

30 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





## DENR wages war vs environmental criminals

JUL 29, 2021, 4:37 PM

Santiago Celario  
Writer

***Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu emphasized the crucial role of DENR's partner agencies in the strict enforcement of environmental laws, as he urged them to "stay vigilant, assertive and cohesive as stewards and guardians of the environment."***

**THE** Enforcement (NELE) Summit led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ended recently, with the adoption of three resolutions to fight environmental exploitation.

The NELE summit, held last July 14-16, resulted in the adoption of resolutions to approve a five-year indicative plan of the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee-Subcommittee on Environment and Natural Resources; to support the enactment of the proposed Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB); and to request for immediate passage of a bill that will amend Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Signatories of these resolutions include the DENR, Department of Agriculture, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Transportation, and Department of National Defense.

In his keynote message, Secretary Roy Cimatu emphasized the crucial role of DENR's partner agencies in the strict enforcement of environmental laws, as he urged them to "stay vigilant, assertive and cohesive as stewards and guardians of the environment."

He admitted that the DENR has limitations in enforcing the law, which is why it is important that partner agencies and other entities must cooperate to ensure the stringent and effective enforcement of environmental laws.

*"During the current pandemic, restrictions on interzonal movements and numerous checkpoints have driven violators to become more creative. If we can use drones with cameras to monitor forests, the coasts and the seas, so too can the enemy," Cimatu said in his keynote address read by DENR Undersecretary for Attached Agencies and Chief of Staff Rodolfo Garcia.*

*"The DENR, by itself, cannot enforce all environmental laws across our archipelago. The challenge requires a whole-of-government response, as well as the cooperation of stakeholders outside the government, from host communities and the private sector to friends abroad," Cimatu added.*



DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement Benito Antonio De Leon said the result of the summit is "the general framework for the effective and efficient enforcement of environmental laws for the next five years."

*"The Summit gave an overview of major developments in each of the concerned sectors. Milestones on the enforcement of blue, green, and brown laws in the last 15 years were also presented," De Leon said.*

According to De Leon, the NELE Summit participants were also "given brief information on transnational organized crime, the roles of the Bangsamoro Government in environmental protection and enforcement, and the creation of the EPEB."

The NELE Summit serves as a venue for updating the latest developments on environmental law enforcement, such as new laws and policies, implementing guidelines, programs, and tools.



## DENR pinagtibay ang resolusyon para puksain ang environmental crimes



July 29, 2021 @ 6:12 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Pinagtibay ng 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit na pinangunahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na nagtapos kamakailan, ang tatlong resolusyon para mapigilan at labanan ang environmental crimes.

Sa press release ayon sa DENR ang NELE summit na ginanap noong Hulyo 14 hanggang 16 ay nagresulta sa pagpapatibay ng resolusyon para aprubahan ang “five-year indicative plan” ng National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee-Sub-committee on Environment and Natural Resources; suportahan ang pagpapatibay sa panukulang Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB); at ang paghiling sa agarang pagpasa ng bill ng mag-aamiyenda sa Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Ayon sa DENR kabilang sa mga signatories sa mga resolusyong ito ay ang DENR, Department of Agriculture, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Transportation at ang Department of National Defense.

Kaugnay nito sa kanyang keynote message, binigyang-diin ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mahalagang papel ng partner agencies ng DENR sa mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng environmental laws habang hinimok din nito na maging mapagmatyag, at panatilihin ang pagiging katiwala at tagapagbantay ng kapaligiran.

Inamin din nito na ang DENR ay may mga limitasyon sa pagpapatupad ng batas dahil kung bakit mahalaga ang kooperasyon ng partner agencies upang matiyak ang mahigpit at epektibong pagpapatupad ng environmental laws.

“During the current pandemic, restrictions on interzonal movements and numerous checkpoints have driven violators to become more creative. If we can use drones with cameras to monitor forests, the coasts and the seas, so too can the enemy,” saad ni Cimatu sa kanyang keynote address na binasa ni DENR Undersecretary for Attached Agencies at Chief of Staff Rodolfo Garcia.

“The DENR, by itself, cannot enforce all environmental laws across our archipelago. The challenge requires a whole-of-government response, as well as the cooperation of stakeholders outside the government, from host communities and the private sector to friends abroad,” dagdag ni Cimatu.



Samantala ayon naman kay DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement Benito Antonio de Leon, ang resulta ng summit ay ang “general framework for the effective and efficient enforcement of environmental laws for the next five years.”

“The Summit gave an overview of major developments in each of the concerned sectors. Milestones on the enforcement of blue, green, and brown laws in the last 15 years were also presented,” saad ni de Leon.

Sinabi pa ni de Leon, ang NELE Summit participants ay binigyan ng kaunting impormasyon sa “transnational organized crime, papel ng Bangsamoro Government sa pagbibigay ng environmental protection at enforcement, at ang pagbuo sa EPEB.

Ang NELE Summit ay nagsilbing lugar para sa pagbibigay ng update tungkol sa pinakabagong developments sa environmental law enforcement, kabilang na dito ang bagong batas at polisiya, implementing guidelines, programs at tools. **Santi Celario**



## Single-use plastics regulation bill passed

posted July 29, 2021 at 10:10 pm

by [Maricel Cruz](#)

Speaker Lord Allan Velasco on Thursday lauded the passage of a measure that would regulate and phase out the production of single-use plastics to curb the growing problem of plastic pollution in the country.

Velasco is one of the principal authors of House Bill 9147 or the proposed “Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act,” which the House of Representatives unanimously approved on third and final reading during Wednesday’s session.

In a related development, the House passed the priority bill creating the Philippine Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC).

Quezon Rep. Angelina Tan, sponsor of the substitute bill as chairperson of the health panel and one of the principal authors, welcomed the approval of CDC measure.

She said the bill is “urgently necessary as the country, just like most of the health systems in the world, is ill-prepared to address the challenges of pandemics such as the COVID-19.”

The House chief said “the time is ripe” for the country to enact a national legislation that will regulate the production, importation, sale, distribution, provision, use, recovery, collection, recycling, and disposal of single-use plastic products.

“The Philippines is one of the world’s top five countries that contribute to plastic wastes causing marine pollution. Thus, it behooves our country to start prohibiting the use and spread of plastics in order to preserve the environment for future generations,”Velasco said.

HB 9147 provides for the gradual phase out of single-use plastics, which refer to “plastic products designed to be disposed of, destroyed, or recycled, after only one use.”

Once the bill is enacted into law, non-compostable single-use plastic products like drinking straws; stirrers; sticks for candy, balloon, and cotton buds; buntings; confetti; and packaging or bags of less than 10 microns in thickness shall be phased out within one year.

Other single-use plastic products such as plates and saucers; cups, bowls and lids; cutlery like spoons, forks, knives and chopsticks; food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene; oxo-degradable plastics; film wrap, packaging or bags of less than 50 microns in thickness; and sachets and pouches that are multilayered with other materials shall be phased out within a period of four years.

Thereafter, the production, importation, sale, distribution, provision or use of the said plastic products shall be prohibited.

However, properly labeled flexible disposable plastic drinking straws for persons with special conditions shall be allowed when no suitable reusable or compostable alternatives are available.

Under the bill, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)—in coordination with the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) and in consultation with relevant departments or government agencies and stakeholders—shall formulate a phase out plan within six months upon effectivity of the measure.





# House passes bill banning single-use plastics

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 29, 2021 9:19:39 PM



The House of Representatives passed a measure seeking to phase out single-use plastic products, as well as prohibit their production, importation, sale, distribution, provision and use within four years.  
(FILE PHOTO)

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 29)** — The House of Representatives passed a measure seeking to phase out single-use plastic products, as well as prohibit their production, importation, sale, distribution, provision and use within four years.

With a [190-0-1 vote](#), lawmakers approved [House Bill 9147](#) on Wednesday. The bill proposes that within four years, the following non-compostable plastic products must be phased out:

- plates and saucers
- cups, bowls, lids
- cutlery like spoons, forks, knives, chopsticks
- food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene
- oxo-degradable plastics
- film wrap, packaging or bags of less than 50 microns in thickness
- sachets and pouches that are multi-layered with other materials

Meanwhile, the bill allowed a leeway of only one year to phase out the following items:

- drinking straws
- stirrers
- sticks for candies, balloons and cotton buds
- buntings
- confetti
- packaging or bags of less than 10 microns in thickness



Afterwards, these products should no longer be produced or sold in the country. However, drinking straws for persons with disabilities shall be allowed when no suitable reusable alternative is available, the measure stated.

Compostable plastics are allowed provided that the items will have a logo indicating that it is compostable. They shall be subjected to standards developed by the Trade Department, the bill said.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment shall come up with the phase-out plan that will cover reduction in consumption and recycling or proper disposal of the single-use products as well as producer responsibility.

