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DENR backs Angeles watershed reforestation

The reforestation program would ensure sustainable water supply not only in the province but in other areas in Central Luzon.

Published 3 hours ago on January 19, 2022 04:00 AM

By Jonas Reyes



ANGELES CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has expressed its support to the movement of various private sectors in reforesting a portion of the 5,000-hectare Abacan Watershed in Barangay Sapang Bato here.

DENR Regional executive director Paquito Moreno Jr. disclosed that calls from the Pampanga Press Club (PPC), the Abacan River and Angeles Watershed Advisory Council Inc. (ARAW-ACI) and the Kapatirang Aetas ng Angeles-Porac para sa Kalikasan at Agrikultura (KAAPKA) were heard by the agency.

He added that with the coordination of the aforementioned groups, the agency is set to commence their three-year reforestation program, stressing that in doing so, it would boost efforts to reforest watersheds within the Pampanga River Basin.

The reforestation program would ensure sustainable water supply not only in the province but in other areas in Central Luzon.

"Reforestation can be equated to people investing in the future. We need to protect our watersheds, as they provide us potable and quality water supply," Moreno said.

He noted that planting and growing trees could also downscale the looming threats of the global climate crisis.

Currently, Region 3 has nine critical watersheds and 146 watershed forest reserves that supply water to Central Luzon and Metro Manila. Since 2011, more than 128,000 hectares of forest plantations were established thru the Enhanced National Greening Program of the DENR.

Moreno applauded the efforts of the organizations to plant trees in the one-hectare plantation area adopted by the PPC in Sitio Sapang Bato, where 300 seedlings of bamboo and Narra were provided by the DENR.

Said adoption falls under the Adopt-a-Watershed Program being implemented by the ARAW-ACI, which aims to enlist the support of partner organizations to ensure the sustainable supply of water in Angeles City and in the province of Pampanga, while providing livelihood to the Aetas who serve as stewards of established plantations in the 560-hectare planned watershed.





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Under the memorandum of agreement among these three organizations, the PPC acts as the project sponsor, who will fund the project and will be in charge of supplying seedlings and fertilizer, as well as its sustainable water supply.

KAAPKA will look after the day-to-day upkeep of area, while the ARAW- ACI will oversee the implementation of the project and coordinate with the local government of Angeles City and the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

Source: <a href="https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/01/19/denr-backs-angeles-watershed-reforestation/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=denr-backs-angeles-watershed-reforestation&utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=denr-backs-angeles-watershed-

reforestation#:~:text=ANGELES%20CITY%20%E2%80%94%20The%20Department%20of,in%20Barangay%20Sapang%20Bato%20here.





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MGB stops operation of mining firm in Davao

By Ruth Palo

January 19, 2022

DAVAO CITY: The Mines and <u>Geosciences Bureau</u> (MGB) stopped the operation of a mining company that allegedly caused the recent siltation incident in the rivers of Pintatagan and Maputi in Banaybanay town in Davao Oriental.

Davao Oriental Gov. <u>Nelson Dayanghirang</u>, who called the attention of the MGB regarding the polluted rivers, announced the stoppage of the operation of the mining company following the confirmation from MGB Undersecretary <u>Wilfredo Moncano</u> on Monday morning.

A report from the <u>Provincial Information Office</u> said that the MGB Central Office has already "given instruction to its regional office to issue the Stoppage Order to the company to give way to a joint detailed investigation to find out the causes and the means to mitigate the damages."

It was reported on Friday, January 14, that a heavy siltation occurred in Pintatagan and Maputi Rivers which alarmed Davao Oriental residents, especially those living near the area.

The MGB gave an assurance to the provincial government that the mining company will not be allowed to resume until corrective measures are done and the appropriate sanctions are imposed.

The mining company had earlier said that they are currently working on mitigation measures to control the water discoloration and siltation.

According to the report, although the mining company helped generate income, provide livelihoods for the local residents, and boost the country's economy, the provincial and national government are firm on their stand to prevent mining companies from destroying the environment.

Dayanghirang said that preservation and conservation of the environment should come first above everything else.

"Irresponsible mining is unacceptable as it poses serious, long-term threats to communities and waterways," he said.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/01/19/news/regions/mgb-stops-operation-of-mining-firm-in-dayao/1829811





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Govt orders Davao Oriental mining firm to halt operations

BYMANUEL CAYON JANUARY 18, 2022



DAVAO CITY—The government halted the operation of a mining company in Davao Oriental following the discoloration of the river waters, which indicates a sudden discharge of soil extracts from the mountain mines to the waterways.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ordered the mining company on Monday to immediately stop its operations that allegedly caused the recent siltation incident along the Pintatagan River and Maputi River in the municipality of Banaybanay, Davao Oriental, according to a statement from the office of Davao Oriental Governor Nelson Dayanghirang.

The order was prompted by a communication from Dayanghirang to the MGB after the river waters turned orange, which was blamed for the fish kill along the rivers.

Dayanghirang said the MGB order of stoppage of operation was confirmed by MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano.

The MGB Central Office has already "given instruction to its regional office to issue the Stoppage Order to the company to give way to a joint detailed investigation to find out the causes and the means to mitigate the damages," the provincial office quoted Moncano as saying.

The regional Department of Environment and Natural Resources posted on its website that it has served the "cease and desist order", a "notice of violation" and a "show cause" also on Monday to Riverbend Consolidated Mining Corp./Arc Nickel Resources Inc. (ANRI) in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental.

The DENR XI said this was the company involved in the recent siltation incident in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental on January 14.

"The said incident happened at Mapagba and Pinatatagan Rivers in Banaybanay after heavy rains occurred for more than 12 hours with an accumulated rainfall intensity of 88.1 mm on January 13 as per Pagasa Tagum Station," the DENR XI statement said.

It said the "potential source" of siltation and discoloration along said rivers was attributed to the active mining activity of the said company. It said this was based on the initial investigation and assessment of DENR-XI's composite team from DENR-XI Regional Office, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB-XI), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-XI) and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Lupon that was conducted last January 15.

The investigation also revealed that the heavy and continuous rain last January 13-14 "pushed overburden materials that contributed to the overflowing of silt pond, draining towards the said river".





