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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Public urged to report sighting of injured, abandoned wildlife species

Published January 20, 2021, 3:10 PM
by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has urged the public to continue reporting on the sighting of abandoned or injured wildlife species in order to provide them the necessary treatment and care.



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu
(RTVM / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“Let not this pandemic hinder us from helping and rescuing wildlife because this will help maintain the balance in our ecosystems,” Cimatu said.

The DENR chief expressed his gratitude to the concerned citizens who continue to rescue and turn over wildlife species to the DENR despite the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We continue to encourage the public to turn over wildlife species to us, should these animals be immobilized,” he said.

Just last January 16, an Oriental honey buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) was rescued in Barangay Caburacan in Castilla town, Sorsogon.

A local, Romeo Ibañez, said the bird appeared to be struggling to fly when it was found by his brother on January 15.

The Oriental honey buzzard was referred to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office in Sorsogon for its rescue.

Authorities have transported the bird to the Irosin Temporary Wildlife Rescue Center at Barangay Patag, Irosin, Sorsogon for proper treatment and care before it can be released back to the wild.



Public urged to report sighting of injured, abandoned wildlife species

The raptor is currently listed as Other Wildlife Species under DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09, which means the bird species is “not categorized as threatened.”

DENR-Bicol Regional Executive Director Antonio Abawag echoed Cimatú’s appeal to the public to report wild animals that need to be rescued for proper handling and release to its natural habitat.

“Owing to the continuous information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns being conducted by the DENR, there has been a steady increase in the number of public turnover of wildlife species to our field offices,” Abawag said.

Mga Pinoy na nagmamalasakit sa wildlife pinuri ni Cimatu



January 20, 2021 @ 7:50 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Dahil sa pagmamalasakit sa mga wildlife species, pinuri ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mga mamamayan na patuloy na sumasagip at nagtu-turn over ng nanganganib na wildlife sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa kabila ng mga limitasyon dahil sa COVID-19 pandemic.

“Let not this pandemic hinder us from helping and rescuing wildlife because these help maintain the balance in our ecosystems,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Ipinaliwanag ni Cimatu ang kahalagahan ng pagbibigay ng impormasyon sa mga nakikita na inaabandona at sugatang wildlife dahil sa pamamagitan nito ay nabibigyan sila ng gamot at sapat na kalinga.

“We continue to encourage the public to turn over wildlife species to us, should these animals be immobilized,” ayon pa sa kalihim.

Ang pahayag na ito ng DENR chief ay matapos ang ginawang pag-turn-over ng nailigtas na Oriental honey buzzard sa Sorsogon noong Enero 16.

Ayon sa Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) sa Sorsogon, ang pagkakadiskubre sa wild bird sa Barangay Caburacan sa bayan ng Castilla ay iniulat sa kanila ng isang nagngangalang Romeo Ibañez noong Enero 15.

Sinabi ni Ibañez na napansin nila na nahihirapan ang ibon na lumipad nang matagpuan ito ng kanyang kapatid.



Mga Pinoy na nagmamalaskit sa wildlife pinuri ni Cimatú

Sinabi pa ng DENR dahil sa kalagayan ng ibon ay agad na nanghingi ng tulong si Ibañez kay Jeson Libdan na isang miyembro ng Makati Eagles Club na siya namang nag-refer dito kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.

Mabilis namang nakipag-ugnayan si Antiporda kay PENRO Officer Tito Migo upang mailigtas ang ibon. Personal ding nagtungo ang mga tauhan ng PENRO at wildlife handlers sa bahay ni Ibañez upang kunin ang ibon.

Agad namang dinala sa Irosin Temporary Wildlife Rescue Center sa Barangay Patag, Irosin, Sorsogon ang nailigtas na Orinetal honey buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) para magamot at maalagaan ng maayos bago ito pakawalan muli.

Sinabi pa ng DENR ang ibon na kilala rin sa tawag na crested honey buzzard ay kasalukuyang nakatala bilang Other Wildlife Species sa ilalim ng DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09 na ang ibig sabihin, ang uri ng ibon na ito ay “not categorized as threatened.”

Kinatigan naman ni DENR-Bicol Regional Executive Director Antonio A. Abawag ang apela ni Cimatú sa publiko na agad na iulat ang mga wild animals na nangangailangang ilitgas sa mga awtoridad para sa tamang pangangalaga bago ibalik sa kanilang natural habitat.

“Owing to the continuous information, education, and communication campaigns being conducted by the DENR, there has been a steady increase in the number of public turnover of wildlife species to our field offices,” sabi pa ni Abawag. (Santi Celario)



A majestic future for the ‘King of Birds’



By [The Manila Times](#)
January 21, 2021



It is a little-known fact that the Philippine national bird may be another source of global pride for Filipinos. Aside from being considered as one of the largest and most majestic in the world, the Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) is also found exclusively in the country, making it a truly meaningful and fitting national symbol.

However, information about the Philippine Eagle remains largely scarce. It does not help as well that the predator bird is listed as a critically endangered species by the leading global environmental group International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

In order to mitigate such threat of extinction, nonprofit organizations such as the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) have been on a mission to learn as much as it can about this remarkable creature through proper scientific field surveys across the country, locating its nesting territories and studying its existence in its natural habitats.

Such a task is challenging indeed, but with the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as well as private sector partners such as Energy Development Corporation (EDC), PEF is proud to share that great strides have already been achieved toward the documentation of the Philippine Eagle — leading to the ultimate goal of being able to successfully and sustainably propagate its species.

Last year, the three organizations launched the “Search For The King Of Birds” project, centered on a survey of EDC’s Mt. Apo Geothermal Project (MAGP) based in Barangay Ilomavis, Kidapawan City in Cotabato. Lopez-led EDC, being the country’s largest renewable energy producer by way of its geothermal operations, has long been at the forefront of environmental conservation with its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/01/21/public-square/a-majestic-future-for-the-king-of-birds/830060/>



PH eagle-owl released back to the wild in Samar

Published January 20, 2021, 1:12 PM
by [Marie Tonette Marticio](#)

TACLOBAN CITY – A juvenile Philippine eagle-owl (*Bubo philippensis*) was recently released back to the wild in a forested area in Sitio Sabang, Barangay Caluwayan, Marabut, Samar.



Photo by DENR-8/ MANILA BULLETIN

The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Sta. Rita, Samar, facilitated the release of the Philippine eagle-owl.

Forester Glenn Garciano said it was captured by a local in Barangay Osmeña in Marabut town last December, and was turned over to DENR on January 12.

The Philippine eagle-owl is considered to be an endangered species due to decline of lowland forest based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List Category and Criteria 2016 and the Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and their Categories (Department Administrative Order No. 2019-09 dated July 12, 2019).

This species helps balance the ecosystem by controlling the number of insects and pests in the forests and most especially in agricultural areas.

It is an endemic species in the Philippines commonly found in the forests of Luzon, Catanduanes, Samar, Leyte, Bohol, Mindanao, and possibly Sibuyan and is one of the largest owls in the world.



90 sea turtle hatchlings released to sea in Mati City

Published January 20, 2021, 8:48 AM

by [Zea Capistrano](#)

DAVAO CITY – Almost a hundred sea turtle hatchlings were released in Dahican beach in Mati City at the start of this week.



(Photos courtesy of Amihan sa Dahican-Save our Seas Project)

In a Facebook post on Monday, Amihan sa Dahican – Save our Seas Project said 90 of the 100 turtle eggs transferred by the Amihan Pawikan Rangers in its sanctuary on November 23 last year hatched last January 17 and 18.

It said based on the Marine Turtle Nest Evaluation Form, of the 100 eggs, nine were unhatched while one hatchling was found dead in the nest.

Meanwhile, the team also said on Monday that they found a trace of a mother turtle with over a hundred eggs.

“There were 111 eggs recovered and placed in the pawikan hatchery for safety and protection from predators,” it said.

It added that “the Amihan team will now monitor the eggs and will wait for approximately 60 days for these mighty creatures to hatch.”



