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DENR lauds FDC Misamis' carbon sink program

February 24, 2021 | 2:44 pm



Aerial view of FDC Misamis Power Corporation's 140-hectare carbon sink project in Barangay Sambulawan, El Salvador City Misamis Oriental. The project is in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau in Region 10 and Barangay Sambulawan. It aims to help sequester carbon emission to maintain the air quality in the province. (Photo courtesy of DENR-EMB 10)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau -Region 10 (DENR-EMB 10) lauded FDC Misamis Power Corporation (FDC Misamis) for its steadfast efforts in maintaining its carbon sink management program (CSMP) in the province of Misamis Oriental.

In 2018, FDC Misamis inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for a Carbon Sink Project with DENR-EMB-10 and Barangay Sambulawan in El Salvador City, the power firm's first major carbon sink project, establishing a man-made forest and help sequester carbon emission to maintain the air quality in the province.

FDC Misamis was touted to be "a show window of a successful carbon sink for coal-fired power plants in the Region," according to a letter from the DENR EMB-10 after its most recent site inspection in January 2021.

The agency applauded the power firm for the suitability of its CSMP area, management and supervision scheme of existing forested areas, and planted species' highly adaptive characteristics. The 80-hectare land is now home to indigenous trees such as An-an, Tipolo, Maribojoc, Bangkal, Acacia, Alim (Alum), Magtangali, Rattan, and Kalikoy, among many. Meanwhile, the additional 40 hectares were populated with Mangium and Bagras species.

The agency's comments humbled FDC Misamis' management.

"It is encouraging to know that the DENR-EMB 10 sees our efforts, which is more than for compliance purposes. This project, along with many other social development programs, is our way of giving back to Mindanao and is consistent with the Filinvest's trust in making a difference in the lives of Filipinos," says FDC Misamis President and CEO Juan Eugenio L. Roxas.

"The disruptions brought by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 may have given the planet a halt, temporarily improving air quality worldwide. But as we move forward in this post-covid era, environmental stewardship must be at the forefront to truly mitigate greenhouse gas emissions," Roxas added.





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FDC Misamis is a subsidiary of FDC Utilities, Inc., the Gotianun-led Filinvest Development Corporation's utilities and power arm. It operates a 3×135-MW circulating fluidized bed coal thermal plant in Villanueva town, one of Northern Mindanao's biggest. Since its commercial operations in 2016, the facility has been supplying stable and cost-effective power. The company plays a vital role in ensuring the stability of the Mindanao grid throughout the pandemic.

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-lauds-fdc-misamis-carbon-sink-program/





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DENR-Davao Intensifies Mt. Apo Trekking And Camping Policy



ByFeaturesdesk (MD)

February 24, 2021

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Davao Region (DENR-XI) will further intensify the environmental laws for hikers in Mt. Apo after finding some non-observant waste disposal and vandalism after the recently concluded assessment monitoring on February 11 to 14.

DENR-Davao Regional Executive Director Bagani Fidel Evasco together with other selected officials and personnel from Davao Oriental and Davao del Sur joined to visit and assess the condition of the trail after finding that tourists flock during the long weekend.

In a statement posted on its official Facebook page, the official said trekkers seemed to ignore the existing policy. DENR-Davao wrote, "Trails and campsites were not just left with traces of footprints- so were empty bottles, face, masks, and all other kinds of trash."

"Disappointingly, liquors and traces of drug substances were also observed in the area," DENR-Davao added. It is also noted that vandalism was observed along its trails and non-observance of IATF guidelines for social distancing have been violated.

Hence, the DENR-Davao's effort to protect the "King of Philippine Mountain" from exploitation has ordered all the stakeholders in Mt. Apo to cooperate and unite with the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) to strictly follow their guidelines.

Otherwise, fines will be concluded and closure of Mt. Apo might be possible these coming days to give way for the rehabilitation of the site if stakeholders and trekkers continue to violate the new guidelines.

Source: https://www.facebook.com/denr11official

Source: http://pageone.ph/denr-davao-intensifies-mt-apo-trekking-and-camping-policy/





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Rare birds in Iloilo show healthy wetlands in Visayan Island

Published February 24, 2021, 10:27 AM by Tara Yap

ILOILO CITY – Rare birds have recently been spotted in Iloilo City and Zarraga town, Iloilo province.



A team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has spotted rare birds recently both in Iloilo City and Iloilo province. (DENR-6 / MANILA BULLETIN)

Foremost, a team from the Conservation and Development Division (CDD) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-6) saw a Glossy ibis (scientific name Plegadis falcinellus) at a wetland in Hinactacan village of La Paz district in Iloilo City. The bird was found feeding, wading and flapping its wings.

"This is the second recorded stopover of Glossy ibis, a migratory bird that very rarely visits the country. It was found feeding and foraging in one of the wetlands," said DENR-6 Regional Director Francisco Milla Jr.

When the CDD team proceeded to a wetland in Zarraga town, another group of rare birds were found. These were the Black-winged stilt, Grey heron (Ardea cinerea), Wood sandpiper (Tringa glareola), Little egret (Egretta garzetta), Perigrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), Common tern (Sterna hirundo), Great egret, and Purple heron.

"These sightings of rare birds only show we have healthy wetlands in Iloilo. We encourage everyone to help preserve these precious natural species," Milla added.

Meanwhile, preservation of wetlands is among the top priorities of DENR-6 in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental provinces as well as the cities of Iloilo and Bacolod.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/24/rare-birds-in-iloilo-show-healthy-wetlands-in-visayan-island/





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DENR officials inspect bioethanol plant's violations



SAN CARLOS. DENR-EMB-Western Visayas team gets wastewater samples from canals near the plant. (Contributed photo)

February 25, 2021

REPRESENTATIVES of the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR) Western Visayas headed by Engineer Paul Wellen Orosio arrived in San Carlos City Wednesday morning, February 24, 2021, to inspect alleged violations of the San Carlos Bioenergy Inc. (SCBI).

The team together with the City Environment Management Office (Cemo) examined the holding ponds, creeks, and coastline of Tañon Strait, including the wastewater coming from the bioethanol plant.

