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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





# Japan shipping giant pledges \$1.5 million to help in SMC's river rehab program

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) - The Philippine Star November 21, 2021 | 12:00am



The \$1.5-million donation was formalized during a virtual ceremony attended by (from top left, clockwise) DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, SMC president Ramon Ang and NYK Line president Hitoshi Nagasawa  
STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — A Japanese shipping company is providing \$1.5 million (P75.6 million) to help diversified conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) rehabilitate the Pasig and Tullahan-Tinajeros River systems.

Tokyo-based shipping firm Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK Line) has joined SMC in the rehabilitation of the waterways considered to be among the world's biggest contributors to ocean pollution.

NYK will donate \$1.5 million over a five-year period to buy additional equipment needed for the project.

NYK's donation will be coursed through the San Miguel Foundation and will go to the acquisition of additional equipment to be used for targeted river dredging and clean-up operations.

The firm said protecting the marine environment is part of its mandate and it targets to become a sustainable business entity.

NYK is one of Japan's largest shipping firms, with operations in liner trade, air cargo transportation, logistics, bulk shipping, and real estate. Some 70 percent of its seafarers are Filipino.

To recall, SMC has allocated P1 billion for the clean-up of the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River.

Since June 2020, it has already removed 533,498 metric tons of silt and solid waste from an 11-kilometer stretch spanning the river's sections in Navotas, at the mouth of Manila Bay, to Malabon, and Valenzuela.

"Our goal is to deepen and, where necessary, widen the Tullahan River, so it can take in more excess water coming from the La Mesa Dam, especially during heavy rainfall, and help minimize and mitigate flooding in Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela – all known to be flood prone areas," SMC president Ramon Ang said.



Meanwhile, SMC has committed P2 billion for the Pasig River rehabilitation, which officially began last July. So far, it has removed over 100,000 MT of waste from its two pilot areas, along Pandacan and near the Malacanang Palace.

The project aims to remove up to three million MT of silt and solid waste from the river, to channel more floodwaters and alleviate flooding not only in Metro Manila, but in Laguna as well.



## Japan's NYK plunks in \$1.5M for river rehab

NYK reached out to us, after reading about our Pasig River and Tullahan river rehabilitation efforts

Published 1 day ago on November 21, 2021 02:30 AM

By **TDI** @tribunephil



In a recent online meeting, (clockwise) Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, SMC president Ramon S. Ang and NYK Line president Hitoshi Nagasawa commit to ending the misery from pollution of the Pasig and Tullahan River systems. / Photograph courtesy of SMC

Shipping and logistics company NYK Line of Japan has joined San Miguel Corporation (SMC) in its multi-billion initiative to rehabilitate the Pasig and Tullahan-Tinajeros River systems, and undo years of toxic and waste contamination that have made these waterways among the world's biggest contributors to ocean pollution.

NYK will donate \$1.5 million over a five-year period to buy additional equipment needed for the project.

The donation was formalized during a virtual ceremony attended by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, NYK Line president Hitoshi Nagasawa and SMC president Ramon S. Ang.

Ang thanked Nagasawa for the support which he described as both “unexpected and meaningful”, as it was the Japanese firm’s way of showing its appreciation for the country of origin of many of its seafarers.

SMC and NYK have had no previous professional dealings, and it was the first time that Ang and Nagasawa had met.

“I truly admire Mr. Nagasawa-san. NYK reached out to us, after reading about our Pasig River and Tullahan river rehabilitation efforts. They said they wanted to do something for their Filipino seafarers, to show their appreciation for their home country. So after a meeting where they asked to hear more about our river rehabilitation projects, they decided they wanted to support it, on behalf of their Filipinos crews,” SMC president Ramon S. Ang related.

### Gesture appreciated

“This kind gesture from one of Japan’s major companies shows that they care about their Filipino workforce and the environment. This is something we truly appreciate. It is also a recognition of the importance of the task we’ve set for ourselves — to continue the clean-up and rehabilitation of our rivers, to try and reverse the decades of pollution that they’ve suffered. This way, we can safeguard lives and protect livelihoods from flooding, and move closer to a better, more livable Metro Manila,” he added.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/11/21/japans-nyk-plunks-in-1-5m-for-river-rehab/>



## Pasig river rehab gets boost from NYK

By [The Manila Times](#) November 20, 2021

SHIPPING and logistics company NYK Line of Japan has joined San Miguel Corp. (SMC) in the multibillion initiative to rehabilitate the Pasig and Tullahan-Tinajeros River system.

NYK will donate \$1.5 million over a five-year period to buy additional equipment needed for the project.

The donation was formalized during a virtual ceremony attended by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, NYK Line President Hitoshi Nagasawa and SMC President Ramon Ang.

Ang thanked Nagasawa for the support that he described as both "unexpected and meaningful," as it was the Japanese firm's way of showing its appreciation for the country of origin of many of its seafarers.

SMC and NYK have had no previous professional dealings and it was the first time that Ang and Nagasawa had met.

"I truly admire Mr. Nagasawa-san. NYK reached out to us after reading about our Pasig River and Tullahan River rehabilitation efforts. They said they wanted to do something for their Filipino seafarers, to show their appreciation for their home country. So, after a meeting where they asked to hear more about our river rehabilitation projects, they decided they wanted to support it, on behalf of their Filipino crews," Ang said.

For his part, Nagasawa said: "As a global shipping and logistics company, protecting the marine environment is part of our DNA and something that we treat very seriously. ESG is the foundation for the NYK Group's aspiration to become a sustainable business entity and we think that the project we are about to join is exactly in line with our future goals."

