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DENR eyes 'swimmable' Manila Bay before end of Duterte's term

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Published October 20, 2021 4:32pm



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is aiming to make the Manila Bay "swimmable" before President Rodrigo Duterte's term ends next year, its official said Wednesday.

At the Laging Handa public briefing, DENR spokesperson Undersecretary Benny Antiporda pointed out that the goal is not impossible.

"Kaunti na lang po. Actually, nakikita ng ating Kalihim na ipinipilit na bago matapos ang administrasyong ito ay maging swimmable na ang area na 'yan," he added.

(We just have to make the water a little cleaner. Actually, our Secretary [Roy Cimatu] sees that it is being pushed to make the area swimmable before the end of this administration.)

According to Antiporda, the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay has significantly decreased.

He added that the DENR wants to make the dolomite beach a tourist spot to revive the businesses in the area.

In June, the DENR said it is expediting the rehabilitation of Manila Bay. — BM, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/news/metro/807705/denr-eyes-swimmable-manila-bay-before-end-of-duterte-s-

term/story/?fbclid=IwAR2RFB4iIw4kUg4Rgu7Rcwy4SY4oQc68Sy5ZDiagwCgdRAajpcD6shP8cxE





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DENR eyes 'swimmable' Manila Bay dolomite beach by next year

Published October 20, 2021, 2:08 PM by Alexandria Dennise San Juan



Swimming may be soon allowed in Manila Bay's dolomite beach as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continuously rehabilitates the bay to improve its water quality.

"Pinipilit natin na bago matapos ang administrasyon ay magiging swimmable na ang area na iyan (We are working to make the area swimmable before the end of the current administration)," DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said in a virtual media briefing on Wednesday, Oct. 20.

Antiporda said it won't take long before beachgoers are allowed to take a dip in the man-made beach as the bay's water quality has improved and works are still ongoing to make it fit for swimming.

"Nakikita po natin na hindi imposibleng makamit natin ito dahil malaki na ang ibinaba ng fecal coliform level dito (Making the dolomite beach swimmable is not impossible to achieve because the water's fecal coliform level has dropped significantly)," he added.

The DENR official bared that there are also plans of turning the dolomite beach into a tourist spot to help revitalize businesses in the area that have been affected by the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The 140-meter beach area reopened to the public last weekend after quarantine restrictions were eased to Alert Level 3 in Metro Manila.

"Since may anxiety ang ating mga kababayan, isa pong malaking tulong ang dolomite beach kaya binuksan po natin ito para kahit papaano ay makatulong sa gitna ng pandemya (The dolomite beach is a big help for the public who are having anxiety. We opened it to somehow help them cope amid the pandemic)," Antiporda added.

As visitors continue to flock to the artificial beach, Antiporda assured that minimum public health protocols are being strictly enforced to ensure their safety.

He said marshalls are strategically stationed at the beach to check if visitors are following the protocols such as observing social distancing and wearing face masks and face shields.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2021/10/20/denr-eyes-swimmable-manila-bay-dolomite-beach-by-next-year/





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Gov't eyes 'swimmable' Dolomite Beach before Duterte steps down

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 20 2021 05:20 PM



The government aims to make the Dolomite Beach in Manila Bay "swimmable" before President Rodrigo Duterte's term ends in June 2022, the environment department said on Wednesday.

"Ipinipilit po na bago ho matapos ang administrasyong ito ay maging swimmable na po iyang area'ng 'yan," said Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

"Nakikita naman po natin na talagang hindi ho imposibleng makamit natin dahil malaki na po ang ibinaba ng fecal coliform level po ng tubig natin," he said in a televised public briefing.

(We are trying to make that area swimmable before this administration ends. We see that this is not impossible to achieve because the fecal coliform level of our water has gone down by a lot.)

Named after the artificial white sand dumped in the area, the Dolomite Beach reopened to visitors on Saturday when Metro Manila's COVID-19 alert level was eased.

Environmental groups earlier urged government to stop putting more dolomite in Manila Bay, and instead use the project funds for COVID-19 crisis.

But government hopes the project would revive businesses along Roxas Boulevard, Antiporda said.

Swimming and bringing pets to the area remain prohibited, the official said. Marshals remind visitors to observe COVID-19 protocols, he added.



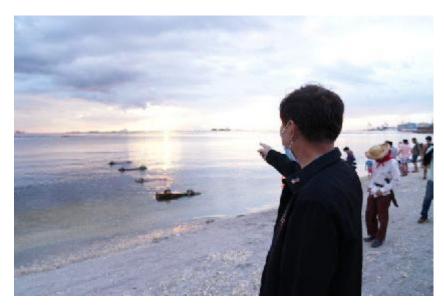


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DENR eyes Manila Bay dolomite beach as tourist spot

By: <u>Daphne Galvez</u> - Reporter / <u>@DYGalvezINQ</u>

INQUIRER.net / 02:15 PM October 20, 2021



DENR Secretary and Manila Bay Task Force Chair Roy A. Cimatu watches the sunset during his visit to the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach on Sunday, Oct. 17, a day after it was reopened to the public. Image from DENR Strategic Communication and Initiative Service

MANILA, Philippines — The government is eyeing to establish Manila Bay's so-called dolomite beach as a "tourist spot" in a bid to revive businesses around the area, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Wednesday.

"Ganyan ang objective natin para muling mabuhay ang mga negosyo diyan sa Roxas Boulevard," DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said in a Laging Handa public briefing.

(That is our objective, to revive the businesses along Roxas Boulevard.)

Antiporda said the support of the public on the project has been "overwhelming."

"We are expecting na kung sakaling tuluyan nang maglaho itong pandemyang ito, muli nang magbabalik ang sigla dyan sa negosyo na 'yan," he said.

The controversial <u>man-made beach</u> has been reopened to the public on the first day of implementation of alert level 3 on Oct. 16.

The beach attraction, which earned criticisms from some sectors, is now guarded with white picket fence and an arch greeting visitors at the entrance. The beach was earlier ordered closed to complete the redevelopment.

Last year, the government put an overlay of <u>artificial white sand</u> on a part of the bay's naturally gray shoreline, that is now being maintained to retain its "white sand" look and cleanliness in the area.





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Antiporda assured that measures have been put in place to ensure that the risk of COVID-19 transmission along the area will be minimized amid concerns of it being a superspreader area.

He claimed that the opening of the beach would alleviate the <u>public's "anxiety" amid the pandemic</u>.

"Isang malaking tulong itong dolomite beach na ito kaya binuksan na agad para kahit papaano ay makatulong sa atin sa gitna ng pandemya," he said.

(This is a big help that is why it was reopened to help us in the midst of the pandemic.)

<u>Malacañang</u> last year said Manila Bay's "white sand" makeover will give immeasurable benefit to Filipinos' mental health.

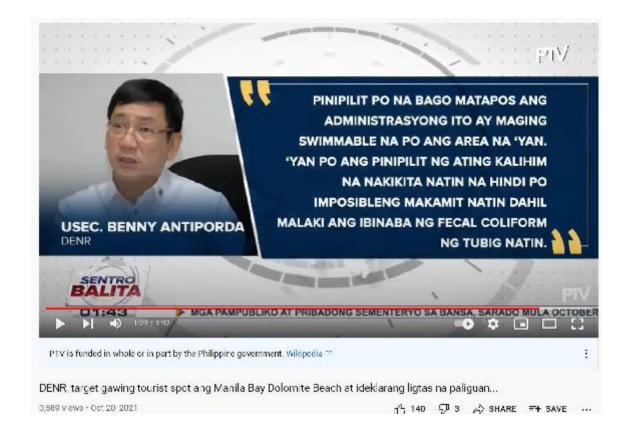
Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1504339/denr-eyes-manila-bay-dolomite-beach-as-tourist-spot#ixzz79slhjJql





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DENR, target gawing tourist spot ang Manila Bay Dolomite Beach at ideklarang ligtas na paliguan...







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Manila Bay dolomite beach gagawing tourist spot - DENR



MANILA, Philippines — Target ng gobyerno na gawing tourist spot ang Manila Bay dolomite beach, ayon sa opisyal ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Miyerkoles.

"Ganyan ang objective natin para muling mabuhay ang mga negosyo diyan sa Roxas Boulevard," ani DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda sa Laging Handa public briefing.

Pinagpasalamat niya rin ang naging "overwhelming" na suporta ng publiko sa nasabing proyekto.

"We are expecting na kung sakaling tuluyan nang maglaho itong pandemyang ito, muli nang magbabalik ang sigla dyan sa negosyo na 'yan," anang opisyal.

Siniguro rin ni Antiporda na ipinatutupad ang mahigpit na minimum health standard sa mga taong papasyal doon laban na rin sa COVID-19 transmission.

