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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Dolomite beach closure mulled

Since its soft opening over the weekend, thousands of people have flocked to the area, making other people ignore the minimum public health standards



Published 1 day ago  
on October 29, 2021 04:00 AM  
By [Jom Garner](#)



Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary and spokesperson Jonathan Malaya on Thursday revealed that the government is considering closing Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach for a few more weeks.

He noted that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is planning to close the controversial artificial beach to make way for the completion of its expansion.

“There’s a possibility that after Undas, they will still keep the dolomite beach closed until such a time that they are complete with the expansion,” Malaya said.

To recall, the DENR announced that the dolomite beach will be closed from 29 October to 3 November, in lieu of the order of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the observance of Undas.

Since its soft opening over the weekend, thousands of people have flocked to the area, making other people ignore the minimum public health standards amid the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.



## Dolomite beach closure mulled

The public's flocking to the dolomite beach drew flak from the public, including Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso, who described the scenario as a "super-spreader event."

Domagoso also dared the IATF to file charges against the DENR for opening the dolomite beach which caused overcrowding in his city as he blamed the lack of social distancing in the area to the agency.

The Manila mayor was referring to the Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO), an agency under the direct supervision of the DENR secretary, which has coordinative functions among all offices and agencies involved in the rehabilitation, restoration and conservation of Manila Bay.

On Wednesday, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu apologized that social distancing was disregarded during the opening of the dolomite beach.

Cimatu also relieved the assigned ground commander in the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach for its failure to implement protocols in the area — mbco deputy executive director Jacob Meimban Jr. — from his post and vowed that it will never happen again.



## Pagsasara muna ng Dolomite Beach, ikinokonsidera ng DENR

By [Mer Layson](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)  
- October 29, 2021 - 12:00am



Crowds gather as families spend quality time while waiting for the famous Manila Bay sunset at the Manila Dolomite Beach during its 2nd day opening on Sunday (October 17, 2021).  
The STAR / Miguel De Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — Ikinokonsidera na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagsasara muna ng Dolomite Beach sa Manila Baywalk hanggang sa makumpleto na ang expansion nito.

Ayon kay DILG Undersecretary at Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya, malaki ang posibilidad na kahit matapos na ang Undas ay manatili pa ring sarado ang naturang beach.

Maging ang kumpleto na aniyang bahagi ng Dolomite Beach ay plano rin munang isara ng DENR habang ipinagpapatuloy ang konstruksiyon sa iba pang bahagi nito.

Matatandaang ipinag-utos na ng DENR, alinsunod sa direktiba ng IATF, ang pagsasara ng Dolomite Beach simula Oktubre 29 hanggang Nobyembre.

Layunin nitong maiwasan ang pagdagsa ng mga tao sa panahon ng Undas.

“There’s a possibility that after Undas, they will still keep the Dolomite Beach closed until such a time that they are complete with the expansion,” ani Malaya.

Una nang umani ng batikos ang DENR matapos dagsain ng libu-libong tao ang Dolomite Beach noong nakaraang weekend.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2021/10/29/2137516/pagsasara-muna-ng-dolomite-beach-ikinokonsidera-ng-denr/amp/>



## Spotted: Manila dolomite beach cardboard notice announcing temporary closure

By [Jeline Malasig](#)

- October 29, 2021 - 7:05 PM



People visit the newly reopened portion of Manila Bay filled with artificial white sand as the country's capital region loosens coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions, in Manila, Philippines, October 16, 2021. (Reuters/Lisa Marie David)

From arch to cardboard?

Pictures of a cardboard notice announcing the temporary closure of the **Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach** gained traction after it was posted by a news outlet.

On Friday, Rappler shared photos of the notice that were placed at the fence of the beach nourishment project as it closes from October 29 until November 3 in observance of **All Saints' Day** and **All Souls' Day** or "Undas."

The notice reads "BAY WALK CLOSED TEMPORARY [temporarily]."

The post also made its way to r/Philippines, a Reddit subreddit dedicated to the Philippines and Filipinos. It has earned 100% upvotes so far.

The cardboard notice caught online Filipinos' attention who recalled how much the project costs in relation to the advisory.

"P600M+ project and they can't afford a decent sign," an [online user](#) from Facebook commented.

"Walang budget for a proper signage?" another [Facebook user](#) wrote with an emoji of a grinning face in sweatdrops.

"Gumatos ng billions tapos ganito lang e po-post, halos 'di mapapasin sa entrada ng Manila Bay Dolomite," a different [Filipino](#) commented.

Last month, an [arch was installed](#) at the entrance of the dolomite beach with its official name. It previously drew flak for its perceived similarities to cemetery entrances.



## Spotted: Manila dolomite beach cardboard notice announcing temporary closure

Undersecretary **Jonathan Malaya** of the Department of the Interior and Local Government said that the dolomite beach might be closed even after the “Undas” season for additional improvement works.

“DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told me that it is a decision to be made by Secretary (Roy) Cimatu — there is a possibility that after Undas, they will still keep the dolomite beach closed until such time that they have completed with the expansion,” he was [quoted as saying](#) on Thursday.

The opening of the dolomite beach last weekend drew 121,000 individuals on Sunday alone and alarmed Filipinos and officials due to the breach of the COVID-19 minimum public health protocols.

The ground commander of the **Manila Bay Task Force** has been sacked after the overcrowding incidents.

People visit the newly reopened portion of Manila Bay filled with artificial white sand as the country's capital region loosens coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions, in Manila, Philippines, October 16, 2021. (Reuters/Lisa Marie David)

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## Dolomite visitors should monitor for COVID-19 symptoms—DOH

posted October 30, 2021 at 12:40 am

by [Manila Standard](#)

A health official on Friday urged persons who visited the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach last weekend to monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19.

In a media briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire advised the visitors experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms to self-isolate immediately. She also reminded them to wear face masks inside their homes.

“Always monitor if you experience sore throat, coughs, colds, no sense of taste, no sense of smell, let’s monitor all that,” Vergeire said.

Last October 24, the Manila Baywalk Coordinating Office recorded “tens of thousands of people,” including children accompanied by their parents who visited the beach.

Consequently, the Palace appealed to the public to observe the minimum public health standards when visiting the beach which opened on October 19.

“That’s just a little sacrifice, you might feel warm and uncomfortable to breathe but that will prevent infection in your family,” Vergeire said. (See full story online at [manilastandard.net](http://manilastandard.net))

Vergeire added the Department of Health “is not likely mandated to give an opinion” on Mayor Francisco Domagoso's suggestion to file charges against Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials responsible for the overcrowding at the Dolomite Beach.

“We leave that to the appropriate agency of government,” she added.

Following the overcrowding, the DENR established additional crowd control measures for the Dolomite Beach to better prevent possible spread of COVID-19 while enabling the conduct of maintenance and other works.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu also relieved the ground commander of the Manila Bay Task Force.

“The incident [overcrowding] needs to be investigated so we can correct our mistakes,” Cimatu said.





## Dolomite Beach visitors told to self-monitor for Covid symptoms

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor October 29, 2021, 3:28 pm



**GENTLE REMINDER.** Two marshals hold a placard reminding visitors at the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach to observe minimum health protocols on Monday (Oct. 25, 2021). The Manila Police District has been tasked to deploy more police personnel to ensure crowd control in the area, which draws a lot of visitors, especially during weekends. (PNA photo by Joey O. Razon)

**MANILA** – A health official on Friday urged persons who visited the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach over the weekend to monitor themselves for symptoms of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

In a media briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire advised the visitors who are experiencing any of the Covid-19 symptoms to self-isolate immediately. She also reminded them to wear face masks inside their homes.

*“Laging alamin kung tayo ay may nararanasang pagsakit ng ulo, pagsakit ng lalamunan, inuubo, sinisipon, nawalan ng pang-amoy, nawalan ng panglasa, lahat po iyan i-monitor natin (Always monitor if you experience sore throat, coughs, colds, no sense of taste, no sense of smell, let’s monitor all that),”* Vergeire said.

Last October 24, the Manila Baywalk Coordinating Office recorded “tens of thousands of people”, including children accompanied by their parents who visited the beach.

Consequently, the Palace appealed to the public to observe the minimum public health standards when visiting the beach which opened on October 19.

*“Konting sakripisyo lang po iyan, mainit, mahirap huminga pero kayo naman ay makakasiguro na ‘di magkakahawaan diyan sa inyong mga pamilya (That’s just a little sacrifice, you might feel warm and uncomfortable to breathe but that will prevent infection in your family),”* she said.

Vergeire added that the Department of Health “is not likely mandated to give an opinion” on Mayor Francisco Domagoso’s suggestion to file charges against Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officials responsible for the overcrowding at the Dolomite Beach.



## Dolomite Beach visitors told to self-monitor for Covid symptoms

“We leave that to the appropriate agency of government,” she added.

Following the overcrowding, the DENR established additional crowd control measures for the Dolomite Beach to better prevent possible spread of Covid-19 while enabling the conduct of maintenance and other works. *(PNA)*



## Dolomite beach visitors advised to wear face mask at home

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

Published October 29, 2021 1:43pm

The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday urged individuals who visited Manila Bay's dolomite beach over the weekend to wear face mask at home and to monitor symptoms of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

During a media briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said this was only a small sacrifice to ensure that the virus will not be transmitted within the family.

“Magsuot muna tayo ng face mask sa loob ng ating mga tahanan. Kaunting sakripisyo lang ‘yan, mainit, mahirap huminga, pero ‘yun naman po ay makakasiguro na hindi magkakahawa-hawaan sa inyong pamilya,” she said.

