





August 20, 2021

Date

1 of 2

Page

Page

Page

Headline

Column

Opinion

Feature Article

Cimatu sa mga Pinoy: Learn from "Our Fragile Earth" docu-series



August 19, 2021 @ 6:45 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Hinikayat ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mga Pilipino na panoorin ang TV premiere ng ikatlong "Our Fragile Earth: Protected Areas of the Philippines" documentary series sa Agosto 22 at matutunan ang pagpapahalaga sa pagpreserba ng mayamang biodiversity ng bansa.

"It is a good opportunity to know more about our protected areas while we are temporarily unable to go outside. They would not only learn about these magnificent ecological sites; remembering that we have these in the country can increase our positive outlook in life," saad ni Cimatu.

Sa press release ayon sa DENR ang documentary series na ginawa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) ay layuning makakuha ng suporta sa government at non-government partners para sa konserbasyon ng protected areas sa Pilipinas.

Kaugnay nito sa third installment ng "Our Fragile Earth" series ay ipakikita ang walong protected areas sa Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Davao Region at Soccsksargen, ito ay ang Dinadiawan River Protected Landscape, Talaytay Protected Landscape, Amro River Protected Landscape, Simbahan-Talagas Protected Landscape, Quezon Protected Landscape, Masinloc and Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape, Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape, at ang Pujada Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape.

Samantala magiging host ng programa ang bumuo ng konsepto nito na si House Deputy Speaker at Antique Rep. Loren Legarda, ang ikatlong bahagi ng documentary series ay ipalalabas sa ABS-CBN News Channel sa Agosto 22, ganap na 5:30 ng hapon.

"How can we conserve what we do not know about, what we do not understand? Our people's energies must be used to defend our natural heritage. We must all work together to conserve wildlife and nature and mitigate disasters worsened by climate change. Our survival also depends on how well we understand our surroundings," sabi ni Legarda.

Ang documentary series na ito ay isa sa inisyatibo ni Legarda na maitaguyod ang ecological at sustainable tourism sa lahat ng protected areas partikular na ang nasasakupan ng Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 (ENIPAS Act) o ang Republic Act 11038.

Nilagdaan noong Hunyo 22, 2018, ang ENIPAS Act ay nagbigay daan upang magkaroon ng 94 protected areas sa bansa, at nagparami ng bilang ng naisabatas na PAs sa 107.





August 20, 202	1 Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Magsisilbi rin itong mekanismo para mapalakas ang climate change adaptation measures at magkaroon ng mandato ang mga Filipino upang matiyak ang integridad ng ecosystems ng bansa para sa kasalukuyan at darating na henerasyon.

Kaugnay nito sa kanyang panig, sinabi naman ni DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns at BMB OIC Director Edilberto DC Leonardo na ang protected areas ay "unquestionably cradles of biodiversity." *Santi Celario*

Source: https://www.remate.ph/cimatu-sa-mga-pinoy-learn-from-our-fragile-earth-docu-series/





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

DENR, partners implement 300-hectare agroforestry in Mt. Kitanglad

August 20, 2021



Mt. Kitanglad re-planting should continue CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE <u>Department of Environment and Natural Resources</u> (DENR) has successfully partnered with Kitanglad Guard <u>Volunteers</u> (KGV), Forest Foundation <u>Philippines</u> and <u>Holcim</u> Corp. to plant more than 300 hectares of coffee, abaca and bamboo as a sustainable agroforestry system to protect Bukidnon's <u>Mt</u>. Kitanglad.

"In spite of the limited manpower assigned in Mt. Kitanglad, the <u>Protected Area Management Board</u> has tapped the cooperation of the <u>upland</u> communities to spearhead the community-based park protection," said <u>Daniel Somera</u>, protected area superintendent.

A combination of agroforestry (planting of fruit trees, dipterocarp or broad-leafed tropical trees, and vegetables) and assisted natural regeneration has been implemented.

This resulted in the sustainable development of forestry area with 100 hectares of coffee trees, 100 hectares of abaca, 100 hectares of fuelwood trees, 100 hectares of rattan, and 50 hectares of bamboo.

The planting is all over 28 villages surrounding Mt. Kitanglad. DENR has also partnered with Holcim Corp. in planting coffee, cacao and rubber. The Forest Foundation Philippines and the - Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program also contributed to the plantation efforts.

Mt. Kitanglad plays a critical role in the replenishment of river systems that drain from Mt. Kitanglad. The rivers include Pulangi, Manupali, Cagayan and Tagoloan rivers in the North and Central *Mindanao*.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/20/public-square/denr-partners-implement-300-hectare-agroforestry-in-mt-kitanglad/1811605





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

DENR, BFAR hold aquasilvicutlure seminar in Sibugay town



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) facilitates a two-day capability-building seminar on aquasilviculture with emphasis on mangrove crab grow-out culture technology for the members of the fisherfolk association in Concepcion village, Alicia, Zamboanga Sibugay. A photo handout shows the seminar participants (back to the camera) listen intently to a resource speaker from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. (SunStar Zamboanga)

August 18, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Community Environment and Natural Resources (Cenro) of Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay, has facilitated a two-day capability-building seminar on aquasilviculture with emphasis on mangrove crab grow-out culture technology.

A technical team from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) headed by BFAR Assistant Regional Director Al-Zath Kunting imparted expert know-how during the two-day seminar held last week in Concepcion village, Alicia, Zamboanga Sibugay.

The two-day activity was attended by the members of the Concepcion Fisherfolk Association headed by Cenon Balawag Jr., grantees of the Community Base Forest Management—Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CBFM-CARP).

Kunting said this program includes the establishment of an aquasilviculture project that would provide sustainable livelihood to marginalized fisherfolk while at the same time strengthen mangrove forest rehabilitation efforts in the area.

Kunting said that topics on environmental laws, rules, and regulations on the cutting of mangroves were briefly discussed during the lecture proper. It was emphasized, that the aquasilviculture project will strictly comply with the "No cutting of mangroves" policy.

Aquasilviculture is a mangrove-friendly aquaculture technique that allows the production of high-value fishery species in a mangrove reforestation project.

Although the project was focused on the grow-out culture of mangrove crab, the team highlighted the potential of the polyculture method to maximized production, according to Kunting.

He said that polyculture is the practice of culturing more than one aquaculture commodity.





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial
2.00	Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

He said that instead of culturing mangrove crab alone, it can be combined with either grouper or "lapu-lapu", red snapper or "pulahan," siganids or "samaral" and other high-value fish species.

He said that the BFAR technical team together with CENRO-Imelda personnel conducted field inspection and validation of suitable sites for the aquasilviculture project.

Geraldine Sadusta, CBFM coordinator, extended her sincere gratitude to BFAR Regional Director Isidro Velayo, Jr., for providing the needed technical support to the two-day activity which assuredly results in a positive impact both in aquaculture production and environmental conservation. (SunStar Zamboanga)





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Aboitiz Construction capacitates Batangas City LGUs on waste management

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 Journal Online



Aboitiz Construction in collaboration with Lipa City Community Environment and Natural Resources Office conducted a capacity building activity on waste management for barangay officials of Brgy. Simlong and Pinamucan Ibaba in Batangas City.

In line with its mission of building a better future and in partnership with Lipa City Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), Aboitiz Construction spearheaded the "Scrap to Crop and Waste Management" program for the local government unit (LGU) officials of Brgy. Simlong and Pinamucan Ibaba, Batangas City.

Under this program, Aboitiz Construction sells scrap materials from its project sites to raise funds for its waste management initiatives, including planting seedlings that will eventually be a food resource for the communities.

To support its current waste management efforts, Aboitiz Construction has donated material recovery facilities that include large waste segregation bins to the barangay beneficiaries this month. With CENRO's aid, the company also provided non-fruit bearing seedlings like Narra in order to aid against flooding.

"We want to support the communities in towns and barangays where Aboitiz Construction projects are located. Team members are able to participate in this community partnership. The waste management program fulfills our promise of advancing business and communities in the Philippines." said Nina Ylagan-Pedro, Division Chief for Enterprise Risk, Corporate Affairs and Services of Aboitiz Construction.

Observing safety and health protocols, 16 participants composed of barangay officials and health workers attended the capacity building activity on waste management that was facilitated by the Lipa City CENRO last July.

Hanna Mari Flores, CENRO Assistant Planning Officer, discussed the provisions of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and the methods on how to effectively manage the wastes in the communities. Additionally, Bea Liza Ladito, CENRO Forest Technician I, led the discussion on tree planting, composting, and vertical gardening

"The program helped us to refresh our memory about the things that we need to understand about waste management. Through this, we will be able to create sustainable programs for the welfare of our community members," said Simlong Barangay Captain Wenilda Macaraig.





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



Hon. Wenilda Macaraig, Barangay Captain of Simlong, directly consulted with the staff of Lipa City Community Environment and Natural Resources Office about the things that they need to improve in terms of their waste management programs in the barangay.