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It said the MGB-XI "has issued a show cause with cease and desist order to the mining company while EMB-XI issued a Notice of Violation."

Strict monitoring

DENR-XI Regional Director Bagani Fidel A. Evasco said the company was ordered to immediately address the issue "and the implementation of which shall be subject to strict monitoring."

"Our legal team is also evaluating further action with regards to any of the violations and we will assure a strict implementation of the environmental laws. Penalties and fines are also being considered," Evasco said.

It said the DENR XI and the affected local government of Banaybanay would conduct regular monitoring of the area until the incident is addressed.

"Further evaluation is being conducted as to the extent of environmental impact but rest assured that we, in DENR XI, together with EMB, MGB, PENROS and CENROS have made appropriate actions to address the matter in coordination with other government agencies and LGUs," Evasco said.

Dayanghirang said the MGB has assured him that "the company will not be allowed to resume until corrective measures are done, and the appropriate sanctions are imposed." He said the mining company has informed him that it was "working on mitigation measures to control the water discoloration and siltation, as well as to enhance the environmental mitigating measures".

"While these mining companies help generate income, provide livelihoods for the locals, and help the country recover its economy, the provincial and the national government are firm on their stand not to allow these mining companies to operate recklessly and destroy the environment," he said.

"Irresponsible mining is unacceptable as it poses serious, long-term threats to communities and waterways. The preservation and conservation of the environment should come first above everything else," he added.

The Riverbend Consolidated Mining Corporation/Arc Nickel Resources, Inc. (ANRI) operates a "Nickel Laterite Mining Project Project" in Barangays Puntalinao, Causwagan, Pintatagan, Maputi, Panikian, and Mahayag, all in the municipality of Banaybanay. It was granted a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement in June 2016 with a project area of 6,363.3368 hectares.

Ban open-pit mining

Environmental groups under the Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment (Kalkasan-PNE) on Tuesday called for stricter mining regulation that would go beyond mere suspension of mining operations in the case of Riverbend.

Because of the incident, Kalikasan-PNE urged the government to reinstate the late Environment chief Regina Paz L. Lopez's open-pit mining ban.

"This mine spill spells more mining disasters to come "if we do not reinstate the open pit mine ban and new mining application moratorium that President Rodrigo Duterte passed," the group said.

According to Kalikasan-PNE, despite safety certifications from mining companies, such incidents will still happen.





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"This is the myth of so-called responsible mining, with companies like Riverbend Mining being the norm rather than the exception."

The group noted that the now red-orange waters of the Maputi River reflect the destruction that large-scale mining causes.

With a report from Jonathan L. Mayuga

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/01/18/govt-orders-davao-oriental-mining-firm-to-halt-operations/





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Mining firm operations halted over river discoloration



Contributed photo

IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA

January 17, 2022

A MINING company was handed a cease and desist order by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Davao Region on January 17 to suspend its operations in the area following the siltation and discoloration incident of Mapagba River and the coastal areas in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental on January 14.

In a press conference on Monday, DENR-Davao Director Bagani Evasco said a show cause and cease and desist order issued by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)-Davao and a Notice of Violation issued by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Davao were released on January 17 suspending the mining activities of Arc Nickel Resources Inc. (Anri).

"Based on the initial assessment, the potential source of siltation and discoloration along the Mapagba River was attributed to active mining activity of Arc Nickel Resources Inc., operator of the Riverbend Consolidated Mining Corporation," said Evasco in a press conference.

Evasco said the siltation pond in the production area of Anri, located at Kilometer 9, Banaybanay, Davao Oriental, was saturated following the heavy rains on January 13 to 14, and thus overflowed to the Mapagba River.

"There were identified areas with overburden and waste material that broke the mitigating measures and drains towards the siltation pond. Intense rains last January 13 to 14, 2022 pushed overburden materials that contributed to the overflowing of silt pond draining towards the Mapagba River. For the Pintatagan River, the potential source of silt which attributed to its discoloration and heavy siltation was from the proposed ongoing prepile yard facility of Anri located at Kilometer 9 slope dumping of steep overburden from the production area was saturated during the heavy and continuous precipitation from January 13 to 14, 2022. Siltation traps and control measures are being observed but the siltation traps are not sufficient to control the amount of the precipitation," Evasco said.

Evasco said in their emergency meeting on January 17 with DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, the secretary gave an immediate order on the suspension and stoppage of the mining operations in Banaybanay.





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EMB-Davao Director Engr. Mario Bulacan said based on the existing Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), Anri has three violations "Specifically ECC condition 1, condition number 4, and ECC condition number 18 administratively it has a corresponding administrative penalty of P50,000."

Bulacan said the mining company is also facing possible sanctions under Republic Act 9275, or the Clean Water Act.

He said the notice of violation is partial as it is still based on violations of the ECC and depending on the laboratory result from the water samples they can issue a notice of violation based on the Clean Water Act.

Field personnel already have gotten water samples from the affected river that will determine if they have polluted the river.

"Based on the Clean Water Act, we have a sanction. We will issue again another notice of violation based on the Clean Water Act and at the same time, i-elevate natin sa (we will elevate it to the) Pollution Adjudication Board for the determination of the case so with regards sa penalty, mas lalaki (it will be higher)," said Bulacan.

Meanwhile, the Anri is only allowed to implement environmental and engineering measures for the purpose of mitigating siltation, particularly the construction of a mega-siltation pond within five to seven days after the order is issued.

"Specifically, stop po natin yung production ng any extraction sa taas ng bundok, pero di sila mag stop sa paggawa ng environmental and engineering measures (Specifically, we will stop the extraction activities in the site but they will continue with the environmental and engineering measures)," said lawyer Jasper Lascano, EMB-Davao director.

Aside from engineering measures, Anri has deployed its personnel to do cleanup in the affected river. Food packs were also given to residents affected by the siltation.

The Riverbend Consolidated Mining Corporation, operated by Anri, has a total mining tenement area of 6,363 hectares, encompassing the towns of Banaybanay in Davao Oriental and Pantukan in Davao de Oro. It started its operations in September 2021.

Evasco also said that the mining company will be subject to strict monitoring and compliance.

