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Stakeholders work to create list of NEAP materials

Published January 24, 2021, 5:53 PM by Chito Chavez

Private and government stakeholders have joined forces in coming up with a common ground to identify single-use plastic items that will be included in the roster of "non-environmentally accepted products and packaging (NEAP) materials.



(PIXABAY / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Through the department of Environment and Natural resources (DENR), the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) said Sunday that it recently held a nationwide public consultation to discuss the environmental concern.

DENR Secretary and NSWMC chairman Roy A. Cimatu, organized the January 22 virtual consultation as adverse environmental issues have steadily plagued the country through the years.

Some 169 representatives from the local government units (LGUs), private sector and key stakeholders from civil society groups, including Ecowaste Coalition and Oceana Philippines participated in the meeting.

During the public consultation, Reynaldo Esguerra of the Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) being a NSWMC member presented the results of a study conducted from October to December 2020.

The study titled "Findings on the Assessment Conducted on Certain Products for Inclusion in the Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products (NEAP) List" focused on the assessment of single-use plastic straws, commonly used for softdrink and coffee stirrers and its equivalent alternative materials.

Based on the rapid risk assessment conducted on four items, glass straws posed the highest score with 25 points, followed by metal straws, 23; plastic, 17; and paper straws, 10.

Esguerra said the higher the score, the greater the risk.

He noted that a wood stirrer has a risk assessment score of 10, and 16 for plastic stirrers.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns and NSWMC Alternate chairman Benny D. Antiporda said "conducting the consultation is a key moment on our work on NEAP," noting that coming up with the list of NEAP is anticipated.





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Antiporda noted that "rest assured that this NEAP will not be left behind" acknowledging that the establishment of the NEAP list is long overdue.

He also expressed optimism over the formulation and adoption of the list of NEAP due to the renewed vigor to engage stakeholders in implementing Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 under President Duterte's administration.

Antiporda added that the NSWMC will remain transparent on the recommendations in the NEAP list.

"RA (Republic act) 9003 provides that the NSWMC shall, after public notice and hearing, prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable products as defined in the act that shall be prohibited according to a schedule to be prepared by the commission," the DENR said.

The DENR also pointed out that the NEAP "shall not be prohibited until the commission finds there are alternatives available to consumers at a cost that is no more than 10 percent greater than the disposable product."

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/24/stakeholders-work-to-create-list-of-neap-materials/





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Monday, 25 January 2021 Daily Tribune



CoA inspects Baywalk rehab status Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones (second from left) and Jacob F. Meimban Jr. (right), Manila Bay Coordinating Office Deputy executive director, discuss with Marites Odtojan (second from right), Commission on Audit supervising auditor for DENR, the progress of the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay. The DENR group led the ocular inspection along the Baywalk on 15 January, from the beach nourishment project to the outfalls in Padre Faura, Remedios and Estero San Antonio de Abad (inset), the sewage treatment plant and the trash booms installed in the bay. Also present at the inspection were Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Flood Control Engineer Alex Mohammad (left), representatives from the Department of Public Works and Highways-National Capital Region and partner agencies.





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DENR, couple inks crocodile adoption pact



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) inks a pact with a concerned couple for the adoption of two Philippine Fresh Water Crocodile in Zamboanga del Sur. The signatories are DENR Regional Executive Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez (left) and Roel Lamiing (not in photo) and his wife, Junevell, the vice mayor of Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur (right). (SunStar Zamboanga)

January 24, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with a concerned couple for the adoption of two Philippine Fresh Water Crocodile in Zamboanga del Sur.

The signatories were DENR Regional Executive Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez and Roel Lamiing and his wife, Junevell, the vice mayor of Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur.

The MOA, which was signed Thursday, January 21, was in line with Department Administrative Order No. 2010-16, otherwise known as "Establishing the 'Adopt-a-Wildlife Species Program' and Providing the Guidelines Governing Its Implementation."

"This partnership speaks of strengthened collaboration between the government and private individuals and through this, we hope to achieve resurgence of the Philippine Freshwater Crocodile population in the region, effectively conserve and protect this species through the active participation of stakeholders and raise the level of awareness on human-crocodile co-existence and stimulate public action in protecting our wildlife," Rodriguez said.

She said the agreement stipulates the following areas of cooperation: research and monitoring, communication, education and public awareness, capacity-building and promoting best practices.

Vice Mayor Lamiing said they are fully committed to providing appropriate and safe spaces for the Philippine Freshwater Crocodiles under their custody: DENR-IX Tag No. 0-4-46, a male crocodile named "Chuy-Chuy," and DENR-IX Tag No. 0-4-48, a female crocodile named "Claudia."

The MOA signing, which was held at the DENR regional office, was witnessed by DENR-Zamboanga Peninsula personnel from the Conservation and Development Division. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**

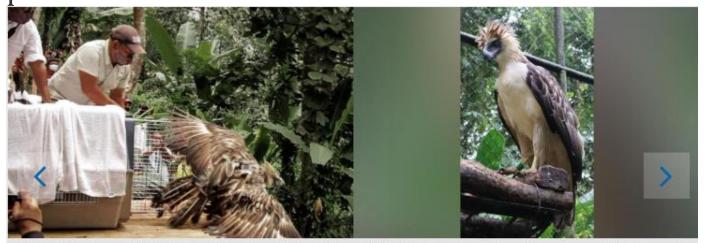
Source: https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1883743





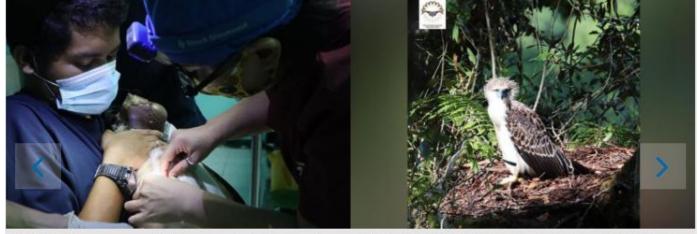
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Conservation of Philippine Eagles takes a hit amid pandemic



BACK TO THE WILD. The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) has rescued eight eagles since March 2020 until January 2021. Of the eight, one died due to malnutrition, three were released back to the wild, and four remained at the PEF's rehabilitation center. (Philippine Eagle Foundation photo)

BALIKATAN. Months after his rescue, Philippine eagle Balikatan is settling in quite well at the PEC. He's become a permanent resident as he's no longer fit to be released back to the wild, due to his impaired left eye. (Philippine Eagle Foundation photo)



DAVAO. The eagle, unofficially named Salabanog from Sarangani, sustained an injury caused by a marble embedded near its right clavicle. The operation was successful and he is currently recovering. (Philippine Eagle Foundation photo)

DAVAO. Juvenile Philippine Eagle in the wild. (Philippine Eagle Foundation photo)

ACE JUNE RELL S. PEREZ

January 24, 2021

IT IS not only mankind who suffered from the negative impacts of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic. Its effects go beyond even to wildlife, including the already endangered Philippine Eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi).