Aboitiz Construction recently co-sponsored "Plastics 3R Hacks," a hackathon aimed at harnessing solutions for the worsening plastic waste problem in the Philippines. In the third quarter of 2021, the company will kick off its waste management program and support the establishment of community gardens in select barangays in Cebu. These gardens are in line with the "gulayan sa barangay" program that aims to grow sustainable food for the communities.

Source: https://journal.com.ph/news/provincial/aboitiz-construction-lgu-waste-mngt/





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Waste management

posted August 19, 2021 at 08:06 pm



Aboitiz Construction, in collaboration with Lipa City Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, conducts a capacity building activity on waste management for officials of Barangay Simlong and Barangay Pinamucan Ibaba in Batangas City. Aboitiz Construction spearheaded the 'Scrap to Crop and Waste Management' program, where the company sells scrap materials from its project sites to raise funds for waste management initiatives, including planting seedlings that will eventually be a food resource for the communities.

Source: https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/362787





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 3	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

MPIC supports ASEAN Green Initiative through its groupwide environmental programs

BYBMPLUS AUGUST 19, 2021



In line with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) commits to fully support the ASEAN Green Initiative (AGI) led by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).

"As the Philippines' leading infrastructure investment Company, MPIC is well-positioned to help advance ACB's goals and objectives" said MPIC Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan.

The ACB is ASEAN's response to the challenge of biodiversity loss. It is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates cooperation and coordination among the ten ASEAN Member States (AMS) and with regional and international organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such natural treasures.

ACB recently launched the AGI to encourage and incentivize the planting of at least 10 million trees throughout the ASEAN Region over a period of 10 years using native species. This demonstrates the regional cooperation led by the AMS in recognizing local and national activities to promote the restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. It also encourages the adoption of nature-based solutions to address biodiversity loss and respond to climate change through grassroots actions.

In his Opening Remarks, H.E Kung Phoak, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community discussed the value of preserving and restoring ASEAN's rich biodiversity as it hosts megadiverse ecosystems. It is home to 18% of the world's known plants and animals, 60% of tropical peatlands, and 42% of mangroves. He also added that these natural resources are at risk because of climate change, oil exploitation, rapid land conversion, human-induced pollution, and illegal wildlife trade. These have resulted to serious consequences that affect people's livelihood, food security, health and resiliency.





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
2 of 3	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

"Allow me to stress that the difference a simple tree planting can make has never been trivial or inconsequential, especially now with environmental crises that we are experiencing, the link between the loss of biodiversity and the rise of diseases and pandemics is undeniable" said ACB's Executive Director, Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim. "The AGI primarily aims to usher in coordinated tree planting activities across ASEAN that are anchored on sound scientific principles and are aligned to contribute positively to the region's overarching commitment to restore and sustainably use the region's rich and diverse ecosystems."

MPIC, represented by its Chief Finance, Risk and Sustainability Officer Chaye A. Cabal-Revilla, was invited by ACB as the sole private sector representative in the AGI launch.

Integrating business and environmental stewardship in investment strategies

During the said event, Ms. Cabal-Revilla emphasized the Group's sustainability philosophy of integrating business and environmental stewardship in their investment strategies. This is evident in how MPIC designs, builds, and operates their businesses with minimal environment and social disruption. The group's Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway, for example, was carefully designed and built to protect the existing 278-hectare mangrove ecosystem and avoid disruption to the fisherfolk communities in the area.

Investing in environmental protection programs

It was also an opportunity to bring awareness to MPIC's Gabay Kalikasan environmental programs such as Metro Pacific Investments Foundation's Shore It Up! that has institutionalized initiatives on the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity for the past 13 years. Aside from creating livelihood opportunities for coastal communities, Shore It Up! has protected over 5,300 hectares of mangroves across its three Mangrove Protection/Propagation and Information Centers.

MPIC's presentation also highlighted the group's existing reforestation programs that were developed to offset the carbon footprint in its operations. These include Meralco's "One for Trees" program that aims to rehabilitate ecosystems through reforestation and agroforestry by planting at least five (5) million trees by 2025; Maynilad's "Plant for Life" program that engages the Dumagat indigenous community to reforest the denuded Ipo Watershed – a vital source of water for Metro Manila; and Global Business Power's carbon sink forestry project in the Visayas region that empowers local communities in planting endemic tree species, high value crops, and fruit-bearing trees, which can eventually become a source of sustainable income for the locals.

With the increasing push towards digitalization, the Group has also taken strides to protect nature through collaboration and technology, advocating the use of new platforms and technologies to promote greater environmental responsibility. MPIC and MPIF recently forged a partnership with Rainforest Connection and Huawei for the deployment of an Internet of Things (IoT) solution to protect the country's rainforests.

Protecting nature through collaboration and technology

Ms. Cabal-Revilla also emphasized the pivotal role of strengthening partnerships and increasing collaboration as well as regional cooperation in restoring rich forest ecosystems. In line with this, the Group is collaborating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Laguna Lake Development Authority under the LAWA (Laguna de Bay Welfare Awareness) campaign. This project aims to align rehabilitation efforts across the Group and formulate a cohesive action plan to protect Laguna Lake, a critical water source for Metro Manila and neighboring areas.

As MPIC fosters an inclusive approach in its sustainability programs, the Company, together with the rest of the MVP Group of Companies, also launched six (6) Gabay advocacies for a sustainable Philippines with specific focus areas on environmental stewardship, livelihood, health and sports, youth, education and community empowerment. These advocacies encapsulate the Group's efforts towards the attainment of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
3 of 3	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

"Our individual actions create a ripple effect and serve as the foundation of pervasive impact. If we work together and promote collective action, we can accelerate our efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change and halt biodiversity loss," said Cabal-Revilla. "We need to implement meaningful initiatives that are aimed at creating a sustainable and crisis-resilient future for all."

Beyond the newly launched ASEAN Green Initiative, MPIC will broaden its partnership with the ACB and work with the organization in identified areas of collaboration, particularly the #WeAreASEANBiodiversity campaign that calls for everyone's participation to save the planet and restore biodiversity.

"We are grateful to the ACB for the opportunity to jointly implement programs that are in line with our shared goal of protecting the environment" said MPIC President and CEO, Jose Ma. K. Lim.

MPIC's support for the ASEAN Green Initiative is aligned with its commitment to contributing to the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG#13 Climate Action which focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; and SDG # 15 Life on Land that aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/08/19/mpic-supports-asean-green-initiative-through-its-groupwide-environmental-programs/





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 3	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Local environment groups to revive call on aerial spray ban



File photo

RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT

August 18, 2021

FIVE years after it was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court (SC), local environmentalists will revive its call on the banning of aerial spray in all agricultural entities within

Davao

City.

Dagohoy Magaway, Mamamayang Ayaw sa Aerial Spraying (Maas) president, said in a press release on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, they relaunched their campaign this year because some aerial spray ban ordinances that were successfully enacted in neighboring provinces in Mindanao are at risk of being abolished.

The city government passed an ordinance in 2007 banning the use of aerial spray in all agricultural entities within the city and encouraging ground spraying instead. However, its legality was questioned by several banana companies in court and filed a lawsuit against the City of Davao seeking to strike down the ordinance as unconstitutional.

On August 16, 2016, the SC declared Davao City's ordinance on the banning of aerial spray as "unconstitutional." The high court also denied the motion for reconsideration filed by Maas and the Davao City Government.

Magaway called the SC ruling unjust and unfair as it favored "on behalf of the interests of private corporations, rather than the welfare of its citizens."

"It has taken five long years for us, local Davaoeños, to understand the reasons behind the 2016 Supreme Court's rules in favor of industry-defined technicalities rather than in the defense of innocent lives affected by the fumigation of chemical pesticides in and around the banana plantations,"

Magaway

Said.

"That reason is because the justices of the Supreme Court are themselves animals, mga hayop!!!
[sic],"
Magaway
added.

The province of Bukidnon, in 2001, passed a local ordinance banning aerial spray in order to protect the livestock and poultry industries in Bukidnon.

Likewise, in 2004, the province of Cotabato passed an environmental code banning the agricultural method with the stated clause that sprayed farms lay adjacent to poultries, piggeries, cattle ranches, and other agri-based businesses.





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
2 of 3	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Magaway said the SC ruling is now putting the ordinance of Bukidnon and North Cotabato at risk of abolition.

"By using the Supreme Court decision to overturn existing protections, banana corporations may replicate their methods of spraying in Davao City ordinance banning aerial spraying," he said.

"Their silence speaks volumes; it clarifies that commercial animals possess more rights and protections under the Philippine Constitution than us humans do," Magaway said.

In a previous SunStar Davao report, SC said the ordinance is believed to be violating the "equal protection clause in the Constitution since it prohibited aerial spraying regardless of the substance or the level of concentration of the chemicals to be applied and imposed the 30-meter buffer zone in all agricultural lands in Davao City regardless of the size of landholdings."