NYK's donation will be coursed through the San Miguel Foundation and will go toward the acquisition of additional equipment to be used for targeted river dredging and clean-up operations.

NYK is one of Japan's largest shipping firms, with operations in liner trade, air cargo transportation, logistics and bulk shipping as well as real estate. Around 70 percent of its seafarers are Filipino.

SMC is spending P1 billion for the clean-up of the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River. Since June 2020, the company's dredging teams have already removed 533,498 metric tons of silt and solid waste from an 11-kilometer stretch spanning the river's sections in Navotas, at the mouth of Manila Bay, to Malabon and Valenzuela.

Meanwhile, it has committed P2 billion for its Pasig River rehabilitation effort, which officially began in July of this year. It has already removed over 100,000 tons of waste from its two pilot areas, along Pandacan and near the Malacañan Palace in Manila.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/11/20/business/green-industries/pasig-river-rehab-gets-boost-from-nyk/1822915>





## Zambo del Norte beefs up Cenros' law enforcement capability



ZAMBOANGA. The Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office acquires motorcycles to beef up the law enforcement capability of its four Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (Cenros). A photo handout shows the Cenro chiefs and the motorcycles that were turned over to them last week in Zamboanga del Norte. (SunStar Zamboanga)

November 21, 2021

THE Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) has acquired motorcycles to beef up the law enforcement capability of its four Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (Cenros).

Rosevirico Tan, Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional information officer, said Sunday, November 21, that the motorcycles were turned over last week to Cenro-Piñan, Cenro-Manukan, Cenro-Liloy and Cenro-Siocon.

Tan said Zamboanga del Norte Penro Chief Salahuddin Kaing led the turnover of motorcycles and was witnessed by the Cenro chiefs and selected personnel of the four agencies.

He said the procurement of the motorcycles aligned with the work and financial plan for calendar year 2021.

He added that the work and financial plan are aimed to be used for the intensified forest protection and law enforcement activities of the Cenros within the province of Zamboanga del Norte. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**



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### 200 logs seized in anti-illegal logging ops in General Nakar

More than 200 pieces of round and half-moon logs were apprehended during a surveillance operation conducted by CENRO Real last November 13 to 16 along the Magnac River at Barangays Maligaya and Canaway, General Nakar, Quezon.

The apprehended forest products originated from the timberland areas of General Nakar, according to local environmental officials. ...  
See more



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14 Shares



## Cebu-based cement factory bans disposable plastic in its facilities



Contributed photo

[KEVIN A. LAGUNDA](#)

November 21, 2021

A CEMENT factory in San Fernando, southern Cebu has banned disposable plastic packaging materials from its premises.

The decision of Taiheiyo Cement Philippines Inc. (TCPI) was adopted both at its plant site in San Fernando town and at its office in Cebu City, said Dwight P. Avila, acting deputy manager of the Environment and Safety Division (ESD) of the company, in a press release.

This developed as plant manager Tatsushi Sasao instructed members of the company's central safety, environment and health committee to strengthen the implementation of the 3 R's: reuse, reduce and recycle.

“Let us help the national government in its thrust to curb the plastic pollution crisis in the country,” he told the team.

He cited a mere plastic sando bag as an example. It is so light in weight that it can travel long distances by wind and water, he said.

“Plastics litter our landscape, float around in waterways and can eventually make their way into the sea and harm marine and even human life,” he said.

For his part, Avila said the company anticipated the increase in volume of solid waste, especially disposable plastic, at the plant site after the full realization of the company's Reborn project.

Thus, it rolled out the “No Single Use Plastic Policy” that is also in line with TCPI’s commitment under its ISO 14001-certified Environmental Management System, which is to restore, protect and enhance environmental quality (air, water and land) through responsible pollution control program and policies.

The company implemented the policy in phases, first only two days a week during weekdays in May 2021, then Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays by June and July, then every day by August, and has since been consistent with employees having adopted the practice as a habit.

The ESD continuously promoted the policy and the use of TCPI eco-bags in every department, including outsourced workers, to increase awareness and ensure it becomes a regular practice among employees.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1913710/Cebu/Local-News/Cebu-based-cement-factory-bans-disposable-plastic-in-its-facilities>





# #ECON101: SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AND WHY THEY NEED TO BE BANNED

## WHAT ARE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS, AND WHY ARE THEY HARMFUL?

Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are classified as those that can only be used once before getting thrown away or recycled. These may include your usual household items ranging from grocery bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups, and cutlery.

However, while it cannot be denied that single-use plastics are extremely useful, given how they are not only lightweight but very cheap as well, they also pose serious environmental risks with continued use.

Most single-use plastics are non-biodegradable and only nine percent of global plastic waste gets recycled. Thus, the remaining percentage most likely ends up in our landfills, oceans, dumps, or the environment in general.

The expanded polystyrene foam that usually makes up most plastic bags or containers such as Styrofoam can take thousands of years for decomposition, in turn, contaminating our soil and water.

Moreover, plastics also contain carcinogenic chemicals (such as styrene and benzene), which when ingested, can be damaging to the human nervous system, lungs, and reproductive systems. These are just some of the many reasons as to why single-use plastics can be harmful.