Increased hunting

Some of the hazards in the wild faced by the critically endangered Philippine Eagle are poaching and deforestation -- all activities done by humans.

Jayson Ibañez, research and conservation director at the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), said since the pandemic started in March 2020, they already rescued eight birds from the wild, including the recently rescued eagle from Sarangani.





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The eagle, unofficially named Salabanog after he was found near a waterfall of the same name, sustained an injury caused by a marble embedded near its right clavicle.

"Based on our interviews from the locals where we rescued Salabanog, the marble is most likely due to a marble gun, an improvised firearm recently used in the uplands for hunting and shooting," he said.

Fortunately, Salabanog survived a surgery that removed the marble from his body. He is currently healing inside the PEF Center.

For the other rescued eagles, Ibañez said most of the rescued birds had been captured by trappers, with two trapped because the eagles were feeding on domestic pigs, while one was sold for P8,000 to an outdoor enthusiast who immediately turned over the bird to the foundation.

"Of the eight rescued, one died due to malnutrition, three were released back to the wild, and four remained at the PEF's rehabilitation center," he added.

Ibañez emphasized that the hardships and loss of employment and opportunities due to the pandemic forced some people in the forest to resort to hunting wildlife for business or even their own consumption.

"The pandemic is indirectly threatening our wildlife," he said.

To address these challenges, PEF has been working with local government units, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the direct communities where the raptor can be spotted.

Ibañez said they supported 22 forest guards in Caraga town of Davao Oriental to help protect the national bird.

He also said they continue their education work to communities to increase awareness about the Philippine Eagle conservation efforts.

"We also make sure that all our works are publicized and spread in multiple platforms to reach more people. We are trying to send the message that we are better off protecting the birds than hunting or killing them," he added.

Ibañez also shared that the pandemic-driven traffic restrictions also halted their research works.

"Our sites where we can do research and fieldwork have been limited to Mindanao these days. We cannot temporarily do it in other parts of the country like Apayao, Aurora, Samar, among others," he said.

Low funding

With travel restrictions and economic woes hounding the present time, PEF has struggled on how to keep the foundation going, especially financially.

PEF executive director Dennis Salvador, in a separate interview, said the closure of the center for the most part of 2020 affected their income stream.

"The center is part of the tourism ecosystem in the city, but with the downtrend of tourist arrivals here, our income dropped," he said.





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Salvador explained that a large chunk of the foundation's income is from the gates or entrance fee of the center located in Calinan District, Davao City, where most of its conservation efforts are performed.

Around 200,000 individuals visit the center before pandemic. Previously, the center charged P100 for children and P150 for adults.

Ibañez, for his part, said they estimated about a third of their revenue was affected or around P2 million per month due to the lockdown.

"We are happy to share that no retrenchment for all our 50 staff happened during the pandemic," he said.

The center reopened its gates to the public in October last year with minimum health-safety protocols imposed.

"It is not the same as before. The traffic is very low. We only welcome about 20 guests in a month, which is not enough," Ibañez said.

The center also increased its entrance fee to P300 per person as there are activities added in the package, including the film viewing of "Kalayaan," a 10-minute film following a juvenile Philippine eagle's journey in the wild.

Online efforts, campaigns pushed

With the restrictions and challenges, PEF had to realign its campaigns and start crowdfunding efforts amid the health crisis.

PEF manager for development Andrea Baldonado, in a separate interview, said they have capitalized on digital technology and social media to continue their work.

"We are happy because people are very responsive and supportive of our donation campaigns," she said.

After over three months since they started raising funds for rescued PH Eagle "Balikatan," PEF had received a total of P447,568.85, as of January 8, 2021.

For one Philippine Eagle to survive, Baldonado said it requires some P200,000 annually for its food, shelter, and other necessary procedures for the eagle's welfare.

At present, PEF houses a total of 34 PH eagles, 16 of them are captive-bred while 18 are rescued from the wild.

"For now, we have one bird with no adopter. Also, our corporate partners and individual adopters plead to give their support in tranches and we also understand because they are also affected by the pandemic," she said adding they will continue asking for donations from the public.

PEF also introduced virtual tours in the center at P250 per person for an additional income stream.

The foundation said there are only an estimated 400 breeding pairs of Philippine Eagles left in the wild.

To help sustain PEF works, one can donate through its website https://www.philippineeaglefoundation.org/donate.

Source: https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1883753/Davao/Local-News/Conservation-of-Philippine-Eagles-takes-a-hit-amid-pandemic





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Pinakawalan na ang pangalawang batch ng sea turtle hatchlings sa baybayin ng Aboitiz Cleanergy Park sa Davao City nitong Jan. 21.

Pinangunahan ng Aboitiz Foundation at DENR Region 11 ang aktibidad.

: DENR Davao



Source: https://web.facebook.com/163550757135020/posts/2386435548179852/?_rdc=1&_rdr

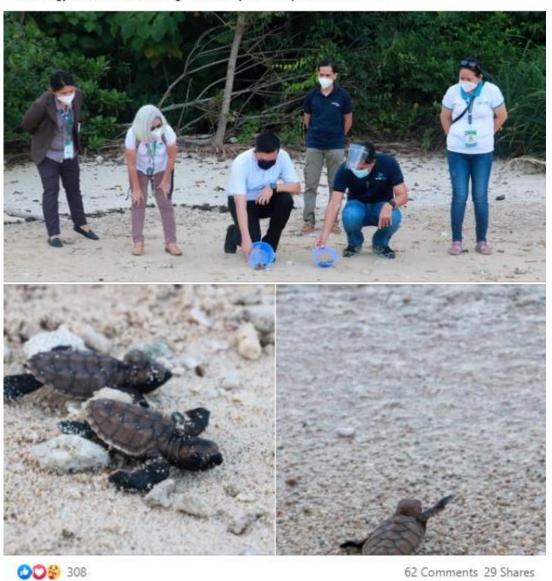




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PAWIKANS RELEASED. Twenty-seven sea turtle hatchlings were released into the shores of Aboitiz Cleanergy Park, Punta Dumalag, Davao City on Friday.







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| Remate - Ang Diaryo ng Masa 16h · ❸ |
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DAGSA pa din ang mga humihinto at nais makita ang naging kontrobersyal na White Sand na isang future Tourist Attraction na inilatag sa pampang ng Manila Bay (Roxas Blvd.) sa proyektong pag sasa ayos ng nasabing pamosong karagatan na pinangungnahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources DENR sa pag uutos ng korte Suprema Writ of Mandamus. Crismon Heramis







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Rio Tuba's journey to 5M trees

By ... -January 25, 2021



Presidential Spokesperson, Secretary Harry Roque planting his tree in Rio Tuba, with assistance from Nelson Acob, barangay captain; JB Baylon, Corp. Comms VP for NAC; and Engr. Cynthia E. Rosero, resident mine manager for RTN.

_Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTN), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), has begun the last stretch of the company's journey towards its goal of planting 5 million trees in Rio Tuba. Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque graced the ceremonial planting of the first of the remaining 900,000 trees RTN needs to complete its 5M goal.



Secretary Roque said he wanted to see for himself the actual planting in the mining community and that he is impressed by what RTN is trying to do in Palawan, planting trees all over the province.

He said it is important that he personally saw the planting so he can report to President Rodrigo Duterte and the whole country that not all mining is irresponsible, that here in Bataraza, the environment is being cared for.

"I will report to President Duterte what Rio Tuba Mining is doing in greening Palawan, we will tell the world, since PTV media is here with us, that in Rio Tuba, in Bataraza, there is no difference between the concept of jobs creation and the protection of the environment," said Roque.

To date, RTN has a record of about 4.1 Million surviving trees planted in various areas covered in its mine rehabilitation and reforestation programs.

Secretary Roque congratulated and thanked Nickel Asia, the LGU of Bataraza, and all the employees of the mining company for inviting him to Rio Tuba.

"I feel that I am personally accepted here to also act as a protector of the environment, and this event is proof that the communities can well benefit from the economic contributions of mining while protecting and preserving nature," Roque said.





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According to Environmental Planner, Janice M. Tupas, Manager of the Mines Environmental Protection and Enhancement Dept. (MEPED) of RTN, there is a mechanism that her team and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the DENR employ that actually monitors and counts the survival rates of the trees they plant.

"This year, we will be more aggressive, we will build hectares upon hectares of bamboo plantations, we will engage the communities to turn their backyards into mini forests and we will have support from the Department to Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Dept. of Education in Palawan that I feel we will even surpass 5 Million," Tupas said.

RTN believes that contributing to the restoration and protection of the rich forest ecosystem in Palawan is a moral obligation, added Tupas.

Engineer Cynthia E. Rosero, resident mine manager for RTN, said having Secretary Roque grace this important event has helped showcase RTN's environment protection programs and to the mining company's aggressive efforts to keep Palawan green.

"Planting 5 million trees is no easy feat for a mining company and we are proud of this," Rosero said.

Engr. Cytnthia E. Rosero, resident mine manager with Secretary Roque and JB Baylon, VP for Corporate Communications.

RTN said it is one of the mining companies deeply committed to achieving ecosystem restoration and reforestation in mined-out areas. Applying progressive rehabilitation strategies, RTN, in its more than 50 years of operation in Rio Tuba, has proven that an active mining company can create a forest in its path and can be the catalyst in the re-greening of a province like Palawan.

To date, RTN has rehabilitated a total of 196.64 hectares of its mining area where it has planted 1,205,763 surviving trees of different species including as narra, ipil, apitong, agoho, udling, kupang, batino, tongkat ali, amugis, among others. Some 663.08 has. have been reforested with native tree species, coffee, mangroves, botanical plant, and some industrial trees, in support of the government's Green Philippine Highway Project; Adopt-a-Mountain Project; and the National Greening Program.

According to the company, they intend to plant trees to fulfill the objective of mine rehabilitation to restore disturbed areas to a safe, non-erodible condition, establishing land use capability that is functional and back to the condition, if not better, before disturbance.

"Planting 5 million trees is not something ordinary organizations can easily do, but RTN endeavors this for Palawan and in fact, RTN intends to plant more in the years to come," said Tupas.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/rio-tubas-journey-to-5m-trees/





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Black sand mining isinisi sa malawakang baha sa Cagayan

OPINIONOn **Jan 24, 2021**



SINISI ng mga residente ang talamak na black sand mining na isa sa mga dahilan na dinaranas na "worst flood" o pinakamasamang baha sa Cagayan sa pananalasa noon ng bagyong Ulysses. Ayon naman sa grupong Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) bukod sa black sand mining, talamak din ang illegal at legal logging sa lalawigan kaya hindi na nakapagtataka ang nararanasang epekto nito.

Wala umanong dapat sisihin sa paglubog ng Cagayan kundi ang Provincial Government, LGU at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na nagbigay ng permiso sa "dredging operation" na may pag-aproba din mula sa lokal na pamahalaan kapalit umano ng malaking kita.

Sinabi ni Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas o KMP President Danilo Ramos, matagal nang ipinanawagan ng mga mangingisda ang 'dredging' sa Cagayan River ngunit hindi ito binibigyang pansin.

Hiniling ng grupo kasabay ng gagawing dredging ay magkaroon ng batas para sa tuluyang pagbabawal ng black sand mining gayon din ang logging.

Ang black sand mining ay itinuturing na legal kapag naisyuhan ng permit dahil wala pang batas na ipinagbabawal ito.

Tanging ang limitasyon sa Mining Act na hindi dapat gawin ang dredging sa reservoirs at protective areas.

Dahil sa epekto nito sa kalikasan, naghigpit ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau sa pag-iisyu ng permit simula pa noong 2014 na nagresulta sa ilegal na black sand mining.

Inamin din noon ni Ramos, bagamat naghigpit sa black sand mining ay marami pa rin silang nakikitang Chinese vessels na nagsasagawa nito at ikinukubli ang ilegal na operasyon sa dredging.

Ibinunyag nito na mismong mga kawani ng LGUs ang kanilang nakikitang nagbabantay sa Chinese vessels.

Sinasabing nasa \$50 milyon o P2.6 bilyon kada buwan ang kinikita ng mga contractor sa Black sand mining sa Cagayan.

Ang black sand ay ginagamit na stabilizer sa concrete at steel products gayondin sa mga alahas at cosmetics manufacturing.





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Isa ang Hong Kong sa bansang may malaking pangangailangan sa black sand.

Bagamat malaki ang kita sa black sand ay malaki naman ang epekto nito sa kalikasan pangunahin sa pagkawala ng fishery resources, erosion ng lupa, at pagbaha, kaya sa inihaing Senate Bill 1075 ni Senator Leila de Lima, hinihiling niya ang total ban sa black sand mining.

Una nang ibinabala ni De Lima na ang Cagayan ay maaaring malubog sa baha sa loob ng 30 hanggang 70 taon bilang epekto ng black sand mining kung hindi ito tuluyang ititigil.

Sa mga nakalipas na taon ay nakapagsagawa na ang Kamara at Senado ng imbestigasyon ukol sa Black Sand Mining sa Cagayan ngunit wala naman naparusahan.

Apela ni Ramos sa liderato ni House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, isama sa kanilang ginagawang House Inquiry ang dahilan ng 'massive flooding' o malaking baha na naranasan noong bagyong Ulysses, ang usapin ng illegal logging, illegal mining at black sand mining.

Giit ng KMP, kung hindi isasama ang illegal na black sand mining at logging sa imbestigasyon ng Kamara, mababalewala lamang at lalabas na moro-moro ang house inquiry dahil hindi mareresolba ang ugat ng problema sa Cagayan.

Subaybayan natin!

Para sa inyong mga suhestyon, reaksyon at opinyon ay mag-email lang sa balyador69@gmail.com.