The ordinance was also deemed to have violated "the due process rights of banana growers."

However, Magaway questioned why not one among the members of the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association nor of the Supreme Court, questioned the legality or constitutionality of the ordinances of these areas.

In a separate statement, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) said the ill effects of pesticides and aerial spraying have been well documented and researched in numerous international and local studies.

In 2019, Idis conducted a study entitled "Mapping of Cavendish Banana Plantations & Affected Communities of Aerial Spraying in South Central Mindanao" to check the actual situation of banana plantations within the area, verify active aerial spraying practices, and analyze its effects on the community.

The study revealed that four barangays in Davao City have continued and resumed aerial spraying in their plantations -- Barangay Dacudao, Barangay Lacson, Barangay Subasta, and Barangay

Lasang.

The group said they are alarmed as there are residential communities and schools adjacent to these plantations with weak agricultural buffer zones.

In relation to the conducted study, the Idis met with different representatives from Fertilizers Authority of the Philippines (FPA), Barangay Sirib, Barangay Lacson, and Office of Councilor Ralph

Abella.

During the discussion, Idis said affected barangays shared that numerous trees were cut down to make way for plantations and they noticed a decrease in the production of cacao and other fruit-bearing trees as an adverse effect of aerial spraying.

"Though FPA released Memorandum Circular No. 28, series of 2018, or Good Agricultural practices for remotely piloted aircraft systems for use as spraying, this is not enough," Idis said.

On August 13, 2021, the group visited Dacudao and Lacson to check and ask the residents about their situation and problems regarding aerial spraying. The residents of both barangays revealed that there are no buffer zones between the plantations and their communities.





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial
	Column
3 of 3	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

The group added that some residents are suffering from skin itchiness. They also shared that the schedule of aerial spraying is not strictly observed; residents near the plantations have no idea when the plantations will spray the pesticides for bananas.

"We unite with the calls of the communities to stop aerial spraying in the city. Plantations should shift to non-aerial application methods with minimal chemical drift and impacts that would not affect the residents, farm workers, and children's health and livability. Also, the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) should regularly monitor the buffer zones of these plantations and other mitigation measures set in their ECCs (Environmental Compliance Certificate)," Idis Program Coordinator Lemuel Lloyd Manalo said.

Idis also urged DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu to revive the Multipartite Monitoring Team (MTT) for Agricultural Plantations through an administrative order.

The group also called on the Davao City government to fully implement the Watershed Code that prohibits aerial spraying on environmentally critical areas, create a Local MTT for Plantations, and support the proposed city ordinance on banning aerial spray in all agricultural entities within Davao City.

SunStar Davao has yet to get the side of the city government on this matter.





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



CCC on World Humanitarian Day: Win the human race against the climate crisis

Published on: August 19, 2021 By CCC

MANILA -- In observance of World Humanitarian Day, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) urges world leaders to take meaningful climate action for the world's most vulnerable populations.

Every year on August 19th, the World Humanitarian Day is observed to advocate for the survival, well-being, and dignity of people affected by humanitarian crises, and to honor and support the humanitarian aid workers who put their lives on the line to help the affected people during times of crisis.

This year's observance comes as the world continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns, and disasters from extreme weather, and in the face of humanitarian emergencies as in Afghanistan and Haiti. Humanitarian workers have carried out many acts of bravery and provided a safe space and basic necessities to vulnerable affected populations.

For 2021, the theme, "#TheHumanRace: A global challenge for climate action in solidarity with the people who need it most," stresses that humanity is racing against the clock of the climate emergency, presenting a global race challenge like no other.

The climate emergency is wreaking havoc across the world at a scale that people on the front lines and in the humanitarian community cannot manage. Droughts, heatwaves, raging wildfires and horrific floods are shattering the lives of millions of people, causing them to lose their homes, livelihoods and sometimes even their lives. The time is already running out for millions of the world's most vulnerable people – those who have contributed least to the global climate emergency but are hit the hardest.

Following the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report from Working Group I, which presented the unequivocal causation by humans of the "widespread and rapid" changes to Earth's climate, the CCC urges world leaders to pay attention to the immediate human cost and consequences of the climate emergency for the world's most vulnerable people, and to ensure that their voices are heard and their needs top the agenda of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) on 31 October to 12 November 2021.

As the consequences of climate change will continue to get worse with inaction, the CCC emphasizes that now is the only time to run together towards the greatest race of our lifetime – to save people and planet. (CCC)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2021/08/19/ccc-on-world-humanitarian-day-win-the-human-race-against-the-climate-crisis





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

'Bold, meaningful actions' needed to address climate change — CHR

Published August 19, 2021, 3:25 PM by Czarina Nicole Ong Ki



Commission on Human Rights (CHR)

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has urged the government to adopt and enforce "bold and meaningful actions" to address climate change that has been exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

CHR's plea was aired as it joined the observance today, Aug. 19, of the "World Humanitarian Day 2021" with its theme "#TheHumanRace."

It said that climate change has sadly affected the world's most vulnerable people who contributed the least to the climate crisis the world is facing now.

In the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, the CHR said the Philippines ranked fourth in the top 10 countries most affected by climate change from 2000 to 2019 with Puerto Rico, Myanmar, and Haiti coming before it.

The CHR attributed the country's high ranking to "the dire consequences of annual gross domestic product (GDP) losses, changes in rainfall patterns and distribution, droughts, threats to biodiversity and food security, sea-level rise, public health risks, and endangerment of vulnerable groups, such as women and indigenous peoples."

It said that addressing the climate emergency cannot be stressed enough especially since climate disasters have been destroying impoverished sectors and communities on a yearly basis.

"A collective and proactive framework approach from concerned agencies is needed to ensure that vulnerable sectors will be supported in mitigating the impacts of climate change. We cannot leave anyone behind," the CHR said.

There is a need to help allevite the plights faced by "climate-vulnerable groups as their well-being, dignity, and long-term condition must be upheld in all actions and decisions addressing climate change," it said.

Citing the World Health Organization (WHO), the CHR said that climate change may indirectly affect the COVID-19 response because "it undermines environmental determinants of health, and places additional stress on health systems."





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

It pointed out that the WHO even warned that increasing human pressure on the environment might drive disease emergence in the future.

To reduce the risk of future outbreaks, the WHO suggested "strengthening health systems, improved surveillance of infectious disease in wildlife, livestock and humans, and greater protection of biodiversity and the natural environment," it said.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/ 2021/08/19/bold-meaningful-actions-needed-to-address-climate-change-chr/





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

SMIC wants to help solve climate crisis

BYVG CABUAG AUGUST 19, 2021



SM Investments Corp. (SMIC), the holding firm of the Sy family, on Thursday said it signed a commitment to support the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) to ensure its businesses meet global sustainability targets.

"We recognize the material role we play in the Philippines. We understand our responsibilities and we commit to using the TCFD recommendations to be part of the solution to climate change," Frederic C. DyBuncio, SMIC president and CEO said during the virtual roundtable discussion on climate-related financial disclosure organized by the Climate Change Commission.

The said task force is a globally recognized set of recommendations by the Financial Stability Board and is one of the frameworks recommended by the country's Securities and Exchange Commission on environmental, social and corporate governance reporting.

SMIC joins more than 2,300 supporters in demonstrating a commitment to building a more resilient financial system and safeguarding against climate risk through better disclosures.

The adoption of these recommendations helps for more effective climate-related disclosures as these could promote more informed investments and in turn could enable stakeholders to better understand the financial system's exposures to climate-related risks, the company said.

SM said it has taken the agenda of climate change as an integral part of its business strategy and how this creates lasting value for all its stakeholders, identifying United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 13, Climate Action as one of its focus.

Its climate action strategy advances two priorities that go hand-in-hand: resilience to equip its stakeholders and host communities for climate emergencies and sustainability to help mitigate the climate crisis, the company said.

Through SM's leadership role in UN ARISE, the private sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, it calls for a collective effort to incorporate disaster resilience as a core strategy of its business.

SMIC said it allocates 10 percent of its capital expenditures to disaster resiliency and sustainability in the design of its malls and other developments. This includes water catchment facilities which reduce flooding in neighboring communities; science-based designs such as its SM City Marikina mall that sits on 246 stilts to enable it to withstand water level rise; and building the 60-hectare SM Mall of Asia complex 4.5 meters above mean lower low water level, among others.

"For a business to be able to continue to grow and last for many years, it's very important that it supports the community in a sustainable way. In the end, it's the community and the environment that sustains the high growth of our businesses," DyBuncio said.

Image courtesy of BusinessMirror file photo

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/08/19/smic-wants-to-help-solve-climate-crisis/





August 20, 2021	Headline
	- Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

SM backs efforts on climate initiative

posted August 19, 2021 at 07:25 pm by Manila Standard Business

SM Investments Corp. sealed its commitment as a supporter of the Task Force on Climaterelated Financial Disclosures in a strong bid to ensure its businesses meet global sustainability targets.

