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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cimatu orders LGUs to rehabilitate open dumpsites

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by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has called on all local government units (LGUs) in the country to rehabilitate their open dumpsites that have been ordered closed by the agency in a bid to prevent negative impacts and risks to the environment.

DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu said on Saturday that LGUs should come up with a safe closure and rehabilitation plan (SCRP), which is a requirement after the closure of the open dumpsites in their area of jurisdiction.

“Closing the dumpsite is just the first step. Your responsibility doesn’t end there. You (LGUs) have to proactively implement rehabilitation because it is a requirement for closure,” he said, adding that they must also accomplish the rehabilitation projects indicated in their SCRPs.

In May 2021, DENR completed the closure of 335 open dumpsites in the country, in line with Cimatu’s directive to implement the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Cimatu cited as an example the municipality of Sta. Ana in Pampanga for managing to clear its open dumpsite of all waste in September. This came after closure order was issued to the municipal government after it turned its materials recovery facility or MRF into an open dumpsite.

The municipal government even allocated P9.5 million for the clearing of the MRF, where about 20,096.28 tons or 1,100 truckloads of waste were disposed at the Metro Clark Waste Management Corporation Sanitary Landfill.



Cimatu sa LGUs: Open dumpsites, i-rehabilitate



October 30, 2021 @ 3:29 PM 15 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa lahat ng local government units (LGUs) sa bansa na i-rehabilitate ang mga open dumpsites na ipinasara na ng ahensya upang maiwasan ang anumang negatibong epekto nito sa kalikasan.

Sinabi ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu nitong Sabado na kailangang magkaroon ang LGUs ng safe closure and rehabilitation plan (SCRP), na kinakailangan matapos maipasara ang open dumpsites sa kanilang nasasakupan.

“Closing the dumpsite is just the first step. Your responsibility doesn’t end there. You (LGUs) have to proactively implement rehabilitation because it is a requirement for closure,” paliwanag niya.

Nitong Mayo 2021, nakumpleto ng DENR ang pagpapasara ng 335 open dumpsites sa bansa, alinsunod sa direktiba ni Cimatu na ipatupad ang Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Nabanggit ni Cimatu ang munisipalidad ng Sta. Ana sa Pampanga bilang halimbawa ng lugar na maayos na natanggal ang lahat ng basura sa open dumpsite nito sa buwan ng Setyembre. Ito ay kasunod ng closure order na inilabas ng municipal government matapos gawing open dumpsite ang isang materials recovery facility o MRF.

Naglaan din ang munisipalidad ng P9.5 milyon sa pagsasaayos ng MRF, kung saan 20,096.28 tonelada o 1,100 trak ng basura ang naitapon sa Metro Clark Waste Management Corporation Sanitary Landfill. **RNT/SA**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/cimatu-sa-lgus-open-dumpsites-i-rehabilitate/>



Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach sarado ngayong long weekend

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 30 2021 09:45 AM

MAYNILA— Walang makapasok Sabado sa loob ng Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach matapos itong isara hanggang Nobyembre 3 para iwas siksikan ngayong long weekend.

Nilagyan na ng mga pulis ng yellow caution tape ang entrance ng beach para hindi na makapasok pa ang mga tao.

Maraming nasa Baywalk para mag-exercise at mag-bike pero pinapaalis rin sila ng mga pulis.

Sa kabila ng pagsasara ng beach, may mga nagpapakuha pa rin ng picture pero sa labas na lamang ng gate o sa kalsada na ng Roxas Boulevard.

Ibang-iba ang sitwasyon ngayong Sabado kumpara noong nakaraang weekend.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), umabot sa 120,000 ang mga bumisita sa Dolomite Beach nitong Linggo lang kaya hindi na nasunod ang mga health protocol.

Dahil sa insidenteng iyon, ipinagbawal na ang mga bata edad 11 years old pababa na makapasok sa artificial beach. Napagdesisyunan rin na isara muna ang naturang atraksyon ng anim na araw ngayong Undas.

- TeleRadyo 30 Oktubre 2021

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/10/30/21/dolomite-beach-sarado-ngayong-long-weekend?fbclid=IwAR3nSHYWUMg3ApsLXqlg3a6PqvVjsnGTzWzqPXjHaWW2LBEOK2fcEfzqVbU>

Strong enforcement, halt to destruction needed to reverse decades of neglect of Upper Marikina watershed

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#)(Philstar.com) - October 30, 2021 - 10:30am



A forest ranger opens a checkpoint inside the reforestation area.
[Philstar.com/EC Toledo](#)

RIZAL, Philippines — Months before Masungi Georeserve Foundation forest rangers were shot in July, tension had already been in the air.

Men wearing bonnets entered a rangers' station and threatened an employee's partner with a gun last May. Five days later, park rangers heard gunshots while tending to a patch of land inside the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

A few days before the shooting incident, cameras used to monitor illegal activities in the area were stolen.

