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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR: Strong collab with SLF operators to improve PH solid waste management

[Monday, January 25, 2021](#) [Cory Martinez](#)

STRONG collaboration with sanitary landfill (SLF) operators is the key to improving the management of solid waste in the country.

This was stressed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu saying they always extend a welcoming hand to sectors willing to work with them to solve the country's problems, particularly those that concern the environment and natural resources.

"Solid waste management is a concern for all Filipinos and anyone willing to do a good turn is appreciated," Cimatu said.

Benny D. Antiporda, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns, meanwhile said the members of the Solid Waste Management Service Providers have expressed their agreement to work more closely with the agency during the 3rd consultation meeting at the DENR Central Office in Quezon City on Jan. 22.

Antiporda said the pronouncement of the SLF operators to unite is a big step in doing their part to take care of the environment.

"This is business on your part. But we want to be assured of that when you operate sanitary landfill, you are compliant," Antiporda said.

During the consultation, Antiporda instructed the SLF operators to submit regular reports to the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to monitor the trash disposed by LGUs in their sanitary landfills.

By doing this, he said, the DENR will easily determine if the LGUs are still disposing their solid waste in open dumpsites, which is strictly prohibited under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"In this way, we will not just solve the solid waste management problem of the country but we will protect the environment for the benefit of the Filipino people," Antiporda pointed out.

A total of 233 open dumpsites are still operating in the country. The most number of open dumpsites are in Western Visayas (48 dumpsites), MIMAROPA (35), Central Visayas (27), Bicol region (23), and Davao region (20).

Meanwhile, there are already 189 established sanitary landfills in the country. The top five regions with the highest number of sanitary landfills are in CALABARZON (36), followed by Cagayan Valley (35), Ilocos region (33), Northern Mindanao (18), and Central Visayas (15).

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/metro/denr-strong-collab-with-slf-operators-to-improve-ph-solid-waste-management/>



DENR AT SANITARY LANDFILL OPERATORS SANIB- PWERSA SA PANGANGASIWA NG SOLID WASTE



January 26, 2021 @ 12:20 AM 4 hours ago

INAASAHAN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang higit pang pakikipagtulungan ng sanitary landfill (SLF) operators upang maisaayos ang pangangasiwa ng solid waste sa bansa.

“We always extend a welcoming hand to those sectors willing to work with us to solve our country’s problems particularly those that concern our environment and natural resources,” ani DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

“Solid waste management is a concern for all Filipinos and anyone willing to do a good turn is appreciated,” dagdag pa ni Cimatu.

Ayon kay Environment Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, nagpahayag ang mga kasapi ng Solid Waste Management Service Providers na magkasundo upang makatulong sa ahensya sa ginanap na 3rd consultation meeting sa DENR Central Office sa Quezon City noong Enero 22.

Aniya, ang pahayag ng SLF operators ay malaking hakbang para sa kanilang hanay upang mapangalagaan ang kalikasan.

“This is business on your part. But we want to be assured that when you operate sanitary landfill, you are compliant,” sabi ni Antiporda sa face-to-face at teleconference na pulong kasama ang SLF operators.

Inatasan din ni Antiporda ang SLF operators na magsumite ng regular reports sa DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) upang ma-monitor ang pagtapon ng basura ng mga LGU sa kanilang sanitary landfills.



DENR AT SANITARY LANDFILL OPERATORS SANIB-PWERSA SA PANGANGASIWA NG SOLID WASTE

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda, sa pamamagitan nito ay malalaman ng DENR kung nagtatapon pa rin ang LGU ng kanilang solid waste sa open dumpsite na mahigpit na ipinagbabawal sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9003 o mas kilala sa tawag na Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“In this way, we will not just solve the solid waste management problem of the country but we will protect the environment for the benefit of the Filipino people,” ani Antiporda.

May 233 open dumpsites pa ang operational sa buong bansa.

Karamihan sa mga ito ay nasa Western Visayas (48 dumpsites), MIMAROPA (35), Central Visayas (27), Bicol region (23), at Davao region (20).

Samantala, mayroon namang 189 naitayong sanitary landfills sa bansa.

Kabilang sa mga rehiyon na kasama sa top five na may pinakamaraming sanitary landfills ay ang CALABARZON na mayroong 36, sinundan ito ng Cagayan Valley (35), Ilocos region (33), Northern Mindanao (18) at Central Visayas (15).



NSWMC nagsagawa ng public consultation sa bawal na paggamit ng plastic



January 25, 2021 @ 7:10 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Para protektahan ang kalikasan nagsagawa ng public consultation ang National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) sa pamamagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa iba't ibang stakeholder para alamin ang single-use plastic item na kabilang sa listahan sa non-environmentally acceptable products at packaging materials o NEAP.

Ang NSWMC, sa pangunguna ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ay nag-organisa ng virtual consultation nitong nakalipas an Enero 22, na dinaluhan ng may 169 representante mula sa local government units, private sector at key stakeholders mula sa civil society groups kabilang ang Ecowaste Coalition at Oceana Philippines.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns and NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny D. Antiporda. ang pagsasagawa ng konsultasyon ay isang “a key moment on our work on NEAP.”

“Rest assured that this NEAP will not be left behind,” ayon kay Antiporda, at sinabing ang pagtatatag ng establisyemento para sa NEAP ay matagal ng panahon.

Kumpiyansa rin si Antiporda na ang pagtatatag at paglalagay ng mga listahan ng NEAP at makabagong lakas sa stakeholders para sa pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.



NSWMC nagsagawa ng public consultation sa bawal na paggamit ng plastic

Tiniyak din ng opisyal na ang public consultation ng NSWMC ay mananatiling transparent sa rekomendasyon ng NEAP list.

Ang RA 9003 ay naglaan sa NSWMC ng public notice at hearing para paghandaan ang listahan ng mga hindi tinatanggap na non-environmentally na produkto na tinukoy ng Act na ipinagbabawal ayon sa paghahanda ng Commission. (Santi Celario)

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/nswmc-nagsagawa-ng-public-consultation-sa-bawal-na-paggamit-ng-plastic/>



Threats to public health and environment listed

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

January 26, 2021



In file photo: Barangay staffer Mercedes Balangui, 52, at the Barangay Ugong, Valenzuela City materials recovery facility with a collection of plastic wastes under May Balik! Sa Plastik

Glass, metal and plastic straws pose huge threats to public health and environment and have been listed as top candidates for inclusion in the list of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging (NEAP).

During a public consultation organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) last January 2, Reynaldo Esguerra of the Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) presented the results of a study conducted from October to December 2020 that focuses on the assessment of single-use plastic straws.

The DOST is a member of the National Solid Waste Management Council (NSWMC), which is tasked to come up with a NEAP as mandated by Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001.

Straws are commonly used for soft drinks and coffee stirrers and its equivalent alternative materials.

A commonly used and better alternative for glass, metals or plastic straws are now available. Some nongovernment organizations and environmental groups are also introducing bamboo or paper straws.

Titled "Findings on the Assessment Conducted on Certain Products for Inclusion in the Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products List," the study came up with a the rapid risk assessment on four items—glass straws, metal straws, plastic straws and paper straws.

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.



Threats to public health and environment listed

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

Environmental groups have been prodding the DENR to come up with a NEAP for possible inclusion in a nationwide ban to be imposed by the agency.

Acknowledging that the establishment of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging materials as mandated by Republic Act 9003 is “long overdue,” an official of the DENR assured that the issue is not being completely overlooked.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns Benny D. Antiporda assured participants of an online public consultation held by the DENR recently that the NEAP will not be left behind.

The online public consultation with various stakeholders aim to identify single-use plastic items that will be included in the NEAP.

The NSWMC, chaired by Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, organized the visual consultation which was joined by 169 representatives from local government units, private sector, and key stakeholders from civil-society groups, including Ecowaste Coalition and Oceana Philippines, known vocal critics of ocean plastic pollution.

Antiporda, also NSWMC alternate chairman, said conducting the consultation is “a key moment on our work on NEAP,” noting that coming up with the list of NEAP is anticipated.

Antiporda 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.

He also assured those in the public consultation that the NSWMC will remain transparent on the recommendations in the NEAP list.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/26/threats-to-public-health-and-environment-listed/>



DENR orders closure of Bohol town garbage dump

By: [Leo Udtohan](#) - Correspondent / [@leoudtohanINQ](#)
[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 08:27 PM January 25, 2021

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has shut down a garbage dump in Guindulman, an old town in the eastern part of Bohol province.

The DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) served the cease and desist order (CDO) against the local government unit of Guindulman on Monday (Jan. 25) afternoon.

The DENR said the closure order meant that “it will not anymore be allowed to accept disposal of any type of waste and that any person or entity who shall act in contravention of the closure order shall be liable.”

The environment department said Guindulman officials have long been advised to rehabilitate the area heeding guidelines for safe closure and rehabilitation plan (SCRP) of open dumps and controlled garbage facilities.

On March 3, 2020, the DENR ordered Guindulman officials to immediately cease and desist operating the dump and carry out its SCRPs.

But in a follow-up inspection on April 1, 2020, the EMB regional office found that the municipality continued to operate its dump and no closure and rehabilitation efforts were made despite the closure order issued by the DENR bureau.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1388129/denr-orders-closure-of-bohol-town-garbage-dump#ixzz6kbBov9mL>

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DENR shuts down two dumpsites in Cebu, Bohol

[Mitchelle L. Palaubsanon](#) (The Freeman) - January 26, 2021 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas has issued closure orders of two open dumpsites in the region.

