Palo town covers the first legislative district of Leyte.

The Tacloban police is still investigating the incident. (PNA)





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### The environment and Edsa on my mind

By<u>Santiago F. Dumlao Jr.</u> February 17, 2021



LET me start by stating the obvious: we all have a direct stake in protecting the environment. We all know about greenhouse gases, which contribute to the greenhouse effect when the heat of sunlight is "trapped" in the atmosphere and produces the climate-warming change that, in turn, brings about those ill-consequences we now are experiencing.

There is increased heat and drought. Water sources are being depleted. We experience rising warmer temperatures and likewise colder temperatures. Ocean temperatures are rising, sea levels are also rising, wind patterns are changing and their severity as typhoons are more destructive. Agricultural yields are seen to be reduced. There's flooding and soil erosion more frequently now.

It has occurred to me that it is not enough just to be aware of climate change and wail in desperation, but to do our individual part to mitigate its ill effects. I'd like to suggest to my readers that it is in reducing air pollution on the roads where all of us can do our part, specifically, air pollution in Edsa. This principal road artery connecting Metro Manila cities has been the source of heavy air pollution from vehicle congestion, and all of us who use Edsa are accomplices to the degradation of our urban environment. So let's do something about it.

Just to put a bit of context to my proposal. Carbon dioxide is the major greenhouse gas that contributes about 75 percent of emissions. It can linger in the atmosphere for a thousand years. Carbon dioxide is produced burning fossil fuels, like coal, oil and natural gas. A US study reports that indeed the largest source of greenhouse emissions is from human activities when fossil fuel is burned for electricity, heat and transportation.

The principal culprit in Metro Manila's air pollution is the motor vehicle. This fossil-fueled modern invention has been the major source of toxic emissions so visible and felt in our Edsa traffic congestion. We might note that a typical passenger vehicle emits about 4.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. (USD EPA, March 2018)

When the pandemic lockdown got all the vehicles off the road, we all saw how the air in Edsa and other streets became so differently clean.

Auspiciously, the lockdown provided the singular opportunity to introduce the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) concept to Edsa. Since the road was relatively free of traffic, it was an opportune time to make a drastic change—dedicating the inside lane of Edsa to public buses moving by central control in orderly, well-timed intervals. It is now working to speed-up the transport of people along the busiest of highways. And no more buses overtaking and blocking each other, fighting to get passengers because the bus drivers are now compensated with fixed salaries, not dependent on passengers picked up. Have we noticed this? It's really a direction towards a more rational way of using roads. And this is just the beginning of a full implementation of proper Road Sharing with good consequences to the environment. We must all be on board to this road-use objective.

In Executive Order 774 (December 2008) "Reorganizing the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change," it was already declared: "The new paradigm in the movement of men and things must follow a simple principle: 'Those who have less in wheels must have more in road.' For this purpose, the system shall favor non-motorized locomotion and collective transportation (walking, bicycling, and the man-powered mini-train)." The purpose was to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels.





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The National Transport Policy (September 2017) and its implementing rules and regulations reiterated "the prioritization of people-mobility over vehicle-mobility." (Section 129 of IRR) The tragedy is that, where the objective of transportation is to move people to points of destination, and that's why we have roads, these roads in effect have come to serve the movement of vehicles more than people. Why? Because the road space used by vehicles is disproportionately much more than by individuals. And at Edsa, we were hardly moving in fact. Perhaps we can change this because we need to.

It's a waste of space, says Tony Oposa, the champion environmentalist. "A person standing up occupies about one-eight (1/8) of a square meter. Sitting down he occupies about one-fourth (1/4) of a square meter. Using a car, he will occupy 13-15 square meters, and the vehicle is not yet even moving." It is also a waste of time, and all who have used Edsa know this too well.

Let me now go to my point. Let's all make Edsa the focus of our joint efforts to do our small, individual part, yet can produce significant results. Let's pursue through government-private sector partnership making Edsa a rationalized road-sharing reality giving priority to public transport against private cars, assigning as well pathways for bicycles and pedestrians in equal prioritization as already mandated by official policy. This will reduce fossil-fuel emissions drastically, enhanced by the removal from the road of old polluting vehicles and the replacement of combustion engines with electric-powered transport. Moreover, let us line Edsa with trees and plants not just for beautification but to absorb the carbon dioxide emissions which is the way the biological carbon cycle works. In turn, plants exhale oxygen which people inhale.