Samantala, laging subaybayan ang palatuntunang "walang personalan trabaho lang" mula lunes hanggang linggo 11:00am-12:00nn sa RADYO NG MASA entertainment net radio. Tuwing sabado at linggo 12:00nn-12:30pm sa DWBL 1242 kHz am band at 10:00am-11:00am sa DWXR 101.7FM – Mapapanood livestreaming via Facebook at Youtube!





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Forest rangers harassed, fired at by suspected illegal loggers in Cagayan

Published January 24, 2021, 1:26 PM by Liezle Basa Iñigo

BAGGAO, Cagayan – The lives of three forest rangers here were threatened after suspected illegal loggers fired shots at them at the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) checkpoint in Barangay Santa Margarita last Thursday, January 21.



Representative photo (PIXABAY/ MANILA BULLETIN/ FILE)

Report from the office from the Baggao Information Office showed Mario Mamanao, Pablito Pascual and Dennis Villanueva were manning the MENRO checkpoint in Barangay Santa Margarita here at around 11 p.m. when they were fired upon by still unidentified gunmen.

Witnesses saw the suspects onboard a blue motorcycle without license plates fire at the forest rangers six times.

Fortunately, no one was hurt in the incident.

According to MENRO, there have been three similar incidents, also in Barangay Santa Margarita, that were reported in 2019 and 2020.

Authorities here vowed to investigate the incident, and provide security for the MENRO members.

PNP Baggao is currently investigating the incident.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/24/forest-rangers-harassed-fired-at-by-suspected-illegal-loggers-in-cagayan/





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DAR plans to distribute 9,000 hectares of govtowned land

By<u>Jonathan L. Mayuga</u> January 25, 2021

THE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) vowed to distribute within the year around 9,000 hectares of government-owned agricultural lands to agrarian reform beneficiaries in Busuanga in the Province of Palawan.

Agrarian Reform Secretary John R. Castriciones said the agency is now pooling its resources for the biggest distribution of government-owned lands in the history of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carp).

Castriciones made the promise during the distribution of around 80 hectares of agricultural lands to 102 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) held at the Busuanga gymnasium last January 22.

He said the activity is just the first tranche of distributing the government-owned lands in Busuanga.

The land in Busuanga includes a portion of the Yulo King Ranch, which has been the subject of a petition by various farmers' organizations in Busuanga.

The vast tract of land under the Yulo King Ranch is classified as a grazing area, which is under an agreement between the proponent and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

With President Duterte's signing into law of Executive Order (EO) 75, Series of 2019, on February 1, 2019, Castriciones said the DAR has immediately facilitated the process of subjecting the vast tract of land in Busuanga under the CARP.

"The DAR being named as the lead agency that provides central direction and coordination for the implementation of the said executive order would expedite the process of acquiring the lands for distribution," Castriciones said.

Meanwhile, Support Services Office Undersecretary Emily O. Padilla said that the DAR is doubling its effort so that they could finish all the backlog in distributing the lands before the President's term ends.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/25/dar-plans-to-distribute-9000-hectares-of-govt-owned-land/





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Manila eyes more projects on clean energy under US President Biden

January 24, 2021 | 7:43 pm

THE PHILIPPINES is likely to see more clean energy investment as an offshoot of the US rejoining the Paris Agreement, the industry's regulator said.

In a text message, National Renewable Energy Board (NREB) Chair Monalisa C. Dimalanta said she remains hopeful that a US administration led by President Joseph R. Biden would produce more direct investment in the Philippines' renewable energy (RE) sector.

"We definitely expect positive impact from the renewed active involvement of the US in clean energy and climate risk mitigation efforts. For one, we hope to get our share of increased US direct investment as well as technical support and assistance in the RE space in the Philippines," Ms. Dimalanta told *BusinessWorld* Friday.

The Paris Agreement aims to keep the rise in average global temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius. On Friday, Reuters reported that Mr. Biden issued an executive order on Wednesday to bring the US back into the Paris accord.

During his campaign, Mr. Biden set a target of zero net emissions by 2050. On his website, he said he planned to "marshal an historic investment in energy efficiency, and clean energy to address bottlenecks and unlock America's full clean energy potential."

Michael L. Ricafort, the chief economist of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., said that RE, electric vehicles and other related industries in the supply chain "could still continue to boom in the Philippines" in a Biden administration.

"Since the campaign, Biden advocated for clean/renewable power and opposed shale oil and other energy sources with adverse impact on the environment," Mr. Ricafort said in an e-mail Friday.

Terry L. Ridon, convenor of public policy think-tank Infrawatch, Mr. Biden's decision to rejoin the Paris climate agreement would lead to a "renewed and wider focus on financing large-scale green projects globally."

"In the Philippines, this should push the government to undertake more green energy projects but ensure the least cost to the public, whether through lower generation costs or lower feed-in-tariff," Mr. Ridon said in an e-mail Thursday.

University of the Philippines political science professor Maria Ela L. Atienza said that US businesses were not the only possible source of increased financial support and assistance.

"US businesses are not the only ones present in the Philippines. EU (European Union) businesses are also pushing for cleaner and greener environmental practices so you have both the US and the EU pushing for that. Until now, there (have been) strong investments in the Philippines. These are added bargaining chips on the part of the US and the EU when it comes to additional investments and development assistance for the Philippines," Ms. Atienza told BusinessWorld by phone Thursday.

Some of the development assistance extended by EU countries focuses on green environmental policy, including business practices, she said. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/manila-eyes-more-projects-on-clean-energy-under-us-president-biden/





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DOH logs 7,729 new Covid-19 recoveries

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor January 24, 2021, 5:39 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday reported 7,729 new Covid-19 recoveries, pushing the country's overall tally to 475,612, or 92.6 percent of those who tested positive for the virus.

In its 4 p.m. case bulletin, the DOH also reported 1,949 new confirmed cases and 53 new deaths, bringing the overall tally of active cases to 27,765 and the death toll to 10,242.

The department said of the active cases, about 83.3 percent are mild, 9.1 percent are asymptomatic, 2.7 percent are severe, 0.53 percent are moderate, and 4.4 percent are in critical condition.

"There were eight duplicates that were removed from the total case count, and of these, one recovered case and one death have been removed. Moreover, two cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths," it added.

Davao City topped the list of places that logged the highest number of new cases with 99 infections.

It was followed by Quezon City with 98; Cavite with 74; Baguio City with 73; and Leyte with 63.

DOH data on Jan. 23 showed that 1,065 or 4.3 percent of 24,619 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"Five labs were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Data Repository System on January 5, 2021," it said.

Some 27,000 beds are dedicated to patients with Covid-19. Available are 60 percent of 2,100 intensive care unit beds, 64 percent of 17,100 isolation beds, and 72 percent of 7,800 ward beds.