These are the plastic items that most kill whales, dolphins, turtles and seabirds

By [Lauren Roman, Britta Denise Hardesty, Chris Wilcox and Qamar Schuyler via The Conversation](#)

- January 20, 2021 - 1:07 PM



A single use plastic bag seen floating through the water. Image by Brian Yurasits (brian_yuri) via Unsplash

How do we save whales and other marine animals from plastic in the ocean? Our new [review](#) shows reducing plastic pollution can prevent the deaths of beloved marine species. [Over 700 marine species](#), including half of the world's cetaceans (such as whales and dolphins), all of its sea turtles and a third of its seabirds, are known to ingest plastic.

When animals eat plastic, it can block their digestive system, causing a long, slow death from starvation. Sharp pieces of plastic can also pierce the gut wall, causing infection and sometimes death. As little as [one piece of ingested plastic can kill an animal](#).

About eight million tonnes of plastic enters the ocean [each year](#), so solving the problem may seem overwhelming. How do we reduce harm to whales and other marine animals from that much plastic?

Like a hospital overwhelmed with patients, we triage. By identifying the items that are deadly to the most vulnerable species, we can apply solutions that target these most deadly items.

Some plastics are deadlier than others

In 2016, experts identified four main items they considered to be most deadly to wildlife: [fishing debris, plastic bags, balloons and plastic utensils](#).

We tested these expert predictions by assessing data from 76 published research papers incorporating 1,328 marine animals (132 cetaceans, 20 seals and sea lions, 515 sea turtles and 658 seabirds) from 80 species.

These are the plastic items that most kill whales, dolphins, turtles and seabirds

We examined which items caused the greatest number of deaths in each group, and also the “lethality” of each item (how many deaths per interaction). We found the experts got it right for three of four items.

Flexible plastics, such as plastic sheets, bags and packaging, can cause gut blockage and were responsible for the greatest number of deaths over all animal groups. These film plastics caused the most deaths in cetaceans and sea turtles. Fishing debris, such as nets, lines and tackle, caused fatalities in larger animals, particularly seals and sea lions.

Turtles and whales that eat debris can have difficulty swimming, which may increase the risk of being struck by ships or boats. In contrast, seals and sea lions don’t eat much plastic, but can die from eating fishing debris.

Balloons, ropes and rubber, meanwhile, were deadly for smaller fauna. And hard plastics caused the most deaths among seabirds. Rubber, fishing debris, metal and latex (including balloons) were the most lethal for birds, with the highest chance of causing death per recorded ingestion.

What’s the solution?

The most cost-efficient way to reduce marine megafauna deaths from plastic ingestion is to target the most lethal items and prioritize their reduction in the environment.

Targeting big plastic items is also smart, as they can break down into smaller pieces. Small debris fragments such as microplastics and fibers are a lower management priority, as they cause significantly fewer deaths to megafauna and are more difficult to manage.



Plastic found in the stomach of a fairy prion.
Photo supplied by Lauren Roman



These are the plastic items that most kill whales, dolphins, turtles and seabirds

Flexible film-like plastics, including plastic bags and packaging, rank among [the ten most common items](#) in marine debris surveys globally. Plastic bag bans and fees for bags have already been shown to reduce bags littered into the environment. Improving local disposal and engineering solutions to enable recycling and improve the life span of plastics may also help reduce littering.

Lost fishing gear is particularly lethal. Fisheries have [high gear loss rates](#): 5.7% of all nets and 29% of all lines [are lost annually](#) in commercial fisheries. The introduction of minimum standards of loss-resistant or higher quality gear can reduce loss.

Other steps can help, too, including

- incentivizing gear repairs and port disposal of damaged nets
- penalizing or prohibiting high-risk fishing activities where snags or gear loss are likely
- and enforcing penalties associated with dumping.

Outreach and education to recreational fishers to highlight the harmful effects of fishing gear could also have benefit.

Balloons, latex and rubber are rare in the marine environment, but are [disproportionately lethal](#), particularly to sea turtles and seabirds. Preventing intentional balloon releases and accidental release during events and celebrations would require legislation and a shift in public will.

The combination of [policy change with behavior change campaigns](#) are known to be the most effective at reducing coastal litter across Australia.

Reducing film-like plastics, fishing debris and latex/balloons entering the environment would likely have the best outcome in directly reducing mortality of marine megafauna.



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DENR National Capital Region

14h · 🌐



LOOK: DENR National Capital Region conducts cleanup in Navotas City

The activity was headed by NFO Deputy Chief Environment Officer Daryll Olga O. Arzadon and participated by NFO personnel and representatives of the local government. The team was able to recover a total of forty-two (42) sacks of mixed solid waste.

The activity was headed by NFO Deputy Chief Environment Officer Daryll Olga O. Arzadon and participated by NFO personnel and representatives of the local government. The team was able to recover a total of forty-two (42) sacks of mixed solid waste.

The activity was conducted in line with the on-going rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

[#BattleForManilaBay](#) [#SaveManilaBay](#) [#MANILABAYanihan](#) [#TayoAngKalikasan](#)



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Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office - PRCMO

9h · 🌐

LOOK: 100 sacks of nonbiodegradable waste were recovered from the #SanFranciscoRiver's banks under Quezon Avenue Bridge in Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City.

This was made possible by PRCMO's relentless cleanup efforts along the stretch of the 4.2-kilometer river, which is one of the several tributaries of the Pasig River in Quezon City through the San Juan River.

Of the 100 sacks recovered by our River Warriors, 74 were nonbiodegradable waste, while the other 26 sacks were filled with biodegradable materials.

#PRCMO #DENR #PasigRiver #PusoParaSallogPasig





Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office - PRCMO

14h · 🌐

LOOK: Our River Warriors are working round the clock to ensure the orderliness in [#EsterodeUliUli](#), San Miguel, Manila.

Did you know that the estero has a developed linear park that was opened to the public on February 20, 2015?

Today, regular cleanup and maintenance activities are conducted in the estero, and most recently, only 15 sacks of mostly biodegradable plant materials were collected by the Warriors—also because of the community's involvement and commitment to our shared responsibility to save and defend our water bodies and environment.

[#PRCMO](#) [#DENR](#) [#PasigRiver](#) [#PusoParaSallogPasig](#)



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/63929903277917/posts/5320731551301285/?app=fbl>



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Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office - PRCMO

6h · 🌐

PRCMO FIRST-YEAR ANNIVERSARY GIVEAWAYS ✨🥳

Happy 1st Anniversary to us!

As PRCMO turns one this January 21, 2021, we will be giving away LIMITED EDITION IEC MATERIALS to celebrate our one year of working together for the Pasig River and as a thank-you gift to YOU—our partner-Warrior and Kapuso para sa Ilog Pasig!

❤️... See More



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/639299032777917/posts/5320731551301285/?app=fbl>



Penro: No illegal logging at NNNP

-[TERESA D. ELLERA](#)

January 20, 2021

THE claims made by netizens that the recent flooding experienced in the Third District can be blamed on illegal logging are mere speculations and do not have any basis, an official from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) said.

Eduardo Rostata, Penro head, made the clarification as he assured the public that there are no illegal logging activities inside the North Negros Natural Park (NNNP), especially in the areas belonging to the Third District.

Rostata said his office is very strict on implementing the forestry laws and forest rangers are regularly patrolling the areas, especially in the area of Victorias City, wherein they are receiving additional support from the local government unit.

He further said if there were any illegal logging activities in the area, huge tree trunks should have been spotted during the flash floods on New Year's Day and on January 8.

Rostata advised the public to be more disciplined and responsible when it comes to taking care of the environment, as well as to follow policies that maintain it.



Cenro-Siocon seizes undocumented lumber



ZAMBOANGA. Two persons were arrested while 45 pieces of illegally cut mahogany trees and two tricycles were seized Sunday, January 17, 2021, in Kilalaban village, Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte. A photo handout shows environment authorities inspecting the lumber they seized while on forest patrol. (SunStar Zamboanga)

January 20, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) apprehended two people in Zamboanga del Norte for transporting lumber products with no required permits.

DENR Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said the apprehension was made Sunday, January 17, 2021, at Kilometer 10 in Kilalaban village, Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte.

Tan said the apprehending team from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte seized some 45 pieces or 261.17 board feet of undocumented mahogany lumber and impounded two tricycles that were used as a conveyance.

The Cenro-Siocon personnel was conducting forest patrol when they accosted two men loading lumber products in their tricycles.

Upon investigation, the suspects were not able to present any legal document for the lumber, which violates Section 77 of Presidential Decree 705, also known as the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines.