In sum, let's favor people over cars. That makes sense. After all, just a few have cars. The majority need public transport.

Can the road-sharing concept be done? In fact, some of our LGUs have experimented with this concept. There are examples in other countries too.

You will be hearing more about this and let's hope all will get on board.

Santiago F. Dumlao Jr. past president of the Finex, is the current Secretary-General of the Association of Credit Rating Agencies in Asia.

Source: <a href="https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/02/17/the-environment-and-edsa-on-my-mind/">https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/02/17/the-environment-and-edsa-on-my-mind/</a>





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## Bags of shredded banknotes found in Roxas City barangay

Published February 15, 2021 10:14pm

Bags containing shredded banknotes that were supposed to go to the dump were instead found by residents of a barangay in Roxas City, Capiz.

According to Oscar Oida's report on "24 Oras" on Monday, plastic bags containing the shredded bills were left in Barangay Cagay by a service provider that was supposed to transport them from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Roxas City branch to a dumpsite in San Jose.

"It so happened lang na 'yong truck namin galing central bank papuntang dumpsite, dumaan dito kasi na-flat," Jonathan Agrasada, the contractor, said.

He said they temporarily unloaded the bags containing the shredded bills to fix the truck.

The BSP's Roxas City branch said it is already conducting an investigation regarding the matter.

It added that the service provider already took full responsibility for the incident in view of its contract with the BSP.

To date, the BSP said the shredded banknotes have all been delivered to the designated dumpsite.

According to the BSP, as part of its nationwide "Clean Note Policy" banknotes that are mutilated and unfit are withdrawn from circulation and shredded.

"Unfit banknotes are properly disposed of to ensure that they are not recirculated. This involves shredding of said banknotes," it said. — Ma. Angelica Garcia/BM, GMA News

Source: <a href="https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/776074/bags-of-shredded-banknotes-found-in-roxas-city-barangay/story/">https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/776074/bags-of-shredded-banknotes-found-in-roxas-city-barangay/story/</a>





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## Tagalog News: Batangas PPO nagtanim ng 1,300 puno ng Bakawan sa Lobo Mangrove Forest

By Bhaby De CastroPublished on February 16, 2021



LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS, Pebrero 16 (PIA) --Nagtanim ng may 1,300 puno ng bakawan ang mga kapulisan ng Batangas Provincial Police Office (BPPO) sa Lagadlarin Mangrove Forest sa Barangay Lagadlarin sa bayan ng Lobo noong ika-5 ng Pebrero.

Ang hakbang ay bilang suporta ng BPPO sa core value ng PNP na Maka-Kalikasan at pagtugon sa pahayag ni Chief PNP Gen. Debold Sinas na makipagtulungan sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang mapangalagaan ang likas na yaman ng bansa.

Sinabi ni PCol. Rex Arvin Malimban, BPPO Provincial Director na nagpapasalamat ang hanay ng kapulisan sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Lobo sa pahintulot na makapagsagawa ng ganitong aktibidad na maituturing na malaking tulong upang mapangalagaan hindi lamang ang mga bakawan kundi maging ang buhay ng mga taong naninirahan malapit sa lugar.

"Kapag napalago at napalaki ang mga punong ito na itinanim, isang malaking biyaya ito para sa lahat dahil magbibigay ito ng malinis na hangin, malalabanan ang global warming at makakatulong din sa komunidad upang makaiwas sa posibleng panganib mula sa kalamidad bukod sa patuloy nitong pinanatili ang kagandahan ng Mangrove forest," ani Malimban.

Bago ang pagtatanim ng bakawan, isang simpleng programa ang isinagawa tampok si Pangulong Mafriel Dimaano, ang tinaguriang "Arkitekto" ng Lagadlarin Mangrove Forest.

Ibinahagi ni Dimaano kung paano nagsimula, naging tagumpay ang pagsasaayos at pangangasiwa ng 17 ektaryang mangrove forest na matatagpuan sa kanilang barangay.

"Mahalagang isaisip at isapuso ng bawat isa ang pagtatanim at pangangalaga ng kalikasan," pagtatapos ni Dimaano. (BHABY P. DE CASTRO-PIA Batangas)

Source: <a href="https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1066992">https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1066992</a>





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### La Union gov't allots P90-K for 'Project Tree'

By Caren Grace R. Cabanayan Published on February 16, 2021

SAN FERNANDO CITY, Feb.16 (PIA) -- Anchored on its objective to raise environmental awareness, rehabilitation, protection and conservation, the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) alloted some Php90,000 to launch the "Project Tree" as one its flagship program for calendar year 2021.