(Wear face mask at home. This is a small sacrifice, it's hot, it's hard to breathe, but this will ensure that the virus will not affect the family.)

Vergeire also advised visitors to watch out for symptoms such as headaches, sore throats, coughs, flu, and the loss of the sense of smell and taste.

“As soon as naramdaman po natin ang mga sintomas na ito, mag isolate po tayo (As soon as these symptoms develop, undergo isolation),” she said.

Families during the weekend [flocked to the dolomite beach](#) amid a more relaxed COVID-19 restrictions in the National Capital Region.

The Philippines has logged [2,772,491 COVID-19 cases](#), of which 49,835 are active and 42,575 have succumbed to the illness.—AOL, GMA News



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### DENR National Capital Region

17h · 🌐

LOOK: DENR National Capital Region leads cleanup in Pasay City.

DENR National Capital Region, through its West Field Office (WFO), initiated a clean-up of a portion of Sto. Niño Creek in Barangay 190, Pasay City, on Thursday, 28 October 2021.

Twenty (20) Estero Rangers joined WFO employees in declogging the waterway. Together, they were able to remove fifty-five (55) sacks of solid waste, composed mostly of plastic packaging (i.e., sachet and sando bags), glass bottles, and other residual wastes from Sto. Niño Creek.

Sto. Niño Creek is an open drainage canal connected to Estero Tripa de Gallina and the Redemptorist Channel. It slits through several barangays of Pasay and Parañaque City before exiting to Manila Bay either through Parañaque River or the Redemptorist Channel.

The activity is part of the ongoing cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

[#BattleForManilaBay](#) [#SaveManilaBay](#) [#MANILABAYanihan](#) [#TayoAngKalikasan](#)



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/100064630394074/posts/240640791433599/?app=fbl>



## DENR forester nawawala; inanod ng ilog sa Sierra Madre



October 29, 2021 @ 1:44 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Iniulat na nawawala ang isang forester ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) nang tangayin ng ilog sa Sierra Madre mountain range sa General Nakar habang tumatawid ito.

Kinilala ng General Nakar police ang biktimang si Rigor Santos, 30, forest monitoring officer na nakatalaga sa DENR office sa Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon).

Nakatakda sanang mag-survey at i-monitor ang government plantation project sa Pagsangahan village.

Dito ay kinailangang lumangoy sa Agos River in Sitio (sub-village) Binugawan sa Barangay Mahabang Lalim ngunit natangay si Santos.

Sinubukan pa ng mga kasama nito na isalba ang biktima ngunit hindi na nakayanan pa.

Samantala, inalerto na ng General Nakar disaster risk reduction and management office ang lahat ng village officials sa posibleng pagkatutunton kay Santos. **RNT/FGDC**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/denr-forester-nawawala-inanod-ng-ilog-sa-sierra-madre/>



## Monitoring officer ng DENR, inanod

[METRO](#)

By [Abante Tonite](#) Last updated Oct 29, 2021



Isang empleyado ng DENR CALABARZON IV ang pinaghahanap ngayon matapos anurin ng malakas na agos ng tubig sa ilog sa General Nakar, Quezon Huwebes ng umaga.

Kinilala ng General Nakar police ang biktima na si Rigor Gallardo Santos, 30, ng Brgy. Katipunan Bayani, Tanay, Rizal, Forest Monitoring officer ng DENR.

Oct 29, 2021

Batay sa report ng General Nakar police, kasama ang kanyang katrabaho, nagsasagawa ng monitoring at survey ang mga ito sa gagawing DENR plantation sa Sitio Binugawan, Brgy. Mahaba Lalim, General Nakar. Tumatawid ang biktima sa Agos river patungong Brgy. Pagsangahan nang tangayin ito ng malakas na daloy ng tubig.

Sinubukan itong sagipin ng tatlong kasama pero natangay na ang biktima. (Ronilo Dagos)

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/monitoring-officer-ng-denr-inanod/>



## P400,000 worth of hot lumber seized in Northern Samar



Photo by NSPPO

**RONALD O. REYES**

October 28, 2021

SOME P401,000 worth of undocumented lumber were seized in a checkpoint in Allen, Northern Samar, following an intensive anti-criminality operation in the province.

“I urge the public to help the authorities in our efforts in preserving our environment and natural resources. Everyone’s cooperation is needed to stop the wanton destruction of our forest resources,” said Colonel Arnel Apud, director of Northern Samar Police Provincial Office (NSPPO).

Authorities said a 10-wheeler reefer van was transporting illegally sawn lumber from Bobon town to Legazpi City, Albay, on Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

The van was intercepted by operatives from Allen Municipal Police Station led by Lieutenant Nimrod Holares, in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard-Northern Samar, Philippine National Police-Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force-Visayas, 1st Northern Samar Provincial Mobile Force Company, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Northern Samar Provincial Field Unit, and Northern Samar Provincial Special Operations Group.



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## P400,000 worth of hot lumber seized in Northern Samar

The truck driver, Jan Richard Mandane Ballosa, failed to show the necessary documents to transport said forest products.

A case is now being prepared for filing in court for violation of the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines against the suspect. **(SunStar Philippines)**





## Hot lumber recovered in Aurora town

By Jason De Asis October 29, 2021, 8:01 pm



**ILLEGAL LOGGING.** A member of the 3rd Maneuver Force Platoon, 1st Aurora Provincial Mobile Force Company (1st APMFC) inspect the abandoned truck loaded with illegally cut lumber found in Sitio Malamig, Barangay Umiray, Dingalan, Aurora on Friday (Oct. 29, 2021). The confiscated forest products were believed to have come from the Sierra Madre mountains in Dingalan, Aurora. *(Photo courtesy of the APMFC)*

**BALER, Aurora** – A truck filled with an estimated 576 board feet of hardwood “bagtikan” lumber was recovered in Barangay Umiray, Dingalan, this province on Friday.

Major Emil Sison, the spokesperson of the Aurora Police Provincial Office (APPO), said the anti-illegal logging operations were conducted by the members of the 3rd Maneuver Force Platoon, 1st Aurora Provincial Mobile Force Company (1st APMFC).

Sison said the troops found the abandoned Elf truck loaded with 28 pieces of sawn lumber amounting to PHP34,560 around 9:15 a.m. in Sitio Malamig, Barangay Umiray.

He said the 1st APMFC received information regarding the vehicle loaded with illegally cut lumber and was immediately verified by his men.

The confiscated forest products were believed to have come from the Sierra Madre mountains in Dingalan.

Sison added that the confiscated items were turned over to the City Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) Dingalan Office and Dingalan Municipal Police Station for proper disposition and verification for filing of a case against the registered owner of the vehicle.

Meanwhile, Col. Julio S. Lizardo, APPO provincial director, commended the operating units as well as the source of the information.

He called on the public to continue supporting the APPO as he vowed that they will exert their best effort to return the favor through providing peace, order, and public safety. *(PNA)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1158222>



## Trees planted, food aid given for IP month in Kidapawan

By Edwin Fernandez October 29, 2021, 12:58 pm



**IP TREES.** Members of indigenous peoples (IP) communities in North Cotabato, led by Gov. Nancy Catamco, prepare fruit-bearing trees for a tree planting activity on Thursday (Oct. 28) as part of the culminating program for the IP Month celebration in Barangay Amas, Kidapawan City. A total of 300 tree seedlings were planted by the IPs together with Catamco (inset) who belongs to the Manobo indigenous community. *(Photo courtesy of North Cotabato PGO)*

**COTABATO CITY** – Some 300 tree seedlings were planted in Kidapawan City on Thursday afternoon as part of the culminating program for the Indigenous Peoples (IP) Month celebration here.

The activity was held in Sitio Puas, Barangay Amas, Kidapawan City in partnership with the Provincial IP Affairs Office and was led by North Cotabato Gov. Nancy Catamco.

Accompanying Catamco, herself an IP belonging to the Manobo community, were provincial and local officials and representatives from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

“These fruit-bearing trees planted in IP ancestral land are living testimonies of our recognition of their rights as a community,” Catamco said in the vernacular.

Part of the activity was the distribution of food assistance to 38 IP households in Purok Lawaan, Sitio Puas Inda.

“We are happy that our governor now is an IP for she has a heart for the Indigenous Peoples, she knows how we feel,” Manobo IP community chieftain Datu Raul Puas said.

This year’s IP Month celebration is: “Ang Paglalakbay ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan para sa Tunay na Pagkilala, Paglang at Sariling Pamamahala.” *(PNA)*



## USAID rolls out P750-M climate resilience project in PH

Published October 29, 2021, 7:17 PM

by [Betheena Unite](#)

A five-year project that will help the Philippines become a more climate-resilient country has been rolled out by the United States (US) government.



(Photo from Department of Environment and Natural Resources)

Under a P750-million Climate Resilient Cities project, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) will help cities in the country—which is one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries—adapt to, mitigate, and endure the impacts of climate change by increasing their access to climate financing and tools to build resilience.

The US Embassy in the Philippines said Friday, Oct. 29, that the project was officially launched on Thursday, Oct. 28.

The USAID will support local government units and other stakeholders to better understand, use, and disseminate climate information to local communities.

The project will also help cities and non-governmental organizations access climate financing to increase community resilience and contribute to communities’ economic and social development, as well as support natural climate solutions that increase cities’ resilience to climate change impacts.