Orosio said the San Carlos City local government unit through City Mayor Renato Y. Gustilo requested to have the situation investigated by the DENR and to confirm reports if indeed effluent from the bioethanol plant already reached Tañon Straight.

He added that they will make an initial assessment based on their field inspection, wait for the analysis of the samples taken from various bodies of water to know where the discoloration started and ended and submit it to the regional office for adjudication.

Other than Orosio, the team composed of Engr. Cristina Ruth Desuyo, and Engr. Geremae Magbanua also took pictures and saw that liquid wastes stored at the plant's holding ponds were almost overflowing that SCBI had barricaded the walls with sandbags and tires to prevent them from collapsing into the roadside of Route 7 national highway.

On Wednesday, City Mayor Renato Gustilo said he will not allow SCBI to operate until they settle environmental issues.

"I have a moral obligation towards the people of San Carlos, to protect their welfare and also the environment," Gustilo said.

Engr. Arthur Batomalaque, senior environment management specialist of Cemo, confirmed that years ago, the SCBI was already penalized by the DENR for the violations they referred to the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB), including recurring water discolorations, foul smell and other environmental issues.

The SCBI is the first regenerative combined cycle power plant in Asia using sugar cane that produces 42 million liters of bioethanol per annum and 8 megawatts of electricity. Its operation, which started in 2008, was halted on February 19, 2021, due to the order of Gustilo after its effluent spilled again to certain waterways of the city going to the coastline and into the open sea. **(PR)**

Source: https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1887020/Bacolod/Local-News/DENR-officials-inspect-bioethanol-plants-violations





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Green sea turtle dies after ingesting plastic straw, nylon

Published February 24, 2021, 10:01 AM by Nonoy Lacson

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A female Green Sea Turtle died shortly after it was rescued by Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) of Guipos and Bureau of Fish and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Barangay Kabatan, Vincenzo Sagun, Zamboanga del Sur.



Rescuers exert effort to save a green turtle discovered trapped last week inside a fish pen in Zamboanga City (DENR Zamboanga Peninsula Facebook page)

Zamboanga del Sur Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO) Ben Acana said Tuesday, Feb. 23 the sea turtle was discovered trapped last week inside a fish pen by Alberto Gratol, a local fisherman in the village who reported it to CENRO Guipos and BFAR.

Acana said a team immediately conducted rescue operation to save the turtle but the green sea turtle was found weak and was also covered in barnacles around its plastron, flippers, carapace, and neck and died shortly after the rescue operation.

A necropsy examination was immediately conducted by personnel from the Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) of Guipos and BFAR. It was found out that the turtle ingested plastic straw and nylon.

Acana explained that the food of green turtles changes with age. Juveniles are carnivorous, but as they mature they become omnivorous. Young sea turtles eat fish eggs, mollusks, jellyfish, small invertebrates, worms, sponges, algae, and crustaceans.

"This is just one of many incidents of marine species dying due to ingestion of plastic wastes," said Acana.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Zamboanga peninsula reminds everyone to help on the conservation and protection of our environment and natural resources.

Green sea turtles are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1982 as endangered due to its decreasing population.

According to the website of Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines among the threats to green sea turtles are habitat degradation and destruction of feeding areas and nesting beaches and pollution.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/24/green-sea-turtle-dies-after-ingesting-plastic-straw-nylon/





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House panel OKs measure imposing stiff penalties for destruction of heritage trees

Published February 24, 2021, 10:55 PM by Ben Rosario

The House Committee on Natural Resources recommended Wednesday, February 24, the approval of a bill providing for the sustainable management of heritage trees and the imposition of hefty fines and long prison terms against persons found guilty of destroying or vandalizing them.



Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga

Chaired by Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga, the House panel also approved House Bill 8430 proposing to declare Lumbo Spring in Dolores, Quezon a protected Watershed Reserve. The bill is authored by Quezon Rep. David C. Suarez.

The committee also took up HB 4781 seeking to declare century-old acacia trees in Binalonan, Pangasinan as local heritage trees. The bill is authored by Pangasinan Rep. Ramon V. Guico III who failed to show up during the committee deliberation.

Authored by Reps. Paulo Duterte (HNP, Davao City) and Eric Go Yap (ACT-CIS Partylist), HB 7804 sought the protection of heritage trees which are to be identified and declared as such.

Barzaga said the bill proposes the marking and protection of heritage trees that are defined as "any healthy native, or endemic, exotic, rare, threatened and endangered tree with a minimum girth of five meters with consideration on its scientific rarity, historical, cultural, social educational and aesthetic significance."

To ensure the protection and management of heritage trees, local government units where they are located are given primary responsibility to care for them.

Heritage trees may also be adopted by any individual or organization upon approval of their application by the Forest Management Bureau.

According to Barzaga, authors of the measure have identified some of the offenses and penalties as:

- -Unlawful occupation of heritage tree sites punishable with imprisonment of six to 12 years;
- -Destruction of heritage trees to be penalized with imprisonment of up to 12 years and fine of not less than P10 million:





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- -Vandalizing heritage trees punishable with a maximum P100,000 fine and six months imprisonment;
- Issuance of land titles or tax declaration on heritage tree sites that will be penalized with a fine of P500,000 and at least six years imprisonment.

In filing HB 8430, Suarez stressed the urgency of passing the bill that is necessary to protect Lumbo Spring watershed reserve from "indiscriminate exploitation". He said protection of the area will ensure ecological balance and preserve the water supply for Dolores folk.

Meanwhile, the natural resources committee deliberated on HB 4781 proposing to declare as local heritage trees at least 66 acacia trees in Binalonan.

Representing the town mayor, Clarissa Cabangan said there are a total of 44 trees surrounding the municipal town plaza while at least 20 more are located in various areas of Binalonan.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/24/house-panel-oks-measure-imposing-stiff-penalties-for-destruction-of-heritage-trees/





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Northern Samar town seeks protection of major river

By Roel Amazona February 24, 2021, 1:22 pm



CLEAN-UP. Volunteers join a clean-up drive of Catarman River in Northern Samar in this Feb. 13, 2021 photo. Several public hearings have been lined up for the proposed ordinance seeking to protect the Catarman River in Northern Samar and its tributaries. (*Photo courtesy of Councilor Nerissa Daclag*)

TACLOBAN CITY – Several public hearings have been lined up for the proposed ordinance seeking to protect the Catarman River in Northern Samar and its tributaries, an official announced on Wednesday.