This is part of the "Kalikasan Naman Campaign" of the provincial government.

Governor Francisco Emmanuel Ortega III said that aside from the province's engagement in tourism and agriculture, they must also be inclined with environmental aspects to fully attain sustainability and self-sufficiency.

"Alongside the strategic focus on agriculture and tourism, we shall foster ecological integrity too, and clean and healthy environment in the province," Ortega emphasized.

The Project Tree is about the propagation of native trees in the entire province.

It mainly aims to restore the once vast forestry and to protect watersheds, hence reduce effects of climate change.

Ortega said, "Magtatanim tayo ng native trees para ibalik ang lawak ng mga kagubatan at pangalagaan ang mga watersheds na isang susi laban sa climate change."

It is also believed to increase food and other basic needs for the people.

Some 50,000 seedlings will be distributed, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources through its Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), to various environmental people's organizations.

Also, both the academe and the youth sector are target recipients of the seedlings.

The PGLU had identified numerous nurseries in the province where seedlings may possibly be propagated.

"We are doing assessment on what areas may be suitable for the seedlings," said Analyn Valdez, officer-in-charge department head of ENRO.

Further, the province also has the Integrated Social Forestry which is an initiative of the national government designed to maximize land productivity and enhance ecological stability in the upland.

"May Integrated Social Forestry din tayo, ito yung may ownership. Ibibigay natin sa mga taga-upland areas and they will have to maintain the seedlings," the environment focal added.

Meanwhile, Governor Santiago Cane Jr. of Agusan Del Sur shared as he guested in today's episode of Network Briefing News that they had included the same program which they called "Upland Sustainable Agroforestry Development" for 2021. (JCR/VHS/CGRC, PIA La Union)

Source: <a href="https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1066996">https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1066996</a>





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## E. Samar Barangay SK plants 100 narra trees on Valentine's day

By Samuel D. CandidoPublished on February 16, 2021

BORONGAN CITY, Feb. 16 (PIA) -- Some 53 youths of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Council of Brgy. Waso, Llorente, E. Samar conducted a tree planting of 100 narra trees.

The said activity is in line with the celebration of Valentine's Day on February 14, 2021.

Mr. Adrian Aspa, SK Chairman said that the theme for this year's activity is "Isang Daang Puno, Isang Daang Puso."

"Our environment needs human's tender loving care, through this simple activity, we can help protect the environment and be models of the youth in the future," Aspa said.



One of the SK member plants a narra tree on Valentine's Day. (Photo by Adrian Aspa)

"May this simple way of protecting our mother nature be emulated yearly by the young at heart," Aspa further said.

The SK Chairman said he is encouraging the youth to plant even just one tree per year.

Mr. Ariel Caratay, an SK member said "this is how we celebrate our Valentine's day in our Council, this is a rare opportunity to inspire our members to volunteer."

The said project is initiated and organized by the SK Council as part of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and also as part of the Climate Change campaign. (nbq/SDC/PIA-E. Samar)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1067001





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## AgSur gives focus on upland sustainable agri-forestry development

By Jennifer P. GaitanoPublished on February 16, 2021

BUTUAN CITY, Feb. 16 (PIA) -- As the province recovers slowly from the effects of the pandemic, it intends to develop/enhance further its Upland Sustainable Agri-Forestry Development Program (USAD) along with its Lowland Development Program in order to help its constituents experience an improved quality of life.

Agusan del Sur Governor Santiago Cane, Jr., said during his interview on Laging Handa Network Briefing hosted by Secretary Martin Andanar of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) that apart from improving its productivity in agricultural products, the provincial government also wanted to reduce the poverty incidence.

"We have been working on a community-based monitoring system. We have data on this, and we know which areas in our province where poverty incidence proliferates. Thus, the former governor and now the representative of second district Adolph Edward Plaza has launched the USAD program in the upland barangays where many of our folks that are living below the poverty line will be enrolled/registered," bared Cane.

Cane added that the farmers are not just beneficiaries, but are part of the successful implementation of these programs with the government.