“Over the past 60 years, we have been proud to partner with the Philippine government and local stakeholders to achieve shared development goals,” said USAID Philippines Acting Mission Director Sean Callahan.

“Addressing the climate crisis, and particularly the vulnerability of cities, is crucial to helping build a more prosperous, resilient Philippines for current and future generations,” Callahan said.



## USAID rolls out P750-M climate resilience project in PH

The Climate Resilient Cities project supports the Philippine government's National Climate Change Action Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions, and National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Roadmap, and advances the US government's goal of tackling the climate crisis around the world.

Climate Resilient Cities will also receive support from the government of the Republic of Korea, through the Korea International Cooperation Agency, as part of a joint partnership between the US and Korean governments.

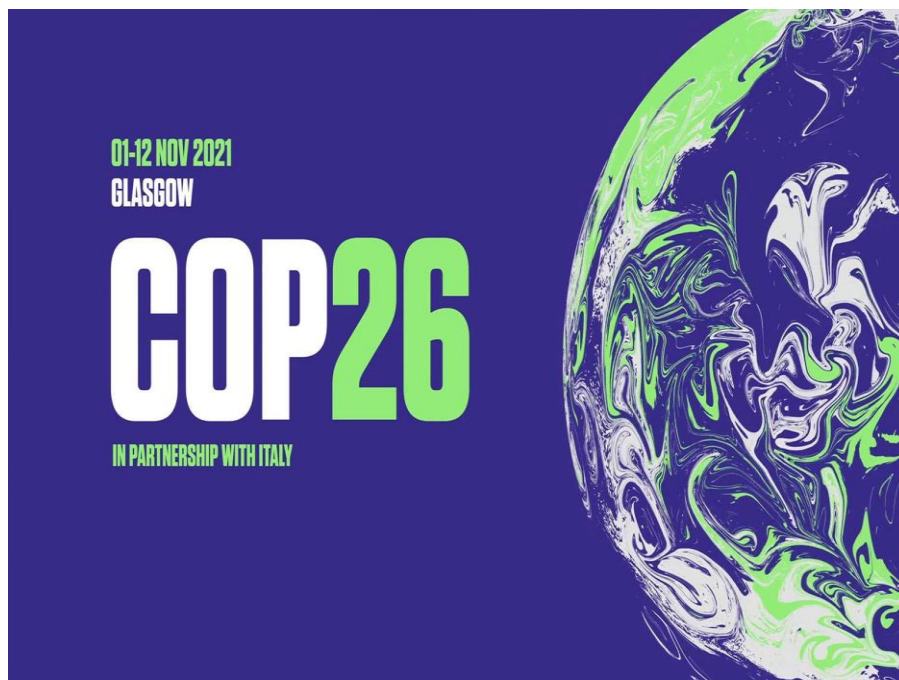


## COP26 PH delegation urged: Push for fossil fuel phaseout, hold environment polluters accountable

Published October 29, 2021, 12:33 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

An international environment organization is pressing the Philippine delegation to the United Nations (UN) climate talks to push for an urgent fossil fuel phaseout and hold companies that are big environment polluters accountable amid reports that the world is still lagging behind its goal to immediately address the climate crisis.



COP26

The Philippine office of Greenpeace Southeast Asia on Friday, Oct. 29, called on Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and other delegates to the Glasgow Conference of Parties (COP26) “to uphold the Filipino people’s demand for climate justice” in the international arena.

The group’s appeal came after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is composed of several scientists, recently reported that the world needs to make immediate, dramatic, and consistent emissions reductions through decreasing the fuel emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and reach zero percent by 2050 in order to prevent the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

Greenpeace’s call also came after Break Free From Plastic, a global movement against plastics, released its 2021 Brand Audit Report where it named five well-known global companies which are supposedly the top plastic polluters in the Philippines.

“Beyond speeches, we believe the Philippines must also take leadership in calling out big polluters—particularly corporations most responsible for the climate crisis—accountable. Urgent



## COP26 PH delegation urged: Push for fossil fuel phaseout, hold environment polluters accountable

climate action is imperative and this call for justice must be made alongside a firm demand for the urgent phaseout of the fossil fuel industry,” Greenpeace Philippines Campaigner Virginia Benosa-Llorin said in a statement.

The COP26 is the most significant global climate conference since the Paris COP in 2015. By that time, most of the participating nations vowed to ensure a safe and stable climate by keeping temperature rises within 1.5 degrees Centigrade.

This year’s COP26, which will be held from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12, is the deadline for the world’s governments to submit their plans to cut their emissions to stay under the 1.5C warning.

“Current commitments are not enough,” the group said.

Citing the latest UN report synthesizing country pledges, the group said that with the current level of commitments, a 16-percent increase from the 2010 emission level will happen by 2030, which means a 2.7C rise in global temperatures is possible by the end of the century.

“The Philippines climate leadership needs to be more than lip service. Greenpeace believes that the Philippines can do more and must also take the high ground in mitigating climate emissions,” the group said, as even the Philippines vowed last April to reduce the fuel emissions by 75 percent by 2030, only a mere 2.71 percent will be reduced unconditionally or without external assistance.

“In reality, the country’s current energy plans are still fossil fuel-heavy, and the government has yet to lay down a clear pathway to an urgent and just transition to renewables,” it added.

The group also appealed to the country’s delegation to reject plans to open a global market in carbon offsets, which is expected to be discussed at the meeting.

The group said it maintains that “carbon offsetting is a greenwashing scam promoted by big polluters in order to continue business-as-usual—and delay taking necessary and urgent steps to enable an energy transition.”

Among the climate actions that Greenpeace wants agreed at COP26 are the following:

- Stop all new fossil fuel projects immediately and phase out the industry
- Set ambitious emissions-cutting plans to halve global emissions by 2030
- Reject plans to open a global market in carbon offsets and rather set rules for equitable international cooperation
- Ensure \$100 billion a year goes from high-emitting countries to those countries bearing the brunt of climate impacts caused by the climate crisis” to adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis, develop clean energy systems and transition away from fossil fuels. And more money on top of that for further adaptation and to compensate for the damage already being caused by climate impacts in vulnerable countries.



## COP26 PH delegation urged: Push for fossil fuel phaseout, hold environment polluters accountable

“We hope to see a strong position brought in by the Philippine delegation to Glasgow—but we also need this to be supported by genuine climate action back home,” Llorin said.

“The Duterte administration still has time to put in place green recovery measures from COVID-19 (coronavirus disease), strengthen the coal moratorium announcement by actual cancellations of planned coal facilities, aim for 50 percent RE by 2030, and protect and restore ecosystems to build resilience,” she added.



## China submits new climate plan days before COP26 summit

By [Patrick Galey](#) (Agence France-Presse)  
- October 29, 2021 - 7:33am



(FILES) This file photo taken on September 28, 2021 shows a man riding a bicycle on a promenade along the Huangpu river across from the Wujiang Coal-Electricity Power Station in Shanghai. Asia-Pacific accounts for about three-quarters of global coal consumption -- even as the region struggles with the environmental and public health impacts of global warming, from deadly levels of air pollution in India to extreme heatwaves and wildfires in Australia.

AFP/Hector Retamal

PARIS, France — China on Thursday submitted a renewed emissions cutting plan that promised to peak carbon pollution before 2030 but which experts said stopped short of the radical decarbonisation required of the world's largest polluter.

Beijing's new submission to the United Nations, just days before the COP26 climate summit, confirmed its goal to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060 and slash its emissions intensity — the amount of emissions per unit of economic output — by more than 65 percent.

Analysts said these amounted to minor improvements on China's existing plan and were far from sufficient from the country responsible for more than a quarter of all carbon pollution.

As part of the 2015 Paris Agreement, all countries agreed to slash emissions in order to limit temperature rises to "well below" two degrees Celsius and to strive for a safer 1.5-C warming cap.

Under the accord's "ratchet" mechanism, signatories agreed to submit new and more ambitious emissions cutting plans — known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs — every five years.





## China submits new climate plan days before COP26 summit

Last year, President Xi Jinping indicated that China would achieve carbon neutrality around 2060 and peak emissions around 2030.

But China had been a major NDC holdout, missing several submission deadlines during the year-long delay of COP26 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It was hoped its new plan could build momentum ahead of the summit in Glasgow, which begins on Sunday with world leaders seeking to map out a path to avoid climate disaster.

According to the document, published on the UN's climate change website, China will increase its share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to 25 percent, up from the 20 percent previously pledged.

It also plans to increase its forest stock by six billion cubic metres compared with 2005 levels and "bring its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kilowatts by 2030".

However it was not immediately clear how Beijing plans to draw down its emissions in line with what science says is needed to avoid catastrophic levels of heating this century.

### 'Casts a shadow'

UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa said China's commitment to net-zero emissions before 2060 was a "very positive development".

"Now we need to work with China in trying to bring the 2060 as early as possible, and what we are doing with many countries is to say: that is very good but we need clear plans now," she told a press briefing.

Li Shuo, an analyst with Greenpeace Asia, said China's new NDC "missed an opportunity to demonstrate ambition".

"China's decision on its NDC casts a shadow on the global climate effort," he tweeted.

"The planet can't afford this being the last word. Beijing needs to come up with stronger implementation plans to ensure an emission peak before 2025."

China has been accused of sidestepping calls to stop building new coal-fired power plants, the single largest source of carbon pollution.

Nick Mabey, chief executive of the E3G environmental think tank, said China's new emissions plan was virtually "unchanged" from previous promises.

"This lowers other countries' confidence in the delivery of China's deep decarbonisation pathway," he said.

