





July 07, 2021
Headline

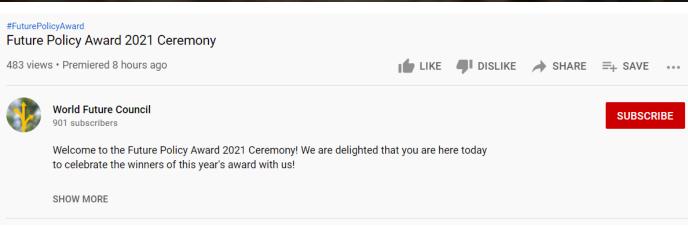
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# DENR anti-lead policy bags special award in Future Policy Award 2021





Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzReSRU5YxY





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#### SUPs still on banned list-DENR official

#### BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA

JULY 5, 2021

PLASTIC coffee stirrer and soft drink straws will not be saved by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as the two single-use plastic (SUP) products will soon be banned as Non-environmentally Acceptable Products.

This was stressed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.

"They will still be on the NEAP list because the majority of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) members voted to include them in the NEAP," Antiporda told the BusinessMirror.

Ocean conservation advocacy nongovernment organization (NGO) Oceana Philippines is set to press charges against NSWMC officials, including heads of concerned government agencies, for their failure to come up with a NEAP list more than 20 years after the enactment of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. The group blames (SUPs) for the worsening ocean plastic pollution.

#### Further studies needed

OVER the weekend, a DOST official said further studies are needed before making any recommendation for inclusion of plastic coffee stirrers and soft drink straws in the NEAP.

At a virtual news conference held last July 1, Rey L. Esguerra, DOST- Industrial Technology Development Institute Chief Science Research Specialist, said the DOST undertook rapid assessments on plastic coffee stirrer and soft drink straw. However, Esguerra said these assessments contained foreign data.

"We want to make sure that any of the recommendations that we make will have a very sound basis," Esguerra was quoted as saying during the news briefing. "That is why they were initially considered but still we need to validate the entire environmental impact of these products and their alternatives before we make a conclusion on the declaration [on their inclusion in NEAP]."

DOST-ITDI Director Annabelle V. Briones said the agency has identified "life-cycle assessment" as one of the tools as a possible basis for NEAP declaration.

#### Life-cycle assessments

BRIONES added that life-cycle assessments may benefit stakeholders to make adjustments or modifications in their importation, manufacture, processing, distribution, sale and post-consumer activities.

She said the DOST-ITDI is currently working on several SUP items that have been recommended by the NSWMC as NEAP. These are plastic spoons, forks, knives and plastic bags with less than 15 microns thickness.

Aside from life-cycle assessment of NEAP candidates, the DOST-ITDI also conducts economic impact assessment and health effects of plastic products before making any recommendation for their inclusion in NEAP.

In his brief speech during the press conference, DOST Secretary Fortunato dela Peña said the DOST remains at the forefront in providing technologies, programs and projects that will address the issues and concerns on the environment, including solid waste management.





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"Over the past 11 years, or since 2010, DOST has provided a total amount of P532 million to support 146 projects that seek to address environmental challenges," De la Peña said. "These projects have been implemented in various parts of the country and with the different institutions as partners and implementers of the research projects and the technologies that have been generated by these projects have been adopted in various levels."

According to Dela Peña, the DOST maintains an equal consideration of all sectors in the implementation of its projects.

Source: <a href="https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/05/sups-still-on-banned-list-denr-official/">https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/05/sups-still-on-banned-list-denr-official/</a>





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## DENR rebuffs study labeling PHL rivers as 'worst' ocean polluters

BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA

JULY 6, 2021



**DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda** 

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday nixed a global study that labeled Philippine rivers as top ocean plastic polluters.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said under the leadership of Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, the agency has long been undertaking various measures and exerted rehabilitation efforts in the different river systems in the country, including the Pasig River.

"Again, even prior to the publication of the said study, the DENR has already launched various efforts on environmental protection and conservation under Secretary Roy A. Cimatu's leadership," Antiporda said in a news statement.

The Ocean Cleanup-led study, which was published in the international journal Science Advances has named rivers in the Philippines as among the top 10 sources of ocean plastic pollution. Pasig River has been identified as the top plastic emitter.

The study, which used a probabilistic approach and was based on secondary studies did not reflect the actual condition of the rivers, Antiporda argued.

Solid waste problem that includes plastic wastes is being addressed from the tributaries to the ocean not only through various mitigation strategies, technologies, law enforcement but also in manpower, he added.

According to Antiporda, as part of the effort to address solid waste management issues, the DENR continues to support local government units (LGU) in establishing their materials recovery facilities (MRFs).

So far, 11,546 MRFs have been built, serving 14,450 barangays nationwide.

This year, the DENR has completed the closure of all 335 illegally operating dumpsites in the country despite restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As of 2020, 241 sanitary landfills have been established. The DENR has also formed the Coalition of Solid Waste Management Providers for a more effective approach in solid waste management.

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), chaired by Cimatu, has also approved the solid waste management plans (SWM) of 22 LGUs as of May 2021, bringing the total of approved SWM plans to 1,082 or 63 percent of its target nationwide.





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According to Antiporda, over 1,333 estero rangers were also commissioned by the DENR-National Capital Region for the cleanup of waterways and water bodies in the region.

He also noted that the Manila Bay Rehabilitation, which started in 2019, entailed cleaning up all waterways that serve as tributaries to the bay, which includes the Pasig River.

The Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office has deployed more than 100 River Warriors and River Patrollers to retrieve solid waste and other floating debris from waterways within the Pasig River System and guard the river against violators.

From January to May 2021, cleanup operations conducted in Pasig River have led to the retrieval of 136,564 sacks or around 4,096,920 kilograms of solid wastes.

Last year, a total of 216,000 sacks equivalent to seven tons of solid wastes were removed from February to December.

Antiporda also cited Estero de San Antonio Abad and Estero de Magdalena as some of the esteros cleared of solid waste.

"We have done our part in dealing with this solid waste problem of the country. In this present administration, you can see that it is only President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Secretary Cimatu who really cared for our waterways," Antiporda said.

Source: <a href="https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/06/denr-rebuffs-study-labeling-phl-rivers-as-worst-ocean-polluters/">https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/06/denr-rebuffs-study-labeling-phl-rivers-as-worst-ocean-polluters/</a>





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#### DENR rejects 'plastic emitter' tag on PH

posted July 06, 2021 at 11:00 pm by Rio N. Araja

Amid a report that the Philippines is a top plastic emitter, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Tuesday claimed it has long been undertaking preventive measures and rehabilitation efforts in different river systems, including Pasig River.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said "again, even prior to the publication of the said study, the DENR has already launched various efforts on environmental protection and conservation under Secretary Roy Cimatu's leadership."