On the government's Build, Build, Build Project connecting the roads from Bukidnon to Agusan del Sur, Governor Cane emphasized that this is a great potential for new opportunities for the people of the province. "We know that Bukidnon and Agusan del Sur are provinces that are rich in agricultural products, and with this national highway linking the two areas, those farmers in poverty line will benefit much from this endeavor. And this will shorten the route from Agusan del Sur to Bukidnond and vice versa. So I hope this will be completed soon," he said.

The official added that the locals from the municipality of Esperanza, Agusan del Sur will also be benefitting from this initiative of President Rodrigo Duterte's administration as many from this area of the province are farmers who regularly transport their products to other regions. (JPG/PIA-Agusan del Sur)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1067037





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### City Council approves Mahiga River desilting

By Mary Ruth R. Malinao (The Freeman) - February 17, 2021 - 12:00am



The proponent was tasked to coordinate with the Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO) for the necessary documentary requirements.

CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu City Council has interposed no objection to the Mahiga River desilting project and provision of fence encasement particularly designed for the bridge near the Ayala access road going to M.J. Cuenco Avenue.

Councilor Jerry Guardo sponsored a resolution regarding the matter which was approved by the City Council.

The proponent was tasked to coordinate with the Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO) for the necessary documentary requirements.

Guardo said a team of engineers from R-Pitogo Builders commissioned by the Cebu Business Park presented a design for the Mahiga River desilting and provision of fence encasement.

Desilting is the process of removing suspended silt from the water of a stream.

"The said project is their compliance to their commitment to the government to help and maintain the cleanliness and protect the easement of our rivers and creeks pursued by the city government together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other agencies," said Guardo.

Guardo said flood prevention and control constitutes formulation of activities that shall prevent, control, and mitigate the effects of floods and storms.

The councilor said it was observed that the river streams, drainage, and waterways in the city need to be innovated in order to be responsive to the new normal of flood waters and to be adaptive to the climate change situations. — GMR (FREEMAN)

Source: https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2021/02/17/2078386/city-council-approves-mahiga-river-desilting/amp/





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### Zero-waste store Amgu moves into a new eco hub

By: Doris Mondragon - Content Specialist - CDN Digital|February 16,2021 - 06:36 PM



Photos courtesy of AMGU's Facebook page

CEBU CITY, Philippines—Zero-waste store *Amgu* has moved from a boutique style store into a garage store.

*Amgu*, a Cebuano word that means awareness, continues its #wayplastikay lifestyle advocacy amid the challenges of the pandemic.

One of the owners, Ranji Madarang, told CDN Digital that aside from being cost-efficient, the new place is now bigger, allowing them to cater to more households.

"[The] pandemic had hit us hard, sales was not even enough on overhead expenses and debts were piling up. We couldn't catch up and closing the business was never an option. We needed to think a better option that will not only benefit us but also continue the advocacy," she said.

"And since our advocacy is to help consumers in starting to live sustainably, we decided to be closer to a residential area, so we can cater more household with the refill concept. We wanted to show to them that bringing their own containers when doing groceries is possible. Also we want to show to future entrepreneurs that they can always start small, any tiny space at home can be converted to a store," Madarang added.







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One of their ways to spread awareness is to educate small communities, especially the ones who lives in the coastal areas, on ways to avoid single-use plastic (SUP).

Madarang believes that this kind of lifestyle is possible for everyone and that small steps "will create ripples and will have a big impact on change."

She said that taking small steps has power and in fact, she has an advice to people who want to start an eco-friendly lifestyle.

"I always say to start small, that one single step matters. Assess your trash at home, what is it that consumes more plastic in your household and start with that. In my case, I am a slave for sachets — shampoo, coffee to name a few. I then started with shampoo and conditioner bars and eventually everything else follow," Madarang said.

"You don't have to go full switch right away. Focus on one first until you get used to it, the next thing you know you are already avoiding all SUP's. If you can't reuse, refuse," "Zero-waste had been a practice ever since, we just got busy with our lives that we want everything convenient for us. Living zero-waste is not only saving the Planet, it's saving the future generations. We don't want them suffering from our present actions. It's our responsibility to give them a beautiful home — There's no Planet B, this is it, this is our only home," she added.

Madarang moved the store in their garage at 5A Elizabeth Pond Street. Barangay Kamputhaw, Cebu City last January 28, 2021.

Aside from advocating an eco-friendly lifestyle, Amgu also supports local products in Cebu and nearby provinces including social enterprises that help local farmers, fishermen and NGOs through fair trade.

