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Month of the Ocean 2021: DENR muling nanawagan para protektahan ang karagatan para sa food security



May 29, 2021 @ 4:15 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga Filipino na protektahan ang karagatan kasabay ng pagbanggit ng mahalagang papel nito para sa food security sa ginanap na learning event sa pagdiriwang ng Month of the Ocean (MOO) noong Mayo 24.

Ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, binigyan diin nito ang kahalagahan ng pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa karagatan hindi lamang para magkaroon ng hanapbuhay para sa tourism sector bagkus ay para na rin sa food security ng buong bansa.

"During this health crisis, we have already seen how essential food is to our daily lives. It is, therefore, also fitting that we protect our oceans because through the interconnection of biodiversity, our food supply whether inland or water depends on our oceans," sabi ni Cimatu.

Kaugnay nito nababahala naman si DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda dahil sobrang nakaaalarma na ang kalagayan ng ating mga karagatan.

"If every person throws a piece of candy wrapper in the ocean, after just a few months, we would lose our oceans. This is the simplest form of explanation to this growing problem," lahad ng opisyal.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na ang lumalaking problema sa marine pollution ang isa sa dahilan kung bakit ipinasara ng DENR ang lahat ng illegally operating open dumpsites sa buong bansa at ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Nauna rito sinabi ng DENR ang pagpapasara sa mga dumpsite ay bahagi rin ng isinasagawang Manila Bay rehabilitation na isa sa prayoridad na programa ng DENR upang mailigtas ang karagatan ng bansa.

"In cleaning Manila Bay, we have three objectives – to see is to believe, dapat wala na tayong makikitang debris. Second, to smell is to believe – dapat 'pag dumaan tayo r'yan, ang simoy ng hangin ay amoy dagat na at hindi amoy kubeta and third, to test is to believe – pag-test natin ng water quality, dapat standard na siya," paliwanag ni Antiporda.

Ang pagdiriwang na ito ay pinangunahan ng Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division ng DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service kung saan naging tampok ang success story ng Calatagan Biodiversity Friendly Enterprise sa Region 4-A at ng Coral Rehabilitation Program ng Region 11.





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Ang learning event, na ibabahagi rin sa mga guro sa mababa at mataas na paaralan at sa mga kasapi ng Boy Scouts of the Philippines, ay nagpakita rin ng mga best practice ng mga komunidad at DENR personnel sa kanilang bawat rehiyon.

Ang MOO ay ipinagdiriwang taon-taon sa Pilipinas kada Mayo batay na rin sa Presidential Proclamation No. 57 na inilabas noong 1998.

Ang tema ng selebrasyon ngayong taon ay ang "The Science We Need for The Ocean We Want." Santi Celario





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DENR, muling nanawagan para protektahan ang karagatan para sa food security

By RadyoMaN Manila -May. 29, 2021 at 12:48pm



Muling nanawagan sa publiko ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na protektahan ang karagatan para sa food security .

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, nakakabahala ang sobrang polusyon ng mga karagatan.

Aniya, ang lumalaking problema sa marine pollution ang isa sa dahilan kung bakit ipinasara ang lahat ng illegally operating open dumpsites sa buong bansa.

Ang pagpapasara sa mga dumpsites ay bahagi rin ng isinasagawang Manila Bay rehabilitation na isa sa prayoridad na programa ng DENR upang mailigtas ang karagatan ng bansa.





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DENR cites biodiversity conservation as great foundation to build back better

By Ma. Alaine P. AllaniguePublished on May 29, 2021



QUEZON CITY, May 29 (PIA) -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reiterated its call to protect wildlife habitats and properly manage the country's protected areas to restore its biodiversity.

"The DENR's marching order is the restoration and protection of wildlife habitats and ecosystems through area-based conservation measures, and the management of the country's protected areas, including caves and wetlands to bring back stability to natural environments," said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu in his speech read by Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) OIC Edilberto D. Leonardo. The DENR is celebrating an event that recognized biological diversity.

"This includes the strict enforcement of wildlife regulation to ensure that wildlife trade is sustainable, legal, and safe," he added.

The DENR chief highlighted the "immense" benefits that humans gain from nature and their responsibility to take part in the solution to address the source of biodiversity loss.

"Biodiversity provides us with ecosystem services which range from basic necessities such as food and water to purifying the air we breathe, pollination, natural protection from natural disasters, recreational activities, natural healing from our ailments, and provision of livelihood," Cimatu said.

He also echoed this year's theme, "We're part of the solution," highlighting the importance of actions from all sectors of society in addressing the source of biodiversity loss while emphasizing that biodiversity conservation is the answer to several sustainable development challenges.

As the coronavirus disease continues to spread globally, the DENR chief also emphasized that the pandemic is "a wake-up call with critical realization of the damage of human activities has done to nature."

Cimatu said that destruction and conversion of natural habitats, including illegal wildlife hunting and trade bring communities into increased contact with wildlife and increases the risk of disease spillover to humans.

Moreover, he emphasized that biodiversity is not limited to rural areas, as cities can also serve as "cradles of biodiversity."





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"We need to bring back biodiversity in urban settlements to regain nature and ecosystem services by incorporating green spaces in public and private places, rehabilitating river systems, and adopting green infrastructures," Cimatu said.

The DENR has also recognized the winners of the BiodiverCity photo contest during the event. The contest was conducted to celebrate urban biodiversity and its benefits to the environment and community. (PIA NCR)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1076585





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Urban biodiversity keeps cities green, sustainable and livable

International Day for Biological Diversity 2021

BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 30, 2021



The Arroceros Forest Park in Manila and the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City are home to a variety of plants and animals.

The rapidly increasing population and urbanization of our cities are pushing green spaces whether these are public parks or gardens where people can commune with nature to the brink.

In defending the environment, Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso's first act as Manila's chief executive was to save what is considered the "last lung" of the capital city, the Arroceros Forest Park on Antonio Villegas Street in Ermita.



Among Manila's remaining green spaces, the 2.2-hectare riverside park is home to over 3,000 trees belonging to 61 different species, 8,000 ornamental plants and various birds, bees, and butterflies that keep the now "permanent forest park" alive.

Highlighting the country's celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2021 on May 22, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) held its virtual event a day before the global celebration of urban biodiversity, particularly its many benefits and linkage to the cities and urbanization.

DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) organized the event.

Protecting our rich biodiversity

In his message at the event, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu underscored the need to protect the country's rich biodiversity, citing its important functions in air purification, food and water security, livelihood source, nature recreation and risk reduction from emerging infectious diseases.

Guided by the theme, "We are part of the Solution," following last year's "Our solutions are in nature," Cimatu said that biodiversity will be the foundation on which the Philippines can build back after the pandemic.





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For his part, Undersecretary for Special Concerns Edilberto D. Leonardo appealed for public help and support to protect and conserve the country's rich biodiversity.

Leonardo, the concurrent officer in charge of the DENR-BMB, cited the illegal wildlife trade as one of the major drivers of biodiversity loss.