This was announced by the company in a virtual roundtable discussion on climate-related financial disclosure organized by the Climate Change Commission on Wednesday.

"We recognize the material role we play in the Philippines. We understand our responsibilities and we commit to using the TCFD recommendations to be part of the solution to climate change," SM Investments president and chief executive Frederic DyBuncio said.

TCFD is a globally recognized set of recommendations by the Financial Stability Board and is one of the frameworks recommended by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines on environmental, social and corporate governance reporting.

"Ours is a responsibility to help build and protect our vulnerable country," said Tim Daniels, SM Investments' head of investor relations said during the roundtable.

Source: https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/362776





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 2	✓ Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Making Pasig River great again posted August 20, 2021 at 12:30 am by Tony Lopez

"The benefits of the project are quite obvious."

Great cities are built around great rivers. Rivers crossing metropolitan centers are the water of life and livelihood, often the lifeblood of trade and tourism and everything in between. They are also replete with culture and history and evoke legends, myths, grandeur and power, traversing as they do seats of power – palaces, mosques, temples, shrines, and mansions.

Thus, you have the Hudson River in New York where you can see the Statue of Liberty and Wall Street's skyscrapers and where once a jumbo jet with a failed engine landed miraculously, without casualties, except for jarred nerves.

Shanghai has the Huangpu River, a tributary of Yangtze before it spills out into the East China Sea. The business district Bund overlooks it.

In Russia, between Moscow and St. Petersburg, you have the Yaroslavi River.

In Budapest, there is the mystical Danube which inspired famous waltzes.

In Paris, the city of lights, you have the River Seine which runs for 775 kilometers, the distance between Manila and Cagayan.

London has the River Thames, flowing 346 kilometers into southern England. Thames evokes royalty, romance, finance, in addition to trade and commerce.

Mainz, Germany has its own legendary Rhine River. Remember Lorelei, the beautiful maiden?

The VItava River is the lifeline of Prague, running 400 kilometers into the Bohemian forest.

Aswan in Egypt has its Nile River, said to be the longest river in the world (6,600 kms) and the father of African rivers, running south to north of eastern Africa, (yes, Egypt is in Africa). Nine of ten Egyptians live by that river. The Nile reminds you of Biblical figures, Cleopatra, pharaohs, mummies, temples and pyramids.

The Philippines? Filipino tribes are named after rivers. Tagalog means taga-ilog (residents by the river), Pampango means by the riverbank. Iloilo? That is probably a twin river.

Agusan means where the water flows. Albay means by the water shore. Apayao means swift flowing river. Basilan means waterway into the open sea. Batangas means logs that used to float down Calumpang River. Benguet means living by the edge of a swamp. Bulacan means a muddy place.

The national capital, Manila, of course, has its Pasig River. It is short by global standards, just 19.4 kms, from Manila Bay to east of the capital. It links two great bodies of water, Manila Bay and Laguna Lake.

Sadly, our Pasig River reminds you of dirt (I am not referring the corruption by the presidential palace which by the way throws its sewage into the water), garbage, floods, and traffic. Pasig stinks, in other words, literally and figuratively.

San Miguel Corp. President and CEO Ramon S. Ang has a splendid idea on how to restore Pasig's reputation and relevance to the lives of Filpinos. His idea: Tap not the dirty waters of Pasig (which he is cleaning, by the way, spending easily P2 billion) but the space above it.





A110	ust 20, 202	1 [Headline
1145		` —[Editorial
	Date	Ī	Column
	2 of 2	į	Opinion
'	Page		Feature Article

This is the elevated six-lane Pasig River Expressway (Parex). Parex sounds like a heady brand of vitamins or rubber but it is probably what Pasig needs, a jolt.

RSA is spending P95.4 billion to build a 19.4-kilometer six-lane speed road above the Pasig River to seamlessly connect the western and eastern portions of Metro Manila. It will start from Radial Road 10 (R10) in Manila and end at a connection to the Southeast Metro Manila Expressway at C6 in Taguig.

San Miguel is seeking a 30-year toll road concession using the Build-Operate-Transfer Scheme.

Entry points at the University Belt area, San Juan, Buendia, Mandaluyong, Makati, Rockwell, EDSA, Pioneer Street, Bonifacio Global City (BGC), C5, and finally at C6.

The benefits of the project are quite obvious. They include:

- --Cut travel time between the eastern and western side of Metro Manila to about 10-15 minutes from two hours at present.
- --Decongest Rizal, Cainta, and Marikina, and provide an alternative access to the business districts of Makati, Ortigas, and BGC.
- -- Connect various highways connecting the east and west corridors of Metro Manila.
- --Directly link the western and eastern cities of Metro Manila via an elevated expressway
- ---Decongest the primary corridors of R-10, EDSA and C-5 by providing connectivity among toll roads and freeways of Metro Manila by diverting the traffic volume to other alternative routes.
- --Restore Pasig River's depth and solve flooding instantly, thru a companion P2 billion cleanup and dredging, also courtesy of San Miguel.

San Miguel has also been conducting a massive clean-up of the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system, where it is clearing some 600 tons of waste per day, and recently moved its operations upstream to cover almost half of the Pasig river system.

Once completed, PAREX will be composed of three segments:

- Segment 1 (R-10 to Plaza Azul) 5.74 kilometers.
- Plaza Azul to San Juan River (MMSS3) 2.70 kms.
- Segment 2 (San Juan River to C5 Intersection) 7.325 kms.
- Segment 3 (C5 Intersection C6 Intersection)- 6.30 kms.

Estimated completion: Four years. Or less. By that time, hopefully, COVID would just be a memory.

biznewsasia@gmail.com

Source: https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/362816





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Pangolin found in Ayala Alabang to return home in Palawan

Aileen Cerrudo · August 19, 2021



The pangolin that was found in Barangay Ayala Alabang in Muntinlupa will soon be homeward bound to its natural habitat in Palawan.

Last Monday (August 16), a resident turned over a Philippine pangolin to the National Wildlife Rescue and Research Center (NWRRC) after finding it in their backyard. Rescuers immediately responded and took custody of the pangolin which was named 'Pandi'.

According to the NWRRC, Pandi has minor cuts around his body but his health is in stable condition.

"Bukod doon sa mga minor scratch niya wala pa namang alarming na sign na medyo kailangan naming bantayan ng sobra, (Aside from minor scratches [Pandi] does not have any alarming signs that would need our utmost attention)," according to NWRRC chief and in-house veterinarian Dr. Glenn Maguad.

Pandi is now scheduled to return to Palawan, however, no date has been set yet.

Pangolins are considered a critically endangered species and the most traffic wildlife. Pangolins are being traded primarily as ingredients in traditional Chinese medicine.

Maguad said pangolins are considered gardeners of the forest because they like to dig rotten trees for termites. They contribute to the ecosystem through soil conditioning. -AAC (with reports from Janice Ingente)

Source: https://untvweb.com/news/pangolin-found-in-ayala-alabang-to-return-home-in-palawan/





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

1m coconut trees

posted August 19, 2021 at 08:15 pm



Century Pacific Food Inc., one of the largest branded food companies in the Philippines, along with mobile wallet GCash and non-profit impact organization HOPE, launches GForest, an initiative to jointly plant 1 million coconut trees in the provinces of South Cotabato and Sarangani within 24 months. GForest is an environmental protection feature on the GCash app that allows users to take an active role in helping mother nature through tree planting. GCash users can do so by collecting enough green energy to plant virtual trees. For every virtual tree planted, CNPF, GCash and HOPE then plant a real coconut tree, which users may select on the app.

Source: https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/362789





august 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial
	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Rescuers retrieve body in Benguet landslide

By Liza Agoot and Dionisio Dennis, Jr. August 19, 2021, 6:59 pm



RETRIEVED. Emergency responders retrieve the body of Nestor Talangcag on Thursday (August 19, 2021) under tons of mud that buried him and his live-in partner on August 17 at Antamok River in Barangay Loacan, Itogon, Benguet. Rescuers have yet to find Talangcag's live-in partner. (*Photo courtesy of Col. Elmer Ragay*)

CAMP DANGWA, La Trinidad, Benguet – Responders searching for the live-in couple in a landslide on Tuesday have retrieved a male cadaver Thursday afternoon.

Maj. Elpidio Pagoy of the Itogon Municipal Police Office, in a report, said Nestor Talangcag's body was recovered at the landslide site in Antamok, Loacan, Itogon, Benguet.

The rescue team is still looking for Morina Simeon Lintal, who was earlier identified as Maureen Talangcag, 57.

The soil erosion from the mountain beside the Antamok River happened past 10 a.m. on August 17 that buried the couple who were gold panning in the river with two other relatives.