"Isang malaking tulong itong dolomite beach na ito kaya binuksan na agad para kahit papaano ay makatulong sa atin sa gitna ng pandemya," ani Antiporda na tumutukoy sa mental health ng publiko. *RNT*

Source: https://www.remate.ph/manila-bay-dolomite-beach-gagawing-tourist-spot-denr/





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DOT, nagpaalalang maging responsableng turista ngayong dinaragsa ang Dolomite beach | Saksi







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Source: https://web.facebook.com/PTVph/posts/209139424666668?_rdc=1&_rdr





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Dolomite beach sa Maynila dinagsa ng publiko

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 18 2021 06:34 AM | Updated as of Oct 18 2021 08:49 PM



Binuksan na ang Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach nitong weekend at dinagsa ito ng publiko. Ngayong Lunes, mas maaga itong binuksan para sa mga taong gustong maglibot o magehersisyo.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, naging maganda ang pagtanggap ng mga tao sa pagbukas ng dolomite beach nitong Sabado.

Bukas ang dolomite beach araw-araw mula 8-11 sa umaga at 2-6 sa hapon. Pero ngayong Lunes, 5:30 a.m. pa lang pinapasok na ang ilang bisita. Hindi kailangan magpakita ng vaccination card. Wala nang time limit pag pumasok, kaya pwedeng tumambay ng matagal. Pero lilimitahan lang sa 300 na tao ang nasa loob ng beach.



Ipinaalala rin ni Sec Cimatu sa publiko na sumunod pa rin sa mga health protocol gaya ng pagsuot ng face mask at pagsunod sa social distancing rule. Bawal rin kumain at uminom sa beach at bawal magdala ng hayop. Bawal rin ang pagkuha ng dolomite sand.

Sa ngayon isang bahagi pa lang ng beach ang pwedeng puntahan at inaasahan na magbubukas pa ng ibang parte sa mga susunod na buwan.





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Dolomite beach sa Manila Bay muling dinagsa; health protocols nabalewala



Muling dinagsa ang "dolomite beach" sa Manila Bay. Sa dami ng tao, nababalewala ang health protocols. Nagpa-Patrol, Wheng Hidalgo. TV Patrol, Miyerkoles, 20 Oktubre 2021

 $\label{lem:source:https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/10/20/21/dolomite-beach-sa-manila-bay-muling-dinagsa?fbclid=IwAR3k4bJCOVJpsEDwW7wZcwwPUMLb8ft5HV0oIZV7uYuJFtnoCqkLI6RorO4 \cdot$





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Manila dolomite sand beach, dinaragsa pa rin | UB







Dolomite beach bantay sarado sa MMDA

By Abante News Last updated Oct 20, 2021



Todo higpit ang pinaiiral ngayon ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) matapos dagsain at dumugin ng mga turista ang bagong bukas na Dolomite Beach sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay MMDA chair Benhur Abalos, katuwang nila ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na maghihigpit sa paligid ng Manila Bay para mapaigting ang health protocols sa mga bisita na nais masilayan ang dolomite beach.

Ang Manila Bay's dolomite beach ay bukas araw-araw mula 8:00-11:00 ng umaga at 3:00 ng hapon hanggang 6:00 ng gabi.

Source: https://www.abante.com.ph/dolomite-beach-bantay-sarado-sa-mmda/





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Mga pumupunta sa dolomite beach pinangangambahang maging super spreaders ng COVID-19

ByBombo Dave Vincent Pasit

October 20, 2021 | 9:49 AM

Nangangamba si Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Benhur Abalos na posibleng maging super spreaders ng COVID-19 infection ang mga taong dumadagsa sa dolomite beach sa Manila Bay.

Hanggang kahapon kasi ay marami pa rin ang nagpupunta sa dolomite beach na binuksan ulit sa publiko nong weekend.

Umaapela si Abalos sa mga pupunta sa dolomite beach na maging disiplinado at palaging isaisip ang health protocols sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Kahapon inamin ni DENR Usec. Jonas Leones na hindi nila inasahan ang dami ng mga taong pupunta sa dolomite beach nang muli nila itong binuksan sa publiko.

Hirap din aniya silang ipatupad ang social distancing sa lugar dahil karamihan sa mga nagpupunta doon ay magkakamag-anak.

Mababatid na sumabay ang muling pagbubukas ng Dolomite beach sa pagkakataon na ang alert level status ng Metro Manila ay binabaan.

Pero ayon kay Leones, hindi naman nila ito sinadya sapagkat matagal nang nakaplano ang schedule para sa reopening ng dolomite beach.





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MMDA tells public to avoid overcrowding in Dolomite Beach

Christhel Cuazon 20 October 2021

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Wednesday advised the public not to overcrowd the newly-opened Dolomite Beach in Manila Bay.

In an interview, MMDA chair Benhur Abalos said the current situation in the infamous whitesand beach might lead to a superspreader event, now that Metro Manila has been downgraded to Alert Level 3 with COVID-19 cases continuously declining.

"When we went really down to alert level 3, talagang ang tao parang nakawala, talagang nagqueue," he said.

Abalos also appealed for discipline to those who plan to visit Dolomite Beach.

Reopened on Saturday, Manila Bay's dolomite beach is now open every day from 8 AM to 11 AM, and from 3 PM until 6 PM.

Source: https://dzrh.com.ph/post/mmda-tells-public-to-avoid-overcrowding-in-dolomite-beach





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DOH, ikinabahala ang pagdagsa ng maraming tao sa Dolomite Beach sa Manila Bay



Ikinabahala ng Department of Health (DOH) ang pagdagsa ng maraming tao sa Dolomite beach sa Manila Bay sa gitna ng pandemyang nararanasan ng bansa dahil sa COVID-19.

Ayon kay Health Usec. Maria Rosario Vergeire, posibleng magdulot ng hawaan sa COVID-19 ang pagdagsa ng mga tao lalo't may mga pagkakataong hindi na nasusunod ang social distancing at health protocols.

Kasabay nito, target ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na gawing 'swimmable' ang Manila Bay, bago matapos ang termino ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at maging tourist spot para muling mabuhay ang negosyo.

Hindi naman ito imposible para kay DENR spokesperson Undersecretary Benny Antiporda lalo't bumaba na ang fecal coliform level sa Manila Bay.

Sa ngayon, hiwalay na ang lugar ng pasukan at labasan ng publiko sa Dolomite beach kung saan mas naging organisado na ito kumpara sa pagdagsa ng maraming tao nitong weekend kasabay ng pagbaba sa Alert Level 3 ng Metro Manila.

Source: https://rmn.ph/doh-ikinabahala-ang-pagdagsa-ng-maraming-tao-sa-dolomite-beach-sa-manila-bay/?fbclid=IwAR09eBZnEiCYihk6fZa-KXEPwZZJkq72a5A3oIcE5KCggmj1WzR1SOEv6II





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DENR IPINATUPAD ANG HEALTH PROTOCOLS SA DOLOMITE BEACH



SA unang Linggo matapos maibaba sa "Alert Level 3" ang National Capital Region, dumagsa ang mga kababayan natin sa mga Simbahan at sa **Dolomite Beach** sa bahagi ng Roxas Boulevard sa Maynila.

Nasa 30% na kasi ng kapasidad ng Simbahan ang pinapayagan at nasa 50% kung outdoor naman basta bakunado ang mga magsisimba.

Mula kasi noong March 2021 ay sa online Masses and services na lamang ang mga mananampalataya.

Pero mahigpit na ipinatupad sa mga Simbahan ang "no face mask / no face shield, no entry policy".

Pinamahalaan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones (nasa harapan, nakasuot ng itim na jacket) ang muling pagbubukas ng Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach noong Oktubre 16 upang matiyak na sinusunod ng mga bumibisita ang health at safety protocols upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19 virus.

Nag-enjoy ang mga kababayan natin sa malinaw na tubig ng Manila Bay. Bukas ang Dolomite Beach araw-araw mula alas-otso ng umaga (8:00AM) hanggang alas-onse ng umaga (11:00 AM), at muli mula alas-tres ng hapon (3:00PM) hanggang alas-sais ng gabi (6:00PM).

May mga Marshal mula sa DENR na naka-deploy din sa lugar upang ipaalala sa mga bisita na sundin ang mga ipinataw na protocol pangkalusugan.

Nasa higit-kumulang 100 katao lamang ang pinapayagan pumasok sa lugar na may dolomite upang maiwasan ang sobrang daming tao o siksikan at kinakailangang nila mapanatili ang social distancing

Kasama ni Leones ang mga kinatawan ng Philippine Coast Guard at Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Kabilang din sa dumalo sa muling pagbubukas ng dolomite beach ang DENR officials mula sa Manila Bay Coordinating Council, National Capital Region, Environmental Management Bureau at Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service, pati na rin ang Philippine National Police Maritime Group.