Guv backs 2-year suspension of erring quarry operators

[TERESA D. ELLERA](#)

January 20, 2021

GOVERNOR Eugenio Jose Lacson is supporting the suggestion of Vice Governor Jeffrey Ferrer to impose a two-year suspension for quarry operators who violate regulations.

"I will ask the Provincial Legal Office if there is a possibility of imposing such strict penalty on the quarry operators," Lacson said.

He added that he will not hesitate to impose a heavy penalty on operators that commit violations of the permits issued to them by the provincial government.

Ferrer on Tuesday, January 14, 2021, proposed to impose a two-year suspension of quarry operations after flash floods inundated the province's northern areas early this month.

Board Member Andrew Montelibano (Third District), whose district was the worst hit by the flash floods, will lead a team with Ferrer to inspect quarry sites. Montelibano said he believes that there are illegal quarries.

"That is our target," he said.



Southern Tagalog farmers march to QC, call to stop land grabbing and peasant killings

Published January 20, 2021, 1:38 PM

by [Raymund Antonio](#)

Over 100 farmers from Southern Tagalog region marched to Quezon City on Wednesday to protest land grabbing and peasant killings in the country.

Farmers from the Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka sa Timog Katagalugan (KASAMA-TK) comprised the latest protest caravan that started from Baclaran, Paranaque.



Amihan National Federation of Peasant / MANILA BULLETIN

The group is a regional chapter of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) region.

“The farmers have grown tired of the inaction of their local government units and have decided to troop to the national capital to air their demands,” KMP chair Danilo Ramos said.

Protesters held a rally at Camp Aguinaldo, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) office, and the Philippine Coconut Authority in Quezon City. They called for an end to militarization.

They would also protest tomorrow in front of other agencies such as Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

The group reported that at least 15 cases of peasant killings in Southern Tagalog had been reported under the Duterte administration.



Southern Tagalog farmers march to QC, call to stop land grabbing and peasant killings

Of this number, nine farmers were killed just last year, said Eddie Billones of KASAMA TK, citing intensifying military operations in their communities.

“Instead of sending health workers to far flung areas where healthcare and information campaigns on the pandemic are urgently necessary as we continue to face COVID, our communities are dumped with soldiers and armed goons,” he said, describing the plight of farmers.

He also shared about the long-standing land dispute in Lupang Ramos in Dasmariñas, Cavite and Hacienda Yulo in Laguna, where farmers are facing eviction from their agricultural lands to make way for commercial establishments.



Climate Smart Philippines: Science for service



By [Glenn S. Banaguas](#)

January 21, 2021

CLIMATE change has been deemed to be an environmental pandemonium that has accosted political, economic, social and human systems. It has created a daunting challenge and dismal innervation to humanity. However, its catastrophic impacts and risks have been staved off either by adaptation solutions or mitigation approaches conducted by different institutions, agencies and centers.

Climate Smart Philippines, which is the flagship program of the Environmental and Climate Change Research Institute, is a platform that provides elucidations in reducing disaster risks and preventing potential damage and losses through scientific wide-ranging assessment, capacity development, project management and multilateral cooperation among actors. It is an avenue for all the stakeholders to understand, plan, develop and implement not only the best science and evidence-based strategic solutions but also the most humane and gender-responsive schemes. It is also a stratagem designed to bring out the best in every individual to solve the most pressing conundrum regardless of culture, gender and status in life. And it is also a bridge that influences and impacts public policy, which deals with matters of fretfulness, peevishness and sensitivity.

But what is the ultimate identity of Climate Smart Philippines that has captured the hearts of the Filipino people? And how is it different from any other efforts?

1. Climate Smart Philippines applies the power of multistakeholder participatory mechanisms. Climate Smart Philippines applies the multistakeholder participatory assessment, process, planning and implementation, which are based on collaboration and cooperation in an inclusive mode. Though there is great diversity that exists, the spectrum of solutions that benefits the large segment in the society prevails. Some of the outcomes are: a) more informed, participatory and integrated governance and management at all levels; b) increased public and private sector investment in required infrastructure, services, technologies and innovations to support the sustainable management of country's resources; c) planning practices and implementation capacity in order to address complex interactions and trade-offs among the utilizations of resources; and d) improved management capability of the three major islands of the Philippines.
2. Climate Smart Philippines is science and evidence-based. All stakeholders (e.g., government institutions, provincial and local government units, academe, civil society organizations, non-government organizations, people's organizations of farmers, fishermen, and indigenous people, private sector etc.) are empowered using credible sources of evidence, which are based on multiple lines of scientific research and education. In addition, there is a substantial array of scientific substantiation and growing body of knowledge about technologies, innovations, and even policies that are taught and recommended to the actors in order to slacken the magnitude of climate change.



Climate Smart Philippines: Science for service

Some of these are as follows: a) land-zoning and new building codes have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of the communities; b) adjustment of the agricultural calendar in the Philippines has also been executed to address the issue of food security and water sufficiency; c) climate proofing or climate smart approaches for post-production management practices have been integrated in the planning and have been also taught to the communities of farmers, fishermen and Indigenous Peoples (IPs); d) sustainable natural resource management has been communicated to the communities in order to increase resilience of food production; e) the establishment of renewable energy sources has been done in the off-grid areas and islands; f) climate smart rainwater harvesting system has been introduced to tackle water security especially in the most remote areas; g) gender equality initiatives and considerations, the use of traditional knowledge and practices on agro-biodiversity, sustainable land management or SLM, and sustainable forest management or SFM have been strengthened; (h) through the gender-responsive measures, the role of women in the development and conservation processes have been highlighted.

3. Climate Smart Philippines is people-centered. Climate Smart Philippines has a strong focus on tackling the innumerable roots of impacts and risks of climate change to make sure that there is actual convalescence in the quality of life of the populace today and incoming decades. The stakeholders are trained in the development and implementation processes to ensure resiliency and sustainability. For instance, fostering resilience of the production landscapes of food and water, nutrition, and livelihoods security of the farmers, fishermen, IPs, women, youth, persons with disabilities or PWDs, and local communities must be one of the top priorities.

To date, more than 600 government institutions and local government units have been capacitated that benefited more than 30 million people. New regulations, policies, projects have been established to promote climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainability systems, which have the potential to benefit more than 100 million Filipinos; more than 200 members of the academe or higher education institutions (universities, colleges — private and public) have been trained to help their localities to develop and implement the pertinent climate change adaptation-disaster risk reduction and management or CCA-DRRM, programs; more than 200 organizations such as CSOs, NGOs and POs have been empowered through a series of training workshops in order to create alternative solutions before, during and after crisis; and more than 200 representatives from the business sector and service providers have been capacitated to prepare them to address plausible peril.

In summary, Climate Smart Philippines is more than a program. It is beyond science, technology, and innovation. It is beyond unleashing the potential of every individual. The whole point is to bring people together not only to be trained to be resilient but to be part of the community that will serve and inspire others.

Sci. Dpl. Glenn S. Banaguas is a The Outstanding Filipino (ToFil) laureate, NAST Outstanding Young Scientist of the Philippines, United States-Association of Southeast Nations (US-Asean) Science and Technology fellow; European Union-Asia Climate Diplomat, Asean Science Diplomat, Royal Society-The World Academy of Sciences Awardee; and Asia Leaders awardee for sustainability leadership.



Algo: Nature-based solutions for enhancing climate resilience in Southeast Asia

- [JOHN LEO ALGO](#)
- January 20, 2021

THE year 2020 has reminded us that a healthy humankind is impossible without a healthy planet. From the familiar impacts of climate change to the systems shock brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, all nations experienced more dire impacts of disrupted ecological balance, triggered by harmful human activities.

We must never lose sight that what lies in nature is not the root of our problems, but the road to true sustainability.

Among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the least prioritization and progress are Goals 14 and 15, corresponding to biodiversity and ecosystems. Their decline would undermine up to 80% of the targets under the SDGs related to key issues such as poverty, public health, and climate change; this has been exemplified by several global crises being experienced today.