Large, medium and small enterprises shall be fined not less than ₱250,000 and not exceeding ₱500,000 for the first offense, not exceeding ₱750,000 for the second offense, and not exceeding ₱1 million for the third offense.

Micro and smaller businesses will have smaller penalties at not less than ₱50,000 and not more than ₱100,000 for the first offense, not more than ₱300,000 for the second offense, and not more than ₱500,000 for the third offense.

Businesses will also have their permits revoked after the third offense.

Environment conservation group World Wildlife Fund-Philippines lauded the House's move, saying it will bring closer its goal of removing [plastics in nature](#) by 2030.





## Panukala sa single use ng plastic lusot na

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Jul 29, 2021

NEWS



Photo courtesy of everydayrecycler.com



Inaprubahan ng Kamara sa ikatlo at huling pagbasa ang panukala na magre-regulate hanggang sa tuluyan ng ipagbawal ang produksyon at paggamit ng single-use plastic sa bansa.

Ang panukalang Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act (House Bill 9147) ay nakatanggap ng 190 boto sa Kamara noong Miyerkoles ng gabi.

Sa ilalim ng panukala, ang mga non-compostable single-use plastic product gaya ng drinking straws; stirrers; sticks for candy, balloon at cotton bud; buntings; confetti; at packaging o bag na ang kapal ay hindi lalagpas ng 10 microns ay ipi-phase out sa loob ng isang taon.

Ang mga lalabag ay pagmumultahin ng P50,000 hanggang P1 milyon. (Billy Begas)





## Fishing near the trash trap

Mores Heramis, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 29 2021 03:03 PM



A man attempts to catch fish adjacent to a trash trap at a waterway going to Manila Bay along Diokno Boulevard in Paranaque City on Thursday. The environmental department installed trash traps in several river systems in Central Luzon to prevent wastes from reaching Manila Bay.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/07/29/21/fishing-river-trash-trap-paranaque?fbclid=IwAR0XQhhgK4OzSvidMf8Ty63\\_TskxX13hiUJesJ\\_fMqJn8k3SuKrijMVY\\_Nvno](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/07/29/21/fishing-river-trash-trap-paranaque?fbclid=IwAR0XQhhgK4OzSvidMf8Ty63_TskxX13hiUJesJ_fMqJn8k3SuKrijMVY_Nvno)



# DOF bares as much as P43-billion potential revenue with lifting of mining freeze

BYBERNADETTE D. NICOLAS JULY 29, 2021



The Department of Finance (DOF) building is seen in this BusinessMirror file photo.

The government's lifting of the nine-year-old moratorium on new mining projects is expected to boost mineral production by around P15 billion more every year until 2023, and up to an additional P43 billion annually until 2027, the Department of Finance (DOF) disclosed.

Finance Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresa S. Habitan, who sits as the alternate chair of the Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI), said on Thursday that they project that the Executive Order (EO) 130 signed by President Duterte would also lead to increased exports, more workers and more revenues.

"Potential new entrants will increase exports by \$1 billion to \$2 billion every year in the short and long terms, as well as employ as many as 1.3 times more workers. With 100 more players in the market for mines, the government can collect an additional P34 billion in taxes and fees," Habitan said during the PH-EITI National Conference 2021.

The finance official said EO 130 was among the initiatives taken by the government to reset the extractive industry's growth trajectory after it was battered by pandemic-induced lockdowns.

If not for the pandemic, Habitan said the extractive industry in the Philippines was poised to grow in the long-term at an annual rate of 10.3 percent from 2020, mainly driven by the oil and gas sector's annual growth rate of 26 percent on the back of the Philippines's relatively slow transition to decarbonization.

"However, the projected growth rates of the extractive industry and its sectors were stymied by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. There was a huge slump in consumer demand and a consequent slowdown of the global economy," she said.

Habitan said all sectors of the local extractives, including oil, gas, coal, metallic and non-metallic mining, shrank to an average of -16 percent. Meanwhile, primary exports of major commodities, such as gold fell by 11 percent, while copper concentrates plunged by 78 percent between January and July of 2019 and 2020.

Nonmetallic mineral manufactures also dropped by 19 percent while iron and steel plunged by 71 percent.

"The nonmetallic mines were the most affected by the Covid-19. Almost all of those that responded to the survey said that their volume of production plummeted by around 50 percent and more than half of them experienced a reduction in their sales by about the same proportion," she said.





Unlike the nonmetallic mining sector, the metallic mining sector was “relatively resilient to extreme conditions such as Covid-19” because three out of four company respondents said they suffered little or no impact on their output and revenues, Habitan said.

Nonetheless, she said EO 130 is expected to maximize the industry’s potential to propel the pandemic-hit economy.

“In terms of opportunities, the industry’s GDP share is only hovering around 1 percent so there is still much room to contribute to it. The same thing goes with its exports to major destinations,” she said.

Apart from EO 130, Habitan said, the implementation of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act (CREATE) law reducing the corporate income tax from 30 percent to 25 percent will allow companies to reinvest savings further toward further expansion.

Metallic mines are also expected to gain more export revenues as importation needs of Hong Kong, China, and Japan will drive greater demand for extractive commodities from the Philippines, she said.

“The global post-Covid-19 recovery is pushing the need for higher gold purchases as a liquid resource and an investment safeguard against another possible pandemic. The worldwide trend of utilizing electric vehicles over conventional ones is focusing market attention on nickel as an essential component of rechargeable batteries,” Habitan said.

“As such, both gold and nickel can contribute a conservative maximum of \$21 billion in foreign exchange earnings for the Philippines,” she added.

Habitan also said they still see a bright future for the oil and gas sectors as Philippine transportation will still continue to rely on fossil fuels even as the promotion of electric vehicles has started to gain grounds in developed countries.

“In the longer term, as the demand for electric vehicles rises, so will the need for nickel as a main component of their batteries. Given that the country is the Top 2 producer of this metallic mineral in 2019 after Indonesia, the domestic consumption of and the export demand for nickel will continue to benefit the metals sector in the many years to come,” she said.



## Formalization of small mining sought

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) July 30, 2021

THE [National Coalition](#) of Small-Scale Miners in the [Philippines](#) is calling for the immediate formalization of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector in a bid to improve the working conditions of small-scale miners in the Philippines.

At the 2nd [National Assembly](#): National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines on Thursday, National Coalition President [Gil Indino](#) expressed hope for the development of small-scale mining areas into medium scale by improving their equipment for better operations.

"Hinahangad din po namin [ang](#) agarang pag-apruba ng maraming minahang bayan sa buong bansa para maging legal ang lahat ng small-scale miners (We hope for the quick approval and formalization of more people's small-scale mining areas nationwide so we can legalize all small-scale miners)," Indino said.

The [Republic Act](#) 7076, or the "People's [Small-Scale Mining Act](#) of 1991," states that small-scale mining operation should only be allowed within a declared Minahang Bayan.

Under the law for small-scale mining, only three metallic minerals are allowed. These are gold, silver and chromite.

With the theme "Responsible at Ligtas na Pagmimina sa Panahon ng Pandemya," this year's National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines assembly has gone virtual for the first time due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which broke out last year.

The event was held in collaboration with nongovernment organization BAN Toxics, through the support of [Swedish Society](#) for Nature Conservation.

BAN Toxics is lead-collaborator environmental agency who has been working with the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector. The organization's activities focus on helping the formalization of the ASGM sector to improve working conditions, transition miners to mercury-free technology and eliminate child labor and gender inequity.

"We call for the formalization of the ASGM sector to improve the working conditions of small-scale miners, transition them out of mercury use to protect both their health and the environment, and eliminate child labor in mining areas," BAN Toxics Executive Director [Reynaldo San Juan](#) said.

Along with the small-scale mining groups, the event was also attended by representatives from government agencies such as the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR), Mines and [Geosciences Bureau](#), the [Environmental Management Bureau](#), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Commission on Human Rights.

The assembly tackled issues plaguing the ASGM sector in the country, specifically the proposed amendments to Executive Order 79 and DENR Administrative Order 92-34, and the difficult acquisition process of obtaining a Minahang Bayan certification and mining contract.

Established in 2016, the National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines is a union of small-scale miners' associations nationwide promoting responsible mining through the formalization of the ASGM sector. The coalition's first national assembly took place in Davao del Sur last July 2019.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/07/30/business/top-business/formalization-of-small-mining-sought/1809023>



# Philippine small-scale mining groups convene for their 2nd national assembly

Thursday, July 29, 2021 Journal Online



**QUEZON CITY** – Hundreds of small-scale mining groups from all over the country have gathered as they addressed issues in the small-scale mining sector (ASGM) at the 2nd National Assembly: National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines on Thursday, July 29, 2021.

With the theme **“Responsible at Ligtas na Pagmimina sa Panahon ng Pandemya,”** this year’s assembly has gone virtual for the first time due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which broke out last year.