The UN says greenhouse gas emissions must be cut nearly in half by 2030 to keep 1.5C within reach.

This week it said countries' latest pledges put Earth on course to warm 2.7C this century.

Its Emissions Gap report also called on countries to start slashing emissions immediately and to align their net-zero plans with the 1.5C pathway.



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## China submits new climate plan days before COP26 summit

More than 120 heads of state and government will travel to Glasgow to kick off the 13-day meeting, including US President Joe Biden, India's Narendra Modi, French leader Emmanuel Macron and Australia's Scott Morrison.

Xi has not left China during the pandemic and is unlikely to attend.



## Guide to G-20 leaders and why a climate deal is so hard to get



[BYBLOOMBERG NEWS](#)

OCTOBER 30, 2021

8 MINUTE READ

The Group of 20 came into its own during the 2008 financial crisis in order to avoid a global depression. It was a turning point that made clear that big decisions could no longer be taken without the fastest growing economies.

Fast forward to now, and the leaders of the nations that account for 75 percent of global carbon emissions are again being called to arms to avert another catastrophe—a climate one. The G-20 is meeting in Rome this weekend right before COP26 in Glasgow, the United Nations gathering that aims to set specific goals to wean nations off coal and other noxious substances for good.

This time around, the G-20 risks falling short and a draft communiqué seen by Bloomberg News shows just how much is still up in the air. For starters, some key players aren't showing up in person. Last year the entire summit was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The push to consign coal to history and achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century looks out of reach. There is a sense that the old establishment represented by the Group of Seven nations tried to impose itself on the likes of China, Russia and India rather than actively engage them.

The mood of mutual suspicion is hard to bridge without the kind of face-to-face contact that can clear the air. The meeting comes as countries grapple with spiraling energy costs and supply-chain shortages, challenges that are reigniting geopolitical tensions between producers and users.

The chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan and President Joe Biden's inability to set climate goals at home have also cast a shadow on US leadership when most needed.

Here is your guide to the complicated considerations of leaders as they attend, or dial in, to the two-day summit starting October 30.

### Italy | Mario Draghi, The Host

It's a bit of awkward for the man who saved the euro and likes to get things done. The reality is that, as the unelected technocratic leader of a smaller developed economy, he's not in a position to dictate climate terms. Italy itself has yet to make a contribution to the \$100-billion fund aimed at helping poorer countries. As the former head of the European Central Bank, Draghi commands respect and is carving a larger role for himself within Europe's circle of influence—but corralling G-20 holdouts into submission might prove beyond even his abilities. At home he's focused on restoring order to the economy amid speculation his next career move might be to become head of state.

### UK | Boris Johnson, The Convert

In a much-cited 2000 column in the *Daily Telegraph*, the now Conservative prime minister ridiculed "eco doomsters" with such gusto that more than a few skeptics raised an eyebrow when he took to the United Nations General Assembly recently with an impassioned speech about the need for humanity to face its responsibilities to the planet. Johnson is one of the few politicians who can pull off a U-turn and his unflappable optimism has been key to his political success. But his relationship



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with the European Union after Brexit remains difficult—with France it's particularly antagonistic. As host of COP26 he'll need all his powers of persuasion to force a miraculous shift.

### US | Joe Biden, The Letdown

Biden will kick off his European tour with two acts of contrition. On Friday, the devoutly Catholic president will have a private audience with Pope Francis amid pressure from US conservative bishops over his stance on abortion rights. He'll then pull France's Emmanuel Macron aside for a chat to repair an alliance bruised by his role in convincing Australia to cancel a submarine contract with Paris to instead pursue a purchase of nuclear-powered ships from the US or the UK. Biden leaves behind a stalled legislative agenda and faces the disillusionment of many allies whom he had promised "America is back."

### Germany | Angela Merkel, The Departing

It's a passing-of-the-baton moment from the acting chancellor to her successor, finance minister Olaf Scholz, who will also be attending and whom leaders will want to approach. But as the EU's longest-serving leader, Merkel is no ordinary lame duck. The G-20 will miss someone known as a "compromise machine." She remained neutral in the growing US-China standoff and saw the value in staying the course as the main interlocutor with Russian President Vladimir Putin in spite of various provocations. Scholz has no such history of engagement with the Kremlin—and his future coalition partner, the Greens, have been openly hostile to the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline linking Russia and Germany.

### France | Emmanuel Macron, The Humbled

The 43-year-old brings swagger to summits. At the G-7 he hosted in 2019, Macron gave Brazil a dressing down over deforestation in the Amazon. He courted then-US President Donald Trump and swung his arm around Biden at the G-7 this year in the UK, only to be stung by the submarine switch betrayal. Ties with the UK are at a low and some in Europe are uneasy about Macron's ambitions to occupy the regional vacuum left by Merkel. The next six months will see him sucked into a reelection campaign against the far right. The Paris climate agreement was struck in 2015, before Macron came to power. It remains the benchmark, one that Macron will argue must be improved on.

### Canada | Justin Trudeau, The Conflicted

Trudeau recently won a third term but presides over a minority government, one that made many climate pledges yet can't wean itself off oil. Just this month his administration invoked a 44-year-old treaty to stop the US from shutting a pipeline. Reconciling his environmental goals with the country's fundamental reliance on fossil fuels was never easy. But this time around critics will be looking for action, or it will be hard to shake off a sense of hypocrisy that dogs rich countries talking a big green game.



## Guide to G-20 leaders and why a climate deal is so hard to get

### Saudi Arabia | MBS, The Climate-Oil Strategist

The world's largest oil exporter surprised many ahead of climate talks by pledging a net zero goal, showing that Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman wants to be part of the global conversation on climate change even as he aims to keep the kingdom's crude in the energy mix long-term. It's the latest twist from the royal known as MBS, who has eased back into the limelight. The 2018 murder of critic Jamal Khashoggi (which he denied any role in), a crackdown on domestic political opposition and the Yemen war had strained ties with Western allies. Prince Mohammed is defacto ruler but his father, the Saudi king, could opt to lead the delegation remotely. It's unclear still if the crown prince will attend in person.

### The Telling No-Shows | China and Russia

It's hard not to interpret the absence of both Putin and Xi Jinping as a snub in the efforts to reach a new climate deal given their combined clout. Along with the US and India, China and Russia are the worst polluters.

Covid-19 has given both a reason to stay home. Russia just imposed the toughest restrictions for months while Xi hasn't left China in nearly two years. In truth, domestic politics make it imperative for Xi to hang back as he seeks to consolidate power ahead of a Communist Party leadership meeting next year.

Putin will miss the potential for a second in-person meeting with Biden following their summit in Geneva. The energy crunch has given the Russian leader a lever to seek a reprieve on sanctions by offering to boost supplies to gas-starved Europeans. There are, of course, strings attached as he seeks swift approval to begin shipments through the controversial NS2 pipeline that bypasses Ukraine.

### Who else is not going?

Mexico's Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is sending his foreign minister in lieu while South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa is staying put, keeping a close eye on local elections. The coal-dependent nation uses the fossil fuel to generate most of its electricity and while the government is committed to an energy transition it's looking for bigger financial help to carry it out.

Japan's Fumio Kishida will take part virtually as the summit comes during an election where his ruling party is expected to lose seats, but hold on to power with the help of its coalition partner. While his predecessor set the bold target of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050, the plan looks shaky because it depends on restarting most of the country's nuclear reactors, something that frightens a public scarred by the Fukushima disaster a decade ago.

### Is anyone else coming?

#### Turkey | Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Erdogan has one goal in mind: some alone time with Biden to make his case to buy US warplanes. He'd wanted to have that conversation in Rome, but he will likely have to wait for COP26. His presence at the G-20 comes amid frictions with the West after Turkey threatened, and then



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dropped, a call for 10 ambassadors to be expelled from Ankara over their demand a government critic be released. Turkey is also prepping for further military action against US-backed Kurdish forces in Syria. All this will make for uncomfortable conversations.

### **Brazil | Jair Bolsonaro**

The firebrand former army captain is in a tight spot. At home, his popularity has dived amid criticism of his handling of the pandemic and an inflation spike that has eroded income. He faces critics abroad over the Amazon. Latin America's biggest economy also faces 2022 elections with polls showing leftist former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in the lead. Bolsonaro is a contradictory figure, presenting himself both as a climate mediator but also ready to pick up a fight. However, the fact he is skipping COP26 doesn't bode well for the talks.

### **India | Narendra Modi**

Will he or won't he commit India to a net-zero target? India is one of the worst polluters but wants goals that take into account emissions per capita, a metric that plays in its favor given the tremendous size of its population. Modi will also be looking for tangible evidence that more money will come his way if he's to commit (so far the signs aren't encouraging). His other mission is to convince the world that India is open for business even as the full scale of its devastating death toll from Covid may never be known. Under him, Hindu nationalism has gained ground with a rise in religious identity politics that has concerned civil liberty activists.

### **Argentina | Alberto Fernandez**

With midterm elections around the corner and with economic problems piling up, Fernandez will use the G-20 to try to get support for the complex renegotiation the country is undergoing with the International Monetary Fund. Specifically, Fernandez has been seeking other country members to back his proposal to reduce commissions paid for large IMF loans, with the nation owing the Washington-based fund more than \$40 billion. A meeting with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva may take place on the sidelines of the summit.