Source: https://www.remate.ph/denr-ipinatupad-ang-health-protocols-sa-dolomite-beach/





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DENR: No pets allowed at Manila Bay dolomite beach

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Published October 20, 2021 5:30pm

Pets are not allowed at the dolomite beach at the Manila Bay, according to Environment Secretary Benny Antiporda.

"Lahat ng dapat ipatupad d'yan ay gagawin natin gaya ng pagbabawal ng pagswi-swimming, as of now, and of course yung pagkakalat, at pagdadala ng atin mga alagang hayop. Bawal pa po yan," Antiporda said at a Laging Handa news forum.

(We are enforcing necessary restrictions such as on swimming, as for now, and of course, littering, and bringing pets, that's not allowed)

According to Antiporda, people are no longer littering in the Manila Bay area due to the behavioral change supposedly caused by the dolomite beach.

He added that marshals were deployed in the dolomite beach area to ensure that the visitors observed health protocols in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.





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BORACAY REHABILITATION

191 illegal structures in forestland demolished 88 Sewage Treatment Plants installed 11 km of paved and widened roads Cleaner water 45 MPN/100 ml fecal coliform from 900 MPN/100mL

MANILA BAY REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Better water quality From 5.75 million MPN/100ml (2019) to 7,000 MPN/100 ml fecal coliform (2021) Solar-Powered Sewage Treatment Plant Cleaned the Baywalk Beach and Baseco Beach

PASIG RIVER CLEAN-UP

SUSTAINED EFFORTS ON THE AREA DEVELOPMENT OF LAGUNA DE BAY

ENHANCED NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM

387.73 million seedlings planted (2017-2021)

AIR QUALITY IN METRO MANILA IMPROVED BY 35% AND 50%, RESPECTIVELY

(January to December 2020)

EO No. 120: To strengthen rehabilitation and recovery efforts in typhoon-hit areas

TASK FORCE BUILD BACK BETTER

Cleaned up and planted seedlings along Cagayan, Marikina, and Bicol rivers

INTENSIFIED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

100% elimination of illegal dumpsites
Over 100,000 tons of waste from South Korea and Canada were re-exported from the Philippines back to their places of origin

INTENSIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE OF WILDLIFE SPECIES

12 species at risk of extinction had improved conservation status

INTENSIFIED FOREST PROTECTION AND ANTI-ILLEGAL LOGGING

8,249,855 bd ft of illegally cut and processed logs and forest products apprehended

RA 11038 or the ENIPAS Act of 2018

94 additional protected areas, totalling 107 areas (4.38 million hectares)

GREEN ENERGY AUCTION PROGRAM

Additional 2,000 megawatts in the country's energy mix 424 RESCs issued with 19,103 MW capacity (2016 to 2020)





#DuterteLegacy #workingPC00







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BORACAY REHABILITATION

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SUSTAINED EFFORTS ON THE AREA DEVELOPMENT OF LAGUNA DE BAY















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Do we really need reclamation?

'NOT ALL RECLAMATION PROJECTS ARE BAD PER SE, BUT TO THOSE THAT REALLY CROSS THE LINE OF MAINTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, PRESIDENT DUTERTE MUST BE HEARD AGAIN WITH HIS TOXIC VOCABULARY AND ACERBIC TONGUE TO PUT AN END TO THEM.'

FOR environmentalists and activists who have been opposing the various reclamation projects in Manila Bay, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic was a welcome relief.

There are at least 25 proposals to reclaim land in Manila, from Cavite to Mariveles, Bataan, but all these hit a snag not only because Manila Mayor Isko Moreno and President Duterte put their foot down, but also due to the raging pandemic. Every large-scale construction project was initially stopped for several months in compliance with stringent health protocols to fight the virus.

Now that Metro Manila has shown signs of defeating the coronavirus and having a capable health care system for those who get sick, the proponents of reclamation projects not just in Manila Bay but also in the Visayas are active again.

Manila Bay, the country's center of navigational trade and commerce, is under the political jurisdiction of five cities in the National Capital Region and four provinces. This makes the word of local government units important in any reclamation proposal.

Jan Jaap Brinkman, a consultant for the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), said the principal supporters of reclamation are the LGUs. "If they don't want reclamation, there will be no reclamation," he said.

Brinkman leads a Dutch study team that the government hired for the Manila Bay master plan.

The Visayan region, too, has reclamation projects that are being revived with the easing of pandemic restrictions.

In a quaint town in Cebu, a mayor has been pushing for a reclamation project called "Seafront City" which is being vigorously opposed by fishermen-residents and shipyards there.

Consolacion Mayor Joannes Alegado is so firm in defending the proposed 235.80-hectare reclamation project that he does not have the time or the inclination to listen to the arguments of the shipyard owners, fishermen, and residents whose livelihoods are threatened by the reclamation.

Alegado reasoned out to his fisherfolk constituents that they should not worry about losing their livelihood because there is no more fish in the proposed reclamation area. This claim was debunked by environment expert Dr. Filipina Sotto who said 75 species of fish will be adversely impacted by the reclamation project if it pushes through.

Not all reclamation projects are bad per se, but to those that really cross the line of maintaining environmental quality, President Duterte must be heard again with his toxic vocabulary and acerbic tongue to put an end to them.

Source: https://malayaph.com/news_opinion/do-we-really-need-reclamation/





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Residents can soon swap plastic waste for rice in Angeles City

By Marna Dagumboy Del Rosario October 20, 2021, 7:43 pm



ANGELES CITY, Pampanga – The city government here is set to launch the program "Walang Plastikan Bigas Palit Project" to encourage residents to segregate wastes, as well as to reduce if not eliminate the use of plastics.

Mayor Carmelo Lazatin Jr. said on Wednesday that the city government will collect recyclable plastics from Angeleño households in exchange for rice.

"While we are persuading our kababayans to segregate waste into its classifications -biodegradable, non-biodegradable, recyclable, and plastic -- there is something waiting for their hard work -- a reward of rice," Lazatin said.

Lazatin's chief adviser Irish Calaguas said that PHP100 million out of the PHP204 million budget allotted yearly for waste segregation management will be used to purchase rice and equipment needed for the upcoming project.

Calaguas said that part of the allotted budget will be used for the putting up of a designated storage area and redemption trucks that will roam around the city's 33 barangays daily which will serve as the barter station.

She said the plastics collected will then be sold to companies recycling plastic for hollow blocks and cement.

She also said that the target implementation of the program is in January next year as city officials are still ironing out the details of the guidelines and mechanics of the project. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1157264





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Law protecting green sea turtle nesting ground in Antique sought

By Annabel Consuelo Petinglay October 20, 2021, 5:18 pm



RELEASED. San Jose de Buenavista Mayor Elmer Untaran releases green sea turtle hatchling back to the sea in Barangay Funda-Dalipe on October 14. San Jose de Buenavista Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer Madelyn Pagunsan said Wednesday (Oct. 20, 2021) that legislation is needed to protect the nesting area of the green sea turtle. (Photo courtesy of San Jose de Buenavista LGU)

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) of this capital town of Antique is urging the Sangguniang Bayan to pass an ordinance to protect the nesting ground of the green sea turtle along their coastal area.

Madelyn Pagunsan, San Jose de Buenavista MENRO, said in an interview Wednesday a local ordinance is necessary so that the nesting area in Barangay Funda-Dalipe would not be disturbed.

"We are already able to release 326 hatchlings of the green sea turtle since August 28 until October 14," she said.

The hatchlings, which they discovered along the shorelines, are believed to have been hatched by the same green sea turtle that kept on coming back because of the abundant seagrass in the area, Pagunsan added.

"By nature, the green sea turtle also keeps on coming back in the area where she previously laid eggs," she said.

She said the green sea turtle, however, is also sensitive that it will return to the sea once there is a sound disturbance in the area like the barking of the dog.

"Environmental cleanliness is also necessary for the green sea turtle to thrive that we would like to encourage the residents along the coastal area to strictly observe it," Pagunsan added.

She said if a law is passed protecting the nesting area of those endangered species which will make the turtle and her hatchlings keep on coming back, their presence might even become a tourist attraction.

San Jose de Buenavista Mayor Elmer Untaran, during a press conference on October 19, said the awareness of residents of Barangay Funda-Dalipe on the protection of turtles is already high.

"The residents now know that it is prohibited to catch, culture or slaughter the turtle," he said. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1157254





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DOF chief taps youth for fresh ideas in fight vs. climate change

October 20, 2021, 1:25 pm



MANILA – Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has called on young innovators to contribute their skills and ideas in the fight against climate change, and spearhead efforts to educate and motivate the country's youth to take action in protecting the planet's future.

Dominguez said fresh ideas from young minds will help the newly appointed National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) implement "achievable, coherent, concerted, and compelling climate action programs on the ground."