Despite the limitation due to quarantine protocols, National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines drove the assembly into possibility, with the help of non-government organization BAN Toxics, through the support of Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).

**BAN Toxics**, a lead-collaborator environmental agency who has been working with the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector. The organization’s activities focus on helping the formalization of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector to improve working conditions, transition miners to mercury-free technology, and eliminate child labor and gender inequity.

*“It was quite challenging to stage a national assembly during this pandemic. The restrictions set by the government forced us to postpone once. This year, we decided to utilize available resources to push through with this event,”* BAN Toxics Executive Director Reynaldo San Juan said.

Along with the small-scale mining groups, the event was also attended by representatives from government agencies such as Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

The assembly tackled issues plaguing the ASGM sector in the country, specifically the proposed amendments to Executive Order 79 and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order 92-34, and the difficult acquisition process of obtaining a Minahang Bayan certification and mining contract.

Established in 2016, the National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines is a union of small-scale miners’ associations nationwide promoting responsible mining through the formalization of the ASGM sector. The coalition’s first National Assembly took place in Davao del Sur last July 2019.





National Coalition President Gil Indino expressed hope for the development of small-scale mining areas into medium-scale by improving their equipment for better operations.

*“Hinahangad din po namin ang agarang pag-apruba ng maraming minahang bayan sa buong bansa para maging legal ang lahat ng small-scale miners,”* Indino added.

(We hope for the quick approval and formalization of more people’s small-scale mining areas nationwide so we can legalize all small-scale miners.)

“We call for the formalization of the ASGM sector to improve the working conditions of small-scale miners, transition them out of mercury use to protect both their health and the environment, and eliminate child labor in mining areas,” San Juan said.

**By Jhian Christian Aranas**

*Jhian Christian Aranas is a communication intern at **BAN Toxics**, and currently a senior journalism student at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. Aside from writing, he also specializes in multimedia and graphic designing.*



## Santo Tomas, Minalin poultry farms given 1 year to comply with environmental laws

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

July 29, 2021

THE Provincial Government of Pampanga gave poultry operators in Santo Tomas and Minalin towns to comply with the necessary environmental laws and procedures in the operation of their farms or face hefty fines for every violation.

This was the result of the meeting held on Tuesday, July 27, at the Capitol where issues on alleged violations of some 17 poultry farms were discussed based on a recent joint inspection conducted by the Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Office, Environmental Management Bureau, and National Bureau of Investigation.

Tuesday's meeting was chaired by Governor Dennis Pineda. It was found out that only 12 out of 17 poultry owners hold Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC) and most of the farms have violations and non-compliance of many environmental laws. Some of them allegedly violated environmental laws, such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Philippine Clean Air Act, Philippine Clean Water Act, and Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act.

As a corresponding penalty, they may be fined not more than P50,000 for each law violated, and P19,500 for each year of violation. Each poultry was only given one year for the rehabilitation of their respective areas.

Pineda had ordered the immediate compliance of the poultry farms and to help address the problem of waste disposal, sanitation and foul smell coming from the said poultry farms.

The meeting was also attended by the mayors of Minalin and Santo Tomas.



Dumaguete City Mayor Felipe Antonio B. Remollo presents the reclamation project on July 24.  
Dumaguete City Government

## Hearings, public consultation sought on destructive Dumaguete reclamation plan

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - July 29, 2021 - 9:57am

MANILA, Philippines (**Updated 10:48 a.m.**) — The National Academy of Science and Technology on Thursday cautioned against rushing into a massive reclamation project in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental that scientists and environmental advocates fear will devastate coastal communities and ecosystems.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros has meanwhile asked the Senate to set hearings on the planned reclamation project.

In its statement, NAST said that the National Integrated Protected Area System Act makes is government policy to secure "the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals" through a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas.

It said that Dumaguete City "has historically committed to protect its marine ecosystems" and has established four Marine Protected Areas off the villages of Bantayan, Lo-oc, Mangnao and Banilad. The planned reclamation project will "negatively impact" the MPAs "directly or indirectly", NAST said, saying also that the effects of the proposed project even on neighboring islands must be considered.

It said project proponents should release the technical, legal and due diligence reviews done and hold public consultations on the project and on the documents supporting it.

NAST, aside from recognizing and encouraging achievements in science and technology, also has an advisory function. "It is the body that the governemnt turns to for disinterested advice in science and technology," it says on its website.

### Senate hearings sought

Hontiveros filed Resolution 807 on Tuesday, calling for a probe into the proposed 174-hectare reclamation project in Dumaguete City. She cited the "far-reaching implications of the project and its precedent-setting impacts."

She said the Senate must look into the project "and its avowed benefits against its costs, as well as to pursue potential reforms of our environmental laws and our laws against graft and corruption, procurement, security and defense, public-private partnership, anti-dummy, and other relevant laws."





**NAST Philippines**

@nastphl



READ: The National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Statement on the "Smart City" Reclamation Project in front of Dumaguete City #PilipiNAST

### The National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Statement on the "Smart City" Reclamation Project in front of Dumaguete City



The National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, Republic Act 7582, declares that it is the policy of the State "to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas." The law further states that effective administration of these areas is possible only through cooperation among national and local government and concerned private organizations consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development.

Dumaguete City has historically committed to protect its marine ecosystems and to secure the fisheries-based livelihoods of its constituents by **legally establishing four marine protected areas (MPAs) over the past 20 years**. These MPAs have a total area of approximately 104 hectares and are situated off barangays Bantayan, Lo-oc, Mangrao, and Banilad. **These MPAs are part of a system of protected coral reefs, seagrass beds, and soft-sediment ecosystems that are meant to boost fisheries productivity, conserve marine biodiversity, and support tourism in Negros Oriental and the Central Visayas area.**

The proposed massive reclamation project to build a "smart city" will negatively impact these biodiverse-rich MPAs directly or indirectly and will disturb the vertical connectivity between the shore/shallow to deeper species assemblage (Abesamis *et al.*, 2020). Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on adjacent ecosystems, including those in neighboring islands, must be considered in the proposed 174-hectare reclamation project.

It is incumbent on the proponents of the project to reveal to the public the technical, legal, and due diligence reviews done on the sociology, ecology, and the economics of the project, and for the government to hold public consultations/fora for the open discussion/scrutiny, verification, and validation of the project documents.

**As part of due process and in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the action to indorse and approve the contract for a project with potential significant environmental and socio-economic impacts should be rescinded until the exercise of transparent public reviews/consultations of all the areas that will be impacted by this project have been done with diligence, accountability, and good governance ensured.**

Reference:  
Abesamis, R. A., Utzurian, J. A. T., Rabarta, L. J. J., & Russ, G. R. (2020). Shore-fish assemblage structure in the central Philippines from shallow coral reefs to the mesophotic zone. *Marine Biology*, 167(12), 1-15.



@nastphl



3rd Level, Philippine Science Heritage Building, DOST Compound, Biostan, Taguig City



www.nast.ph  
secretariat@nast.dost.gov.ph

7:00 AM · Jul 29, 2021



127



Share this Tweet

The Senate can hold hearings in aid of legislation and in the exercise of its oversight powers.

The city council of Dumaguete issued a resolution authorizing the signing of the joint venture agreement with contractor E.M. Cuerpo for the project despite strong opposition from scientists, environmental groups and the Church.



### **'Enormous and irreversible' damage feared**

The Philippine Association of Marine Science said the project's damage to the environment "will be enormous and irreversible" as it will bury very large areas of productive coral reefs and seagrass meadows.

Critics of the project said it will also affect the region's rich biodiversity, which include giant clams, whale sharks, marine turtles and the blue whale—the largest animal in the world.

Marine scientists also voiced concerns on the project's impact on food security and livelihood of fisherfolk.

They added that the project may worsen flooding in the coastal barangays of Dumaguete as it will likely impede the flow of water from the rivers and streams of Mount Talinis.



# Mining, quarrying revenues decline 12% to P57 billion in 2019

[Elijah Felice Rosales](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 30, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The government generated 12 percent less revenue from extractive industries to about P57 billion in 2019 due to lower output of mining and quarrying.

Multi-stakeholder initiative Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) yesterday reported the gross value added (GVA) of mining and quarrying fell by more than one percent to P144.22 billion in 2019 from P146.18 billion in 2018.

Finance Undersecretary and EITI chairman Bayani Agabin said the contribution of the extractive sector to the economy slightly dipped to 0.6 percent from 0.69 percent.

Further, revenue generated by the government from extractive business slid by over 12 percent to P56.7 billion, from P64.56 billion.

Broken down, the oil and gas industry registered a decline of roughly 18 percent to P34.56 billion, while revenue from metallic mining slipped by above seven percent to P11.09 billion.

On the other hand, income from non-metallic mining grew by nearly six percent to P11.05 billion.

Agabin attributed the decrease in extractive revenue to reduced collections from state agencies, especially the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), as well as challenges in submitting documents during the pandemic.