The store sells products that are made of organic materials like shampoos and soaps, utensils, lip balms and oatmeals refills among others.

/bmjo

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \underline{\text{https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/363805/zero-waste-store-amgu-moves-into-a-new-eco-hub}$ 





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### Basura palit-bigas alok sa Samar

By Abante News Online - Last updated Feb 16, 2021

NEWS



Naglunsad ng programa ang mga local government unit ng Tarangnan, Samar at Carigara, Leyte kontra basura.

Sa pamamagitan kasi ng pagkolekta ng basura ng mga residente, makakakuha sila ng food item. Sa bayan ng Tarangnan, makakakuha ang mga residente ng dalawang kilong bigas at ilang de-lata sa kada kilo ng pira-piraso nang basurang plastic na nakalagay sa loob ng 1.5 litrong plastic bottle.

Ang mga estudyante naman ay pagkakalooban ng mga gamit sa eskuwela.

Habang sa bayan ng Carigara, ianunsyo din ang pagkakaroon gn Project Barter na naglalayon na mabawasan ang pagtatapon gng basura.

Papalitan ang isang kilong basura ng isang kilong bigas at canned goods. Kabilang sa tatanggaping mga basura ay plastic bag at cup, sachet ng shampoo, kape, gatas at iba pa.

Kailangan din umano na nalinis na ang basura bago ito mapalitan ng bigas.

Source: <a href="https://www.abante.com.ph/basura-palit-bigas-alok-sa-samar/">https://www.abante.com.ph/basura-palit-bigas-alok-sa-samar/</a>





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According to DOH chief epidemiologist Althea de Guzman, eight cities in NCR – Valenzuela, Pasay, Malabon, Pasig, Makati, Navotas, Las Piñas and Manila – recorded rising numbers while cases in other regions are observed to be "plateauing" during the past two weeks.

### COVID-19 cases still up in NCR, 3 regions – DOH

Sheila Crisostomo (The Philippine Star) - February 17, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The National Capital Region (NCR) and three other regions have been flagged by the Department of Health (DOH) for spiking COVID-19 cases.

According to DOH chief epidemiologist Althea de Guzman, eight cities in NCR – Valenzuela, Pasay, Malabon, Pasig, Makati, Navotas, Las Piñas and Manila – recorded rising numbers while cases in other regions are observed to be "plateauing" during the past two weeks.

"After the rise in cases during the first week of January, what we see, if not a decrease in cases, is the plateauing of cases in other regions. This means that the number of cases being reported (daily) is the same," she reported during the DOH Kapihan forum.

De Guzman likewise noted that health care utilization rate (HCUR) of NCR is still at "safe zone," meaning hospitals can still cope with rising COVID-19 cases.

Data showed that NCR had 227,359 cases, almost half of the total 552,246 COVID-19 cases documented nationwide, as of Feb. 16.

Aside from NCR, the DOH flagged Central Visayas region because of a "steep rise" in cases in Cebu (particularly Cebu, Lapu-lapu and Mandaue cities) and Bohol.

Northern Mindanao – particularly Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan City and Misamis Oriental – is also being closely monitored after trends show a sharp increase in cases since January. Also in the radar is Caraga region which had 7,290 cases as of Feb. 15.

Data showed Central Visayas had 34,769 cases while Northern Mindanao had 11,459 cases as of Feb. 15, while HCUR are both in the safe zone.

"All areas except Agusan del Sur show continuous increase (in cases). The HCUR is in safe zone, except Agusan del Norte (which is) in high risk," De Guzman concluded.

Source: <a href="https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/02/17/2078360/covid-19-cases-still-ncr-3-regions-doh">https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/02/17/2078360/covid-19-cases-still-ncr-3-regions-doh</a>





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### DTI backs nationwide MGCQ by March

By Kris Crismundo February 16, 2021, 6:18 pm



Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez

MANILA – Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez supports the recommendation of Acting Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua to place the entire country under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) next month amid the increase in joblessness and poverty rate brought by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

"It is about time we move to MGCQ after a year of lockdown," Lopez told reporters in a Viber message Tuesday. "Lockdown was supposed to buy us time to prepare our health system and improve contact tracing and 'Trace-Test-Treat'."

Since June 2020, the National Capital Region (NCR) has not graduated from GCQ status, a stricter community quarantine measure than MGCQ.