"We have no time to waste. We have to act now to build the resilience of our communities, reverse the degradation, protect our vital food sources, and save our planet," he said during Wednesday's launching of Klimathon, an innovation lab focused on new and workable solutions that can help address current issues and challenges about the climate crisis.

Dominguez said as bearers of the future, the youth -- who will live through 2030 and beyond -- have the greatest stake in overcoming this crisis.

"It is therefore very important that you understand this issue and take the lead in reversing this destructive course," he added.

Klimathon, a portmanteau of the terms "klima" and "hackathon," invites students and innovators aged 16 to 24 years old to present project concept papers on three climate change concerns: plastic waste management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, and food security.

A joint project of the CCC and Nestle Philippines, Klimathon will choose 10 finalists who will undergo a mentorship program with industry and field experts to refine and further develop their project designs. Cash prizes and recognition also await the winning teams.

Dominguez expressed the hope that Klimathon will result in tangible and concrete climate solutions that can be replicated across the country.

The Finance chief said he hopes to bring the unique insights and perspectives of young Filipinos, especially those that will be presented in the Klimathon, to the global arena when he takes part next week at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland.

"To the participants of this forum, I want you to become role models who will educate, encourage and motivate the youth to take action to protect the future of our planet," he said.



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Dominguez said he expects Klimathon to help spur the sustained engagement of the Philippines' next generation in fighting climate change.

He said vulnerable countries like the Philippines, which contribute less to global greenhouse gas emissions, are bearing the brunt of the consequences of climate change, with its remote coastal communities being the most threatened from the devastating effects of this environmental crisis.

To set an example to the international community and become a world leader in addressing this crisis, Dominguez said the Philippines submitted a "bold and ambitious" commitment of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent over the next decade as its Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement.

To achieve the Philippines' NDC, Dominguez said the CCC has moved from merely delving on theories to actually implementing practical and achievable solutions on the ground.

The CCC recently named 16 new members to its NPTE representing the country's different regions.

Dominguez said this new crop of experts will provide practical advice to the CCC and engage local communities in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

"Aside from the practical advice of our technical experts, we need fresh ideas from young minds. This is why we are so enthusiastic about this forum. Your proposals and ideas will surely help our experts craft and implement achievable, coherent, concerted, and compelling climate action programs on the ground," he added. (PR)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1157220





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Climate goals will fail as long as cryptocurrency exists

By Ben Kritz

October 21, 2021

THE biggest social and economic hurdle to implementing substantial climate mitigation and adaptation actions is acceptance that many of these are unavoidably disruptive; some profoundly so. This is why some defy all reason to stubbornly resist even the idea of climate change: many of the familiar trappings of our modern life are going to have to disappear with no certainty that they will be replaced at all, let alone with something as convenient and comfortable.

As in medicine, the guiding principle to climate action should be, "Do no harm," but that does not mean the treatment is guaranteed to be completely painless. Some unpleasant choices will have to be made. There is one choice, however, that will represent a great deal of positive climate action while hurting virtually no one:

Ban all cryptocurrencies.

At this point, some of my regular readers are no doubt rolling their eyes and saying to themselves, "Oh, here he goes again," because my informed contempt for imaginary electric fairy tokens and those who traffic in them is not a new opinion. There was a point where I might have been content to let it go and let cryptocurrency fans suffer the consequences of their gross lack of understanding of capitalism or even basic economics, learning their lesson the hard way by watching all of their actual money evaporate in an enormous Ponzi scheme.

However, it has become clear over the past three years that the climate has passed a tipping point, and the dire consequences that we believed would not occur until the latter half of this century or even next are already upon us. Because cryptocurrency is a significant source of the environmental destruction that is causing those, we do not have the luxury of waiting for the stupid people to win stupid prizes from playing their stupid game and must put a stop to this nonsense immediately.

The unsustainable economics of cryptocurrency is an entire separate topic; we'll concern ourselves here with the other big problem with cryptocurrency — its enormous impact on the environment.

Here are a few disturbing facts and figures about <u>Bitcoin</u>'s — the leading and best-tracked cryptocurrency, which has a large enough market share to serve as a credible avatar for all cryptocurrencies — energy use and environmental footprint, along with the sources for the benefit of those who hate the planet and want to argue about it:

- The minimum energy usage attributable to Bitcoin activity, as of this week, is 43.8 terawatt-hours (TWh) per year, and its estimated actual energy demand is 176.83 TWh per year, according to Digiconomist. For comparison, that estimate is the equivalent of a bit more than 16 weeks of average energy usage in the entire Philippines (based on the total usage of 562 TWh in 2019, according to Department of Energy data).
- A 2018 study by researchers from the <u>University of Hawaii</u> and published in the journal Nature conservatively estimated (based on 2017 data) that emissions related to Bitcoin alone would contribute 2 degrees Celsius to global warming by 2048, if its energy demand remained at the same level, which it has not; Bitcoin energy use has increased by between 282 percent and 432 percent since the end of 2017.





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– A fairly recent study (December 2021) published in the journal Resources, Conservation and Recycling calculated Bitcoin's electronic waste (e-waste) generation at 30.7 metric kilotons (30,700 MT) per year as of May 2021, or roughly 272 grams of e-waste per transaction. The researchers pointed out that is approximately the same level of e-waste generated by the Netherlands (which just happens to be one of the few countries that effectively tracks e-waste in the first place).

This study also found that e-waste generation could be correlated to Bitcoin prices. At the end of May last year, the price had dropped from earlier highs above \$50,000/BTC to about \$37,500; if the price were to increase again to the \$50,000 level and stay there for a period of time — which it has since October 5 — e-waste generation would increase to as much as 64.4 metric kilotons annually. That is almost exactly double the amount thought to have been produced by the entire Philippines in 2019 (32.66 metric kilotons), according to an estimate from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

Some countries are waking up to the threat and have already taken appropriate action to respond to it. According to a list maintained by the cryptocurrency fan site Cryptimi, the following countries have imposed explicit or implied bans on Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies: Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Taiwan. In addition, India, Jordan, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam, while still permitting some cryptocurrency activities, have imposed significant restrictions on it, such as prohibiting banks from transacting in cryptocurrency, banning trading, or banning its use for payments.

If so, much of the world's population already can live without imaginary electric fairy tokens, the rest of us surely can as well. We must, because until that happens, the very existence of cryptocurrency will continue to undermine all efforts to tackle climate change.





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Misteryosong sinkhole sa Samar, pinasok ng mga explorer; ano kaya ang nasa loob?

Oktubre 20, 2021 7:47pm GMT+08:00



Marami ang namangha nang maipakita sa unang pagkakataon ang loob ng isang sinkhole sa Yemen na kung tawagin ay "Well of Hell." Sa Pilipinas, isang sinkhole din ang pinasok ng mga Pinoy cave explorer at makikita sa unang pagkakataon ang nasa ilalim nito.

Sa nakaraang episode ng "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho," sinabing makikita ang naturang malaking sinkhole sa kabundukan ng Hinabangan, Samar.

"Bito" ang tawag dito ng mga residente, na patungkol sa mga "kuweba" na pababa ang butas.

Ayon kay Joni, isang cave guide sa Samar, matagal nang may nagsasabi sa kaniya na pasukin ang naturang sinkhole upang malaman kung ano ang nasa loob nito.

Hanggang sa isagawa na nila ng mga kapuwa cave guide at explorer ang pagpunta roon.

Inabot sila ng isa't kalahating oras sa paglalakbay mula sa Barangay Canano bago marating ang sinkhole na aabot sa 150 meters ang lapad ng butas, at 180 meters ang lalim, na katumbas ng 55 palapag na gusali.

Nang makababa na, tumambad ang kagandaan sa loob ng sinkhole, pero mayroon pa palang isang malaking kuweba na nasa loob nito.

Ano naman kaya ang nasa loob ng kuweba? Panoorin ang episode na ito ng "KMJS."

--FRJ, GMA News





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Kalibasib the Tamaraw returns home

By Ire Joe Laurente



CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro: In time for the observance of Tamaraw Month, the preserved carcass of the only tamaraw (Bubalus mindorensis) bred in captivity had finally returned to its home, the social media page of the provincial government announced on a late post on Tuesday.

Gov. <u>Ed Gadiano</u> posted in his social media page on Tuesday the preserved carcass of Kalibasib or Kali encased in a glass box at the Provincial Capitol Complex in Mamburao town.

Kalibasib, or short for Kalikasang Bagong Sibol, is the only tamaraw bred and reared in captivity at the Tamaraw <u>Gene Pool Farm</u> in Barangay Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro. The gene pool farm is located inside the Mt. Iglit-Baco National Reservation Park where the endangered tamaraws are protected by the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation, Research and <u>Education</u> Center.