"Together with MGB, EMB, Penro-Lupon, and the concerned LGU of Banaybanay, Davao Oriental shall conduct regular monitoring or as often as necessary until this incident is addressed," he said. (With PIA-Davao)

Source: https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1918406/davao/local-news/mining-firm-operations-halted-over-davao-oriental-river-siltation-discoloration





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Envi group asks local government to reconsider mining operations in Davao Oriental town

Published January 18, 2022, 4:38 PM by Keith Bacongco

DAVAO CITY – Environmental group Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) is urging the local government of Banaybanay in Davao Oriental and concerned agencies to take into consideration the adverse impact of large-scale mining operations following the reported "siltation and discoloration" the rivers last week.

While they welcome the temporary suspension of mining operations, IDIS executive director Atty. Mark Peñalver said they are wary that the incident could happen since the closure is just temporary.



Discolored Mapagba River in Barangay Maputi, Banaybanay, Davao Oriental. (Photo courtesy of Emelyn Q. Morillo/Manila Bulletin)

"Hence, should there be lapses in the implementation of their corrective or mitigation measures, we will expect the same incident in the future. In the first place, this should not have happened had the company strictly observed the provisions of their ECC or had they conducted a genuine EIA," he pointed out.

On January 17, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region-11 has issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO), Notice of Violation (NOV) and a show cause today to Riverbend Consolidated Mining Corporation and Arc Nickel Resources, Inc. (ANRI) in the coastal town of Banaybanay.

"The potential source of siltation and discoloration along said rivers was attributed to the active mining activity of the said company- that's based on the initial investigation and assessment of DENR-XI's Composite Team from DENR-XI Regional Office, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB-XI), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-XI) and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Lupon that was conducted last January 15," read the statement of DENR Davao Region which was posted on their Facebook account.

DENR Davao Region blamed heavy rains for more than 12 hours that resulted to the discoloration of Mapagba and Pinatatagan Rivers in Banaybanay January 13.

It added that the heavy and continuous rain last January 13 to 14 caused the silt pond to overflow and drained towards the rivers.

DENR Davao Region chief Bagani Fidel Evasco said their legal team is also evaluating further action with regards to any of the violations as he assured that there will be a strict implementation of the environmental laws against the erring mining firm.





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On January 14, Banaybanay residents, especially those living along the affected rivers, posted on social media photos of the rusty colored-rivers that drains towards the Davao Gulf.

As the photos went viral, residents expressed opposition on the mining operations in the coastal town, fearing of the adverse impact on environment and livelihood.

"We've seen how devastating the effects of mining in the area and how the community opposes the said activity. We hope that the concerned agencies take this into consideration in conducting their investigation and stop this disastrous activity to operate and put the lives of the people and the environment in danger," said Peñalver reacting to the viral photos of affected rivers.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2022/01/18/envi-group-asks-local-government-to-reconsider-mining-operations-in-dayao-oriental-town/





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LIVE sa DZBB: Exec. Dir. Sevillo David Jr., National Water Resources Board kaugnay sa sitwasyon ng Angat Dam

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Source: <u>https://twitter.com/dzbb/status/1483428264970719232?s=20</u>





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PAGBABALIK NG SUPLAY NG MALINIS NA TUBIG SA MGA LALAWIGAN NA NAAPEKTUHAN NG BAGYONG ODETTE, PINAMAMADALI – PRRD

written by Hya Ludivico January 18, 2022



Pinamamadali na ni pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa office of the Civil Defense (OCD) ang pagbabalik ng suplay ng malinis na tubig sa mga lugar na tinamaan ng bagyong Odette.

Ayon sa pangulo, mahalagang maibalik ang malinis na tubig upang maiwasan ang pagkakasakit ng mga residente.

Kaugnay nito, tiniyak ni OCD Assistant Secretary Hernando Caraig Jr. na magpapatuloy ang kanilang distribusyon ng bottled water na galing sa donasyon ng mga negosyante at iba't ibang mga grupo.

Sinabi pa ni Caraig na mayroon pa silang nakareserbang 2.175 million liters ng tubig upang ipamahagi sa mga apektadong lugar.

Source: https://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/pagbabalik-ng-suplay-ng-malinis-na-tubig-sa-mga-lalawigan-na-naapektuhan-ng-bagyong-odette-pinamamadali-prrd/





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SMC steps up efforts to revive rivers

BYVG CABUAG JANUARY 18, 2022



Conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) on Tuesday said it plans to remove a total of 1 million tons of silt and solid waste from the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system by June.

The company has committed to clean up and rehabilitate the 27-kilometer river system and help mitigate flooding in Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela and other flood-prone areas.

San Miguel President and CEO Ramon S. Ang expressed confidence the company can achieve its target in four to five months, with current daily dredging output already at 3,000 tons per day.

Total extraction output from June 2020 to date has already reached 653,434 tons.

The company's P1 billion river cleanup initiative, which it conducts in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, complements other flood mitigation efforts in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

"Throughout the pandemic, and through many typhoons that have passed, our clean-up team has been relentless in their efforts to remove waste and silt from the Tullahan River. We're encouraged by the big, positive changes we've already seen after just over one year of cleaning up the river. That's why we have steadily built up our extraction capacity, bringing in more equipment and employing more people to help," Ang said.

He said that throughout the worst typhoons that came at the tail-end of 2020 and throughout 2021, no major flooding in usually flood-prone areas, was observed. Floodwaters that did manage to make it into streets also subsided much faster, compared to previous years, he said.

Ang said this was due to the deepening of the Tullahan river, which allowed it to carry higher volumes of floodwaters out to the Manila Bay, as well as the installation of new and more efficient pumping stations by government.

"The improvements we've seen in 2020 and 2021 have proven that we can better manage flooding if we just keep our rivers clean, and if we maintain an efficient, effective, and responsive flood mitigation system. It will not work if we don't have both components, and if there is no support and cooperation from the communities. We hope that in the coming years, as we continue our cleanup and rehab efforts for the Tullahan river, we can enjoin more people to take up and support this cause of keeping our rivers clean."

Ang said that the company is gearing up to expand its other major river rehabilitation initiative, its P2-billion cleanup of the Pasig River, which has been ongoing for more than six months.