Authored by Councilors Nerissa Daclag, Fernando Carpio, Lito Custorio, and Karl Andre Balajadia, the proposed measure is called "Catarman River Protection and Conservation Ordinance of 2021."

The ordinance primarily seeks to rehabilitate the tributaries such as the twin Maroyondoyon and Caglangkoy creeks in Molave village as well as the Taguibian River in Cawayan village.

"Let's all work hand in hand to protect our environment for a better and brighter tomorrow before it's too late," Daclag said in her social media post.

Since Feb. 17, public hearings have been held in the villages of Cervantes, Macagtas, Bangkerohan, and Catarman town center. The town is the capital of Northern Samar province.

The Catarman River, a major provincial river in Northern Samar, divides the eastern and the western parts of the capital town of the province. It is fed by several tributaries.

Under the proposed ordinance building of houses, toilets, pigpens, and other structures within the buffer and easement zones of the river system will be prohibited, Daclag.

Also banned are littering, throwing, and dumping of solid waste; discharge of untreated liquid waste; cutting of trees, bamboos, or nipa palms; use of chemical and other poisonous substances; and dumping of special wastes along the river zones.

Once approved, violators will be fined PHP500 to PHP2,500 and be in jail for 15 to 30 days.

Pollution at the river was due to rampant dumping of garbage, open defecation, and discharge of wastewater into the streams.

The ordinance also seeks to build river control, dredging of Catarman River delta, bamboo and nipa production, trees preservation, and organization of a team to monitor and spearhead regular clean-ups in the river and its channels.

Once approved, the ordinance will create the "Care Catarman River Council" which shall be chaired by the town mayor with the town council chair on environmental protection as vice-chairman. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1131698





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Andanar hails BOC-10 chief's resolve to fight environmental crime

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos February 24, 2021, 5:34 pm



Communications Secretary Martin Andanar (File photo)

MANILA – Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar on Wednesday lauded a Bureau of Customs (BOC) collector for enforcing the country's laws against environmental crimes.

In a press statement, Andanar praised Bureau of Customs' Region 10 (BOC-10) district collector John Simon for being one of the recipients of the United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) 2020 Asia Environment Enforcement Awards.

Andanar said Simon's resolve to fight environmental crime reflects the overall sentiment and the policies of the Duterte administration in addressing illegal waste shipment.

"Environmental degradation continues to be a pressing global issue, and Mr. Simon and the agency's commitment to upending smuggling operations in the country, particularly of illegal waste, and upholding environmental justice in the Philippines is truly commendable," he said.

Simon and his office's dedication likewise contribute to the overall campaign of UNEP in promoting environmental justice, Andanar said.

Andanar, being the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS) for Northern Mindanao, said the recognition of Simon's outstanding efforts supports the whole-of-society programs in Region 10 for the advancement of its progress.

He is optimistic that Simon would inspire Filipinos to also take part in protecting the environment.

"May Mr. Simon and the agency's contribution to our nation, to the international community, and to our environment be an inspiration to us all to preserve, protect, and promote the welfare of our environment for generations to come," he said.

UNEP conferred the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award on Simon on Feb. 17 for his "excellent work in combatting transboundary environmental crime."

In recognition of his efforts to return the tons of trash to South Korea, Simon also received on Jan. 19 the "Environmental Justice Award" from environmental group EcoWaste Coalition.

Simon is also the recipient of the 2020 Asia Environmental Enforcement Award by the World Customs Organization, a first in the BOC history.

Around 7,500 tons of industrial garbage from Pyeongtaek City, South Korea were dumped in the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental in two batches in 2018.

Bilateral negotiations initiated by BOC-10 led to the return of illegal waste to South Korea in seven batches from January to September last year. *(PNA)*

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1131760





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Nation in serious trouble because of climate change — Duterte

Published February 25, 2021, 12:16 AM by Genalyn Kabiling

The country is in "serious trouble" as the rapid changes in the global climate have contributed to severe storms and floods, President Duterte announced Wednesday.



President Rodrigo Duterte

In a televised address Wednesday, the President admitted that the country was "not prepared" in the event of severe weather conditions caused by climate change.

The Philippines is exposed to typhoons and other natural disasters due to its geographical location. Auring, the first tropical storm, hit parts of Visayas and Mindanao a few days ago, triggering floods and forcing thousands of families to evacuate their house.

Duterte used to doubt climate change but changed his mind when he noticed the increased frequency and intensity of storms and other weather systems due to the warming of the planet.

"Noong una, yung climate change ano pa ako noon, parang ayaw ko maniwala but ngayon sobra talaga ang tubig galing sa langit because umiinit ang planeta (At first, I did not believe climate change but now the rains coming from the heavens are heavy due to the warming of the planet), he said.

"Even by a certain degree higher, we are in serious trouble kasi yung dagat mabilis na rin yung singaw ng tubig. The biggest..mas marami pa sa land mass ang tubig kaya kung bumagsak 'yan talagang todong-todo. and we are not prepared for that (due to the fast evaporation of water in the ocean. Water is bigger than the land mass so when it falls, the impact is severe)," he said.

Duterte also observed that climate change has disrupted the weather patterns, saying typhoons can now hit the country anytime of the year.

"Noon (In the past) we have the typhoons and the hot weather and cold weather, usually in December pero ngayon wala na panahon sa bagyo. The bagyo can come anytime. Nagwawala nga ang tubig sa dagat," he said.

Dutere talked about the environmental problems facing the nation after visiting the storm-hit Surigao del Sur. He made an aerial inspection of the flooded towns and held a situation briefing with concerned officials afterwards.





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"There was really no thing as destruction. Well there were but it was because of the flooding," he said.

Concerned Cabinet members have been ordered by the President to speed up the delivery of relief and rehabilitation assistance to the storm-affected communities. He said they must ensure the affected families have food, water and shelter to help them recover from the latest calamity.