### **South Korea | Moon Jae-in**

A long-time proponent of reconciliation with North Korea, Moon's final months in office are all about the elusive goal of permanent peace with the regime. In a visit to the Vatican, he'll ask the pope to visit Pyongyang with a view to reviving talks with its ever-unpredictable leader Kim Jong Un.

### **Australia | Scott Morrison**

The prime minister finally unveiled a plan for zero carbon emissions by 2050, but that target is not even going to be passed into law, prompting critics to call it "glossy and slick advertising with no substance." That's probably because Morrison has his sights on elections next year and needs to assuage voters, particularly those in coal-mining communities, that there will be no threat to rural jobs. Morrison, whom Biden referred to as that "fella Down Under" when announcing the submarine deal, might be more interested in working out the mechanics of that agreement with US and UK officials—out of Macron's earshot, naturally.



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### Indonesia | Joko Widodo

The leader of Southeast Asia's largest economy is set to take the reins of the G-20 presidency under the cloud of a stunted national agenda back home as Indonesia recovers from the pandemic. With an ambition of building a brand-new green capital in Borneo, he'll arrive in Italy keen to show support for greening the economy. But a lower-than-expected carbon tax is not a good look, especially when, as the world's top exporter of thermal coal, Indonesia benefits from sky-high prices. **Bloomberg News**



## Pope, Pacific Islands urge action on global warming

Jan Strupczewski, Colin Packham, and Philip Pullella, Reuters

Posted at Oct 29 2021 09:14 PM

ROME - Leaders of the 20 richest countries will acknowledge the existential threat of climate change, a draft communique seen by Reuters shows, as Pope Francis said on Friday the COP26 summit must deliver "concrete hope" by matching words with deeds.

The Group of 20, whose leaders gather on Saturday and Sunday in Rome before heading to Glasgow, Scotland, for the UN gathering, will pledge to take urgent steps to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

While the 2015 Paris Agreement committed signatories to keeping global warming to "well below" 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and preferably to 1.5 degrees, carbon levels in the atmosphere have since grown.

"We commit to tackle the existential challenge of climate change," the G20 draft promised, as people around the world prepared to demonstrate their frustration with politicians.

"...We recognise that the impacts of climate change at 1.5 degrees are much lower than at 2 degrees and that immediate action must be taken to keep 1.5 degrees within reach."

Climate activist Greta Thunberg, who has berated politicians for 30 years of "blah, blah, blah" rather than acting to curb global warming, is among those expected to protest on the streets of the City of London, the British capital's financial heart and home to some of the world's biggest financial firms.

US President Joe Biden will join his counterparts at the G20 meeting after a setback on Thursday when the House of Representatives abandoned plans for a vote on a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, which would have represented the biggest investment in climate action in US history.

Biden had hoped to reach an agreement before COP26, where he wants to present a message that the United States has resumed the fight against global warming.

Pope Francis joined a growing chorus calling for action at COP26, which runs from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12, saying the world's political leaders must give future generations "concrete hope" that they are taking the radical steps needed.

The 84-year-old pope, who will not attend COP26 following surgery earlier this year, called for a "renewed sense of shared responsibility for our world" to spur action, saying that while talks would be tough, they offered an opportunity.

"These crises present us with the need to take decisions, radical decisions that are not always easy," he said, adding: "...Moments of difficulty like these also present opportunities, opportunities that we must not waste."

The pope had an opportunity to raise his climate concerns at a lengthy meeting with Biden in Rome. Both the White House and the Vatican were due to issue statements later.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is hosting COP26, said this week the outcome hangs in the balance.





## Pope, Pacific Islands urge action on global warming

On Friday, Britain moved a step closer to ensuring business aligns with net-zero commitments by becoming the first G20 country to make a set of global voluntary disclosure standards on climate-related risks mandatory for large firms.

Anglo American said it aims to halve its indirect greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 as it bolsters renewable electricity supply in South America and explores ways to better access metals and minerals.

But leaders of Europe's biggest oil and gas companies, among big firms conspicuous by their absence at COP26, said political leaders must make carbon markets more effective and that only governments can effectively curb fossil fuel demand.

### SURVIVAL

The statement from the G20 countries, which are responsible for an estimated 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions, said members acknowledged "the key relevance of achieving global net zero greenhouse gas emissions or carbon neutrality by 2050".

But countries on the climate frontline struggling with rising sea levels want steps taken now.

"We need concrete action now. We cannot wait until 2050, it is a matter of our survival," Anote Tong, a former president of Kiribati and twice a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, said.

UN climate experts say a 2050 deadline is crucial to meet the 1.5 degree limit, but some of the world's biggest polluters say they cannot reach it, with China, by far the largest carbon emitter, [aiming for 2060](#).

In the G20 draft communique, the 2050 date appears in brackets, indicating it is still subject to negotiation.

Current commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions put the planet on track for an average 2.7C temperature rise this century, a UN report said on Tuesday.

Tong has predicted his country of 33 atolls and islands that stand just metres above sea level will likely become uninhabitable in 30 to 60 years' time and Pacific Island leaders said they would demand immediate action in Glasgow, with an initial focus on G20 leaders, on sweeping changes.

"A strong commitment and outcome from the G20 Rome Summit will pave the way for an ambitious and successful COP26," Henry Puna, former Cook Islands prime minister and now secretary of the Pacific Islands Forum, said in a statement.

"We do not have the luxury of time and must join forces urgently and deliver the required ambition at COP26 to safeguard the future of all humankind, and our planet," Puna added.



## Trash and burn: Big brands' new plastic waste plan

October 29, 2021 | 12:16 pm



JAKARTA — The global consumer goods industry's plans for dealing with the vast plastic waste it generates can be seen here in a landfill on the outskirts of Indonesia's capital, where a swarm of excavators tears into stinking mountains of garbage.

These machines are unearthing rubbish to provide fuel to power a nearby cement plant. Discarded bubble wrap, take-out containers and single-use shopping bags have become one of the fastest-growing sources of energy for the world's cement industry.

The Indonesian project, funded in part by Unilever PLC, maker of Dove soap and Hellmann's mayonnaise, is part of a worldwide effort by big multinationals to burn more plastic waste in cement kilns, Reuters has detailed for the first time.

This "fuel" is not only cheap and abundant. It's the centerpiece of a partnership between consumer products giants and cement companies aimed at burnishing their environmental credentials. They're promoting this approach as a win-win for a planet choking on plastic waste. Converting plastic to energy, these companies contend, keeps it out of landfills and oceans while allowing cement plants to move away from burning coal, a major contributor to global warming.

Reuters has identified nine collaborations launched over the last two years between various combinations of consumer goods giants and major cement makers. Four leading sources of plastic packaging are involved: The Coca-Cola Company, Unilever, Nestle S.A. and Colgate-Palmolive Company. On the cement side of the deals are four top producers: Switzerland's Holcim Group, Mexico's Cemex SAB de CV, PT Solusi Bangun Indonesia Tbk (SBI) and Republic Cement & Building Materials, Inc., a company in the Philippines.

These projects span the world, from Costa Rica to the Philippines, El Salvador to India. In Indonesia, for instance, Unilever is partnering with SBI, one of that country's largest cement makers.



## Trash and burn: Big brands' new plastic waste plan

The alliances come as the cement industry — the source of 7% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions — faces rising pressure to reduce these greenhouse gases. Consumer brands, meanwhile, are feeling the heat from lawmakers who are banning or taxing single-use plastic packaging and pushing so-called polluter-pays legislation to make producers bear the costs of its clean up.

Critics say there's little green about burning plastic, which is derived from oil, to make cement. A dozen sources with direct knowledge of the practice, among them scientists, academics and environmentalists, told Reuters that plastic burned in cement kilns emits harmful air emissions and amounts to swapping one dirty fuel for another.

More importantly, environmental groups say, it's a strategy that could potentially undercut efforts spreading globally to boost recycling rates and dramatically slash the production of single-use plastic.

Such thinking is naive, said Axel Pieters, chief executive of Geocycle, the waste-management arm of Holcim Group, one of the world's largest cement makers and partner with Nestle, Unilever and Coca-Cola in plastic-fuel ventures. Mr. Pieters told Reuters that burning plastic in cement kilns is a safe, inexpensive and practical solution that can dispose of huge volumes of this trash quickly. Less than 10% of all the plastic ever made has been recycled, in large part because it's too costly to collect and sort. Plastic production, meanwhile, is projected to double within 20 years.

"Thinking that we recycle waste only, and that we should avoid plastic waste, then you can quote me on this: People believe in fairy tales," Mr. Pieters said.

Unilever would not comment specifically on the Indonesia project. It said in an e-mail that in situations where recycling isn't feasible, it would explore "energy recovery initiatives." That's industry parlance for burning plastic as fuel.

Coca-Cola, Unilever, Colgate, and Nestle did not respond to questions about the environmental and health impacts of burning plastic in cement kilns. The companies said they invest in various initiatives to reduce waste, including boosting recycled content in their packaging and making refillable containers.

Cemex, SBI, Republic Cement and Holcim's Geocycle unit told Reuters their partnerships with consumer goods firms were aimed at addressing the global waste crisis and reducing their dependence on traditional fossil fuels.

Exactly how much plastic waste is being burned in cement kilns globally isn't known. That's because industry statistics typically lump it into a wider category called "alternative fuel" that comprises other garbage, such as scrap wood, old vehicle tires and clothing.

The use of alternative fuel has risen steadily in recent decades and already is the dominant energy source for the cement industry in some European countries. There's no question the amount of plastic within that category has increased and will keep climbing given a worldwide explosion of plastic waste, according to 20 cement industry players interviewed for this report, including company executives, engineers and analysts. Reuters also reviewed data from cement associations, individual countries and analysts that confirmed this trend.