The company will ramp up its Pasig River rehabilitation initiative with the hiring of more personnel and acquisition of new equipment in the coming months, to boost flood mitigation for Metro Manila. These new equipment will also be used for its river cleanup efforts in Bulacan.





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Ang is confident that the company will exceed its own 600,000-ton yearly target waste extraction from the Pasig River, or 50,000 tons per month.

To date, the project has removed 178,300 tons of waste from the river, called as the number one most polluted river in the world, accounting for a huge chunk of the planet's ocean junk plastics. "For the Pasig River initiative, we are targeting a higher daily output of 3,000 tons in a span of three years. That's 3 million tons in all. Just like in Tullahan, we will continue to adjust our targets as needed, and also prioritize flood-prone areas near these rivers," Ang said.

Additional equipment are expected to arrive in March, which include those donated by NYK Line of Japan.

Last year, San Miguel and NYK signed an agreement that will allow the shipping and logistics company to donate \$1.5 million over a five-year period to buy additional equipment needed for the project.

"Flood mitigation is a primary consideration in cleaning up these rivers, but keeping them clean over the long-term will yield so much more benefits. These include improved marine biodiversity and even economic opportunities in tourism and transportation, which our people can enjoy. Getting to this stage will however entail continued close collaboration between all stakeholders, including local government units and the communities along the river," Ang said.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/01/18/smc-steps-up-efforts-to-revive-rivers/





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SMC steps up P3-B program to revive Tullahan, Pasig rivers; aims to reach over 1 million tons of waste removed by June

January 18, 20226 min read

MANILA — San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is eyeing to remove a total of 1 million tons of silt and solid waste from the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system by June this year— over a year since it implemented its massive P1-billion program to clean up and rehabilitate the 27-kilometer river system and help mitigate flooding in Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, and other flood-prone areas.

SMC President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang expressed confidence the company can achieve its target in four to five months, with current daily dredging output already at 3,000 tons per day.

Total extraction output from June 2020 to date has already reached 653,434 tons.

The SMC river cleanup initiative, which SMC conducts in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), complements other flood mitigation efforts in Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela, and Caloocan.



San Miguel Corporation (SMC), in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), eyes to extract over a million metric tons of waste in its P3 billion Tullahan and Pasig rehabilitation initiatives by June this year. Photos show ongoing cleanup activities at Niugan, Malabon and Pandacan, Manila that will help reduce severe flooding in nearby areas and

complement flood mitigation efforts in Metro Manila.

"Throughout the pandemic, and through many typhoons that have passed, our clean-up team has been relentless in their efforts to remove waste and silt from the Tullahan River. We're encouraged by the big, positive changes we've already seen after just over one year of cleaning up the river. That's why we have steadily built up our extraction capacity, bringing in more equipment and employing more people to help," Ang said.





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He noted that throughout the worst typhoons that came at the tail-end of 2020 and throughout 2021, no major flooding in usually flood-prone areas, was observed. Floodwaters that did manage to make it into streets also subsided much faster, compared to previous years, he said. This, Ang said, was due to the deepening of the Tullahan river—which allowed it to carry higher volumes of floodwaters out to the Manila Bay—as well as the installation of new and more efficient pumping stations by government.

"The improvements we've seen in 2020 and 2021 have proven that we can better manage flooding if we just keep our rivers clean, and if we maintain an efficient, effective, and responsive flood mitigation system. It will not work if we don't have both components, and if there is no support and cooperation from the communities. We hope that in the coming years, as we continue our cleanup and rehab efforts for the Tullahan river, we can enjoin more people to take up and support this cause of keeping our rivers clean," Ang added.

Ang also said that the company is gearing up to expand its other major river rehabilitation initiative—its P2 billion cleanup of the Pasig River, which has been ongoing for more than six months now.

SMC will ramp up its Pasig River rehabilitation initiative with the hiring of more personnel and acquisition of new equipment in the coming months, to boost flood mitigation for Metro Manila. This new equipment will also be used for its river cleanup efforts in Bulacan.

Ang is confident that the company will exceed its own 600,000 tons yearly target waste extraction from the Pasig River, or 50,000 tons per month.

To date, the project has removed 178,300 tons of waste from the historic river, dubbed as the number one plastics-emitting river in the world, accounting for a huge chunk of the planet's ocean plastics.

"For the Pasig River initiative, we are targeting a higher daily output of 3,000 tons in a span of three years. That's 3 million tons in all. Just like in Tullahan, we will continue to adjust our targets as needed, and also prioritize flood-prone areas near these rivers," Ang added.

Ang said he expects SMC's Pasig River cleanup to move a notch higher with additional equipment expected to arrive in March. The new equipment will include those that will be acquired through a donation by NYK Line of Japan to support the project.

Last year, SMC and NYK signed an agreement that will allow the shipping and logistics company to donate \$1.5 million over a five-year period to buy additional equipment needed for the project.

Ang reiterated that the projects, which SMC is undertaking as its social responsibility and as part of a larger push for greater environmental sustainability in the country, aim to remove decades worth of garbage and silt from the rivers to deepen and widen them.

This will increase their capacity to take in floodwaters and reduce severe flooding throughout Metro Manila.

"Flood mitigation is a primary consideration in cleaning up these rivers, but keeping them clean over the long-term will yield so much more benefits. These include improved marine biodiversity and even economic opportunities in tourism and transportation, which our people can enjoy. Getting to this stage will however entail continued close collaboration between all stakeholders, including local government units and the communities along the river.





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It will also require effective solid waste management—in particular, the construction of wastewater treatment facilities that will put an end to the release of untreated wastewater into the rivers, Ang said.

Currently, SMC's Pasig River cleanup is focused at critical shallow areas in Pandacan, Malacañang, and Sta. Mesa, including at the junction of San Juan River.

SMC is also set to expand operations to other shallow portions, namely the C-5 area near the Marikina river junction, at the mouth of Manila Bay, and at the Makati-Estrella area.

For Tullahan, SMC's dredging area covers the first sectors from the mouth of Manila Bay in Navotas City, before moving to Malabon and Valenzuela City, particularly sections of the river in Marulas, Valenzuela, and in Potrero and Tinajeros, Malabon.