It even went back to much stricter modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) from Aug. 4 to 18 last year as health care facilities in Metro Manila were overwhelmed due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases during that period.

"As the Philippines recovers, Metro Manila has a very weak recovery, worse in employment and hunger recovery, and that means more urban poor. The damages to malnutrition and other health and social issues will be irreversible," Lopez said.

NCR accounted for around 40 percent of the Philippine gross domestic product (GDP).

But Lopez added the reopening of more economic activities should depend on the Covid-19 statistics.

"But as we see the Covid cases generally going down even with gradual and calibrated reopening of (the) economy, we should continue gradual safe reopening of sectors and further relaxation to MGCQ," he said. (PNA)

Source: <a href="https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1130839">https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1130839</a>





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## Taal Volcano nag-aalboroto forced evacuation nagsimula

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 Jun I. Legaspi 23



PNA file photo

**NAPAPADALAS** ang pag-aalboroto ng Bulkang Taal, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Ayon sa monitoring ng Phivolcs,nakapagtala ang bulkan ng 98 tremor episodes sa loob ng lima hanggang 12 minuto sa nakalipas na 24 oras.

May napansin ding paglabas ng abo mula sa main crater ng bulkan na may limang metro ang taas.

Tumaas din ang temperatura sa main crater lake ng may 77.1°C at pH na 1.59 at patuloy na mahinang ground deformation parameters sa palibot ng Main Crater.

Nasa abnormal na kundisyon ang Taal Volcano o nasa alert level 1 na nangangahulugan ang pagkakaroon ng phreatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall, at lethal accumulations o expulsions ng volcanic gas sa paligid ng Taal Volcano Island (TVI), ayon sa (Phivolcs).

Nirerekomenda ng DOST-PHIVOLCS na patuloy na huwag papasok sa Taal Volcano Island- Taal's Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) laluna sa bisinidad ng Main Crater at sa Daang Kastila fissure.

Nagbabala na rin ang Phivolcs sa mga LGU sa paligid ng bulkan na patuloy na ma assess ang mga evacuated barangays sa may Taal Lake at maging alerto lagi at open ang communications para maiwasan ang masamang epekto oras sumabog ang bulkan.

Pinag iingat din ang mga residente at pinayuhan din huwag maglagi sa Taal Volcano island dahil sa posibleng ground displacement, ashfall, at minor earthquakes.

Pinatutupad ngayon ang no fly zone sa area para maiwasan ang anumang sa kung sa himpapawid.

Pinatupad na rin ng Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) ang forced evucuation ng mga nananinirahan sa paligid ng bulkan.

Ayon kay National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) media liaison officer Easha Mariano, nakareceive na sila ng information ukol sa ongoing evacuation ng mga residente mula sa dalawang sitio sa Talisay City.

"Yes, we received initial info na on-going ang evacuation sa mga residenteng na nasa Taal volcano mismo na dapat No Man's land kaya kailangan sila palikasin," ani Mariano.

Kinlaro ng NDRRMC ang evacuation ay partre ng precautionary measure dahil sa pag-aalboroto ng bulkan.

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"Pinapayuhan pa rin po ang publiko na ibayong pag-iingat at maging alerto, handa sa lahat ng oras. Ipagdasal po natin na sana ay huwag ng lumala pa ang sitwasyon at kalagayan ng ating mahal na Bulkang Taal," ayon sa Facebook post ng Agoncillo MDRRMO.

Sinabi ni Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson Commander Armand Balilo na ilang personnel ng Coast Guard Batangas, Talisay Police, at MDRRMO ang pumunta na sa luar ng bulkan upang siguruhin ang kaligtasan ng mga residente.

"Upon signal from the Municipal Administrator of Talisay, Batangas joint elements of PNP Talisay, MDRRMO and personnel of Coast Guard Batangas onboard five PCG water assets," ani Balilo. Dagdag nj Balilo na magsasagawa ng said aerial inspection at advisory, inspection, at pagsundo ng mga residente sa Taal Volcano Island.