## Trash and burn: Big brands' new plastic waste plan

For example, Geocycle currently uses 2 million tonnes of plastic waste a year as alternative fuel at Holcim plants worldwide, according to Geocycle CEO Mr. Pieters, who said the company intends to increase this to 11 million tonnes by 2040, including through more partnerships with consumer goods companies.

Pieters said the cement industry has the capacity to burn all the plastic waste the world currently produces. The United Nations Environment Programme estimates that figure to be 300 million tonnes annually. That dwarfs the world's plastic recycling capacity, estimated to be 46 million tonnes a year, according to a 2018 estimate by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a global policy forum.

Plastic pollution, meanwhile, is bedeviling communities whose landfills are reaching capacity and despoiling the Earth's wild places. Plastic garbage flowing into the oceans is due to triple to 29 million tonnes a year by 2040, according to a study published last year by the Pew Charitable Trusts. This detritus is endangering wildlife and contaminating the seafood humans consume.

"The cement industry is definitely a solution," Geocycle's Mr. Pieters said.

### TOXIC EMISSIONS

Consumer goods giants are turning to cement firms for help in reducing plastic litter as other initiatives stumble. Reuters reported in July that a set of new "advanced" plastic recycling technologies promoted by big brands and the plastic industry had suffered major setbacks across the world.

Cement-making is one of the world's most energy-intensive businesses. Fuel – mainly coal – is its single-biggest expense, industry executives said. In the 1970s, producers looking to reduce costs began stoking kilns with rubbish such as tires, biomass, sewage sludge – and plastic. Those materials aren't as efficient as coal, but are virtually free. Some local governments even pay cement makers to take this waste.

In Europe, refuse now makes up roughly half the fuel used by the cement industry. In Germany, the bloc's biggest producer, the ratio is 70%, according to 2019 data from the Global Cement & Concrete Association (GCCA), a London-based trade organization. The United States uses 15% alternative fuel in its kilns, according to the Portland Cement Association, a US industry group. Spokesperson Mike Zande said its members have the capacity to catch up with Europe.

While cost-cutting remains the primary driver, the industry in recent years has begun touting its garbage fuel as a way to reduce the "societal problem" of plastic waste, said Ian Riley, CEO of the London-based World Cement Association (WCA), which represents producers in developing countries.

So it was logical that cement makers would team up with consumer goods companies, the largest source of single-use plastic packaging, in the recent partnerships to burn discarded plastic in their kilns.

In emerging markets, big brands sell a slew of food and hygiene products packaged in plastic sachets, typically single-serving portions tailored to the budgets of poor households. Billions of



## Trash and burn: Big brands' new plastic waste plan

these flexible pouches are sold each year. Sachets are nearly impossible to recycle because they're made of layers of different materials laminated together, usually plastic and aluminum, that are difficult to separate.

Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 270 million people, is the second-largest contributor to ocean plastic pollution behind China, partly due to its widespread use of sachets, according to a 2015 study published in the journal *Science*. Plastic garbage can be seen everywhere around Jakarta, the sprawling capital of more than 10 million people. It clogs storm drains, litters its teeming slums and mars its shoreline.

Developing countries have generally welcomed assistance with waste management. Thus Indonesia was a natural location for Unilever's waste-fuel venture with cement maker SBI and the local Jakarta government. At last year's launch, Andono Warih, head of Jakarta's environment service, praised the initiative and expressed hope that it would spark other such collaborations.

The project uses plastic that's already been buried in the region's Bantar Gebang landfill, one of the largest dumps in Asia. Waste excavated by earth-moving equipment is transported to a warehouse at the landfill site. There, it is shredded, sieved and dried into a brown mix resembling manure. That material, known as Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF), is then fed into the kiln at an SBI cement plant in Narogong, just outside Jakarta.

SBI currently uses 20% RDF at that plant, a figure that could increase to 35%, according to Ita Sadono, SBI's business development manager. The operation still relies primarily on coal, she said, but she contends RDF is "significantly helping to reduce plastic waste."

Unilever is helping to fund a second RDF project in Cilacap, an industrial region in Central Java, according to SBI and a 2020 sustainability report by Unilever's local Indonesian unit. The two facilities could send 30,000 tonnes of plastic waste per year to SBI's cement plants, according to a Reuters analysis of data provided by SBI.

Unilever did not respond to detailed questions about these projects. Ms. Sadono said in a text message that Reuters' calculations were "OK," without giving further details.

About two kilometers from SBI's cement plant near Jakarta, Dadan bin Anton, 63, runs a roadside stall selling plastic sachets of soap, washing powder and instant coffee, including brands owned by Unilever. He said he often has trouble breathing and blames the cement plant.

"People here are breathing dust every day," he said.

SBI has invested in mitigation measures to cut dust at its plants, Sadono said. And it isn't clear whether the cement facility has anything to do with Mr. Dadan's burning chest. Jakarta boasts some of the dirtiest air in Asia. Pollutants from industry smokestacks, agricultural fires and auto exhaust routinely blanket the city.

But some scientists say incinerated plastic is a dangerous new ingredient to add to the mix, particularly in developing nations where air-quality rules often are weak and enforcement spotty.

Plastic releases harmful substances like dioxins and furans when burned, said Paul Connett, a retired professor of environmental chemistry and toxicology at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, who has studied the poisonous byproducts of burning waste. If enough of those



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pollutants escape from a cement kiln, they can be hazardous for humans and animals in the surrounding area, Mr. Connett said.

Such fears are overblown, said Claude Lorea, cement director at GCCA, the industry group representing big cement firms including Holcim and Cemex. She said super-heated kilns destroy all toxins resulting from burning any alternative fuel, including plastic and hazardous waste.

But things can go wrong.

In 2014, a cement plant in Austria released hexachlorobenzene (HCB), a highly toxic substance and suspected human carcinogen, after the facility burned industrial waste contaminated with the pollutant. Cheese and milk sourced from cattle raised near that plant in southern Carinthia state were tainted, Austria's health and food safety agency found. And blood samples drawn from area residents also contained HCB, which can damage the nervous system, liver and thyroid.

An investigation commissioned by the state government found multiple failures by local regulators and the cement plant, including that the kiln was not running hot enough to destroy contaminants like HCB.

The Austrian cement maker which operates the plant, w&p Zement GmbH, told Reuters that it had worked to eliminate all the environmental pollution from the incident and that it had provided help to the community such as replacing contaminated animal feed.

Carinthia province spokesperson Gerd Kurath said in an email that the government's continued monitoring of air, soil, and water samples in the area shows that contamination levels have declined.

The cement industry, meanwhile, is heralding waste-to-fuel as a way to fight global warming. That's because burning refuse, including plastic, emits fewer greenhouse gases than coal, the GCCA trade group said.

Burning garbage "reduces our fossil fuel reliance," spokesperson Lorea said. "It's climate neutral."

The European Commission, which sets emission rules in Europe, told Reuters that plastic does emit fewer carbon dioxide emissions than coal but more than natural gas, another fuel used by the cement industry.

The US Environmental Protection Agency, which regulates environmental policy in the world's largest economy, reached a different conclusion. It said in a statement there is no significant climate benefit to be gained from substituting plastic for coal, and that burning this waste in cement kilns can create harmful air pollution that must be monitored.

Measuring plastic's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions against those of coal, the world's dirtiest fossil fuel, is not the benchmark to use if the cement industry is serious about fighting global warming, said Lee Bell, advisor to the International Pollutants Elimination Network, a global coalition working to eliminate toxic pollutants. Reducing the industry's massive carbon emissions, he said, requires a switch to fuels such as green hydrogen, a more expensive but low-polluting fuel produced from water and renewable energy.



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“The cement industry should leap-frog the whole burning-waste paradigm and move to clean fuel,” Mr. Bell said.

The GCCA told Reuters the industry is improving energy efficiency and is considering the use of green hydrogen.

### EVER MORE PLASTIC

While cement plants in industrialized countries are gearing up to burn more plastic, explosive growth is anticipated in the developing world.

China and India together account for 60% of the world’s cement production in facilities whose primary fuel is coal. Over the next decade, these countries have set targets of using alternative fuel to stoke 20% to 30% of their output. If they reached just a 10% threshold, that would equate to burning 63 million tonnes of plastic annually, up from 6 million tonnes now, according to SINTEF, a Norwegian scientific research group. That’s more plastic waste than the United States generates each year.

In 2019, 170 countries agreed to “significantly reduce” their use of plastic by 2030 as part of a United Nations resolution. But that measure is non-binding, and a proposed ban on single-use plastic by 2025 was opposed by several member states, including the United States.

Thus the waste-to-fuel option may well become an unstoppable juggernaut, said Matthias Mersmann, chief technology officer at KHD Humboldt Wedag International AG, a German engineering firm that supplies equipment to cement plants worldwide.

Plastic waste is quickly outstripping countries’ capacity to bury or recycle it. Burning it eliminates large amounts of this material quickly, with little special handling or new facilities required. There are an estimated 3,000 or more cement plants worldwide. All are hungry for fuel.

“There’s only one thing that can hold up and break this trend, and that would be a very strong cut in the production of plastics,” Mr. Mersmann said. “Otherwise, there is nothing that can stop this.”

