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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





## DENR tututukan ang kahalagahan ng “environmental restoration” sa pagdiriwang ng Environment Month



May 31, 2021 @ 4:19 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na itutuon ng ahensya sa pagdiriwang ng Environment Month ngayon taon ang pag-angat ng kamalayan ng mga Pilipino sa kapaligiran upang mapangalagaan ang buhay at matiyak ang kahandaan para sa susunod na henerasyon habang patuloy ang pakikibaka ng bansa sa epekto ng coronavirus pandemic.

“We may not be able to turn back time, but we can restore nature by moving forward,” sabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa pagbibigay ng halaga sa lokal na tema ng pagdiriwang na “Sama-samang pagkilos, sama-samang paghilom (Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan).

Kaugnay nito binigyang-diin din ni Cimatu ang kahalagahan ng pakikipagtulungan ng iba’t-ibang sektor para sa pagsasagawa ng “sustainable actions” para sa kapaligiran at ang mahalagang papel nang pangangalaga ng kalikasan sa pakikipaglaban sa climate change, biodiversity loss at maging sa panganib sa kalusugan.

“As the department sets the pace towards environmental restoration, we hope all of us from the communities and the different sectors of society support this direction through our own sustainable actions for our planet,” dagdag pa ng secretary.

Nitong buwan lamang, nagbigay ng halimbawa ang DENR sa pagpapasara ng lahat ng 335 open dumpsites sa buong bansa bilang pagsunod sa nakasaad sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.



## DENR tututukan ang kahalagahan ng “environmental restoration” sa pagdiriwang ng Environment Month

“Beyond this celebration, let us be sustainable and progressive in taking care of the environment. Let us take steps in greening our spaces and cities, cleaning our oceans, reducing our plastic consumption, and all other ways we can help,” saad ni Cimatú.

Ang Environment Month ay ipinagdiriwang tuwing Hunyo batay na rin sa bisa ng Proclamation No. 237 na nilagdaan ni dating Pangulong Corazon Aquino noong Abril 4, 1988 kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng World Environment Day sa Hunyo 5.

Ipinagdiriwang din ng buong mundo ang World Oceans Day sa Hunyo 8 at Coral Triangle Day sa Hunyo 9.

Bilang suporta sa mga pagdiriwang na nakatuon sa kapaligiran, naghandá ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) ng mga gawain upang ipagdiwang at itaas ang kamalayan ng mga Pilipino na maging responsable sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran.

Sa buong Hunyo, ang DENR-EMB ay maglalabas ng infographics tungkol sa marine plastic pollution sa pamamagitan ng social media pages upang magkaroon ng responsableng pag-uugali tungkol sa solid waste.

Simula Hunyo 5 hanggang 10, ang mga Facebook followers ng DENR-EMB ay maaaring sumali sa “Greenvirogames” kung saan ay magkakaroon ng mga palaro tulad ng Graphics Interchange Format o GIF at scavenger hunt activities.

Ang mga mananalo ay magkakamit ng cash prizes at freebies.

Nabatid sa DENR ang Community Livelihood Training on Upcycling na inaasahang dadaluhan ng mga komunidad sa paligid ng Manila Bay ay gaganapin sa Hunyo 8, 15, at 22.

Bilang “highlights” ng Environment Month, ang DENR-EMB ay kikilalanin ang Regional Champions on Environmental Management sa pamamagitan ng Game Changer Awards sa Hunyo 30.

Ito ay upang mabigyan ng pagkilala ang mga indibidwal, civil society groups, women’s groups, youth groups at local government units na nangunguna sa “innovative environmental management projects” tulad ng waste reduction, climate change mitigation, air quality management para sa kanilang mga komunidad, at water quality conservation and protection, at information, education and communication initiatives para sa kapaligiran. **Santi Celario**

Source: [https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.remate.ph%2Fdenr-tututukan-ang-kahalagahan-ng-environmental-restoration-sa-pagdiriwang-ng-environment-month%2F&h=AT2RNfrvs5WUCK2RN5vzOiiQrgdd\\_7mcR\\_q\\_QYUzo6jbD8que2pQwXieoHC94Shisn9qnAnoOR8rv3wfdCvFParUMw\\_65\\_w2n8DrJb1B\\_45bh11CoWwDZiRnxt4NZ1-RHdkmCUaGwA](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.remate.ph%2Fdenr-tututukan-ang-kahalagahan-ng-environmental-restoration-sa-pagdiriwang-ng-environment-month%2F&h=AT2RNfrvs5WUCK2RN5vzOiiQrgdd_7mcR_q_QYUzo6jbD8que2pQwXieoHC94Shisn9qnAnoOR8rv3wfdCvFParUMw_65_w2n8DrJb1B_45bh11CoWwDZiRnxt4NZ1-RHdkmCUaGwA)



## [DENR, USAID boost cooperation on natural resources protection, clean water accessibility](#)

MAY 31, 2021, 11:33 AM

Santiago Celario  
Writer



*Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu welcomed the renewed partnership of the Philippine government with the USAID for the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) and the Safe Water projects of the agency.*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has entered into new agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to advance the country's efforts for biodiversity conservation.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu welcomed the five-year partnership with the USAID for the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) and the Safe Water projects during the signing of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) last Thursday (May 27)

"Given the current pandemic, the DENR is committed more than ever to address the country's environmental challenges. We can easily attain this goal if we have partners like USAID," Cimatu said, adding that the international development agency has been a "time-tested partner for the environment."

DENR said the SIBOL and Safe Water programs are among the projects under the P7.25 billion (US\$150 million) USAID-Philippines agreement on enhanced ecosystems and community resilience signed by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and USAID last February.

SIBOL is a P1.1-billion project (US\$22 million) that aims to improve natural resource governance, stimulate public and private sector investments in conservation, and reduce environmental crimes.



## [DENR, USAID boost cooperation on natural resources protection, clean water accessibility](#)

Meanwhile, the Safe Water initiative is an P870-million project (US\$18.4 million) that intends to increase access to resilient water supply and sanitation services, improve the sustainable management of water resources, and strengthen the governance and regulation of the water sector.

DENR is one of the implementing partners that will manage the delivery of program results toward the achievement of the objectives, while USAID will provide technical assistance for the SIBOL and Safe Water initiatives.

The DENR through the Biodiversity Management Bureau and Forest Management Bureau, various DENR field offices across the region, as well as the NEDA, and the National Water Resources Board will be carrying out these projects in the next five years.

"Together, through these projects, we will advance our shared goals of environmental sustainability and improve the lives of Filipino communities," Cimatu said.

Acting Mission Director of USAID Sean Callahan said the long history of the partnership between DENR and USAID has been fruitful.

Cimatu also acknowledged the significant contributions of USAID to the country's environment during the ceremony held last Thursday.

He cited the DENR-USAID partnership on the conservation of natural forests through the B+WISER (Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience) and Protect Wildlife projects.

"USAID, a consistent and effective ally of the DENR, has also supported us in creating sustainable models which guided us for the management of our ecosystems," he added.

(Santiago Celario)

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/denr-usaid-boost-cooperation-on-natural-resources-protection-clean-water-accessibility>





## Filipinos urged to protect oceans for food security

May 30, 2021, 1:19 pm



*(Photo courtesy of OCEAN/Danny Ocampo)*

**MANILA** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reiterated its call to Filipinos to protect the ocean, citing its significant role in ensuring food security during a learning event in the culmination of the celebration of the Month of the Ocean on May 24.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu emphasized the importance of protecting the oceans not only to help generate jobs for the tourism sector, but more importantly to ensure food security for the entire country.

"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," Cimatu said in a news release on Saturday.

At the same time, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda has expressed concern over the "very alarming" state of our oceans.

"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," he said.

Antiporda pointed out that the growing problem of marine pollution is one of the main reasons why the DENR closed all illegally operating open dumpsites across the country and strictly implemented Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.



## Filipinos urged to protect oceans for food security

The dumpsite closures are also in line with the ongoing Manila Bay rehabilitation, which is one of the DENR's top priority programs in saving the country's oceans.

"In cleaning Manila Bay, we have three objectives -- to see is to believe, *dapat wala na tayong makikitang* (we should not see) debris. Second, to smell is to believe -- *dapat pag dumaan tayo dyan, ang simoy ng hangin ay amoy dagat na at hindi amoy kubeta* (we should smell fresh air from the sea), and third, to test is to believe -- *pag-test natin ng water quality, dapat standard na siya* (water quality test should be at standard level)," Antiporda pointed out.

Hosted by the Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division of the DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service, the event featured the success story of the Calatagan Biodiversity Friendly Enterprise in Region 4-A (Calabarzon) and the Coral Rehabilitation Program of Region 11 (Davao).

The learning event, which will also be presented to elementary and high school teachers and members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, also showcased the best practices followed by communities and DENR personnel in their respective regions.

The Month of the Ocean is celebrated annually in the Philippines during May by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 57 issued in 1998.