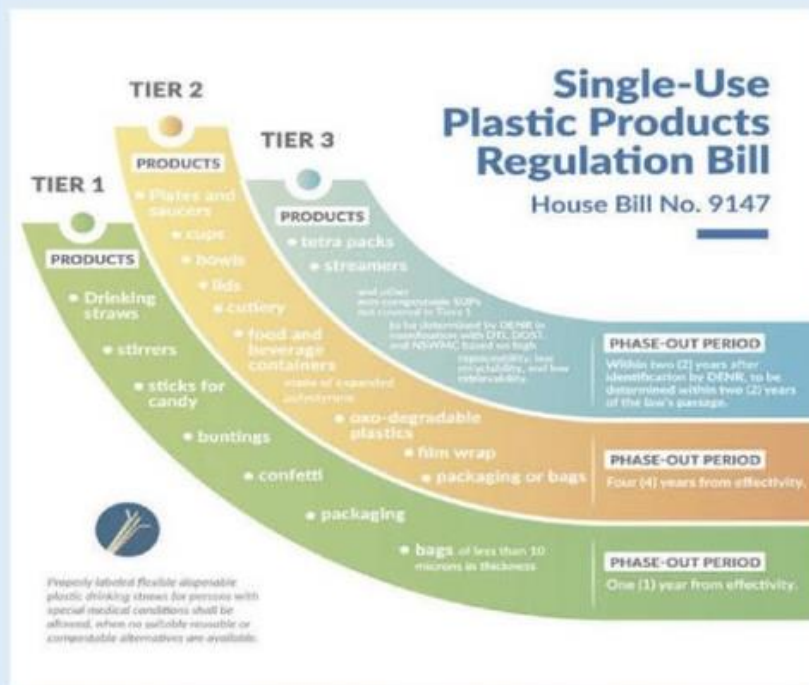
## WHAT IS THE ANTI-SINGLE USE PLASTIC (ASUP) CAMPAIGN?

On 28 July 2021 (Wednesday), the House of Representatives finally approved and passed on third and final reading House Bill (HB) 9174 on "Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation." The Bill generally seeks to regulate and phase out single-use plastics by establishing a tiered system for classifying single-use plastic products and phasing them out in varying periods.

There will be three tiers to the phase-out period.

The first tier, which takes place one year from effectivity, includes products such as drinking straws, stirrers, sticks for candy, buntings, confetti, plastic packaging, and bags (of less than 10 microns in thickness).

The second tier, taking place four years from effectivity, covers plates, saucers, cups, bowls, lids, cutlery, food, and beverage containers (made of expanded polystyrene /



Styrofoam), oxo-degradable plastics, film wrap, and packaging or bags.

Finally, the third tier, whose products are yet to be determined within two years of the law's passage will be identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), will phase out the following items up to two years after identification: tetra packs, streamers, and other non-compostable single-use plastics not covered in Tier 1.

The DENR, together with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) will work on classifying said products under Tier 3 based on high replaceability, low recyclability, and low retrievability.



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The Philippines attributes to  
**0.75 million**  
metric tons of the world's plastic  
waste entering the ocean each year

**THIRD AMONG THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS  
OF MISMANAGED PLASTIC**

In addition, the Bill also seeks to provide demand and supply interventions, develop eco-friendly alternatives, and provide incentives for consumers, retailers, and manufacturers for abiding, ultimately changing societal and consumer behaviors with regards to single-use plastics.

Under the Bill, violators may be fined ranging from PHP50,000 up to PHP500,000 for micro-enterprises and PHP250,000 up to PHP1,000,000 for larger businesses.

**2018 OCEAN TRASH INDEX  
INTERNATIONAL CLEANUPS**

COUNTRY/LOCATION	PEOPLE	POUNDS	KILOGRAMS	MILES	KILOMETERS	TOTAL ITEMS COLLECTED
MALDIVES	103	1,084	492	7.9	12.7	17,176
NEW ZEALAND	177	1,255	569	14.5	23.3	6,811
NORWAY	7,871	106,143	48,146	93.7	259.2	28,728
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	<b>276,120</b>	<b>798,104</b>	<b>362,014</b>	<b>1,076.2</b>	<b>1,731.9</b>	<b>7,866,415</b>
PANAMA	9,267	146,727	66,554	28.7	46.2	288,696

Low plastic recycling rates are a wasted opportunity in the Philippines



**0.8 MILLION TONNES**

0.8 million tonnes of plastics are disposed of each year.



**28 PERCENT**

About 28 percent of key plastic resins are recycled.



**780-890 MIL USD \$**

780-890 million of the material value of plastics is lost annually.

**THE PROPORTION OF PLASTICS COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING (CFR)  
VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY ACROSS DIFFERENT RESIN\* TYPES**





### WHY DO WE NEED THE ASUP CAMPAIGN?

The Philippines attributes to 0.75 million metric tons of the world's plastic waste entering the ocean each year, ranking third among the largest contributors of mismanaged plastic. In the 2014 Manila Bay Clean-up, 61.9% of the 1,594 liters of waste collected were plastics. In that same year, the annual per capita plastic use of a Filipino averages on 8 kilograms.

Even more alarming, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) revealed in a waste audit that Filipinos use over 163 million plastic sachets, 48 million shopping bags, and 45 million thin film bags every day. This is a significant amount compared to the country's recycling capacity.

Recycling is not as promising as the country exhibited a large recycling capacity gap of 85 percent in 2019 compared to its ASEAN neighbors (Malaysia and Thailand). For instance, only 28 percent of key plastic resins has been recycled in 2019 causing the Philippines to lose about US\$790 to US\$ 890 million worth of material value annually as well.

The local government units (LGUs) mostly manage solid waste collection. However, in several areas of the country, access to recycling facilities and even waste collection services are scarce. This, coupled with the country's sewerage problems, proves that more needs to be done with regards to waste management, especially on single-use plastics that are main contributors for pollution.