Kalibasib died on Oct. 10, 2020 at the age of 21. The lifespan of Mindoro's dwarf buffalo is 20 to 25 years.

Kali's carcass was brought to <u>Manila</u> for preservation conducted by a private taxidermist commissioned by the provincial government and the <u>Department of Environment and Natural</u> Resources.

And now, Kalibasib is on display at the Capitol for public view.

For twenty years, Kalibasib became a symbol of hope for the propagation of the dwindling number of the endemic species in the island of Mindoro.

Gadiano said that Kalibasib brought color and happiness to Mindoreños in bringing pride and recognition to Mindoro.

The tamaraw has been tagged as one of the most critically endangered species of the <u>Bovidae</u> family and <u>genus Bubalus</u> by the <u>World Wildlife Fund</u> and the <u>Conservation</u> International. According to the Tamaraw Gene Pool, there are only 460 tamaraws in 2019.

"In celebration of the Tamaraw Month this October, may this serve as a reminder to every one of our contribution in the spread of awareness that giving protection and care of the Tamaraws is an important responsibility," Gadiano said in Filipino.

The governor also said that there is a space at the Occidental Mindoro Museum allotted for the preserved carcass of Kalibasib.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/10/21/news/regions/kalibasib-the-tamaraw-returns-home/1819117





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Amending the Wildlife Protection Act

Theresa Tenazas - The Philippine Star

October 21, 2021 | 12:00am

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines needs to urgently strengthen its 20-year-old Wildlife Protection Act to help stop potential outbreaks.

Numerous global scientific studies have shown that most new infectious diseases emerge when pathogens are transmitted from animals to humans – or what we call zoonotic disease transmission.

These diseases emerge not because of the existence of wildlife, but because of people who exploit them and destroy their habitat.

Economic growth has disrupted ecosystems and habitat through unplanned urbanization, land degradation and deforestation. This has allowed people to closely interact with wildlife, leading to hotbeds of zoonotic disease transmission.

The earliest cases of infection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which causes COVID-19, were traced to a market in Wuhan reportedly selling meat from exotic wild animals such as bats, snakes and pangolins. The Chinese government has since banned the trade, suspecting its role in the spread of the virus.

The SARS outbreak in 2002 was caused by a novel betacoronavirus found in bats and then transmitted to masked palm civets before reaching humans. A decade later, in 2012, the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) outbreak emerged after coronavirus, which passed through dromedary camels, was transmitted to humans. Meanwhile, the Ebola outbreak was traced to humans' hunt for primates' meat and habitat fragmentation, with the pathogen likely transmitted from bats to primates and then to people.

A 2020 study found that species that are threatened due to exploitation "have over twice as many zoonotic viruses" than other threatened species. Experts attributed it to the frequent close contact between people and wildlife, as hunters, middle marketers and consumers have some form of contact with species in the trading process. On top of this, other animals and people in the area are also exposed to the wildlife and its remnants and wastes, expediting the possible spread of diseases.

The wildlife trade also creates the perfect conditions for new diseases, as it stresses animals and subjects them to unnatural habitat and combinations during trade and transit.

If it is not clear with all these incidents that increased wildlife interaction due to habitat destruction and illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is the main reason for global outbreaks, then I don't know what is.

The Philippines is in the center of this, with widespread habitat destruction and illegal trade. The country has become an important source, transit and destination point in IWT, which is now the fourth largest illegal trade worldwide behind illegal drugs, arms and human trafficking.

While a handful of people gain from IWT in the country, millions more Filipinos are affected by its dire consequences. We have to act now before another deadly pandemic affects us.

In 2001, Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act was passed into law. While RA 9147 is a groundbreaking law that expanded protection coverage to all wildlife and empowered regulation agencies, there continues to be an increase in IWT cases, threatening extinction of wildlife species and elevating risks of zoonotic diseases.





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RA 9147 must be urgently amended and strengthened, as IWT has become increasingly sophisticated and organized two decades after the law's passage. Crime syndicates are exploiting legal loopholes owing to the law's vague language, low fines and penalties that fail to serve as deterrent, and limited enforcement capacity.

The value of illegal wildlife trade in the country is estimated at P50 billion annually (\$1 billion). However, as we have seen with COVID-19, we will surely lose more if we do not act immediately.

The House of Representatives passed House Bill 9833 revising the Wildlife Act of 2001 on third and final reading. In the Senate, two bills remain pending at the committee level – SB Nos. 2078 and 2079, filed by Sen. Cynthia Villar and Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, respectively.

We call on the good senators to pass the bills. A strong legal framework will improve enforcement mechanisms, strengthen inter-agency cooperation against IWT and result in a more forceful and dynamic response to this transnational crime.

Stopping IWT through a solid legal basis is a worthy investment against the life-threatening and damaging consequences of potential outbreaks and pandemics, especially to Filipinos.





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<u>Soon, there will be no farming to speak of</u>

OCT 20, 2021, 8:54 AM

Rose De La Cruz Columnist

I read through the column of Rey Gamboa at the Philippine Star Tuesday which said that at the rate small farms have become unviable, small farmers will become a vanishing breed as their descendants are pursuing other means of livelihood.

Gamboa said "As is becoming more apparent, small farmers have been pushed further into poverty and small farms have become less productive."

I have come across this narrative so often. Even in my former job with SM Foundation, where urban and rural farmers are being upskilled and taught to plant cash crops that will make their endeavors sustainable, profitable and worthwhile, old farmers lament how their children and grandchildren abhor farming because of its tediousness and back-breaking daily ordeal.

Little, if any, attempt is being exerted to showcase the other side of farming—that it is an undertaking worth pursuing to provide the family with fresh and nutritious fruits and vegetables, that it has a huge local market and that pretty soon, when pandemics and other calamities strike farming will be their life saver.

No push for grains

Little attention is being given by almost every sector of our society, including government, through the Department of Agriculture, to push farming of rice, corn and rootcrops.

The DA's thrust is to push high value commercial crops, over the traditional rice and corn as it is cheaper to import than to produce our own grains (a prescription long pounded on their brains by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank).

So, if we soon find ourselves competing with wealthier rice-eating nations for rice supply, which by then would be constricted by tight demand and diminishing lands for production, then we have only ourselves to blame for abandoning the grains that have kept past and present generations of Filipinos alive and well.

Few young farmers

Our average farmer's age now is 55 or 60 (depending on the region or province) since the younger generation of farm-families prefer to work as laborers (in construction sites and factories) and as call center agents (they can be trained to speak English anyway) and as clerks.

Only a few (and I could count with one hand) of the young farmers that I met in my SM Foundation days saw the wisdom and the beauty of pursuing farming as a career (more out of necessity to provide their families and themselves with healthy meals that pay better than a clerical job) and take pride in tilling the land that their parents or ancestors handed down to them.

Believe me, these young farmers (many of them have become professionals at one point but returned to tilling the soil) have seen better incomes to the point of establishing their own marketing networks and setting up market cooperatives to help other older farmers who have less optimism and bravado to expand their horizons and try other ventures to push their fortunes further.





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When I talked to some of them and sang the song "Planting rice is never fun," they would easily contradict me saying that depends on who you talk to. It is lots of work, but certainly fun because you interact and meet different people and you learn so many things along the way. I admire their positive attitude and openness to learn/adopt new things.

Urban farming on the rise

Paradoxically, it is city dwellers (those in urban centers of the country) that take to urban farming first as a hobby and then as a livelihood. It is the urban farmers that appreciate most the value of fresh foods on the table, being cushioned against price hikes for fruits and vegetables and getting a market to sell to when harvest is a-plenty.

And it is these urban farmers that are showing rural farmers the way to better farming. Rural farmers are often regarded as peasants because many of them are unschooled and unlettered since historically they gave way to their siblings to get to school and they helped finance the schooling of these siblings in the hope that so they can provide bigger incomes to the family in the future, once they get office or factory work.

City dwellers who have turned to farming (and find relief in it compared to the heavy polluted air they breathe in urban settings) are the ones buying farm properties and converting them into weekend farm endeavors, something they look forward to after working five days in enclosed, canned- air offices, to heal their souls, bodies and minds from the distractions of free radicals, bacteria and viruses in fresh farm air.

Some, in fact, have pushed farming into an entirely new business model—agri-tourism. The concept is to provide a respite for tired city minds to relax in farm environments and giving them a chance to dirty their hands by touching the soil in their trial planting. These agri-preneurs earn both ways, from their planted crops and from the rentals of their cottages and sale of fresh farm products to visitors.

What destroyed farming?

Gamboa had a good point as to what destroyed farming—the radicalized land reform program "aimed at redistributing land to small farmers to dismantle haciendas and the land tenancy system that more small farm sizes have shrunk to less than a hectare" after farm owners die and the property is divided among the heirs.