The Ocean Cleanup-led study, which was published in the international journal Science Advances, has named rivers in the Philippines as among the top 10 sources of ocean plastic pollution.

Pasig River has been identified as the top plastic emitter.

According to Antiporda, the study, which used a probabilistic approach and was based on secondary studies, did not reflect the actual condition of the rivers.

With strong-willed leadership and efforts to mitigate pollution under the present administration, the study would show a different result, he stressed.

The solid waste management that included plastic wastes is being addressed in the tributaries to the ocean not only through various mitigation strategies, technologies, law enforcement but also in manpower, he said.

He added the agency has continued to support local government units in putting up their materials recovery facilities.

At least 11,546 material recovery facilities have been built, serving 14,450 barangays nationwide, while 335 illegal dumps were closed.

Source: https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/359033





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# DENR exec belies study saying PH rivers are plastic pollution sources

JUL 6, 2021, 4:45 PM

Santiago Celario

Writer

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources says political will has contributed to the improvement of the situation of pollution in the Philippines' major waterways.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has long been undertaking preventive measures and rehabilitation efforts in the different river systems in the country, including and especially the Pasig River.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns Benny Antiporda issued the statement to belie a global study labeling rivers in the Philippines as top plastic emitters.

"Again, even prior to the publication of the said study, the DENR has already launched various efforts on environmental protection and conservation under Secretary Roy A. Cimatu's leadership," Antiporda said during a recent press briefing.

The Ocean Cleanup-led study, which was published in the international journal Science Advances, has named rivers in the Philippines as among the top 10 sources of ocean plastic pollution.

Pasig River has been identified as the top plastic emitter. (See also: <u>Time for plastic-less</u> lifestyle; PH dominates top 50 polluting rivers in the world)

Antiporda said that the study, which used a probabilistic approach and was based on secondary studies, did not reflect the actual condition of the rivers.

He stressed that with strong-willed leadership and efforts to mitigate pollution under the present administration, the study would show a different result.

Antiporda explained that solid waste management that includes plastic wastes is being addressed in the tributaries to the ocean not only through various mitigation strategies, technologies, law enforcement but also in manpower.

The DENR continues to support LGUs in establishing their materials recovery facilities (MRFs).





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So far, 11,546 MRFs have been built, serving 14,450 barangays nationwide.

Meanwhile, the DENR has completed the closure this year of all 335 illegally operating dumpsites in the country despite the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In other development as of 2020, 241 sanitary landfills have been established. The DENR has also formed the Coalition of Solid Waste Management Providers for a more effective approach in solid waste management.

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), chaired by Cimatu, has also approved the solid waste management plans (SWM) of 22 LGUs as of May 2021, bringing the total of approved SWM plans to 1,082 or 63 percent of its target nationwide.

According to Antiporda, over 1,333 estero rangers were also commissioned by the DENR-National Capital Region for the cleanup of waterways and water bodies in the region.

He also noted that the Manila Bay Rehabilitation, which started in 2019, entailed cleaning up all waterways that serve as tributaries to the bay, which includes the Pasig River.

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"We have done our part in dealing with this solid waste problem of the country. In this present administration, you can see that it is only President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Secretary Cimatu who really cared for our waterways," Antiporda said.

(SC)

Source: <a href="https://opinyon.net/national/denr-exec-belies-study-saying-ph-rivers-are-plastic-pollution-sources#title">https://opinyon.net/national/denr-exec-belies-study-saying-ph-rivers-are-plastic-pollution-sources#title</a>





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# Environment protection a must – DENR

The information drive will help provide the data needed by residents in keeping a balanced and sustainable ecosystem

BY JONAS REYES

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is intensifying its efforts to raise awareness on pressing environmental issues after it conducted a massive information, education and communication campaign in four provinces in Central Luzon.

Regional Public Affairs Office (RPAO) chief Donaver Guevarra said that the Environment department is stressing now more than ever the importance of protecting and conserving the environment — thus the move to raise public awareness and knowledge on environmental issues and solicit support as well.

Guevarra said that they conducted environmental education lectures in 15 barangays in Mariveles town and Balanga City in Bataan; Capas and Bamban towns in Tarlac; Masinloc town in Zambales; and Sasmuan town in Pampanga.

The information drive is seen to benefit well over 400 barangay officials and health workers, including members of people's organization.

Despite the pandemic, he stressed that the DENR here has continued to go on rounds and conduct small-group discussions in barangays adjacent to river systems and mangrove plantations.

"Providing the public as well as the leaders of our local government with the right information and educating them on the value and importance of our environment especially our rivers and mangrove ecosystems including environmental laws are important ways we can help save our environment," Guevarra said.

It is also seen to provide data needed by residents in keeping a balanced and sustainable ecosystem to make a community protected and resilient against disasters and calamities.

The RPAO chief narrated that the information drive included lectures on the protection of mangrove, tips to be plastic free, ecological solid waste management, importance of river system and the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation.

He added that solid waste management is still a critical concern, citing that educating people on proper garbage disposal will help keep the environment safe and clean.

Despite the pandemic, he stressed that the DENR here has continued to go on rounds and conduct small-group discussions in barangays adjacent to river systems and mangrove plantations.





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## DENR hosts info campaign drive on environmental protection

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

July 06, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the City of San Fernando conducted recently massive information, education and communication (IEC) campaign in four provinces in Central Luzon.

The move was done in a bid to raise public awareness and knowledge on some important pressing environmental issues, and solicit support on the protection and conservation of the environment.

Donaver Guevarra, chief of the regional public affairs office (RPAO), said the environmental education lecture series were conducted in 15 barangays in Mariveles town and Balanga City in Bataan; Capas and Bamban towns in Tarlac; Masinloc town in Zambales; and Sasmuan town in Pampanga, benefiting well over 400 barangay officials and health workers, including members of people's organization.

"Providing the public as well as the leaders of our local government with the right information and educating them on the value and importance of our environment especially our rivers and mangrove ecosystems including environmental laws are important ways we can help save our environment,"

he said.

He said caring for the environment starts from understanding, and the local government is at the forefront of keeping a balance and sustainable ecosystem to make a community protected and resilient against disaster and calamity.

The environmental topics that have been discussed during the lecture series include the protection of mangrove, tips to be plastic free, ecological solid waste management, importance of river system, and the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation.