Policarpio Olalia, a Masungi ranger stationed near the area where private resorts have mushroomed, couldn't help but get nervous.

"I was told, 'just go home, don't work here or else your boss will find you stinking and surrounded by flies,'" he said in an interview, two days before colleagues Kukan and Melvin were shot.

While Masungi has been successful in raising public awareness about the dangers its workers and the protected area have faced, threats continue to persist.

The foundation's reforestation manager received a text message in August which read: "If you don't leave Masungi or if you cause trouble, we'll go after your girlfriend. A pity, she's beautiful."

In September, he received another warning: "I thought you're leaving Masungi. You're really testing our patience. Remember, we know your weakness!"

For eight consecutive years, the Philippines has the ignominious reputation of being the worst place in Asia for land and environment defenders, according to a Global Witness report.

An international NGO dedicated to a more sustainable, just and equal planet, Global Witness has been gathering data on attacks against land and environmental defenders since 2012. Last year, it recorded 29 killings in the Philippines, over half of which were directly linked to people's opposition to mining, logging and dam projects.

‘Late’ proclamation

The Upper Marikina watershed was designated as a reservation in 1904 by virtue of a US colonial executive order issued by Governor General Luke Edward Wright.



This undated handout photo shows resorts built inside the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape. Masungi Georeserve

But the Philippine government only declared it a protected area in 2011 through Proclamation 296, two years after Typhoon Ondoy inundated Marikina.’

The proclamation means the watershed should be free from destructive human exploitation. But by the time it was issued, structures had long been set up, while quarry companies had been given rights to operate in the area.

This “late” proclamation is making things complicated, said Executive Director Nilo Tamera of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Calabarzon.

“The problem is that prior to the proclamation as protected landscape in 2011 and legislation in 2018 (Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System Act), there were tenurial instruments issued there,” Tamera said.

In 2014, there were over 1,300 households of tenured migrants, or those who had been occupying a portion of the protected area for five years before the declaration. Meanwhile, there were more than 2,000 non-tenured migrants.

“So when Masungi began their reforestation efforts, there were already built-up areas there,” said Aida Ceniza, UMRBPL assistant protected area superintendent.

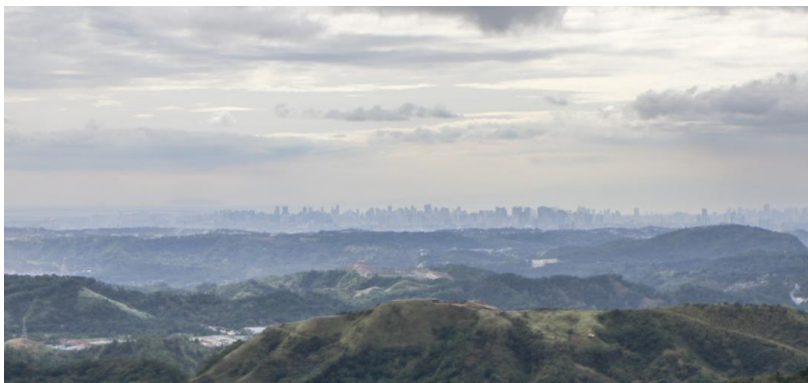
In July, DENR Calabarzon said it had issued 80 show-cause orders and 43 cease-and-desist orders to people illegally occupying portions of the watershed, including owners of houses constructed along river easement and of resorts, retreat centers and piggeries.

This is part of the inventory of facilities within the protected area. RA 11038 states that an inventory of structures such as roads and buildings within the protected area shall be conducted within 60 days from the effectivity of the law, which was passed in 2018.

Quarry firms

Among the biggest and constant threats to the watershed are quarrying and mineral extraction. There are three Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) within the protected area held by two firms Quarry Rock Group, Inc. and Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation. The MPSAs cover around 1,100 hectares of forestland in the towns of Baras and Tanay.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Calabarzon said the contract areas under the three MPSA were “established to be embraced by private rights.”



Mountains in Rizal and the skyline of Metro Manila are seen in this February 7, 2021 photo. Philstar.com/EC Toledo

It cited proclamations signed by former presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Benigno Aquino III stating that the watershed reservation is subject to the operations of previous proclamations and property rights.

MGB Calabarzon also said the MPSA contractors were granted clearances to operate because the contract areas were segregated from the Marikina watershed and were opened to exploitation under a Marcos-era decree.

The segregated areas have since passed into private ownership.

MGB said the MPSAs are in “non-operating status” and have approved Care and Maintenance Programs, which are implemented in cases of voluntary stoppage or suspension.

There are also 24 existing and valid MPSAs within Rizal that are outside of the UMRBPL. Although outside of the protected area, these quarry companies contribute to the degradation of forest lands that form part of the watershed, according to the Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM).

In March, the Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition—a network of over 60 groups, including Masungi—urged the Duterte administration to rescind all MPSAs to halt destructive activities in the area.