 $Source: \underline{https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/25/nation-in-serious-trouble-because-of-climate-change-\underline{duterte/}}$





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Mondelez PHL, Plastic Flamingo to build disaster relief shelters

By Jonathan L. Mayuga February 25, 2021



Mondelez Philippines Inc. is partnering with social enterprise the Plastic Flamingo to collect and recycle 40 metric tons (MT) of post-consumer plastic packaging this year to build disaster relief shelters for highly-at-risks areas.

During an online press conference highlighting the launch of the partnership, Joseph Fabul, Mondelez Philippines Country Manager for Corporate and Government Affairs, said the partnership is geared towards the company's goal of contributing to a better future amid the pandemic.

The company is committed to reducing its carbon footprint. In 2018, it made a commitment to make 100 percent of the packaging recyclable by 2025. To date, Fabul said the company is about 94-percent globally compliant.

"Around a fifth of our packaging globally is plastic. But only 2 percent of that packaging is recycled in practice at scale," he said. "The paper and carton boards, and some rigid plastics and flexible plastic films are already designed to be recycled."

Aside from Eden cheese and Cheez Whiz, Mondelez is the producer of iconic global and local brands such as OREO, belVita and LU biscuits; Cadbury Dairy Milk, Milka and Toblerone chocolate; Sour Patch Kids candy and Trident gum.

While the company strives to make its packaging materials 100 percent sustainable, Fabul said that to date, technology is limited and that science has not offered a better alternative to plastic packaging like flexibles which the company uses to ensure food safety, and keep the food products fresh and in the best condition.

Nevertheless, Mondelez Philippines, he said, fully supports the government's plan to ban certain types of plastics saying that it is in fact aligned with the company's global goal.

"One of our global goals is to help minimize our climate change impact by addressing the collection and recycling of platic packaging. This means investing in waste management," he said.

The company's partnership with The Plastic Flamingo, a social company enterprise established in 2019, whose mission is to collect and recycle plastic wastes before they reach the ocean, started in 2020.

Todate, the partnership has expanded from a previous 1 MT collection agreement to a new commitment of collecting and recycling 40 MT of post-consumer plastic packaging, which translates to some 40,000 kilograms of waste to be collected from designated pick-up points and processed into recycled ecolumber.





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The eco-lumber will be used to create disaster relief shelters or huts for use during typhoons and the like. "Plastic is a highly efficient material for food packaging that provides the right levels of safety, quality, product protection, and preservation. Simply put, there are no available replacements for food plastic packaging yet to ensure the contents remain safe, high quality and affordable," he said.

Nevertheless, Fabul said the company supports eliminating unnecessary plastic, or items which have viable replacements that do not harm the environment."

Fabul also highlights that at the core of this much-debated issue is proper waste management.

"Inconsistent collection and not enough recycling facilities means that plastic as well as other waste often end up in landfills, communities, or oceans—whether they are recyclable or not."

Francois Lesage, CEO of The Plastic Flamingo, during the same press conference, commended Mondelez Philippines' continuing commitment to ensuring that proper collection and recycling of plastic happens in the country.

The Plastic Flamingo believes that a world without oceanic waste is possible with collective effort from different members of the community.

He agreed with Fabul's statement that the task of addressing the country's solid waste management problem should not rest on the shoulder of the government alone, adding that manufacturers and consumers can help prevent plastic pollution by working together.

"We encourage everyone to segregate waste in their homes, and to find recycling centers in their communities so that waste is properly disposed of depending on its kind. For plastic waste, the simple step is to ensure it ends in the trash rather than disposing of it just anywhere. These are things we all can do. And for those who can, we encourage investing in collection and recycling activities to make a greater impact together."

The Plastic Flamingo, he said, does not use incineration technology in recycling plastics, ensuring the public that in the process of upscaling plastics, no toxic fumes are emitted into the atmosphere or air pollutants added to the air the people breathe.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/02/25/mondelez-phl-plastic-flamingo-to-build-disaster-relief-shelters/





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Mondelez, Plastic Flamingo to recycle 40 tons of plastic

By ... -February 25, 2021



The eco-lumber produced from the plastic waste will be used to create disaster relief shelters or huts for use during typhoons and the like.

Snacks company Mondelez Philippines has forged a new partnership with social enterprise The Plastic Flamingo to collect and recycle 40 metric tons of post-consumer plastic packaging this year.

The Plastic Flamingo is a social company based in Manila that aims to tackle marine plastic pollution. It collects and recycles plastic waste before it reaches the oceans.

Started in 2020, the partnership between the two organizations has expanded from a previous 1 metric ton collection agreement to a new commitment of collecting and recycling 40 metric tons of post-consumer plastic packaging.

This translates to some 40,000 kg of waste to be collected from designated pick-up points and processed into recycled eco-lumber. The eco-lumber will be used to create disaster relief shelters or huts for use during typhoons and the like.

"Plastic is a highly efficient material for food packaging that provides the right levels of safety, quality, product protection, and preservation. Simply put, there are no available replacements for food plastic packaging yet to ensure the contents remain safe, high quality and affordable," said Joseph Fabul, Mondelez Philippines country manager for Corporate and Government Affairs.

Through this partnership with The Plastic Flamingo, Mondelez aims to promote proper waste segregation and recycling.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/mondelez-plastic-flamingo-to-recycle-40-tons-of-plastic/





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Farmer earns more than P300K in 3 months from Cagdianao Mining's greening program

By ... -February 25, 2021



Bernjie C. Fruta earns more than P300K by simply growing seedlings for CMC. He's shown here in his nursery with Jean M. Litang, Community Development Coordinator of CMC's Community Relations Department.

In 2019, the year before the pandemic hit hard on the communities, Cagdianao Mining Corp. (CMC), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), initiated a seedling production program that continues to benefit residents in the Dinagat Islands financially and proves that there is money in 'greening' and in environment protection activities.

To date, CMC's "ECOmmunity Program" has already paid up some P4.4M to participants of this livelihood program from the mining company's 5 host barangays – Boa, Cuarinta, Diegas, Legaspi and Valencia – who produced more than 1 Million seedlings and planting materials that CMC uses for its various mine rehabilitation and greening programs.

One of the participants to the program is 38 year old Bernjie C. Fruta from barangay Diegas, who received <u>P326,340.00</u> for producing <u>37,000</u> seedlings, mostly fruit trees and native shrubs, which he and his sub-contractor, Diosdado Duhiling, 48, grew in their own nursery over a period of 3 months.