Currently, dredging is ongoing near Catmon, Maysilo and Niugan in Malabon.

SMC is eyeing to start the cleanup and channel improvement project for the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando river system (MMORS) as well as the other active rivers and tributaries in Bulacan, a major component of its flood mitigation initiative for the province. For this, the company is looking to remove around 3,000 tons per day of silt and solid waste.

Currently, a number of Bulacan-based graduates of a special SMC-TESDA Heavy Equipment Operations course provided by SMC to former settlers of Barangay Taliptip in Bulakan, Bulacan — a future site of the airport—are employed as part of SMC rehabilitation teams for the Tullahan and Pasig rivers.

(ai/mtvn)





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SMC steps up P3-B program to revive Tullahan, Pasig rivers; aims to reach over 1 million tons of waste removed by June

January 18, 20226 min read

MANILA — San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is eyeing to remove a total of 1 million tons of silt and solid waste from the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system by June this year— over a year since it implemented its massive P1-billion program to clean up and rehabilitate the 27-kilometer river system and help mitigate flooding in Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, and other flood-prone areas.

SMC President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang expressed confidence the company can achieve its target in four to five months, with current daily dredging output already at 3,000 tons per day.

Total extraction output from June 2020 to date has already reached 653,434 tons.

The SMC river cleanup initiative, which SMC conducts in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), complements other flood mitigation efforts in Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela, and Caloocan.



San Miguel Corporation (SMC), in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), eyes to extract over a million metric tons of waste in its P3 billion Tullahan and Pasig rehabilitation initiatives by June this year. Photos show ongoing cleanup activities at Niugan, Malabon and Pandacan, Manila that will help reduce severe flooding in nearby areas and

complement flood mitigation efforts in Metro Manila.

"Throughout the pandemic, and through many typhoons that have passed, our clean-up team has been relentless in their efforts to remove waste and silt from the Tullahan River. We're encouraged by the big, positive changes we've already seen after just over one year of cleaning up the river. That's why we have steadily built up our extraction capacity, bringing in more equipment and employing more people to help," Ang said.





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Ormoc bolsters position on use, generation of renewable energy

By Elvie Roa January 18, 2022, 3:08 pm



GEOTHERMAL ENERGY. One of the geothermal power plant facilities of the Energy Development Corp. (EDC) is between the boundary of Kananga in Leyte, and Ormoc City. The city government of Ormoc has reiterated on Tuesday (Jan. 18, 2022) its commitment to pursue renewable energy through a resolution. (*Photo courtesy of EDC*)

ORMOC CITY – The city government here has approved a resolution promoting the use and generation of renewable energy (RE) to protect the environment and the health of its people.

The resolution, approved by the city council on Jan. 11, 2022, cites Republic Act 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, which declares as a state policy the promotion of the utilization of new, indigenous, and renewable energy sources in power generation, as well as Republic Act 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, which encourages the development and utilization of RE to effectively reduce or prevent harmful emissions.

The resolution, authored by City councilor Lalaine Marcos, chairperson of the Ormoc City government's committee on environment, natural resources and energy conservation, gained the full support of Ormoc City Mayor Richard Gomez.

"With the undeniable consequences of climate change by way of the massively destructive typhoons and natural disasters that we have been experiencing in the past years, going for more sustainable sources to sustain the energy needs of our local as well as national economy has become imperative," Gomez said in a statement on Tuesday.

The city is host to several RE power plants that generate clean and reliable power contributing greatly to the electricity needs of Visayas regions, Gomez added.

It is among the 165 members of the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) convened during the UN Climate Summit COP26 in Glasgow, United Kingdom in November last year that has committed to domestic phase-out of coal and acceleration of the global transition to clean energy.

"Consistent with these directives and ideals, the city prioritizes the utilization of clean, renewable energy, which is abundant in the province; to continuously protect and develop such renewable energy sources and, at the same time, shun operations and activities including sourcing and use of energy sources that are destructive to the environment and harmful to its citizens' health and livelihood," Gomez said.

Energy Development Corporation (EDC), producer of geothermal energy in the country, likewise lauded this move of the city government.





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"We commend Mayor Richard Gomez for reinforcing their stand on renewable energy and climate change through this resolution. EDC will fully support the implementation of the policy," lawyer Allan Barcena, EDC's head of corporate social responsibility-public relations, said in a statement.

Located within the city's boundary and nearby Kananga, Leyte is the Tongonan geothermal project, the largest wet steam field in the Philippines.

It is the oldest and largest geothermal power plant of EDC with a total plant capacity of more than 700 megawatts.

Ormoc also boasts of several solar, wind, and hydroelectric power plants that complement its renewable energy sources. **(PNA)**

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1165681





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Baby na Philippine Eagle, pinakakain gamit ang puppet

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 18 2022 07:15 PM

Ibinahagi ng Philippine Eagle Foundation ang video ng isang sisiw na agila na pinakakain sa tulong ng hand puppet na hugis agila. Ayon sa mga tagapag-alaga ng ibon, hindi kasi puwedeng masanay ang mga agila na may interaksyon sa tao kaya gumagamit sila ng puppet. Tinatayang nasa 400 na pares na lang ng Philippine Eagle o monkey eating eagle ang nasa mga kagubatan.