“The decrease was due to lower collections by our government agencies. The BIR, in particular, posted lower collections from oil and gas projects. This is consistent with the GVA for oil and gas that fell by 52.6 percent in the period,” Agabin said.

“There were also challenges in the submission of support documents due to the alternative work arrangements, [and] this affected the reconciliation process,” he said.

On the other hand, extractive firms increased their environmental and social expenditures by at least 27 percent to P4.3 billion in 2019, from P3.38 billion in 2018. According to Agabin, metallic mines contributed 91 percent of the spending, while non-metallic mines made up the remaining nine percent.

Finance Assistant Secretary and EITI alternate chairman Maria Teresa Habitan said non-metallic mines sustained operational injuries from the pandemic, as their volume of production fell by 50 percent. On the contrary, around 75 percent of metallic mines reported little to no impact from the health crisis.

“The metallic mining sector, therefore, is relatively resilient to extreme conditions, such as the COVID-19, a precursor for the sector to also take on long-term risks in the future,” Habitan said.

Within the decade, Habitan said the lifting of the moratorium on mining projects, as enforced by Executive Order 130, may boost mineral production by some P15 billion yearly until 2023, and by an additional P43 billion annually until 2027.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/07/30/2116135/mining-quarrying-revenues-decline-12-p57-billion-2019>





## Tires are for the roads, not in the seabed as fish habitats

JUL 29, 2021, 9:04 AM

Alfredo P. Hernandez  
Writer

***Scientific studies have revealed that used tires are covered with hydrocarbons which, when released into the waters, can pose a serious hazard to marine life.***

**THE** Philippines, along with two nearby countries, continue to dump old tires to sea bottoms to make them habitats for marine life.

This was revealed by Endangered Species International (ESI), a fish species protection group that maintains its artificial coral reefs in certain coastal waters in Mindanao.

While the Philippines had over 60,000 tires dislodged to seabed since the country began setting up artificial reefs in 1977 in Central Visayas using tires and bamboo, its neighbors Indonesia, and Malaysia had sent even more old tires.

The Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia make up the Coral Triangle in Southeast Asia.

Their coral reef resources used to be among those envied by many countries for their vibrant marine life: those thousands of commercial fish species, among them the most wanted of all tuna.

And these countries have yet to decide whether to halt their tire reef programs or to proceed with them despite the negative results from using discarded tires as fish habitats.

Scientific studies have revealed that used tires are covered with hydrocarbon.

*“When they break up over time, they release heavy metals into the environment that are toxic for marine life, according to Jacky Bonnenains, from the Robin Hood environmental pressure group.*

It was in the 1980s, three years after the Philippines began using tires for its artificial reefs, that Malaysia and Indonesia mounted their artificial reef programs using an enormous number of old tires to boost their fishery resources.

Meanwhile, the need to install artificial coral reefs in critical Philippine coastal waters was prompted by natural reefs that have been badly damaged for several reasons.

Intensive and destructive fishing methods such as blasting, use of cyanide, ‘moru-ami’, gleaming, and spearfishing were among the reasons 70 percent of the country’s 34,000 square kilometers of natural coral reefs have been damaged.



Muro-ami photo by diuvsdejesus2014

Muro-ami or muroami is a fishing technique employed on coral reefs in Southeast Asia.

It uses an encircling net together with pounding devices. These devices usually comprise large stones fitted on ropes that are pounded into the coral reefs, according to Wikipedia.

Coral reefs have also been destroyed by sedimentation because of deforestation and poor land-use practices.

When corals are buried in silt from deforested areas carried by the current from shallow waters, they eventually die.

The giant anchors dropped from ships while they briefly stopped in shallow waters have dragged across a wide area of reefs, crushing corals that stood on their paths.

ESI has revealed that the Coral Triangle countries have yet to follow the initiatives of countries such as the United States in retrieving the two million old tires it sent down the oceans for marine life sanctuaries and habitats.

ESI is maintaining a fish coral reef system in the waters of Mindanao as part of its advocacy on fish conservation and marine habitat protection.

The US had found that its artificial reef program using 2,000,000 tires on the coast of Florida was an enormous failure.

The tires were deployed to create several artificial reef sites beginning in the 1970s.

The only option for the US government was to retrieve them at an enormous cost and reuse them as fuel to generate power, and landfill in pellet form. The cleanup began in 2008.

US experts discovered that majority of the marine life did not take to the man-made reefs as their permanent home, and just went there as transients and visitors.

Only a small portion stayed put to spawn and made the artificial reefs their new habitat.

Over time, however, the 2,000,000 tires that were bound in many clusters called artificial reef modules loosened up and were swept away by sea currents in all directions.

Many of these wayward tires swept across the reefs, crushing corals on their paths. Many of them surfaced on beaches.

In 1995, Hurricane Opal dislodged and spread over 1,000 tires onto the Florida Panhandle, and in 1998 Hurricane Bonnie deposited thousands of tires onto the North Carolina beaches.

In the Coral Reef Triangle, Malaysia and Indonesia found to their dismay that the tires they built as fish sanctuaries would later litter their beaches every after strong typhoons.



But a move to uproot the tires from where they have been planted has not been thought of, so far.

Accepting that it failed in its artificial reefs using discarded tires, the US in 2008 began retrieving 62,000 tires from their watery graves on the coast of Florida.

The cleanup lasted up to 2015, although there are still hundreds of thousands to be hauled up and brought to the recycling plant.

In the past 40 years, over 200 artificial reefs of tires were built worldwide, including France, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and the US.

A 1995 Philippine scientific paper titled Low-cost Artificial Reef Program in the Philippines and Evaluation in the Management of a Tropical Coastal CEco- system offered observations:

1. Tire reefs have low productivity than bamboo reefs. However, reef modules made of bamboo also failed as they did not last and were swept away easily during a strong shift of undercurrent during typhoons.
2. Chemical analysis of tires shows that as it decays in water, it produces toxic compounds that cause problems to the aquatic system.
3. This could be a significant factor for halting the settlement of coral organisms and hindering fishes and marine organisms from using artificial reefs as their permanent habitats.

In short, ESI stressed, tires simply do not provide successful habitats for fish.

*“Most used tires are coated with hydrocarbons that decompose over time, releasing toxic heavy metals into the sea and the food chain.”*

The group had branded the artificial reef projects as “short-sighted unscientific planning strategies”.

ESI has observed that the round bald surface of old tires does not easily fit into the natural environment and is unsuitable for use by marine life.

*“After all, artificial reefs for fish and other life-forms work best when they mimic natural reefs: jagged rocks, undulating ocean floors, and natural outcroppings provide overhangs and caves that fish and other marine life, such as seals, sea snakes, turtles, and clams, used to protect themselves from predators,” ESI said.*

“It’s been discovered that successful artificial reefs concentrate fish populations in or near them, attracting both predators and prey fish populations around the reef, but robbing nearby natural habitats of their species.

*“In effect, such ‘tire colonies’ help produces an imbalanced environment instead of becoming an integral part of the natural habitat,” ESI said.*

Some observed that fish that thrive and are caught in artificial reefs are the barracuda, Spanish mackerel, surgeonfish, jacks, sweetlips, groupers, and rabbitfish.

#### Recommendations

The Philippine paper has recommended the following initiatives to help artificial reef projects meet their target of increasing fish population in coastal municipalities:

1. Stop the construction and if remove the already dropped tires for ecological reasons.





2. Continue construction of bamboo artificial reefs as a source of income for the small fishermen until such time other alternatives and more economical means have been developed.
3. Carry out studies and experiments using other available natural coastal materials such as carcar limestones for artificial reefs or the geoartificial reefs.
4. Use of cement as an artificial reef is not recommended because of its cost.
5. Encourage community involvement in the management and development of coastal resources.
6. Strict implementation of laws regarding the protection, maintenance, and management of the coral system.

Source: [https://opinyon.net/national/tires-are-for-the-roads-not-in-the-seabed-as-fish-habitats?fbclid=IwAR0\\_e6FQLQHyUyObkWL9WuFQBhoLYnOQBkxEiW3FoZ1Pqn6QcW52KXH5D5k](https://opinyon.net/national/tires-are-for-the-roads-not-in-the-seabed-as-fish-habitats?fbclid=IwAR0_e6FQLQHyUyObkWL9WuFQBhoLYnOQBkxEiW3FoZ1Pqn6QcW52KXH5D5k)

# Greener PPE: Inventors tackle Covid-19 plastic waste mountain

Appalled by the tonnes of plastic trash generated by the pandemic, entrepreneurs are developing reusable PPE and turning single-use masks into everything from bricks to toolboxes.



A person wearing a PPE suit leaves Elmhurst Hospital during the Covid-19 pandemic in New York, US, April 5, 2020. Image: Eduardo Munoz/Reuters.

[Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

July 29, 2021

From surgical masks and gloves to disposable hospital gowns and aprons, the Covid-19 pandemic is creating a mountain of plastic medical waste that is polluting the land and sea – alarming doctors and environmentalists alike.

One young entrepreneur in Mexico has now invented a range of reusable PPE (personal protective equipment) she hopes will stop tonnes of single-use medical wear ending up in landfill, incinerators and waterways – and save hospitals a fortune.

Tamara Chayo said disposable PPE not only caused environmental damage, but could spread the virus which survives up to three days on plastics – a particular concern in countries where medical waste management is poor.

“Most of my family are doctors and nurses. They think, ok, I’m saving humans, but I’m not saving the planet,” Chayo told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“And if everything is thrown away it will create more disease, so it becomes a never-ending cycle.”

Chayo, a 21-year-old chemical engineering student, co-founded [MEDU Protection](#) in mid-2020 to develop a sustainable suit to protect health professionals treating Covid-19 patients at a time when PPE was in short supply.

The garments are made from a fabric similar to the coating used on surfaces in viral research laboratories.

Chayo says a doctor can use four disposable gowns a day whereas her PPE can be worn all day and washed 50 times without losing its protective properties — meaning each garment saves 200 plastic items from landfills and incinerators.

“I’m really excited about this,” said Chayo, many of whose family members have been working on the Covid-19 frontline.

“We’re not just making medical apparel, we want to create a movement for a greener medical industry.”

### **‘Planet-saving PPE’**

MEDU’s garments are embedded with QR technology which informs health workers, via a smart phone app, how many times an item has been washed.

After 50 wears the PPE is returned to MEDU which disinfects it and converts it into cotton scrubs and bags for packaging its products.

Chayo, who plans to expand to the United States and France, estimated reusable medical apparel could slash hospital PPE spending by 90 per cent.

Approximately 129 billion disposable masks, mostly made from plastic microfibres, and 65 billion disposable gloves have been used every month during the pandemic, according to a [study](#) in the journal Environmental Science and Technology.

The United Nations estimates about 75% of plastic generated by the pandemic — including medical waste and packaging from home deliveries during lockdowns — will likely end up in landfills or the sea.

The production of plastic which uses fossil fuels as a base material — and its incineration when discarded — is also a significant driver of climate change.

Tom Dawson, founder of [Revolution-ZERO](#) which has developed a range of “planet-saving PPE” in Britain, said the pandemic had reversed recent progress on cutting plastic use.

While there was “phenomenal” interest in reusable PPE, he said there were obstacles to its adoption.

When the pandemic struck many governments stockpiled disposable PPE which they are supplying free, meaning hospitals have no economic incentive to buy reusable products.

Another problem is the lack of clinical grade laundries which have disappeared as hospitals switched to disposable PPE.

**We believe in micro social enterprises so instead of having one big factory we have multiple factories across India so we create local jobs as well as recycle local waste.**

Binish Desai, founder, Eco-Eclectic Technologies

### **Masks into bricks**

From Britain to India, entrepreneurs are also looking at how to recycle plastic PPE — turning it into everything from toolboxes to bricks.

In Wales, [Thermal Compaction Group \(TCG\)](#) makes machines about the size of a large American fridge that melt down hospital gowns, masks, hairnets, tray wraps and ward curtains into plastic bricks.

The plastic can be used to manufacture anything from school chairs to 3D printer filament and yarn for clothing.

“It takes what’s designated as a single-use product and actually turns it into a multi-use product,” said TCG managing director Mat Rapson.



The temperature inside TCG's Sterimelt and Curtainmelt machines exceeds 300 degrees Celsius (572°F), killing Covid-19 and other pathogens.

Five UK hospitals have begun using the machines with more placing orders. TCG is also liaising with distributors in Canada, Australia and Hungary among other countries.

About 6,500kg of CO2 emissions are saved for every 10,000kg of material processed, Rapson said — mostly due to savings on transporting and incinerating the waste.

### **Recycle man**

In India, entrepreneur Binish Desai is turning PPE into grey bricks and construction panels to build low-cost housing and schools.

Desai, 27, who started making bricks from waste as a teenager, has invented a new brick made from disinfected and shredded masks and other PPE mixed with paper mill waste and binder.

The entrepreneur, nicknamed "The Recycle Man of India", said the bricks were three times stronger than earth bricks, twice the size and almost half the cost.

Some of the masks are collected from "eco-bins" installed in hospitals, restaurants and other public places.

Desai, whose story is being turned into a film by a major Indian production company, is looking to expand to Britain, the United States, Canada and Brazil.

The entrepreneur, who founded [Eco-Eclectic Technologies](#) in 2016, initially plans to export his bricks to Brazil, but eventually wants to build a plant there to process local waste.

"We believe in micro social enterprises so instead of having one big factory we have multiple factories across India so we create local jobs as well as recycle local waste," he said.

Desai believes India — with its tradition of recycling and a less established throwaway culture than many Western countries — can become a global leader in zero waste technology.

"Attitudes are changing – absolutely," he said. "The pandemic has made us far more aware of how much waste we're generating and that it's not sustainable."

*This story was published with permission from [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, climate change, resilience, women's rights, trafficking and property rights. Visit <http://news.trust.org/climate>.*



# Yemen oil leak damages nature

By Xinhua and Global Times

July 30, 2021



Birds are seen at the Al-Huswah natural reserve near [Aden, Yemen](#)'s southern port city, on July 29, 2021. An oil leakage from a long-abandoned oil tanker in Yemen started damaging the country's nature reserve in the southern port city of Aden, a government official told [Xinhua](#) on Wednesday. The private oil tanker [Dia](#) began to sink on July 18 off the southern coast of Yemen near the Port of Aden, leaving an oil slick of more than 20 km along the shore and causing damage to the Al-Huswah natural reserve, the only nature reserve in the city, the local government source said on condition of anonymity. XINHUA PHOTO

**ADEN:** An oil leakage from a long-abandoned oil tanker in Yemen started damaging the country's nature reserve in the southern port city of Aden, a government official told Xinhua on Wednesday.

The private oil tanker Dia began to sink on July 18 off the southern coast of Yemen near the Port of Aden, leaving an oil slick of more than 20 kilometers along the shore and causing damage to the Al-Huswah natural reserve, the only nature reserve in the city, the local government source said on condition of anonymity.

Last week, [Mohammed Amzarba](#), chief executive officer of the [Aden Ports Administration](#), told the state-run [Saba News Agency](#) that the government was still having problems in refloating the Dia after multiple attempts.

The Dia has been abandoned since 2014 at Al-Buriqah, a dumping area west of Aden's main port, where a slew of other decrepit ships are left.

Rajih [Ali](#), an environmental expert, told Xinhua that the oil leaking from the sinking tanker may cause contamination to the seawater and affect the lives of marine creatures.



ABS-CBN News

12h · 🌐

...

Walang banta ng tsunami sa Pilipinas kasunod ng magnitude 8.2 lindol sa Alaska, ayon sa Phivolcs.

BASA HIN ang buong ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../82-magnitude-earthquake...>



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF VOLCANOLOGY AND  
SEISMOLOGY



**TSUNAMI INFORMATION NO. 2**  
**NO TSUNAMI THREAT**  
 No tsunami threat to the Philippines from this earthquake.

**PRELIMINARY EARTHQUAKE PARAMETERS**

Date and Time : 29 Jul 2021 - 02:15:47 PM  
 Location : 55.5°N, 157.9°W - Alaska Peninsula  
 Depth (km) : 017  
 Magnitude : 8.2

**EVALUATION**

No destructive tsunami threat exists based on available data. This is for information purposes only and there is no tsunami threat to the Philippines from this earthquake.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

👍❤️ 204

33 Comments 85 Shares





## Bulacan PDRRMC closely monitoring 3 Bulacan dams

Published July 29, 2021, 9:28 AM

by [Freddie Velez](#)

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) in Bulacan is closely monitoring the water levels of the three big dams in the province — Angat, Ipo, and Bustos — which have been discharging excess water since July 25.

The Ipo Dam management announced that it would continue to conduct spilling operations today with an approximate initial discharge of 38 cubic meters of water.



Bustos Dam (Photo by Freddie C. Velez)

According to PDRRMO executive officer Liz Mungcal, as of 5:00 in the afternoon on Wednesday, July 28, from 187.47 meters on Sunday evening, Angat Dam's water level rose to 189.00 meters which is still way below the spilling level of 210 meters), Ipo Dam's water level has reached 101.03 meters (spilling level is 101 meters), while Bustos Dam has reached 17.36 meters (spilling level is 17.00 meters).

In the flood advisory released at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 29, the overflowing of rivers is likely to occur due to the effect of high tide in coastal areas before noon until late in the afternoon of Thursday in Apalit, Macabebe, Masantol, Sasmuan, Lubao, and Guagua in the province of Pampanga and Hagonoy, Paombong, City of Malolos, and Calumpit in Bulacan.