CMC initiated the "ECOmmunity Program" to directly engage community stakeholders in the company's rehabilitation and reforestation commitments. Fruta and Duhilig are only two among the '71 contractors and 124 sub-contractors' carefully vetted to be part of the said program.

The program also aims to uplift the lives of beneficiaries through contracted seedling production, raising awareness about the environment, its protection and conservation.

"We are reaching out to the communities for this program where residents operate their own seedling nurseries from where they grow planting materials that they will provide for our reforestation and rehabilitation needs, we buy each seedling for P9 pesos each and the residents can grow thousands of them in a few months," says Engr. Arnilo C. Milaor, CMC's Resident Mine Manager.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/farmer-earns-more-than-p300k-in-3-months-from-cagdianao-minings-greening-program/





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Dinagat farmers pandemic-proof under Cagdianao Mining greening program

One participant was paid P326,340 for producing 37,000 seedlings, mostly fruit trees and native shrubs which were nurtured for three months

A year before the Covid-19 pandemic, Cagdianao Mining Corp. (CMC), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), initiated a seedling production program that made Dinagat Islands residents realize there is money in "greening" and in environment protection activities.

Involving the communities in CMC's greening programs is heartwarning.

To date, CMC's ECOmmunity Program has already released some P4.4 million to participants from the mining company's five host villages — Boa, Cuarinta, Diegas, Legaspi and Valencia—and produced more than a million seedlings and farming materials for various mine rehabilitation and greening programs.

One of the participants, 38-year-old Bernie Fruta from

Barangay Diegas, received P326,340 for producing 37,000 seedlings, mostly fruit trees and native shrubs. He and his sub-contractor, Diosdado Duhiling, 48, nurtured their nursery for three months.

CMC directly engaged with community stakeholders in the company's rehabilitation and reforestation commitments. Fruta and Duhiling were among the 71 contractors and 124 sub-contractors.

The program also aims to uplift the lives of beneficiaries through contracted seedling production and raising awareness about the environment, its protection and conservation.

"We are reaching out to the communities for this program where residents operate their own seedling nurseries from where they grow planting materials that they will provide for our reforestation and rehabilitation needs. We buy each seedling for P9 each and the residents can grow thousands of them in a few months," Arnilo Milaor, CMC's resident mine manager, said.

Nathalie Radaza, CMC's community output-based program coordinator, said it was the first time for several ECOmmunity participants to hold huge amounts of money.

"Involving the communities in CMC's greening programs is heartwarning. It is so satisfying to hear personal stories of how the company is helping the mining communities become financially independent," she shared.

Radaza, who obtained a degree in Environmental Science from Caraga State University, joined CMC right after her graduation in 2018. It has always been her dream to be involved in environmental protection and reforestation initiatives.





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UK-based youth group to do virtual 1,083-mile walk to raise funds for PH scholars, tree-planting

Published February 24, 2021, 12:06 PM by Jaleen Ramos

London-based youth organization Yapak has unveiled a fundraising project that aims to support poverty-stricken students and finance tree-planting efforts in the Philippines.

The Yapak Walk 2021 presented its "Length of the UK Virtual Challenge," a 1,083-mile (1,743 km) road trip from Land's End in Cornwall in the United Kingdom to John O'Groats in the Scottish Highlands.

Around 400 Yapak ambassadors, most of whom came from poor families, can benefit from the project.

"Simula nung bata ako, I believe na we have to support ang mga kabataan na matulungan lalo na yung gusto I-explore ang kanilang talent (Since I was a child, I believe that we have to support young people, especially those who want to explore their talent)," Elija Villanueva, founder of Yapak, told the Manila Bulletin.

Yapak, founded in 2017, has so far granted a scholarship to more than 70 students in the country.

"Nagsimula ako sa hirap kaya at naging scholar ng ibat ibang organisation. Gusto ko lang ibalik yung blessing sa ibang mga tao, lalung-lalo na sa mga kabataan (I grew up poor and became a scholar of various organizations. I just want to give back the blessing to other people especially to the youth)," Villanueva said.

The project also aims to plant 10,000 trees around the Philippines to help in the reduction of carbon emissions globally while providing livelihood and healthier environment for people and wildlife locally.

In exchange for this, the team will have to complete a 1,743km walk, virtually.

"With your support, we can restore the world to its former glory, one YAPAK (step) at a time. We have partnered with local agencies to help us with this project," the group said on its website.

Among the trees that will be planted are Katmon, Molave, Narra, Papaya, Mango, and Banana which will help not only in reducing carbon emissions but also provide food and materials for shelter in the long run.

"Please help us restore the Philippines into the green paradise it once was; home to many endemic flora and fauna, while fulfilling the needs of its stakeholders sustainably," it added.

The campaign started last February 1 and will finish on April 22, 2021.

"YAPAK provides a manifesto in generating and staking innovative literary pieces and inspiring stories of Filipinos through the internet and communal conventions in diverse parts of the world," the group said on its website.

"YAPAK's primary purpose is to instil in the youth from all over the world these values — the Love of God (Maka-Diyos), People (Maka-tao), Nature (Makakalikasan), and Country (Makabansa), to honour their respective families, and contribute to society."

Last year, the organization also held the first Filipino Spoken Word Poetry in London with an aim to promote Filipino culture and values, as well as illustrating scenarios of the frontliners' daily struggle in fighting against COVID-19 through writing and performing.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/24/uk-based-youth-group-to-do-virtual-1083-mile-walk-to-raise-funds-for-ph-scholars-tree-planting/





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Malinis na tubig ang isa sa pinakamahalagang panlaban sa COVID-19 at iba pang sakit

ni Bong Revilla - @Anak ng Teteng | February 24, 2021

Patuloy na dumarami ang ulat ng kung anu-anong sakit na nakukuha ng ating mga kababayan dahil sa kakulangan ng access sa malinis na tubig sa kani-kanilang lugar.

Isa sa tinutugunan ng Department of Health (DOH) ang mga kababayan nating nagkakaroon ng Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH), isang sakit na binabalewala ngunit maaaring makaapekto sa pisikal at mental na kalagayan ng isang tao.