These open dumpsites are located in the towns of Carmen in Cebu and Guindulman in Bohol.

The orders emphasized that the closure of the dumpsite means that it will not anymore be allowed to accept disposal of any type of.

It said that the concerned local government units have long been advised to conduct immediate rehabilitation of the area following the general guideline stipulated in the Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan (SCRP) of open dumpsite and controlled dump facilities stipulated in Department Administrative Order No. 9 series of 2006.

Since 2018, EMB-7 said it has continually communicated with the LGU of Carmen wherein the first order issued was in March 2018 and another letter was sent last March 2020 reiterating the closure of its dumpsite and resubmission of their SCRPs but still to no avail.

Meanwhile, on March 3, 2020, a Semi-Annual Compliance Report was sent to the municipality of Guindulman directing them to immediately cease and desist from operating its dumpsite and further directing it to implement its SCRPs.

On April 1, 2020, follow-up inspection was conducted by EMB-7.

During that inspection, EMB-7 found out that it still continues to operate its dumpsite and no closure and rehabilitation undertakings has been conducted despite the cease and desist order issued by the office.



DENR shuts down two dumpsites in Cebu, Bohol

“Sufficient time has been given to the respondent by EMB-7 but unfortunately, the respondent failed and continued to ignore the CDO issued,” it said.

During the said closure activities simultaneously done yesterday, EMB-7 said that both LGUs have been very cooperative and expressed to work together with DENR-7 for the establishment of a comprehensive solid waste management (SWM) in their community as stipulated in Republic Act 9003.

Open dumpsites have been prohibited by law after the passage of R.A. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Landfills remain the primary long-term method of solid waste disposal allowed under the law.

Before the actual closure of the dumpsite in Carmen, DENR-7 officials had a meeting with Mayor Carlo Villamor and some of his department heads wherein the contents of the CDO were thoroughly discussed as well as the current status of SWM in the said town.

It was also discussed during the meeting the possible options for proper disposal and next steps to be taken to be able to comply with the DENR mandates.

The closure done at Carmen was participated by EMB-7 Regional Director Lormelyn Claudio and her team, DENR-7 Regional Executive Director Paquito Melicor Jr. and representatives of the PENRO and CENRO.

EMB-7 pledged to provide technical assistance to both LGUs as they try to manage their municipal wastes comprehensively and properly adhering to the DENR standards.

Further, a series of education campaigns will be conducted in the coming days to enhance cooperation from the public on proper waste segregation from the household source. — **GMR (FREEMAN)**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/bottom-article-list/2021/01/26/2073118/denr-shuts-down-two-dumpsites-cebu-bohol>



Open dumpsite in Carmen, Cebu closed down

By: Futch Anthony Inso - CDN Digital | January 25, 2021 - 06:03 PM



Carmen Municipal Mayor Carlo Villamor, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 7 Executive Director Paquito Melicor, and Environmental Management Bureau Region 7 director Lormelyn Claudio lead the locking of the town's dumpsite in Barangay Luyang. CDN Digital photo | Futch Anthony Inso

CEBU CITY, Philippines—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR-7) and the Municipal Government of Carmen town in northern Cebu locked the town's dumpsite located at Barangay Luyang on Monday morning, January 25, 2021.

The closure of the dumpsite was led by DENR-7 regional executive director Paquito Melicor, Environmental Management Bureau Central Visayas (EMB-7) regional director Lormelyn Claudio, and Carmen Mayor Carlo Villamor.

The closure was based on Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which prohibits operation of open dumpsites.

Claudio said that last year, DENR-7 has already issued a cease-and-desist order to the municipality of Carmen due to its continued operation of its open dumpsite.

The cease-and-desist order emphasized that the closure of the dumpsite meant that it will not anymore be allowed to accept disposal of any type of waste and any person or entity who shall act in contravention of the closure order shall be liable to the law.

The agency also ordered the concerned local government unit (LGU) to rehabilitate the dumpsite.

“The mayor has committed actually to rehabilitate this. So by next week, they will be coordinating with us for the details of the safe closure and rehabilitation plan. Para itong area na ito, makikita ninyo, ma-isara nang husto. At the same time, ma-proteksyonan natin itong Luyang river,” Claudio said.

The said dumpsite is located just beside the Luyang river.



Open dumpsite in Carmen, Cebu closed down

She added that the concerned LGU was long been advised to conduct immediate rehabilitation of the area, following the general guideline stipulated in the Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan (SCRIP) of the open dumpsite and controlled dump facilities stipulated in Department Administrative Order No. 9 series of 2006.

Mayor Villamor, for his part, said that he did not know that some residents were still throwing their garbage in the dumpsite.

He said that the municipal government has no longer been operating the dumpsite for the past five months already.

“So basin naay mga tricycle or sikad nga maghatod ug basura gikan sa mga households. But finally gisirado naman gyud, dili na gyud ni malabayan,” Villamor said.

He added that they have already established their own Material Recovery Facility (MRF), as well as their barangays.

Aside from this, the town is now identifying a sanitary landfill where they can throw their garbage that their MRF can no longer process.

He added that he is supporting the agency’s measure, so that the town can also protect the Luyang River, to prevent it from being contaminated, especially since this is the town’s source of water.

/bmjo

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/360802/open-dumpsite-in-carmen-cebu-closed-down#ixzz6karCqm2m>

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EMB closes 2 open dumpsites in Cebu, Bohol

By John Rey Saavedra January 25, 2021, 7:52 pm



OPEN DUMPSITES CLOSED. Officials of the Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas mount a closure notice in front of the open dumpsite in Barangay Luyang, Carmen, Cebu after the actual padlocking of the gate on Monday (Jan. 25, 2021). The EMB-7 also simultaneously served a closure order to another open dumpsite in Guindulman town in Bohol. *(Photo courtesy of EMB-7)*

CEBU CITY – Two open dumps in two separate municipalities in Cebu and Bohol have been ordered closed for environmental violations, the Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas (EMB-7) said on Monday.

In a statement, the EMB-7 said cease and desist and closure orders were simultaneously served against the municipalities of Carmen in northern Cebu and Guindulman in the western side of Bohol for operating “open dumpsites”.

“Open dumpsites have been prohibited by law after the passage of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. Sanitary landfills remain the primary long-term method of solid waste disposal allowed under the said Republic Act,” the statement sent to media said.

Engr. Cindylyn Pepito, EMB-7 information officer, said DENR-7 officials discussed with Carmen Mayor Carlo Villamor the contents of the cease and desist order in a meeting with him and his department heads prior to actual closure.

They also met with Guindulman Mayor Maria Fe Piezas to inform her of the violations.

Pepito, however, said environment officials also discussed “possible options for proper disposal and next steps to be taken to be able to comply with the DENR mandates”.

The EMB-7 will provide technical assistance to these LGUs as they try to manage their municipal wastes comprehensively and properly in adherence to the DENR standards, she said.

Because of the order, the municipalities are no longer allowed to dump any type of waste materials.



EMB closes 2 open dumpsites in Cebu, Bohol

“The concerned LGUs have long been advised to conduct immediate rehabilitation of the area following the general guideline stipulated in the Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan (SCRP) of open dumpsite and controlled dump facilities stipulated in Department Administrative Order No. 9, series of 2006,” the statement read.

It said the EMB-7 communicated to the officials of Carmen since 2018 about their violations.

The first closure order was issued in March 2018 and another letter was sent in March 2020 “reiterating the closure of their dumpsite and resubmission of their SCRPs but still to no avail”.

The EMB-7 noted that the open dumpsite in Carmen is situated beside the Luyang River in Barangay Luyang, a source of potable water for the town and neighboring local government units in Metro Cebu.

Meanwhile, a semiannual compliance report was sent to Guindulman municipality on March 3, 2020 directing them to immediately cease and desist from operating its dumpsite, and further directing it to implement its SCRPs.

On April 1, 2020, follow-up inspection was conducted by EMB-7 to determine compliance.

“It was found out that respondent continued to operate its dumpsite and no closure and rehabilitation undertakings has been conducted despite the CDO issued by the office,” the EMB-7 said. “Sufficient time has been given to the respondent by EMB-7 but unfortunately, respondent failed and continued to ignore the CDO issued”. (PNA)



Co-processing for sustainable waste management solution

[INQUIRER.net BrandRoom](https://www.inquirer.net/brandroom) / 04:32 PM January 25, 2021

Waste disposal has been a growing problem in every country across the globe. As urbanization continues, as technology advances, and as populations increase, so does the level of the world's waste.

Leading cement manufacturer CEMEX Holdings Philippines takes on the call for better waste management and reduction of plastic waste by providing a sustainable disposal solution through an industrial process called co-processing.



Co-processing: Cement manufacturer CEMEX Holdings Philippines provides sustainable disposal solutions through this process as it takes on the call for better waste management and reduction of plastic waste, in line with its Build the Nation Together mantra.

Co-processing is a proven sustainable waste disposal solution that reduces pollution and landfill space through the simultaneous recycling of materials and recovery of energy by utilizing a cement kiln. The kiln is the heart of the cement manufacturing operations and is the main equipment utilized to produce clinker, the main component for cement.