He added that under his watch, the DENR-BMB will focus on strengthening the protection of the country's Protected Areas and National Parks that serve as important ecosystems and home to the country's endemic and endangered plant and animal species, he told the BusinessMirror on May 20.

Urban biodiversity program

Part of the bureau's urban biodiversity program is "Trees in the City," which is being implemented through its partnership with national government agencies and local government units.

More trees, he said, are needed in cities because these help in carbon sequestration and provide home to diverse wildlife species, including birds and bats identified by scientists as keystone species that need to be saved for other species to survive.

Urban biodiversity is defined as the variety and richness of living organisms, including genetic variation and habitat diversity, found in and on the edge of human settlements, according to DENR-BMB's Argean Guiaya, a licensed environmental planner and green building professional, in an online lecture on May 21.

She cited Thomas Elmqvist's definition of urban biodiversity: At the landscape and habitat level, urban biodiversity includes remnants of natural landscapes like leftovers of primeval forests, traditional agricultural landscapes like meadows, areas of arable land, urban-industrial landscapes like city centers, residential areas, industrial parks, railway areas, formal parks and gardens, brown fields.

Economic opportunities, ecosystem services

Guiaya pointed out the enormous economic opportunities as among the many benefits in protecting and conserving the country's rich biodiversity.

"The Philippines has about 70 to 80 percent of the world's biodiversity resources, [which] presents potential for biodiversity-friendly businesses that can support economic development," she said.

While the Philippines is rich in biological diversity, it is also one of the world's biodiversity hotspots due to the rapid rate of biodiversity loss, according to Guiaya.

The five major drivers of biodiversity loss include invasive alien species, habitat loss, climate change, pollution and overexploitation.

This also leads to a loss of important ecosystem services they provide such as food, medicine, energy, water filtration, climate regulation, disease control, nutrient and water cycling and cultural services.

Growing cities, high impacts

"Globally, urban areas are expected to double between 2000 and 2030, drawing heavily on natural resources and with expected high impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services," Guiaya explained.





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She said that based on the Asean 2017-2018 report, an estimated additional 90 million people moving to cities in the Asean by 2030 will increase urban dwellers from around 36 percent in 2015 to 45 percent by 2030.

"[A growing] city requires more land and resources to support its growth, and this leads to the change of land use, causing more environmental problems, especially when the land use development is not properly planned," Guiaya said.

She cited three major trends in urbanization: first, the increase in urban area is faster than the increase in population; second, urbanization rates are highest in poorly capacitated urban governance arrangements; and third, urban expansion will heavily draw on resources, putting at risk ecosystem goods and services.

Biodiversity and urbanization

"Urbanization is a major driver of environmental change and is closely linked to the future of biodiversity," Guiaya said.

She stressed that urban growth and the densification of many cities in the world challenge the existence of ecosystems of conservation concern in and around urban regions, and the survival of species within cities.

Some urban environments, however, host a high richness of plants and animals including endangered species so rich biodiversity can still exist in cities despite the challenges of rapid urbanization.

"Within cities are areas that harbor or affect critical ecosystems, such as wetlands, or may even provide links to centers of endemism," she said.

Most cities, she noted, are built on sites of high ecological diversity and productivity.

Urban ecosystem services and biodiversity can help contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and increasing the biodiversity of urban food systems can enhance food nutrition and security.

"Cities offer unique opportunities for learning and education about resilient and sustainable future," she said.

Developing biodiversity-friendly cities

Guiaya pointed out that developing biodiversity-friendly cities is cross-linked to sustainable urban development and wellbeing, and that building sustainable cities that address critical needs while conserving nature is an important approach for achieving sustainability.

"[When] we conceptualize biodiversity conservations strategies, we need to incorporate the people's perspective and values because if the people have a better understanding of the state of biodiversity and their role in conservation, there's a higher chance that management intervention for conservation of urban biodiversity will succeed," she said.

A biodiversity-friendly urban development needs to use biodiversity and ecosystem services in the overall adaptation and mitigation strategies, promote the maintenance of natural areas, mainstream biodiversity into development sector and plans, develop green and blue spaces, apply and promote green infrastructure and enhance habitat and restore urban ecosystems, according to Guiaya.





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All these require behavioral change in people because "the government cannot do it alone in making our cities livable."

"No how good the biodiversity conservation programs and policies are, if the people's understanding of the importance of biodiversity isn't there, then all will be for naught," she said.

Image courtesy of Alma E. Nacua and DENR -BMB

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/30/urban-biodiversity-keeps-cities-green-sustainable-and-livable/





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BOC, DENR foil smuggling attempt of wildlife species, arrest claimant

By BOCPublished on May 29, 2021



PASAY CITY, May 29 -- Bureau of Customs Port of NAIA, with the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (WTMU) of Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR), has apprehended claimant of a package containing different wildlife species in Fedex warehouse in Pasay city.

At around 6:15pm on May 28, 2021, the representative of the consignee, claimed the parcel and was immediately apprehended by authorities.

The parcel which arrived from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was declared as "lego toys". Upon examination, it was discovered that 20 pcs. of sulcata tortoise, 10 pcs. razorback turtle, 1 head red bearded dragon, 2 heads corn snake and 8 heads savanna lizard were concealed with toys.

The claimant and all involved will face charges for Illegal importation of Wildlife species under Section 1113 in relation to Section 117 and 1401 of RA 10863 or "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act" and Sec. 27 of RA 9147 or "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act."

Port of NAIA headed by District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan fully supports Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero's directive on intensified border protection and is united with DENR to uphold the wildlife protection and its conservation. (BOC)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/1076605





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A Customs officer holds a red bearded dragon, one of the wildlife species seized in the smuggling attempt.

BOC photo

Customs, DENR seize illegal wildlife shipment

Rudy Santos (The Philippine Star) - May 30, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (BOC-NAIA), in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), last Friday arrested the unnamed recipient of a package from Malaysia which contained different wildlife species that did not have the necessary import and health clearances from DENR and its port of origin.

BOC-NAIA district collector Mimel Talusan, together with representatives from the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit of the DENR, arrested the recipient at a warehouse in Pasay City.

The recipient – who was from Parañaque City and was a representative for the consignee – claimed the package containing 41 wildlife animals declared as "LEGO toys."

Talusan said, upon examination, the package included 20 sulcata tortoises, 10 razorback turtles which can sell for up to P4,000 each, one red bearded dragon, two corn snakes and eight savannah monitors which can cost anywhere from \$25 to \$100 each, all concealed among LEGO toys.

The 41 animals are valued by DENR at around P284,000, but unfortunately, all died during shipping. – Robertzon Ramirez

Source: https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/05/30/2101781/customs-denr-seize-illegal-wildlife-shipment





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BOC, DENR foil smuggling attempt of wildlife species, arrest claimant

May 29, 20212 min read

MANILA — The Bureau of Customs Port of NAIA, in cooperation with the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (WTMU) of Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR), has apprehended the claimant of a package containing different wildlife species in Fedex warehouse in Pasay City.