### WHAT OTHER INITIATIVES ARE WE TAKING TO COMBAT POLLUTION?

The DENR actually serves as the focal national government agency for concerns regarding the environment. DENR is also the agency that provides technical or financial assistance to LGUs for the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act (RA 9003).

However, it is the Solid Waste Management Office under the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) that monitors for compliance among LGUs relative to RA 9003. The government ensures involvement of LGUs especially for plastic waste.

Meanwhile, collection of biodegradable and recyclable waste is handled by the Barangay Solid Waste Management Committees handle, as well as management of Material Recovery Facilities, and Information or Education campaigns.

Other legislations that tackle pollution and solid waste are: a) Philippine Clean Water Act Of 2004 (RA 9275); b) Philippine Clean Air Act Of 1999 (RA 8749); c) Climate Change Act Of 2009 (RA 9729); and d) Presidential Decree 1586 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Statement Of 1978, among others.

Further, as Chair-Designate of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the Department of Finance pioneers efforts on climate action such as the passage of the Single-Use Plastic Regulations Act, and launched the newly reconstituted National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) that will advise the CCC and formulate doable on-the-ground programs and projects.

The DOF was also among the representatives of the Philippines to the 26th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) to discuss climate action for climate vulnerable countries such as the Philippines, the recently submitted Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets, and the Sustainable Finance Roadmap, among other climate action initiatives of the country.

### ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTICS

Fortunately, there are now a number of alternatives to single-use plastics that are easily accessible by regular Filipino households. The government encourages use of reusable items such as metal, bamboo, and glass straws which one can bring anywhere or a fully edible and fully biodegradable rice straw for food establishments.

For plastic packaging which retail stores and online sellers usually use, plant-based mailers now offer competitive prices and as many sizes (ranging from small to extra large) as the common plastic mailer.

Finally, eco-bags and tote bags are now much sturdier and versatile in design to accommodate small grocery shopping items and even bigger, heavier purchases. Grocery shopping malls in the Philippines also now offer paper bags and paper carton boxes to package groceries with, in case one forgets their eco-bag.

<sup>1</sup>United Nations Environment Programme, Single-Use Plastics: A Roadmap for Sustainability (2018).

<sup>2</sup>See Executive Summary

<sup>3</sup>See page 34

<sup>4</sup>UN Environment Programme, SEA-Circular: Solving plastic pollution at source (2020).

<sup>5</sup>World Bank Group, Market Study for the Philippines: Plastics Circularity Opportunities and Barriers (2021)

<sup>6</sup>UN Environment Programme, SEA-Circular: Solving plastic pollution at source (2020).





## Isko vows metro garbage woes solution

Material recovery should be considered to boost the livelihood of thousand families who are dependent on junk that could be sold for cash.

Published 2 hours ago on November 22, 2021 04:30 AM

By **Pat C. Santos** @tribunephil\_pat



Aksyon Demokratiko presidential bet Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso said the national government should explore technologies to dispose of Metro Manila's garbage and find dumpsites that are technically approved worldwide.

Domagoso made the suggestion during Saturday's visit to Payatas, Quezon City where he met with residents.

In an interview, the Manila mayor said population growth results in tons of trash being thrown out every day.

He said the government should find a permanent solution to the problem.

Material recovery should be considered to boost the livelihood of thousands of families who are dependent on junk that could be sold for cash.

He recalled this was how he earned a living during his youth in Tondo, Manila.

"There must be a striking balance between imposing new technology on garbage disposal and at the same time protecting the livelihood of the people whose lives depend on it," Domagoso stressed.

The Manila mayor told residents that if they want real, honest change to come to their lives with the government's help, they should learn to "invest."

"It's your turn now to invest on a candidate. It will only cost you a peso. Please text your relatives, lovers, exes and friends. This is our fight. The government can raise your living standards, and that is what I will do for you," he said.

In Manila, Domagoso was able to embark on seven housing projects for the poor, renters and city employees who do not have homes to call their own. The units measuring 42 square meters come complete with two bedrooms, a toilet, laundry area, dining area, a study area and a living room.



After his meeting in Payatas, the 47-year-old mayor proceeded to the Payatas landslide marker to light candles in memory of those who lost their lives when mounds of garbage collapsed and went up in flames on 10 July 2000. The incident destroyed close to 100 homes, while 232 residents were buried alive under garbage.

Source: [https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/11/22/isko-vows-metro-garbage-woes-solution/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=isko-vows-metro-garbage-woes-solution](https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/11/22/isko-vows-metro-garbage-woes-solution/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=isko-vows-metro-garbage-woes-solution)



# Bamboo has been used for thousands of years in Asia. Now, it could help solve construction's sustainability problem

By Rebecca Cairns, CNN

Published Nov 20, 2021 11:00:59 PM



Bamboo isn't just for luxury projects, though: cheap and widely available, it's also a great sustainable solution for low-cost housing, which is why Philippines-based startup Cubo has been using bamboo to make eco-friendly, low-impact modular homes. Photo courtesy: CUBO Modular Inc.

**(CNN)** - Searching for new ways to build sustainable homes, Earl Forlales decided to look not into the future, but to the past.

His grandparents, like generations of Filipinos, lived in a "Bahay Kubo" -- a traditional, boxy, single-story bamboo hut on stilts, indigenous to the Philippines. "Filipinos have been using bamboo (for housing) even before colonial times, for thousands of years," he says.