Coupled with proper segregation, co-processing helps reduce waste accumulation in dumpsites by taking the plastic and rubber-based waste and integrating these into the cement manufacturing process after the necessary pre-treatment

Non-recyclable waste is then converted into usable heat to help power the cement kiln, thereby reducing the dependency on fuel or electric consumption.

Continuously operating at extremely hot temperatures of around 1,500 Celsius, the cement kiln guarantees the complete breakdown of waste and toxic substances, ensuring that no residual waste materials are created.

Co-processing has also helped minimize environmental impact and health hazard to nearby communities, and lessen the burden of landfill spaces by up to 30%.



Co-processing for sustainable waste management solution

Aided with strict compliance on international standards on quality (ISO 9001), environment management (ISO 14001), and health and safety (ISO 18001), CEMEX conducts co-processing in an environmentally-friendly and secure way, and is duly accredited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

As testament to its commitment to protect and conserve the environment, CEMEX Holdings Philippines have been recognized in 2019 by the DENR – Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) for its waste management solutions and for the TSeK or *Tamang Segregasyon Para Sa Kalikasan* program services that are being offered to its chosen communities. CEMEX first earned the DENR-EMB recognition in 2017 for its commitment as donor partner to the government's Adopt-a-River Program.

Read more: <https://business.inquirer.net/316407/co-processing-for-sustainable-waste-management-solution#ixzz6kbFAMW5B>

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Third Philippine eagle rescued in Sarangani



By [The Manila Times](#)
January 26, 2021

ANOTHER Philippine eagle, the third of its kind in a span of four years, was recently found and rescued in the hinterlands of Maitum town in Sarangani province as it was trapped in thorny rattan vines while preying on a monkey, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Monday.



YOU ALRIGHT, BUDDY? A staff of Regional Office XII of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources observes a Philippine Eagle that was rescued in Sarangani province recently. The bird had been injured by a marble bullet. PHOTO COURTESY OF DENR REGION XII

A team from the municipal government, the DENR Regional Office 12 in Koronadal City, South Cotabato also said in a statement, retrieved the eagle and relayed the rescue effort to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office for proper handling of the eagle and turnover to the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City.

A piece of marble, which was used as a bullet in an improvised rifle, was recovered, embedded near the eagle's right clavicle.

The bird was found near Mt. Busa complex, a declared key biodiversity area and home to critically endangered, threatened, vulnerable and rare fowl species.



Third Philippine eagle rescued in Sarangani

The two previous Philippine eagles were found on Jan. 2, 2017 and Dec. 13, 2019 and were also turned over to the center for rehabilitation.

Environmental authorities attribute frequent sightings of the country's national bird in the mountain area to the healthy biodiversity of its forests, which also host endemic flora, fauna and hardwood species.



DENR probes wildlife hunting in Sarangani forests

By Richelyn Gubalani January 25, 2021, 6:05 pm



PROBE. Photo shows the Philippine Eagle rescued last Jan. 8 in a forest in Maitum, Sarangani province. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has launched an investigation into the wildlife hunting activities in the area after the discovery of marble and lead pellet bullets under the skin of the eagle.

(Photo courtesy of the municipal government of Maitum, Sarangani)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has launched an investigation into the wildlife hunting activities in portions of a key mountain range in Sarangani province that is a known habitat of the endangered Philippine Eagle.

Dr. Ali Hadjinasser, chief of the DENR's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro)-Kiamba, said Monday the probe is in response to the discovery of "jolen" marble and small lead pellet bullets under the skin of an eagle that was rescued early this month in Maitum town.

He said the bullets possibly came from wildlife hunters that had targeted the eagle, which is a violation of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Hadjinasser said they have intensified their monitoring efforts and information campaign regarding the presence of the Philippine Eagle and other wildlife species in the forests of Maitum and the neighboring municipalities.

"This is also to protect and conserve the rich biodiversity of the area," he said in a statement.

The injured male Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) was found by a resident identified as Mang Ganang trapped in thorny rattan vines at a portion of Sitio Wata, Barangay Ticulab in Maitum last Jan. 8.

The eagle reportedly fell from a tree while hunting a monkey in a forested area near Salagbanog Falls, which is situated within the Mt. Busa complex, a declared key biodiversity area that important bird area.



DENR probes wildlife hunting in Sarangani forests

A team from the municipal government took custody of the rescued raptor and eventually turned it over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) based in Davao City on orders from Maitum Mayor Alexander Bryan Reganit.

The PEF announced last Friday night that it successfully removed the marble embedded near the eagle's right clavicle.

Forester Jessica Guilao, conservation and development section chief of Cenro-Kiamba, said the eagle already underwent x-ray exam, blood test, fungal swab, and other laboratory tests.

The raptor, which weighed 4.25 kilograms and estimated at three to five-years-old, will remain under the care of the PEF until it is fully recovered.

Lawyer Felix Alicer, regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Region 12, urged the public not to harm or capture any wildlife species as they play a vital role in balancing the ecosystem.

"Let them live in their natural habitat. If they are injured, immediately notify the DENR to ensure their well-being," he said.

He lauded local stakeholders, the municipal government and other concerned agencies for the immediate action in rescuing the eagle, the third in the area since 2017. *(PNA)*



DENR DENIES PLEA OVER PHILEX LEAK

‘Share P1.2-B penalty with IPs’



By [Dexter A. See](#)
January 26, 2021

ITOGON, Benguet: The municipal government here has urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to allow the use of a portion of the P1.2-billion penalty paid by Philex Mining Corp. to the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB) for damages caused by an accidental leak of its tailings pond in August 2012 for the compensation of indigenous peoples (IPs), living downstream of the company’s mining operations, because they also suffered from the accident.

Mayor Victorio Palangdan has stated that he intends to appeal to the Office of the President an earlier decision of the DENR to deny his request to use a portion of the paid penalty purposely for the benefit of the IPs living downstream the mine camp.

He said it was unfortunate that the department, in its reply to his previous request, stipulated that the penalty paid by the mining company to the PAB will be used for the board’s research. Thus, the proposed use of a portion of the fund for the benefit of IPs cannot be granted.

Palangdan argued that it is just a portion of the fund that the local government is requesting, saying it is “disheartening” to be informed that such fund will be used for the PAB’s research.

Philex is one of the country’s major producers of gold and copper.

Palangdan had made the same request to DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

The mayor described the denial as a “serious setback” to the enforcement of pertinent provisions of Republic Act 8371 or the “Indigenous Peoples Rights Act” to advance the interest of the IPs over their ancestral domain.

However, he expressed confidence that President Rodrigo Duterte will see the wisdom of his request and will reverse the earlier decision of the Environment department on the matter because what the municipal government is fighting for is the greater interest of the IPs living in their domain.



Tree, mangrove planting now mandatory



By [The Manila Times](#)
January 26, 2021

True to its commitment to help promote environmental protection and sustainability, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has ordered the mandatory planting of trees and mangroves for every contract, accreditation and permits issued by the agency.

The order takes effect on the February 2 after the 15-day publication period reckoning from January 19.

PPA Administrative Order No. 14-2020, signed by PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago, requires the applicants/grantees of contracts, accreditations and permits, among others, to plant 1,000 seedlings of trees or mangroves in coordination with the local office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) within their respective business locations.

The PPA GM said this will be the new norm in the agency in granting contracts in compliance with Republic Act 9729 otherwise known as the ‘Climate Change Act of 2009’.

“All grantees or persons or entities applying with the PPA for the issuance of accreditation certificate, certificate of registration (COR), appointment and authorization, including those awarded with contracts for the provision of services in the ports are subject to the condition that the applicant/grantee shall plant trees and/or mangroves,” Santiago stressed.



Aquaculture in dams, protected areas pushed

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 26, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Allowing aquaculture to flourish in dams and certain protected areas is expected to boost food security and stabilize prices amid rising prices of pork and chicken.

In a virtual briefing, agricultural advocacy group Tugon Kabuhayan said the government should review current regulations for investors to secure long term permits to make use of dams for aquaculture.

Tugon Kabuhayan convenor Asis Perez said boosting aquaculture is important as this would serve as stabilizer of prices considering that about 66 percent of the total protein requirement of Filipinos comes from fish.

“Dams should be multipurpose, they have hydroelectric power and this can be used to grow fish. There are existing efforts from the private sector, but the governance system is too complex,” Perez said.

Bangus and tilapia are among the major aquaculture commodities. Galunggong, on the other hand, is part of the captured fisheries.

Latest price monitoring showed that the price of galunggong hovers from P200 to P280 per kilogram compared to tilapia and bangus, which are only priced from P120 to P170 a kilo.

Perez said aquaculture in dams and protected areas is a new idea and there are many interested private firms that are already submitting proposals to concerned agencies.

“But there are challenges we need to address. Some regulators have yet to see the potential of aquaculture as an anchor for food security. The government has to fully realize that so there can be openness to facilitate,” Perez said.

“Another stumbling block would be the fees. For one, a protected area would charge P65,000 per cage per year while in most areas, it’s just P12,000. That should be reconciled if we want to encourage investments in aquaculture,” he said.

Among the dams and bodies of water that are viable for aquaculture include the Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija, San Roque Dam in Pangasinan, Lake Mainit on the border of Surigao del Norte and Agusan del Sur, Lake Danao in Leyte, and Saranggani Bay among others.