Mungcal said that as of Wednesday, July 28, the following areas remain submerged under 1 to 4 feet of floodwaters due to heavy rains and the release of waters from Ipo and Bustos Dams: 19 villages in Hagonoy, 19 in Bocaue, 14 in Paombong, 20 in Calumpit, and 29 in the City of Malolos.

Mungcal said that 756 families or 2,553 individuals from the 101 affected barangays are now temporarily housed in 60 different evacuation centers in Bulacan. They are being assisted by barangay officials especially in maintaining the minimum health standards.

The villages of Sto Nino, Sta. Monica, Mercado, San Jose, Sto. Rosario, Sta. Cruz, San Pascual, San Sebastian, San Nicolas and San Pablo of Hagonoy town and Barangay Nagbalon in Marilao are not passable to light vehicles.

As of 2 p.m. on July 28, the initial total damage to infrastructure, livestock, agriculture, and fisheries due to the southwest monsoon enhanced by Typhoon Fabian was estimated at P74,570,188.11.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/29/bulacan-pdrmmc-closely-monitoring-3-bulacan-dams/>



30 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





Marikina residents are seen inside the public market of the city on July 28, 2021. The Department of Health reports an increase in new COVID-19 infections following the detection of the local transmission of its Delta variant.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

# 5,735 new coronavirus infections push Philippines caseload to 1.57M

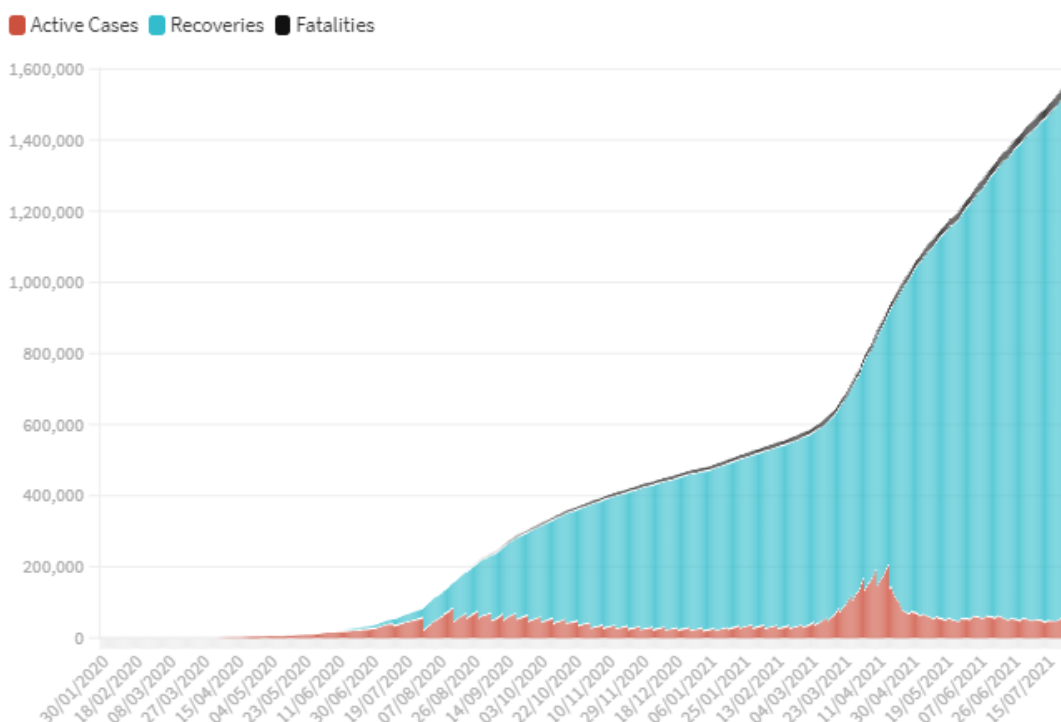
(Philstar.com) - July 29, 2021 - 4:15pm

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Thursday reported 5,735 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,572,287.

The Department of Health in its bulletin said one laboratory failed to submit testing results.

- **Active cases:** 56,273 or 3.6% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 4,069, pushing total to 1,488,437
- **Deaths:** 176, bringing total to 27,577

The coronavirus pandemic in the Philippines



Source: Department of Health • As of July 29, 2021, 4 p.m.





## GCQ stays despite calls for pre-emptive lockdown in Metro Manila

- President Rodrigo Duterte last night **announced** that Metro Manila would remain under general community quarantine with heightened curbs until mid-August amid the threat of the more infectious Delta variant of COVID-19.
- This, despite calls from the **OCTA Research Group** and **Metro Manila mayors** for a pre-emptive two-week lockdown to prevent the devastating surge in cases driven by the Delta variant seen in neighboring countries.
- Another 97 cases of the highly infectious variant were **detected** by local health authorities today, bringing the country's caseload to 216.
- Earlier this morning, the Philippines **received** another 1.5 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine made by Chinese drugmaker Sinovac Biotech.
- The United Kingdom **will donate** 415,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to the Philippines, boosting the country's vaccination efforts as it races against coronavirus variants.

— **Bella Perez-Rubio**



# 97 bagong Delta variant, natukoy

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 30, 2021 - 12:00am



A police officer mans a checkpoint on Tabigo Street at Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City on Thursday, July 29, 2021. The area is on lockdown after several residents were tested positive for COVID-19.

MANILA, Philippines — Umakyat na sa 216 ang kabuuang kaso ng Delta variant ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas makaraang nasa 97 bagong kaso ang natuklasan ng Department of Health (DOH) sa pinakabagong 'whole genome sequencing'.

Sa 97 bagong kaso, 88 ang mga lokal na kaso, anim ang mga Returning Overseas Filipinos (ROF), at tatlo ang kasalukuyang binebepika pa.

Sa mga ROFs, dalawa ay mga tripulante ng MT Clyde at Barge Claudia na nakadaong sa Albay at apat ang mga crew naman ng MV Vega na kararating lang mula sa Indonesia.

Nasa 94 ang nakarekober na habang tatlo ang nasawi. Patuloy na nakikipag-ugnayan ang DOH sa mga lokal na pamahalaan para makakuha ng karagdagang mga impormasyon tulad ng kung sino ang mga nakasa-lamuha at ang kanilang 'vaccination status'.

Samantala, nakapagtala naman ng 83 bagong kaso ng Alpha variant; 127 bagong kaso ng Beta variant; at 22 kaso ng P.3 variant.



Marikina residents are seen inside the public market of the city on July 28, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

## Philippines back to 'moderate risk' COVID-19 classification

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - July 29, 2021 - 2:24pm

MANILA, Philippines — The country's risk classification for COVID-19 is back to "moderate risk" following an increase in cases, the Department of Health said Thursday.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the growth rate of cases rose to 1% over the last two weeks from -10% growth rate last week.

Meanwhile, the average daily attack rate—or the number of cases in an area over a two-week period divided by the population there—was 4.95 cases per 100,000 population.

The average daily cases in the Philippines jumped to 6,029 per day from July 22 to 28. In the previous week, the average was 5,576.

"We are now seeing an increase in cases this mid-July," Vergeire said.

But the utilization rates of hospital and ICU beds remained in "safe zone" at 48.96% and 58.64%, respectively.

Early in July, the DOH classified the Philippines at "[low risk](#)" from COVID-19 after declining infections. This prompted Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe, World Health Organization country representative, to say it was [not yet appropriate to call the country low-risk](#) as new, more infectious COVID-19 variants crop up.

### Case trend in 'NCR Plus'

"After a slow decline in the past weeks, case trend in 'NCR Plus' areas are now showing continuous increase in number of cases," Vergeire said.

Eleven cities in the capital region have positive two week-growth rates. Metro Manila showed a 19% increase in its two-week growth rate.

"This should be a cause for concern as NCR has been at negative two-week growth rate for weeks before the current week," the DOH official said.

The department on Tuesday said there is "no definitive evidence" yet that Metro Manila is seeing a surge in infections. The statement was issued after the OCTA Research said that a surge in the region has begun, citing an increase in reproduction rate to 1.33 from 0.6.



It also called for a “circuit breaker” lockdown. But the government continued to place Metro Manila under General Community Quarantine “with heightened restrictions” until August 15.

#### Trend in other areas

Vergeire said a rise in cases was seen in Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon, while a decline in cases was observed in Mimaropa and Bicol region.

The case trend in Cordillera Administrative Region and Calabarzon was plateauing.

In the Visayas, there was a “steep rise” in cases in Central Visayas, while infections were slowly declining in Western and Eastern Visayas.

In the southern Philippines, cases were increasing in Northern Mindanao. The case trend in Soccksargen was plateauing, while the remaining regions in Mindanao exhibited a decrease in infections.

Health authorities have so far reported 1.56 million COVID-19 cases. Of the total, 3.6% are currently sick.