Strong and flexible, bamboo is one of the fastest-growing plants in the world: while soft and hard woods can take between 40 and 150 years to mature, bamboo is ready to harvest in as little as three years. When treated and engineered, it can last for decades. Realizing the Bahay Kubo could be adapted to create a contemporary home, Forlales began designing his own bamboo houses.

After winning the "Cities for our Future" challenge run by the UK's Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 2018, the materials engineering graduate turned his idea into a company, co-founding Cubo in 2019.

The company launched production of its prefabricated homes in November 2020. The structures can be assembled in just a few days and are predicted to last up to 50 years, says Forlales. He hopes that Cubo's modular designs and use of bamboo can "help accelerate sustainable building" while also providing affordable housing solutions for the Philippines' housing crisis.

## A contemporary cube house

Cubo's bamboo homes incorporate many aspects of the traditional "Bahay Kubo" including a raised foundation and louvers, a type of window blind that allows natural ventilation and light.

But Cubo has given the bamboo hut a 21st-century upgrade, including modern light fittings and impact-proof polycarbonate windows. The Philippines is prone to earthquakes and typhoons, so the homes have been designed with natural disasters in mind. Metal "typhoon ties" are used as connectors between the walls, roof and floor panels, and the homes are further reinforced with poured concrete foundations, which replace the traditional stilts. While this gives the structures a solid base, concrete contributes to climate change. Forlales says the company is "exploring alternative foundation systems to further make our offering more sustainable" but this is still in the research stage.





The company's first project was tested very quickly — in December 2020, just days after the first two homes were constructed, the region was hit by a magnitude six earthquake. Cubo's houses survived unscathed.

Cubo offers four different models, sleeping up to six residents. Each house is made to order and can be customized to include elements such as solar panels on the roof, further reducing the running costs and the carbon footprint of its residents.

The company is currently producing six houses per month, but Forlales says demand is much higher and he's hoping to increase supply.

"Filipinos warmly welcomed the product, because it's very familiar," he says. "They realized that it's an intuitive evolution for our local bamboo houses."

### **Bamboo building boom**

The construction industry has been heavily criticized in recent years for its environmental impact. The use of materials like steel and concrete are significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, while the extraction of raw resources including stone, rock and gravel degrades landscapes and soils. This has prompted a search for more eco-friendly alternatives.

Cubo isn't the only company to see the potential of bamboo as a strong, sustainable building material. Vietnamese studio Vo Trong Nghia Architects has used bamboo for many of its projects, including the Casamia Community House in the Casamia Resort in Hoi An, while Shenzhen-based Zuo Studio created bamboo pavilions for the Taichung Flora Exposition in Taiwan.

In Bali, Indonesia, architecture company Ibuku specializes in intricate, large-scale bamboo 'buildings'. Since 2007, Ibuku has built over 60 bamboo structures, including the Green Village, a sustainable community of 12 luxury villas and the Green School, which has a wall-free campus set in nature.

While bamboo has been used to build small structures for thousands of years, "it's only now that we have safe, natural treatment solutions that we can consider building multi-story buildings," says Elora Hardy, founder and creative director of Ibuku. While most of her projects use treated bamboo in its natural form, she adds that with advances in engineered bamboo, there could be "skyscrapers and even whole cities that can be built out of bamboo" in the future.

Engineered bamboo entered mainstream construction in the late 20th century, according to Bhavna Sharma, assistant professor of architecture at the University of Southern California and a member of the task force developing international standards for bamboo construction materials.

"Standards for mechanical testing of engineered bamboo materials are currently being developed; however, areas such as fire performance require extensive study," says Sharma.

As a strong, fast-growing, and renewable material, bamboo could supplement sustainably harvested hardwoods, says Sharma, with the added benefit of bamboo plantations helping to restore degraded soil and land.

### **Helping out a housing crisis**

While sustainability is bamboo's primary advantage, it's not the only reason Cubo is looking to the fast-growing grass as an alternative building material.



The Philippines is currently facing a severe housing shortage, with an estimated 4.5 million people living homeless in 2021, and a deficit of affordable homes.

Cubo's homes cost between 649,800 Philippine pesos (\$12,900) to 1.8 million Philippine pesos (\$35,738) -- which is roughly comparable to mid-range homes built with conventional materials, says Forlales. However, he aims to bring prices down by streamlining production and increasing automation in the workshop. The company has also introduced a payment plan, to help reduce upfront costs for buyers.

With bamboo naturally growing throughout Asia, each country has "their own species of bamboo that you can use for construction," says Forlales -- creating potential to build cube houses beyond the Philippines, too.

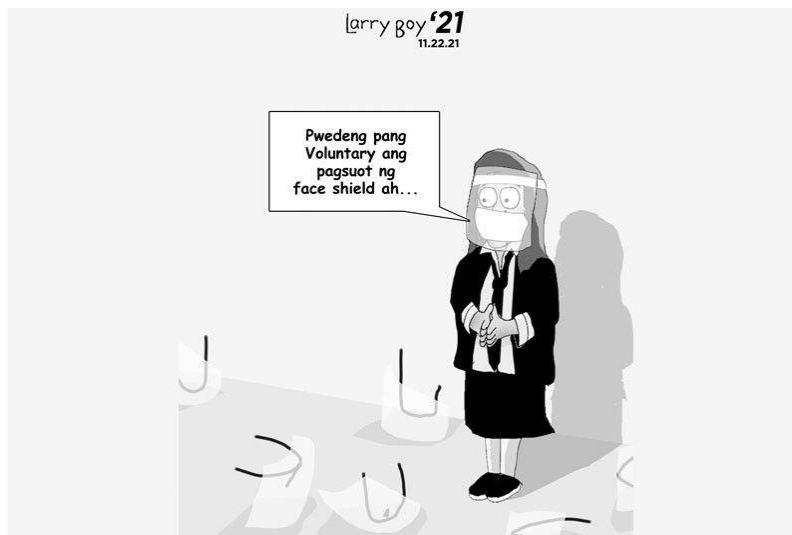
"Around Asia we have millions of square kilometers that are planted with bamboo. So it's just a matter of tapping into other markets where you can get it," he adds.