However, the process is going to be tedious as these fall under the jurisdiction of several parties including the National Irrigation Administration, Protected Area Management Board, local government units and the power companies.

“There are several policy approaches and concerns for biodiversity. We have to justify why they should allow and how to enforce the right regulations to have the proper investments,” Perez said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/01/26/2072935/aquaculture-dams-protected-areas-pushed>



Shipyard owners protest reclamation plan of Cebu town ruled by mother and son

By: [Ador Vincent Mayol](#), [Nestle Semilla](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 05:13 PM January 25, 2021

CEBU CITY—At least 10 shipyard operators here are opposing a project to reclaim 235.8 hectares of sea that would dislocate dry docks where more than 300 vessels get maintenance and repairs and put at risk their seaworthiness.

The project is being pursued by the municipal government of Consolacion, Cebu province at the village of Tayud in partnership with a private company.

“Should this project continue, this means more than 300 vessels will have to look for other places or have to wait for months every year for their vessel to be certified as seaworthy,” said Shipyard Association of Consolacion Cebu (SACC) in a letter to Director William Cuñado of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) on Jan. 25.

“Not only will this greatly affect the shipping industry but will also compromise the safety of the traveling public,” the group added, as about 70 percent of the repair and maintenance of the vessels were being done in shipyards in Tayud.

The letter was presented to DENR representatives who attended the public hearing on Monday (Jan. 25) for the town’s Seafront City Project with officials of Consolacion and other affected parties.

Consolacion Vice Mayor Teresa Alegado claimed that only the shipyard operators opposed the project which she insisted would benefit the residents of Consolacion.

The shipyards, she said, “have been there for about six decades now.” “I think that’s enough already. As an official of this town, I need to prepare our municipality for the next generation,” she said.

“If they have complaints about the project, bring that to any forum and I will be there to answer them,” she added.

But both SACC and Barangay Tayud Captain Blessilda Villo said they were blindsided by Consolacion officials on the project.

Villo said she, too, was surprised by the proposed reclamation project as she was informed about it by the town officials only last December 2020.

“It seems that the city is in a hurry to implement the project which was done behind our backs,” Villo said. “Had there been proper consultation, we should have arrived at a win-win solution where everybody will be happy and satisfied,” she said.

Villo said Barangay Tayud has a population of 25,000 and at least 25 percent of the people have jobs in the shipyards.



Shipyard owners protest reclamation plan of Cebu town ruled by mother and son

When the project was still a concept, she said village officials and shipyard owners should have already been consulted. The SACC also said there was no “meaningful, prior consultation.”

The group members said they were caught off guard when town officials invited them to a meeting last Jan. 6 for a presentation for the project that would eliminate the shipyards.

The shipyard owners said they requested documents from Consolacion Mayor Joannes Pepito Alegado, the vice mayor’s son, to include a copy of the proposed joint venture agreement of the municipality with La Consolacion Seafront Development Corp. (LCSD), the notice of award of contract and an ordinance supporting the project. The mayor, however, failed to produce these.

The shipyard industry, the shipyard owners said, has served around 60 to 70 percent of the shipping industry in the Visayas and Mindanao, and provides employment, not only to residents of Consolacion, but also of neighboring towns.

For several decades now, the place to be reclaimed is an anchorage area where vessels wait until there’s berthing space at the Cebu port. It also serves as a shelter for ships during storms.

The shipyard owners said up to 70 percent of repair and maintenance of vessels are done in the shipyards in Tayud.

“Without repair and maintenance facilities, the safety of the ships will be compromised,” they said.

If reclamation pushes through, SACC said the vessel channel would be narrower and, as a result, would lead to increased and stronger currents that would be dangerous for ships passing through the channel.

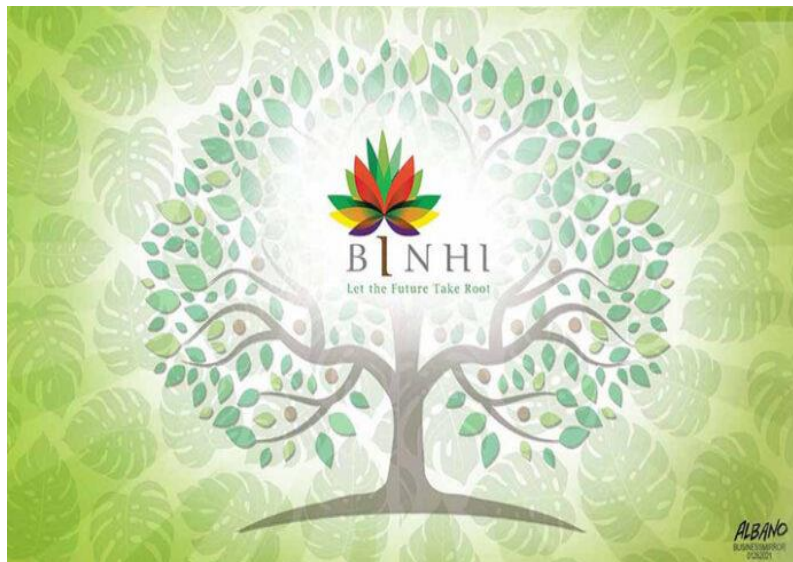
Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1388063/shipyard-owners-protest-reclamation-plan-of-cebu-town-ruled-by-father-and-son#ixzz6kbG76OmL>

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Planting trees

By [BusinessMirror](#)
January 26, 2021



Joyce Kilmer's poem, *Trees*, goes: "I think that I shall never see /A poem lovely as a tree"... and many of the older generations can recite the rest of it by heart, perhaps because it is one of the first poems they learned in school or from their parents at home.

It's a simple but beautiful poem that teaches us what a tree has to offer. Those of us who have ever stood before a tree and found ourselves utterly transfixed by it understand why Kilmer wrote the poem.

There was a time in the Philippines when there were many trees to behold. In the 1950s, for instance, the concrete jungle we know today as Manila was called a garden city. It had more green spaces than grey buildings. Trees shaded the streets and avenues. Nowadays, trees are largely gone in our cities and even in our provinces.

The Philippines has a total land area of 30 million hectares, and almost half of which are classified as forest land. However, only half of our forest land, or approximately 7.5 million hectares are covered with trees, leaving almost the same area falling under the classification of "open, degraded and denuded forests."

This is a shame since trees can help mitigate climate change, the harsh effects of which we Filipinos know only too well.

According to Global Forest Watch, a nonprofit organization that monitors the world's forests, each tree is estimated to capture 200 kilograms of carbon dioxide in its lifetime.

Global warming has strengthened the storms that routinely pummel our shores, harming lives and destroying billions worth of crops and properties.



Planting trees

Our local scientists have been saying over the years: Had our forests been healthier, they could have absorbed the powerful winds and surges of powerful storms. They could have protected our people, their homes, and saved lives.

That's why we commend Binhi, the nationwide tree-planting program of the Energy Development Corp. (EDC), which was recently featured by Jonathan L. Mayuga in a BusinessMirror banner story—Greening PHL the public-private way.

EDC, the country's largest and the world's second-largest geothermal energy producer, recently celebrated the 12th anniversary of Binhi.

Over the years, the Lopez Group's global and diversified renewable-energy firm has accomplished what no other company in the Philippines has done. From 2009 to 2019, EDC planted over 6.4 million seedlings and restored 9,449 hectares of denuded forests inside geothermal reservations and other watershed areas "to leave a legacy of a verdant Philippines for the next generation."

The company has partnered with 183 institutions and 88 communities in 16 regions for various forest-restoration projects.

One of its most successful initiatives is the Baslay coffee project, which transformed three generations of slash and burn farmers or *kaingineros* in Dauin, Negros Oriental into forest guardians.

Baslay's community forest is now a refuge to 113 species of birds and one of the primary sources of quality coffee (robusta and arabica) in Central Visayas.

The former *kaingineros* are now masters of interplanting coffee with native tree species. They produce one of the country's best coffee beans, and now operate their own coffee shop at their coffee plantation, which foreign backpackers and local tourists often visit. They have learned the value of taking care of the forests.

The Binhi program is an excellent example of how ethical businesses can boost the reforestation efforts of the government. It deserves to be emulated because private-sector support is essential to the success of the government's National Greening Program.