About 78 percent of 2,100 ventilators are available for Covid-19 patients' use. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1128394





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Expert warns: PHL already has local transmission of UK COVID-19 virus variant

January 24, 2021 11:24 PM by Kristan Carag



FILE PHOTO: People wearing face masks and face shields as protection against the coronavirus queue at a bus stop in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, December 23, 2020. REUTERS/Lisa Marie David/File Photo

Dr. Anthony Leachon believes that the Philippines already has a local transmission of the B117 variant of SARS-COV-2, the virus that causes the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

The Department of Health (DOH) confirmed on Friday, January 22, that the Philippines has 17 cases of the coronavirus variant first found in the United Kingdom.

DOH said that 12 of the 17 confirmed cases are from Bontoc, Mountain Province.

"Paano naman makakarating yung taga-Bontoc na iyan kung hindi iyan nag-travel by bus? Sa bus ilang ang nandoon," Leachon, a former adviser to the National Task Force on COVID-19, told DZRH on Saturday, January 23.

"Hindi pa ba tayo mag-iisip na may local transmission? Matutukoy ba nila lahat iyan nakasakay sa bus," he stressed.

In an earlier press briefing, Dr. Celia Carlos, director of Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), finds it 'premature' to confirm whether there has been a local transmission of the coronavirus variant in the Philippines.

Dr. Edsel Salvana, director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health, also said that there is no evidence of local transmission.

Leachon commented that the government should not wait for evidence before confirming that the Philippines has a local transmission of the coronavirus variant.

"Sa bus, tabi-tabi kayo doon. Kakain kayo, may stop-over kayo. Lahat iyon kapag ang mask mo ibaba mo kapag nagkainan. Highly transmissible sa tingin mo walang local transmission," Leachon stressed.

"Ganoon lang naman ang thinking process, hindi naman kailangan laboratory lahat," the health expert added.

Leachon urged the IATF to reconsider easing the age restrictions on people allowed outside their homes, and the further opening of the tourism sector to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus variant.

"Nangangamba ako dito kapag hindi natin ni-rethink yung order na mga bata, itong mga bata na ito ang magdadala ng sakit sa bahay," Leachon warned.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque announced on Friday that the IATF has allowed people with ages 10 to 65 years old to go outside their homes starting February 1 in areas under modified general community quarantine.

Leachon said that the Philippine government should focus on lowering the number of new COVID-19 cases, and starting the vaccination program before further opening the economy in the country.

Source: https://dzrhnews.com.ph/expert-warns-phl-already-has-local-transmission-of-uk-covid-19-virus-variant/





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Parents must escort kids aged 10-14 when going out in MGCQ areas

By Azer Parrocha January 24, 2021, 1:15 pm



File photo

MANILA – Parents or guardians will have to accompany children aged 10-14 should they decide to go out in areas under the modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) status, a Palace official said Sunday.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles made this remark after the Inter Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) recently allowed people aged 10 years to 65 years to leave their homes for non-essential activities, such as going to malls starting Feb. 1.

Current IATF rules permit only those aged 15 to 65 years old to leave their homes.

"Hindi naman basta-basta lalabas 'yan kung hindi kasama ang magulang. Meron po tayong panibagong clarificatory resolution na ilalabas na yung pag-labas ng bata is dapat kasama ang magulang para masupervise (They won't just go out if they're not accompanied by their parents. We will release a clarificatory resolution, when they go out parents should be with them so they can be supervised)," he said in an interview over DZBB.

Nograles said 10-year-old kids are old enough to understand the importance of observing health and safety protocols such as wearing of face masks, face shields, frequent handwashing, and physical distancing.

He also pointed out that the Philippines seemed to be the only country restricting minors from going outside.

"Sa ibang bansa po, hindi sila kasing restrictive po natin sa galawan ng mga kabataan. Sa ibang bansa po, hindi nila kinukulong ang mga bata sa loob ng tahanan. As far as pag survey naman sa iba't-ibang ginagawa ng bansa, tayo po yung pinaka restrictive (In other countries, they're not as restrictive when it comes to the youth's movements. In other countries, they don't keep the youth locked up in their homes. In surveying other countries in the world, we found out that we're the most restrictive)," he said.

He also said the country's daily Covid-19 cases are still "manageable".

"Nakita namin na after Christmas holidays, manageable naman ang cases natin per day, nagka desisyon kami na babaaan ang age restriction to 10 (We saw that after the Christmas holidays, our cases per day are still manageable so we decided to ease the age restriction to 10 years old)," he said.

Earlier, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque warned that failure to relax age restrictions may lead to "economic deterioration."

He said the government needs to "balance both the reopening of the economy and controlling the spread of the virus."

"This IATF decision likewise forms part of the overarching goal of reopening the economy, thus promoting recovery. Not easing restrictions may have (a) longer impact on jobs, income, poverty, and hunger, leading to further economic deterioration, as well as health issues," he said



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Roque also said allowing children to go out amid the pandemic is good for their health.

"Filipino children have already stayed in their homes for 10 months now and allowing those to leave their houses, especially on a weekend activity, is good for their physical, social, and mental health," he added. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1128377





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COVID-19 VICTIMS 100M NA; INDONESIA MAGIGING MILYONARYO NA RIN



January 25, 2021 @ 12:45 AM 5 hours ago

MAMAYANG gabi o bukas, nasa 100 milyon na ang kabuuang biktima ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Ang Indonesia, anomang araw mula ngayon, magiging pang-18 na rin sa may milyong biktima.

Ito'y sa kabila ng milyon-milyon nang nababakunahan laban sa pandemya sa maraming bansa at Indonesia na pinaniniwalaang makababawas nang malaki sa mga nahahawaan at namamatay.

Habang tinitipa natin ito, mga Bro, naglalaro sa 700,000 araw-araw ang nahahawaan kaya naman aabot na sa 100M ang biktima habang sa Indonesia, naglalaro sa 10,000-13,000 ang nahahawa araw-araw kaya bukas o makalawa, magiging milyon na rin ang biktima rito.

Nakapaloob ang Indonesia sa 11 miyembrong bansa na bumubuo ng Association of Southeast Asian Nations na kinabibilangan din ng Pilipinas.

Ang isa pang masakit, may mahigit sa 110,700 ang nasa kritikal o serious na kalagayan sa buong mundo at dito karaniwang nagmumula ang dagdag sa 2,131,726 nang patay.

Dahil tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang pagdami ng mga nahahawaan at namamatay, magandang silipin natin ang nagaganap sa ibang bansa at tingnan at ikumpara sa nagaganap o ginagawa natin sa mahal kong Pinas, sabay pagtingin kung ano-ano ang mga dapat nating gawin.

PAMBANSANG LOCKDOWN SA UK HANGGANG HUNYO

Ipinagmamalaki ng United Kingdom ang pagkakaroon nila ng kompanyang AstraZenica na pangunahing pinagkukunan nila ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

Sabi nila, sa kalagitnaan ng Pebrero, maaari na umanong marating nila ang target na mabakunahan na 15 milyon sa 68 milyon nilang populasyon.