*This story was first published on CNN.com, ["Bamboo has been used for thousands of years in Asia. Now, it could help solve construction's sustainability problem"](#)*



# EDITORIAL - Huwag munang ibasura ang face shield

Pang-masa November 22, 2021 | 12:00am



BOLUNTARYO na ang pagsusuot ng face shield ngayon. Hindi na sapilitan. Ito ay makaraang ipag-utos ng Malacañang noong nakaraang linggo na hindi required mag-face shield sa pampublikong lugar ang mga tao maliban na lamang kung papasok sa mga ospital o clinic. Maski sa mga mall, puwede nang pumasok nang walang face shield. Pati sa mga pampublikong sasakyan gaya ng jeep ay bihira na ang mga pasaherong naka-face shield.

Marami ang natuwa sa pag-aalis ng face shield. Para sa iba ay wala namang naitutulong ang face shield para mahadlangan ang virus. Wala naman daw katibayan na nakaka-prevent ito sa pagkalat ng virus. Kinakapitan pa nga raw ng virus ang plastic nito at ito ang maaaring mahawakan ng taong may suot nito. Pero sabi ng Department of Health (DOH), malaking tulong ang face shield dahil pangunahing proteksiyon ito sa virus. Kung may face shield, hindi mahahawakan ang mukha, hindi makukusot ang mukha at hindi makakalikot ang ilong.

Pero mas marami ang naniniwalang sagabal ang face shield. Isang araw makaraang gawing boluntaryo ang pagsusuot ng face shield, marami na agad ang nakitang nakakalat o ibinasurang face shield. Sa kalsada, may mga face shield na nasasagasaan ng sasakyan. Mayroon na ring face shield na inanud-anod sa estero at kanal.

Huwag munang magmadali sa pagbabasura sa face shields. Puwede raw munang itago ang mga ito ayon sa ilang environmental groups. Hindi naman daw ito masisira kahit abutin ng ilang taon. Mas safe daw na itago kaysa ibasura dahil makakapekto sa kapaligiran. Dadagdag ito sa mga dati nang basurang plastic na hindi natutunaw at nakabara sa mga daluyan ng tubig.

Ang iba ginagawang hollow block ang mga ginamit na face shield. Gaya sa isang barangay sa Quezon City ang ginagawang bricks o hollow blocks ang mga nagamit nang face shield. Dudurugin nang pino ang plastic ng face shield at ihahalo sa kaunting semento at kaunting buhangin. Hahaluin at ilalagay sa hulmahan at mayroon nang bricks.

Huwag ibabasura ang face shields. Itago na lang muna kaysa ibasura. Mas malaking perwisyo kapag nahantong ang mga ito sa estero, sapa, ilog at dagat. Masisira ang kapaligiran at damay lahat ang mamamayan parang pandemya.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2021/11/22/2142955/editorial-huwag-munang-ibasura-ang-face-shield>





## Nature-pact goal to protect 30% of land and ocean hangs in balance

November 19, 2021 | 4:58 pm



*Apo Myna – Neon Rosell*

KUALA LUMPUR — The central pledge of a planned new global nature pact — to protect 30% of the planet’s land and seas — is in doubt, with some biodiversity-rich nations refusing to commit because of jitters over funding and implementation, officials have warned.

A coalition of about 70 countries — including G7 wealthy governments — have already promised to conserve at least 30% of their land and oceans by 2030, a pledge known as 30×30, to help curb climate change and the loss of plant and animal species.

The 30×30 goal is part of a draft global treaty to safeguard plants, animals and ecosystems, due to be finalized next May at the COP15 nature summit in the Chinese city of Kunming, according to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

“Many countries are supporting it — but also many countries are not supporting it,” said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the CBD’s executive secretary.

“It is still very much for debate,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, adding that effective management of a 30×30 goal would be key.

Improving protection of natural areas, such as parks, oceans, forests and wildernesses, is seen as vital to maintaining the ecosystems on which humans depend, and to limiting global warming to internationally agreed targets.

Dozens of nations pledged to do more to conserve nature and make farming greener at the COP26 UN climate talks this month.

Brian O’Donnell, director of the US-based Campaign for Nature, which is urging leaders to back the 30×30 pledge, said it was “perhaps the most supported target in the negotiations.”

There is broad scientific consensus that protecting or conserving at least 30% of land and oceans is the minimum needed to curb biodiversity loss and to reach climate goals, he added.

But the inclusion of the pledge in the final COP15 accord is far from certain, with improvements needed, said green groups.

“Like it or not, 30×30 will be one of the defining issues for COP15,” said Li Shuo, a policy advisor at Greenpeace China.



“The Kunming biodiversity summit will not be a success only with this target — but it will certainly not be seen as a triumph if without [it],” he added.

## WAIT AND SEE

Southeast Asia covers just 3% of the Earth’s surface but is home to three of the world’s 17 “mega-diverse” countries — Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

It is also the only region where a significant number of countries have yet to back the 30×30 goal, with only Cambodia signing up so far, said Mr. O’Donnell.