Without the essential safeguards to keep small farms viable, small farmers will dismiss as myth the idea that the land will keep them alive because what is left is not enough to raise them above the poverty threshold, now at a low of P8,022 a month for a family of five.

Even in developed economies, large farms benefit from mechanization and abundant government support for food sufficiency and for world trade through exports.

The US, for example, saw that the world was going to need a lot of grains to feed livestock industries, and therefore adopted significant measures that encouraged its companies to go into mechanized farming of barley, wheat, corn, and soybean.

Governments in other countries that have made a conscious decision to support a specific sector of agriculture have likewise built a system that incentivizes and protects farmers and farmlands. Such is the case of India and Thailand for rice.





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Anti- farming laws

Sadly, for the Philippines, too many laws have been passed since the early 1900s to bring about land reform, and introduced little safeguards to protect local farmers from imported agricultural products being dumped in the country.

For sure, Filipino small farmers now numbering at about five million are struggling, especially if they persist in finding decent income from rice or corn farming without realizing the new paradigm shifts dictated by competition from other major producers of rice and corn.

My take

I am not a farmer. I do not even plant food crops. But in pots, plastics and other recyclable containers I plant flowering plants and ornamentals, not because I sell them but because I care to breathe fresh air that are purified by my plants.

I grow my kangkong (after cutting the leaves off from the trunk and plant the trunk on the soil) and part of my harvest goes to my table and the other part is eaten by my ever-hungry iguana.

If I had a land of my own, or a farmhouse, believe me, I will plant food crops.

I have a pot of red small native sili, I even harvested at one time bell pepper, eggplant and okra, which I delight looking at.

I even have calamansi on soil in cans that I put after squeezing them. I love the soil.

It heals my stressed body and mind. I love watering them and smelling the tanglad, oregano and other scents from my plants.

Let us not forget to plant those seeds. Do not throw them in the garbage bins. You don't need to be a farmer to grow things. The seeds you sow now you will reap later, as fruits or vegetables.





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Mining group eyes lower 2021 nickel output

By Eireene Jairee Gomez

October 21, 2021

THE <u>Philippine Nickel Industry Association</u> (PNIA) is expecting a lower nickel production for full-year 2021, attributed to the shortage of incoming vessels as well as the typhoons that hampered mining operations.

"For this year, we expect that the production would be less overall for the nickel industry. We'll be down by 10 percent of our target," PNIA President <u>Danto Bravo</u> told the media during a press conference on Wednesday.

Annually, the PNIA is targeting a total nickel production of 25 to 30 million metric tons (MT), equivalent to 14 million wet metric tons, Bravo said.

In terms of outbound shipments, the country's nickel industry is aiming to hit its target of at least 100 vessels every year, he added. But for this year, "we will hit 90 vessels at most."

In 2020, the Philippine nickel sector produced a total of 18.5 million dry metric tons (DMT), a 14-percent decline in production compared to 21.6 million DMT production posted in the previous year, data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau showed.

By next year, Bravo said there could be an increasing demand and more requirement for stainless steel amid the increasing shift from internal combustion engine to e-vehicles, which in turn could drive up the production of the nickel battery sector.

"We see that the volume will increase. Hopefully, it will be good. But we think that it might not rather not be so much more because we're still trying to open up more mines and you'll need a lot of requirements, permitting and investments," he said.

"The catch-up will probably happen by 2023 to 2024," Bravo noted.

In terms of value, however, the PNIA president said that the industry is expecting to see the increasing trend on nickel prices to remain until 2022.

"The prices have been steady because the economies have been anticipating more demand and they've been searching for raw materials including nickel. We expect this to continue to happen until next year," Bravo said.

The increased performance in export value for the nickel industry was mainly driven by the increase in prices of nickel in the market. The improved world price of nickel in 2020 came from the steady demand in China keeping the local nickel sector's performance with stable production of nickel throughout the year.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/10/21/business/top-business/mining-group-eyes-lower-2021-nickel-output/1819149





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Philippines protests over 200 'illegal' radio challenges, intimidation by China in WPS

By CONSUELO MARQUEZ, GMA News



The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Wednesday called out China over its latest actions inside Philippine territory.

In a statement, the DFA said it had protested recent Chinese harassment of Philippine vessels, which includes "unlawful issuance of over 200 radio challenges, sounding of sirens, and blowing of horns," while conducting routine patrols within the Philippines' territorial waters.

"These provocative acts threaten the peace, good order, and security of the South China Sea and run contrary to China's obligations under international law," the DFA said on Twitter.

The DFA did not say when these reported incidents took place.

In September, it was also revealed that at least 150 Chinese vessels were doing <u>fishing</u> operations in the West Philippine Sea.

The Philippines and China have been embroiled in years-long territorial disputes in the South China Sea, particularly in the area Manila refers to as the West Philippine Sea.

China's claim to nearly the entire South China Sea, including areas under the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, was declared illegal by the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration in July 2016.

The tribunal has no power of enforcement as China repeatedly refused to recognize the decision won by the Philippines.

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are currently negotiating for a code of conduct aimed at preventing disputes from escalating into an armed conflict.

According to Foreign Affairs Chief Teodoro Locsin Jr., the DFA <u>filed</u> a total of 158 diplomatic notes against China, of which 143 have been issued under his leadership.— **with a report from Michaela Del Callar/VBL, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/807763/dfa-protests-china-s-unlawful-challenges-in-philippine-

waters/story/?fbclid=IwAR2z3weo50dM8vPNE8guxgXArNnFV4nNWjLiQnLN26iJNI1Td-YNLpHmuxA





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5 rare monkeys killed in Vietnam



A langur is seen inside a cage after being rescued in Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia, Feb. 17, 2021. Indonesia's East Java provincial police and the local natural resources conservation center have thwarted the sale of 24 protected animals, a police officer has said. The police seized 15 Moluccan cockatoos, one crested hawk-eagle, and eight East Javan langurs, the East Java provincial police's spokesman Senior Commissioner Gatot Repli Handoko said in a press statement. XINHUA PHOTO

<u>HANOI</u>: Poachers in <u>Vietnam</u> have shot dead five critically endangered langurs, a type of monkey killed for bushmeat and traditional medicine, state media said.

<u>Rangers</u> and police found the dead gray-shanked douc langurs during a regular patrol of forests in <u>Quang Ngai Province</u>.

Restricted to the forests of central Vietnam, the known global population of this type of langur is less than 1,000, according to conservation group <u>Fauna and Flora International</u> (FFI).

Other conservation groups estimate their number may be higher as some habitat areas have not yet been surveyed.

In Quang Ngai, the poachers ran off, leaving behind a motorbike, bullets and silencers, VNExpress news site said in a report.

Local authorities are "looking into the case," the news media added. The gray-shanked douc langur is listed in Vietnam's "red book," making it a criminal offense to kill one.





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Drone rescue plan for dogs trapped by La Palma volcanic eruption

Published October 21, 2021 12:13am



An unprecedented drone operation was being prepared Wednesday to rescue four dogs stranded for weeks between rivers of red-hot lava streaming from an erupting volcano on the Spanish island of La Palma.

The emaciated dogs are stranded in two empty water tanks in the town of Todoque, flanked by slow moving lava flows from the Cumbre Vieja volcano that erupted on September 19.

The molten rock has so far covered over 760 hectares (1,885 acres) of land and destroyed around 2,000 buildings although prompt evacuations have helped avoid fatalities in the island, part of the Canary Islands off northwest Africa.

On its way to the Atlantic Ocean, the lava has spared a few areas by creating "islands" of land that remain relatively unharmed such as the spot where the dogs are.

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/807792/drone-rescue-plan-for-dogs-trapped-by-la-palma-volcanic-

 $\underline{eruption/story/?fbclid=IwAR29xOBMjfpgFL3hAz_hbHMdOvKcQBNjn7ykyVw3HjsE3fMMo8FEPPQeeCQ}$





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Nations to produce more coal, oil – UN

By Agence France-Presse

October 21, 2021

<u>PARIS</u>: The world's nations are currently planning to produce more than double the amount of coal, oil and gas consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the <u>United Nations</u> said on Wednesday.

Ten days before a climate summit that is being billed as key to the viability of the <u>Paris Agreement</u> temperature goals, the <u>United Nations Environment Programme</u> said that government fossil fuel production plans this decade were "dangerously out of sync" with the emissions cuts needed.

The United Nations said emissions must go down nearly 50 percent by 2030 and to net-zero by mid-century to limit warming to 1.5 C above preindustrial levels.

But its Production Gap report found that total fossil fuel production would likely increase until at least 2040.

Development plans would produce 110 percent more fossil fuels this decade than consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 C and 45 percent more than for a world where temperatures increase 2 C.