"Ground deformation parameters from continuous electronic tilt on Volcano Island record a slight deflation around the Main Crater since October 2020 but overall, very slow and steady inflation of the Taal region has been recorded by continuous GPS data after the eruption," ayon sa PHIVOLCS. Tinatarget ng makapag-evacuate ng 63 pamilya o 200 individuals mula sa Sitio Tabla at Sitio San Pedro sa Talisay. By.ZAIDA DELOS REYES

Source: <a href="https://journal.com.ph/news/nation/taal-volcano-nag-aalboroto-forced-evacuation-nagsimula/">https://journal.com.ph/news/nation/taal-volcano-nag-aalboroto-forced-evacuation-nagsimula/</a>





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## How to make climate investments flow to distributed renewables

Although great strides have been made in funding large-scale renewable projects, investment trends remain misaligned with the world's future needs. Distributed renewable energy have great potential to fill the gap but face challenges.



Small-scale solar power project in Bangladesh. Image: Raisa Jorge/World Bank, CC BY 2.0

By <u>Joseph Curtin</u> and <u>Deepali Khanna</u> Feb. 16, 2021

The power system of tomorrow will be determined by decisions made today, but time is running out to invest in a brighter and more inclusive future. As the impacts of climate change have become pronounced in the world around us, the financial flows dedicated to climate action have grown.

Great strides have been made in funding large-scale renewable projects in particular, but overall, investment trends remain misaligned with the world's future needs.

Small scale renewable projects or distributed renewable energy (DRE) <u>have great potential</u> to fill the gap.

Technological breakthroughs in solar cells and battery technologies have accelerated the potential of DREs to bring power to many of the 800 million people who live without electricity, and beyond that to another 2 billion people who continue to suffer from energy poverty globally.

In the wake of the pandemic, a massive scaling up of investments in DREs would help alleviate the immediate jobs crisis by providing local employment and boosting the productivity of businesses.

In the long term, building a new energy system around decentralised renewables will alleviate the climate crisis while building resilience to future impacts. For instance, just replacing kerosene and diesel off-grid power with DRE could annually reduce as much carbon as Germany emits.

At the same time, the scattered, localised nature of DRE systems makes them less vulnerable and more resilient to climate disasters. Take the case of Haiti: After Hurricane Matthew struck in 2016, a company restored DRE grids in <u>under 55 hours</u> while parts of the country went without power for weeks.

Despite these benefits, smaller-scale projects remain critically overlooked by climate investors and policymakers. Only \$4.5 billion annually is invested in DREs in low-income and emerging markets. To achieve meet the needs of the 800 million people with no access to power, investments <u>must reach</u> \$17.5 billion annually over the next 10 years.

#### Barriers to financing DRE

There is widespread recognition that distributed renewables are often the least-cost option to provide energy access in a climate protective way. So why do DREs not get a bigger slice of the climate finance pie?





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A major reason is that decentralised projects are small in size. Smaller investments in multiple projects increase the administrative and monitoring costs for funders compared to a single large project.

Individually, DRE projects yield relatively small amounts of emission reductions, so the cost of generating carbon offsets <u>could be more than</u> the benefits provided by carbon finance.

Unfavourable policy and regulations, such as tax and subsidies regimes favouring fossil fuels, are also a deterrent.

Indonesia's state utility company, for instance, <u>prioritised</u> grid extension for rural electrification despite it being a more expensive alternative than off-grid renewables for the country's geography.

Many power system planners remain trapped in yesterday's power paradigm, which revolves around large centralised fossil fuel plants, which are often easier to finance and build, despite the fact that these sources of power are highly financially risky and will doom the planet.

But as some nations and initiatives have shown, there are creative ways to overcome these challenges and channel more climate finance into DRE.

#### Solutions

One approach to addressing these bottlenecks is the aggregation of DRE projects to make them more attractive for funders.

<u>GreenStreet Africa</u>, a climate finance instrument launched in September 2020, is a step in this direction. It bundles distributed solar projects to achieve the big-ticket sizes that institutional investors prefer.

There have also been attempts to reduce costs by using blockchain to digitise manual monitoring of decentralised projects, such as <u>Distributed Digital Impact</u>

<u>Gains</u>. This innovation could also allow carbon offsets from various sources to be bundled together or monetised separately.

These measures, however, can effectively finance DRE only in the presence of an enabling policy and regulatory framework. The "success story" of Bangladesh is instructive in this regard.

Its state-owned agency, Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), funnels finance from various sources into multiple small projects. It provides a mix of grants and loans to businesses, households, and intermediaries such as microfinance institutions. Aggregation of projects through IDCOL reduces the administrative costs for funders.

The central bank of Bangladesh provides a regulatory push and incentivises commercial banks to lend to green investments through access to low-interest capital.