South Africa, meanwhile, has called for a much lower target of 20%, he added, while others like Argentina have questioned the science behind the flagship pledge.

On a more positive note, India is the latest country to commit to 30×30.

And at the first part of the COP15 talks, held online last month, host nation China announced a new national parks project that would bring 230,000 square km (88,800 square miles) of land under stronger state protection.

While China has yet to endorse the 30×30 pledge, the signs are that it may be getting ready to do so at the Kunming summit, said Linda Krueger, director of biodiversity at The Nature Conservancy.

Opposition to the 30×30 goal is largely linked to the challenges of putting it into practice, such as financing for developing nations, high population density, low levels of biodiversity and lack of domestic laws, environmentalists said.

But Ms. Krueger said she had only heard Brazil speak out against it clearly. “Many countries seem to be on the fence, and the support of others is conditioned on adequate financing being made available,” she added.

Some political leaders have yet to grasp the economic benefits of conservation, with many still relying on exploitation of natural resources to lift people out of poverty, green groups said.

Others are home to a large proportion of the planet’s biodiversity and want a protection target higher than 30%.

Despite these hurdles, there is significant momentum to land the 30×30 goal in the deal, said Susan Lieberman, vice president of international policy at the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Some countries are still studying how it would play out in their own contexts, she added.

“Many governments do not realize this is a global target and each country will contribute to achievement of the targets in different ways,” Ms. Lieberman said.

“Governments need to look not only at area-based conservation within their own territories, but at what their ‘footprint’ is globally,” she said, pointing to procurement of commodities like timber and fish.

## NO PANACEA

There are also concerns the 30×30 target will threaten the rights of indigenous and local communities — and that new protected areas could dispossess those groups, said Guido Broekhoven, head of policy research and development at WWF International.



These are the very people who for generations have done the most to sustain, defend and restore biodiversity, he said.

The 30x30 pledge will be far more effective in halting and reversing biodiversity loss if protected areas are sited in the most important parts of the planet for biodiversity and ecosystem services, he noted.

That means achieving the target should be “a collective, global effort,” he added, calling for more financing.

Countries with relatively few suitable areas should contribute as far as they can to conservation efforts in other biodiversity-rich nations, Mr. Broekhoven said.

But 30x30 is not “a panacea,” he emphasized, adding that the goal will need to be complemented by reforms to ecologically harmful investment, agriculture and consumption.

“On its own, it will be insufficient to reverse the loss of nature,” he said. — **Michael Taylor/Thomson Reuters Foundation**



22 NOVEMBER 2021, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





# PH logs 2,227 new COVID-19 cases; positivity rate drops to 2.8 percent

By: [Zacarian Sarao](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

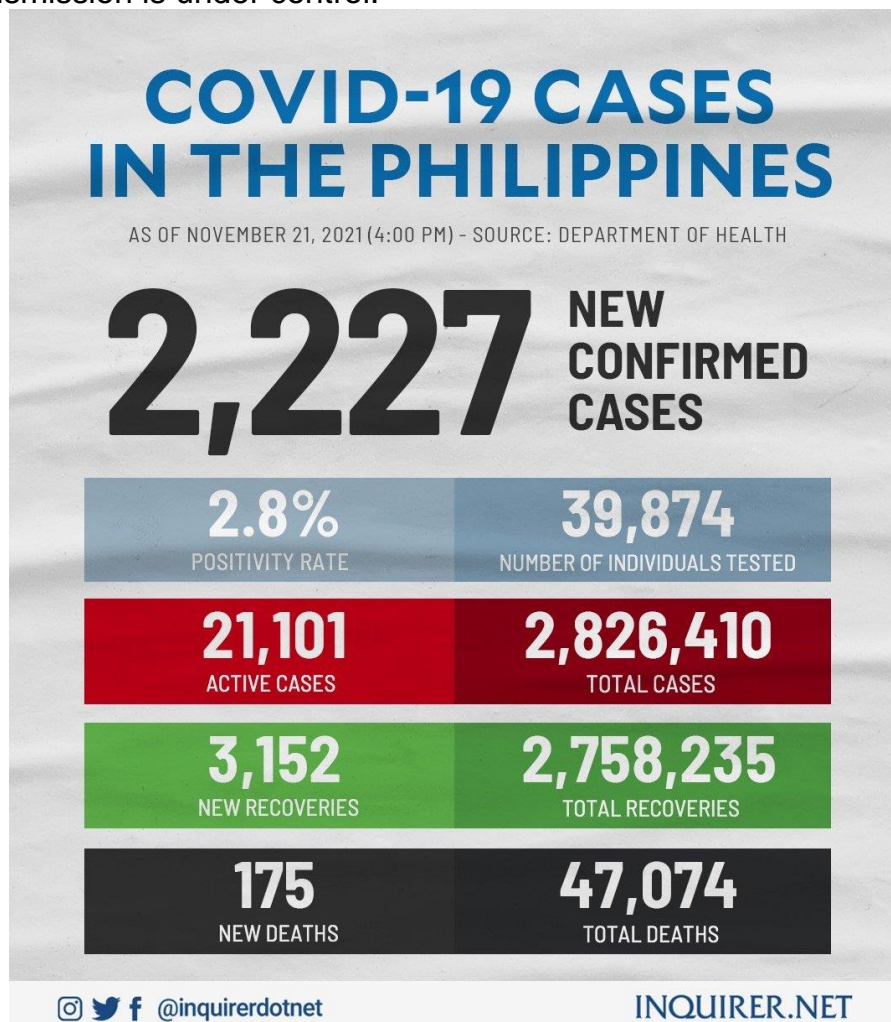
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:15 PM November 21, 2021



(FILE) A medical frontliner administers a swab test on a resident. Image from Facebook/Tuguegarao City Information Office

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Sunday recorded 2,227 additional COVID-19 cases, and 3,152 recoveries to bring down the number of active cases to 21,101.