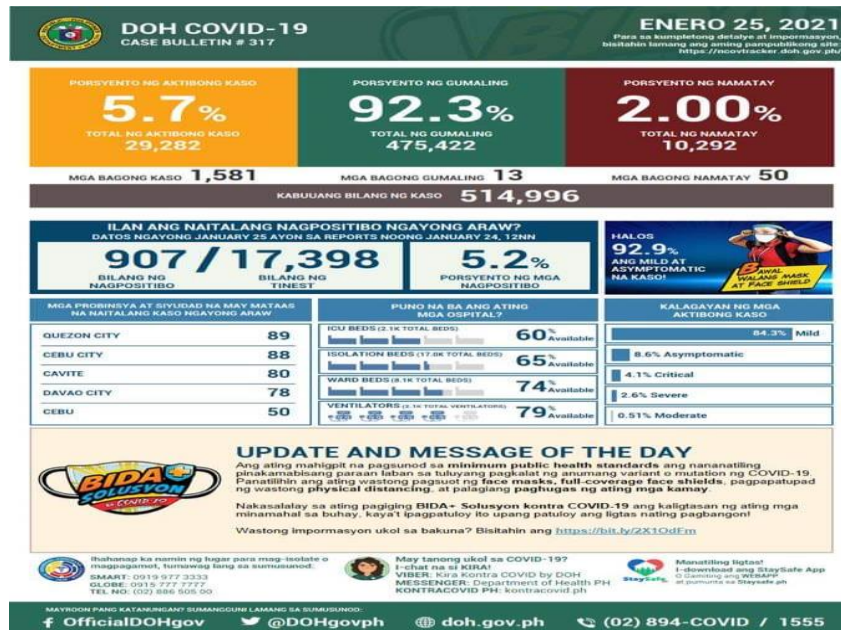
If other responsible corporations like EDC can help create financial incentives to spur investment in reforestation and work side-by-side with the government, scientists and communities to protect and restore our forests, then there is no doubt that we can obtain a sustainable future for the Philippines and all Filipinos.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/26/planting-trees/>



BREAKING: Bilang ng nagpositibo sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, halos 515,000 na

By Angellic Jordan/January 25, 2021 - 04:20 PM



Lagpas 1,500 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (January 25), umabot na sa 514,996 confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 29,282 o 5.7 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,581 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

84.3 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 6.6 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.51 porsyento ang moderate; 2.6 porsyento ang severe habang 4.1 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 50 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 10,292 o 2.00 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 13 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 475,422 o 92.3 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/283481/breaking-bilang-ng-nagpositibo-sa-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-halos-515000-na#ixzz6kb7MCAYn>

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World beginning to act on pollution

Published January 26, 2021, 12:06 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



The Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP) came out last week with a recommendation to the government to support the electric vehicle sector in reaction to the spate of closures of car-manufacturing plants in the country.

It called for support of Senate Bill 1382, the Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations Act of Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, which has been pending at the bicameral level for six years now. The bill mandates large industrial and commercial firms, public transport operators, and government agencies to have a minimum 5 percent electric vehicles in their fleets.

The bill may not have had much success in Congress but it anticipated a growing worldwide movement for an end to carbon pollution by phasing out gas-powered transportation and other industries and replacing them with electricity-powered ones.

Last March, 2020, the European Commission presented a proposal for all European Union nations to enact laws to make the EU the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The proposed European Climate Law set a target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Member states were asked to develop and implement plans to achieve this goal, which is also in line with the Paris Agreement to keep world temperature increase below 2 degrees Centigrade.

Last October, President Xi Jinping of China stunned the world with his pledge in a speech before the United Nations to make China “carbon neutral” by 2060. China has become the center of the global economy, accounting for about half the global consumption of steel, copper, aluminum, and cement, and requiring tremendous energy mostly from coal. China’s leaders have now begun planning to reduce the share of polluting coal in its energy mix for its industries – from 58 percent in 2019 to less than 50 percent by 2025—with the ultimate goal of 0 percent by 2060.



World beginning to act on pollution

A week after President Xi's pledge at the UN, Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said Japan too will become a carbon-neutral society by 2050.

Key to all these announced efforts to achieve carbon neutrality will be the development of new solar cells, carbon recycling, and digitalizing society. Now that the United States has a new president in Joseph Biden, it should soon be announcing its own plans to cut down on its carbon pollution by its industries and millions of cars.

In comparison with the carbon pollution by these highly industrialized nations, the Philippines has but a minor role in the total effort. But all efforts are important. We thus welcome the Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines' call on the government to support the nation's young electric vehicle sector.

As a Third World country, our state of economic development is well below that of Europe, China, and Japan, but in our plans for development, we should start considering measures that will gradually wean us from our dependence on industries that now pollute our cities, our skies, and our lives



PHL urged to submit climate pledge to Paris Agreement

By [Jovee Marie de la Cruz](#)

January 26, 2021



A LEADER of the House of Representatives has filed a resolution urging the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to submit the Philippines's climate pledge to the Paris Agreement.

In House Resolution 1494, House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda of Antique called for the country's Paris climate pledge, formally known as a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), to convey the "highest possible climate ambition in reflection of the government's strong commitment to contribute to global efforts to advance climate justice."

The CCC had vowed earlier that the country's first NDC "shall convey the shared vision and collective strategies of our sectors for the immediate pursuit of low carbon development and a sustainable future for the Filipino nation. It shall also communicate to the developed world our readiness for transformative green investments and finance, consistent with the President's call for climate justice."

She said, "It is unfortunate that we begin the New Year with the news that the Philippines failed to submit its Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Climate Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC]."

All parties to the agreement and the convention were asked to submit their NDCs last December 31, 2020.

But the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, Aksyon Klima, Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development, Greenpeace Philippines, Oxfam Philippines said the Philippines is among the countries that failed to make a submission."



PHL urged to submit climate pledge to Paris Agreement

“There is no place for fear or hesitancy in expediting our country’s NDC submission,” Legarda said.

“It will drive all sectors of the economy to strengthen their capacity to reduce disaster risks and adapt to climate change into a thriving a post-crisis scenario that turns crisis into opportunity,” she added.

The lawmaker also pushed for a more inclusive and consultative process from a wide range of stakeholders in the process of doing the NDC, recognizing civil society calls for urgency, ambition, and justice to be the three bottomlines for the country’s NDC.

“With the pandemic, we have come to realize that our world is not that advanced and resilient as we thought it to be. Our social and economic systems are fragile. However highly interconnected, we are only as strong as the most vulnerable among us. The best way forward is to heed science and take decisive actions for our collective recovery that also secures a cleaner, safer, and more resilient world for all,” Legarda said.

Lauded

Meanwhile, the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) lauded Legarda’s filing of House Resolution 1494.

Rex Barrer, head of ICSC’s climate governance team, said the country needs an ambitious climate action plan that actually reflects major changes under way in the economy.

“To survive and thrive amidst the climate emergency and the pandemic, we need plans to be anchored on a bold economy-wide investment agenda. Deputy Speaker Legarda’s resolution, which cites both the climate and Covid crises, is the proper role of the House of Representatives as it exercises oversight on the country’s climate and energy policy,” said Barrer.

“Legarda’s resolution is correct to cite significant advances made by the Department of Energy, Department of Finance, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the CCC, in reflecting President Duterte’s climate justice declarations and his sense of climate ambition. The positive impact generated by the work of these agencies must be fully reflected in our NDC so we can continue to credibly call out rich countries and the criminal neglect of their climate responsibility,” added Barrer.

The Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities is a Manila-based international policy group advancing climate resilience and low carbon development.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/26/phl-urged-to-submit-climate-pledge-to-paris-agreement/>



Action vs. global warming needed urgently — Climate Change Commission

Published January 25, 2021, 2:18 PM
by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized that there is no more time for inaction as global warming continues to accelerate.



(CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION FACEBOOK / MANILA BULLETIN)

Only greater and ambitious climate commitments from nations across the globe could halt the increasing trend of greenhouse gas emissions as 2020 was one of the three warmest years on record, CCC said, citing consolidated datasets from various international climate monitoring centers.

Despite the reduced economic activity across the globe due to COVID-19, and the prevalence of La Niña phenomenon expected to last until April of this year, climate change continues to accelerate with remarkable speed.

The United Kingdom Met Office's annual global temperature forecast for 2021 suggests that this year will once again enter the series of the Earth's hottest years, despite being influenced by the temporary cooling of La Niña, the effects of which are typically strongest in the second year of the event.

Given these projections, the CCC warned that the Philippines would be severely impacted given our status as a developing and vulnerable country.

These projections might mean more frequent and intense extreme weather disturbances like tropical cyclones which will impact our poorest communities.



Action vs. global warming needed urgently — Climate Change Commission

It can be remembered that in the last quarter of last year, the Philippines recorded almost ₱15 billion worth of damages in the agriculture sector due to three successive typhoons—Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses—which hit the island of Luzon in a span of a couple of weeks, affecting hundreds of thousands of farmers and fisherfolks.

On infrastructure, almost ₱13 billion worth of damages were recorded by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for typhoon Ulysses alone.

The impacts of climate change are felt across all sectors globally.

The CCC emphasized the need to strengthen public-private partnerships in promoting climate-resilient investments, and in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation



‘Highest possible climate ambition for PH’ sought by Legarda, advocates

Published January 25, 2021, 3:25 PM
by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

A Philippine-based nonprofit organization working on sustainable energy and fair climate policy applauded for the country’s ambitious commitment to the Paris agreement to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.



(Photo By Zaldy Comanda / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

The Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) applauded House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda’s filing of House Resolution No. 1494, which calls on the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to deliver the country’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change.

The resolution calls on the House of Representatives to ensure the CCC submits the NDC “conveying the highest possible climate ambition in reflection of the government’s strong commitment to climate justice,” not only because of the country’s commitment to the Paris Agreement.

It must also be “in solidarity with worldwide vulnerable communities and the global community’s resolve to address the climate emergency and promote a sustainable pandemic recovery.”

ICSC head of climate governance team Rex Barrer said the country needs an ambitious climate action plan that actually reflects major changes underway in the economy.

“To survive and thrive amidst the climate emergency and the pandemic, we need plans to be anchored on a bold economy-wide investment agenda. Deputy Speaker Legarda’s resolution, which cites both the climate and COVID crises, is the proper role of the House of Representatives as it exercises oversight on the country’s climate and energy policy,” Barrer said.