# UK donating 415K AstraZeneca vax doses to PH

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora July 29, 2021, 10:19 am



*(File photo courtesy of PNP PIO)*

**MANILA** – The United Kingdom is donating 415,000 doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to the Philippines as part of its global commitment to combat coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

This is part of the first tranche of 100 million vaccine doses Britain pledged to deploy across the world within the next year, with 30 million due to be distributed by end of 2021.

"The UK is sending 415,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to the Philippines. This is part of the first batch of the 100 million doses we've pledged to get the poorest parts of the world vaccinated as a matter of urgency. We're doing this to help the most vulnerable, but also because we know we won't be safe until everyone is safe," said British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab on Wednesday.

This week's deployment of the initial nine million doses would also cover countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Caribbean, where there are "high levels of Covid-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths".

National Task Force (NTF) against Covid-19 Chief Implementer, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., meanwhile, extended Manila's thanks to the UK government, citing its role in the vaccination of more people across the world as one of the leading COVAX Facility donors.

"You are among the nations that are leading the global battle against Covid-19, as you have gone out of your way to protect as many people as possible through your humanitarian efforts," he said.

"This generous donation of vaccine doses to the Philippines will boost the national government's capacity to provide the country's most vulnerable sectors with an added layer of protection, particularly our uniformed personnel who put their lives on the line to ensure the safety and welfare of the Filipino people across the country," he added.

Out of Britain's 100 million-dose commitment to the world, at least 80 million will go to COVAX Facility, with the rest going to countries directly.

The donations follow the pledge that G7 leaders made to vaccinate the world and end the pandemic in 2022. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1148623>



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**

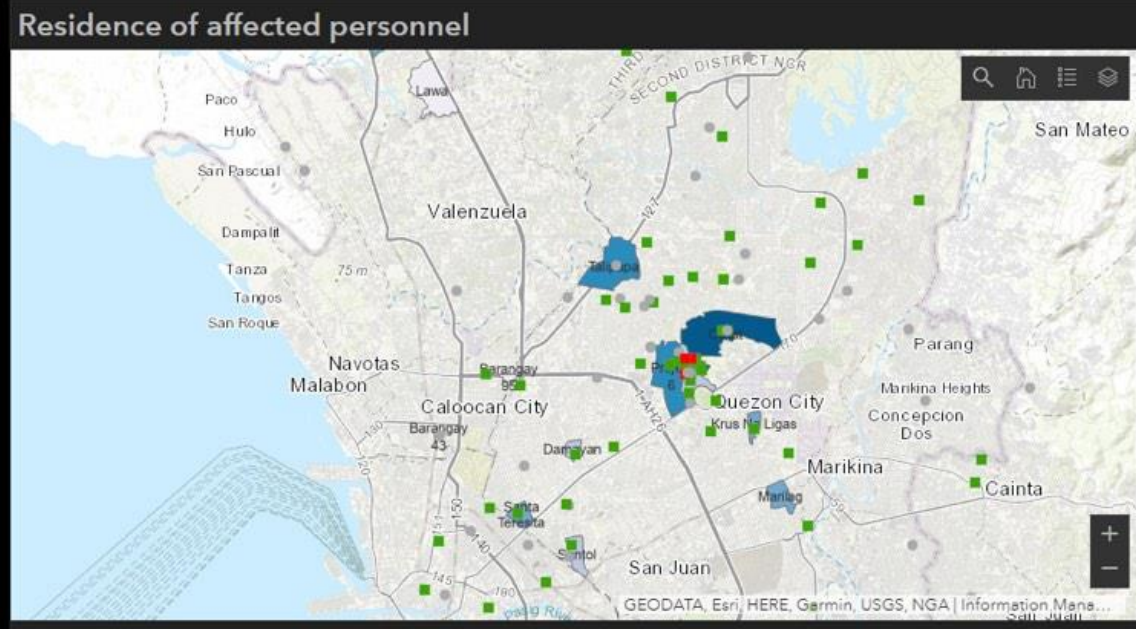


# DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring

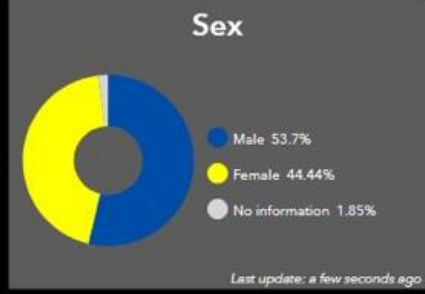
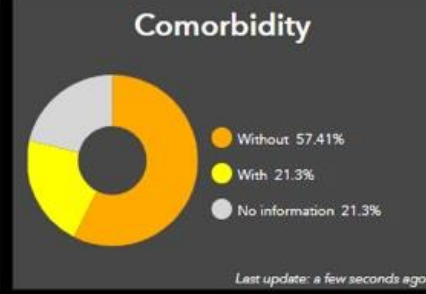
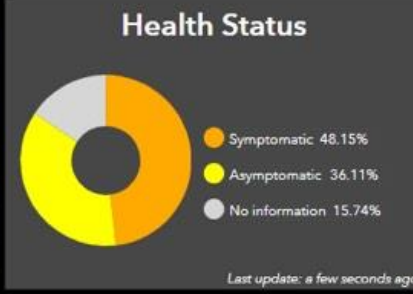
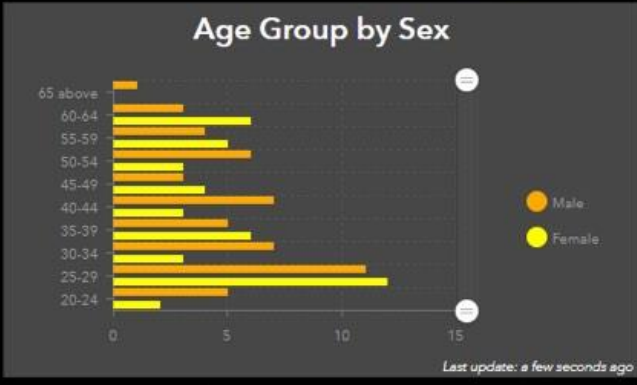
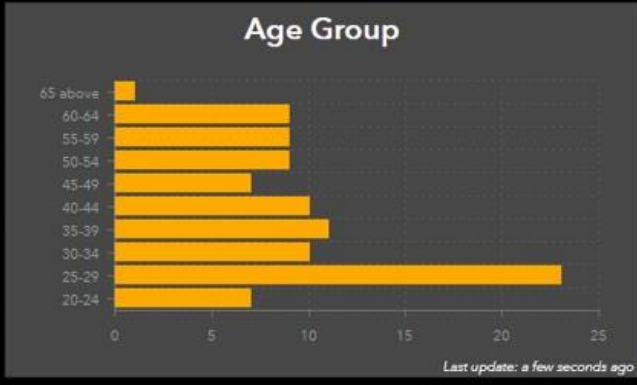


Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.

<b>Total</b> <h1>108</h1> <small>Last update: a few seconds ago</small>	<b>Active</b> <h1>8</h1> <small>Last update: a few seconds ago</small>	<b>Recovered</b> <h1>99</h1> <small>Last update: a few seconds ago</small>	<b>Deaths</b> <h1>1</h1> <small>Last update: a few seconds ago</small>
--	---	---	---



Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact location/ addresses of the cases.





30 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEs2L8PfVIM&ab\\_channel=MizJuly](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEs2L8PfVIM&ab_channel=MizJuly)

MANILA BAYWALK  
MANILA BAY DOLOMITE SAND MATATAG PA DIN! Miz July  
1,869 views • Streamed live 17 hours ago

170 3 SHARE SAVE ...

**Miz July**  
55.5K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**



**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1BP2qmYspk&ab\\_channel=MizJuly](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1BP2qmYspk&ab_channel=MizJuly)

MANILA BAYWALK

MANILA BAY UPDATE WALANG MAKAKAPIGIL! KAHIT UMUULAN TULOY COCONUT TREE PLANTING!  
Miz July

539 views • Jul 29, 2021

60 1 SHARE SAVE ...

**Miz July**  
55.5K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

Manila Bay Update July 29,2021 #SaveManilaBay  
#Battleformanilabay  
#ManilaBay

SHOW MORE



**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4rOVLXZ\\_Sk&ab\\_channel=KUYARONSTVVLOG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4rOVLXZ_Sk&ab_channel=KUYARONSTVVLOG)

MANILA

COCONUT PLANTING BATCH 2 SA BAYWALK MANILA BAY 07-29-2021

3,233 views • Jul 29, 2021

143 3 SHARE SAVE ...



KUYA RONS TV VLOG  
81.2K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

COCONUT PLANTING BATCH 2 SA BAYWALK MANILA BAY 07-29-2021 #manilabay #baywalk









**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dE7XdSHkI7s&ab\\_channel=PINOYBLOGGERPH](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dE7XdSHkI7s&ab_channel=PINOYBLOGGERPH)

Manila Bay Tree Planting Tuloy kahit may Bagyo | Manila Bay Update: July 29, 2021

1,689 views • Jul 29, 2021

 60  0  SHARE  SAVE ...