"Solid waste management remains to be a critical concern in keeping our environment on a good and sustainable condition. Given this, educating the people on proper garbage disposal must be prioritized to keep our environment safe and clean," Guevarra noted.

Despite the pandemic, he said the DENR has continued to go on grounds and conduct small-group discussions in barangays adjacent to river systems and mangrove plantations.

This year, the DENR in the City of San Fernando has already conducted 29 environmental education lectures using a blended approach of online platforms and limited face-to-face interaction participated in by more than 1,000 residents of Central Luzon.

Source: https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1899904





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#### Fanged frog species discovered in Mindoro

**Published** July 6, 2021 10:29pm



The male fanged frog species discovered in Mindoro. PHOTO FROM DENR-DAVAO

A team of international researchers have found a new fanged frog species in the Philippines.



According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Davao, the fanged frog is a unique species.

The fanged frog known by its scientific name Limnonectes beloncioi was spotted in a forest area on Mindoro Island.





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The DENR said it is assumed to be similar to that of Palawan's frog or the Limnonectes acanthi.

However, following a thorough examination, scientists declared that the fanged frog differs by the sound they make in their mating calls.

The DENR said these frogs use their fangs as shields from predators and to fight their way to the prime mating sites. -- Ma. Angelica Garcia/BAP, GMA News





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# Garganera likens Inayawan transfer station to a "dumpsite"

By Mary Ruth R. Malinao (The Freeman) - July 7, 2021 - 12:00am



Garganera, chairman of the City Council's Committee on Environment, joined Vice Mayor Michael Rama and the Environmental Management Bureau-7 during an inspection of the transfer station on Monday, July 5, 2021.

CEBU, Philippines — Cebu City Councilor Joel Garganera has likened the transfer station in Barangay Inayawan to a "dumpsite" because of the pile of uncollected garbage in the area.

Garganera, chairman of the City Council's Committee on Environment, joined Vice Mayor Michael Rama and the Environmental Management Bureau-7 during an inspection of the transfer station on Monday, July 5, 2021.

"On my end, from what I have witnessed yesterday (Monday), it was not a transfer station, it was a dumpsite... Kanang transfer station, 24 hours mahurot na nimo'ng basura, pero nganong ing'ana man na?" said Garganera.

He is worried that the pile of garbage in the area might cause untoward incidents.

"And, I must concur also with the observation of the barangay captain nga it is really hazard to the waste pickers kay mag-move ang mga backhoes, managan gud na sila. That is really an accident bound to happen in that area there," he said.

Garganera said the private contractor managing the transfer station promised that they are going to clear the area.

"If the contractor promised that by this Saturday nga mahurot na diha, I doubt very much. I doubt. With the way things are doing right now, I doubt," he said.

Garganera also said that the current system at the transfer station is "time consuming."

"The way I look at it, ang linya sa mga garbage trucks nato in going there sa akong count gahapon reached 18 and then on the other side naglinya sad ang mga truck to get the garbage," he explained.

Garganera hopes the EMB-7 will make a detailed report regarding the matter so everything will be guided accordingly. The councilor also expressed his concern on the report that the stench from the pile of garbage is now reaching the neighboring city of Talisay.

Inayawan barangay administrator Vince Monterde, who also visited the area Monday, said mounds of garbage remain at the transfer station, and the rains experienced these past few days had worsen the stench.





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Garganera said the Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO) should focus on this to address the health and safety of the residents.

"They should do something ani. It's already being raised by the barangay captain, it's being raised already by people living around the area," said Garganera.

The city's private hauler is keeping the garbage at the transfer station longer than the usual after it was barred from dumping at the Binaliw landfill due to unsettled obligations.

The ARN landfill is demanding P18-million payment from DOCAST before it can be allowed to dump again. — **FPL (FREEMAN)** 

Source: https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2021/07/07/2110805/garganera-likens-inayawan-transfer-station-dumpsite/amp/





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#### TALO ANG MGA DUMAGAT SA DENR - BLUE STAR MOA

9 hours ago jake



MATAGAL nang nanini-rahan ang mga Dumagat sa Lungsod ng Antipolo hanggang bayan ng Baras sa Rizal dahil pag-aari nila ang lupaing kanilang tinitirahan.

Ang tawag natin sa lupain ng mga katutubo tulad sa Dumagat ay "ancestral domain".

Huwag tayong magtaka kung igigiit at ipaglalaban ng mga Dumagat ang pamayanang tinitirahan nila sa napakahabang panahon, sapagkat ancestral domain nila ito.

Ngunit, tila nawalan ng karapatan at kapangyarihan ang pangkat ng Dumagat sa kanilang lupain.

Noong si Regina "Gina" Lopez pa ang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), biglang napunta sa Blue Star Construction and Development Corporation ang 2,700-ektaryang lupain dahil sa "Memorandum of Agreement" (MOA) ng dalawa.

Sa bisa ng MOA, naging 'tagapangalaga' ang Blue Star ng ekta-ektaryang lupain ng mga Dumagat.

Pokaragat na 'yan!

Si Secretary Roy Cimatu na ang kalihim ng DENR mula nang tanggalin si Lopez ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ngunit, nakarating sa BADILLA Ngayon na pinaninindigan ng pamunuan ng Blue Star ang kanilang karapatan at kapangyarihan sa napakalawak na lupain alinsunod sa bisa ng MOA.

Ang labis na nakadidismaya sa desisyon at aksyon laban sa mga Dumagat ay padahan-dahang winawalis sila ng Blue Star patungo malapit sa Nakar, Quezon.

Pokaragat na 'yan!

Ano ang eksaktong kahulugan nito?!

Kung pagbabatayan ang kinahinatnan ng mga Dumagat mula nang magkaroon ng MOA sa pagitan ng DENR at Blue Star, "talo" ang mga Dumagat.

Ito'y dahil ang nagpapasya sa 2,700 ay ang pamunuan ng Blue Star Construction and Development Corporation na kinabibilangan umano nina Ben Dumaliang, Lilia Dumaliang, Annie Adeline Dumaliang, Billie Crystal Dumaliang at Sonia Oliveros.





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Nakakaawa nang husto ang buhay ng mga Dumagat dahil sa unti-unting pagkilos ng pamunuan ng Blue Star laban sa nasabing grupo ng mga katutubo.

Ang masama ay ginagamit pa ang yunit ng Philippine National Police (PNP) sa Rizal.