Dante Tomi, brother of Nestor, who was at the site, said the couple hid beside a boulder when the erosion started while their 17-year-old son ran for safety.

A boulder covered with mud eventually buried the couple. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1151013





august 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

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Source: https://www.facebook.com/116724526976/posts/10160309205586977/





August 20, 2021	✓ Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

1.3-B tons of food wasted globally each year-expert

BYCAI ORDINARIO AUGUST 19, 2021



Photo from CNN Philippines

DISCARDING food waste could also mean throwing away the economic opportunities possible when these are put to better use, according to an expert from the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI).

In an Asian Development Blog, ADBI Capacity Building and Training Associate Derek Hondo said food waste such as corn cobs, edamame pods, beetroot skins, sugarcane and potato skins can be processed into alternatives to plastic.

Other uses of food waste, Hondo added, include energy recapture through anaerobic digestion or methane fermentation. The biogas that can be generated can lower reliance on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Creating loops for the food system instead of disposing of discarded food is a type of circular economy that can decrease the strain on agricultural resources. Unused food and food waste can be recycled for other purposes," Hondo said.

Citing data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Hondo said up to 11 kilograms of food per capita in Asian developing countries and 80 kilograms of food per capita in developed countries are wasted.

There are also studies that estimate that 1.3 billion tons of food are lost annually around the world, he said. However, due to the lack of data in many countries, it was difficult to measure the extent of the problem.

This compounds other challenges in food systems worldwide. Hondo said these challenges include near-capacity landfill sites, food insecurity, and environmental degradation.

"Governments must recognize that achieving a sustainable economy will require innovation to transition to a circular economy, which, in the context of food usage, seeks to reduce the amount of wastage," Hondo said.

Creating food loops means transitioning to a circular economy which would greatly reduce waste while also addressing several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These SDGs include Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities; Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production; and Goal 13 on climate action.

Earlier, in a Policy Brief titled Urban Food Systems and the Pandemic, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development found issues and gaps in food systems in Metro Manila, especially at the height of the lockdowns.





August 20, 2021	✓ Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

These issues also included food supply bottlenecks especially at the start of the lockdown last year; information gaps within the food system which bared ineffective ICT systems; and capacity gaps in food provisioning.

The report said efforts to address these losses also mean avoiding food waste in households and adopting measures to mitigate food losses in the country's food supply chain.

However, as to the magnitude of the losses, FAO Representative Kati Tanninen said in a briefing on Thursday that there is no baseline created to measure food loss in the country.

The report said in Metro Manila, Food Loss and Waste (FLW) is a "blind spot in finding solutions to hunger." The UN said even before the pandemic, poor Filipinos who have no money to buy would scavenge food from garbage cans.

This was happening, the UN said, while restaurants dumped their unsold produce in garbage cans and consumers stockpiled food without a consumption or meal plan.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/08/19/1-3-b-tons-of-food-wasted-globally-each-year-expert/





August 20, 2021	Headline
	E ditorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

New wildfire explodes near California state capital

posted August 19, 2021 at 07:30 am by **AFP**

A wildfire that erupted outside California's state capital just a few days ago had exploded to cover more than 53,000 acres by Wednesday.

At least two people had to be airlifted to hospital as the Caldor Fire tore through a small town around 80 kilometers (50 miles) from Sacramento.

Thousands of people have been told to seek safety, with the fire raging uncontrolled through the Eldorado National Forest.

"Please, please heed the warnings, and then when you're asked to get out, get out," Fire Chief Thom Porter said, according to the Sacramento Bee newspaper.

"We need you out of the way so we can protect your homes from these fires."

The fire, which started on Saturday, grew eightfold in 24 hours, according to incident updates, a frightening demonstration of its aggression.

Strong winds were fanning the blaze, complicating firefighting efforts, Cal Fire said.

The Caldor Fire is one of scores raging across the tinder-dry western United States, as manmade climate change alters weather patterns and brings chronic drought to the region.

Further north, the huge Dixie Fire continued to burn.

It has now scorched more than 600,000 acres in the month since it started, and is the second biggest blaze in California's history.

Photos taken by an AFP journalist show towering flames consuming the trees along the side of a highway, as firefighters try to set containment lines.

In the town of Janesville, the burned out hulks of cars sit among the still-smoking undergrowth; elsewhere, mailboxes exposed to the ferocious heat of the flames have melted out of shape.

The acrid smoke created by wildfires sparked an air quality advisory Wednesday for residents of the Bay Area, around San Francisco.

Utility PG&E on Tuesday began shutting off power supply to more than 50,000 customers.

The company -- which has acknowledged that its equipment may have started the Dixie Fire - said the shut-offs were to avoid the danger of live lines falling on dry vegetation.

The last decade has seen a huge rise in the number of wildfires in the west of the United States. Climate change linked to the burning of fossil fuels has made the region dryer and hotter for longer, creating ideal conditions for the blazes to rage

Source: https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/362741





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

'Isang' not affecting PH

By Ma. Cristina Arayata August 19, 2021, 2:01 pm



MANILA – A tropical depression (TD) outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) has entered and was given the local name "Isang".

"Currently, it does not have a direct effect on any part of the country, as well as on the seaboards," Chris Perez of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Thursday noon.

"Isang" was last tracked 1,410 kilometers east of northern Luzon, moving northwestward at 25 km. per hour (kph). It packs maximum sustained winds of 45 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 55 kph.

"Isang" is not expected to make landfall, and may possibly weaken into a low-pressure area (LPA) by Monday or even earlier, Perez said.

It is forecast to remain as a TD until Sunday, and may likely exit PAR by Monday.

"We are not expecting this to directly hit any part of the country. The hoisting of a tropical cyclone wind signal is also unlikely," Perez said.

PAGASA earlier said fair weather and isolated rains will prevail over the entire archipelago. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1150965





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



Aerosol in Metro Manila possibly from Taal Volcano: Solidum

August 19, 20212 min read

MANILA – Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) Director Renato Solidum Jr. on Wednesday night said the aerosol being observed in Metro Manila possibly came from the Taal Volcano.

"The possibilities of volcanic SO2 (sulfur dioxide) aerosol affecting Metro Manila cannot be discounted," he told the Philippine News Agency.

He said based on the air parcel trajectories of the weather bureau on Wednesday, SO2 can be expected to drift within the lower 1.5-kilometer atmosphere to the west of Taal and north over coastal southwest Luzon.

A high level of SO2 emission with an average of 7,830 tons per day was measured in the Taal Volcano on Wednesday.

Strong S02 odors have also been reported in towns west of Volcano Island these past days, Solidum said.

He added that the heavy rains being experienced over the metropolis and southwest Luzon will help scrub off some of the airborne SO2 to lessen its effects.

According to Phivolcs, the S02 gas could irritate the skin, eyes, nose. and throat.

The weather bureau earlier forecast isolated rains across the country due to localized thunderstorms. Rains are likely in the afternoon or evening.

Taal Volcano has been on Alert Level 2 (decreased unrest) since July 23. Under this level, sudden steam or gas-driven explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall, and lethal accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas can occur and threaten areas within and around the Taal Volcano Island (TVI). *(PNA)*

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/08/19/aerosol-in-metro-manila-possibly-from-taal-volcano-solidum/?fbclid=IwAR03Og1msjhV05i9DRnGe-2cRFh0NXYI-sWvPHyRmFNKhPMfZiE6tGX7qCk







August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

8K new recoveries push PH tally to 1,648,402

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 19, 2021, 4:54 pm



MANILA – The country's total number of recovered coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases has reached 1,648,402 after 8,248 new recoveries were reported on Thursday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) noted that recoveries account for 92 percent of the total case count which has reached 1,791,003 since the start of the pandemic last year.

Meanwhile, 14,985 new infections brought the total number of active cases to 111,720.

About 95.3 percent of these active cases are mild, 1.8 percent are asymptomatic, 0.7 percent are critical, 1.3 percent are severe, and 0.87 percent are moderate.

Some 258 new deaths were also reported, pushing the country's total Covid-19 fatalities to 30,881.

According to DOH data on Aug. 17, about 23.8 percent of 59,828 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"About 387 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, 385 are recoveries. Moreover, two cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as active cases and 180 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it added.

All laboratories were operational on Aug. 17 while two laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH noted the two non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 0.2 percent of samples tested, and 0.3 percent of positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

To date, 72 percent of 4,100 intensive care unit beds, 61 percent of 20,000 isolation beds, 65 percent of 14,000 ward beds, and 53 percent of 3,100 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 73 percent of 1,400 intensive care unit beds, 60 percent of 4,500 isolation beds, 67 percent of 4,100 ward beds, and 61 percent of 1,100 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region. (*PNA*)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1151010





August 20, 2021	✓ Headline Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1 Page	Opinion Feature Article

DOH logs 14,895 new COVID-19 cases, the second highest single-day tally

By CNN Philippines Staff

Published Aug 19, 2021 4:16:40 PM



The country again broke its record for the second highest tally of COVID-19 cases in a day, with 14,895 more infections reported by the Department of Health on Thursday. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 19) — The country again broke its record for the second highest tally of COVID-19 cases in a day, with 14,895 more infections reported by the Department of Health on Thursday.