Magkagayunman, balak ni Prime Minister Boris Johnson na paaabutin nila ang kanilang pambansang lockdown hanggang sa summer o mga buwan ng Hunyo hanggang Agosto para epektibo nilang malabanan ang pandemya.





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Sa ngayon kasi, naglalaro sa 35,000-40,000 ang nagkakasakit at naglalaro rin sa 1,500 ang araw-araw na namamatay sa kanila.

Malaganap pa sa kanila ang UK COVID variant kung tawagin na ikinamamatay ng 13-14 sa bawat 1,000 nagkakasakit at mas mabagsik ito sa orig na virus na pumapatay lang ng nasa 10 kada 1,000 nagkakasakit.

Panlima ang UK sa may pinakamaraming kaso ng COVID-19 sa bilang na 3,617,459 at halos 100,000 patay.

Bukod sa bagsik ng pinagsamang dalawang uri ng virus sa nasabing bansa, sinasabi pa ni Prof Jonathan Van-Tam, deputy chief health minister, na kahit nabakunahan na ang isang tao, nakahahawa pa rin ito.

Kaya naman kinakailangan talaga ang lockdown na nagbabawal ng paglabas ng mga tahanan nang walang importanteng dahilan at istriktong pagsunod sa mga health protocol, gaya ng pagsusuot ng facemask, social distancing, bawal na maramihang pagtitipon at iba pa.

SA SRI LANKA, NAKALIMUTANG MAY COVID-19 PA

Sinasabing sa mga buwan ng Setyembre-Oktubre, tila naging COVID-19-free ang buong bansa na may populasyong 21 milyon.

Kaya naman namuhay sila sa natural nilang pamumuhay at nakalimutang umaatake pa ang pandemya.

Pagdating ng huling bahagi ng Oktubre 2020, unti-unti hanggang pabilis nang pabilis ang pagdami muli ng biktima ng COVID-19.

At dito na sila tumakbo para magpatulong sa kanilang mga kinikilalang Diyos, salamangkero at iba pa.

Mismong ang health minister umano na si Pavithra Wanniarachchi ay pinalaganap ang pag-inom ng syrup na pinaniniwalaan niyang panghabambuhay ng gamot laban sa COVID-19 at gawa umano ito ng isang sorcerer.

Nagbuhos din ito ng "blessed water" sa isang ilog, ayon sa utos naman ng isang Diyos para mapagkunan ng gamot o mapagliguan laban pa rin sa virus.

Pero nitong Biyernes, nagpositibo si Wanniarachchi sa virus at iba pang junior minister ng kanilang pamahalaan at naniwala sa una.

At bahagi na sila ng pagbugso ng pandemya sa nakaraang tatlong buwan.

Kung mahigit lang sa 3,000 ang nagkasakit noong Oktubre, ngayon sinasabing nasa 52,000 na ang bago nilang kaso at dumarami na rin ang namamatay.

Kaya naman, agad nag-order ng bakunang AstraZenica ang kanilang pamahalaan para gamitin sa pagbabakuna sa halip na sumandig sa kanilang mga Diyos, salamangkero at sorcerer.

Magkagayunman, wala pang katiyakan kung kailan sila magkakaroon ng bakuna, lalo na ngayong binibili ng mayayamang bansa ang lahat ng available na bakunang gawa ng mga kompanyang gamot.





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ISRAEL MAAGAP, KUMAGAT SA MAHAL NA BAKUNA

May mahigit sa siyam milyong mamamayan ang Israel at malamang umanong ito ang kauna-unahang bansa na makakukumpleto nang maaga sa pagbabakuna sa mamamayang dapat mabakunahan.

Habang tinitipa natin ito, katlo o nasa tatlong milyon na umano sa siyam na milyong mamamayan ang nabakunahan.

Ang kapuna-puna, may mga ulat na nagsasabing pumayag sila sa mataas na presyo, nasa 50 porsyentong pagtaas, ng bakuna matiyak lamang nilang magkaroon ng sapat na bakuna na pang-dalawang dosage para sa mga mamamayan.

Sa pangalawang dosage lamang inaasahan na buo na ang immune system ng tao para hindi ito kapitan ng COVID-19 at kung kakapitan man, hindi ito mamamatay at makaiiwas sa pagkakaospital.

Kinakitaan umano ang mga lider ng Israel ng lubos na pagpupursige para sa kapakanan ng mga mamamayan kaya naman, kahit pinamahal ng mga kompanya ng gamot ang benta nila, kumagat ang mga ito.

Magkagayunman, naihalo umano ito sa nalalapit nang halalan sa Israel at ginagamit ang pagbabakuna ng mga nakaupong opisyal bilang pang-akit ng boto.

Dengvaxia style na naganap din noong halalang 2016 ngunit natalo ang mga kandidatong sangkot dito, lalo na sa posisyong presidensyal na napanalunan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

SA PILIPINAS?

Kayo na, mga Bro, ang mag-isip kung ano-ano ang mga nagaganap.

Pero malinaw na pinag-aawayan ang presyo ng bakuna at may bintang na may gusto umanong kumita ngunit mariin namang pinabubulaanan ito.

Naririyan din ang mga nagsusulong ng pagluluwag ng quarantine at gawing Modified General Community Quarantine para pwede nang isama sa mga pampublikong lakad at lugar ng mga nakatatanda ang mga bata na 10 taon pataas at taliwas sa umiiral na patakarang bawal ang mga 18 anyos pababa.

Kung sasama umano ang mga bata sa mga mall, halimbawa, mapipilitang bilhan ang mga ito ng mga magulang nila kaya uunlad ang negosyo sa bansa.

Naririyan din ang malakas na paniniwalang ang mga patron sa mga simbahan ay makatutulong nang malaki laban sa sakit sa pamamagitan ng milagro.

Subalit sinusuway ito ng mga awtoridad batay sa napatunayan nang ang maramihang pagtitipon na inaabuso ang mga health protocol ay superspreader ng COVID-19.

Hindi rin nakatitiyak ang bansa na magkaroon ng maagang pagbabakuna dahil natatrapik sa mayayamang bansa ang suplay nito.

At sa katunayan, nagngingitngit na mismo ang World Health Organization sa pagkakaroon lang ng Covax facility nito ng 15 porsyentong suplay ng bakuna dahil 85 porsyento ang kinakabig ng mayayamang bansa.





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Dahil dito, inaasahang patak-patak na lang ang makukuhang bakuna sa WHO ng mahihirap na bansa gaya ng Pilipinas dahil sa liit ng suplay na nakukuha nito mula sa nagsasabwatang mayayamang bansa at manufacturer ng bakuna para tumaas ng presyo rito at kapwa kumita ang mga ito.

Habang mas malaki ang kita ng mga manufacturer, makasisingil din ang mga mayayamang bansang kinapapalooban ng mga ito ng mas malaking buwis.

Ano nga ba ang dapat para sa Pilipinas kong mahal?

Ano-ano nga ba ang mga dapat gawin ng pamahalaan, mga opisyal at mga mamamayan?