Dapat sana, kumilos noon pa man ang hepe ng PNP sa Rizal ay si Colonel Joseph Arguelles laban sa maling ginagawa sa mga Dumagat gamit ang yunit ng PNP sa Rizal.

Ngunit, hindi naganap dahil, ayon sa ilang taong sumusubay-bay sa sinapit ng mga Dumagat mula sa Blue Star, mga pulis daw ang armadong kinasangkapan ng nasabing korporasyon.

Umaasa ang BADILLA Ngayon, lalo na ang mga Dumagat, na magpapasya at kikilos ang hepe ng PNP na si General Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar upang mabilis na kumilos si Colonel Arguelles pabor sa mga Dumagat.

Kahit hindi natin nakikita oras-oras at araw-araw ang aktuwal na kalagayan ng mga Dumagat, 100 porsiyento ang aking paniniwala na kawawa ang mga Dumagat mula sa pang-aaping sinapit nila mula sa Blue Star dulot ng MOA nito sa DENR.

Matigil sana ito upang matapos na ang ganyang krimeng ginagawa nila sa kapwa natin.

Hindi ba't kapwa natin sila Filipino kahit kabilang sila sa katutubong Dumagat?

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CP: 09985650271 / Viber #: 09457016911





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# P13-M worth of banned fishery products seized in Lapu-Lapu City

By Junex Doronio July 6, 2021

LAPU CITY, Cebu – Showing its commitment to protecting marine life, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 7 (BFAR-7) on Tuesday announced the seizure of P13-million worth of banned fishery products in Barangay Punta Engaño.

In coordination with the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), the "cutting edge" of the Philippine National Police (PNP), BFAR-7 Director Dr. Allan Poquita disclosed that two persons were arrested on June 30 by virtue of search warrants and several banned fishery products were confiscated.

Poquita urged the public to refrain from catching or gathering the protected species since they play a significant role in marine life.

At the same time, he asked the public to help BFAR-7 in curbing the illegal trade by reporting to authorities the people who collect species protected under the fishery laws, such as giant clams, helmet shells, and triton shells, among others.

The two arrested persons, whose names were withheld, were charged for violations of the following:

- Section 96 or the ban on coral exploitation and exportation
- Section 102 or fishing or taking of rare, threatened, or endangered species that are both stipulated under Republic Act (RA) 10654 or "an Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing."

They were also found violating Section 27 of RA 9147 or The Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act; and Section 2 of Fisheries Administrative Order 158 or the "Prohibition on the gathering, taking, collecting, selling, transporting or possessing for sale of mollusks belonging to the genus Triton or Charonia and Cassis."

Seized during the joint operation of BFAR and CIDG at the premises of the two arrested individuals were:

- 3,213 pieces of helmet shell (budyong)
- three boxes containing 81 pieces of triton shell





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- 384 pieces of giant clams (taklobo)
- 107 pieces of small-sized giant clams
- 52 kilograms of hoof shell (kukung kabayo)
- one box containing 42 pieces of shark jaw
- one box containing three pieces of dried sea turtle
- two sacks containing 33 pieces of organ pipe red coral.

Poquita said that based on the inventory, the estimated appraised market value of the confiscated fishery products are pegged at P12.96 million.

He added the CIDG took custody of the two arrested persons and the seized items while inquest proceedings will ensue. (AI/MTVN)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/06/p13-m-worth-of-banned-fishery-products-seized-in-lapu-lapu-city/?fbclid=IwAR1bCALBHnGBdU3wDs4WvVGT2aUntNm5-PbU9zj\_nSFAMWe1M102Ps5nz44





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## Nearly P9M worth of tilapia, bangus affected by Batangas fish kill

**Published** July 6, 2021 4:40pm



The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on Tuesday said over 100 metric tons of fish were killed in an incident of fish mortality in Talisay, Batangas.

In a statement, BFAR said an estimated volume of 109 MT of bangus and tilapia valued at P8.999 million were lost.

On Monday, BFAR said the water quality assessment report showed that dissolved oxygen in several areas in Taal Lake has registered 2.38 to 3.80 mg/L, which is comparatively lower than the standard level of 5.0 mg/L.

The levels of ammonia and sulfide, meanwhile, are above the standard level which are potentially harmful to fishes, BFAR added.

BFAR said the local government of Talisay and operators of the affected fish cases are already coordinating for the safe collection and disposal of the fishes.

It can be recalled that on July 1, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology placed Taal Volcano under Alert Level 3 following an <u>eruption</u> that gave rise to a kilometer-high phreatomagmatic plume.

Alert Level 3 remains over the volcano.—Ma. Angelica Garcia/LDF, GMA News

Source: <a href="https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/794274/nearly-p9m-worth-of-tilapia-bangus-affected-by-batangas-fish-kill/story/?fbclid=IwAR33kdU2FQxPb0jEgpKNVvN9tXIMkx55nS53yH16K6N2u6B5GXFzKIG85L0">https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/794274/nearly-p9m-worth-of-tilapia-bangus-affected-by-batangas-fish-kill/story/?fbclid=IwAR33kdU2FQxPb0jEgpKNVvN9tXIMkx55nS53yH16K6N2u6B5GXFzKIG85L0</a>





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# Talisay LGU, fish cage operators begin safe retrieval, disposal of dead bangus, tilapia

BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA

JULY 6, 2021

THE local government of Talisay, Batangas and operators of fish cages are moving on the safe collection and disposal of dead bangus and tilapia brought about by a "fish kill" in Taal Lake due to low dissolved oxygen level and high levels of ammonia and sulfide.

In a news statement, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) estimated the volume of dead bangus and tilapia at 109 metric tons, valued at approximately P9 million.

Taal Lake is within the restive Taal Volcano's Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ). The country's most active volcano is currently under Alert Level 3 or Magmatic Unrest following a short-lived phreatic explosion last week.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has recommended safe evacuation of communities in high-risk areas near the volcano.

BFAR, through its office in Region 4A, immediately issued a water quality assessment report to local government units and fish cage operators surrounding Taal Lake on the night of July 5, 2021, immediately after the water quality assessment result came out.

Based on the result, the dissolved oxygen (DO) in several areas (Tanauan and Talisay) in Taal Lake has registered 2.38 - 3.80 mg/L, which is comparatively lower than the standard level of 5.0 mg/L for dissolved oxygen.

Meanwhile, BFAR said the levels of ammonia (0.12 - 0.21 mg/L) and sulfide (0.01 - 0.10 mg/L) are above the standard level which are potentially harmful to fishes.