With this context, it is clear that key to the economic development of Southeast Asia is the protection, management, and restoration of its biodiversity and ecosystems. The region hosts around 20 percent of all plant and animal species and four of the world's biodiversity hotspots. It is also home to the biggest blue carbon stock in the world, with the largest areas of mangrove swamps and seagrass meadows found in Indonesia and the Philippines. This, along with the 500 million hectares of tropical forests, represent significant potential for absorbing excess carbon dioxide from the environment.

However, the region is not exempted from global trends for biodiversity and ecosystems. Factors such as increased demand for goods and services, urban expansion, and institutional failures have driven the loss of habitats, overexploitation, and other indicators of ecological degradation.

The loss of biodiversity and ecosystems would result in higher socioeconomic losses for Southeast Asia, especially when viewed through the climate lens. The degradation of carbon sinks such as forests and blue carbon results in less absorbed carbon dioxide from our atmosphere and oceans, leading to higher warming. It would also cause losses in livelihood opportunities for communities and ecosystem benefits critical for adaptation, including the provision of food, water, and fuel, nutrient cycling, and flood regulation.

Furthermore, Southeast Asia itself is one of the most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change, posing grave threats to natural and human systems alike. Limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures by 2030 is perhaps the most important goal needed to be achieved to address this crisis, which is especially critical for the region.



Algo: Nature-based solutions for enhancing climate resilience in Southeast Asia

The case for nature-based solutions

There is no question that developing nature-based solutions (NBS) is a necessity to address the climate emergency and enhance the resilience of biodiversity, ecosystems, and communities. This has been recognized globally, with NBS being one of the five primary themes of focus on the road to the 2021 UN climate conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland.

While the case for developing NBS is undeniable from a scientific, environmental, or moral lens, the same has not been as strong from an economic perspective. Despite the potential to provide a third of the global mitigation action necessary to attain the 1.5-degree target, less than three percent of global climate finance is allotted for NBS.

Recent studies are making the business case for enhancing investments and other actions for developing NBS, including in Southeast Asia. A joint report led by Conservation International showed that the potential climate change mitigation and financial benefits brought by reforestation efforts surpasses those from corresponding engineered solutions. The protection of tropical forests in the region alone may result in USD27.5 billion worth of return-on-investment every year. The advantages of NBS over man-made solutions are even greater when factoring in additional benefits in terms of ecosystem services, reducing disaster risk, and increased resilience of social systems.

Realizing the potential for NBS also needs improvements in existing domestic governance. For instance, mainstreaming ecosystems-based adaptation into national planning across Southeast Asian countries is key to more inclusive and effective development policies. This may include integrating ecosystem considerations, such as assessments of ecosystems services and associated benefits and risks to societies, into strategies, measures, and objectives related to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Southeast Asian governments must also overcome existing governance issues such as weak institutional arrangements, lack of adequate financial resources, and lack of capacities for monitoring, reporting, and validating quantitative indicators for implementing relevant policies and programs.

The need for measurable targets and other stronger commitments for developing NBS must be presented in each country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), or their self-determined pledge of measures towards limiting global warming and increasing climate resilience.



Algo: Nature-based solutions for enhancing climate resilience in Southeast Asia

Successfully deploying NBS in a vulnerable region like Southeast Asia requires the buy-in of not just governments and businesses, but also communities, civil society groups, and other sectors. Without this collective approach, reversing our destructive trends that became extremely pronounced in 2020 would continue to this year and beyond.

(John Leo is the Deputy Executive Director of Living Laudato Si' Philippines, a member of the Asia Climate Change Consortium, and a member of the interim Secretariat of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas.)



Mondelez

Philippines makes new sustainability commitments

By ...

-January 21, 2021



There is no question that apart from finding a way back to normalcy after this pandemic, climate change is the most important issue our planet is facing today. Specifically, the mounting challenge of ensuring waste does not end up in nature and pollute water streams. While plastic is still the most effective and efficient packaging for food products, there remains the challenges of reducing the use of plastic, ensuring that the plastic being used is recycle-ready, and that collection, recycling, and processing really occur in the community.

Snack company Mondelez Philippines has committed to do its part in taking on these challenges globally. “We are committed to evolving our portfolio to recycle-ready packaging and to minimizing the impact of our products, packaging and operations,” explains Joseph Fabul, Corporate and Government Affairs Country Manager of Mondelez Philippines. “Like many industries in food manufacturing, we use flexible plastic films because they are safe, light and durable, and significantly reduce our overall carbon footprint while enabling food safety and decreasing food waste. We believe the real issue is that these materials are not collected and recycled enough. This is because the recycling infrastructure is lacking, and proper collection and disposal levels are too low.”

To help address these key issues in flexible plastic packaging, Fabul shares the company has pledged to “...Advance public and private partnerships, recycling programs, and our advocacy efforts to build better infrastructure. So that these materials are not only designed to be recycled, but actually get collected, disposed and recycled.” This translates to a commitment to ensure 100% of its packaging will be recycle-ready by 2025, reducing the amount of packaging being used for its products, and partnering with organizations like the Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx) for its collection and recycling goals.



Mondelez

Philippines makes new sustainability commitments

PCEx is the world's first global, non-profit, and fully integrated plastic offset platform. PCEx offers a seamless, traceable and effective solution to offsetting post-consumer plastics responsibly to ensure they don't wind up in nature.

"We commend Mondelez Philippines for making the reduction of their environmental impact through packaging and tackling plastic waste urgent goals," said Meg Anne Santos, Sustainability Campaign Manager at PCEx. "It is only right that companies prioritize reducing their packaging material. For any plastic that remains, our organization intends to make sure that it is responsibly collected and processed so that it doesn't wind up leaking into nature."

For the first quarter of 2021, Mondelez Philippines and PCEx have partnered to recover and process 130 metric tons of post-consumer plastic waste. This waste will be sourced from various collection points across Metro Manila. Adds Fabul, "Our goal is to be brand-neutral. This means we are not only collecting our own post-consumer waste, but all manner of plastic packaging waste, to ensure that they are properly collected and processed; and do not end up in our oceans and seas."

He ends, "This new partnership is part of our continuing contributions to encourage recycling among consumers and other industries. From building recycled plastic play areas in schools, we are also part of an industry commitment called Zero Waste to Nature in 2030, with the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS). The issue of plastic packaging is a complex one which requires the support of all sectors, from consumers to companies, and the government. We know it cannot be solved overnight, but we are steadfast in our goal of making snacks the right way; and managing our supply chains sustainably, in ways that minimize our impact on the planet."

Anyone can help stop plastic pollution. Visit [PCEx' website](https://pcex.com) to find out how you can help too.

765 new Covid-19 survivors bring recovery tally close to 467K

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor January 20, 2021, 6:05 pm



MANILA – With 765 new recovered cases reported on Wednesday, the overall tally of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) recoveries nationwide climbed to 466,993.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), the figure is equivalent to a 92.3-percent recovery rate among those who contracted the disease nationwide.

The DOH also tallied 1,862 new confirmed cases, bringing the total number of active cases to 28,904.

Of the active cases, about 84.9 percent are mild, 7.5 percent are asymptomatic, 2.6 percent are severe, 0.39 are moderate, and 4.5 percent are in critical condition.

Most of the newly announced cases were from Zamboanga City with 206, Davao City with 109, Kalinga with 102, Quezon City with 77, and Benguet with 74 infections.

The DOH also logged 64 more deaths on Wednesday, pushing the death toll to 10,042.

"Seven duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, seven were recovered cases. Moreover, 14 cases that were previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it said.

The department also reported that it has a total bed capacity of 26,500 dedicated to Covid-19 patients.

Available are about 58 percent of 2,100 intensive care unit beds; 63 percent of 16,500 isolation beds; and 73 percent of 7,900 ward beds.

About 79 percent of 2,100 ventilators are available for patients' use.

The DOH reminded the public to continue observing the minimum public health standards -- proper wearing of face masks and full-coverage face shields, physical distancing, and proper handwashing -- to prevent the spread of Covid-19. (PNA)



KAMPANYA SA PAGPAPABAKUNA AT IMPORMASYON SA BAWAL, 'DI BAWAL MABAKUNAHAN KAILANGAN



January 20, 2021 @ 10:13 AM 19 hours ago

BAGO nagsagawa ang India ng malawakang pagbabakuna, namigay muna ang pamahalaan at may gawa ng sarili nilang bakuna ng mga impormasyon ukol sa mga pwede at bawal na mabakunahan.