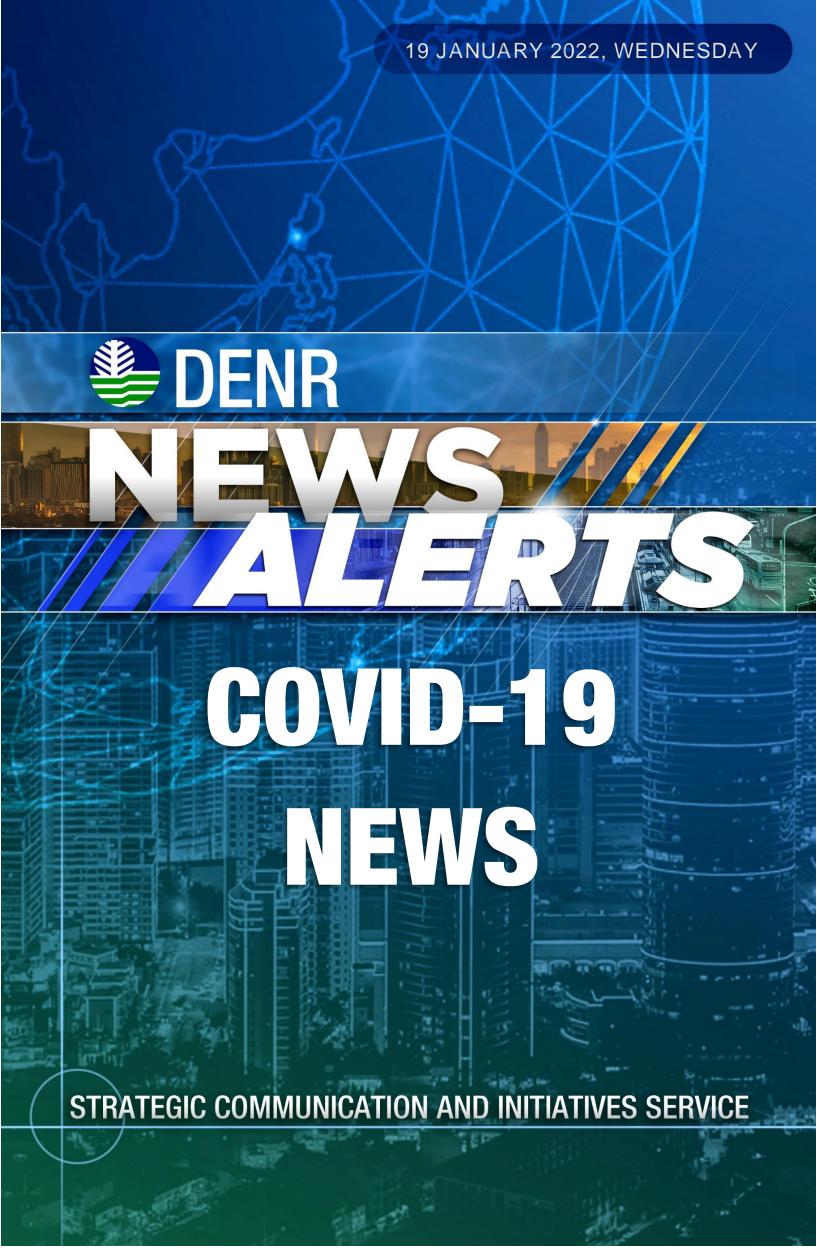




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Eyes on target San Miguel Ccorp. maintained its focus fixed on hitting its target of removing 1 million tons of silt under its river cleanup program.







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PH records 28,471 new COVID-19 infections; active cases down to 284,458

By CNN Philippines Staff

Published Jan 18, 2022 4:11:31 PM



The country lists 28,471 new COVID-19 cases, the first time since Jan. 12 that the single-day tally was below 30,000.

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 18) – Another 28,471 people in the country have been infected with COVID-19, the Department of Health said on Tuesday.

This is the first time since Jan. 12 that the single-day tally was below 30,000.

It raised the total case count to 3,270,758, where 8.7% or 284,458 are active cases. This number of currently sick people is down from the all-time high of nearly 291,000 reported on Monday.

However, the DOH said five testing laboratories did not submit data on time. It noted the five facilities made up for 1.7% of all samples tested and 2.1% of all positive results over the last two weeks.

Its update also showed only 51,738 coronavirus tests were reported on Jan. 16. This is much lower than the numbers logged in the five days prior, which were at around 77,000 to over 81,000 a day.

The latest daily positivity rate – or the percentage of people tested for COVID-19 who turned out infected – slightly dipped but remained high at 43.4%.

Three regions in Luzon accounted for around 71% of the added cases: Metro Manila with 9,887; Calabarzon with 6,671; and Central Luzon with 2,970.

According to the DOH, 97% of the newly announced infections nationwide occurred within the past 14 days, while the other 3% were recorded late.

Recoveries also rose to 2,933,338 after 34,892 more patients got well.

The death toll, meanwhile, edged closer to 53,000 at 52,962. This was after the DOH confirmed 34 new deaths, of which 33 occurred this month. There was a delay in the reporting of one death in July 2020.

After final validation, the DOH deleted 86 duplicates from its data and reclassified as fatalities four cases it previously tagged as survivors.

Source: https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/1/18/PH-Covid-19-case-updates.html





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Metro Manila, limang rehiyon nasa critical risk pa dahil sa COVID-19

By Chona YuJanuary 18, 2022 - 08:22 AM



Nanatili sa critical risk ang Metro Manila at limang rehiyon dahil sa mataas na kaso ng COVID-19.

Sa Talk to the People, iniulat ni Health Secretary Francisco Duque III kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na bukod sa Metro Manila nasa critical risk din ang Cagayan Valley, Ilocos Region, Calabarzon, Cordillera Administrative Region at Central Luzon.

Bagama't nasa critical risk, sinabi ni Duque na bumagal naman ang growth rate of infections.

Sinabi pa ni Duque na bumababa na rin ang pagtaas ng reported cases kada araw.

Bumabagal at bumababa aniya ang mga tinatamaan ng COVID-19.

Ipinapanalangin naman ni Pangulong Duterte na hindi na sana dumami pa ang matatamaan ng virus.

Source: https://radyo.inquirer.net/307796/metro-manila-limang-rehiyon-nasa-critical-risk-pa-dahil-sa-covid-19





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'No vax, no ride' violators warned

Transportation Undersecretary for Railways Timothy John Batan said Tuesday a total of 1,749 commuters attempted to take Metro Manila's rail lines without showing proof of their vaccination

Published 3 hours ago on January 19, 2022 04:00 AM

By **TDT** @tribunephl



Photo: Analy Labor

Despite persistent advisories and warnings, the Department of Transportation (DoTr) still recorded more than a thousand unvaccinated commuters who attempted to board the train lines on Monday, the first day of the implementation of the "No Vax, No Ride" policy.

Transportation Undersecretary for Railways Timothy John Batan said Tuesday a total of 1,749 commuters attempted to take Metro Manila's rail lines without showing proof of their vaccination.

Batan said the DoTr 1,204 violators were recorded in the Metro Rail Transit Line 3; 401 individuals in Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1); 136 in LRT-2; and eight in the Philippine National Railways.