DA-BFAR is closely monitoring the incident and will release updates on the incident of fish mortality in Taal Lake.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/06/talisay-lgu-fish-cage-operators-begin-safe-retrieval-disposal-of-dead-bangus-tilapia/





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#### Climate change link as New Zealand records warmest June on record

posted July 06, 2021 at 01:00 pm by **AFP** 

New Zealand recorded its hottest June on record as temperatures continued to soar in a pattern consistent with global warming, a government scientific agency said Tuesday.

Daily temperatures averaged 10.6 Celsius (51.1 Fahrenheit)—1.9C above average despite a cold snap late in the month, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) said.

"It's huge. There's only been 13 times since 1909 that we've had such an anomaly," NIWA scientist Chris Brandolino told public radio.

"What's alarming is that over the past 10 years that's happened six times."

Brandolino said that while shorter-term factors such as warmer ocean temperatures helped heat the air over New Zealand, climate change was a constant underlying factor.

"We've had more north-easterly air flows than normal (from the Pacific), so they're coming from a warm place, and ocean temperatures are also warmer than average," he said.

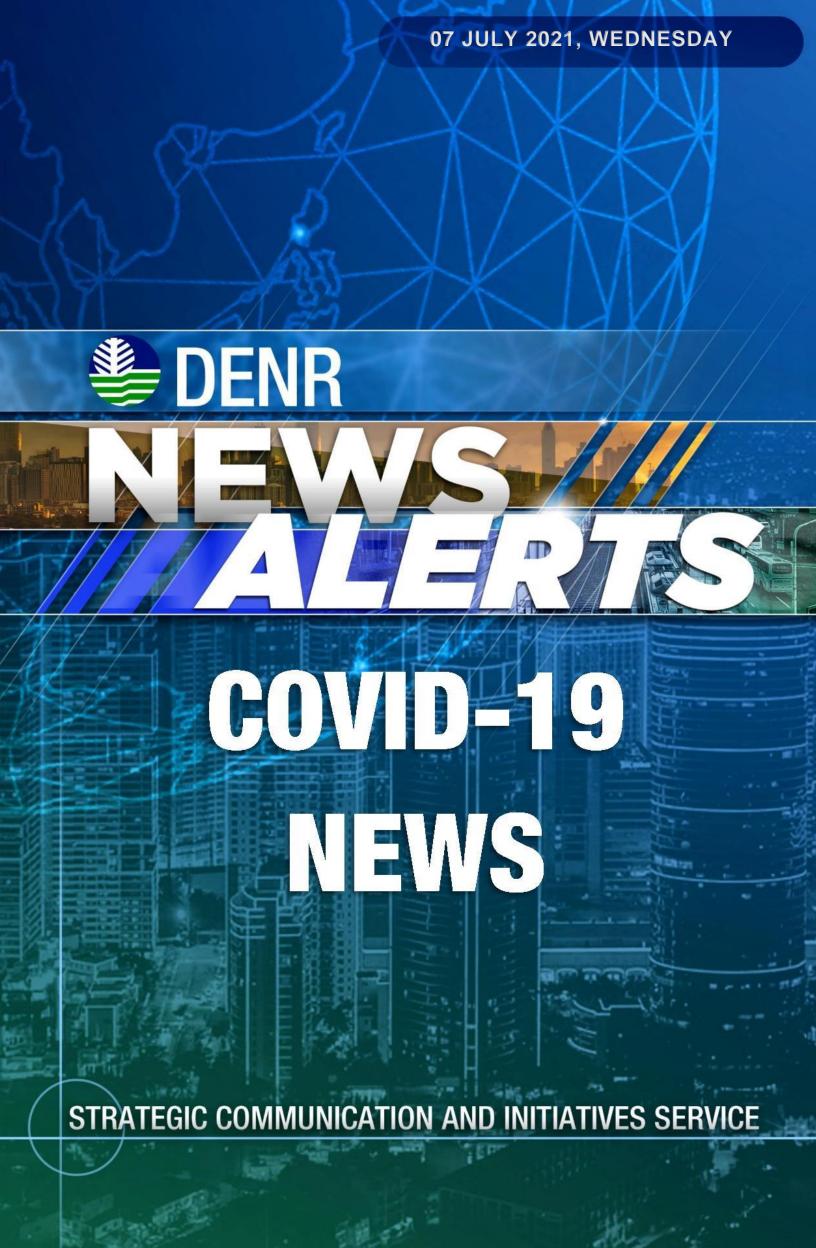
"Then you throw in the background of climate change and it adds up to a record warm month for June."

New Zealand had its seventh-hottest year in 2020, which was also the seventh year in a decade that temperatures have been in the top 10 highest ever recorded.

The country's centre-left Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern declared a 'climate emergency' last year, saying urgent action was needed for the sake of future generations.

New Zealand has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050 and to generating all its energy from renewable sources by 2035.

Source: <a href="https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/358979">https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/358979</a>







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### DOH reports 4,114 new COVID-19 cases, 104 more deaths

By CNN Philippines Staff

Published Jul 6, 2021 3:33:47 PM



The country logged 4,114 new COVID-19 infections on Tuesday, pushing the nationwide tally to 1,445,832, the Department of Health said. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 6) — The country logged 4,114 new COVID-19 infections on Tuesday, pushing the nationwide tally to 1,445,832, the Department of Health said.

The DOH's latest bulletin showed 49,613 or 3.4% of the total cases were active - with 90.8% experiencing mild symptoms, 3.9% without symptoms, 2.2% with severe symptoms, 1.62% in moderate condition, and 1.5% in critical condition.

The death toll climbed to 25,296 or 1.75% of the case count after 104 more people lost their lives to the disease.

The recovery count also rose to 1,370,923 - or 94.8% of the case tally - after 6,086 more patients were cleared of the coronavirus. The DOH said it reclassified 101 survivors - 38 into active cases and 63 into fatalities - after validation. It also removed 28 duplicates, including 22 recoveries.

The total excludes data from nine laboratories that failed to submit their reports on time, the DOH added. These laboratories contributed an average of 5.2% of samples tested and 6.7% of positive individuals in the last 14 days.

The daily positivity rate or percentage of people who tested positive dropped from 11.4% to 10.5% based on 31,536 tests on July 4. It's the eighth day in a row that the positivity rate is below 12%. However, the figure is still far from the World Health Organization's benchmark of below 5%. Experts said high rates may mean high transmission and there may be more cases that have yet to be detected.

The OCTA Research group's recent risk assessment placed the country at medium or moderate risk based on reproduction rate, seven-day average of new cases, hospital ICU utilization and positivity rate the past week. From June 29 to July 5, the country recorded a daily average of 5,451 new infections, a 3% drop from the week before, the group said.