At ito, mga Bro, ang nais nating ipamahagi sa ating mga mambabasa at tagasubaybay ng **ULTIMATUM**.

Sa ngayon, ang pangangalap at pagsasanay ng mga pupwedeng magsagawa ng bakuna, paghahanda ng mga freezer at refrigerator para sa mga bakuna na nangangailangan ng malamig na sisidlan, pagtatalaga ng mga vaccination area at iba pa ang pinagkakaabalahan.

Meron pang nag-aaway-away sa presyo, maging sa bisa at ligtas na bakuna.

Hindi pa natin gaanong nakakapa ang mga bawal at hindi bawal na magpabakuna bilang isa sa mga pinakamahahalagang dapat na malaman ng taumbayan.

Kaya naman, ito ang gagawin natin sa espasyong ito ngayon.

MGA BAWAL

Dalawang uri ng bakuna ang gamit ng India sa pagbabakuna na nakaabot na umano ng tatlong milyong katao.



KAMPANYA SA PAGPAPABAKUNA AT IMPORMASYON SA BAWAL, 'DI BAWAL MABAKUNAHAN KAILANGAN

Ang Covaxin na gawa ng kompanyang India na Bharat Biotech at AstraZeneca na gawang United Kingdom ngunit ginagawa na rin ng India.

Ang Bharat Biotech ang malinaw na nagbibigay ng gabay sa mga mamamayang India kung pupwede silang mabakunahan o hindi.

Heto ang ilang bawal, mga Bro.

Hindi pwede ang mga mahihina ang immune system o resistensya at naggagamot para mapalakas ang kanilang immune system.

May allergy, may lagnat, may pagdurugo, buntis, nagpapasuso at may malalalang sakit.

Bawal din ang mga nabakunahan na ng ibang uri ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

Ang mga cancer patient na nagke-chemotherapy, HIV-positive, gumagamit ng steroid at iba pang tinatawag na immune-suppressed ay maaaring mabakunahan pero huwag umasa ang mga ito na buo na ang epekto sa kanila ng bakuna.

Kailangan na kailangan umanong magsabi ang mababakunahan kung sila ay nagpapagamot at kung anong gamot ang ginagamit nila.

MGA SIDE EFFECT

Hindi lang ang mga bawal magpabakuna ang ipinaliliwanag ng mga nasabing kompanya at pamahalaan.

Kasama sa kampanyang impormasyon ang pagsasabi ng mga side effect ng Covaxin.

Kasama umano rito ang sakit sa katawan, pamamaga o pangangati ng parteng nabakunahan, pananakit ng katawan, sakit sa ulo, lagnat, panghihina, pagkakaroon ng mga pantal, pagkahilo, kakulangan ng ginhawa at pagsusuka.

Habang isinasagawa ang pagbabakuna, may lumitaw na umanong mga side effect na hindi sinabi kung may serious o wala.

Subalit may namatay na umanong dalawa bagama't idineklara agad ng pamahalaang India na walang koneksyon sa bakuna.

Nagkaroon umano ng atake sa puso ang mga namatay at may nararamdaman na sila bago pa nagpabakuna.

BABALA NG IBA

Nang may mamatay na nasa 33 sa Norway at 10 sa Germany, luminaw nang husto na hindi pupwedeng mabakunahan ang mga matatanda at malubhang kalagayan.

Namatay ang mga ito ilang oras lang o ilang araw matapos ang pagbabakuna.



KAMPANYA SA PAGPAPABAKUNA AT IMPORMASYON SA BAWAL, 'DI BAWAL MABAKUNAHAN KAILANGAN

Gamit naman ang Pfizer sa mga namatay pero ayon sa Norwegian Medicines Agency, wala pang ebidensya kung direktang namatay ang mga ito dahil sa bakuna.

Kung meron mang kinalaman ang Pfizer, mga Bro, maaaring ang side effect nito ang nagpalala sa kalagayan ng mga namatay.

May 45 umano araw-araw na namamatay sa Norway na matatanda na may malubhang kalagayan at pinaniniwalaang nabakunahan man ang mga namatay o hindi, maaaring masama rin sila sa mga namamatay sa katandaan o sa malulubha nilang kalagayan o sakit.

Pero dahil sa mga pangyayaring ito, ginawa na ngayong patakaran na suriin nang husto ang mga matatanda bago mabakunahan o hindi ang mga ito.

At lumalabas ding dapat talagang maging ang mga nababakunahan na iba ay daraan din sa masusing medical check-up para mabakunahan.

Sa Russia naman, dapat hindi uminom ng alak ang gustong magpabakuna at itigil nito ang pag-inom ng alak sa loob ng dalawang buwan makaraang mabakunahan para maobserbahan umano ang epekto ng bakuna.

Oobserbahan din ang iba sa loob ng anim na buwan.

KAMPANYANG IMPORMASYON PARA MAGPABAKUNA

Sinasabing malapit na tayong magkaroon ng bakuna.

Dapat intindihin na marami ang naglalabasang problema at kabilang dito ang pag-ayaw ng marami na magpabakuna dahil sa karanasan nila sa Dengvaxia.

May mahigit kasing 600, karamihan bata, ang namatay sa Dengvaxia at sa 2022 pa magtatapos ang panahon ng obserbasyon kung may mamatay pa o wala na.

Lalong nagkaroon ng takot sa bakuna nang nagsilabasan ang mga balita ukol sa pagkamatay ng 33 sa Norway, 10 sa Germany, 2 sa India at meron din umanong namatay sa iba pang bansa.

Bukod dito, nabawasan din ang kumpyansa sa bakuna dahil sa away sa Sinovac na 50.4 porsyentong epektibo sa Brazil, 79% sa Indonesia at 91% sa Turkey.

At kahit epektibo ang Pfizer sa 90-95%, nawalan na rin ng gana ang iba.

Maging ang ilang senador na maiingay sa mga balak bilhin ng pamahalaan na bakuna, lalo na ang gawang China na Sinovac, ay kanya-kanyang iwas-pusoy nang hamunin sila ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na bilhan o orderan sila ng Pfizer upang ito ang ibakuna sa kanila.

Sa bansang Mexico nga, mas pinili ng pamahalaan doon na hindi muna magdeliber ang Pfizer ng bakuna dahil sa mga masasamang balita sa kamatayan kahit nakaorder na sila rito ng ilang milyong dosage, sabay sabing may iba namang bakuna na pupwede nilang bilhin.



KAMPANYA SA PAGPAPABAKUNA AT IMPORMASYON SA BAWAL, 'DI BAWAL MABAKUNAHAN KAILANGAN

Ngayon, mga Bro, kasama ba sa kampanya ang pagkumbinse sa mga Pinoy na magpabakuna at huwag magpadala sa takot na may namamatay, lalo't sinasabi naman ng mga may gawa ng bakuna na ligtas ang kanilang produkto?

HERD IMMUNITY

Ang gustong mangyari ng pamahalaan ay magkaroon ng herd immunity o maraming mabakunahan upang mapigilan ang hawaan.

Halimbawa sa Israel na maaaring kauna-unahang makababakuna ng buo nilang mamamayan, sinasabing humihina na ang hawaan makaraang mabakunahan ang marami sa mga ito.

Mahigit siyam na milyon ang populasyon ng Israel at halos 30 porsyento na umano ang nababakunahan ng kanilang pamahalaan.

Napababalita pa nga na nagbayad ang kanilang pamahalaan ng doble sa presyo ng bakuna sa mga gumagawa ng bakuna para makakuha lang sila ng sapat na bakuna at matiyak na mabakunahan lahat ng nasasakupan nila, kasama ang mga Pinoy na tinatayang nasa 30,000-50,000.

Kung mangyari ang herd immunity sa mahal kong Pinas, hindi malayong makalalaya tayo sa pandemya.

Kasama sa mga iniisip natin na mapasama sa herd immunity ang nasa 1 milyong guro sa pampublikong paaaralan at humaharap sa 27 milyong estudyante.

Kasama rin ang mga manggagawa sa mga pabrika na milyon-milyon ang bilang at daan-daan o libo-libo sila sa iisang bakuran o gusaling pinagtatrabahuhan na pag-uwi sa kanilang tahanan ay kapiling nila ang mga asawa, anak, kamag-anak at kapitbahay.