At around 6:15 pm on May 28, 2021, the representative of the consignee, claimed the parcel and was immediately apprehended by authorities.



The parcel which arrived from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was declared as "lego toys". Upon examination, it was discovered that 20 pieces of sulcata tortoise, 10 pieces of razorback turtle, 1 red bearded dragon, 2 corn snake and, 8 savanna lizards were concealed with toys.







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The claimant and all involved will face charges for Illegal importation of wildlife species under Section 1113 in relation to Section 117 and 1401 of RA 10863 or "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act" and Sec. 27 of RA 9147 or "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act."



Port of NAIA headed by District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan fully supports Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero's directive on intensified border protection and is united with DENR to uphold wildlife protection and its conservation. (Kiara Lauren Ibanez/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/AI/MTVN)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/05/29/boc-denr-foil-smuggling-attempt-of-wildlife-species-arrest-claimant/?fbclid=IwAR14knA4qQKE63YZWaNQ-TZeK-1wm48uzQwmumP0sTQ-wREOpwye_AOQQOE





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LOOK: Smuggled wildlife species stuffed inside toy boxes

Published May 29, 2021, 4:12 PM by Ariel Fernandez

Dozens of smuggled small wildlife species—stuffed inside toy boxes—have been discovered by Bureau of Customs-Port of NAIA (BOC-NAIA) inspectors, the Manila Bulletin learned on

Saturday, May 29.



(Photo from BOC-NAIA)



(Photo from BOC-NAIA)

The parcel reportedly came from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and was declared to contain "Lego toys".

But upon closer inspection, the package turned out to contain 20 sulcata tortoises, 10 razorback turtles, one red bearded dragon, two corn snakes, and eight savanna lizards.



(Photo from BOC-NAIA)





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(Photo from BOC-NAIA)

The representative of the consignee who later claimed the package at FedEx warehouse in Pasay City was arrested by agents of BOC-NAIA and the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (WTMU) of the Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR). Both were not identified.

Those involved are facing charges of illegal importation of wildlife species under Section 1113 in relation to Sections 117 and 1401 of Republic Act (RA) 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, and Section 27 of RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/29/look-smuggled-wildlife-species-stuffed-inside-toy-boxes/





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Claimant ng wildlife species, timbog

Butch Quejada (Pang-masa) - May 30, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Timbog ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng Bureau of Customs Port ng NAIA at ng Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (WTMU) ng Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR), ang claimant ng paketeng naglalaman ng mga iba't ibang uri ng mga species ng wildlife sa warehouse ng Federal Express (FEDEX) sa Pasay City.

Sinabi ni Port of NAIA Customs District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan, alas-6:15 ng gabi kamakalawa, kinuha ng kinatawan ng consignee, ang parsela na naglalaman ng mga kontrabando kaya agad dinakip ng mga awtoridad.

Ang parsela ay galing Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ay idineklarang "lego toys."

Sa pagsusuri, natuklasan na naglalaman ito ng 20 piraso ng sulcata pagong, 10 mga razorback pagong, 1 head red bearded dragon, 2 heads corn snake at 8 heads savanna lizard na itinago kasama ng mga laruan sa pakete.

Ang claimant at lahat na kasangkot ay mahaharap sa kaso para sa Ilegal na pag-angkat ng mga species ng Wildlife sa ilalim ng Seksyon 1113 na may kaugnayan sa Seksyon 117 at 1401 ng RA 10863 o "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act" at Sec. 27 ng RA 9147 o 'Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.'

Ang Port of NAIA na pinamumunuan ni Talusan ay ganap na sumusuporta sa direktiba ni Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero tungkol sa pinaigting na proteksyon sa hangganan at nakiisa sa DENR upang mapanatili ang proteksyon ng wildlife at ang konserbasyon nito.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2021/05/30/2101795/claimant-ng-wildlife-species-timbog





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Dineklarang Lego! 41 wildlife species pinalusot sa FedEx

By Abante News Online - Last updated May 29, 2021









Inaresto ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (BoC) sa tulong ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) ang claimant ng kargamento na naglalaman ng iba't ibang `wildlife species' sa isang customs bonded warehouse kamakalawa.

Ayon kay BOC-NAIA district collector Mimel Talusan, ang kargamento na kargada ng 41 wildlife species ay nanggaling sa Malaysia at ito ay nakaimbak sa FedEx warehouse sa Pasay City. Wala itong

permit at health clearance mula sa DENR at ito ay dineklarang "Lego Toys."

Natuklasan sa eksaminasyon ang may 20 pirasong live African spurred tortoise, 10 Razor back turtles, 1 red bearded dragon, 2 corn snake at 8 savannah monitor.

Ang claimant na hindi pinangalanan at ang mga sangkot sa smuggling ng wildlife species ay nahaharap sa kasong "Wildlife resources Conservation and Protection Act" at sa RA 10863 o ang Customs Modernization and Tariff Act. (Otto Osorio)

Source: https://www.abante.com.ph/dineklarang-lego-41-wildlife-species-pinalusot-sa-fedex/





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TINGNAN: Nasabat ng Bureau of Customs ngayong Sabado sa isang warehouse sa Pasay City ang smuggled wildlife species na idineklarang mga laruan mula Malaysia.

Ayon sa BOC, arestado na ang hindi na pinangalanang kinatawan ng consignee ng naturang package. (::: BOC) | via Johnson Manabat, ABS-CBN News

BASAHIN DITO ang kaugnay na ulat: https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../boc-intercepts-smuggled...



Source: https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10159517472785168/?app=fbl





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E-maill Adress: andres5421@yahoo.com

UPANG maging ligtas ang mga siklista habang nasa kalsada lalo na ngayong nasa panahon ng pandemya ay tuwirang sinusuportahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang panawagan na itaguyod ang pagbibisikleta sa bansa.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang paggamit ng bisikleta ay hindi lamang maganda sa katawan ng siklista bagkus ay mainam din ito maging sa ibang tao at kapaligiran.

"This proposal for the use of bicycles should be supported as it has be-

come an alternative mode transportation that is efficient and emission-free not only here in our country but also elsewhere around the world," dagdag pa nito.

Batay sa datos ng DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), naitala ang "significant decrease of 39% monthly average concentration" ng Total Suspended Particulates (TSP) mula sa Air Quality Monitoring Stations ng EMB NCR mula noong Marso 2020 hanggang Abril 2021. Ang TSP ay ang particles na may sukat na 0.1 micrometer hanggang 30 micrometers

na diameter.

Binanggit ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda na habang hindi pa naipapasa ng kongreso ang batas para sa "safety of cycling in the country," umaasa ito na magpasa ang local government units (LGUs) ng mga ordinansa na nagtatalaga ng bicycle lanes sa kanilang nasasakupan para na rin sa kaligtasan ng mga siklista.

"It's high time that we enact a bicycle law to protect our commuters. With the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our people have now been travelling using their bicycles on their way to work, and it is only right to assure them of their safety while travelling," aniya.