Source: https://www.remate.ph/covid-19-victims-100m-na-indonesia-magiging-milyonaryo-na-rin/





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7 volcanic quakes recorded as Mayon remains under Alert Level 1

By Ma. Cristina Arayata January 24, 2021, 2:38 pm



File photo

MANILA – Seven volcanic earthquakes were recorded in Mayon Volcano for the past 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Sunday.

Volcanic earthquakes are caused by movements or eruptions of magma from the volcano.

Phivolcs also observed moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes. Volcanic plume or eruption plume is a column of hot volcanic ash and gas emitted into the atmosphere during an explosive volcanic eruption.

Sulfur dioxide (SO2) emission was last measured at an average of 676 tonnes per day last Dec. 29, according to Phivolcs.

Meanwhile, Phivolcs maintains that Alert Level 1 (abnormal) is still hoisted over the Mayon Volcano.

"Although this means that presently, no magmatic eruption is imminent, it is strongly advised that the public refrain from the 6-kilometer radius permanent danger zone due to life-threatening dangers of rockfalls, landslides at middle to upper slope, sudden ash puffs and steam-driven phreatic eruptions from the summit," Phivolcs said.

Moreover, active stream or river channels, and those identified as perennially lahar-prone areas on all sectors of the volcano should be avoided, especially during extreme weather conditions, it added. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1128383





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Magnitude 5.2 quake jolts Surigao del Norte

Published January 24, 2021 10:58pm **Updated** January 25, 2021 12:27am

A magnitude 5.2 earthquake jolted Surigao del Norte late Sunday night.

In a bulletin, PHIVOLCS said the tremblor, which it earlier measured as a 5.1 quake, struck at 10:26 p.m. east of General Luna.

The quake, which was tectonic in origin, had a depth of focus of 12 kilometers.

Intensity II was reported in Bislig City.

PHIVOLCS said aftershocks were expected, but the quake was not seen to cause damage. — **Julia Mari Ornedo/BM, GMA News**





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Protect Yangtze River, legislator urges

As the country's first legislation on a specific river basin, the Yangtze River conservation law was adopted by the NPC Standing Committee in December and will take effect on 1 March

Published 4 hours ago on January 25, 2021 02:30 AM

By TDT @tribunephl



XINHUA AERIAL photo shows the scenery of Qutang Gorge, one of the Three Gorges on the Yangtze River in southwest China's Chongqing minicipality.

BEIJING, China (Global Times) — China's top legislator Li Zhanshu has stressed protecting the Yangtze River through the rule of law and called for a down-to-earth enforcement of the Yangtze River conservation law.

Li, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), made the remarks at a symposium on the law on Friday.

As the country's first legislation on a specific river basin, the Yangtze River conservation law was adopted by the NPC Standing Committee in December and will take effect on 1 March.

Li urged authorities to prioritize the conservation and restoration of the ecological environment in the Yangtze River basin and manage and regulate the construction and projects along the river according to the law.

Noting that the Yangtze River conservation law is also a law promoting green development, he underscored balancing environmental protection and economic growth.

Li called for a full, strict enforcement of the regulations and the law, and emphasized the necessity of building a coordinating mechanism to oversee the protection efforts.

He also requested stringent oversight and accountability in relation to the law, along with enhancing promotion and publicity of its content in the public sphere.

Stretching over 6,300 km and boasting rich biodiversity and mineral and water resources in its basin, the Yangtze River is seen as an icon of the Chinese nation and a symbol of the Chinese civilization.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/01/25/protect-yangtze-river-legislator-urges/



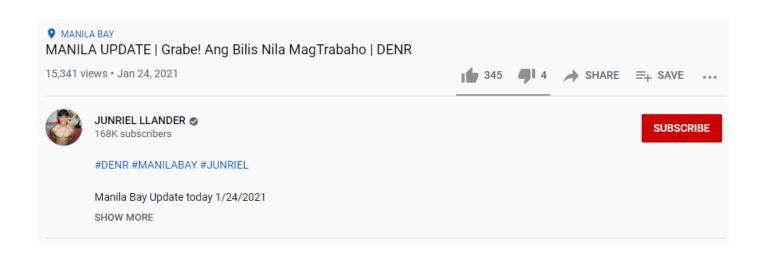




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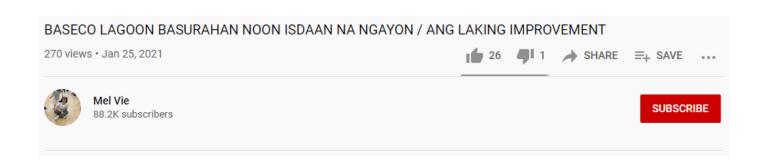




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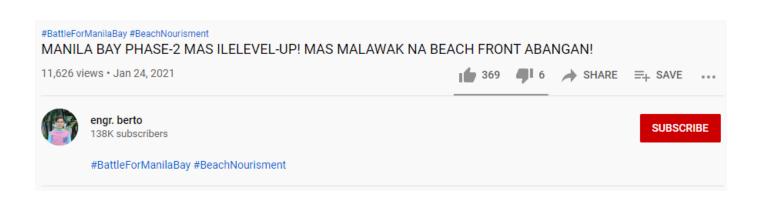




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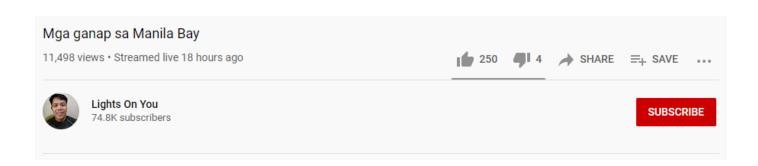




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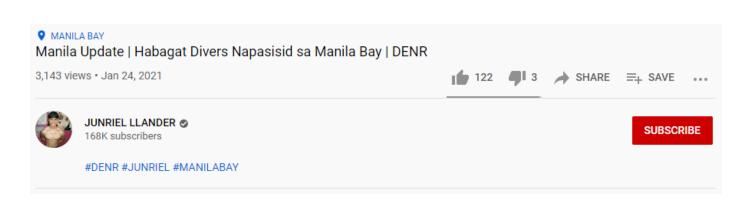




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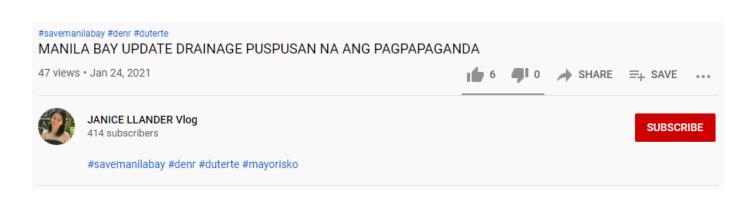