Transportation Assistant Secretary Mark Steven Pastor, meanwhile, clarified that the violators were only warned and not apprehended.

"Since this is just the first day of the policy's implementation, our enforcers were instructed to just issue the violators warnings instead of outrightly apprehending them for non-compliance," Pastor said.

Peaceful day 1

According to the DoTr, the first day of the implementation of the new policy in Metro Manila was generally peaceful.

"According to reports from our men on the ground, most of the passengers were prepared for the policy," Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade said.

"They voluntarily handed over their vaccination cards to our enforcers for thorough inspection and verification before boarding public utility vehicles (PUV)," he added.

On Tuesday, 11 January, Tugade issued a Department Order enforcing a "no vaccination, no ride/no entry" policy in the National Capital Region (NCR).





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Workers exempted

While the new measure is in place, Cebu Pacific clarified that returning residents to and from NCR are still allowed to travel if they present proof of residency, along with other existing local government unit (LGU) requirements of their destination.

Persons with medical conditions that prevent their full Covid-19 vaccination as shown by a dulysigned medical certificate with the name and contact details of their doctor are exempted from the policy.

Likewise, persons who will buy essential goods and services, such as but not limited to food, water, medicine, medical devices, public utilities, energy, work, and medical and dental necessities, as shown by a duly issued barangay health pass or other proof to justify travel are not covered by the policy.

The DoTr also reiterated that an employee of an industry allowed to operate under Alert Level 3 can still board public transport, even if unvaccinated, provided that they can present proof that they are going to work, such as a company ID or a Certificate of Employee.

Penalties await erring drivers, operators As of 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the InterAgency Council for Traffic has apprehended 17 public utility vehicles and 102 erring passengers were turned over to their respective LGU.

In a text message, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTRFB) Executive Director Tina Cassion said the violation of the order is already a breach of franchise condition. Erring drivers and operators will face a fine of P5,000 for the first offense; P10,000 and impounding of unit for the second offense; and P15,000 and suspension or cancellation of the franchise for the third offense.

For the apprehended driver, LTFRB will recommend to the Land Transportation Office the suspension of the driver's license.

Source: <a href="https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/01/19/no-vax-no-ride-violators-warned/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=no-vax-no-ride-violators-warned&utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=no-vax-no-ride-violators-warned





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Gov't wants voters fully vaxxed

A total of 55.19 million Filipinos are already fully vaccinated against Covid-19, with boosters now being administered

Published 6 hours ago on January 19, 2022 12:50 AM

By MJ Blancaflor @tribunephl_MJB



The Philippines is eyeing to fully vaccinate 77 million Filipino adults against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) before the scheduled elections in May.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said on Tuesday that the government is aiming to complete the vaccine doses of all voters as an added layer of protection against severe Covid-19.

"Before April or even May, we want our adult population to be fully vaccinated. That way, it would be an additional protection for voters," he said in a Palace press briefing.

Aside from getting their Covid-19 jabs, Nograles said voters should adhere to health standards against Covid-19 in polling precincts.

He said the Palace will leave it up to the Commission on Elections to ensure public compliance with such protocols.

The Philippines, which has been reporting record-high coronavirus infections daily due to the highly infectious Omicron variant, has 55.19 million fully vaccinated Filipinos so far.

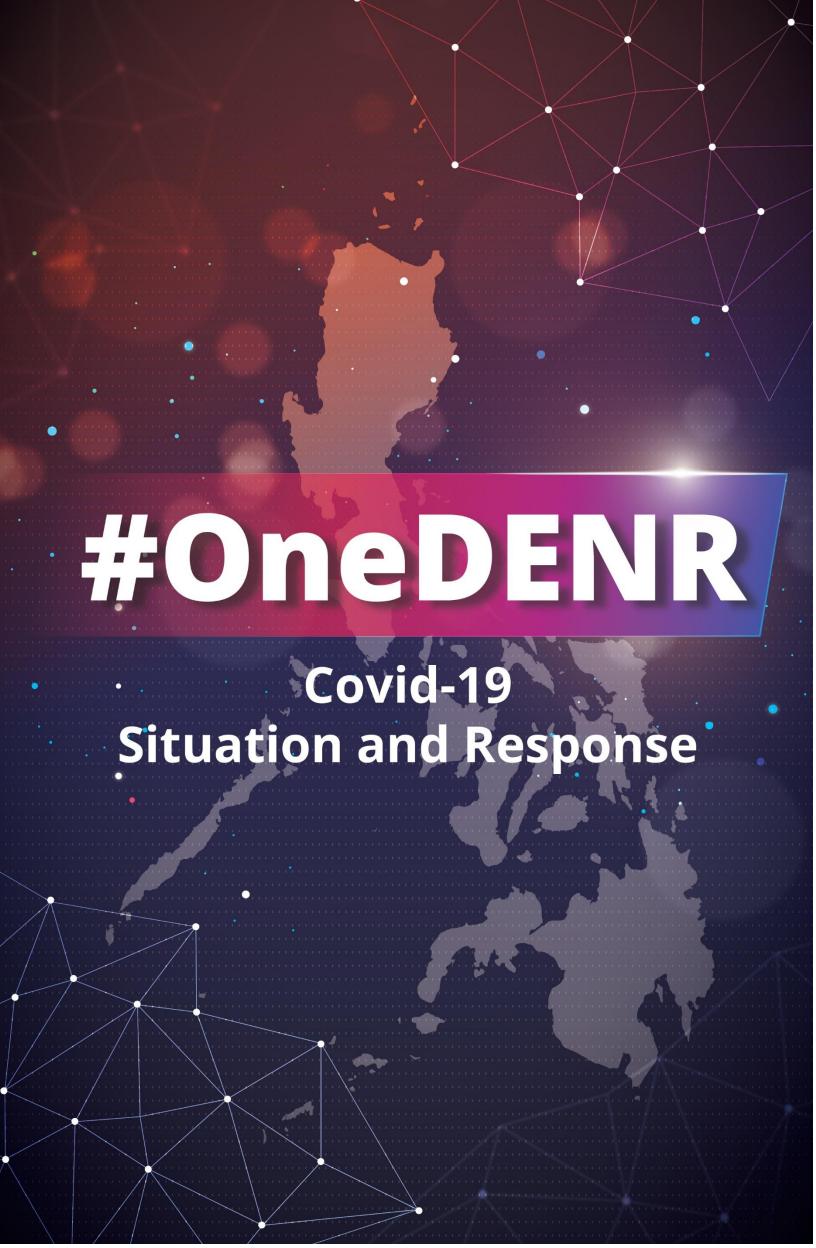
Of these, 10.69 million individuals are from Metro Manila, while 8.33 million are from nearby CALABARZON.