Noong Nobyembre 2020 nang lagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang Proclamation No. 1052 na nagtatalaga ng "National Bicycle Day" na ipagdiriwang tuwing ikaapat na Linggo ng Nobyembre para isulong ang environmental benefits ng bisikleta.

Sa ilalim ng proklamasyon, itinatalaga ang DENR na makipagtulungan sa local government agencies kabilang na ang LGUs at private sector na makilahok at suportahan ang implementasyon ng national bicycle proclamation.

Si Antiporda ay siya ring Supervising Undersecretary for Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service at ang kanyang tang-

gapan ay may mahalaga din na ginampanan na mainstitutionalize ang gawaing ito upang maging isang pambansang pagkilos.

Simula nang makipaglaban sa COVID-19 ng mahigit isang buwan, sinabi ni Antiporda na ang pagbibisikleta ang isa sa kanyang nagging gawain upang maitaas ang kanyang immune system. Iminungkahi din nito sa ibang tao na subukan ang pagbibisikleta dahil ang hangin sa labas ay mas ligtas kumpara sa kulob na lugar.

"Using this mode of transportation not only helps in improving the health and well-being of the public, but also ensures a sustainable, clean and healthy environment," banggit pa nito.





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Asean adopts action plan to curb plastic pollution

May 29, 2021, 2:31 pm



(Photo courtesy of Antara)

JAKARTA – The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) on Friday unveiled a regional action plan (RAP) for combating marine debris in its member states for the 2021-2025 period.

The plan will serve as a joint strategy focusing on solutions to the question of plastic pollution in the region.

"Our sea and coast are so important for life and livelihood, yet they come under major pressure, particularly due to plastic pollution that has the potential to destroy human health and erode tourism and fishery industry that are very essential for the regional economy," Asean Secretary General Dato Lim Jock Hoi said during the launch of the RAP on Friday.

The plan adopted by Asean member states ahead of World Environment Day (June 5) and World Ocean Day (June 8) has been described as a new achievement for Asean, which has shown firm commitment, in line with the national agenda of each member state, in facing environmental challenges through actions at the regional level, he added.

Nearly 80 percent of the garbage in the sea is believed to be plastic. Six out of 10 Asean member states produce more than 31 million tons of plastic waste per year, Lim Jock Hoi said.

Although each Asean member state has adopted a program to handle plastic waste, the threat of garbage entering the sea poses a problem at both the regional and international level, he pointed out.

Furthermore, a surge in the use of personal protective equipment during the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic has added to the pressure on countries, which are working to handle the accumulation of plastic waste in the sea, he added.

"The Asean Regional Action Plan to handle trash in the sea in Asean member states serves as evidence of our collective response aimed at supporting regional policies and platforms to harmonize resources in support of the action that each member state has taken," the Secretary General said.

The RAP will be implemented over five years.





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The plan comprises 14 regional steps involving four pillars, support and planning of policies, research, innovation and capacity building, public awareness, education and involvement of the private sector, Lim Jock Hoi said.

The actions contained in the planning cover directives for countries to reduce the production of single-use plastic and harmonize regional policies related to recycling and standard plastic packs. (*Antara*)





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WWF-PHL, partners support innovators vs plastic pollution

BYRIZAL RAOUL REYES MAY 30, 2021

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines recently formed a partnership with The Incubation Network (TIN), xchange, and make sense to continue supporting the development of impact entrepreneurs who create innovative solutions for a vision of no plastics in nature by 2030.

The WWF and TIN pointed out that plastic pollution needs to be addressed because it threatens communities, marine life and the Earth's ecosystems.

A recent WWF Philippines report estimated that about 2.15 million tonnes of plastics are generated annually in the country.

To address this, WWF is implementing the No Plastics in Nature initiative where it works with cities, policymakers and businesses in eliminating unnecessary plastics, shifting to sustainable inputs, and doubling global reuse, recovery, and recycling.

Part of this initiative is the Plastic Smart Cities, a global movement of cities and tourist destinations that works on eliminating plastic pollution through innovation.

WWF and TIN partnered in 2019 to launch a key piece of the Plastic Smart Cities strategy: tapping impact entrepreneurship to address plastic waste.

Impact enterprises are emerging as a sustainable solution to complex development challenges. When combined with other forms of support and capital in a blended finance model, WWF said the adoption of market-based models makes it possible to crowd-in investments, build an ecosystem, achieve sustainability, and scale solutions. In the Philippines, the plastic waste sector is a frontier sector.

The partnership provided a boost to impact entrepreneurial innovations and sustainable solutions through hackathons, a sprint and Makesense's incubation program, Makesense academy, held in 2020.

"The Incubation Network is proud to partner with WWF, xchange, and make sense to tackle plastic pollution in the Philippines with building communities that nurture, grow and support holistic innovative solutions as one of our focus areas," said Simon Baldwin, Director of The Incubation Network.

Baldwin said they are "excited to see the strong community ecosystem that is being built through this program."

Over five months, from April to August this year, the entrepreneurs will learn from experts in innovation and systems thinking, marketing, accounting, strategic planning, the circular economy, gender lens investing, and pilot designing, among others.

They will go through a rigorous process, including classes, learning-by-doing workshops, interactions with mentors and ecosystem leaders, and peer learning activities in a safe space that will allow them to gain knowledge and skills, reflect, and build relationships with other stakeholders to help them establish their businesses and prepare them for investment readiness.





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WWF Executive Director Katherine Custodio said environmental conversation has been propelled by innovation and the people's desire to care for people.

"We are happy to partner with xchange, The Incubation Network and make sense, who are key experts in the field of innovation, as we are optimistic and excited to tap the potential of social entrepreneurship in addressing plastic pollution in the Philippines."

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/30/wwf-phl-partners-support-innovators-vs-plastic-pollution/





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Five research projects receive PHL-UK grant for sustainable mineral exploration

BYBUSINESSMIRROR

MAY 30, 2021



Various researchers and industry key stakeholders with NERC International Associate Director Dr. Sarah Webb and PCIEERD Executive Director Dr. Enrico C. Paringit during the UK-Philippines Minerals and Mining Scoping Meeting in March 2020 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

Achieving sustainability in the minerals industry and charting a greener community, researchers from UK and Philippines recently bagged research grants to facilitate and develop innovative solutions that can promote responsible mining and maximize value-adding from minerals.

Of the 18 proposals received online, five research projects stood out during the selection process conducted by the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) and UK Research & Innovation – Natural Environment Research Council (UKRI-NERC). They are the following:

- 1. SusNi, or Developing a Sustainable pathway for the Philippine Nickel sector Spearheaded by Paul Lusty of British Geological Survey-UK and Prof. Romell Seronay from Caraga State University-Philippines, the project aims to assess the impacts of mining, explore novel techniques for mineral exploration, metal extraction and recovery, and environmental monitoring, all considered within the socio-economic context of the Caraga Region, using an approach based on Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA).
- 2. PROMT, or Philippines Remediation of Mine Tailings
 This project, initiated by Prof. Gawen Jenkin from the University of Leicester-UK and Prof. Carlo
 Arcilla of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute-Philippines will build an innovative research
 program to test sustainable tailings management, remediation and rehabilitation.