Metro Manila is also at moderate risk with 644 new cases per day, 5% lower than last week.

Meanwhile, OCTA tagged Davao City as high risk, along with Bacolod, Iloilo City, General Santos, Baguio City and Tagum City in Davao Del Norte.





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Davao City in particular logged the highest number of new cases per day in the entire country with an average of 303 new infections. It also registered an alarming 90% ICU ulitization rate.

Iloilo City's ICU utilization rate was also "very high" at 94%. Bacolod, General Santos, Tagum and Butuan had very high positivity rates as well, but Butuan's infection and ICU utilization figures were low.

The Department of Foreign Affairs also reported one new infection and one new recovery among overseas Filipinos. The total number of cases is now 20,910 in 95 countries with 4,664 cases verified by the DOH, the DFA added. The survivor count is 12,378 while the death toll remained at 1,243. There are also 7,289 patients undergoing treatment.

Source: <a href="https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/7/6/COVID-19-update-July-6-2021.html">https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/7/6/COVID-19-update-July-6-2021.html</a>





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Devotees are assisted by members of the Hijos del Nazareno while reminding them of the strict compliance to health protocols as they wait in line to enter the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila for the first Friday of the month devotion Mass on July 2, 2021. Other members of the faithful settle to hear Mass at the Plaza Miranda as the church only accommodates 50% of its seating capacity to maintain social distancing inside the church.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

# COVID-19 among top causes of death in 2020, but heart disease still biggest killer

Xave Gregorio (Philstar.com) - July 6, 2021 - 4:01pm

MANILA, Philippines — COVID-19 was among the top causes of death in the Philippines last year, but heart disease was still the biggest killer, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Preliminary data from the PSA show that 30,140 people died due to COVID-19 in 2020, accounting for 4.9% of the total registered deaths that year.

Among the 17 regions, Metro Manila logged 13,000 fatalities due to COVID-19 last year or 43.1% of all deaths due to the contagious respiratory disease. Calabarzon came in second with 7,000 deaths and Central Luzon at third with 2,690 deaths.

In Metro Manila, Quezon City reported the highest number of COVID-19 deaths with 2,640 fatalities due to the disease or 20.3% of all COVID-19 deaths in the region. Incidentally, Quezon City had also logged the highest number of COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila.

Ischaemic heart diseases, however, proved to be more fatal than COVID-19 in 2020, topping the list of causes of death with 105,114 people succumbing due to these.

More people died due to heart diseases in 2020 compared to 2019, when only 82,547 people passed away due to these.

Cancer was the second leading cause of death in the Philippines last year, with it taking the lives of 66,179 people, followed by cerebrovascular diseases (64,104 deaths), diabetes mellitus (39,723 deaths), pneumonia (34,251 deaths), and hypertensive diseases (31,610 deaths).

While pneumonia is a common symptom among those with COVID-19, the number of people who died due to it dropped 45.4% in 2020 from 62,720 cases in 2019.

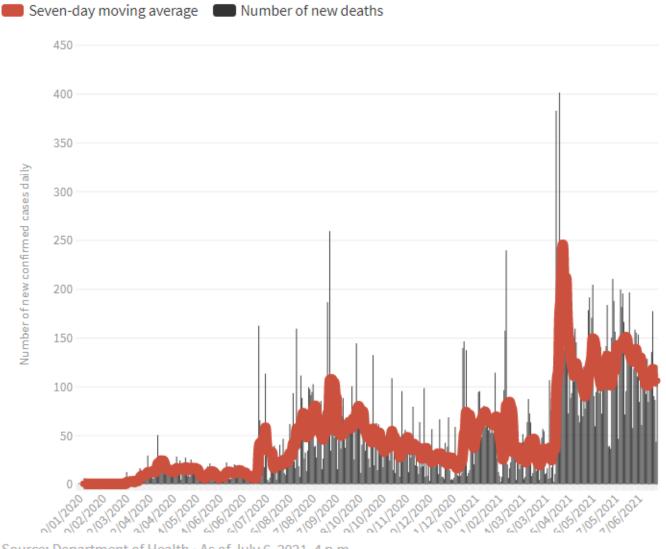
As of Monday, the Department of Health has logged 25,192 people who have died due to COVID-19 — short by around 5,000 compared to the PSA's tally.





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#### **COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines**



Source: <u>Department of Health</u> • As of July 6, 2021, 4 p.m.

A Flourish chart

The PSA explained the discrepancy by saying that they based their data on death certificates, while DOH based theirs through a surveillance system.

It added that it counted both probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases, while DOH only counts confirmed cases.





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This undated image shows travelers walking in an airport.
Pixabay/Skitterphoto

## Palace reminds LGUs to comply with IATF resolution

Alexis Romero (The Philippine Star) - July 7, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang yesterday reminded local government units (LGUs) to comply with travel protocols for individuals fully vaccinated against COVID after some governors expressed concern about the relaxed measures.

Under the new interzonal travel guidelines issued by the national government, a fully vaccinated person need not undergo COVID test if he presents a vaccination card or a quarantine completion certificate showing the holder's vaccination status.

Fully vaccinated travelers will still be subjected to health and exposure screening upon arrival at their destination.

Some governors questioned how the new protocols could be enforced, saying there is no way to validate COVID vaccination cards.

Quirino Gov. Dakila Cua, who is also president of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, said LGUs were not consulted about the guidelines.

Cua cited the need for a process that would check the authenticity of vaccination cards.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) would discuss the issues related to the new travel and quarantine guidelines, stressing for now, local governments should follow them.

"When the IATF issued the resolutions, it acts for and on behalf of the President, but the IATF is not deaf to the complaints and suggestions of local governments," Roque said during a press briefing.

The IATF also relaxed the quarantine protocols for fully vaccinated individuals or those who have received a single-dose vaccine or the second dose of a pandemic shot in a two-dose series for two weeks or longer.

Under the new guidelines, fully vaccinated persons who are listed as close contacts of probable and confirmed COVID cases may undergo a shortened seven-day quarantine period if they do not have symptoms for the duration of the seven-day period.





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If a reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test needs to be performed, it may be done not earlier than the fifth day after the date of the last exposure.

Testing and quarantine will not be required for close contacts who may have been traced beyond the seventh day from last exposure and who have remained asymptomatic.

Prescribed isolation and testing protocols would be implemented if the RT-PCR test yields a positive result or if the person exhibits COVID- symptoms.