Naririyang din ang nasa 400,000 pulis at sundalo na humaharap araw-araw sa milyon-milyong mamamayan.

Ang mga opisyal at empleyado rin ng pamahalaan mula sa mga tanod hanggang sa Pangulo ng bansa na milyon din ang bilang ay humaharap at nag-aasikaso rin sa lahat ng mamamayan.

Milyon din ang bilang ng mga magsasaka, mangingisda, katutubo at iba pa, gaya ng mga miyembro ng LGBTQ na sinasabing nasa 10 milyon din.

Kung mababakunahan ang marami sa mga nasabing grupo-grupong mamamayan, magkakaroon tayo ng herd immunity at dito tayo maaaring makalaya sa pandemya at makabangon sa pagkasadlak sa krisis, kahirapan at gutom.

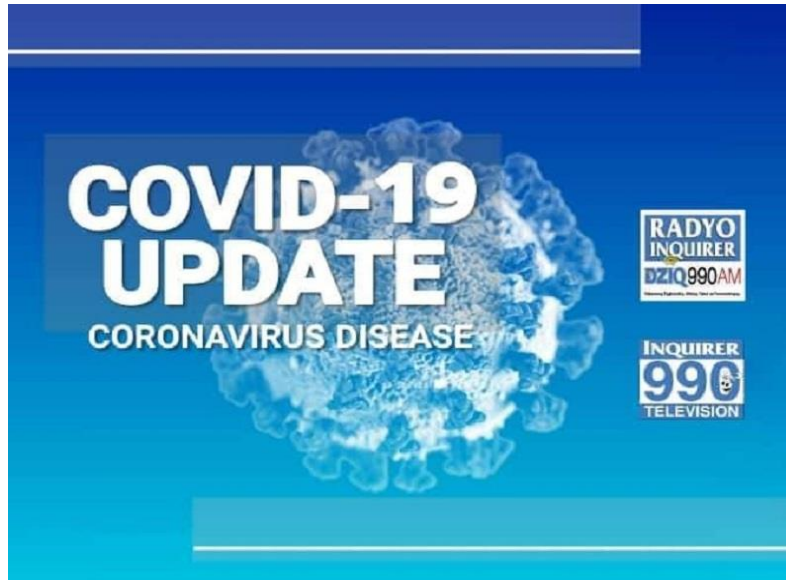
Nasaan ang kampanya natin para makumbinse ang mga ito na magpabakuna at huwag matakot sa bakuna?

Isang tanong: Nakatutulong ba sa kumbinsihan ang turuan sa mga matataas na opisyal kung sino ang dapat na maunang mabakunahan?



Global death toll bunsod ng COVID-19, lagpas 2.06 milyon na

By Angellic Jordan January 20, 2021 - 02:47 PM



Pumalo na sa lagpas dalawang milyon ang bilang ng mga nasawing COVID-19 patient sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, umakyat na sa kabuuang 2,065,794 ang nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa bunsod ng nakakahawang sakit.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang nasawi dahil sa COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 411,520.

Sumunod na rito ang Brazil na may 211,511 na pumanaw bunsod ng pandemiya.

Nasa 152,754 naman ang death toll sa India habang 142,832 ang napaulat na nasawi sa Mexico.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 death toll sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- United Kingdom - 91,470
- Italy - 83,157
- France - 71,342
- Russia - 66,623
- Iran - 56,973
- Spain - 54,173

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 96,633,160 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 69,303,868 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/283249/global-death-toll-bunsod-ng-covid-19-lagpas-2-06-milyon-na#ixzz6k7zn73GJ>

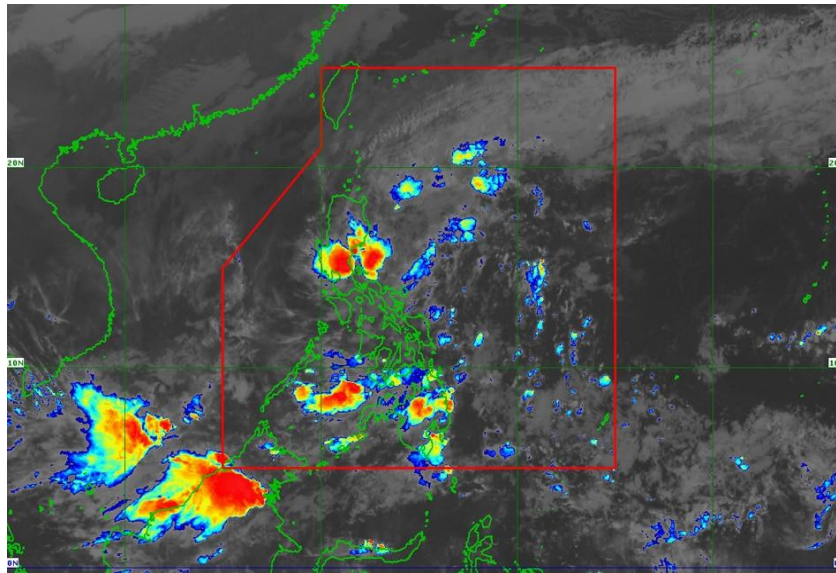
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PAGASA warns of likely flooding along waterways in several regions

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 21 2021 12:20 AM



Courtesy of PAGASA

MANILA - State weather bureau PAGASA on Wednesday warned multiple regions in the Philippines will likely experience flooding due to a low-pressure area 100 km east off Baler, Aurora.

According to PAGASA, the tail-end of a frontal system and the northeast monsoon are also affecting the eastern section of northern Luzon and extreme northern Luzon, respectively.

Major water channels in the following regions and areas may be affected:

- Cagayan Valley (Isabela, Cagayan, Quirino)
- Central Luzon (Aurora)
- Calabarzon (Quezon)
- Mimaropa (Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Marinduque, Palawan)
- Bicol (Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Albay, Masbate)
- Central Visayas (Cebu, Siquijor, Negros Oriental, Bohol)
- Eastern Visayas (Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Southern Leyte, Biliran, Samar)
- Zamboanga Peninsula (Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur)
- Caraga (Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur)

PAGASA advised people living near mountain slopes and low-lying areas near water systems affected areas to take precautionary measures, like pre-emptive evacuation.



Clean air to save 50,000 lives in Europe – WHO



By [Agence France-Presse](#)
January 21, 2021

NEW YORK: Limiting air pollution to levels recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) could prevent more than 50,000 deaths in Europe annually, according to research published Wednesday that called for urgent action.

The WHO estimates that air pollution kills more than 7 million people each year and is one of the leading causes of sickness and absenteeism globally. Cities, with their crowded streets and high energy use, are hotspots for illness and disease linked to air pollution.

The WHO recommends that fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) not exceed 10 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m³) of air, averaged annually. For nitrous oxide (NO₂), the threshold not to be exceeded is 40 mg/m³.

Wednesday's study, published in the Lancet Planetary Health journal, estimated the premature death burden because of these two pollutants in nearly 1,000 cities across Europe.

It found that reducing PM_{2.5} and NO₂ to safe WHO levels could prevent 51,213 premature deaths each year. Nearly 125,000 deaths annually could be saved if air pollution levels were reduced to the lowest recorded in the study, its authors said.

Mark Nieuwenhuijsen of the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) said the research "proves that many cities are still not doing enough to tackle air pollution."

"Levels above WHO guidelines are leading to unnecessary deaths," he added.

Using city-specific data on air pollution models combined with mortality figures, the researchers formed a "mortality burden score" ranking individual cities from best to worst. Deaths due to air pollution varied widely, with NO₂ levels in Madrid, for example, responsible for 7 percent of annual deaths there.

Cities in the Po-Valley region of northern Italy, Poland, and the Czech Republic were the highest in mortality burden, with the Italian cities of Brescia, Bergamo and Vicenza all within the top five for PM_{2.5} concentrations.

Those with the lowest mortality burden included Tromsø in Norway, Umeå in Sweden and Oulu in Finland, as well as the Icelandic capital Reykjavik.

On average, 84 percent of the population in cities studied were exposed to PM_{2.5} levels above the WHO guideline. Nine percent were exposed to higher-than-recommended NO₂ levels, the study found.