It aims to produce tailings with less water consumption and greater stability and show how they can be monitored and adaptively managed in real time. Also, it will enable the processing of modern and legacy tailings to recover more metals, while decontaminating them, encouraging rehabilitation and long-term stabilization and reuse of the associated ecosystem services.

3. The Philippine Mining at the National to Catchment Scale: from Legacy Impacts to Sustainable Futures

Headed by Dr. Richard Williams from the University of Glasgow-UK and Dr. Decibel Faustino-Eslava from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, Philippines, the project aims to develop a proposal to realize a combined geomorphological and biogeochemical based management approach to remediate waste and protect the environment, at national- to catchment-scales.





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This will enable catchment management practitioners to remediate legacy metal mining impacts and protect ecosystems as well as humans from the potentially negative effects of metal mine contaminants arising from current and future mining activities.

4. Sages, or Systems Approach for Greener, Eco-efficient and Sustainable mineral resource management

Led by Dr Pablo Rafael Brito Parada of Imperial College London-UK and Dr. Arnel Beltran of the De La Salle University-Philippines, the project brings together the multi-disciplinary expertise of industry leaders, scientists, technology experts, community leaders and policy makers to develop a research programme for greener, eco-efficient, and sustainable mineral resource management in the Philippines.

Sages will develop a circular economy mining framework using a systems approach to address three mine waste categories: tailings and silts, mine drainage, and polluted soils.

Transforming legacy mines into future mines and mine wastes into secondary resources can simultaneously reduce waste generation, provide additional economic benefits to stakeholders, empower host communities and improve rehabilitation programmes. This project will supply the paradigm shift necessary to stimulate growth of the resource extraction sector in the Philippines.

5. A framework for the sustainable development of marine mineral resources in the Philippines Headed by Dr. Ian Selby from the University of Plymouth-UK and Engr. Teodorico Sandoval of Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Philippines, the project will promote socio-economic development and personal and community welfare through constructive sharing of experience, expertise and innovation in managing offshore mineral resources.

This includes mineral exploration, resource assessment and management, governance, policymaking, regulation and planning, use of innovative technologies from exploration to monitoring, and researching environmental impact assessments, environmental risks, mitigation and monitoring performance.

The project will research, share and develop knowledge, experience, technologies and best practices from exploration, resource management, regulation, environmental impact assessments, permitting, and extraction across all marine mineral resource activities.

These research projects will enable the development of detailed and fully co-designed research proposals to generate an entire system view of sustainable mineral resources in the Philippines. In this PH-UK call for proposals, the selected projects will receive a partnership and project development (PPD) grant of up to £50K (at 80%FEC from NERC) and 1.6M Philippine Peso (~£26K from DOST-PCIEERD) that may be used to support some preliminary research activity where it is necessary for developing the detailed research questions for the strategic large grant project proposal.

PCIEERD Executive Director Dr. Enrico C. Paringit is confident that this collaboration between the Philippines and UK will lead to the increase of productivity and reduction of eco footprints in the country's mining industry.

"The Council is grateful for this partnership with UKRI-NERC and for joining us in strengthening the mining sector in the Philippines through research and development. As a leader and preferred partner in enabling research and development, DOST-PCIEERD will remain steadfast in finding ways to promote innovation in the mining sector, find new ways of rehabilitating mined areas, develop solutions that support a green future, capacitate and empower researchers on minerals and mining, as well as boost competitiveness and





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productivity of university laboratories and facilities to conduct research," Paringit said, "We are pleased to be partnering with DOST-PCIEERD to enable UK and Philippine researchers to develop truly collaborative research projects which we hope will lead to sustainable pathways to mineral production in the Philippines. Funding will support the development of a strategic large grant proposal to address essential research needs following the initial partnership building phase," added Sarah Webb, Associate Director for International of UKRI-NERC.

The call for strategic Large Grants opened this month until July 2021. Joint NERC/DOST-PCIEERD funds will be used to award up to two strategic Large Grant projects in this call which will run for a maximum duration of 36 months. The total funds available from DOST-PCIEERD are up to 15 million PHP (~£236K) per Large Grant and NERC will contribute up to £1.2M (80%FEC) per Large Grant project (£1.5M at 100% FEC and FCC). Image courtesy of DOST-PCIEERD photo

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/30/five-research-projects-receive-phl-uk-grant-for-sustainable-mineral-exploration/





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Ilang bata, naligo sa Baseco Beach kahit marumi ang tubig | 24 Oras Weekend

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Scientists discover new 'chocolate frog' in swamp

By Amy Woodyatt, CNN Updated 1155 GMT (1955 HKT) May 29, 2021



Researchers think the frog could be widespread across New Guinea.

(CNN)A team of Australian scientists has discovered a curious "chocolate frog" tree frog in the lowland rainforests of New Guinea.

Tree frogs are known for their green skin -- but due to its brown coloring, researchers named it "chocolate frog" -- and the name stuck.

"The closest known relative of Litoria mira is the Australian green tree frog. The two species look similar except one is usually green, while the new species usually has a lovely chocolate colouring," Paul Oliver of the Centre for Planetary Health and Food Security and Queensland Museum, who described the discovery in a co-authored paper in the journal the Australian Journal of Zoology said in a statement.

Australia and New Guinea were once linked by land for much of the late Tertiary period 2.6 million years ago but now, New Guinea is dominated by rainforest, while northern Australia is mainly savannah. Green tree frogs (Litoria caerulea) can be found across northern and eastern Australia and New Guinea.

Australian scientists discovered one of the creatures in 2016, according to the paper, and they think the animal could be widespread across New Guinea.



The creature was so named for its chocolate coloring.

"Because the frog lives in very hot, swampy areas with lots of crocodiles, all these things discourage exploration," co-author Steve Richards from the South Australian Museum Richards said.

Although the creatures may look like the magical, enchanted snacks found in the Harry Potter series, the similarities stop there.

"We named this new Litoria frog species Mira, which means surprised or strange in Latin, because it was a surprising discovery to find an over-looked relative of Austalia's well-known and common green tree living in the lowland rainforests of New Guinea," Oliver said.