This year's celebration has a theme, "The Science We Need for The Ocean We Want." (**PR**)



## Invasive squirrel species seen as threat to wildlife and farms



[BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MAY 31, 2021

2 MINUTE READ



Finlayson's squirrel from Wikipedia

The proliferation of invasive Finlayson's squirrel in Metro Manila is now reportedly spreading fast in Batangas and Nueva Ecija, and may soon pose a serious threat to other wildlife, including fruit farms, if their population continues to grow uncontrollably, a wildlife trade specialist warned.

Emerson Sy of the group TRAFFIC said while squirrels are frugivorous animals, they can also attack birds, raid nests and threaten those that are already on the brink due to illegal wildlife trade.

While the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), particularly the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) has an ongoing campaign to eliminate invasive alien species, the squirrel is fast spreading and are even seen outside of Metro Manila invading forests.

"There are now in Batangas, and [had gone] eastward in Nueva Ecija. So they are spreading quite fast," Sy told participants of an online seminar organized by the Wild Birds Club of the Philippines on May 30.

Some squirrel species, he warned, may eventually cause the extinction of certain bird species, like parrots.

Incidentally, the DENR's BMB has an ongoing online campaign to save the blue nape parrot from extinction, assailing the multibillion pet trade, which could be one of the main culprits.





## Invasive squirrel species seen as threat to wildlife and farms

The invasive squirrels were first spotted in Metro Manila's gated villages and golf courses. The BMB, then under former director Theresa Mundita S. Lim, suspected they were brought into the country illegally as pets and were eventually released into the wild by the owner.

It is illegal to release exotic animals into the wild because they can cause the extinction of native species.

According to Sy, there's a need to pursue the elimination of invasive squirrels to prevent biodiversity, as well as economic loss.

"You don't need to protect squirrels. It is high time that we pursue to eliminate them," he said.



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Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area is the world's first transboundary protected area for sea turtles.

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**NEWS 5 DIGITAL**

ON THIS DAY,  
YEAR **1996**

file photo: Official Gazette of the Philippines

Nilagdaan ng mga pamahalaan ng Pilipinas at Malaysia ang isang memorandum of agreement para itatag ang Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area na poprotekta sa lugar bilang isang green sea turtle at hawksbill turtle sanctuary.

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Source: <https://www.facebook.com/163550757135020/posts/2558634414293297/>



## DENR urges residents of Central Luzon to properly dispose of face masks

[danielkuhn](#) 8 hours ago



San Fernando, Pampanga, May 31 (PIA) –The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) properly disposes of face masks to reduce the risk of pollution and biodiversity loss in central Luzon. To the general public.

Paquito Moreno Jr., Secretary-General of the DENR region, said that medical waste such as masks and gloves should be separated from other regular household waste as it is considered hospital waste that poses a health and environmental hazard. Said there is.

“Proper disposal of these potentially contaminated health care products begins at home. These wastes are properly labeled as household health care waste, in a yellow bottle or another. You need to put it in a container,” he explained.

He added that the proper separation of these wastes by household participation plays an important role in curbing the spread of COVID-19.

The public must avoid indiscriminately throwing face masks into public places, offices, and open bins as they can pose a potential health hazard to those who come into contact with them.

According to DENR records, since July 2020, approximately 4,500 tonnes of hazardous waste, usually consisting of used face masks, personal protective equipment, face shields, gloves and other healthcare items, has been collected in the area. I am.

Authorities have generally warned that as this number rises, plastic pollution and marine debris will affect the sustainability of aquatic and terrestrial animals, as well as choke on wildlife’s natural habitats.





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## DENR urges residents of Central Luzon to properly dispose of face masks

Improper disposal of hazardous waste is punished under Republic Act No. 6969, known as the 1990 Toxic and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Management Act. (CLJD-PIA 3)

DENR urges residents of Central Luzon to properly dispose of face masks

[Source link](#) DENR urges residents of Central Luzon to properly dispose of face masks



## [DENR Central Luzon](#)

# DENR appeals to public to dispose face masks properly

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga - Amid the prevailing threats of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here appeals to public to dispose face masks properly to curb risks of pollution and biodiversity loss in Central Luzon.

Paquito Moreno, Jr., executive director of DENR in Region 3, said healthcare wastes, such as face masks and gloves, must be separated from other regular household wastes, since they are considered hospital wastes, which pose danger to health and the environment.

"The proper disposal of these potentially contaminated healthcare items starts at home. These wastes must be placed in a yellow bin or any separate container, properly labeled as 'household healthcare wastes,'" he explained.

He added that the participation of households in the proper segregation of these wastes has played a significant part in containing the spread of the COVID-19, and that the public must refrain from indiscriminately throwing in public places, offices and open bins used face masks, as they pose potential health hazards to people who come in contact with them.

DENR records show that around 4,500 tons of hazardous wastes, usually composed of healthcare items like used face masks, personal protective equipment, face shields, and gloves have been collected in the region since July 2020.

The DENR warned the public that if this figure would rise, plastic pollution and marine litter would affect the sustainability of aquatic and terrestrial animals, and would likewise smother the natural habitat of wildlife in the region.

Improper disposal of hazardous wastes is punishable under Republic Act No. 6969, also known as Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990. (-30-)

[#TayoAngKalikasan](#)



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DENR Central Luzon

# DENR appeals to public to dispose face masks properly







## Hontiveros urges DENR to start naming features of Kalayaan Island Group

Published May 31, 2021, 10:28 AM

by [Hannah Torregoza](#)

Senator Risa Hontiveros on Monday called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to start naming and identifying the rocks and features of the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG).

Hontiveros said such move will strengthen and assert the Philippines' claim in the West Philippine Sea.

"The features we occupy in the KIG remain unnamed. Mapapalakas ang paggiit natin ng ating karapatan sa WPS kung malinaw ang pangalan, katangian, at sakop ng mga inaangkin nating teritoryo (We can only strengthen our claims in the WPS if we can clearly define, name, and mark the places that are part of our territory)," Hontiveros said in a statement.

"Udyukin na ng DENR ang (The DENR should push the) National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) para simulan ang pag-papangalan ng mga ito (to start the naming process)," the senator said.

The Philippines, she noted, currently has no law that names the features in the KIG, a nine-islet chain that the country claims as part of its territory. Under international law, the senator stressed maritime and territorial claims arise from named and defined pieces of land or rock.

The lawmaker said naming features in the KIG is more important now in light of China's lengthy stay and presence in the WPS.

"Identity is key. Naming our land and rocks in the KIG will help us consolidate our ownership of the WPS," she said.

She also lauded the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) for firing off another diplomatic protest over the incessant illegal activities of Chinese vessels in Pag-asa Island.

Pag-asa Island, found 480 km west of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, is the largest islet in the KIG.

"Establishing baselines in the KIG that can identify our territorial seas bolsters our complete sovereignty over these seas. We must also accelerate the upgrading of our facilities in the KIG and start building a permanent base," she pointed out.

"If we stay passive in the face of China's aggression, China will only continue to take what is ours," she further stressed.

"Ipakita natin sa Tsina na hindi tayo aatras sa anumang sulok ng laban na ito. Patatagin natin ang depensa ng Pilipinas— sa papeles man o sa laot. Atin ang 'Pinas, (Let's show China that we are not backing off whatever kind of fight this is. We should strengthen the country's defense—whether on paper or on the sea. The Philippines is ours)," Hontiveros reiterated.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/31/hontiveros-urges-denr-to-start-naming-features-of-kalayaan-island-group/>



## Kalayaan Island Group, dapat bigyan ng pagkakakilanlan sa DENR bilang bahagi ng paggiit sa ating teritoryo

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-May. 31, 2021 at 6:19pm



Pinabibigyan ni Senador Risa Hontiveros sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources o DENR ng pagkakakilanlan ang mga bahagi ng Kalayaan Island Group na binubuo ng siyam na dugtung-dugtong na isla.

Ang mungkahi ni Hontiveros ay bahagi ng paggiit ng teritoryo ng Pilipinas sa West Philippine Sea.

Paliwanag ni Hontiveros, sang-ayon sa international law, ang mga pag-angkin sa dagat at teritoryo ay nagmumula sa pagpapangalan at pagtukoy sa mga piraso ng lupa o bato.

Kaya naman giit ni Hontiveros, dapat opisyal nang mailarawan ang sakop ng ating territorial seas, upang malaman ng mundo kung alin ang mga lupa at bato ang pag-aari ng Pilipinas.



## The renewed beauty of Manila midpandemic

By: [Ar. John Ian Lee Fulgar](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 07:41 PM May 31, 2021



Baseco, before and after —PHOTO: NCR.DENR.GOV.PH/IMAGES/2020

The pandemic may have brought some of the most challenging issues the world has seen, but it also brought renewed hope for restoring Manila's historic and elegant beauty.

### The beauty in emptiness

Since the Philippines imposed one of the world's longest and most stringent lockdowns, the once crowded shopping malls, public plazas and open-air markets became an unsettling sight of emptiness.