That momentum has some environmentalists worried, including Sander Defruyt, who heads a plastics initiative at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, a United Kingdom-based nonprofit focused on sustainability. The foundation in 2018 worked out waste-reduction and recycling targets with Coca-Cola, Nestle, Unilever, Colgate-Palmolive and hundreds of other consumer brands.

Mr. Defruyt said the foundation does not support its partner companies’ pivot towards incineration. Burning plastic for cement fuel, he said, is a “quick fix” that risks giving consumer goods companies the green light to continue cranking out single-use plastic and could reduce the urgency to redesign packaging.

“If you can dump everything in a cement kiln, then why would you still care about the problem?” Mr. Defruyt said.

Coca-Cola, Nestle, Unilever, and Colgate-Palmolive said their cement partnerships are just one of several strategies they’re pursuing to address the waste crisis.



## Trash and burn: Big brands' new plastic waste plan

### 'PLASTIC PRAYERS'

In the central England village of Cauldon, residents have complained in recent years to the local council and Britain's environmental regulator about noise, dust and smoke coming from a nearby cement plant owned by Holcim. Those efforts have failed to derail the expansion of that facility to burn more plastic.

When completed next year, alternative fuel, including "non-recyclable" plastics such as potato chip bags, will account for up to 85% of the facility's fuel, according to planning documents filed with local authorities on behalf of Geocycle, which will manage the project.

The move will recover energy from plastic waste otherwise destined for landfills, the documents said.

Cauldon resident Lucy Ford, 42, said the cement maker's plans have only added to some villagers' fears about emissions. "They say they are the answer to all of our plastic prayers," she said. "I don't like the idea of it."

Geocycle's Mr. Pieters said he understood the community's concerns. He said the company complies with all local regulations and that it carefully monitors the plant's emissions, which would be lowered by the upgrades.

Britain's Environment Agency said in an e-mail that it took all complaints about the plant seriously. It said the Cauldon facility has a permit to burn waste and that the plant has to comply with its regulations.

Back in Indonesia, Unilever and SBI told Reuters that using plastic for energy was preferable to leaving it in a landfill.

Local environmentalists say they are alarmed that cement kilns could be shaping up as the fix for a nation flooded with plastic waste.

It would allow consumer brands to continue business as usual, while adding to Indonesia's air-quality woes, said Yobel Novian Putra, an advocate with the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, a coalition of groups working to eliminate waste.

"It's like moving the landfill from the ground to the sky," Mr. Putra said. — **Joe Brock, Yuddy Cahya Budiman, John Geddie and Valerie Volcovici/Reuters**





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MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**PROCLAMATION NO. 1236**

**DECLARING THE REGULAR HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL (WORKING/NON-WORKING) DAYS FOR THE YEAR 2022**

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act (RA) No. 9492 dated 24 July 2007 amended Section 26, Chapter 7, Book I of Executive Order (EO) No. 292, also known as the Administrative Code of 1987, by declaring certain days (specific or movable) as special or regular holidays;

**WHEREAS**, RA No. 9849 dated 11 December 2009 provides that the Eidul Adha shall be celebrated as a national holiday;

**WHEREAS**, on 01 February 2022, Chinese nationals all over the world will celebrate Spring Festival, popularly known as the Chinese New Year, which is one of the most revered and festive events celebrated not only in China but also in the Philippines, and such date may be declared as a special (non-working) day without detriment to public interest;

**WHEREAS**, on 25 February 2022, the country will commemorate the 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution, which restored democracy and ushered political, social, and economic reforms in the country;

**WHEREAS**, Black Saturday, which falls on 16 April 2022, has been traditionally declared a special (non-working) day throughout the country, the observance of Holy Week being one of the most cherished traditions of our predominantly Catholic people;

**WHEREAS**, RA No. 10966 dated 28 December 2017 provides that December 8 of every year shall be celebrated as a special non-working holiday in the entire country to commemorate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary; and

**WHEREAS**, for the country to recover from the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need to encourage economic productivity by, among others, minimizing work disruption and commemorating some special holidays as special (working) days instead;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution as President of the Philippines, do hereby declare:

**SECTION 1.** The following regular holidays and special days for the year 2022 shall be observed in the country:

**A. Regular Holidays**

New Year's Day	-	1	January (Saturday)
Araw ng Kagitingan	-	9	April (Saturday)



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Maundy Thursday	-	14	April
Good Friday	-	15	April
Labor Day	-	1	May (Sunday)
Independence Day	-	12	June (Sunday)
National Heroes Day	-	29	August (Last Monday of August)
Bonifacio Day	-	30	November (Wednesday)
Christmas Day	-	25	December (Sunday)
Rizal Day	-	30	December (Friday)

**B. Special (Non-Working) Days**

Chinese New Year	-	1	February (Tuesday)
EDSA People Power Revolution Anniversary	-	25	February (Friday)
Black Saturday	-	16	April
Ninoy Aquino Day	-	21	August (Sunday)
All Saints' Day	-	1	November (Tuesday)
Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary	-	8	December (Thursday)

**C. Special (Working) Days**

All Souls' Day	-	2	November (Wednesday)
Christmas Eve	-	24	December (Saturday)
Last Day of the Year	-	31	December (Saturday)

**SECTION 2.** The proclamations declaring national holidays for the observance of Eidul Fitr and Eidul Adha shall hereafter be issued after the approximate dates of the Islamic holidays have been determined in accordance with the Islamic calendar (Hijra) or the lunar calendar, or upon Islamic astronomical calculations, whichever is possible or convenient. To this end, the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos shall recommend to the Office of the President the actual dates on which these holidays shall respectively fall.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Labor and Employment shall promulgate the implementing guidelines for this Proclamation.

**SECTION 4.** This Proclamation shall take effect immediately.

**SECTION 5.** This Proclamation shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty One.

By the President:

  
**SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA**  
Executive Secretary





30 October 2021, Saturday



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## Philippines' COVID count by up 4,043 new cases

(Philstar.com)

- October 29, 2021 - 4:01pm



Vendors prepare bouquets and other flower arrangements at the Dangwa Flower Market in Manila on Oct. 26, 2021 for people who will visit their departed loved ones at various cemeteries before All Souls' Day.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Friday reported 4,043 new coronavirus cases, pushing the country's caseload to 2,779,943.

DOH said all laboratories submitted their COVID-19 testing results. Earlier today, the agency also added 3,439 cases from September 29 to October 18.

- **Active cases:** 50,630 or 1.8% of the total
- **Deaths:** 44, pushing the count to 42,621
- **Recoveries:** 3,224 bringing the number to 2,686,692

### NCR stays at Alert Level 3

• Metro Manila will remain under Alert Level 3 of the pilot granular lockdown until [November 14](#), the Palace announced. More areas outside the capital region are also placed under different alert levels.

• The pandemic task force also approved increasing passenger capacity in public transportation from 70% to 100% starting [November 4](#).



## Philippines' COVID count by up 4,043 new cases

Government touted a "[major milestone](#)" for the Philippines' inoculation efforts as vaccine doses delivered to the country surpassed 100 million.

- Beyond Metro Manila, local governments are bringing COVID-19 vaccination efforts to [Barangay levels](#) to reach more of the population, according to the League of Provinces of the Philippines.



## PH logs 3.2K new Covid-19 recoveries

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz October 29, 2021, 5:50 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) reported that another 3,224 individuals have beaten the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) as of Friday.

This brought the total number of recoveries to 2,686,692 or 96.6 percent of all known infections in the country, based on the latest Covid-19 bulletin of the DOH.

Another 4,043 new Covid-19 cases were also recorded, bringing the number of active cases to 50,630 or 1.8 percent of all infections -- slightly up from Thursday's 49,835.

Of these active cases, 74.1 percent have mild symptoms, followed by those with moderate symptoms at 10.71 percent, the asymptomatic at 6.5 percent, those with severe symptoms at 6.1 percent, and those in critical condition at 2.6 percent.

There were 44 new deaths recorded, bringing the country's total to 42,621 or 1.53 percent of all reported Covid-19 cases in the country.

According to the latest data on Covid-19 testing, 52,064 tests were administered on Wednesday with a positivity rate of 8.6 percent.

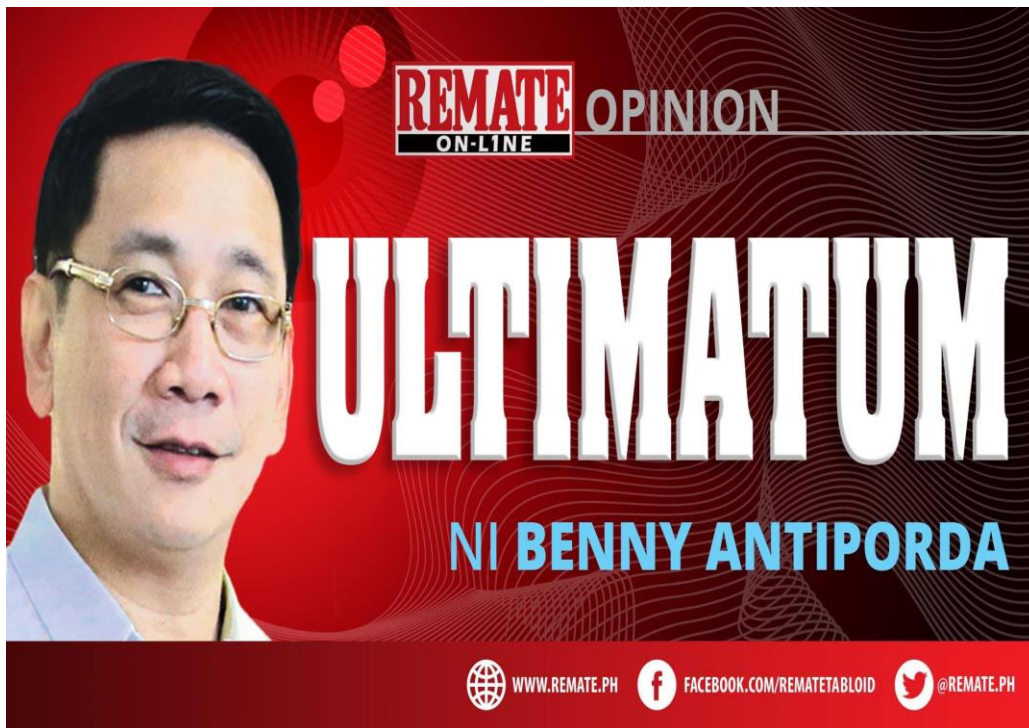
Nationwide, the amount of available health care facilities for Covid-19 cases remain high.