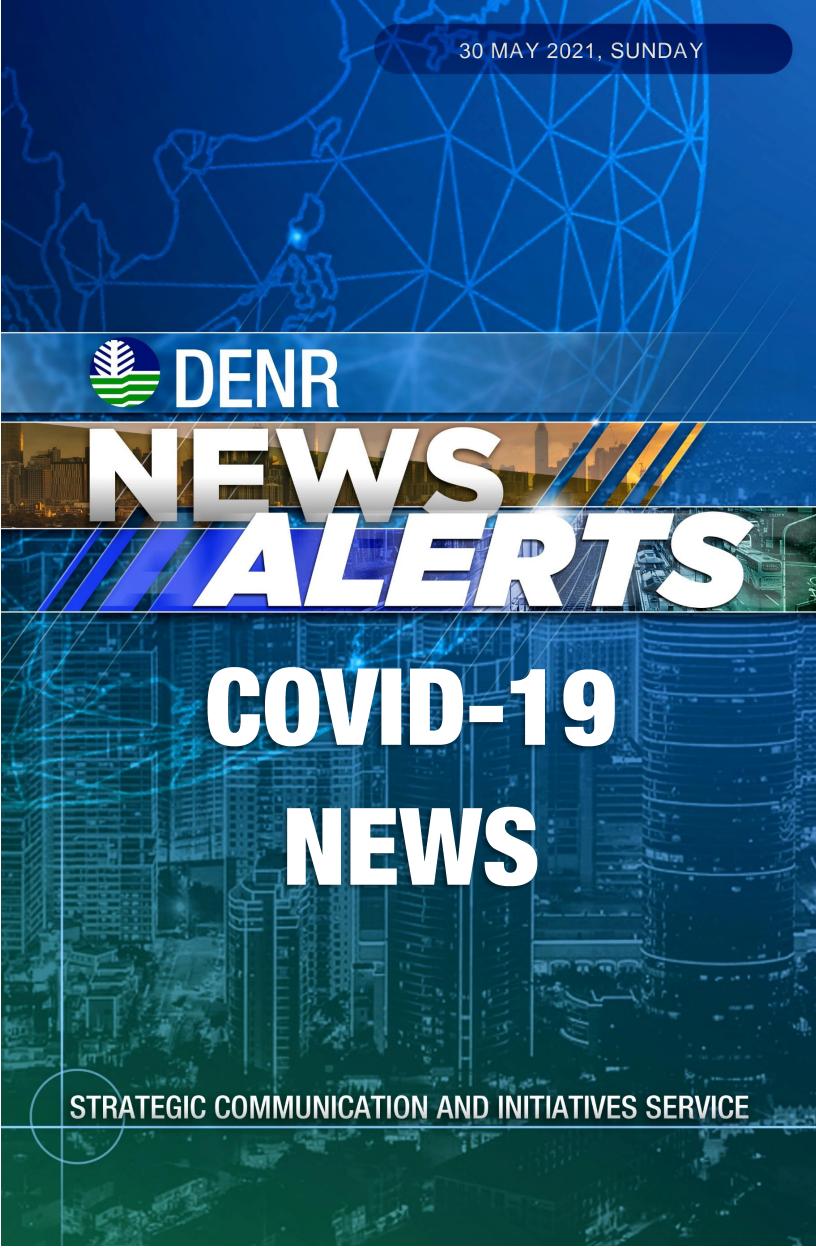


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"Resolving the biotic interchange between these two regions is critical to understanding how the rainforest and savannah habitat types have expanded and contracted over [the] time of both," Oliver said.

"Estimates for divergence of the new species in our study shows that in the Pliocene (5.3 to 2.6 million years ago) there was still connectivity between the two species across lowland tropical habitats of northern Australia and New Guinea," he added.

Source: https://edition.cnn.com/2021/05/29/asia/chocolate-tree-frog-intl-scli-scn/index.html







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Senior citizens wait to be inoculated with Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines at Mandaluyong's mega vaccination site next to the city hall on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

Philippines sees 7,443 new coronavirus infections

(Philstar.com) - May 29, 2021 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines (**Updated 4:15 p.m.**) — The Department of Health on Saturday recorded 7,443 additional COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of infections in the country to 1,216,582.

- Active cases: 53,614 or 4.4% of the total
- Recoveries: 7,553, pushing total to 1,142,246
- Deaths: 156, bringing total to 20,722

What's new today?

- This is the fourth day in a row that the Philippines recorded over 150 coronavirus fatalities.
- From May 26 to May 29, a total of 703 people have died of COVID-19.
- Health authorities detected a total of 242 new cases of various coronavirus variants classified as variants of concern.
- The Philippines is resuming the deployment of workers to Saudi Arabia after it assured Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III that foreign employers will shoulder the costs of COVID-19 protocols, including the testing and quarantine of Filipino workers.
- The Department of Health said some 50,000 doses of Sputnik V will arrive in the Philippines on Sunday and will be deployed to populous areas seeing an increase in infections.
- The COVID-19 shot developed by Sinovac Biotech reduces mortality by 97%, according to early results of the immunization campaign in Uruguay, which relies heavily on the Chinese jab.
- The World Health Organization warned that efforts to uncover the COVID-19 pandemic's origins were being hampered by politics, insisting scientists needed space to work on solving the mystery.
- Bella Perez-Rubio with a report from Xave Gregorio

Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/05/29/2101698/philippines-sees-7443-new-coronavirus-infections





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The DOH said the overseas Filipino worker arrived from the United Arab Emirates and indicated ar address in the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

The STAR/Edd Gumban, file

DOH reports detection of more COVID-19 variant cases

Sheila Crisostomo (The Philippine Star) - May 30, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Another returning overseas Filipino (ROF) tested positive for the B.1.617.2 variant of COVID-19 first detected in India, becoming the 13th person infected with the Indian variant to enter the country, the Department of Health (DOH) reported yesterday.

The DOH said the overseas Filipino worker (OFW) arrived from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and indicated an address in the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

"The case has completed the 10-day isolation after arrival in the country and was discharged upon certification of recovery," the DOH said.

Prior to this, 12 seafarers were found infected with the Indian variant.

Three of them arrived from Oman, UAE and Belgium while the rest were crew members of M/V Athens Bridge. Of the nine crew members, four were taken to a hospital in Manila where one of them died the other week.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Genome Center and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH), which have been conducting whole genome sequencing, detected these new cases in the country: 104 cases of the B.1.1.7 or United Kingdom variant; 137 cases of the South African variant and four cases of the P.3 variant.

Of the 104 new UK variant cases detected, one case is a returning overseas Filipino (ROF), while 89 are local cases. The other 14 cases are still being verified by authorities.

Based on the case line list, five cases are still active, three cases died while 96 have been tagged as recovered. The total UK variant cases detected in the country now total stands at 1,071.

Of the additional 137 B.1.351 variant cases, on the other hand, one case is a ROF while 127 are local cases. Nine cases are currently being verified if they are local or ROF cases.

The DOH noted that nine cases are still active, five cases have died while 123 cases have recovered. The total of South African variant cases is now 1,246.

As for the four new P.3 variant cases, three are local cases and the other is being verified if classified as a ROF case. All have recovered from COVID-19.





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The DOH added the detection of more cases of variants of concern "supports the need for strict adherence to minimum public health standards to minimize risk of exposure and infection and getting vaccinated once it is our turn."

To date, a total of 7,547 COVID-19-positive samples have been sequenced, 2,494 of which are variants so they are being closely monitored by the DOH.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/05/30/2101808/doh-reports-detection-more-covid-19-variant-cases





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The House of Representatives plenary hall on October 13, 2020.