**PINOY BLOGGER PH**  
17.9K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**


Manila Bay Tree Planting activities & Rehabilitation Project.










**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njWx7-4kwvo&ab\\_channel=JUNRIELLANDER](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njWx7-4kwvo&ab_channel=JUNRIELLANDER)

 MANILA BAYWALK  
ENR VLOGGERS NAG TANIM SA MANILA BAY

1,076 views • Streamed live 21 hours ago

 75  5  SHARE  SAVE ...

 **JUNRIEL LLANDER** ✓  
180K subscribers

[#BeachNourishment](#)  
[#DolomiteWhiteSand](#)  
[#Savemanilabay](#)


SHOW MORE

**SUBSCRIBE**







Please click this link:


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5Dp1f-r7Bo&ab\\_channel=JANICELLANDERVlog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5Dp1f-r7Bo&ab_channel=JANICELLANDERVlog)

 MANILA BAYWALK

Live Now: Tree Planting July 29,2021

567 views • Streamed live 20 hours ago

 49  0  SHARE  SAVE ...

 **JANICE LLANDER Vlog**  
16.2K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**



**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y91hBFuJIpo&ab\\_channel=KuyaSam%5B%E1%9C%83%E1%9C%93%E1%9C%8C%E1%9C%90%E1%9C%8B%E1%9C%94%5D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y91hBFuJIpo&ab_channel=KuyaSam%5B%E1%9C%83%E1%9C%93%E1%9C%8C%E1%9C%90%E1%9C%8B%E1%9C%94%5D)

#savemanilabay

ITO ANG HINDI NAKIKITA NG MGA KRITIKO! | DENR TULOY ANG PROYEKTO PARA SA MANILA BAY

364 views • Jul 29, 2021

 30  2  SHARE  THANKS  SAVE ...



**Kuya Sam** [👤] [👤]

63.7K subscribers

#savemanilabay

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE









**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntkzkU52drU&ab\\_channel=PINOYBLOGGERPH](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntkzkU52drU&ab_channel=PINOYBLOGGERPH)

Manila Bay Update: July 29, 2021

3,440 views • Jul 29, 2021

 82  2  SHARE  SAVE ...



**PINOY BLOGGER PH**  
17.9K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project Ongoing.



**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-nFkwSsKhA&ab\\_channel=KuyaSam%5B%E1%9C%83%E1%9C%93%E1%9C%8C%E1%9C%90%E1%9C%8B%E1%9C%94%5D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-nFkwSsKhA&ab_channel=KuyaSam%5B%E1%9C%83%E1%9C%93%E1%9C%8C%E1%9C%90%E1%9C%8B%E1%9C%94%5D)

#manilabay  
DOLOMITE SAND UNTI-UNTI NANUMBALIK SA GANDA PAGKATAPOS MAHALUAN NG MARAMING BASURA

311 views • Jul 29, 2021

👍 26    💬 0    ➦ SHARE    💰 THANKS    ⌵ SAVE    ...

 **Kuya Sam** [👤 👤] 63.7K subscribers

[JOIN](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#)

#manilabay







Please click this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1PRgrXtpuA&ab\\_channel=JANICELLANDERVlog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1PRgrXtpuA&ab_channel=JANICELLANDERVlog)

#BeachNourishment #DolomiteWhiteSand #Savemanilabay

GRABE!!!KINAGULAT KO ANG BIGLANG PAGBULWAK PATI BAKAL KUMALAS JULY 29,2021

709 views • Jul 29, 2021

 25  0  SHARE  SAVE ...



JANICE LLANDER Vlog

16.2K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#BeachNourishment

#DolomiteWhiteSand

#Savemanilabay

SHOW MORE





Please click this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iH2rnZaAoEI&ab\\_channel=JANICELLANDERVlog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iH2rnZaAoEI&ab_channel=JANICELLANDERVlog)

MANILA BAY WHITE BEACH

NAKAKAGULAT ANG PAKIKIPAGBUNO NILA SA HARING DAGAT SA MANILA BAY JULY 29, 2021

440 views • Jul 29, 2021

25 1 SHARE SAVE ...

 **JANICE LLANDER Vlog**  
16.2K subscribers

[#BeachNourishment](#)  
[#DolomiteWhiteSand](#)  
[#Savemanilabay](#)

SHOW MORE

**SUBSCRIBE**




Please click this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJQyj8\\_Xpa0&ab\\_channel=Noypimind](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJQyj8_Xpa0&ab_channel=Noypimind)

#ManilaUpdate #BasecoBeach #NoypiMind  
LIBO LIBONG BASURA ANG NAISAKO || BASECO BEACH

72 views • Jul 29, 2021

👍 14 🗨️ 0 ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ...

 **Noypi mind**  
3.1K subscribers

[#ManilaUpdate](#)  
[#BasecoBeach](#)  
[#NoypiMind](#)

**SUBSCRIBE**



**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bt15mJikRqk&ab\\_channel=KUYABOKVlogs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bt15mJikRqk&ab_channel=KUYABOKVlogs)

MANILA BAY

ANG LAKI NETO! PALOS Napadpad sa MANILA BAY! JULY 29, 2021

2,427 views • Jul 29, 2021

👍 92    💬 1    ➦ SHARE    ⌵ SAVE    ...



**KUYA BOK Vlogs**  
109K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBay #SaveManilaBay #BattleForManilaBay #WhiteSand #WhiteBeach #DolomiteSand  
#eel #Palos #MonsterFish







**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi3XdAnzaJw&ab\\_channel=DADDYD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi3XdAnzaJw&ab_channel=DADDYD)

#manilabayupdate #manilabaytoday #dolomitesandupdate

MANILA BAY TODAY UPDATE | KAKAIBANG ISDA NAHULI! PINAGKAGULUHAN!!

316 views • Jul 30, 2021

 32  0  SHARE  SAVE ...



**DADDY D**

19.1K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

Daily updates in manila bay please support and subscribe to my youtube channel para updated ka palagi sa mga kaganapan dito.

SHOW MORE







**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgoS8fpnLU&ab\\_channel=VincentTabigue](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgoS8fpnLU&ab_channel=VincentTabigue)

#Savemanilabay #Battleformanilabay #Manilabayupdate

MANILA BAY! NAGULAT AKO SA NASAKSIHAN KO! NAGING INSTANT BEACH RESORT! NOON BURAK! NGAYON DAGAT NA!

4,359 views • Jul 29, 2021

 185  2  SHARE  SAVE ...



**Vincent Tabigue**  
145K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#Savemanilabay #Battleformanilabay #Manilabayupdate #DENR #DPWH #MMDA  
#Savepasigriver #Savetullahanriver #Tatakduterte #Dutertelangmalakas #Buildbuildbuild



**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzvfSfXS4I0&ab\\_channel=AlvinTv](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzvfSfXS4I0&ab_channel=AlvinTv)

MANILA BAYWALK  
Manila BAY LIVE update JULY 29, 2021  
4,881 views • Streamed live 23 hours ago

222 3 SHARE SAVE ...

**Alvin Tv**  
36.7K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**





**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfhN97OMEK0&ab\\_channe=JiNGNoBoundaries](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfhN97OMEK0&ab_channe=JiNGNoBoundaries)

#manilabay #manila #manilabayupdatetoday

MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY/DOLOMITE SAND PROJECT UPDATE TODAY JULY 29, 2021

2,503 views • Jul 29, 2021

👍 108 🗨️ 1 ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ...



**JiNG No Boundaries**  
15K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

Hi kabayan...here is my update today at Manila Bay White sand. Thanks for watching and please don't forget to like and subscribe.

SHOW MORE




**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xze0RU9t7R4&ab\\_channel=DADDYD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xze0RU9t7R4&ab_channel=DADDYD)

#manilabaytoday #manilabayupdate #dolomitesandtoday  
MANILA BAY TODAY UPDATE | JULY 29 2021 LIVE  
2,510 views • Streamed live 13 hours ago

👍 166    💬 0    ➦ SHARE    ⌵ SAVE    ...

 **DADDY D**  
19.1K subscribers

JOIN    **SUBSCRIBE**

Daily updates in manila bay please support and subscribe to my youtube channel..  
👉 DADDY D

SHOW MORE




**Please click this link:**

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

#marikinariverupdate #marikinarivertoday  
MARIKINA RIVER TODAY | JULY 29 2021 LIVE!!  
6,179 views • Streamed live 19 hours ago

👍 250    💬 6    ➦ SHARE    ⌵ SAVE    ...

 **DADDY D**  
19.1K subscribers

[JOIN](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#)

Hello and good day mga idol kung kababayan please support and subscribe to my youtube channel 🙌 DADDY D

SHOW MORE