The country is holding a nationwide election on 9 May for some 18,000 positions, including for the presidency, vice presidency, 12 Senate seats, as well as local posts for mayors and governors.

About 67.5 million Filipinos, including 1.7 million overseas, are registered to vote in the upcoming polls.

The 2016 election saw a record voter turnout of 82 percent, with about 44.5 million Filipinos casting ballots.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/01/19/govt-wants-voters-fully-vaxxed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=govt-wants-voters-fully-vaxxed.







ENERO 18, 2022

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

8.7%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO 284.458 PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

89.7%

2,933,338

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.62%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY 52,962

MGA BAGONG KASO 28,471

MGA BAGONG GUMALING 34,892

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 34

KABUUANG BILANG NG KASO

3,270,758

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 16

DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 18 AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 16

43.4%

PORSYENTO NG MGA NAGPOSITIBO 51,738

BILANG NG TINEST

22% Utilized

HALOS

98.3%

ANG MILD AT ASYMPTOMATIC NA KASO!



KABUUANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?



49% Utilized

53% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

WARD BEDS (14.3K TOTAL BEDS)

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?



53% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (5.0K TOTAL BEDS)

48% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)

63% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

29% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

8,930 Asymptomatic

270,784 Mild

2,957 Moderate

1.484 Severe

303 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

- 1555
- 0915-777-7777
- 02-886-505-00
- 0919-977-3333
- bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

SeeYouDoc

- SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD

- konsulta.md
- KonsultaMD

CloudPx

cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate

medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck

medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD

- ☑ TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
- ─ TelAventusMD

HealthNow

- healthnow.ph/
- help@healthnow.ph
- ☐ HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App o gamitin ang WEBAPP at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load? Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users) 225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na si KIRA!

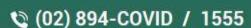
VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH MESSENGER: Department of Health PH KONTRACOVIDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov













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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2KRsUGwTb8



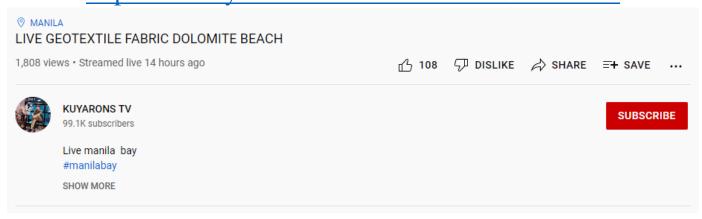




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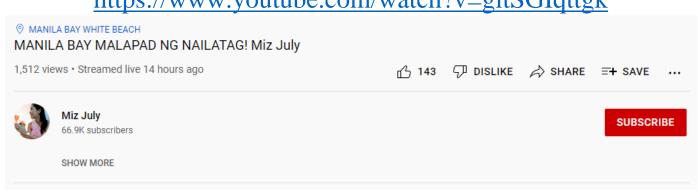




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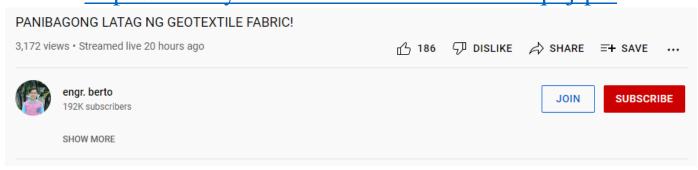




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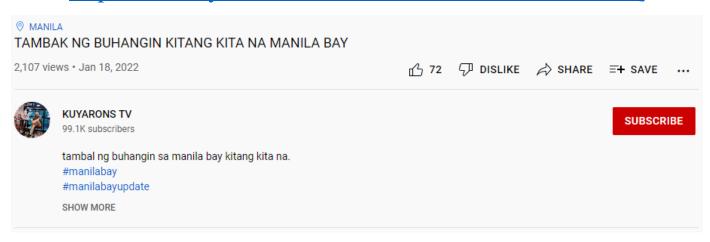




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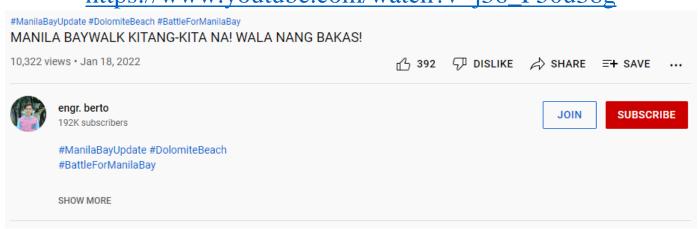




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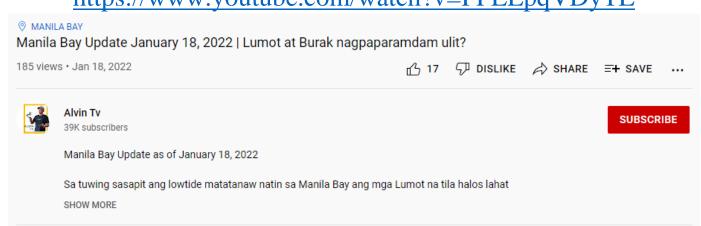




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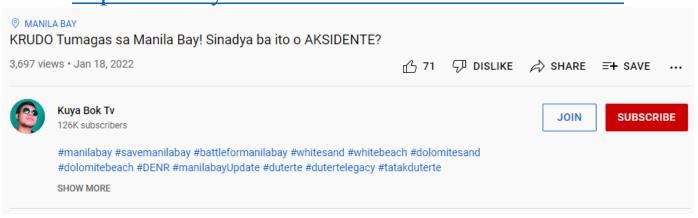




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