Sasha Khomenko, study co-author from ISGlobal, said that it was important to implement local emissions reductions measures in light of the high variability in mortality linked to poor air.

"We need an urgent change from private motorised traffic to public and active transportation [and] a reduction of emissions from industry, airports and ports," she said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/01/21/news/world/clean-air-to-save-50000-lives-in-europe-who/830141/>



Climate risks jostle with pandemic as fractured world struggles to respond, WEF says

January 20, 2021 | 4:02 pm



Over the coming decade, the next major problem the world faces after COVID-19 remains climate change, said the World Economic Forum. Image of a flooded town in Isabela, Philippines, via PHILSTAR/MICHAEL VARCAS

LONDON — Failure to stem climate change poses as serious a global risk as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, in both the scale of impact and level of threat, top business and other leaders warned on Tuesday.

In addition, worsening political polarization, inequality, and loss of social cohesion could undermine recovery from the pandemic and action to tackle global warming, they said.

Those pressures “will bring long-term consequences”, noted Borge Brende, president of the World Economic Forum (WEF), which released its annual global risk survey on Tuesday.

“Even if you see some light at the end of the tunnel (with the pandemic), there are still huge risks connected to the polarized and fractured world,” he told an online event just two weeks after armed protesters stormed the US Capitol.

The WEF survey of business, political, and other global leaders found that COVID-19, a jobs crisis, and extreme weather are expected to be the most serious risks facing the world in the next two years, followed by cybersecurity threats and digital inequality.

The top risks for the next 5–10 years included state collapse, the failure of social security systems, technology advances—such as biological tools that could be used to alter pathogens or planetary geoengineering to curb climate change—and environmental stresses like biodiversity loss.

The findings show a clear need for a new economic model that is more inclusive, greener, and offers better social safety nets, said Saadia Zahidi, a managing director at the WEF.

Over the coming decade, the next major problem the world faces after COVID-19 remains climate change, she noted.



Climate risks jostle with pandemic as fractured world struggles to respond, WEF says

“There is no vaccine for this,” she said. “There are only the actions today we can take to build more sustainable economies.”

The global economy is seeing one of its biggest peacetime slumps as a result of the novel coronavirus, with 150 million people expected to fall into extreme poverty—the first rise in two decades, Mr. Brende said.

About \$12 trillion in announced pandemic stimulus spending around the globe—the most since World War II—aims to halt the economic slide, he said.

But it is unlikely to make a lasting difference unless the money is spent on building future resilience, including through measures to develop green, low-carbon economies and broaden digital access, he added.

Peter Giger, chief risk officer for Zurich Insurance Group and a contributor to the report, said improving resilience to both expected and unexpected threats would require rethinking economies optimized for maximum profit in stable conditions.

The current approach is “very short-sighted,” suggesting investments in more robust systems would easily pay for themselves, he said.

“It’s always cheaper to build the dam than pay for the flood,” he said.

Carolina Klint, who focuses on risks in Europe for global insurance broker Marsh, said companies needed to overcome fears that spending on resilience was inefficient or too expensive.

“2020 left us with a renewed appreciation of risk”—and how threats once thought unlikely or distant can quickly become an immediate problem, she noted.

The next big global challenge “won’t be a pandemic—it will be something else.” she warned.
— **Laurie Goering/Reuters**