Katunayan ay halos nasa 2.4 milyong may edad na isa hanggang 11 na taon ang isinailalim sa deworming activity ng DOH sa Bicol Region upang mailigtas sa pagkalat nitong STH.

Ayon sa DOH, para maiwasang mahawa sa naturang sakit ay kailangang-kailangang maghugas ng mabuti ng mga kamay bago kumain, maghugas ding mabuti ng kamay pagkagaling sa comfort room, maligo, uminom ng malinis na tubig, hugasang mabuti ang pagkain bago iluto at dapat potable water.

Kung inyong mapapansin ay puro tubig lamang ang pangunahing solusyon para labanan ang nabanggit na sakit at napakarami pang sakit sa bansa na nakukuha dahil lamang sa maruming tubig.

Malaki ang iginugugol ng DOH para labanan ang iba't ibang sakit sa bansa na ang tanging dahilan lang naman ay ang pagkakaroon ng malinis na tubig na pangunahing gawain ng Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA).

Lumalabas na hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay nasa 45 porsiyento lamang sa buong bansa ang may access sa malinis na tubig at tila lubhang napakabagal nang pag-usad kung paano ito matutugunan.

Ang LWUA na binuo sa ilalim ng Presidential Decree No. 198 na mas kilala sa 'The Provincial Water Utilities Act of 1973' na nilagdaan at naging isang batas noong Mayo 25, 1973 pa.

Is a itong government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) na may specialized lending function at may mandato ng batas na tutukan at ayusin ang development ng water supply systems sa mga lalawigan, siyudad at munisipalidad na nasa labas ng Metropolitan Manila.

At dahil sa pagkalat ng sakit dahil sa kakulangan ng malinis na tubig ay isa sa maaaring tanungin ay ang LWUA kung bakit hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay mas malaki pa ang porsiyento ng mga lugar na walang access sa malinis na tubig.

Taliwas ito sa pangarap ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na nais niyang makita ang bawat bahay sa bansa na may dumadaloy na malinis na tubig sa kani-kanilang gripo partikular sa mga lalawigan.

Isa sa nakikitang dahilan kaya hindi makagalaw nang maayos ang LWUA ay ang kakulangan nila ng sapat na pondo para maisaayos ang mga water district sa mga probinsiya na hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay marami ang naghihintay.





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Kung sa inaakala ng marami na may pagkukulang din talaga ang LWUA sa pagtugon upang magkaroon ng malinis na tubig ang maraming lugar sa mga lalawigan ay panahon na para doblehin naman nila ang kanilang pagsisikap dahil nakakaawa ang marami nating kababayan.

Lalo pa at may pandemya, kailangang-kailangan ang tubig para labanan ang COVID-19 dahil ang regular na paghuhugas mula sa malinis na tubig ang isa sa maaaring magsalba sa atin para hindi mahawa ng virus na ito.

Marahil ay panahon na para bigyang-pansin ang problemang ito dahil higit na malaki ang matitipid ng DOH kung maisasaayos at mapalalakas ang operasyon ng LWUA dahil mababawasan na ang magkakasakit kung lahat ay may access sa malinis na tubig.

Sa susunod na lang natin talakayin ang tungkol sa amoebiasis, diarrhea at marami pang ibang sakit na lahat ay posibleng makuha sa maruming tubig.

Anak Ng Teteng!

May katanungan ka ba, reklamo o nais ihingi ng tulong? Sumulat sa ANAK NG TETENG! ni BONG REVILLA sa BULGAR Bldg., 538 Quezon Ave., Quezon City o mag-email sa anakngteteng.bulgar@gmail.com

Source: https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/malinis-na-tubig-ang-isa-sa-pinakamahalagang-panlaban-sa-covid-19-at-iba-pang-sakit





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Barangay officials monitor residents entering and exiting the controlled checkpoint as 33 barangays were placed under strict lockdown for 14 days following the continuous increase in COVID-19 cases in Pasay City on February 21, 2020.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

COVID-19 cases in Philippines hit 566,420 with 1,557 new infections

Gaea Katreena Cabico (Philstar.com) - February 24, 2021 - 4:00pm

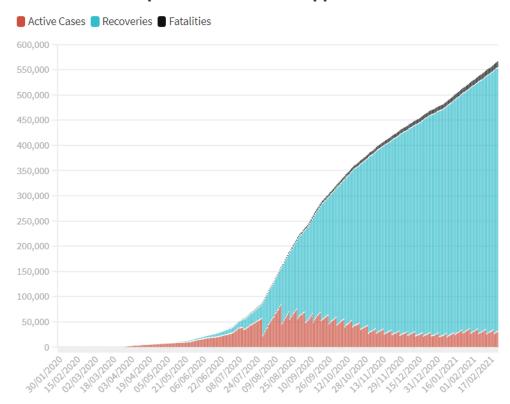
MANILA, Philippines — The country's coronavirus caseload rose to 566,420 Wednesday after 1,557 additional infections were added to the tally.

The number of active cases stands at 30,970 or 5.5% of the nation's confirmed cases, latest data from the Department of Health showed.

The DOH also announced 392 additional recovered patients, pushing total recoveries to 523,321.

Meanwhile, 22 more patients died from COVID-19, raising the death toll to 12,129.

The coronavirus pandemic in the Philippines



Source: <u>Department of Health</u> • As of February 24, 2021, 4 p.m.





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What's new today?

- The Food and Drug Administration and DOH said they will <u>investigate the</u>
 <u>special envoy to China's use of smuggled COVID-19 shots</u>. In an interview with
 One News, Tulfo said the took the <u>illegally procured Sinopharm jabs</u> with some
 "Cabinet-level" officials, a senator and members of the Presidential Security
 Group.
- There is still no definite date for the arrival of Sinovac vaccine doses in the country. But Helen Yang, Sinovac Biotech general manager, said the company aims to deliver the first batch of jabs "in this week or next week."
- DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the agency was <u>not consulted</u> on the <u>proposal</u> to grant the United Kingdom and Germany exemption from the deployment cap on medical workers in exchange for a supply of COVID-19 vaccines.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs reported only one new COVID-19 case, no new recoveries and no new fatalities among Filipinos abroad. This brought the total number of COVID-19 cases among Filipino nationals abroad to 14,872.