Behind its emptiness, we were able to see the real beauty through the lens of solemnity. It showcased the beauty of historic buildings, the beauty of the city's combined architectural styles competing with surrounding skyscrapers. Moreover, it introduced us to the unconventional beauty of slow living, which is a huge contrast to the usual, fast-paced nature of the capital.

There had been a preview to this, introducing us to Manila's hidden beauty throughout its crowded streets, before the pandemic happened. Although there had been a cleanup of Divisoria in 2019, Manileños have yet to see the wide lanes along Recto Avenue and Tutuban Center Mall. Today, what used to be jam-packed with street vendors and pedestrians became relatively wide avenues that offer better access for people and public vehicles.

### The beauty of intercity traveling

Limited operational capacities have been the norm during the pandemic, and truly, the public transportation sector is no exemption.

What more could be a greater opportunity to renovate Manila's once congested and busy streets into more desirable access points if not now?



## The renewed beauty of Manila midpandemic

In the receiving end of this is the Lagusnilad Underpass, which from outdated slabs of tiles and concrete, became a vibrant passage that travels passengers back to the Philippines' rich cultural history.

Connecting the Manila City Hall and the walled city of Intramuros, the Lagusnilad Underpass greets passersby with patches of greenery and potted plants. Delving deeper into the underpass features a sophisticated ceiling of wooden slats, pin lights and strategically placed mood lighting.

However, the pinnacle of the Lagusnilad Underpass is the giant art mural immortalizing the country's rich history.

Back-lit photos of Manila's iconic landmarks such as the Luneta Park, Manila Cathedral, National Museum and San Sebastian Basilica were also highlighted. Given the historic and cultural nature of both the mural and virtual displays, directional signs along with their baybayin translations scattered throughout the underpass, became the perfect ending piece.

### The beauty of nature

Manila may have always been known as the center of cultural, national and economic development in the Philippines. However, the city has also been on a constant "Battle for Manila Bay," as it continues to implement ambitious rehabilitation programs to restore the country's most vital body of water into its original state.

Baseco Beach is all that remains among the famous beaches of Manila Bay, and what's more interesting is that the existence of Baseco Beach isn't that well-known.

Two years after the launch of the "Battle for Manila Bay," all points lead to the better side as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) confirms that the beach currently enjoys a much-improved and garbage-free state.



Divisoria —PHOTO: IMAGES.SUMMITMEDIA-DIGITAL.COM/SPOTPH

The construction of the Baseco Boardwalk, paired with a massive mangrove reforestation project, became a big boost to its overall physical improvement.



## The renewed beauty of Manila midpandemic

### The beauty of seclusion

It seems that Manila is famous for its public attractions that were otherwise placed in hindsight. From a dumping ground of old vehicles and a temporary shelter for street dwellers, Manila's latest addition to its public parks is the "Hidden Garden," located at the heart of Lawton, Manila.

This one-hectare park was launched as recent as February this year—just in time, as the quarantine protocols are still being stringently implemented, and people are seeking for more open, airy spaces with a safe, comfortable, outdoor atmosphere, minus the worry of violating the physical distancing protocols in place.

However, the Hidden Garden is only one of the many open air green spaces in Manila.

Only time can tell whether the other parks, such as the Aroceros Park, Mehan Garden, Luneta Park and the Paco Park, can achieve the same goals, especially at a time when the importance of open spaces and new job opportunities are at their peak, which are both achieved by the Hidden Garden.

### Exploring the hidden beauty of Manila

Contrary to popular belief, there is more to Manila than the Luneta Park, the Divisoria, and its endless parade of automotive vehicles.

Manila is the city of contrasts and possibilities, where one can find rich palm trees rubbing against century-old buildings and racing jeepneys, where one can witness the country's journey to sovereignty, and finally, where one can beat as one with the true heart of the Philippines.

The author ([ianfulgar@FulgarArchitects.com](mailto:ianfulgar@FulgarArchitects.com)) manages his own architectural studio helping local and international clients with various unique and future design specialties for hotels, condominiums, museums, commercial and mixed-use township developments with a pursuit for the meta-modern in the next Philippine architecture.

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## CCC, RARE highlight climate impacts on local coastal communities

By Ma. Elaine P. Allanigue Published on May 31, 2021



The municipality of Del Carmen in Surigao del Norte viewed climate change as an opportunity to strengthen their town's environmental management and social protection mechanisms to pursue equitable growth and innovative local governance. (Photo from the presentation of Vice Mayor Alfredo M. Coro II)

QUEZON CITY, May 31 (PIA) -- In the second part of the webinar "Climate Change is Changing our Coastal and Marine Ecosystems", the Climate Change Commission (CCC), together with RARE Philippines, underscored the need to communicate the effects of climate change to local coastal communities to help them prepare for and respond to its threats.

The webinar is organized in celebration of the Month of the Ocean and gathered hundreds of participants consisting of members of the academe and research institutions in the Philippines and abroad, government agencies and local government units, policymakers, and organizations leading community-based initiatives, to build awareness on the current and the future state of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Philippines.

"We deem it important for more Filipinos to know the effects of climate change in our local communities, particularly coastal communities, to allow them to devise the appropriate climate change adaptation and/or disaster risk reduction measures," said CCC Commissioner Noel Antonio Gaerlan in his opening remarks.

Moderated by Ms. Angeli Joyce Barafon, Policy and Partnerships Adviser of RARE Philippines, the virtual webinar featured presentations from Dr. Julie Mae P. Dado from the Regional Climate Systems Laboratory of the Manila Observatory; Prof. Jessica D. Bercilla from the University of the Philippines-Visayas; and Vice Mayor Alfredo "JR" M. Coro II from the municipality of Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte on the current and observed climate change data in Philippine coasts, mainstreaming risk assessment in planning, and climate change data gaps and challenges from the local government perspective.



## CCC, RARE highlight climate impacts on local coastal communities

“We need to build and strengthen stakeholder engagements so that we could better understand their climate information needs. This is the reason why we come up with these projects, because of the engagements and consultations with the LGUs, so that we will know what information do they need, and therefore, we have this new or updated information, specifically for the climate extremes,” said Dr. Dado.

“We do this because of resilience, we need to be able, at this point of time, to strengthen up all human beings. Right now, we are called upon also to help and enable the capacities of our ecosystems. We need to be able to help them resist, persist, and absorb the impacts and very powerful hazards resulting from climate change,” said Prof. Bercilla.

“Local leaders may often think of climate change as a threat. But in the experience of del Carmen, we promote to look at climate change as an opportunity to build our town to be better – in terms of environmental management, developing social protection mechanisms to support equitable growth, and innovative local governance to improve the quality of public service delivery,” said Vice Mayor Coro.

The CCC encouraged the academe and scientific community to intensify collaboration on risk science and innovation and help communities prepare for localized impact assessments, as well as continue sharing and extending practical knowledge to the communities, including the youth sector on the urgency and importance of climate action.

“The time to act is now— especially when years of hard-earned development gains and lives are at risk. Together, we can make our communities resilient against disasters and climate risks,” said CCC Commissioner Rachel Herrera.

The webinar series aims to provide the public a broader understanding of the importance of science and data for informed policies on oceans. This is aligned with the overall goal of the United Nations Decade of the Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) with the message, “The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want”.

The full webinar can be accessed through this link: <https://www.facebook.com/CCCPhl/videos/935056057292470>.

The third and last part of the online webinar will air today, May 31 and focus on identifying actionable points among stakeholders to address the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems.

For more information about the “Climate Change is Changing our Coastal and Marine Ecosystems”, visit the Facebook page of the Climate Change Commission at [www.facebook.com/CCCPhl](http://www.facebook.com/CCCPhl). (PIA NCR)



## DLSU student designs boat made of plastic bottles

Published May 31, 2021 9:33pm



A 19-year-old mechanical engineering student from the De La Salle University (DLSU) has designed a boat made of plastic bottles.

In Athena Imperial's report on "24 Oras," Monday, Project Blue Ilocos founder Adem Inovejas said that he had the idea because he saw how much waste is in the ocean.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Philippines is the third largest contributor of plastic pollution in the whole world. The country produces 0.28 to 0.75 million tons of plastic per year, which enters oceans from coastal areas in Manila Bay.

"Most of these trash are single-use plastics so [in] February, I made it my goal for the month to come up with a project [that will use these trash]," Inovejas said.

He said came across a similar project initiated by non-profit organizations in Indonesia and Africa and started thinking that he also wanted to give it a try in Ilocos.

The boat he designed is made of around 300 one to two-liter used plastic bottles and the frame is made of bamboo. It can accommodate four to six people with an average weight of 65 kilos.

Inovejas plans to have fishermen try the boat to see how he can still improve the design. He also believes that the project will help those in the fishing industry.

"I want to explore making it smaller, making it more hydrodynamic, more pointy so it can flow better on water," he said.

For those who want to create a similar project amid studying, Inovejas said passion and time management is the key.