21 JANUARY 2021, Thursday



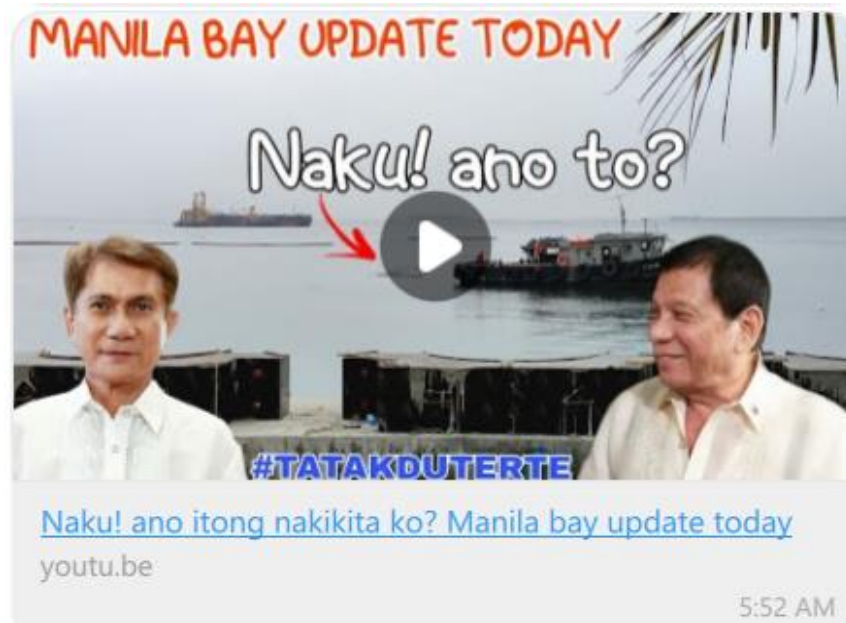
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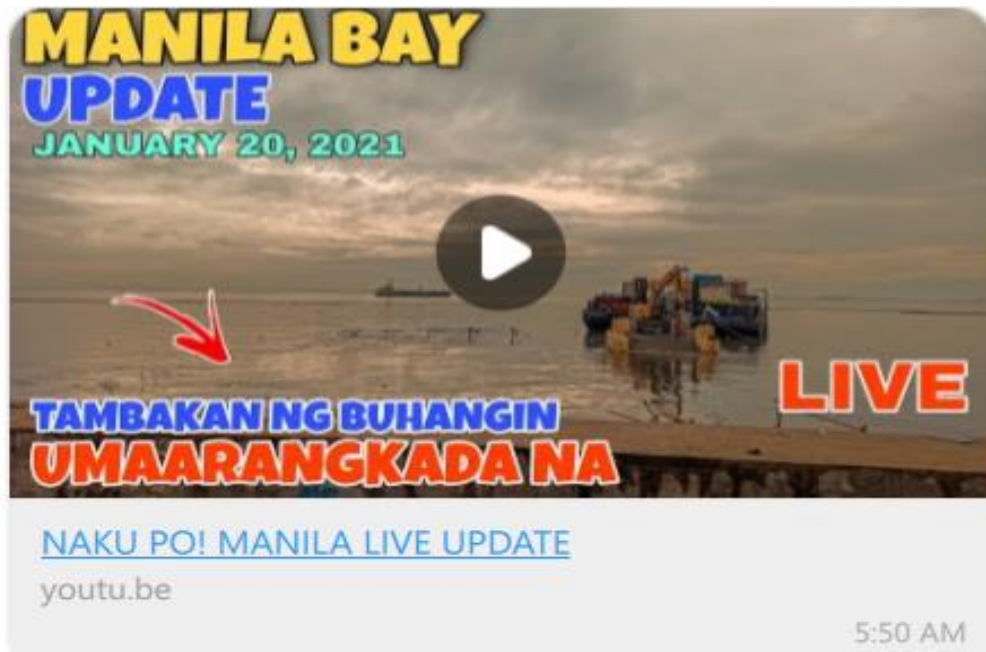
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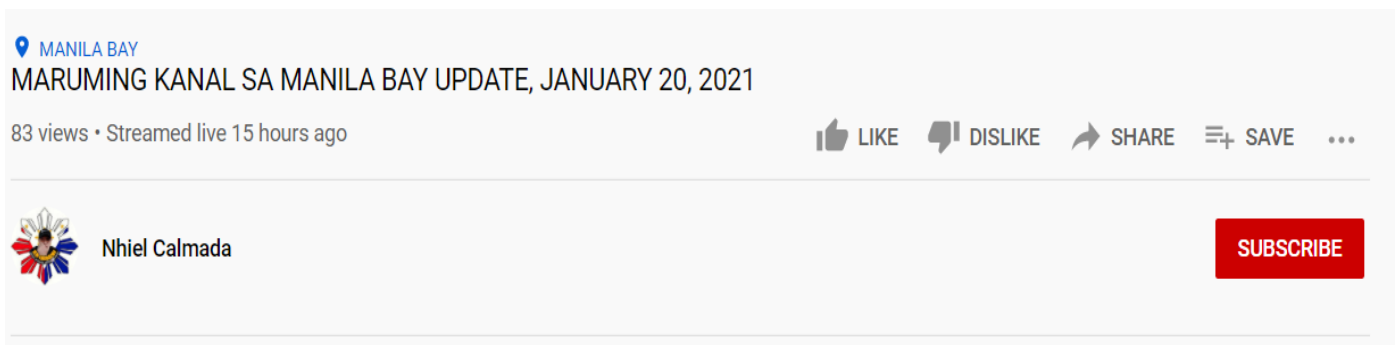
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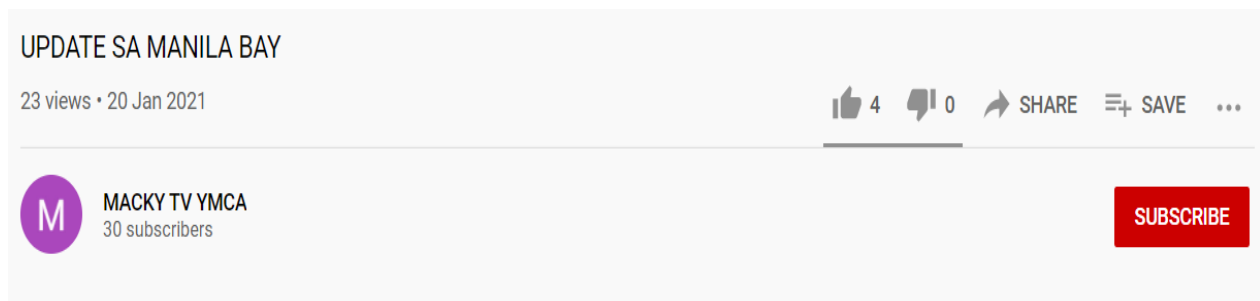
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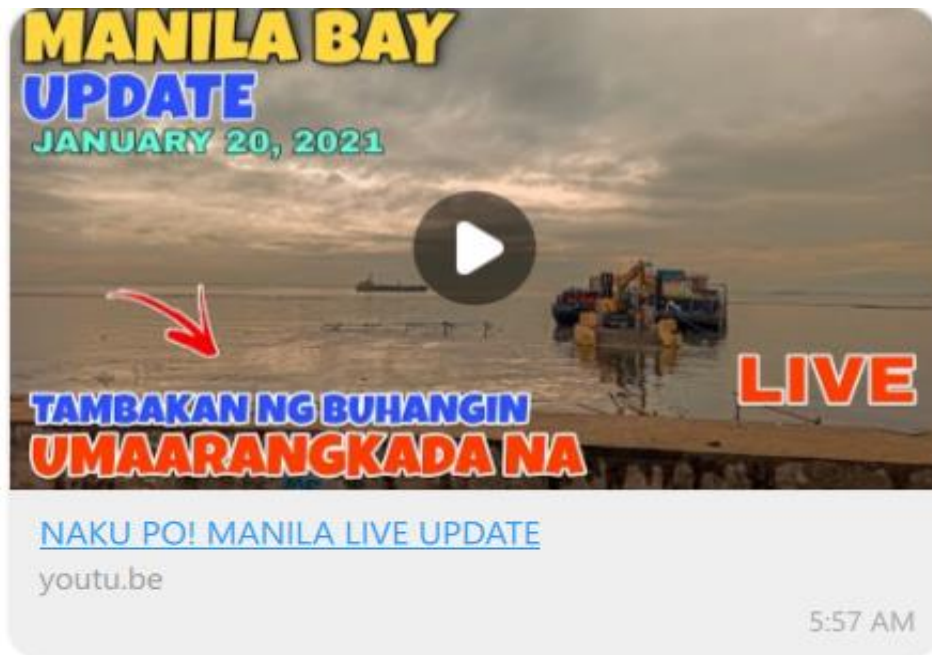
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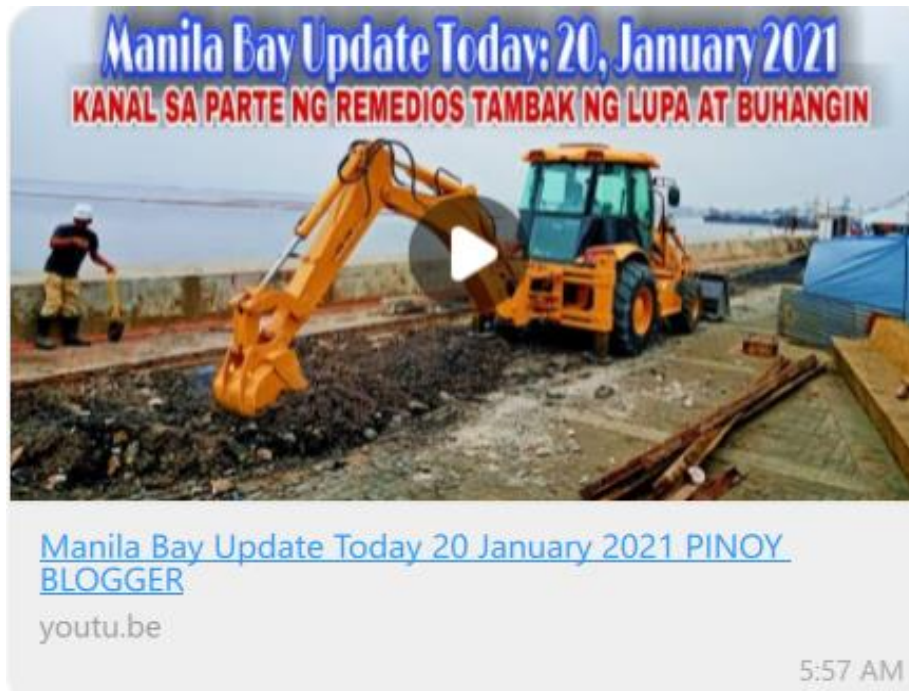
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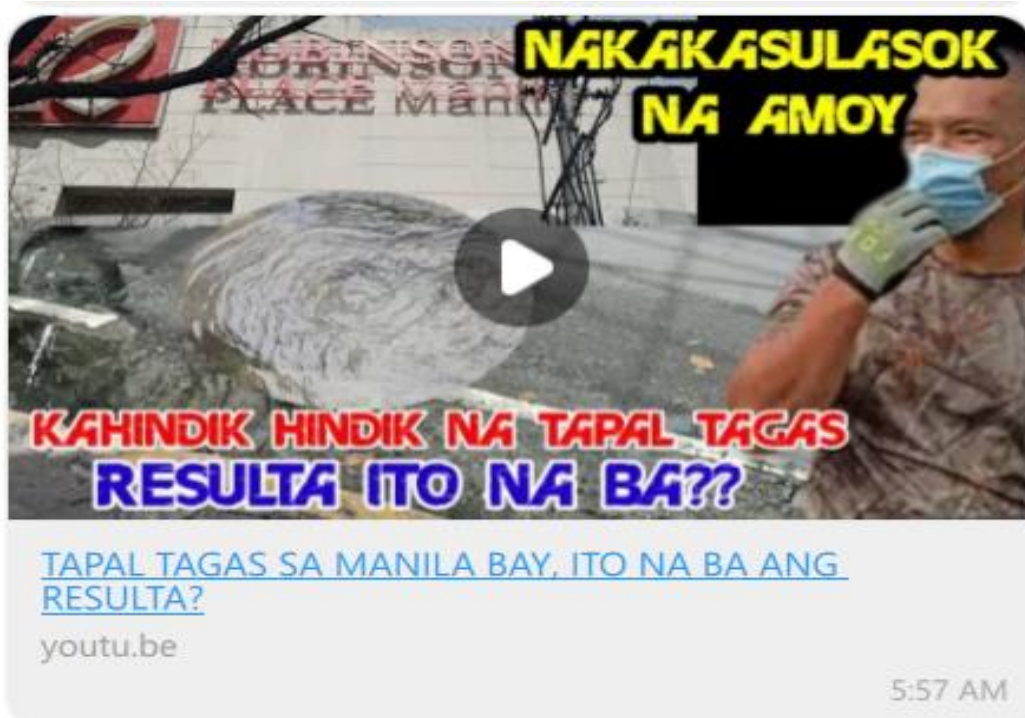
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