"The research is clear: global coal, oil and gas production must start declining immediately and steeply to be consistent with limiting long-term warming to 1.5 C," said Ploy Achakulwisut, a lead report author from the Stockholm Environment Institute.

"However, governments continue to plan for and support levels of fossil fuel production that are vastly in excess of what we can safely burn."

With 1.1 C of warming so far, Earth is being pummeled by ever-more-frequent drought, floods and storms supercharged by rising sea levels.

The 2015 Paris deal saw countries commit to limiting warming to between 1.5 C and 2 C through sweeping emissions cuts.

Under the deal, every signatory must submit renewed emissions cutting plans — known as <u>National Determined Contributions</u>, or NDCs — every five years.

In an assessment last month, the United Nations said that, taken together, countries' latest NDCs — assuming they are fulfilled — put Earth on course to reach a "catastrophic" 2.7 C of warming by 2100.

The organizers of the <u>United Nations Climate Change Conference</u> (COP26), which starts in Glasgow on October 31, say they want the summit to keep the 1.5 C temperature goal within reach.

Michael Lazarus, a co-author of Wednesday's report, said the difference between countries' NDCs and production plans was "the major mismatch" in climate diplomacy right now.

"Even in the face of inevitable decarbonization away from fossil fuels, some countries are speeding up their investments in activities to promote fossil fuel production, vowing to remain the last ones standing," he said.

Last week, the <u>International Energy Agency</u> said the use of coal — the most polluting fossil fuel — had, in fact, increased since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. In May, it said that no new oil and gas production was compatible with 1.5 C.

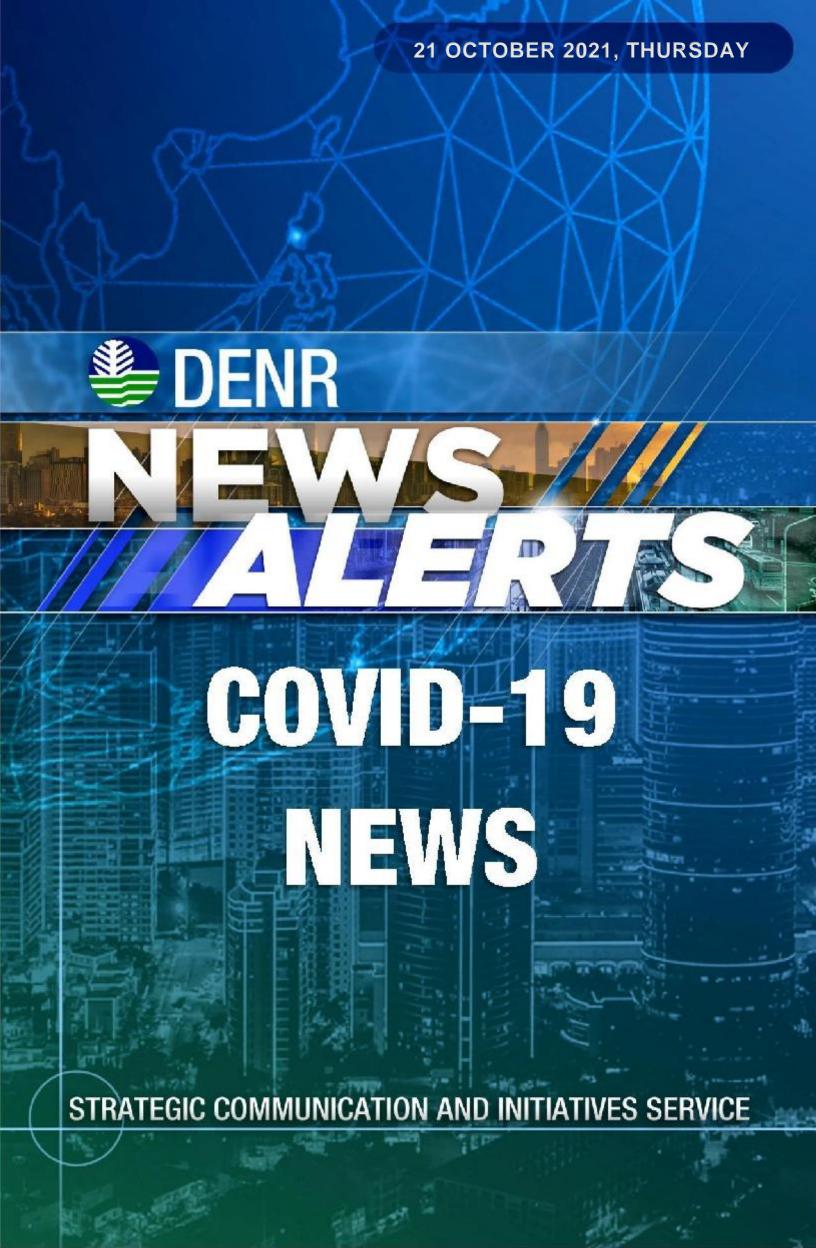




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Wednesday's report showed that governments planned to produce around 240 percent more coal by 2030 than the 1.5 C goal allows.

They also plan for 57 percent more oil and 71 percent more natural gas, the report said.



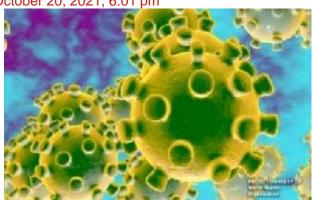




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PH logs 3,656 new cases, lowest in over 3 months

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor October 20, 2021, 6:01 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday reported 3,656 new Covid-19 cases, the country's lowest daily tally in over three months.

The new infections brought the total number of active cases nationwide to 67,061, according to the DOH latest case bulletin.

About 77.9 percent of these active cases are mild, 6.8 percent are asymptomatic, 2 percent are critical, 4.6 percent are severe, and 8.69 percent are moderate.

The DOH also said 228 more patients recovered from the disease, bringing the total recoveries to 2,627,331.

It said recoveries account for 96.1 percent of the total case count which has reached 2,735,369 since the start of the pandemic last year.

The DOH also logged five new deaths, bringing the total death toll to 40,977.

According to DOH data on Oct. 18, about 11.6 percent of 42,296 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"About 20 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, 16 are recoveries. Also, five cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it added.

All laboratories were operational on Oct. 18 while two laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The two non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 0.5 percent of samples tested, and 1.2 percent of positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

To date, 59 percent of 4,300 intensive care unit beds, 46 percent of 21,100 isolation beds, 44 percent of 14,800 ward beds, and 43 percent of 3,400 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 53 percent of 1,500 intensive care unit beds, 39 percent of 4,900 isolation beds, 39 percent of 4,200 ward beds, and 40 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region. (*PNA*)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1157276





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Philippines' COVID count by up 3,656 more cases

Philstar.com October 20, 2021 | 4:26pm



Health workers wearing protective personal equipment line up as they wait for go signal to enter the Quezon City Jail for the scheduled COVID-19 vaccination of persons deprived of liberty on Oct. 8, 2021.

The STAR / Boy Santos

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Wednesday posted 3,656 new coronavirus cases to bring its overall count of infections to 2,735,369.

Today's numbers active cases up by 3,424 from the 63,637 on October 19. DOH said two laboratories did not submit screening results.

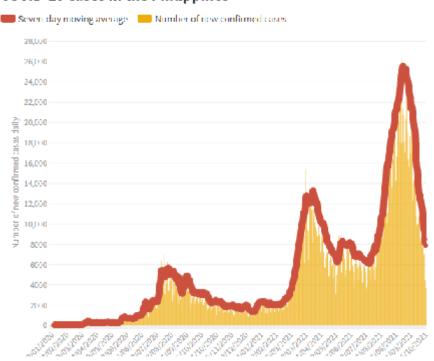
"The low number of reported recoveries and deaths today are due to technical issues with COVIDKaya," DOH added. "Additional recoveries and deaths shall be reflected in the case bulletin in the following days."

Active cases: 67,061 or 2.5% of the total

Recoveries: 228 bringing the number to 2,627,331

Deaths: 5, or now 40,977 overall

COVID-19 cases in the Philippines



Source: Department of Health - As of October 20, 2021, 4 p.m.





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Philippines closes cemeteries on Undas

The pandemic task force said cemeteries, memorial parks and columbariums would be closed from October 29 to November 2 amid the <u>continuing threat</u> of the coronavirus pandemic.

Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. said they are now targeting to inoculate at least <u>1.5 million</u> <u>Filipinos a day</u> to ensure a safe Christmas season in the country.

Galvez also admitted that logistical problems are hampering the country's distribution of the jabs, seven months since the efforts began.