"Once you're passionate about something, it won't feel tiring," he said.

—**Franchesca Viernes/MGP, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/116724526976/posts/10160095124521977/>

## QC's Trash to Cashback plastic waste trading program extends to barangays, broadens trade options

By Susan G. De Leon Published on May 31, 2021



Quezon City Government photo

CALOOCAN CITY, May 31 (PIA) -- To intensify segregation and introduce the concept of recycling and a circular economy for a more sustainable lifestyle, the Quezon City Government's plastic waste trading program, Trash to Cashback, is set to be rolled out in the communities.

Trash to Cashback was first launched in Quezon City Hall in March, where the residents traded their recyclables into "environmental points" (EPs), which in turn can be exchanged for basic commodities such as rice, eggs, vegetables and other essential grocery items.

"Together with our partner, Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies (BEST), we are bringing this project down to our barangays to make it more accessible and convenient to our residents who are willing to trade their recyclables into groceries. Hopefully, we can launch it by June in celebration of Environment month," Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

Barangays will have to identify a drop-off point in their community, where residents can bring their recyclables in exchange for EPs. Aside from metal, papers, and PET bottles, single-use plastics (SUP) such as shampoo sachets, coffee packs, and even online shopping plastic packages will also be accepted in the drop-off points.

"The single-use plastics that we usually disregard like sachets and online shopping packagings are also included on the list of the recyclables that can be exchanged with EPs. This is part of our campaign to reduce plastic waste," Mayor Belmonte added.

Once at the drop-off point, residents can choose whether they will keep the EPs for themselves or donate it to beneficiaries identified by the barangay from various sectors.





## QC's Trash to Cashback plastic waste trading program extends to barangays, broadens trade options

According to Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD) head Andrea Villaroman, the barangay's chosen beneficiaries will receive groceries or "incentive bag" from BEST in exchange of the accumulated EPs donated by the residents from their recyclables.

"The incentive bag will include rice, vegetables from our urban farms, and other necessities. We will ensure that these food packages and groceries will be given and distributed to those in need, especially the most vulnerable sectors of the city," Villaroman explained.

Aside from barangays, the city is also planning to introduce the program to different establishments such as in malls, hotels, and restaurants.

"Like in our barangays, we are also encouraging malls, hotels, and restaurants to collect recyclables and donate their earned EPs to the communities in their areas. They don't have to bring their recyclables in QC Hall. The city government and BEST will pick it up in their establishment's drop-off point," Villaroman said.

Accumulated EPs are converted into bXTRA cashback, which can be used to redeem grocery items from the mobile redemption store or bXTRA outlet and bXTRA food deliveries. Quezon City residents can register to the bXTRA Website through [bXTRA.com.ph](http://bXTRA.com.ph) to start earning EPs. A complete list of partner stores and establishments can also be accessed at the [bXTRA.com.ph](http://bXTRA.com.ph) and order products / services online via [bXTRAoutlet.delivery](http://bXTRAoutlet.delivery).

The program is also part of the city's campaign to reduce plastic waste, following the implementation of the plastic bag ban in March. Single-use plastics/disposable materials for dine-in transactions will also be prohibited starting on July 1, 2021.

A few days ago, the Trash to Cashback Program established a drop-off point at Barangay Socorro. The Quezon City Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department and Basic Environmental Systems & Technologies, Inc. personnel collected recyclables and single-use plastics from residents.

For more information on the program, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/TrashToCashbackProcess> or <http://qrco.de/TrashToCashback>. (PIA NCR)



## COVID-19's plastic waste pandemic opens door to startups

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:07 PM May 31, 2021

MANILA, Philippines—The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has unleashed not just a public health catastrophe, but also a plastic waste pandemic.

As lockdowns forced millions of people to stay home, a deluge of plastic products went past right under our noses, driven by that button on online shopping sites that says “add to cart.”

As the lockdowns emptied mall stores of workers and customers, the rise in online shopping broke records, opening the doors to thousands of deliveries. The use of protective gear made of plastic, like face shields, also went up the roof.

The shift in shopping behavior spurred by the pandemic became a wake-up call for many people on the disastrous impact of massive plastic use and a dearth in safe ways to dispose of used plastics.

One of these individuals was Rachelle Lacanlale, who found the pileup of discarded plastics to be so frustrating but at the same time as an opportunity to take action.

### Frustration spurs action

Lacanlale took her frustration a step further and used it as inspiration to start a project on upcycling. While recycling converts plastic wastes into new plastic to be used for the same or another purpose, upcycling makes use of these wastes on products that are improvements of their previous forms.

Lacanlale started an initiative that she calls JuanBag that upcycles plastics into bags.

She told INQUIRER.net that the project started when the pandemic hit and online shopping peaked like never before in 2020.

JuanBag is a start-up and social enterprise that uses post-consumer plastic, like courier pouches and bubble wraps used in online shopping deliveries, to promote a sustainable way of using plastics by turning these into reusable bags.

Its bikers have been picking up plastic bags from households across Metro Manila free of charge in the past few months, with at least 30 kilograms of plastic donated and more plastics for pickup yet to be collected.



## COVID-19's plastic waste pandemic opens door to startups



BIKERS help JuanBag collect plastic wastes for upcycling. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

“In JuanBag, we want to make a bag out of plastics,” said Lacanlale.

“Our goal is to use that as an alternative for the packaging for couriers. What if we just have one type of bag?,” she said. “We’re designing it in a way that there’s only ‘Juan,’ as in one bag for all your online shopping.”

Plastic packaging accounts for nearly half of all plastic waste globally and is usually thrown away within minutes after use, a 2018 United Nations Environment Program study said.

### Shift in behavior

And this is exactly what JuanBag wants to change—consumer behavior towards plastic.

Instead of disposing of courier pouches after one use, Lacanlale said her initiative hoped to have the bags reused using the same system as sari-sari store owners require a deposit to ensure customers would return empty soda bottles. There would also be a quick response (QR) code in the bags that would tell the consumer how many plastics the bag was made of and how many times it has been reused.

“It’s a culture shift. We’re thinking what would happen with the bag. We’re hoping a lot will return it,” Lacanlale said.

JuanBag is still in the process of designing and developing the bag itself. By the end of June, Lacanlale said she intends to test it in the market through partner online shops selling home decor, beauty products and gadgets.





## COVID-19's plastic waste pandemic opens door to startups

### Trash to treasure

More often than not, people do not realize the high value of plastic—something that Cloop Technologies knew would be reliable in creating livelihood opportunities for low-income communities.

Cloop, short for “closing the loop,” is also a social enterprise that upcycles plastic waste into sellable items like pots, trays and other items.

“What we do is we upcycle plastic by converting it into something with higher value,” said Ric Alindayu, Cloop CEO.



CLOOP turns molten plastic wastes into other products, like these colorful trays. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

“To do that, we use melting machines that can melt the plastic down and then shape it into different products,” Alindayu said.

The idea was born sometime in 2019 as part of a student project, then called “Project Plastikan,” at the University of the Philippines-Diliman which won the country’s first ever Climathon hosted by Pasig City.

Cloop has since partnered with the city’s Barangay Pineda that recently built a materials recovery facility, where waste is collected and segregated.



## COVID-19's plastic waste pandemic opens door to startups



THE materials recovery facility set up by Cloop and Barangay Pineda in Pasig City. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

“We are working together on establishing a product line so that the plastic waste that is generated by the community can be converted into something of higher value and can be eventually sold,” Alindayu said.

### It takes a village to reduce pollution

Alindayu’s team has worked closely with Barangay Pineda’s residents by providing training—offline and online—on safely using machines for melting plastics, practicing health protocols while doing that and making items made of melted plastics.

“At first, they really had no idea. This is a technology push,” Alindayu said. “But they were very open to the training. They were really participative in our workshops, they also generated ideas on products to make. They were very involved in the process, not just in the receiving but also in the giving.”

In Cloop, Alindayu said products known as thermoplastics are made. These are plastics that melt and harden upon cooling.

“That would be HDPE or High Density Polyethylene; LDPE or Low Density Polyethylene and polypropylene,” Alindayu said.

“They’re quite common. You can find them in shampoo bottles, you can find them in bottle caps, condiment bottles, bleach bottles, food containers, etc.,” Alindayu added.

The consumption of plastics currently follows a linear pattern. The product is bought, used, wears out and disposed of. What happens after these had been thrown away hardly enters the equation.



## COVID-19's plastic waste pandemic opens door to startups



So much plastic waste either ends up in a landfill or in our oceans. According to a [World Wide Fund report](#) published in 2020, an average of eight million tons of plastics enter oceans annually. While it is a global problem, studies show the Philippines, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam contribute 60 percent of the marine plastic debris entering the ocean.

### What can I do?

For JuanBag's Lacanlale, doing a "Marie Kondo" (a decluttering guru made famous in Netflix) on her room made her review her plastic-reliant lifestyle.

"I did a Marie Kondo in my life, in my room," she said. "And then I asked a question: What will happen to all of these things that I'm about to throw away? That's the curiosity I had."