To date, there are 4,100 beds at intensive care units (ICU) at 50 percent occupancy, 20,800 isolation beds at 37 percent occupancy, 14,500 ward beds at 34 percent occupancy, and there are 3,200 ventilators at 34 percent utilization.

In Metro Manila alone, there are 1,400 ICU beds at 41 percent occupancy, 4,900 isolation beds at 31 percent occupancy, 4,100 ward beds at 31 percent occupancy, and 1,000 ventilators at 30 percent utilization. (PNA)



## USA KULELAT SA 194 BANSA VS COVID-19



October 29, 2021 @ 11:07 AM 20 hours ago

HINDI maliwanag kung ano ang nais palabasin ng diaryong online na Bloomberg sa paglalarawan ng Pilipinas na pinakakulelat o pinakamasama sa 53 bansang sinuri nito sa giyera sa coronavirus disease-19 kamakalawa.

Nakapagtataka ring hindi nito inilalarawan ang United States bilang pinakakulelat o pinakamasama sa 194 bansa sa nasabing giyera.

Tanong tuloy ng ating Uzi: Sadya bang ibinabaling ng Bloomberg sa mata ng mundo sa iba ang pagiging kulelat ng USA sa 194 bansa palibhasa sa New York ito nakabase?

O nagtatahi lang ito ng kasinungalingan para masira ang imahe ng Pilipinas at mapasaya ang mga kritiko ng kasalukuyang pamahalaan?

USA, PINAKAKULELAT NA, PINAKAKATAKOT PA

Kung titingnan ang nagaganap sa USA at Pilipinas, batay sa ulat ng virusncov.com, hindi lang pinakakulelat ang USA kundi pinakakatakot ito sa lahat ng bansa sa pananalasa ng COVID-19.

Heto ang ulat sa COVID-19 ng virusncov.com

USA – Oktubre 12 – 108,980 nagkasakit, 1,036 patay; Okt. 13 – 126,315 nagkasakit, 3,184 patay; Okt. 14 – 114,377 nagkasakit, 2,045 patay; Okt. 15 – 91,243 nagkasakit, 2,139 patay; Okt. 16 – 97,782 nagkasakit, 1,901 patay; Okt. 17 – 36,656 nagkasakit, 510 patay; Okt. 18 – 19,273 nagkasakit, 298 patay; Okt. 19 – 117,058 nagkasakit, 1,873 patay; Okt. 20 – 85,996 nagkasakit, 2,266 patay; Okt. 21 – 99,631 nagkasakit,



## USA KULELAT SA 194 BANSA VS COVID-19

3,128 patay; Okt. 22 – 82,009 nagkasakit, 1,920 patay; Okt. 23 – 80,903 nagkasakit, 1,846 patay; Okt. 24 – 30,331 nagkasakit, 494 patay; Okt. 25 – 20,282 nagkasakit, 151 patay; Okt. 26 – 113,701 nagkasakit, 1,629 patay; Okt. 27 – 73,607 nagkasakit, 2,085 patay; Okt. 28 – 68,979 nagkasakit, 1,525 patay.

Pilipinas – Okt. 12 – 8,558 nagkasakit, 236 patay; Okt. 13 – 7,083 nagkasakit, 173 patay; Okt. 14 – 7,777 nagkasakit, 152 patay; Okt. 15 – 7,560 nagkasakit, 203 patay; Okt. 16 – 1,717 nagkasakit, 156 patay; Okt. 17 – 6,859 nagkasakit, 95 patay; Okt. 18 – 6,918 nagkasakit, 86 patay; Okt. 19 – 4,491 nagkasakit, 211 patay; Okt. 20 – 3,634 nagkasakit, 5 patay; Okt. 21 – 4,742 nagkasakit, 260 patay; Okt. 22 – 5,778 nagkasakit, 283 patay; Okt. 23 – 5,778 nagkasakit, 65 patay; Okt. 24 – 5,256 nagkasakit, 208 patay; Okt. 26 – 4,384 nagkasakit, 149 patay; Okt. 27 – 4,365 nagkasakit, 135 patay; at Okt. 28 – 3,177 nagkasakit, 271 patay.

Sa kabuuan, mga Bro, may 46,581,977 nang nagkasakit at 761,709 patay sa USA kumpara sa 2,768,849 nagkasakit at 42,348 patay Pilipinas sa buong panahon ng pandemya hanggang kahapon.

Ang USA ang may pinakamaraming may kasong COVID at patay sa buong mundo.

Ano ngayon ang masasabi ng Bloomberg at mga kritiko ng pamahalaang Duterte na nagsasaya sa ulat ng nasabing pahayagan?

ooo

Anomang reklamo o puna, iparating lang sa [www.remate.ph](http://www.remate.ph) o i-text sa 09214303333



30 OCTOBER 2021, Saturday



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
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



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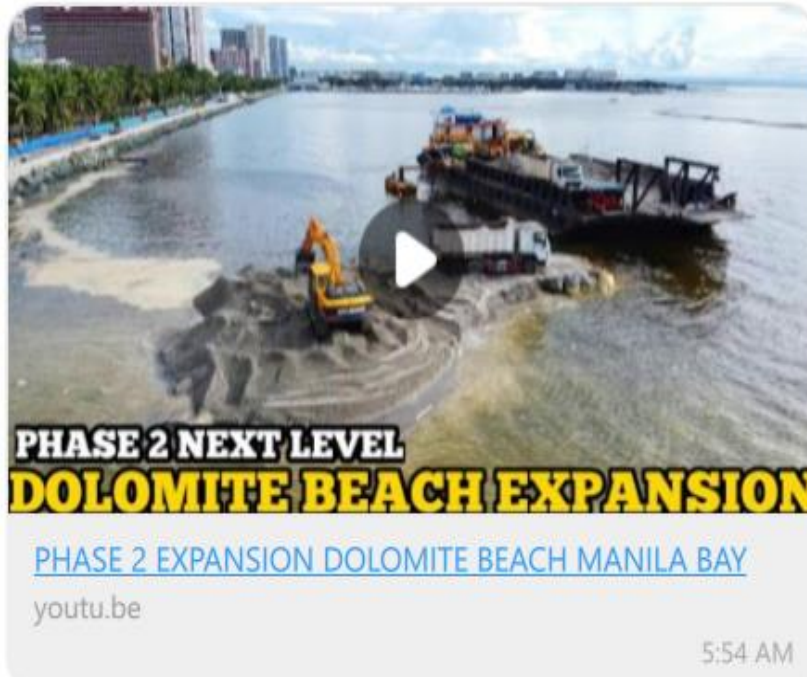
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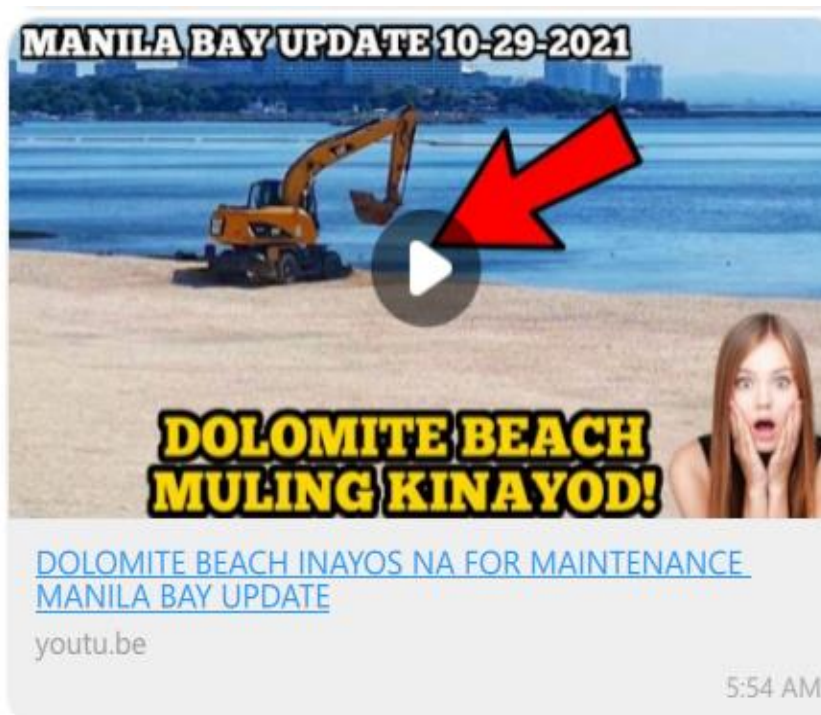
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