‘Highest possible climate ambition for PH’ sought by Legarda, advocates

“Legarda’s resolution is correct to cite significant advances made by the Department of Energy, Department of Finance, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Interior and Local government, and the CCC, in reflecting President Duterte’s climate justice declarations and his sense of climate ambition. The positive impact generated by the work of these agencies must be fully reflected in our NDC so we can continue to credibly call out rich countries and the criminal neglect of their climate responsibility,” he added.



PH 4th most affected by extreme weather—report

By: [Jhesset O. Enano](#) - Reporter / [@JhessetEnanoINQ](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:15 AM January 26, 2021



‘YOLANDA’ AFTERMATH Tacloban City became the face of the devastation wrought by Supertyphoon “Yolanda” in the Philippines in 2013. —RICHARD A. REYES

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is among the countries most affected by extreme weather from 2000 to 2019, according to a study by a German environmental policy think tank.

Germanwatch on Monday released its Global Climate Risk Index report, showing that the Philippines ranked fourth out of 180 countries in the 20-year period, following Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti.

Eight of the top 10 most affected countries are developing nations.

In that period, the group recorded 317 extreme weather events in the Philippines, the highest among the top 10 countries with high scores in the climate risk index. The scores indicate levels of exposure and vulnerabilities of countries to extreme weather events.

The index showed that Mozambique and Zimbabwe were the two countries hardest-hit by extreme weather. Both were struck by “Idai,” the deadliest and costliest cyclone recorded in the southwest Indian Ocean.

Third worst-hit was the Caribbean island nation of the Bahamas due to devastation from Hurricane “Dorian.”

The United States was not included in the 2019 index due to data problems.

Major causes of damage

Storms and their effects—strong winds, heavy rainfall, floods and landslides—were the major cause of extreme weather damage in 2019, Germanwatch said. Of the 10 most-affected countries, six were pounded by tropical cyclones.



PH 4th most affected by extreme weather—report

Since 2000, the research agency said, more than 11,000 extreme weather events killed nearly 480,000 people and brought staggering economic damage estimated at \$2.56 trillion.

The yearly report showed that developing countries are particularly affected by the impacts of climate change, which is widely considered to make these extreme events more frequent and severe in the future.

Recent research suggests the severity and the number of strong tropical cyclones will increase with every tenth of a degree in global average temperature rise, Germanwatch said.

In 2020—one of the three hottest years on record—the global average temperature was about 1.2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial times, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

More vulnerable nations

“Poorer countries are hit hardest because they are more vulnerable to the damaging effects of a hazard and have lower coping capacity,” Vera Kuenzel, the group’s senior adviser on climate change adaptation and human rights, said in a statement.

Kuenzel said countries like Haiti, the Philippines and Pakistan “are repeatedly hit by extreme weather events and have no time to fully recover before the next event hits.”

“They urgently need financial and technical assistance,” said David Eckstein, a Germanwatch policy adviser, noting that they had yet to receive the full \$100 billion a year in climate funding promised by wealthy countries.

Richer nations agreed to build up to providing that sum each year, starting in 2020, to help poorer countries adopt cleaner energy systems and adapt to the impacts of planetary warming.

Of the nearly \$80 billion raised in 2018, the latest figures available, only about 20 percent was allocated for adaptation, despite repeated calls for that share to be raised to half.

Facing an average of 20 tropical cyclones every year, the Philippines has had to deal with back-to-back storms, from Typhoon “Pablo” (international name: Bopha) in 2012, Supertyphoon “Yolanda” (“Haiyan”) in 2013 and Typhoon “Ompong” (“Mangkhut”) in 2018.

The report also showed that the Philippines landed 13th overall in the number of recorded deaths due to extreme weather events in 2019, falling from fourth place in the previous year.

In November and December of that year, Typhoons “Tisoy” (“Kammuri”) and “Ursula” (“Phanfone”) battered central Philippines.

Strong resilience

Amid the new coronavirus pandemic, Germanwatch said the current situation should emphasize that both risks and vulnerabilities were systemic and interconnected.



PH 4th most affected by extreme weather-report

It cited the need to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable against various types of risks, whether climatic, geophysical, economic or health-related.

Last week, 3,000 scientists from more than 130 countries called on world leaders, decision-makers, and investors to ramp up efforts on adaptation amid the worsening climate crisis.

“Adaptation must be at the forefront of decision-making,” the scientists wrote ahead of the Climate Adaptation Summit this week. “If we act now, we have the opportunity to plan ahead and prosper. If we delay, we will pay.” —***WITH A REPORT FROM THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION***

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1388244/ph-4th-most-affected-by-extreme-weather-report#ixzz6kbIQCOgD>

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480K killed by extreme weather this century; Philippines among most affected nations —analysis

Published January 25, 2021 9:06pm

By PATRICK GALEY, Agence France-Presse

PARIS — Almost half a million people have died in natural disasters linked to extreme weather events in the last 20 years, according to a new assessment of the direct threat posed to humanity by climate change.

The mortality burden of climate-related catastrophes such as storms, flooding and heatwaves is overwhelmingly borne by developing countries.

At the start of the Climate Adaptation Summit, held virtually this year due to the pandemic, Germanwatch calculated that these disasters have cost the global economy a staggering \$2.56 trillion this century.

The think tank's Global Climate Index examined the impact of two decades of extreme weather events, particularly the 2019 storm season, which produced hurricanes and cyclones that devastated parts of the Caribbean, east Africa and south Asia.

An [analysis of more than 11,000 extreme weather events](#) showed nearly 480,000 fatalities since 2000, with Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti the worst hit countries, it said.

The Philippines is next, coming in fourth just as it did in [a previous UN report on the countries hardest-hit by calamity](#).

The report said that the worst-hit countries can be classified into two groups: those that were most affected due to "exceptional catastrophes" and those that are affected by extreme events "on an ongoing basis."

The Philippines falls in the latter category, "continuously rank[ing] among the most affected countries both in the long-term index and in the index for each respective year."

Furthermore, the Philippines is also among the countries "still in the process of recovering from the previous year's impacts."

Under the 2015 Paris climate deal, wealthier nations are supposed to provide \$100 billion every year to help poorer states mitigate temperature rises and adapt to the changing climate.

But recent research suggests the true amount of funding available to developing countries for climate action is vastly lower.

"This shows that poor vulnerable countries face particularly great challenges in dealing with the consequences of extreme weather events," said co-author David Eckstein.

"They urgently need financial and technical assistance."

Funding gap

Adaptation—reducing the fallout among communities and increasing their capacity to deal with climate-related disasters such as floods and drought—is a pillar of the Paris accord.



480K killed by extreme weather this century; Philippines among most affected nations —analysis

The deal earmarks \$50 billion annually to adaptation, but as disasters have multiplied in the years since it was struck, the United Nations says the cost will balloon over the coming years.

Out of an estimated \$70 billion needed by developing nations each year, only \$30 billion is currently available.

In its Adaptation Gap report this month, the UN's Environment Programme said the true annual cost of adapting to climate impacts could be as high as \$300 billion by 2030 and \$500 billion by mid-century.

Eight out of the top ten most affected countries on Monday's index have low or lower middle income per capita.

"Poorer countries are hit hardest because they are more vulnerable to the damaging effects of a hazard and have lower coping capacity," said co-author Vera Keunzel.

She said countries such as Haiti, the Philippines and Pakistan were hit nearly constantly by extreme weather events, leading them no time to fully recover from one disaster before the next strikes.

The Climate Adaptation Summit, hosted by the Netherlands, will see countries convene virtually to seek "clear commitments to deliver concrete new endeavors" to help countries deal with the changing climate. — **AFP**



Storm damage worsens in a warming world

January 25, 2021 | 6:16 pm



A street in Rodriguez, Rizal is flooded after a typhoon hit Metro Manila, Nov. 13, 2020. — PHILIPPINE STAR/MICHAEL VARCAS

BARCELONA — More powerful storms are battering people and economies harder, with the poor suffering the worst losses, an annual climate risk index showed, as leaders were urged to ramp up their response to climate change impacts at a global adaptation summit on Monday.

The index for 2019, from research group Germanwatch, showed that Mozambique and Zimbabwe were the two countries hardest-hit by extreme weather. Both were struck by Idai, the deadliest and costliest cyclone recorded in the southwest Indian Ocean.

Just this weekend, central Mozambique was hammered again by another tropical storm, Eloise, which wrecked thousands of buildings, ruined crops and displaced almost 7,000 people.

Storms and their effects — strong winds, heavy rainfall, floods and landslides — were the major cause of extreme weather damage in 2019, Germanwatch said. Of the 10 most-affected countries, six were pounded by tropical cyclones.

The Caribbean island nation of the Bahamas was the third worst-hit, due to devastation from Hurricane Dorian.

The United States was not included in the 2019 index due to data problems.

Recent research suggests the severity and the number of strong tropical cyclones will increase with every tenth of a degree in global average temperature rise, Germanwatch said.

In 2020 — one of the three hottest years on record — the global average temperature was about 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).



Storm damage worsens in a warming world

David Eckstein, a Germanwatch policy advisor, said the climate risk index showed poor, vulnerable countries face particularly large challenges in dealing with the consequences of extreme weather events.

“They urgently need financial and technical assistance,” he said, noting they had yet to receive the full \$100 billion a year in climate funding promised by wealthy countries.

Richer nations agreed to build up to providing that sum each year, starting in 2020, to help poorer countries adopt cleaner energy systems and adapt to the impacts of planetary warming.