Since then, Lacanlale had joined environmental organizations and taught herself how to become a "mindful consumer." But because it was convenient to use plastics, she admitted it was hard to convince friends and even her family to join the behavior shift.

"We're after convenience. There's the sense of 'it's not gonna affect me anyway'," she said.

But more than just adopting a zero-waste lifestyle, Lacanlale said she realized that her efforts alone are not enough so she joined campaigns and signed petitions calling on big companies and the government to take action on plastic pollution.

In a 2019 [report by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives](#), it was revealed that Filipinos were using 164 million sachets, 57 million shopping bags, and 45.2 million thin-film bags on a daily basis.

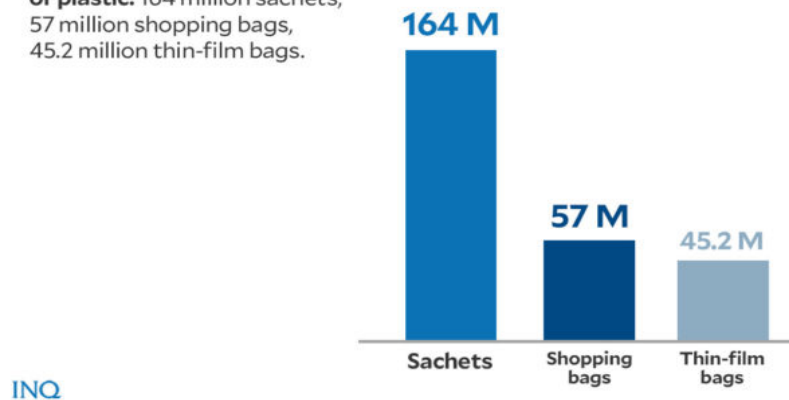




## COVID-19's plastic waste pandemic opens door to startups

### AN APPETITE FOR PLASTIC

Daily Filipino consumption of plastic. 164 million sachets, 57 million shopping bags, 45.2 million thin-film bags.



Filipinos' right to a healthy environment had been enshrined in Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2020, which is considered a landmark law on waste management in the Philippines.

### What's lacking?

But the legislation seemed to be not enough, said Cloop's Alindayu. He said he believed the problem lies in implementation.

"It's a landmark law that's recognized internationally," he said.

"But the only problem maybe is the lack of strict enforcement," Alindayu said.

"If our officials would properly enforce proper collection and segregation of waste, if there's a strict 'no segregation, no collection' policy, that would really help a lot for initiatives like Cloop," he said.

For now, Alindayu advised the public to properly segregate plastic waste by looking at recycling signs and the number inside.

"Bottle caps are number two. When you see number two, it's HDPE, it's easily recycled, you can set it aside," Alindayu said.

"If you see number four, that's LDPE, these are the bags that Shopee and Lazada use and are easily recyclable, set it aside," he said.

"Number five, that's polypropylene: food containers, shampoo bottle caps. It's recyclable so set it aside," Alindayu said.

"The best way an average person can contribute is to properly segregate and set aside the plastic waste and donate it to social enterprises and businesses that properly recycle it," he said.

"There are a lot of opportunities to do so and it starts really with proper collection and segregation."

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1439254/covid-19s-plastic-waste-pandemic-opens-door-to-startups#ixzz6wTrxdDRj>

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## Tackling Asia's plastic pollution

Asian governments must now enact and properly implement policies and regulations that will help to scale up grassroots initiatives and hold plastics producers accountable for addressing the crisis.



Unsegregated waste in an Indonesian landfill. Image: Tom Fisk via [Pexels](#). [CC BY NC-ND 2.0](#)



By [Jed Alegado](#) and Clemens Kunze, Kevin Li

May 31, 2021

Less than a century ago, most products in Asia were made mainly from natural materials, and were built to last or to biodegrade easily. People wrapped food in leaves or paper and carried it in reusable containers, returned glass milk bottles so that they could be sterilised and used again, and ate in restaurants using ceramic plates and stainless-steel cutlery.

Low-income communities in particular embraced a prevalent micro-retail culture of buying small quantities of condiments and other household kitchen needs. And the plastic bag had yet to be invented.

## Tackling Asia's plastic pollution



[WASTE](#)

### Why the plastic crisis matters

All this changed dramatically after World War II, when many parts of Asia underwent rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. The introduction of single-use plastics appealed to an ideal of convenience and hygiene, nurturing a mindset that ushered in disposability on an unprecedented scale.

Companies started wrapping their products in single-use plastics, and effectively hacked Asia's micro-retail culture by emphasising how the region's poorer consumers could benefit by purchasing small packaged amounts.

Plastic has thus been the most popular and ubiquitous material in Asia for decades, and [more than half of the world's plastic is produced there](#). But the increasing use of plastic is having adverse environmental effects that extend far beyond the vast quantities of it that litter land and clog bodies of water across the region.

To gauge the nature and scale of this pollution crisis and identify possible solutions, the Heinrich Böll Foundation and Break Free From Plastic Asia Pacific recently collaborated with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies Japan to produce the [Plastic Atlas Asia Edition](#).

Although the region's plastic pollution was bad before Covid-19, the pandemic has exacerbated the problem. Plastic production and pollution have accelerated as demand for single-use plastics – including for online merchandise and food delivery during lockdowns – has surged. This has jeopardised previous hard-fought gains...

The atlas includes facts and figures about the toxic world of synthetic polymers and shows how pervasive plastics have become in nearly all aspects of our lives, from clothing, food, and tourism to human and environmental health. For example, we may not realise how much plastic we wear, in the form of polyester and other synthetic fibers made from petroleum or natural gas.



## Tackling Asia's plastic pollution

In fact, making a polyester shirt may emit between 3.8 and 7.1 kilogrammes of carbon dioxide. Plastic waste and microplastics in the world's oceans are a much-discussed problem. But few realise that plastic pollution of agricultural lands can be between four and 23 times higher.

The atlas provides comparative regional data as well, especially on grassroots issues such as illegal dumping of waste from more developed countries, the unequal gender impact of exposure to plastic, and the plight of waste pickers and waste workers in Asia who play a critical role in diverting plastic residuals from open dumps, incinerators, and the environment. Moreover, it outlines the responsibilities of Asian governments and corporations in tackling the threat of plastic pollution.

Although the region's plastic pollution was bad before Covid-19, the pandemic has exacerbated the problem. Plastic production and pollution have accelerated as demand for single-use plastics – including for online merchandise and food delivery during lockdowns – has surged.

This has jeopardised previous hard-fought gains, with the oil and gas industry planning to ramp up investments in production of plastic products and by-products – more than 99 per cent of which comes from fossil-fuel feedstocks – in the next few years. As a result, the environment will most likely become a long-term casualty of this public-health crisis.

But at the same time, a rising tide of community-based organisations and grassroots-led initiatives across Asia could lead to the emergence of a more inclusive, sustainable, and just economic system that can address the entire lifecycle of plastic pollution.

Members of the #breakfreefromplastic movement believe that decentralised, community-led innovation represents the way forward in addressing the plastic pollution crisis. These groups have demonstrated how an approach involving ecological resource management and at-source use reduction, with an emphasis on product redesign, and systematic waste separation and collection, can help to counter the growing environmental threat posed by plastics.

In some Asian cities, such as San Fernando in the Philippines and Kamikatsu in Japan, and in Kerala state in India, Break Free From Plastic's grassroots member organisations are implementing zero-waste management programmes that divert huge amounts of waste from landfills, thereby preventing it from polluting land and entering waterways.

Such initiatives have shown that the false solutions being pushed by industry groups and corporations, including chemical recycling, plastics-to-roads, ecobricking, plastic credits, and plastic collection in exchange of basic goods for low-income families, are merely greenwashing. Their methods require ongoing extraction of resources, because they fail to keep valuable materials within a circular economy, and generate harmful emissions of heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants, and greenhouse gases.

Asian governments must now enact and properly implement policies and regulations that will help to scale up grassroots initiatives and hold plastics producers accountable for addressing the crisis, such as by filing lawsuits and demanding remediation of the pollution and its impact on health, human rights, and environment.



## Tackling Asia's plastic pollution

Companies urgently need to abandon their [aggressive growth targets](#) for plastic production and use, which is [expected](#) to quadruple by the early 2050s, and offer credible alternative delivery systems and reusable packaging for their products.

Generations of Asians have become accustomed to the apparent convenience of plastic. But without significantly reducing its production, we cannot hope to stop the plastic pollution crisis.

This year's Earth Day theme was "Restore Our Earth." To do that, we need to foster innovative ideas and solutions that can repair the world's ecosystems. With the publication of the *Plastic Atlas Asia Edition*, we hope to shine additional light on a complex regional crisis and spur further efforts to combat it.