It's the fourth time this month that the country set new second highest single-day tallies. The all-time-high record is still at 15,310 logged on April 2.

The DOH case bulletin showed the nationwide total count is now at 1,791,003 cases. Of that, 6.2% or 111,720 are active cases or currently sick patients. Thursday's active case tally is the highest after April 21, when there were over 116,000 ill cases.

At least 95.3% of active cases are experiencing mild symptoms, 1.8% are without symptoms, 1.3% have severe symptoms, 0.87% are in moderate condition and 0.7% in critical condition.

The death toll also climbed to 30,881 — which is 1.72% of the COVID-19 total — after 258 more people lost their lives to the disease. Meanwhile, 8,248 persons recovered from COVID-19, bringing the survivor count to 1,648,402, equivalent to 92% of the case tally.

The DOH said it reclassified 182 survivors — two into active cases and 180 into deaths — after validation, and deleted 387 duplicate cases, including 385 recoveries.

The total excludes data from two laboratories that failed to submit their reports on time, the DOH added. These laboratories contributed an average of 0.2% of tested samples and 0.3% of positive individuals in the last 14 days.

The positivity rate or percentage of people who tested positive rose from 23.6% based on tests on August 16 to 23.8% based on 59,828 tests reported on August 17. The rate has remained within the critical level of over 20% since August 6, which means the country needs to ramp up its testing efforts.

US nonprofit Covid Act Now, whose data OCTA researchers use as basis for projections, says an area's positivity rate should be below 3% to indicate adequate testing, while the World Health Organization states that a percentage below 5% shows infection is under control.

Source: https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/8/19/DOH-update-COVID-19-near-1.8-million.html





August 20, 2021	Headline
	- Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Quarantine status in NCR, Laguna, Bataan downgraded to MECQ

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos August 19, 2021, 11:02 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – The quarantine classification in the National Capital Region (NCR) and the provinces of Laguna and Bataan has been downgraded from enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) to modified ECQ (MECQ), Malacañang announced Thursday.

This, after President Rodrigo Duterte, upon the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EUD), approved the latest quarantine status in Metro Manila, Laguna, and Bataan, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said.

"These latest classifications are without prejudice to the strict implementation of granular lockdowns," said Roque, also acting as IATF-EID spokesperson, in a press statement.

Roque said Metro Manila will be placed under MECQ from Aug. 21 to 31.

Bataan, on the other hand, will be under MECQ from Aug. 23 to 31, he added.

Metro Manila, Laguna, and Bataan were initially placed under ECQ, the strictest form of community quarantine, due to the spike in coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections.

Roque stressed that despite the deescalation of quarantine level, religious gatherings should remain "virtual" in Metro Manila, Laguna, and Bataan.

He added that indoor and al-fresco dine-in services, as well as personal care services such as beauty salons, beauty parlors, barbershops and nail spas should remain prohibited.

Roque said local government units in Metro Manila, Laguna, and Bataan are likewise directed to improve the vaccination rates within their localities, as well as intensify the "Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate (PDITR) strategies to control the spread of Covid-19.

He said minimum public health standards must also be observed in the three areas.

"These protocols shall be observed in the aforesaid areas under the inclusive dates they are under MECQ," Roque said. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1151062





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

P240B Covid budget for '22

Published 6 hours ago on August 20, 2021 12:45 AM

By MJ Blancaflor @tribunephl_MJB



President Rodrigo Duterte is seeking the approval of a P240.7 billion budget for the country's pandemic response next year, of which P45.3 billion shall be used in procuring Covid-19 booster shots.

In a televised briefing Thursday, presidential spokesperson Secretary Harry Roque outlined the items under the proposed budget to address the health crisis.

"I just want to emphasize that this is preliminary. This is stipulated in the national expenditure plan but this can be changed by Congress. They can add, they can remove," he said.

Based on his presentation, the executive department put the P45.3 billion budget for anticoronavirus booster jabs under "unprogrammed appropriations," which means that it would only be funded if the government has enough money.

While experts have yet to complete their studies on the efficacy of booster jabs, Roque said the government has allocated funds for it to strengthen the country's inoculation drive.

The Department of Health also announced on Thursday that it was open to procuring more Covid-19 vaccine doses as potential booster shots, but said it will first wait for a "firm recommendation" from local experts.

The Philippine government has fully vaccinated 12.87 million individuals against Covid-19, while 16.25 million people were still waiting for their second doses, the latest government data showed.

Testing czar Secretary Vince Dizon said the government is seeking to boost its inoculation efforts, noting that Metro Manila's daily jab average increased to 178,000 doses this month from 130,000 last July.

Authorities were eyeing to vaccinate half of the capital region's eligible population by the end of August, said Dizon, who also serves as deputy chief implementer of the state's Covid-19 action plan.

So far, 41 percent of the region's eligible population have received Covid-19 jabs Meanwhile, the administration seeks P19.48 million for the state's health facilities enhancement program, P16.9 million to assist indigent patients, P5 million for Covid-19 response laboratory commodities, and P3.8 million for emergency hiring of additional health workers.

The said items were part of the P5.024-trillion national budget for 2022, poised to be the largest ever in Philippine history.





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

The amount is equivalent to about 22.8 percent of the country's gross domestic product and 11.5 percent higher than last year's budget of P4.5 trillion.

Under the government's spending plan, the social services sector would get the biggest amount with P1.922 trillion, which accounted for 38 percent of the entire expenditure program, as the Philippines continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic.

The proposed 2022 national budget will be submitted to Congress on Monday.

MJ BLANCAFLOR@tribunephl_MJB





August 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

PH administers 29-M doses of Covid-19 vaccines

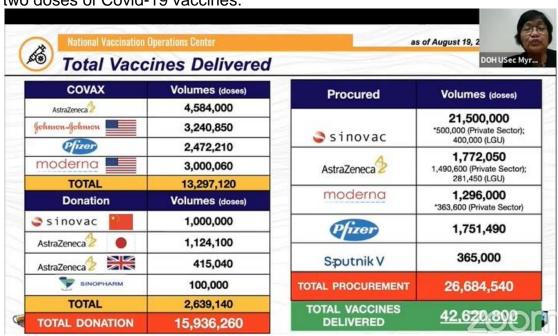
By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 19, 2021, 1:11 pm

MANILA – A total of 29,127,240 doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered nationwide as of Aug. 18, the Department of Health reported Thursday.

At an online press briefing, Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje said the highest single-day record of 710,482 jabs was conducted on Aug. 5, a day before the start of the enhanced community quarantine in Metro Manila.

The moving weekly accomplishment is 3,560,894 jabs administered.

About 94.72 percent or 1,553,208 of 1,639,714 healthcare workers (A1) have been fully vaccinated while 16.47 percent or 1,950,832 of 28,299,613 essential sector workers (A4) have received two doses of Covid-19 vaccines.



Screengrab from Zoom meeting

For the senior citizens (A2) group, 38.81 percent or 3,777,446 of 8,270,544 target population are fully vaccinated.

Meantime, 68 percent or 4,850,387 out of 7,085,183 persons with comorbidities (A3) have received two doses of Covid-19 jabs.

"Then, our poor population, those who completed the doses are at 10 percent of 12.9 million and the expanded A1 (outbound OFWs, healthcare workers and additional A1), 328,440 are complete doses and 595,881 received first doses," Cabotaje said.

The total number of vaccine doses deployed in 4,584 vaccination sites nationwide is 38,897,170 out of the 42,620,800 delivered to the country as of Aug. 19.

The country's target population for Covid-19 vaccination is 77,139,058 individuals to achieve herd protection. **(PNA)**

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1150960





August 20, 2	2021 Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



365,040 doses of Gov't purchased Pfizer

vaccines arrive in PH

Published on: August 19, 2021 By National Task Force Against COVID-19

MANILA -- The fourth shipment of government-procured Pfizer vaccines consisting of 365,040 doses arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 on Wednesday night, August 18.

Of these vaccine doses, 51,480 shots were delivered to Cebu City today via Flight LD457 at around 6:35pm, while another 51,480 doses will be shipped to Davao City via Flight PR 1811 on Thursday morning, August 19.

The remaining 262,080 doses will be immediately delivered to the PharmaServ Express' coldchain facility in Marikina City for temporary storage before being deployed to the National Capital Region, and other areas which have not yet received Pfizer vaccines.

"Karamihan dito 'yung bibigyan natin are those areas na hindi pa nabibigyan ng Pfizer and trying to rollout to them," National Task Force Against COVID-19 Chief Implementer and vaccine czar Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr. said during an interview at the airport.