The new cases only account for 2.8 percent of the 39,874 individuals tested, the first time the Philippines recorded a positivity rate under 3 percent after first dropping below 5 percent on Nov. 10 — the threshold set by the World Health Organization (WHO) to indicate that coronavirus transmission is under control.





With these numbers, confirmed cases and recoveries now stand at 2,826,410 and 2,758,235, respectively.

On the other hand, of the 21,101 patients currently infected, 56.9 percent have mild cases, 4.4 percent are asymptomatic, 20.30 percent are moderate, 13 percent are severe, and 5.5 percent are critical.

The DOH also recorded 175 new deaths, raising the country's death toll to 47,074.

Amid the low numbers, however, the DOH said two laboratories were not able to submit their data in the total tests conducted on November 19. These laboratories contribute, on average, contribute 1.5 percent of samples tested and 0.5 percent of positive individuals.

The health agency added that 125 duplicates were removed from the total case count — of which 107 were recoveries and 4 were deaths.

“In addition, 191 cases were found to have tested negative and have been removed from the total case count. Of these, 189 are recoveries,” said the DOH.

“Moreover, 147 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation,” it added.

/MUF





## Workers to join 3-day vax drive

[Mayen Jaymalin](#) - The Philippine Star November 22, 2021 | 12:00am



A health worker prepares for the inoculation of Quezon City residents at Kia Theatre in Cubao on June 23, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — To have as many workers as possible inoculated during the three-day national vaccination campaign, the country's largest labor group is seeking accessible vaccination sites.

Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) spokesman Alan Tanjusay said several workers are expected to participate in the government's vaccination program.

"We are preparing for the mass vaccination from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1. Our workers really need to be vaccinated," Tanjusay said at a press briefing yesterday.

He said vaccination facilities should be accessible to workers so they would not be discouraged from getting inoculated.

Tanjusay, however, urged the government to exempt workers who have underlying medical conditions, which prevent them from getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

He said the vaccination should be mandatory only for those eligible.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire expressed hope that the government would be able to inoculate 15 million Filipinos during the national vaccination days.

The Department of Health will deploy around 30,000 teams that will man 10,000 vaccination sites.

### **Wage hike**

Meanwhile, despite the reopening of businesses and the rising prices of essential commodities, workers are not seeking a wage increase, Tanjusay said.

The TUCP is assessing the situation and sees no need to file a petition for a salary increase at this time, he said.

Tanjusay said the decision of the TUCP would depend on the country's economic situation by next year.

According to Tanjusay, the capacity of employers to grant a wage hike is among the considerations being studied by the labor group in filing a petition before the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB).

The RTWPBs in Metro Manila and Calabarzon dismissed petitions for salary increase filed by the labor group last year.



Tanjusay, however, said the minimum wage nationwide has been stagnant for almost two years.

He said the current daily minimum wage of P537 in Metro Manila is not enough due to the soaring prices of basic goods and services.

“Ang purchasing power ng minimum wage ay nasa P430 na lamang instead of P537,” he said.

Only workers from companies with trade unions have received salary adjustments because of existing collective bargaining agreements, according to Tanjusay.

He said workers are looking forward to the granting of the 13th-month pay and Christmas bonus to help them make ends meet.

“Malaking bagay para sa mga manggagawa ang 13th-month pay,” Tanjusay said as he urged employers to release the mandatory cash benefit of workers early.

He said soft loans are available to owners of small and medium enterprises who may have difficulty granting the 13th-month pay of workers.



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**





# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 617

## NOBYEMBRE 21, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 0.7%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
21,101

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 97.6%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
2,758,235

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.67%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
47,074

MGA BAGONG KASO **2,227**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **3,152**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **175**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,826,410**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING NOBYEMBRE 19

DATOS NGAYONG NOBYEMBRE 21  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG NOBYEMBRE 19

# 2.8%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 39,874

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS

# 61.2%

ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!

**D** UMISTANSYA NG  
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN  
ANG PISIKAL NA  
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **31%**  
Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (19.8K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **28%**  
Utilized

WARD BEDS (13.3K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **18%**  
Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
 **18%**  
Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **31%**  
Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **25%**  
Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.0K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **23%**  
Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
 **20%**  
Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA  
AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 56.9%

4.4% Asymptomatic

5.5% Critical

13.0% Severe

20.30% Moderate



## UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ngayong Linggo, inaasahan ang pagdagda ng mga tao sa mga pampublikong pasyalan at simbahan. Kaya muling pinapalamanan na sumunod ng husto sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** upang makaiwas sa COVID-19. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555**, **(02)886-505-00**, **0915-777-7777**, o sa **0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, 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.



Ihahanap 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

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: [kontracovid.ph](http://kontracovid.ph)



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP  
at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](http://Staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

[doh.gov.ph](http://doh.gov.ph)

(02) 894-COVID / 1555



22 NOVEMBER 2021, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVUZpe1ioio&ab\\_channel=SaunterVlog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVUZpe1ioio&ab_channel=SaunterVlog)

[Manila Bay Update] Dolomite Sand Beach 2021 November 21

282 views • Nov 21, 2021

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220 subscribers

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Manila bay ongoing rehabilitation project and dolomite sand beach update for today November 21, 2021



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Manila Bay Update Nov/21/21

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