Of the nearly \$80 billion raised in 2018, the latest figures available, only about 20% was allocated for adaptation, despite repeated calls for that share to be raised to half.

The climate adaptation summit starting Monday “must address these problems,” Mr. Eckstein added.

Research out last week from international aid agency CARE suggested the actual amount of donor money going to adaptation could be even lower than reported.

Working with other organizations, CARE assessed 112 projects in Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam, representing 13% of total global adaptation finance between 2013 and 2017.

It found 42% of the money was spent on activities that did little to help communities build resilience to climate change, including a “friendship bridge” and an expressway in Vietnam and a post-earthquake housing reconstruction project in Nepal.

Report author John Nordbo from CARE Denmark said rich nations had not only failed to deliver enough adaptation finance, but had also tried to give the impression they are providing more than they do.

“This injustice must be corrected, and a clear plan must be presented to show how they intend to live up to their commitments with real money — and no reporting tricks,” he added in a statement.

FORECAST-BASED ACTION

Ahead of Monday’s summit, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) announced plans to at least double the size of a fund which it uses to support communities before climate disasters hit, to reduce losses.

IFRC Secretary General Jagan Chapagain said expanding the fund was part of a broader effort by the Red Cross to respond to an increasing case-load of emergencies caused by climate change.

The IFRC aims to grow the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, now at 30 million Swiss francs (\$34 million) a year, to 60 million a year in 2021 and 100 million by 2025.



Storm damage worsens in a warming world

In the past 30 years, Mr. Chapagain noted, the average number of climate and weather-related disasters per decade has increased nearly 35%. They accounted for 83% of all disasters in the past decade alone, killing 410,000 people and affecting 1.7 billion.

The IFRC's new loss-prevention approach, now gaining ground among donors and aid agencies, is known as "forecast-based action" because it is triggered by weather predictions.

Under the approach, money is made available to people imminently at risk from a coming weather threat, to help them move their families, livestock and goods to safety or otherwise take measures to protect them, as well as recover afterwards.

The Red Cross used it six times in 2020 to protect at-risk communities in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Mongolia and Mozambique, through measures such as early evacuation or reinforcing homes.

"By doing this, we are definitely saving lives," Mr. Chapagain told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The Red Cross now aims to scale up forecast-based action in partnership with local governments, he added.

As climate threats accelerate, the Red Cross head urged vulnerable countries to implement laws that improve how they manage disasters, and put in place systems to provide early warning, evacuate people and reduce losses from extreme weather. Mr. Chapagain urged leaders at the summit, hosted by the Netherlands, to acknowledge the need to take urgent steps to help communities cope with global warming impacts, while ramping up efforts to cut planet-heating emissions at the same time.

"If we don't adapt now, it is just going to be much, much worse," he said. — **Thomson Reuters Foundation**



US 'proud to be back' in climate fight, Kerry tells leaders

Bart H. Meijer, Reuters

Posted at Jan 25 2021 11:18 PM



Former US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks at an event of the "World War Zero" climate coalition during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid, Spain on December 11, 2019. *Susana Vera, Reuters/File Photo*

AMSTERDAM - The United States is "proud to be back" in international efforts to slow climate change, Washington's new special climate envoy John Kerry told a summit of leaders on Monday.

President Joe Biden's administration is this week expected to release more policies it believes are needed to tackle climate change after rejoining the 2015 Paris climate agreement that predecessor Donald Trump quit saying it was too costly to the US economy.

"We're proud to be back. We come back with humility for the absence over the last four years and we will do everything in our power to make up for it," Kerry told the Climate Adaptation Summit by video link.

Kerry was joined by China's Deputy Prime Minister Han Zheng, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and other leaders.

"President Biden has made fighting climate change a top priority of his administration. We have a president now, thank God, who leads, tells the truth and is seized by this issue," Kerry said.

Leaders stressed the importance of having Washington back at the table.

"Since I'm the first to take the floor after John Kerry, a warm welcome to the US back in the Paris Agreement," said International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva. "To tackle this great challenge we need all hands on deck and certainly the US is so critical for success."



US 'proud to be back' in climate fight, Kerry tells leaders

The online event, hosted by the Netherlands, aims to set out practical solutions and plans for dealing with climate change in the period until 2030.

As secretary of state under former President Barack Obama in 2015, Kerry helped bring China to the table at the U.N. climate conference in Paris.



Endangered Siamese crocodile in rare sighting at Thai national park



By [Agence France-Presse](#)
January 25, 2021

BANGKOK: The critically endangered Siamese crocodile has been spotted for only the second time in a decade at Thailand's largest national park, according to photos released on Saturday. The freshwater reptile — snapped by camera traps sunning itself at Kaeng Krachan National Park near the Thai border with Myanmar — was once ubiquitous across Southeast Asia, but its numbers have plummeted in the region. It is currently listed as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list. National park officials estimate only about 20 remain in the wild because of hunting and habitat loss, but on Saturday the nature reserve shared a rare spot of good news. The crocodile is estimated to be about 3 meters long (9.8 feet), he said, adding that this is only the second sighting of the species in the past decade. The endangered crocodile is highly sought after by poachers, who supply eggs and adult reptiles to farms around the region, where their skins are turned into luxury belts, shoes and handbags.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/01/25/news/world/endangered-siamese-crocodile-in-rare-sighting-at-thai-national-park/832130/>