*Jed Alegado is Senior Communications Officer of Break Free From Plastic Asia Pacific. Clemens Kunze is Deputy Director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's Hong Kong office. Kevin Li is Program Manager for Environment in the Heinrich Böll Foundation's Hong Kong office.*

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[www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/tackling-asias-plastic-pollution/>



## UN chief calls for global partnership for green growth

May 31, 2021, 2:56 pm



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (*Xinhua photo*)

**UNITED NATIONS** – UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday called for a global partnership to tackle climate change and strive toward inclusive green growth.

He made this appeal in a video message at the Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 Summit hosted by South Korea.

“The title of this initiative expresses exactly what the world needs now – global partnership: partnership to beat Covid-19 and build a better recovery, partnership to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and partnership to address climate change,” he told the summit.

Tackling climate change head-on will help protect the most vulnerable people from the next crisis while sustaining a job-rich recovery from Covid-19, he said.

The first priority is no new coal plants and a phase-out of coal use by 2030 in the countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and 2040 in the rest of the world, he said.

“As well as the emissions gap, I am deeply concerned about the finance and adaptation gaps,” said Guterres.

Developed countries have yet to deliver on their commitment of USD100 billion per year for developing countries as adaptation assistance. Public finance is not flowing where it is now most needed – to support vulnerable communities that are already suffering the consequences of climate disruption. One person in three is still not adequately covered by early warning systems. And women and girls, who make up 80 percent of those displaced by the climate emergency, are all too often excluded from decisions to address the climate crisis, he noted.





## UN chief calls for global partnership for green growth

“We urgently need a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience. I am asking all donor countries to significantly enhance their financial commitments. That includes allocating 50 percent of climate finance to adaptation and providing a higher level of grants,” Guterres said.

The Group of Seven Summit in June needs to deliver on all these objectives. It is not a global partnership if some are left struggling to survive. This is true for Covid-19 and the distribution of vaccines and it is true for the climate emergency, he said. (*Xinhua*)



## Climate talks resume online as pressure to act grows

(Agence France-Presse)

- May 31, 2021 - 6:33pm



This photograph taken on May 30, 2021 shows mucilage, a thick, viscous fluid produced by phytoplankton, in Turkey's Marmara Sea at a harbor on the shoreline of Istanbul. The mucilage has been informally referred to as "sea snot" and was first documented in Turkey's waters in 2007. Experts warn the mucilage will occur more often because of global warming.

YASIN AKGUL / AFP

PARIS, France — For the first time since 2019 and following a flurry of net-zero pledges from the world's largest emitters, UN climate negotiations resume Monday in a virtual format less than six months before the crunch COP26 summit.

The talks, nominally hosted by the United Nations climate change programme in the German city of Bonn, will all be informal, meaning that no decisions will be taken during the three-week discussions.

But with increasingly dire warnings from scientists that the pace of global warming is already outstripping humanity's best plan to cut emissions, the pressure for progress to be made on a number of thorny issues is high.

In 2018, countries agreed to many elements of the "rulebook" of the landmark Paris climate agreement signed three years earlier, governing how each nation implements its goals under the deal.

But several issues remain unresolved, including rules about transparency, carbon markets, and a unified timeframe for all countries to ratchet up their emissions cuts.

At the last UN climate summit in December 2019, countries also failed to agree upon a universal system of reporting on spending on measures to combat and adapt to climate change.

Nathan Cogswell, a research associate at the World Resources Institute, said a deal on greater transparency was "a central component of the effective implementation of the Paris agreement".



## Climate talks resume online as pressure to act grows

“The upcoming session will hopefully help parties get closer to that,” he said.

One of the thorniest debates during recent UN climate talks has been Article 6 of the Paris agreement, which deals with the trade of emissions cuts.

A major sticking point remains over rules to avoid double counting emissions reductions within both bilateral and international carbon markets.

Some wealthy nations without the natural resources – forests, for instance – to mitigate their contribution to climate change have spent huge amounts on projects to preserve those habitats in other countries.

Currently both the buying and selling nations may count the project towards their domestic climate action, opening the door for the same cut to be counted twice.

Teresa Anderson, climate policy coordinator for ActionAid International, said it was vital that negotiations don’t “crank open loopholes that let big polluters carry on business-as-usual”.

She said that the entire UN climate process was overly reliant on emissions offsets, including carbon cut trades.

“They make it all too easy for polluters to hide the fact that they are not making the real emission cuts that the planet urgently needs,” Anderson said.

### ‘Not ideal’

Covid-19 forced Britain and the UN to shelve talks originally scheduled for last year in the Scottish city of Glasgow until the end of 2021.

As the pandemic continues to rage, particularly among developing nations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, negotiators will need to achieve tangible progress during the three-week Bonn talks.

“The absence of a COP left a tremendous amount of work to be done... if we want to deliver at Glasgow,” said Marianne Karlsen, chair of a major technical forum at the UN-led negotiations.

The two-week sessions – expanded this year to three – normally involve thousands of representatives from more than 180 countries, and often rely on behind-closed-doors bargaining between delegates to get deals done.

Karlsen said the virtual configuration of talks was “not ideal at all”.

“We really wanted to be able to have all the interactions of when we meet in person but there was no other option,” she said.

Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, chair of the UN’s SBSTA technical working group, said delegates needed to use the virtual negotiations to move forward, “so we can capture that progress when we meet in person, and make decisions” in Glasgow.

“It’s important that we send a clear message to the world: We are very much engaged in resolving the Paris rulebook and to tackling this climate change conundrum.”

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/world/2021/05/31/2102151/climate-talks-resume-online-pressure-act-grows/amp/>





## Global warming blamed for 1 in 3 heat-related deaths

By MARLOWE WOOD Agence France Presse

Published May 31, 2021 11:23pm



The findings, published in *Nature Climate Change*, were stark: data from 732 locations in 43 countries spread across every inhabited continent revealed that, on average, 37 percent of all heat-related deaths can be attributed directly to global warming.

More than a third of summer heat-related fatalities are due to climate change, researchers said Monday, warning of even higher death tolls as global temperatures climb.

Previous research on how climate change affects human health has mostly projected future risks from heatwaves, droughts, wild fires and other extreme events made worse by global warming.

How much worse depends on how quickly humanity curbs carbon emissions, which hit record levels in 2019 but dipped sharply during the pandemic.

But a new study by an international team of 70 experts is one of the first -- and the largest -- to look at health consequences that have already happened, the authors said.

The findings, published in *Nature Climate Change*, were stark: data from 732 locations in 43 countries spread across every inhabited continent revealed that, on average, 37 percent of all heat-related deaths can be attributed directly to global warming.

"Climate change is not something in the distant future," senior author Antonio Gasparrini, a professor of biostatistics and epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, told AFP.

"We can already measure negative impacts on health, in addition to the known environmental and ecological effects."

The authors said their methods -- if extended worldwide -- would add up to more than 100,000 heat-related deaths per year laid squarely at the feet of manmade climate change.



## Global warming blamed for 1 in 3 heat-related deaths

### Differences across countries

That number could be an underestimate because two of the regions for which data was largely missing -- south Asia and central Africa -- are known to be especially vulnerable to extreme heat deaths.

The 100,000 figure is consistent with a recent analysis from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluations (IHME), published in *The Lancet*.

The IHME calculated just over 300,000 heat-related deaths worldwide from all causes in 2019. If just over a third of those deaths are due to climate change, as Gasparrini's team reported, the global total would indeed be more than 100,000.

India accounted for more than a third of the total in the IHME tally, and four of the five worst-hit countries were in south Asia and central Africa.

The share of heat-related deaths attributable to global warming in the new study varied widely from country to country.

In the United States, Australia, France, Britain and Spain, for example, that percentage was roughly in line with the average across all countries, between 35 and 39 percent.

For Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam and Chile, the figure rose above 40 percent.

And for half-a-dozen countries -- Brazil, Peru, Colombia, the Philippines, Kuwait and Guatemala -- the percentage of heat-related mortality caused by climate change was 60 percent or more.

A complex methodology combining health data and temperature records from 1991 to 2018, coupled with climate modelling, allowed researchers to contrast the actual number of heat-related deaths with how many fewer deaths there would have been without manmade warming.

### Adapt or die

The researchers found that it is not the increase in average summer temperature -- up 1.5C since 1991 in the locations examined -- that boosted death rates, but heatwaves: how long they last, nighttime temperatures, and humidity levels.

Also crucial is the ability of the population to adapt.

If 95 percent of the population has air conditioning, mortality will be lower. But if they don't, or if farmers must work outside in 45C (113F) heat to feed their families, the impacts can be catastrophic.

Even wealthy nations remain vulnerable: in 2003, a relentless heatwave in western Europe claimed 70,000 lives.

Deadly heatwaves that might have occurred once a century before climate change kicked in could, by mid-century, happen far more frequently, scientists warn.

The burgeoning field of attribution climate science measures by how much, for example, a typhoon's intensity, a drought's duration, or a storm surge's destruction has been amplified by global warming.