These measures were successful in <u>financing</u> the installation of 4.1 million solar home systems by December 2016. It is <u>estimated</u> that the consequent reduction in kerosene use saved 1.5 million tonnes CO2e a year – equivalent to taking passenger cars off roads for 3.5 billion miles.

#### The way forward

Changing economic fundamentals mean that the goals of ending energy poverty, combating climate change and driving inclusive growth are not just aligned, they have become mutually reinforcing.





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Given the billions that will be allocated to power infrastructure over the Covid-19 recovery period, imminent investment decisions will have a decisive impact on whether the world has a chance of meeting these interconnected objectives.

As Bangladesh's experience shows, efficient deployment of capital for DREs can achieve spectacular results. We must build on these best practices and make them global. An important first step is to better communicate the benefits of DREs to climate funders and government, not least at the major climate conference in Glasgow at the end of this year.

Joseph Curtin is the Director of Power & Climate Initiative at The Rockefeller Foundation and Deepali Khanna is the Managing Director of Asia Regional Office at The Rockefeller Foundation.

Source: <a href="https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/how-to-make-climate-investments-flow-to-distributed-renewables/">https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/how-to-make-climate-investments-flow-to-distributed-renewables/</a>







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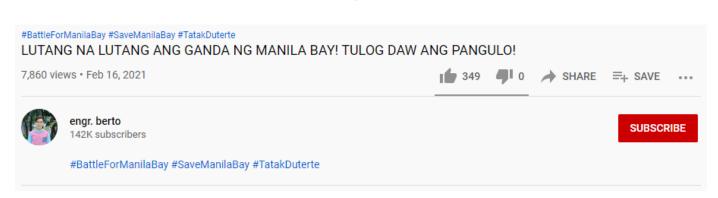


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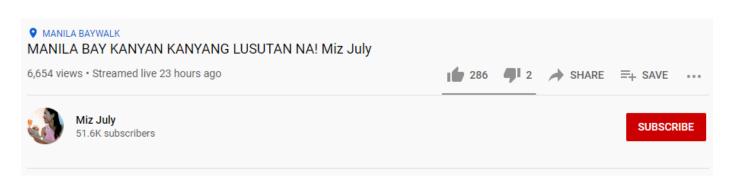


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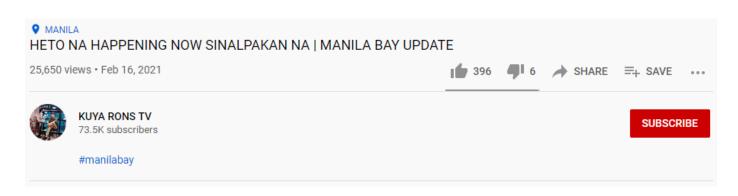


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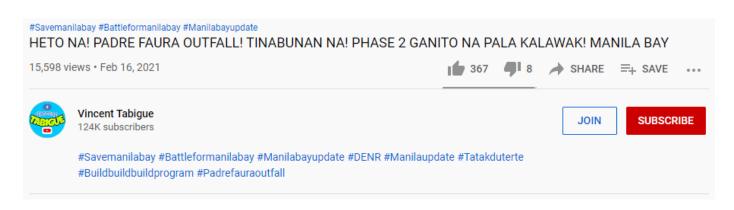


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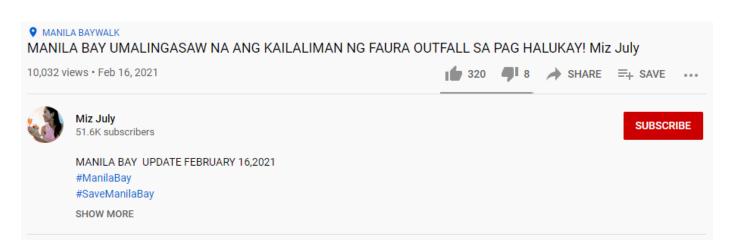


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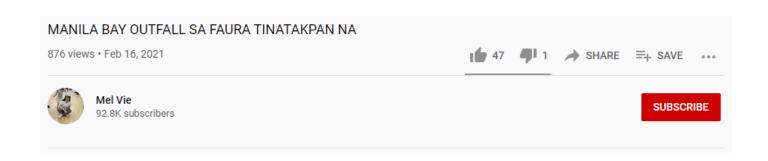


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