"So that in the future, once the deliveries of Pfizer will pick up, they (LGUs) are well aware and they are already well-trained on how to handle the sensitivities of Pfizer," Galvez added.

US Embassy Charge d'Affaires John C. Law joined Galvez in welcoming the arrival of the Pfizer vaccines.



A total of 2,116,530 Pfizer doses purchased by the government have so far been delivered as part of the 40 million doses the country has secured from the American pharmaceutical firm.

The national government has also received a total of 2,472,210 donated Pfizer doses coming from the COVAX facility.

As of August 18, a total of 42,940,390 COVID-19 vaccine doses have arrived in the Philippines. (National Task Force Against COVID-19)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2021/08/19/365040-doses-of-govt-purchased-pfizer-vaccines-arrive-in-ph





August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 3	✓ Opinion
Dage	Footure Article

PAMAHALAANG BARANGAY GISING 24/7; TASK FORCE COVID TULOG MAGDAMAG



August 19, 2021 @ 8:27 PM 10 hours ago

KAPAG inaatake ang isang bayan ng coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19, dapat bang maging ordinaryong operasyon ng gobyerno ang paiiralin ng Task Force Covid?

'Yun bang === magbubukas ng alas-8:00 ng umaga at magsasara dakong alas-5:00 ng hapon?

At iwanan ang mga cellphone sa opisina na roon pupwedeng tumawag ang mga nagkakaemergency ukol sa COVID-19 kaya walang sumasagot?

Nagtatanong tayo, mga Bro, dahil ito mismo ang nadiskubreng kalagayan ng Remate sa Sta. Maria, Bulacan kahapon ng madaling araw lamang.

KALAGAYANG EMERGENCY

Dalawang empleyado ng gobyerno, kasama ang dalawa nilang anak, ang tinamaan ng COVID sa Brgy. Guyong, Sta. Maria.

Nagtatrabaho sa isang national high school ang ama at teacher naman sa isang elementary school ang ina.

Dahil emergency, tumakbo at humingi sila ng tulong sa Remate na kumilos naman kaagad mismo, dakong alas-4:00 ng madaling araw.

Tumawag ang Remate sa barangay na 24/7 ang operasyon at ibinigay ang contact number ng Task Force Covid ng munisipyo.

Ring lang nang ring at wala ni sinoman ang sumagot kaya napilitan nang pumunta sa barangay hall ang Remate at nagpagabay kung paano puntahan ang opisina ng Task Force Covid na nasa compound lang pala ng munisipyo.

ITINURO SA MDRRMO

Walang nadatnan ang Remate roon at ipinaliwanag ng mga nagrorondang traffic enforcer na alas-8:00 pa magbubukas ito.

Sinabihan ang ating team na pumunta na lang sa istasyon ng Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office at maayos namang umayuda ang mga tao nito.

Pinakontak nila sa team natin ang Bulacan Medical Center at iba pang ospital sa mga telephone number na nakapaskil roon.

Pero may kondisyon, kailangang local government unit ang tatawag sa ospital at handa silang umaksyon kaagad sa pamamagitan ng pagdadala ng ambulansya ng maysakit sa ospital.

BALIK SA BARANGAY





August 20, 2021	Headline
	- Editorial
Date	Column
2 of 3	✓ Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Makaraang malaman ang kabiguan ng mga kasamahan nating maghanap ng ayuda, kumilos na ang mga barangay tanod sa paghahanap ng barangay health worker para umalalay gaya ni May Pascual.

Sabi ng mga naroroon sa barangay na mamamayan, nararanasan umano ng Remate ang turuan ng mga opisina ng gobyerno na nararanasan din nila at maswerte ang ating mga kasamahan na may mga aktibong taong barangay na naka-duty ng 24 oras mula Lunes hanggang linggo.

Si May na ang nagtiyagang makipag-coordinate sa Task Force Covid at MDRRMO, lalo na ukol sa paggamit ng ambulansya.

At dumating nga ang ambulansya makaraan ang alas-8:00 ng umaga.

INSTRUKSYON NG GENERAL HOSPITAL

Isang doktor na hiningan ng tulong ng ating grupo at nakatalaga sa Rogaciano Mercado Memorial Medical Center na katabi ng Task Force Covid office ang naglinaw nang husto na hindi i-eentertain ang pagtakbo ng pasyente sa ospital nang walang notisya mula sa LGU at nagmula rito ang pagbabalik-barangay ng grupo.

At sumang-ayon ang mga tanod at barangay health worker ni Kap. Garci kung tawagin.

May isang sumabad sa usapan na iniiwan ng mga taga-Task Force Covid ang mga cellphone na may numerong 09150420939 at 09236154798 sa kanilang opisina makaraan silang magsiuwian dakong alas-5:00 ng hapon.

Kaya naman, tumawag ka man nang tumawag, walang sumasagot hanggang alas-8:00 ng umaga.

DR. HILDA ONG AT QUIRINO HOSPITAL

Dahil sa kawalan ng pag-asa na magkaroon ng linaw ang sitwasyong emergency, mabilisang ginising sa pagtulog ng Remate ang kolumnista nitong si Dra. Hilda Ong.

Habang lumilipas ang mga minuto, kumokontak na pala si Dra. Hilda sa mga kakilala niyang doktor at nars na nakatalaga sa mga ospital na tumatanggap ng pasyente sa COVID.

At maswerteng nagbigay ng espasyo ang Quirino Memorial Medical Center sa Quezon City kahit na patakaran na prayoridad nito ang taga-Quezon City.

Saludo tayo kina Dr. Hilda Ong at Ma'am Melanie Lomotan ng Quirino hospital sa simbilis ng kidlat nilang pagtugon.

Sinabihan naman nina Dr. Hilda at Ma'am Melanie ang misis at mga anak nito na mag-self quarantine muna sa kanilang tahanan kung walang available na espasyo sa mga quarantine facility para sa kanila.

IBA PANG PASASALAMAT

Nagpupugay ang Ultimatum sa inyo riyan, Kap. Garci at iyong mga tanod at barangay health worker.

Gayundin sa mga tsuper at attendant ng ambulansya ng MDRRMO ng Sta. Maria, Bulacan sa tiyaga nila at pustang-buhay na trabaho.

Para sa Task Force Covid, baka naman po pwedeng magkaroon kayo kahit skeletal force man lang na panggabi lalo't pami-pamilya na ang tinatamaan ng COVID sa inyo para sa emergency action.





August 20, 2021	Headline
	✓ Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

EDITORIAL - Masking versus Delta

The Philippine Star August 20, 2021 | 12:00am



With the continuing spread nationwide of the highly infectious Delta variant and the sustained high COVID cases in Metro Manila even during lockdown, the Department of Health is urging people to use disposable face masks instead of those made of cloth. For those who still prefer reusable fabric masks, these should be worn in double layers or else lined with disposable filters to keep out the microscopic variant pathogens, according to the DOH.

Whether the mask is double or lined fabric or disposable medical-grade, it must be worn where needed, and worn properly. This may sound simple, but recent images of ordinary street scenes as well as private gatherings and clandestine bar operations show people eschewing masks as if the pandemic has ended.

Since the start of the pandemic, the country has had its share of doubters on the usefulness of wearing face masks to keep out COVID-19. There have also been numerous excuses for wearing the mask on the chin or below the nostrils, foremost of which is the discomfort and difficulty in breathing.