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## Global warming blamed for 1 in 3 heat-related deaths

But little research has tried to do the same for human health, notes Dan Mitchell, a researcher at the Cabot Institute for the Environment at the University of Bristol.

"This shift in thinking is essential ... so that global leaders can understand the risks," he said in a comment in Nature Climate Change. -- **Agence France-Presse**

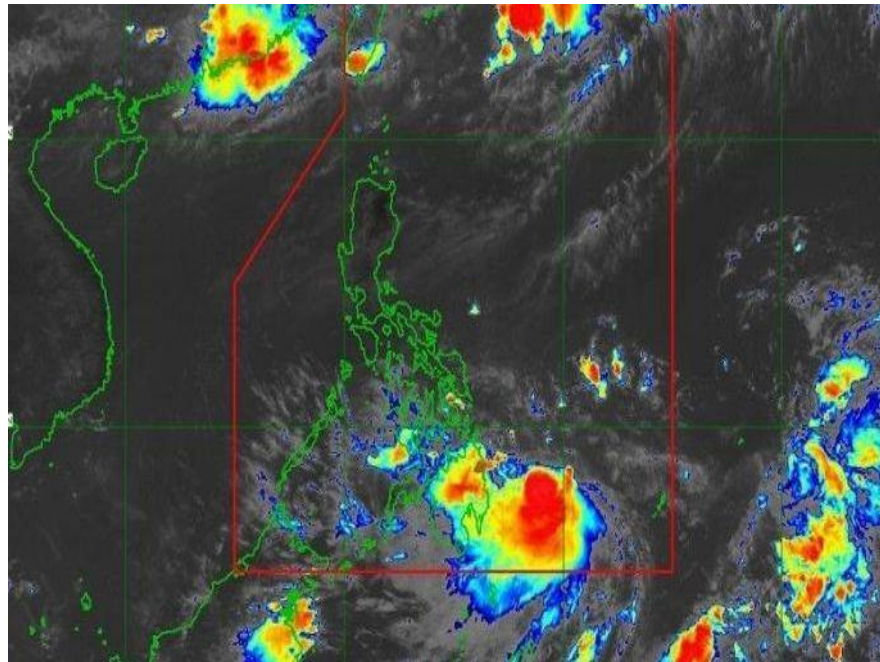




## Bagyong 'Dante' tumindi, posibleng mag-severe tropical storm sa Miyerkules

(Philstar.com)

- May 31, 2021 - 12:40pm



Satellite image ng bagyong "Dante" 445 kilometro silangan ng Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur ngayong 10 a.m., ika-31 ng Mayo, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — Bahagyang lumakas ang Tropical Storm Dante sa loob ng Philippine area of responsibility habang tinutumbok ang Philippine Sea, pagtataya ng PAGASA.

Namataan ang bagyo 445 kilometro silangan ng Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur ngayong 10 a.m., ulat ng state weather bureau.

- **Lakas ng hangin:** 75 kilometro kada oras malapit sa gitna
- **Bugso ng hangin:** aabot ng hanggang 90 kilometro kada oras
- **Pagkilos:** hilagangkanluran
- **Bilis:** 20 kilometro kada oras

"'DANTE' is forecast gradually intensify and may reach severe tropical storm category by Wednesday morning before weakening throughout the remainder of the forecast period," paliwanag ng PAGASA, Lunes.

"Today, light to moderate with at times heavy rains will be experienced over Caraga and Davao Region, SOCCSKSARGEN, Bukidnon, and Misamis Oriental due to the outer rainbands of 'DANTE.'"



## Bagyong 'Dante' tumindi, posibleng mag-severe tropical storm sa Miyerkules

Sa kasalukuyang track ng bagyo, mababa ang posibilidad na itaas ang ang Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) sa anumang kalupaan sa Pilipinas.

Pero dahil hindi pa 100% ang forecast, anumang pagpihit ng Tropical Storm Dante pa-kanluran o paglaki ng "wind radius" nito ay mauwi sa pagdedeklara ng TCWS sa silangang parte ng bansa.

"Under these conditions, isolated to scattered flooding (including flash floods) and rain-induced landslides are possible, especially in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to these hazards as identified in hazard maps," dagdag pa ng PAGASA.

"Adjacent or nearby areas may also experience flooding in the absence of such rainfall occurrence due to surface runoff or swelling of river channels."

Unang naiulat bilang [tropical depression](#) ang bagyo at naging tropical storm ngayong araw lang. —  
**James Relativo**



01 JUNE 2021, Tuesday



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## Bagong COVID-19 ‘surge’ posible

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- June 1, 2021 - 12:00am

### Dahil sa tumataas na kaso sa Visayas, Mindanao

MANILA, Philippines — Nagbabala ang OCTA Research Group na maaaring magkaroon muli ng panibagong ‘surge’ sa Metro Manila na posibleng idulot ng ‘ripple effect’ ng mga matataas na bilang ng kaso sa ilang rehiyon sa Visayas at Mindanao.

Ito ay makaraang aminin ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na may malaking pagtaas sa bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa anim na rehiyon na kinabibilangan ng Regions 4B, 6, 1, 10, 11, at Caraga.

Ipinaliwanag ni OCTA fellow Prof. Guido David na may rekord na kapag nagkakaroon ng ‘surge’ sa National Capital Region (NCR), sinusundan ito ng pagtaas ng kaso sa ibang lugar pagsapit ng isa o dalawang buwan.

Kinatatakutan niya ang pagbalik naman ng mga kaso mula sa mga probinsya patungo muli sa NCR na ipinakikita ng ‘ripple effect’.

Bukod sa pagtaas ng kaso, binabantayan din ng DOH ang pagtaas sa ‘utilization rate’ sa mga pagamutan sa naturang mga rehiyon.

Ngunit nilinaw ni Vergeire na ilang probinsya lamang at hindi ang buong nabanggit na mga rehiyon ang may mga malaking pagtaas sa mga kaso.

Ang pagtaas ng mga kaso sa naturang mga lugar ay dulot ng pagtaas ng kilos ng publiko, pagre-relaks sa mga health protocols, transmisyon ng mga bagong COVID variants at pagkaantala sa pag-isolate sa mga pasyente na bagong hawa ng virus.

Tinaasan na rin aniya ang COVID-19 testing sa Visayas mula sa dating 46,000 kada linggo ay umakyat ito sa 50,000 COVID-19 tests.

Sa Mindanao, mula sa dating 29,000 kada linggo ay itinaas naman ang COVID-19 tests sa 42,000.





## It's final: NCR Plus under 'GCQ with restrictions' until June

15

Jamaine Punzalan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 31 2021 11:54 PM | Updated as of Jun 01 2021 01:33 AM



Members of the Quezon City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance conduct COVID-19 swab testing for residents along Dupax Street in Barangay Old Balara on May 31, 2021, after 6000 people reportedly flocked to a charity food distribution event in the area and broke health and safety protocols last May 25. *Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News/File*

MANILA (UPDATED) — Metro Manila and surrounding Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal provinces will be under general community quarantine (GCQ) "with restrictions" until the middle of June, Malacañang said on Monday.

President Rodrigo Duterte was first to announce in a taped speech that NCR Plus would be under GCQ with "restrictions." A graph during his speech showed "GCQ (June 1 to 30)."

- [Metro Manila mayors want GCQ to stay, open more businesses](#)

"Itong restriction, ito 'yong limited number of persons magkain. Whenever there is a grouping of human beings, talaga susundin n'yo social distancing, lahat na," he said.

(This restriction, this the limited number of persons eating. Whenever there is a grouping of human beings, you will really follow social distancing, everything.)

However, a statement from his spokesman Harry Roque stated that the GCQ with restriction would be in place "starting June 1 until June 15, 2021."

He said restrictions "shall still be in place in NCR Plus limiting the capacities of certain industries."

Asked to clarify if the quarantine level would be in place until the middle of June—because Duterte's slideshow states June 30—Roque said in a text message, "No 30th."



## It's final: NCR Plus under 'GCQ with restrictions' until June 15

However, an official of the Presidential Communications Operations Office pointed out that there was an asterisk beside the NCR Plus quarantine level in the slideshow, which supposedly meant that the GCQ with restrictions is only until the 15th.

Roque, in a later text message, clarified that the area's GCQ with restrictions is set until "June 15."

NCR Plus was under GCQ with "heightened restrictions" until May 31.

The congested capital region, an urban sprawl of 16 cities and a municipality, account for about two-thirds of the country's gross domestic product.

Extended coronavirus curbs will continue to hurt the Philippines' economy, which posted a record 9.6 percent slump last year.

- [PH economy has time to grow up to 7.5 pct this year despite lockdowns: NEDA](#)

### QUARANTINE IN REST OF PH

Duterte said the following areas would be under modified enhanced community quarantine from June 1 to 15, the second toughest lockdown level.