House of Representatives/Release

House panel okays another extension of 'Bayanihan 2'

Edu Punay (The Philippine Star) - May 30, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — A House panel has approved a measure further extending the validity of the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or Bayanihan 2 to give the government more time to implement measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At virtual hearing last Friday, the appropriations committee chaired by ACT-CIS party-list Rep. Eric Yap approved the substitute bill that seeks to extend the validity and effectivity of Bayanihan 2 under Republic Act No. 11494 until end of this year.

The measure, which provides for social amelioration and economic stimulus packages, originally lapsed on Dec. 31 last year and was extended by Congress until June 30 this year through R.A. 11519.

Camarines Sur Rep. LRay Villafuerte, principal author of the measure, cited the need to extend the powers granted to the executive to effectively respond to the pandemic while the country continues to strive to control the spread of COVID-19 and achieve herd immunity.

Villafuerte said the extension "shall give the government the opportunity to continuously implement the recovery and stimulus programs specified in the Bayanihan 2, most especially in allocating funds for more essential and relevant expenses necessary to recover from the distressing effects of this global pandemic."

ACT-CIS Rep. Niña Taduran, who sponsored the bill during the hearing, shared this opinion and argued that the extension is needed to address disbursement issues of implementing agencies.

At the same hearing, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) revealed that it has already released the funds allocated for Bayanihan 2 to all the implementing agencies covered by the measure.

But the DBM reported a 51.06-percent obligation rate and 70.34-percent disbursement rate among agencies which received Bayanihan 2 funding as of last April.

"If we are now dealing with the extension of the availability of funds, this will primarily have an impact on the obligation and disbursement on the part of the agencies. In short, on the part of the DBM, this will not have a big impact as we have already released the appropriations to the agencies," DBM Assistant Secretary Kim Robert de Leon told lawmakers.





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"What the extension will afford the national government agencies and the government financial institution is probably some additional leeway to further implement their priority projects to respond to COVID-19 after June 30," De Leon said.

'Bayanihan 3' not a Senate priority

Yesterday, Senate President Vicente Sotto III said the proposed Bayanihan 3, approved by the House of Representatives to allocate P401 billion for the pandemic recovery effort, is not a priority in the Senate as many budgets under the Bayanihan 2 remain unused.

Citing a bill similar to the Bayanihan 3, authored by Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto, Sotto pointed out the poor absorptive capacity of some government agencies as indicated by the unused funds of Bayanihan 2.

"Without good absorptive capacity, many funds are not used," said Sotto in an interview over dwIZ radio station.

Sotto said the Bayanihan 3, which the House titled the Bayanihan to Arise as One Act, was not even mentioned when he attended a "mini" Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting with Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea last week.

Also, he said that senators are not inclined to support a measure introducing amendments to the prohibitive economic provisions in the 1987 Constitution.

"I don't think we have enough time, as it is, to take a quick look into the proposal. Anyway, the bills certified by the Palace as urgent have passed or are in advanced stages in the Senate. We have until June 4 before the sine die adjournment," Sotto said.

For his part, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said there are several proposed major measures to liberalize the investment climate in the country without the need of amending the Constitution.

"The proposed Public Service Act, the Retail Trade Liberalization Act and the Foreign Investments Act are already major bills designed to liberalize our investment climate without amending the Constitution. CREATE is now a law," said Drilon, referring to the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act which was enacted last March 26. – Cecille Suerte Felipe

Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/05/30/2101822/house-panel-okays-another-extension-bayanihan-2







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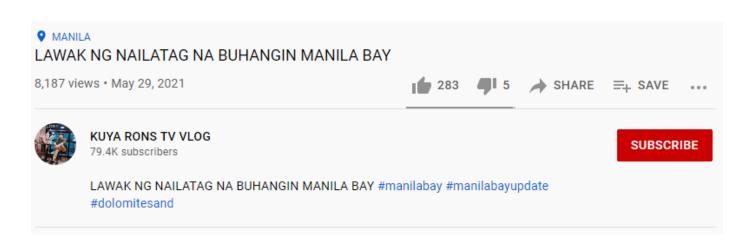




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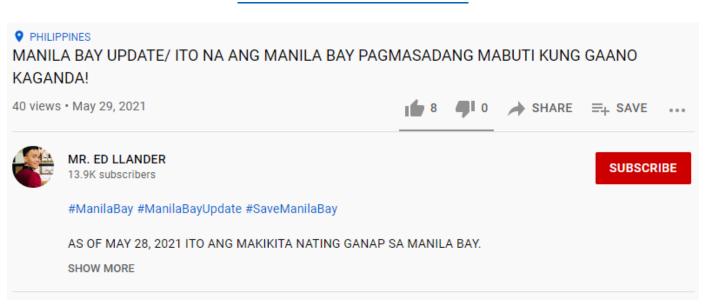




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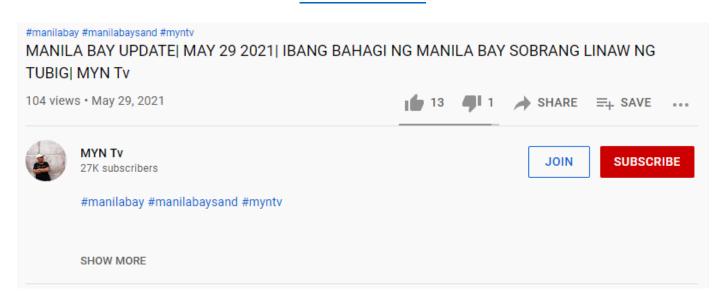




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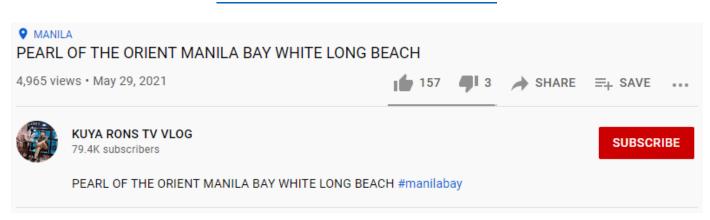




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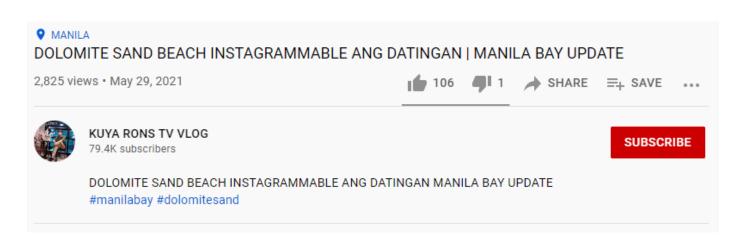