Roque said people found using fake vaccination cards may be arrested for violation of a law against falsification of public documents.

He said the vaccination card is a public document.

#### Most important dose

National Task Force (NTF) against COVID chief implementer and vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said the second dose of the anti-COVID vaccine is most important to achieve full protection against the disease.

Galvez issued the statement as he encouraged LGUs to prioritize the administration of the second dose, especially the Sinovac vaccine, within the next two weeks in order to address slippage in deliveries.

In an advisory released by the National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC), LGUs were notified of the delays in the arrival of Sputnik V component II and the weekly delivery of Sinovac vaccines.

The advisory directed all implementing units, particularly in the National Capital Region (NCR) Plus 8 – Metro Cebu, Metro Davao, Bulacan, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga and Rizal – to focus on completely vaccinating those who have received the first shot of Sinovac vaccines until the supply becomes stable.

LGUs must immediately utilize the intended first doses of other vaccine brands such as Moderna, Pfizer and Sputnik V.

The rest of the implementing units were asked to ensure the administration of the second shot of the Sinovac vaccine in the next two weeks.

Meanwhile, returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are still required to undergo swab test even if they are fully vaccinated, according to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

During the Laging Handa public briefing yesterday, OWWA director Rosalia Catapang clarified that the shortened quarantine period is only for fully vaccinated OFWs coming from low-risk countries.

Catapang said fully vaccinated OFWs would undergo swab test on the fifth day of arrival. Those who will test negative will be released from quarantine on the seventh day.

She said fully vaccinated OFWs coming from low risk countries need to undergo a seven-day quarantine period and swab tests. – **Jose Rodel Clapano, Mayen Jaymalin** 

Source: <a href="https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/07/2110729/palace-reminds-lgus-comply-iatf-resolution">https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/07/2110729/palace-reminds-lgus-comply-iatf-resolution</a>





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## OCTA: PH COVID-19 infection rate on 'generally flat trend'

July 6, 2021



A study made by the OCTA Research group showed that the COVID-19 infection rate in the Philippines is on a "generally flat trend".

The group said on Monday (July 5), the infection rate in the Philippines has reached 0.93%. It means that the COVID-19 cases in the country have generally dropped.

The OCTA Research team reported that the infection rate in Metro Manila is on a "down trend" with 0.84% while the team has recorded a slow upward trend with 1.04 infection rate in Bacolod City, 1.30% in Cebu, 1.36% in Davao, and 1.14% in Iloilo.

Meanwhile, the Lambda variant, a new COVID-19 variant, is being closely monitored by the national government to prevent its entry to the country. The Department of Health said that the new variant is not yet present in the Philippines based on the data given by the Philippine Genome Center.

(PTV News)/NGS-rir

Source: https://ptvnews.ph/octa-ph-covid-19-infection-rate-on-generally-flat-trend/





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# Delay in Sinovac delivery won't hamper vax program: NTF

July 6, 2021



(File photo by Daniel Manalastas/PTV)

#### By Lade Jean Kabagani/PNA

**MANILA** – Delay in the production of the Sinovac vaccine may slightly derail the delivery of the China-made jabs to the Philippines this month.

Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., chief implementer of the National Task Force (NTF) Against COVID-19, assured though that it won't affect the country's vaccination program.

The initial 2.5 million doses out of the expected 6 million will be delivered within the third week of July.

"Rest assured that despite the two-week delay in the delivery of these Sinovac doses, our vaccine rollout will not be affected and will proceed nationwide. We should also understand that Sinovac also exhausted its supply for us," Galvez assured.

The Sinovac company has already delivered 6.5 million doses, more than the contracted supply of 4.5 million doses, in June alone.

Galvez likewise told local government units (LGUs) to make sure those who received their first shots will be able to complete the full dose.

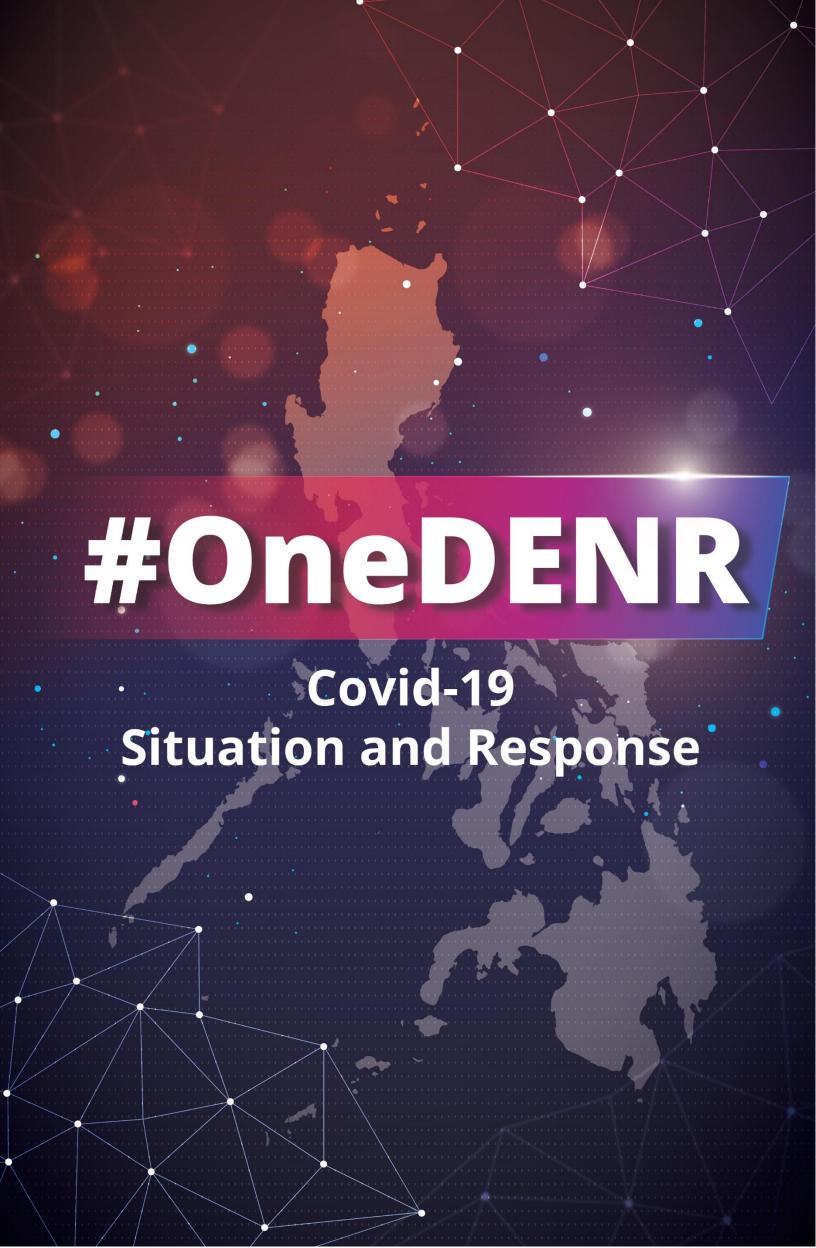
"With this development, we advise all LGUs who have Sinovac vaccines in their inventory to ensure that the allocation for the second dose should be used as the second dose," Galvez said of the jabs administered 28 days apart.