Police Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, chief of the Philippine National Police, ordered provincial cops to <u>stay informed</u> on the regulations under the government's new COVID-19 alert level system.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/10/20/2135445/philippines-covid-count-3656-more-cases





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Nagkaroon ng COVID-19 sa bansa sumampa na sa 2,735,369

(Philstar.com) - October 20, 2021 - 4:29pm



A worker in personal protective equipment sprays disenfectant inside a cinema in Manila on October 14, 2021, ahead of the reopening of movie houses following a sharp fall in the daily number of coronavirus infections and

increased vaccinations. AFP/Maria Tan

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 3,656 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Miyerkules, kung kaya nasa 2,735,369 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

lahat ng kaso: 2,735,369

nagpapagaling pa: 67,061, o 2.5% ng total infections

bagong recover: 228, dahilan para maging 2,627,331 na lahat ng gumagaling **kamamatay lang**: 5, na siyang nag-aakyat sa *total local death toll sa 40,977*

1.5-M COVID-19 vaccinations kada araw?

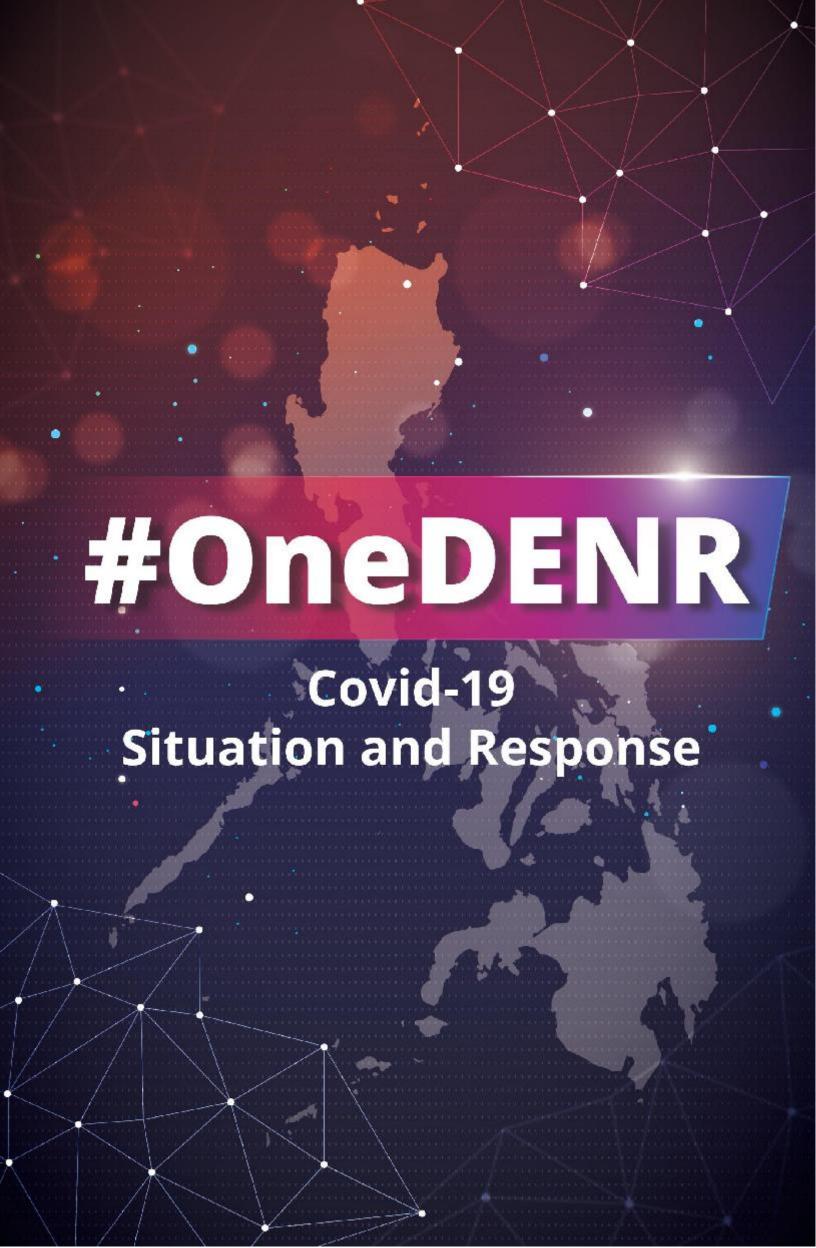
Magsasara uli ang mga sementeryo ngayong Undas upang maiwasan ang hawaan ng COVID-19 dulot ng mga siksikang bibisita sa mga yumao. Ito ang kinumpirma ni Interior Secretary Eduardo Año nitong Martes, bagay na epektibo mula ika-29 ng Oktubre hanggang ika-2 ng Nobyembre.

Pinaplano naman ngayon ng gobyerno na baguhin ang vaccination strategy nito laban sa COVID-19, bagay na nais daw nilang itaas patungong 1.5 milyong shots kada araw ayon kay vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. Malayo pa ito sa weeklong average ng bansa na nasa 388,000 shots lang daily.

Inuutusan naman ngayon ni PNP chef Police Gen. Guillermo Eleazar ang lahat ng provincial police offices na tiyaking naiintindihan ng kanilang mga tauhan ang mga bagong regulasyon ngayong ipapatupad na ang "alert level systems" sa ilang probinsya laban sa COVID-19. Dati kasi, ang ipinatutupad ay ang nakagawiang community quarantine restrictions.

Nakakuha naman na ng kumpletong COVID-19 doses ang nasa 24.69 milyong katao sa Pilipinas simula nang umarangkada ito nitong Marso. Bahagi lang 'yan ng kabuuang 53.31 bakunang naiturok sa bansa ngayon.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/10/20/2135456/nagkaroon-ng-covid-19-sa-bansa-sumampa-na-sa-2735369/amp/







OKTUBRE 20, 2021

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/

7.5%

67,061

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

TOTAL NG GUMALING 2,627,331

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

TOTAL NG NAMATAY 40,977

MGA BAGONG KASO 3,656

MGA BAGONG GUMALING 228

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 5

KABUUANG BILANG NG KASO

2,735,369

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING OKTUBRE 18

DATOS NGAYONG OKTUBRE 20 AYON SA REPORTS NOONG OKTUBRE 18

PORSYENTO NG MGA **NAGPOSITIBO**

42,296

BILANG NG TINEST

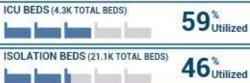
HALOS

84.7% ANG MILD AT **ASYMPTOMATIC**

NA KASO!



KABUUANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?



WARD BEDS (14.8K TOTAL BEDS)

VENTILATORS (3.4K TOTAL VENTILATORS) ****

44% Utilized

43% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?



VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

40% Utilized 100 100 100 100 100

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 77.9%

6.8% Asymptomatic

2.0% Critical

4.6% Severe

8.69% Moderate

KASANGGA NG BIDA

UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Muling ipinapaalala sa lahat ang bisa ng mahigpit na pagsunod sa Minimum Public Health Standards upang mapigilan ang tuluyang pagkalat ng COVID-19. Kaugnay nito, siguraduhin ang kaligtasan ng ating mga tahanan, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa BHERTS o One COVID Referral Center sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas ng COVID-19. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa 1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating Telemedicine Service Providers, at ang http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



lhahanan ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333 GLOBE: 0915 777 7777 TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na si KIRA! VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH MESSENGER: Department of Health PH KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas! I-download ang StaySafe App O Gamiting ang WEBAPP at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov











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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyU7RT8tv30

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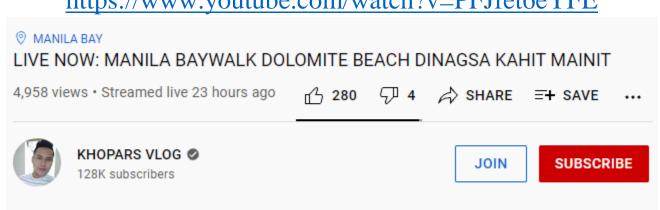




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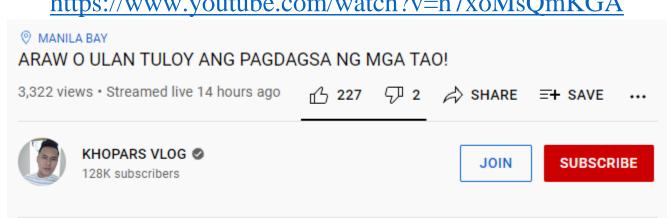




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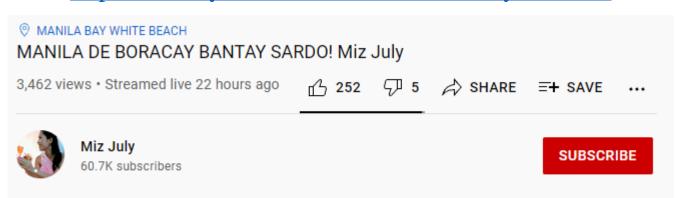




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