— with report from Xave Gregorio





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Congress approves Covid-19 vaccination law



(From House of Representatives)

February 24, 2021

BOTH the Senate and the House of Representatives have approved a measure establishing a P500-million indemnity fund, and expediting implementation of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) vaccination program.

The House on Tuesday night, February 23, 2021, adopted Senate Bill 2057, the Senate version of the measure, thus, doing away with a bicameral conference meeting.

President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to sign the measure into law as soon as the document reaches Malacañang.

In his virtual press briefing Wednesday, February 24, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said he learned about the approval of the bill from House Majority Leader Martin Romualdez at about 10 p.m. Tuesday.

"Hayaan muna nating matulog ang mga senador at hayaan nating ma-print at maipadala dito sa Palasyo," Roque said. (Let the senators sleep, and let's wait for the document to be printed and forwarded to the Palace.)

The proposed Covid-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021 would expedite the vaccine procurement and administration processes.

It augments the budget of state-owned Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) by P500 million, which will serve as an indemnity fund.

Both the House and Senate versions said this fund would be used as compensation in case of death, permanent disability or confinement following the immunization.

The bill would also allow local government units (LGUs) to directly accept donations of Covid-19 vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

As of Wednesday, the FDA has issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the vaccines from Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Sinovac.

Vaccine donations, however, must be inspected by the FDA and must comply with the guidelines and reportorial requirements of the Department of Health and of the National Task Force Against COVID-19.

The LGUs would also be authorized to make advance payments for their vaccine procurements, create their own lists of vaccine recipients, and directly purchase ancillary supplies for the storage, transport and administration of Covid-19 vaccines.





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Under the approved bill, recipients of the vaccine would be given a vaccine card to serve as record of the vaccination details.

The vaccine card, however, is not a requirement for work, school or travel.

The government is expecting 600,000 doses from Sinovac, the first batch of vaccines set to arrive in the country.

Sinovac Biotech general manager Helen Yang, in the same press briefing, said shipment will take about a week from the issuance of the EUA.

The <u>EUA for the Sinovac vaccine</u> was issued on Monday, February 22. An EUA allows the use of a vaccine under development for the duration of a public health emergency. (Marites Villamor-llano / SunStar Philippines)

Source: https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1886925/Manila/Local-News/Congress-approves-Covid-19-vaccination-law





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Climate change threat to world peace - Johnson

By The Manila Times February 25, 2021

NEW YORK: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and veteran naturalist David Attenborough made direct pleas on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) to the United Nations Security Council to take urgent action on the climate crisis or face worsening global instability.

The meeting represents a departure from the traditional focus of the Security Council of averting conflicts or establishing peacekeeping operations.

But Johnson, who was chairing a virtual session of the council on climate and security, said: "It is absolutely clear that climate change is a threat to our collective security and the security of our nations."



London: Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson watches a video address by Sir David Attenborough as he chairs a virtual session of the UN Security Council on climate and security at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in central London on February 23, 2021. Johnson will make a direct plea to the UN Security Council to take "urgent action" on climate change or face worsening global instability. AFP PHOTO

He added: "I know that there are people around the world who will say that this is...green stuff from a bunch of tree-hugging tofu munchers and not suited to international diplomacy and international politics.

"I couldn't disagree more profoundly." Johnson stressed that helping vulnerable countries adapt to climate change and cutting global emissions to net zero will aid the protection of biodiversity, as well as prosperity and security.

He evoked the examples of farmers becoming susceptible to radicalization when their crops dry up, or girls whose daily search for water takes them further and further from home and they fall prey to human trafficking.

"When are we going to do something if we don't act now?" he asked, concluding: "Whether you like it or not, it is a matter of when, not if, your country, and your people will have to deal with the security impacts of climate change."

Attenborough meanwhile likened the threat to civilization to that posed by World War II, which took place in his youth.

But the new threats "do not divide us," he said. "They are threats which should unite us, no matter from which part of the world we come, for they face us all."

He continued: "The change needed in itself sounds immense, and of course it is, but we already have many of the technologies needed, at least for the initial changes...And perhaps crucially, we also have a level of public support and demand for action that I have myself never seen before."





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Britain has committed into law a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and will host the COP26 climate summit in November in the Scottish city of Glasgow.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, meanwhile, cited a study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which found that eight of the ten countries hosting the largest multilateral peace operations in 2018 were in areas highly exposed to climate change.

"In Afghanistan, for example, where 40 percent of the workforce is engaged in farming, reduced harvests push people into poverty and food insecurity, leaving them susceptible to recruitment by criminal gangs and armed groups," he said.

United States climate czar John Kerry, French President Emmanuel Macron, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi were also set to address the forum.

The meeting will serve as a test for US-China relations, one UN ambassador said on condition of anonymity, alluding to one of the few issues where the two big powers might agree. But this is not a given.

"We should watch how the Chinese position themselves with the Americans," the ambassador said in the runup for the event. AFP

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/25/news/world/climate-change-threat-to-world-peace-johnson/845118/



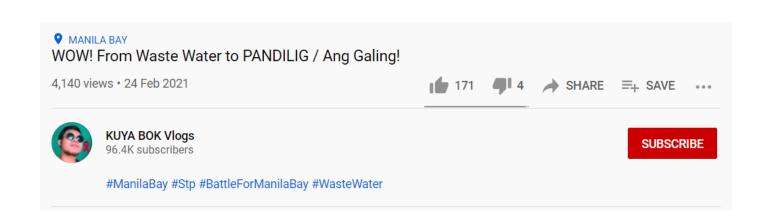




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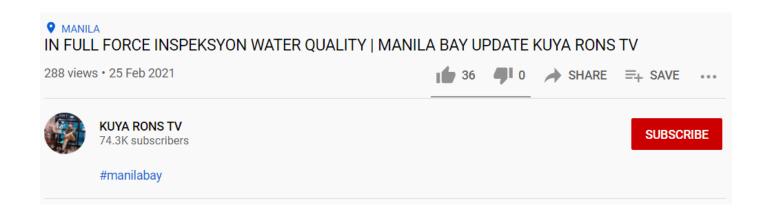