The government contracted 26 million of Sinovac doses this year.

"We ask for the patience and understanding of the public. Though we have already secured the volume needed by the country, there are still other factors that may delay production and deliveries and cause this slippage," he said.

So far, the Philippines has 12 million doses of Sinovac jabs in its stockpile, including the 1 million doses donated by the Chinese government and the 900,000 doses procured by the private sector and LGUs. **(PNA)** -rir

Source: https://ptvnews.ph/delay-in-sinovac-delivery-wont-hamper-vax-program-ntf/



#### **DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring** Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of % COVID-19 Confirmed Cases in DENR-CO **Daily Confirmed Cases** Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing DENR COVID-19 Tracker Team of DENR Central Office. 0 8.8% Total Active Recovered Deaths Last update: a few seconds ago Last update: a few seconds ago Age Group Age Group by Sex Residence of affected personnel Paco San Mateo Hulo San Pascual Valenzuela Dampalit Tanza Tangos San Roque Last update: a few seconds ago Last update: a few seconds ago Parand Navotas. **Health Status** Comorbidity Sex Malabon Marikina Heights Caloocan City Concepcion Dos Marikina Cainta Symptomatic 42.86% Without 56.12% Male 53.06% With 21.43% Asymptomatic 39.8% Female 44.9% No information 17.35% No information 22.45% No information 2.04% San Juan GEODATA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA | Information Mana... Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact Last update: a few seconds ago Last update: a few seconds ago Last update: a few seconds ago location/ addresses of the cases. Developed by the DENR Statistics and Data Resource Management Division (SDRMD) - Knowledge Information Systems Service. To report data discrepancies and for any inquiries email us at sdrmd@denr.gov.ph Map Legend





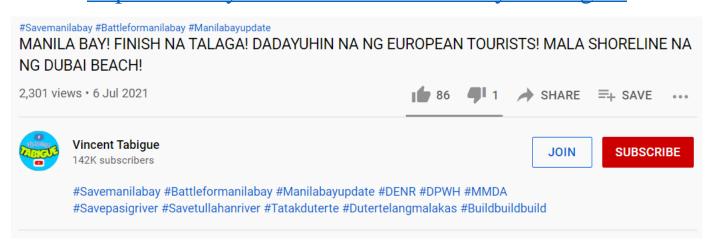


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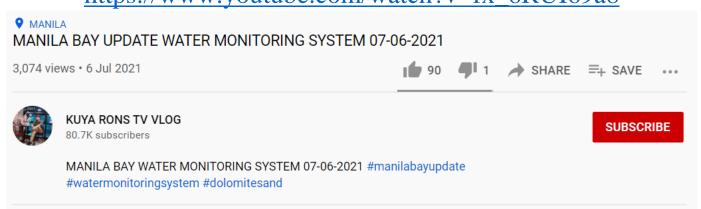


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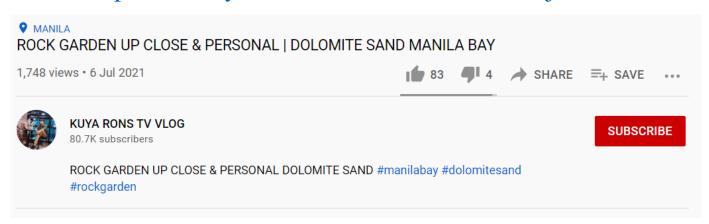




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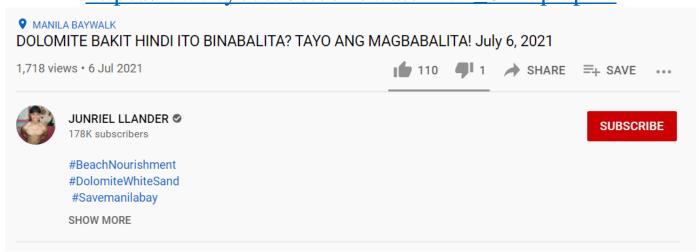




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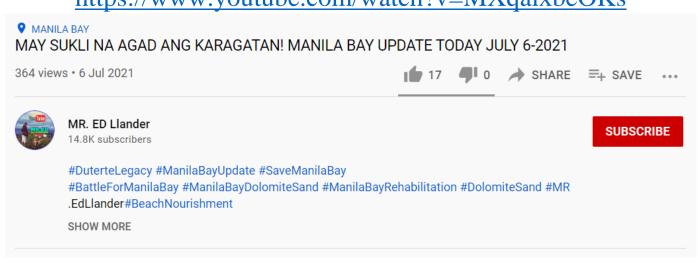




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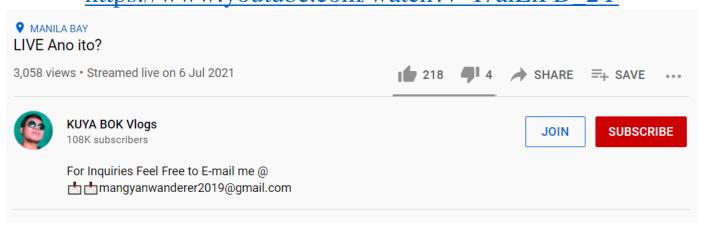




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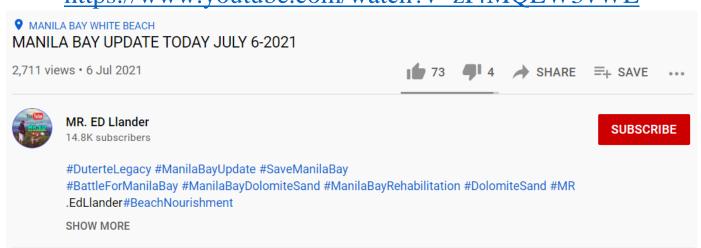




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