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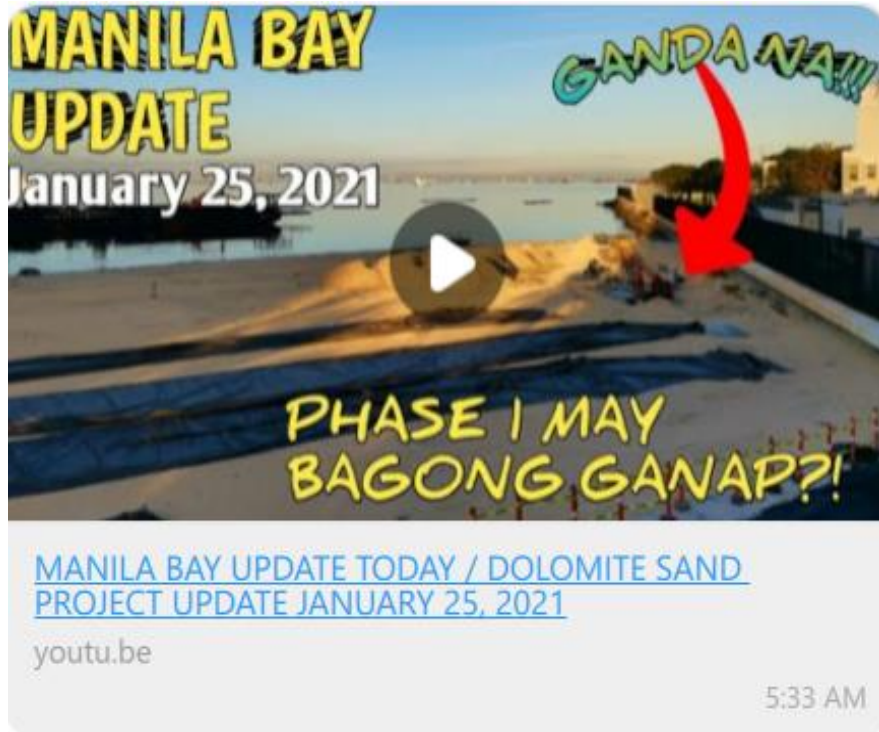
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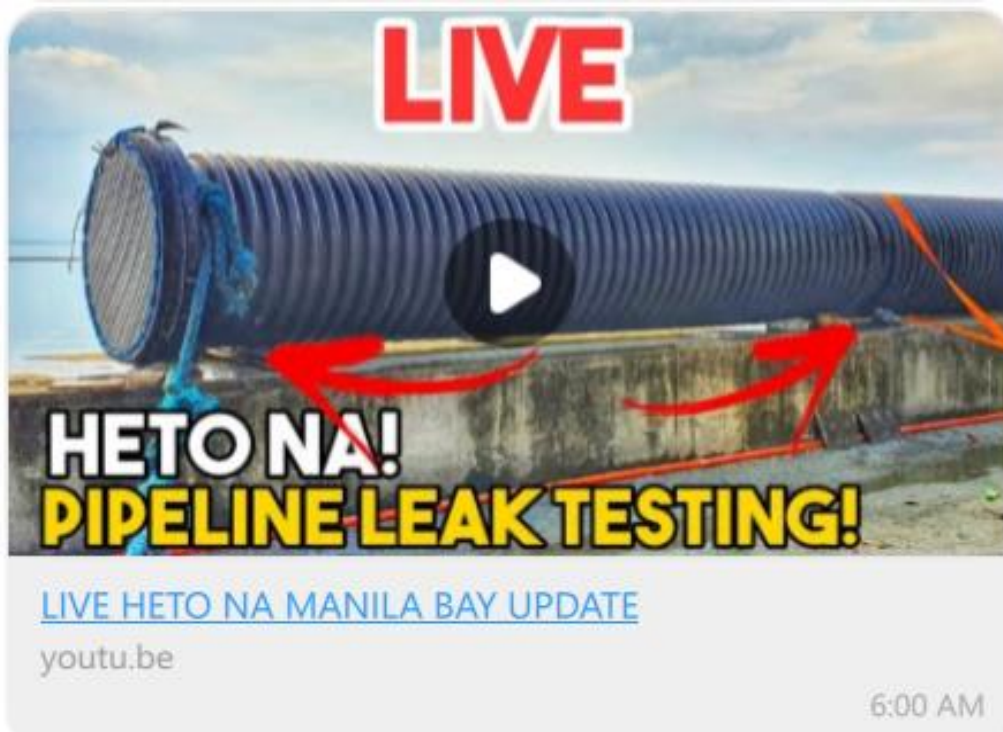
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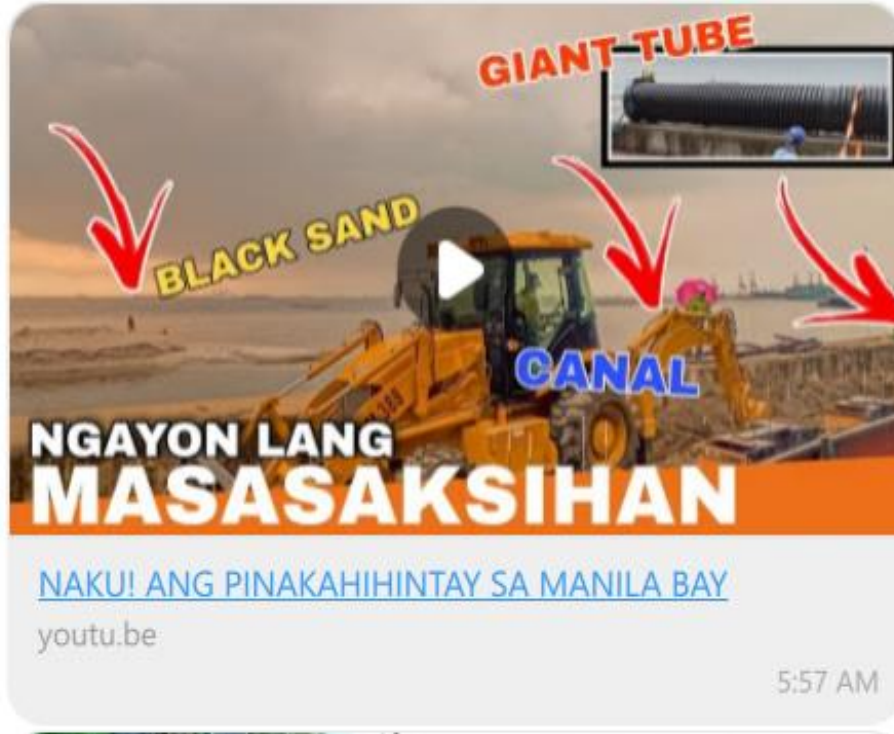
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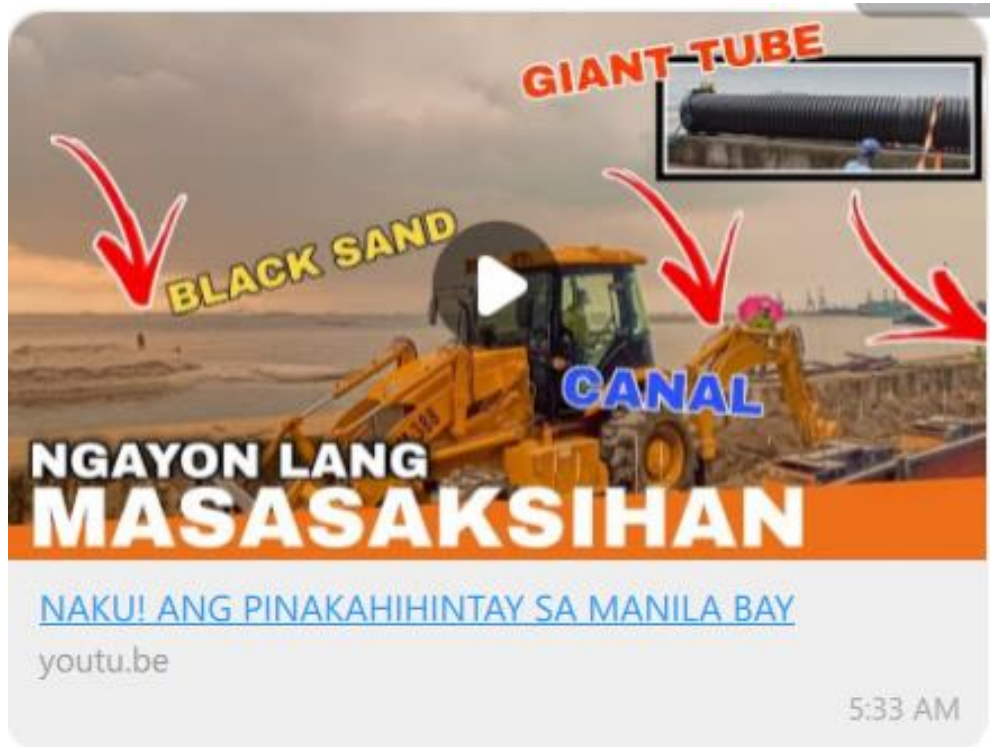
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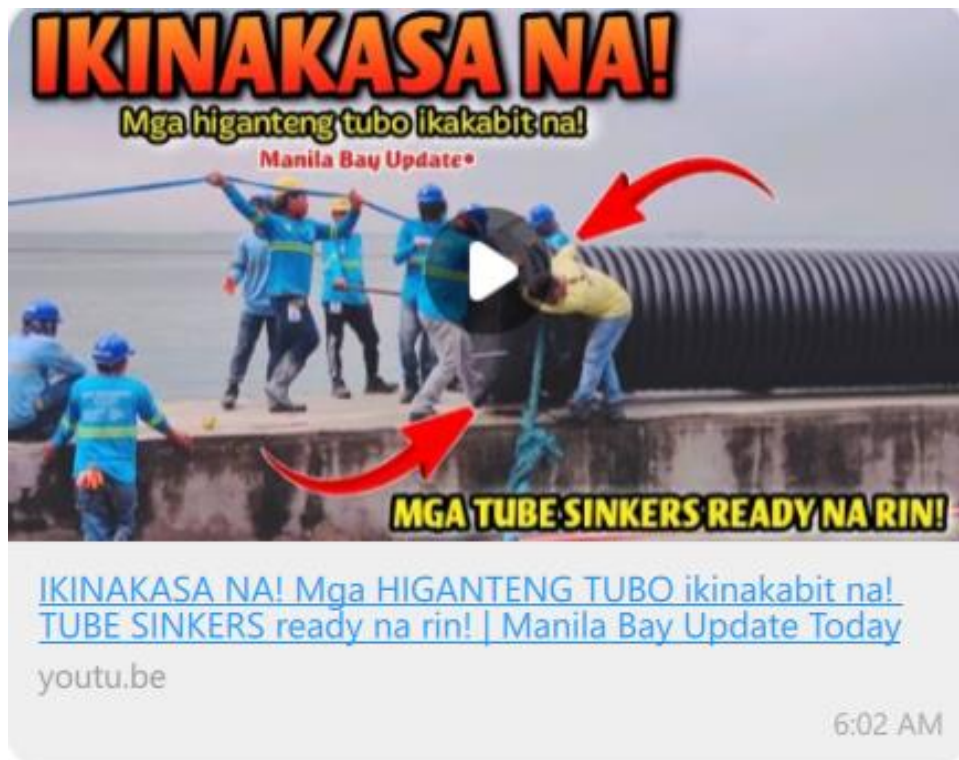


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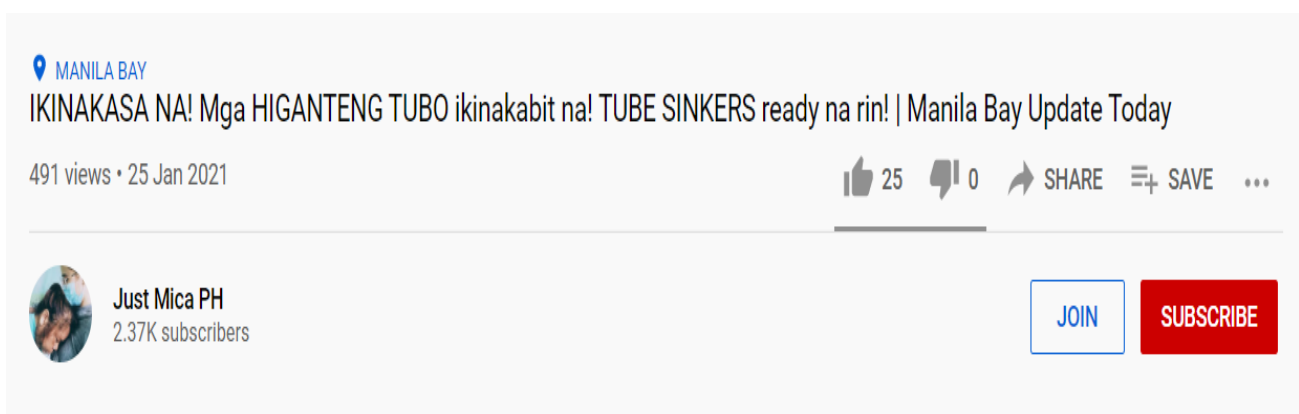
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