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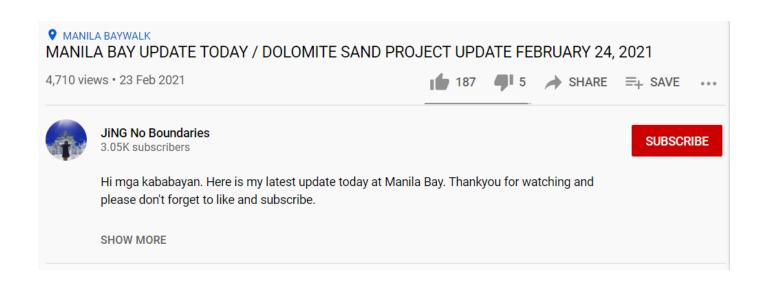




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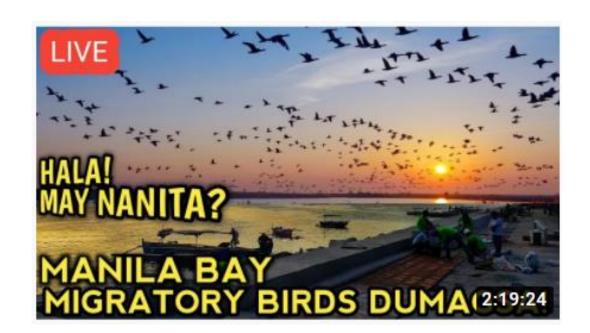
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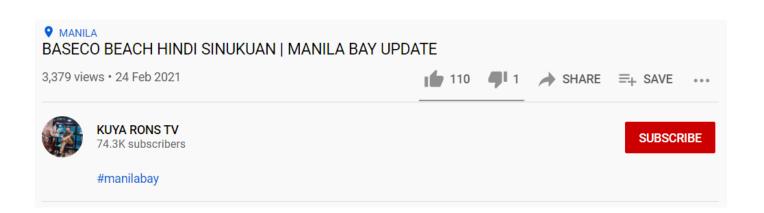




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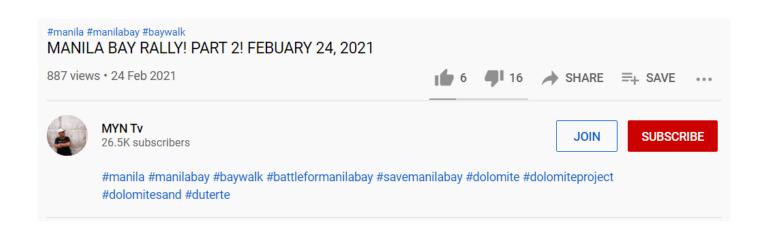




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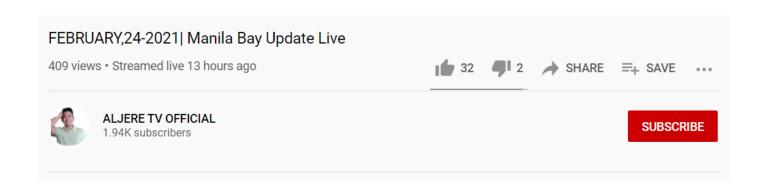




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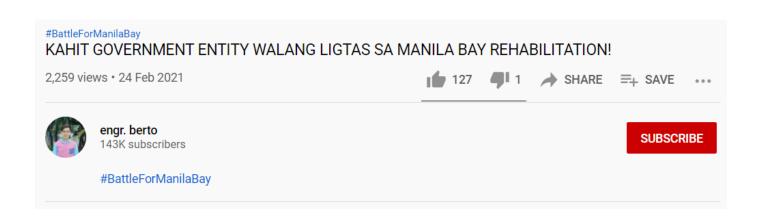




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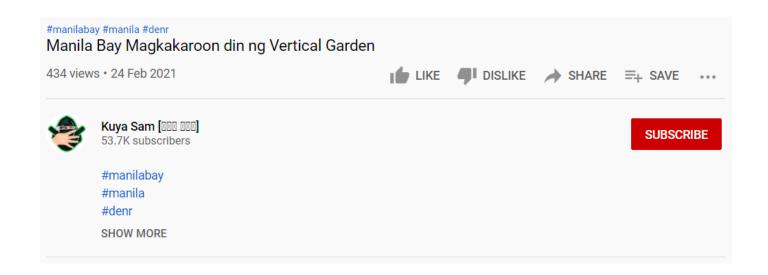




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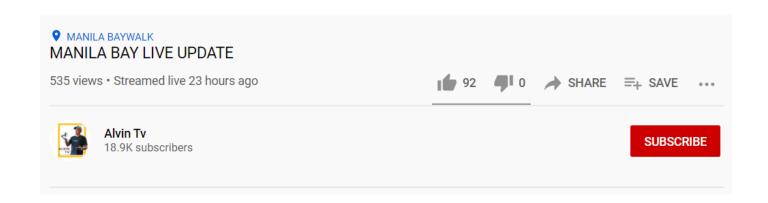




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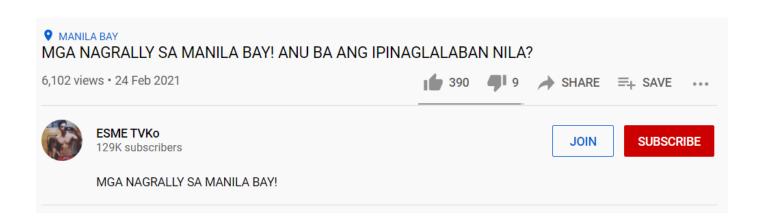




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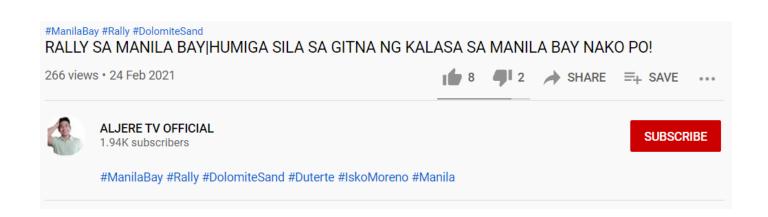




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