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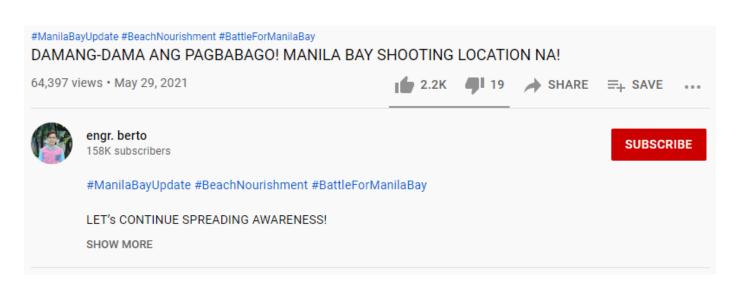




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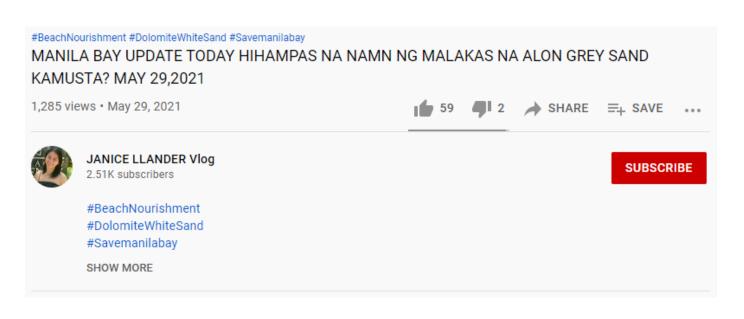




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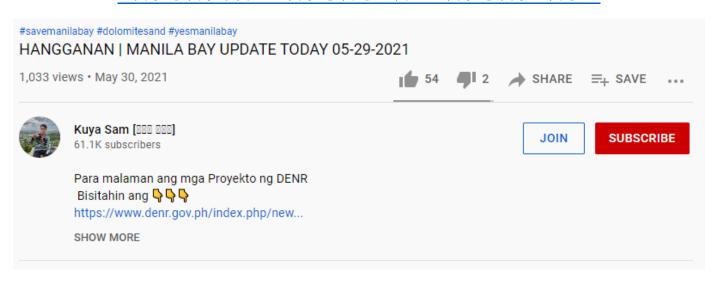




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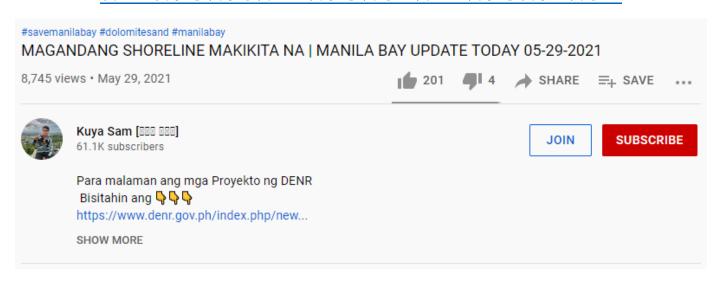




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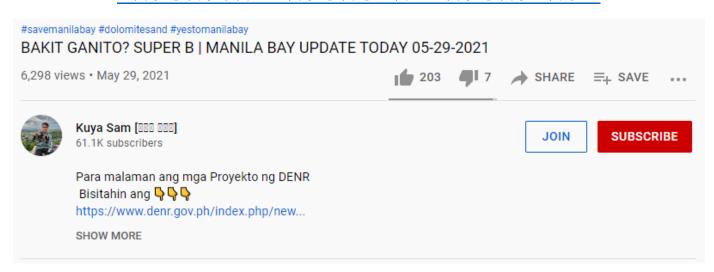




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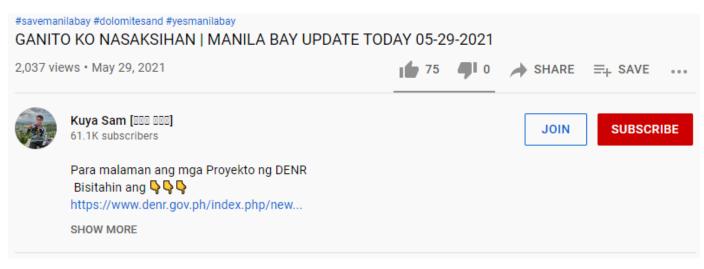
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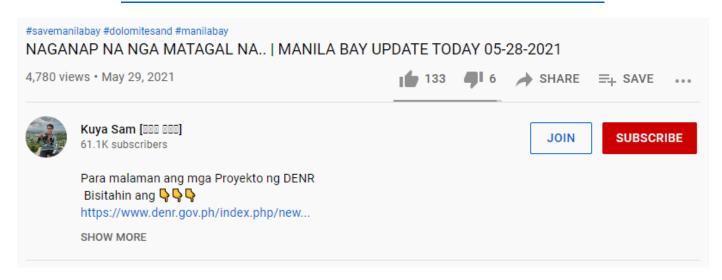




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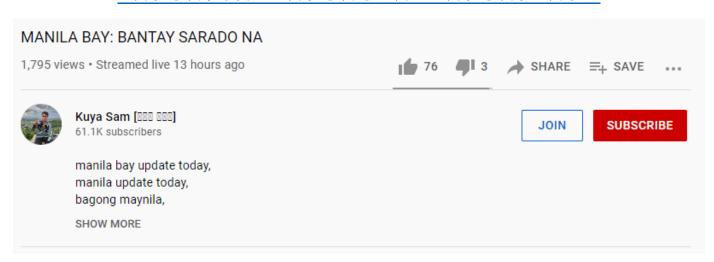




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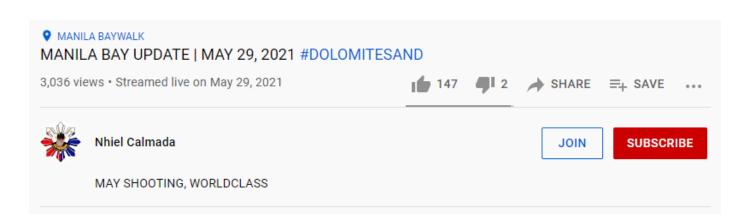




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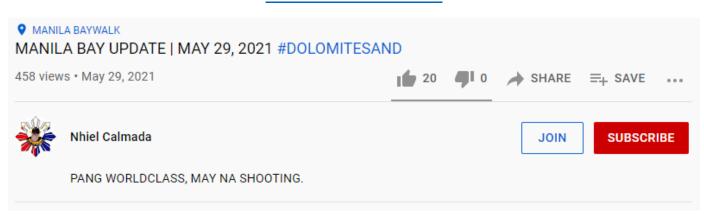




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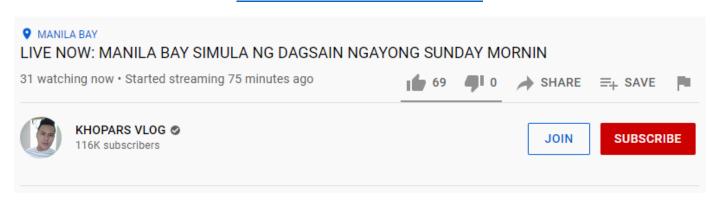




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