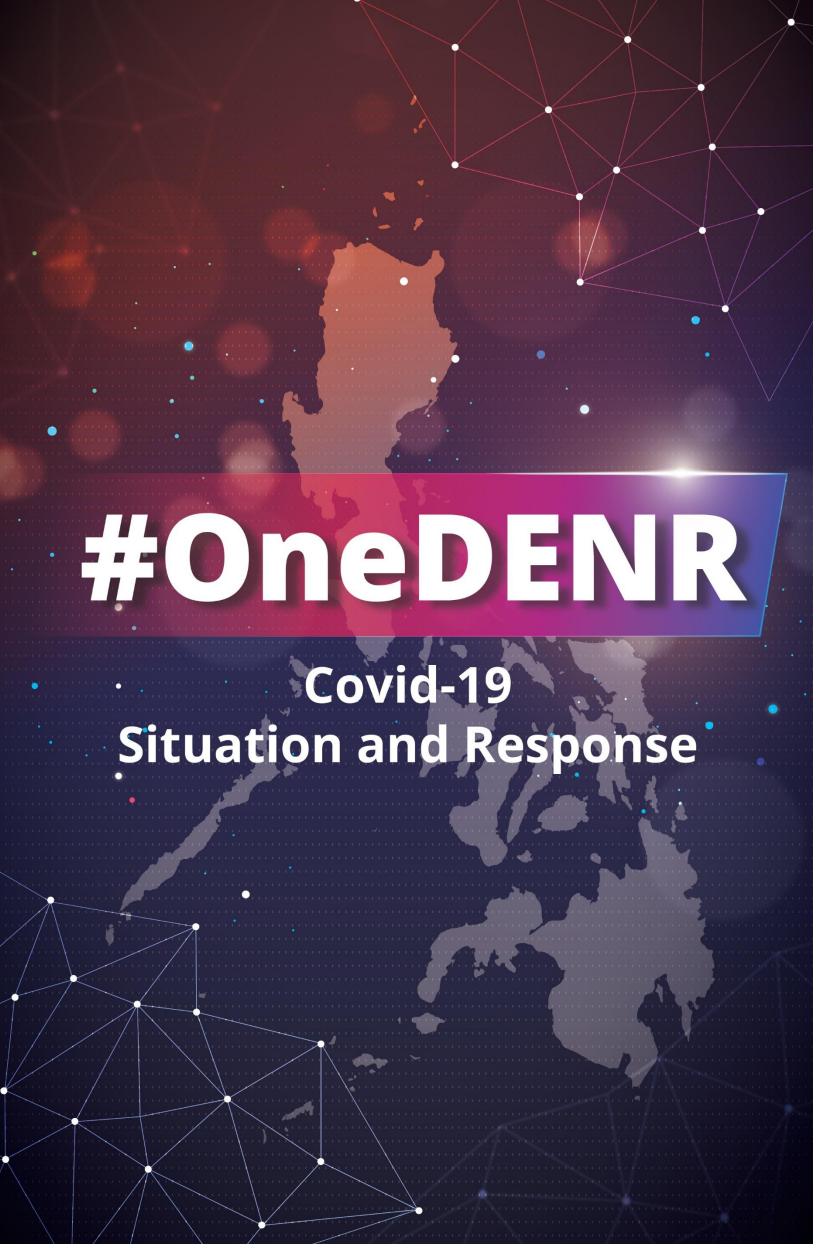
So far, however, there has been no story anywhere in the world about anyone suffering from a serious reaction to prolonged use of any type of face mask. On the other hand, scientific studies have shown the usefulness of masking to keep out viruses and other pathogens.

It wouldn't be too bad if those who disregard masking rules especially in public places are the only ones who will catch COVID. Once infected, however, they can spread the virus to others and cause debilitation, hospitalization and death. The country may never see the end of this public health crisis.

With the DOH warning, there must be stricter implementation of masking rules particularly in public places such as mass transport facilities and public markets. Infection numbers since the start of enhanced community quarantine show the difficulty of containing the Delta-driven COVID surge, with new cases yesterday hitting

a high 14,895. Wearing masks properly is a small price to pay for helping in the battle against COVID.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/08/20/2121236/editorial-masking-versus-delta







AGOSTO 19, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

6.2%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO 111.720

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

TOTAL NG GUMALING 1,648,402

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

72%

30,881

MGA BAGONG KASO 14,895

MGA BAGONG GUMALING 8,248

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 258

KABUUANG BILANG NG KASO

1,791,003

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 17

DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 19 AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 17

PORSYENTO NG MGA **NAGPOSITIBO**

59,828

BILANG NG TINEST

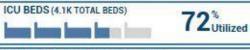
HALOS

97.2%

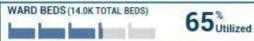
ANG MILD AT **ASYMPTOMATIC** NA KASO!



KABUUANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?





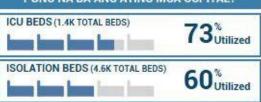


VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)





NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?



WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS) 67% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1k TOTAL VENTILATORS) 100 100 100 100 100

61% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA **AKTIBONG KASO**

Mild 95.3%

1.8% Asymptomatic

0.7% Critical

1.3% Severe

0.87% Moderate

KASANGGA NG BIDA

UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ipagpatuloy natin ang pagtupad sa responsibilidad natin sa ating kapwa. Para mapigilan ang tuluyang pagkalat ng COVID-19, sunding mahigpit ang ating Minimum Public Health Standards at pag nakaramdam ng anumang sintomas, agad na makipag-ugnayan sa ating BHERTS o One Hospital Command Center para sa karampatang gabay. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa 1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, nariyan din ang telemed services mula sa ating mga telemedicine partners at mga pasilidad. Puntahan ang http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating Telemedicine Service Providers, at ang http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanan ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333 GLOBE: 0915 777 7777 TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



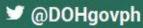
May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na si KIRA! VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH MESSENGER: Department of Health PH KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas! I-download ang StaySafe App O Gamiting ang WEBAPP at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov













igust 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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agust 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSU9bQSmTGY&ab_channel=JANICELLANDERVlog

#BeachNourishment #DolomiteWhiteSand #Savemanilabay

MANILA YACHT CLUB NAKAHINGA NA RIN AT WATER LILY DUMAGSA SA MANILA BAY PAHIRAP

NA NAMAN AUGUST 19,21

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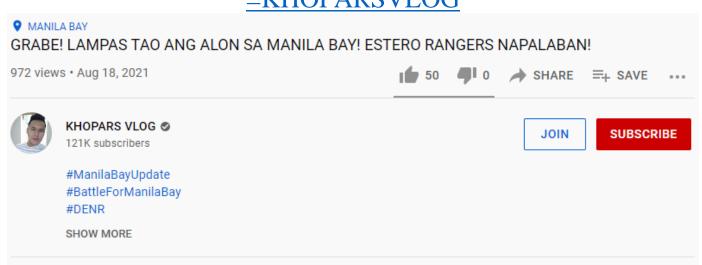




igust 20, 20)21	Headline
		Editorial
Date		Column
1 of 1		Opinion
Page		Feature Article



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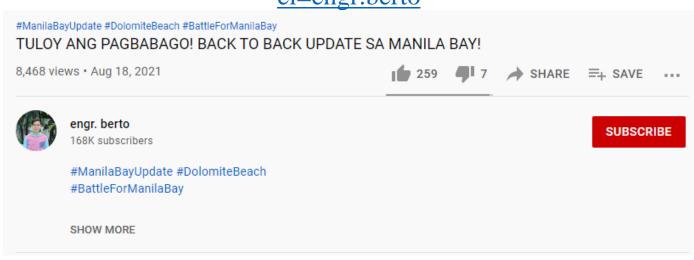




ugust 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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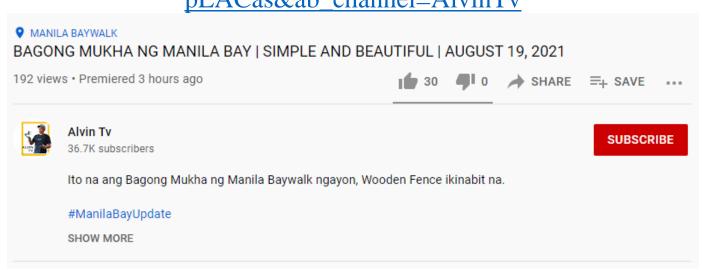




igust 20, 2021	Headline
<u> </u>	- Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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ugust 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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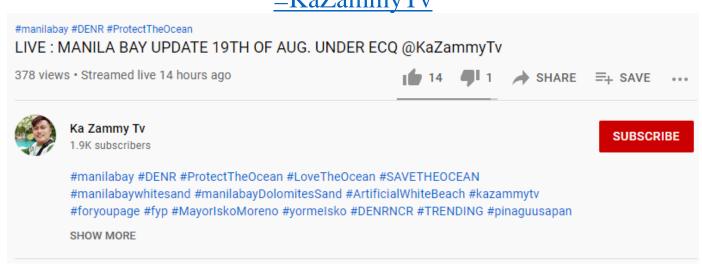




igust 20, 2021	Headline
	• Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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ugust 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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igust 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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igust 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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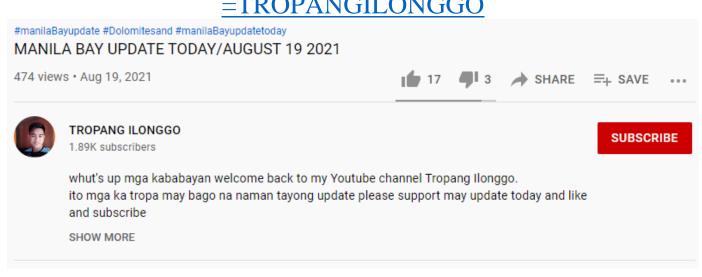




August 20, 2021	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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ugust 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial
1 of 1	Column Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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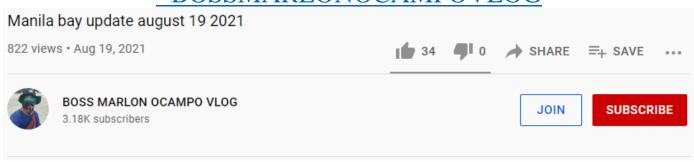




august 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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igust 20, 2021	Headline
<u> </u>	- Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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ugust 20, 2021	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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