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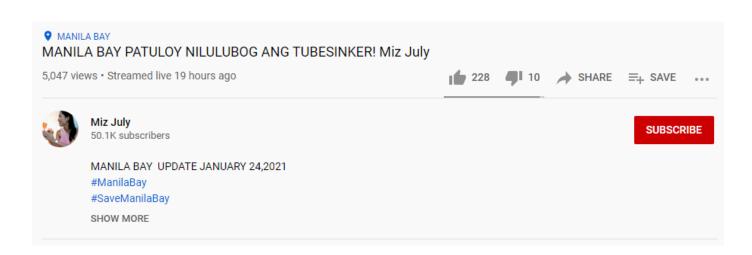




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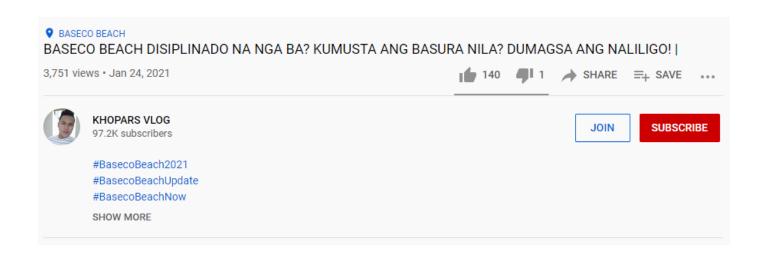




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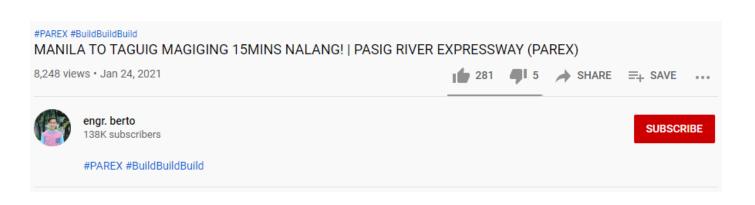




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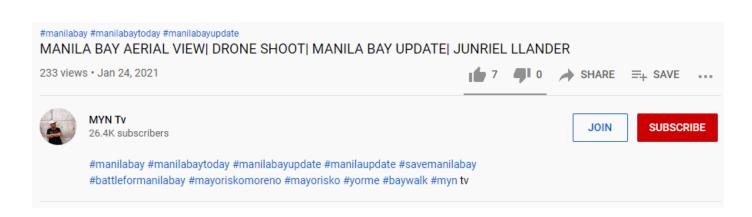




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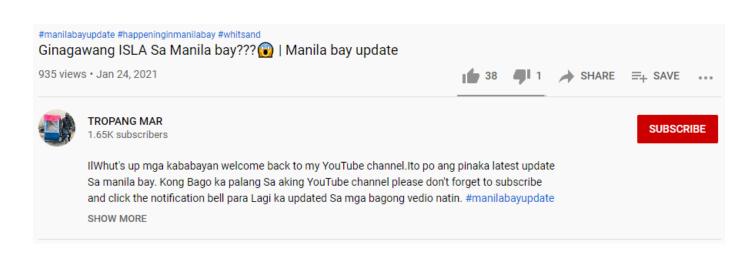




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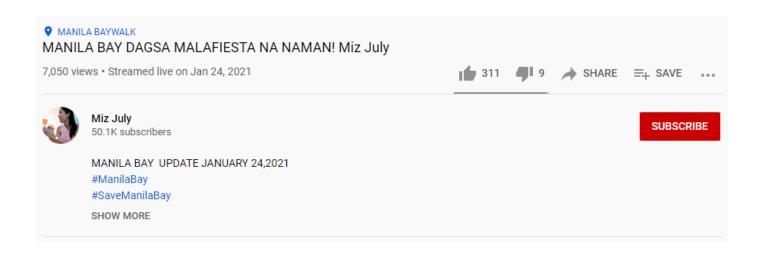




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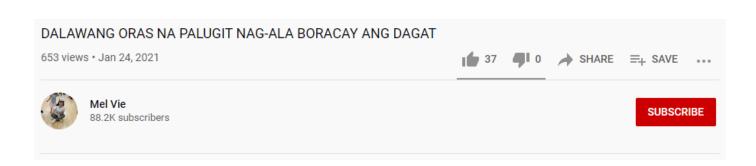




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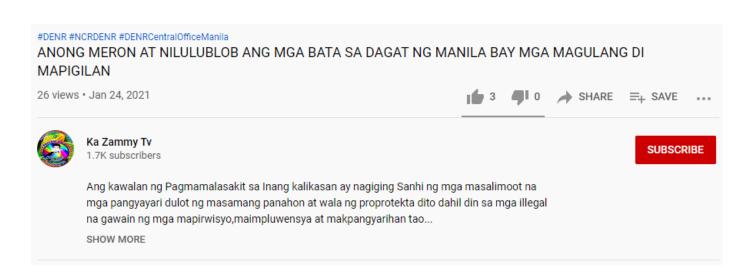




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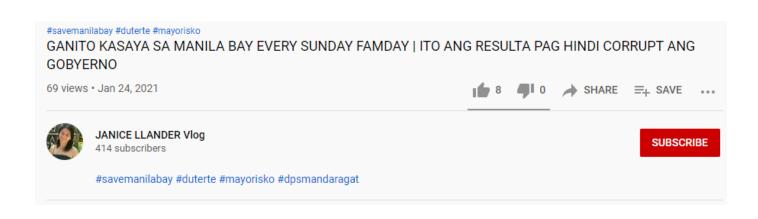




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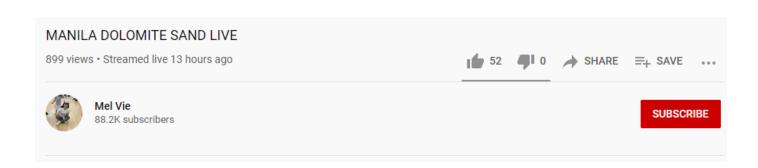




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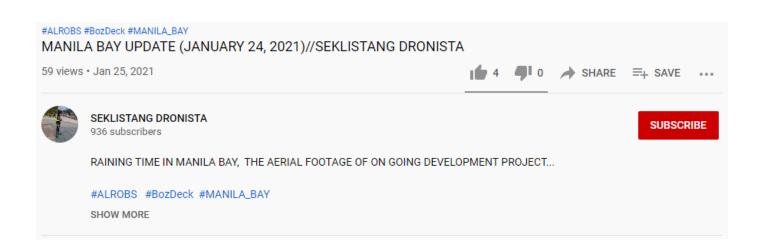




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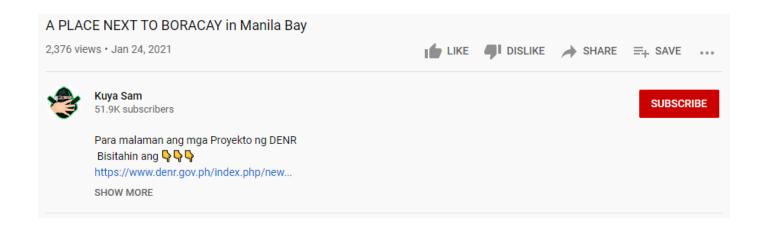




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