- **Region 2**
  - Santiago City
  - Cagayan City
- **Cordillera Administrative Region**
  - Apaya
  - Benguet, Ifugao
- **Region 4-B**
  - Puerto Princesa
- **Region 6**
  - Iloilo City
- **Region 9**
  - Zamboanga City
  - Zamboanga Sibugay
  - Zamboanga del Sur
  - Zamboanga del Norte
- **Region 10**
  - Cagayan de Oro City
- **CARAGA**
  - Butuan City

Meanwhile, the following areas will be under GCQ, the second loosest quarantine level from June 1 to 30.



## It's final: NCR Plus under 'GCQ with restrictions' until June 15

### Cordillera Administrative Region

- Abra
- Baguio City
- Kalinga
- Mountain Province

### Region 2

- Isabela
- Nueva Vizcaya
- Quirino

### Region 4-A

- Batangas
- Quezon

### Region 10

- Iligan City

### Region 11

- Davao City

### BARMM

- Lanao del Sur
- Cotabato City

The rest of the Philippines will be under the least stringent quarantine level, modified GCQ, during the whole of June, said Duterte's spokesman Harry Roque.

The Philippines, which has the second-highest COVID-19 cases and deaths in Southeast Asia, has tallied 1,230,301 coronavirus infections.

Active cases in the country hit 54,290, while deaths reached 20,860, as of May 31, according to the health department.

The Philippines has so far been able to administer at least 5.180 million COVID-19 vaccine doses as of Tuesday.

The government aims to vaccinate at least 58 million of its 108 million population to achieve "[population protection](#)" and safely reopen the economy.



## VIETNAM VARIANT NAPAKABILIS KUMALAT; MAGPABAKUNA NA



May 31, 2021 @ 9:27 AM 19 hours ago

PARAMI nang parami ang anyo ng coronavirus disease 2019 o COVID-19.

Ngunit hindi lang parami nang parami kundi pabagsik nang pabagsik at higit na nakahahawa kaysa sa orig na virus.

Pinakahuling bagong anyo o variant na nadiskubre ang nananalasa sa Vietnam sa mga araw na ito.

Naghalong India variant at United Kingdom variant ang nasa Vietnam at mabilis na kumalat dahil natagpuan nilang sumasakay ang virus nito sa hangin mula sa isang biktima patungo sa iba.

Siyempre pa, kasama sa paraan ng variant na ito sa paglipat ang mga patak ng ating mga laway kapag tayo'y nagsasalita, nagbabahing at umuubo, kagaya ng iba.

Nalilipat din sa ating mga hinahawakan at inaapakang bagay gaya ng mga uhog at dura natin, kagaya rin ng iba.

Sabi ng Vietnam, sa buwan lang ng Abril, natumbasan na ang dami ng biktima ang buong bilang ng biktima sa kanila sa nakalipas na isang taon.

Ganyan katindi ang Vietnam variant.

PARA MALINAW

Ang Indian variant, mga Bro, ay tatlong klase: double mutant, triple mutant at AP mutant.





## **VIETNAM VARIANT NAPAKABILIS KUMALAT; MAGPABAKUNA NA**

Binubuo ang una, double variant o B.1.617, ng United Kingdom variant at South Africa variant at 55 porsyento ng mga kasong COVID-19 sa India ang gawa umano nito.

Naghalo-halo namang UK at SA variants na may V382L ang triple variant na B.1.618 at natagpuan sa Maharashtra, India na grabeng tinatamaan ng pandemya.

Ang Bengal o AP o N440K variant ang pinakamabilis dahil sa loob lang ng 3-45 araw, maging severe o serious na ang kalagayan ng pasyente.

Hindi pa malinaw kung alin sa mga India variant na ito ang kakambal ng UK variant na tumitira sa Vietnam ngunit mahalagang malaman na bukod sa mga pagsama ng virus sa mga patak ng laway, uhog, dura at iba pa, sumasakay rin ang Vietnam variant sa hangin para lang mambiktima.

### **SA PILIPINAS?**

Ngayon naman, meron na tayong orig na COVID-19, mayroon pang India variant, UK variant, Brazil variant, South Africa variant at sariling Philippine variant.

Hindi pa malinaw kung nakarating na sa atin ang France variant at Thailand variant.

Pero itong Thailand variant na dumaaan sa Egypt ay nakarating na sa UK.

Sa ibang salita, sa rami ng mga COVID variant na nananalasa sa atin, hindi maiiwasan na taas-baba ang dami ng nagkakasakit sa atin.

Habang humupa nang kaunti ang pandemya sa Metro Manila at mga lalawigan ng Bulacan, Laguna, Cavite at Rizal, umeeksena naman ito sa mga lalawigan.

At hindi malinaw nang husto ang tumitira, halimbawa, sa City of Santiago, Quirino at Cagayan na nasa Region 2; Apayao at Benguet sa Cordillera Administrative Region; Puerto Princesa sa Region-4B; Iloilo City sa Region 6; Zamboanga City, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboang del Sur at Zamboanga del Norte sa Region 9 at Ifugao sa CAR ngunit hanggang Hunyo 7 lamang.

Ito ang mga lugar na iminungkahi ng Inter-Agency Task Force central na isailalim sa Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine dahil sa rami ng mga tinatamaan ng pandemya para maospital, ma-home quarantine, ma-quarantine sa mga facility o mamatay kaya.

### **MAGPABAKUNA TAYO**

Sa kasalukuyan, nasa 8 milyong dosage na bakuna ang nasa bansa na.

Binubuo ang mga ito ng Sinovac, AstraZeneca, Pfizer at Sputnik V.

Darating pa lang ang kagaya ng Moderna, Johnson and Johnson, Sinopharm at iba pa.

Sinasabing mahigit nang 4 milyon ang nabakunahan sa mga available na bakuna.



## **VIETNAM VARIANT NAPAKABILIS KUMALAT; MAGPABAKUNA NA**

Nagsimula tayong magbakuna noong Marso 1, 2021 nang dumating ang donasyong 500,000 Sinovac mula sa China.

Kung iisipin, mabagal ang pagbabakuna.

Isipin na lang natin, nagagawa ng China ang magbakuna ng 14 milyon araw-araw, ang India na nasa 2-4 milyong araw-araw at halos ganito rin sa United States.

Lumipas na ang tatlong buwan, hindi pa natin nauubos ang 8 milyong dosage at kalahati pa lang ang nagpapabakuna.

Bago darating sa atin ang puntong gaya ng nagaganap sa India na nasa 4,000 araw-araw ang patay o sa Brazil na nasa 2,000 araw-araw rin ang namamatay, dapat na tayong magpabakuna.

Ang bakuna ang pinakamabisa na panlaban natin sa COVID-19.

Habang lumilipas ang mga araw at dumarami ang mga COVID variant sa mahal kong Pinas, nawawalan o nanghihina na ang bisa ng mga bakuna laban sa mga variant.

Kung magaganap ang pagkawala o panghihina ng bisa ng mga bakuna laban sa mga halo-halong virus, hindi natin maiiwasang matulad sa India na basta na lang sinusunog kung saan-saan ang patay nila o kaya'y itinatapon na lang sa mga ilog.

Dapat nating agapan ang COVID-19 at variants nito bago tayo datnan ng labis na kamalasan.

At kambalan na rin natin ng pagsunod sa mga health protocol, hindi ng pagiging pasaway at hindi pagiging choosy sa bakuna.



01 JUNE 2021, Tuesday



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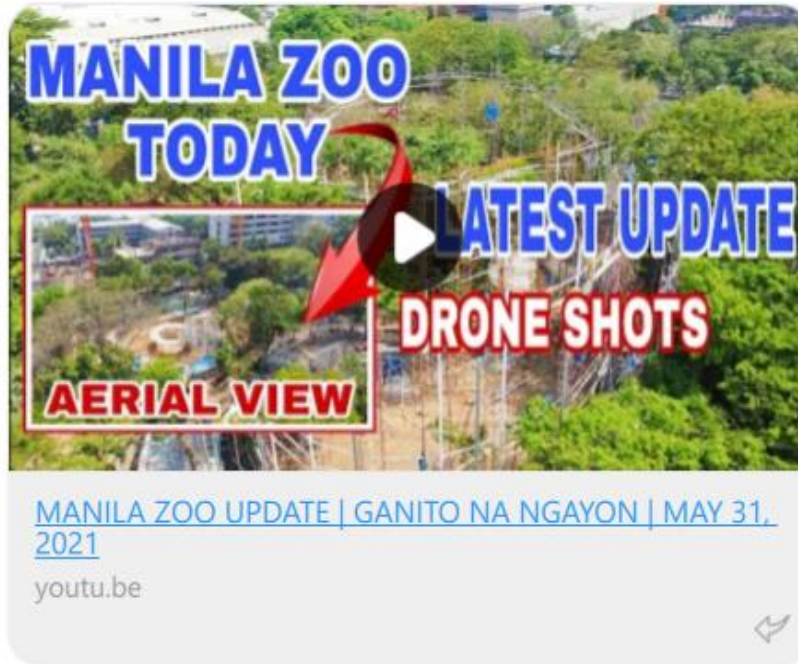
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