Weak enforcement

Masungi Georeserve Foundation, a private entity, is planting and maintaining trees in the protected area at no cost to the government in a bid to heal the watershed under the agreement with DENR.



This undated handout photo shows dead trees inside the protected area after the clearing of forest lands. Masungi Georeserve

The department, meanwhile, is in charge of ejecting illegal occupants from the project site and canceling tenurial instruments with violations or those that had been fraudulently issued.

But the poor enforcement of environmental laws, lack of resources and neglect are enabling illegal activities and allowing impunity to prevail not only in the Upper Marikina watershed but also in other protected areas across the archipelago.

Tamoria acknowledged that the environment department is “very weak” on enforcement.

Masungi employees said serious and swift interventions are needed if we are to save what is left of the Upper Marikina watershed. But for an area where the dangers are clear and present, the most urgent demand of workers is additional security assistance.

“For rangers like us, we hope for protection from the government so we can conserve and save the watershed,” Policarpio said.

The foundation also asked the DENR to assign a counterpart project manager for an urgent and effective response to any illegal and violent activities.

Another problem plaguing conservation efforts in the country is the lack of warm bodies to guard the protected areas. Masungi employs over a hundred forest rangers, mostly from surrounding upland communities, but they are not enough to guard the vast reforestation site, where many parts are still hard to reach.

According to the DENR, the ideal ratio is one ranger for every 500 hectares of forestland. But there is only one guard per 4,000 hectares of protected area in the country—an area the size of 1,619 football fields.

Proposed bureau

The proposed Environmental Protection Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) under DENR is seeking to address the problem with enforcement of environmental laws and the lack of manpower.



A forest ranger opens a checkpoint inside the reforestation area. Philstar.com/EC Toledo

House Bill 6973 filed by Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda (Antique) gives EPEB the power to issue cease-and-desist orders on its own and order the removal of illegal structures as well.

It also seeks to empower rangers to carry firearms for enforcement operations and personal security, a proposal that environmental groups say could lead to abuse. Masungi workers do not carry firearms.

“DENR is the primary agency for conservation, development, utilization and protection. The enforcement is subsumed. It’s good our Secretary [Roy Cimatu] came from an enforcement agency being the former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines,” said Tamoria, who was the former executive director of the agency’s Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force.

In a letter to Masungi, Tamoria recommended that the foundation’s rangers be deputized as environment and natural resource officers to give them authority to enforce laws.



But for Billie Dumaliang, Masungi trustee, the cure to the watershed's problems is so simple if only state actors do their job.

"They just need to implement the law. It's already there. They need political will to implement the law without fear nor favor," she said."

Billie Dumaliang

Trustee and Advocacy Officer of Masungi

Taking care of nature in peace

Olalia used to make a living by cutting down trees in Quezon province. The flash floods and landslides triggered by Tropical Depression Winnie, which swamped his hometown Real as well as neighboring Infanta and General Nakar and killed more than 1,500 people in 2004, forced him to move to neighboring Rizal.

But due to the lack of employment opportunities in his new home, he turned to charcoal making. Then, in 2011, he joined Masungi as a ranger—a move that made him realize the significance of taking care of the environment.

"When I became a ranger, I told myself that this was an opportunity to atone for my sins. I realized the importance of planting trees when I joined Masungi," the 55-year-old ranger said. He added that a lot has changed since the start of reforestation efforts there.

To prevent another flooding event similar to Typhoon Ulysses, the DENR has begun dredging activities in Marikina River. The agency is also planning to plant bamboo trees on restored riverbanks to prevent erosion and siltation.

Equally important is reforesting denuded areas and conserving remaining forests in the UMRBPL, which will prevent water from pouring unimpeded to low-lying areas.

Aside from serving as flood control and water filtration, watersheds such as the Upper Marikina also act as carbon sinks. Carbon sinks are places that absorb carbon from the atmosphere, which play a vital role in keeping the levels of heat-trapping carbon dioxide at manageable levels.

Masungi estimates that the protected area currently stores 160,000 tons of carbon, equivalent to 66 million gallons of gasoline consumed. Once it is fully restored, the area is expected to sequester almost 160,000 tons of carbon.

The project site is still a grassland, which is the second stage of forest succession. It will take many years and a lot of effort to keep the area undisturbed to aid its healing and turn it into a secondary forest.

Olalia finds joy in taking care of trees and plans to do so until age catches up with him.

But until the government provides them additional security assistance and support, and strengthens the implementation of laws, Olalia, his colleagues Kukan and Melvin, and hundreds of Masungi employees will be in danger.

And the watershed they are protecting will stay vulnerable, affecting millions of people downstream, in the face of a climate crisis.

This story was produced in collaboration with the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, with the support of Internews' Earth Journalism Network and Asian Center for Journalism.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/10/30/2137554/strong-enforcement-halt-destruction-needed-reverse-decades-neglect-upper-marikina-watershed/amp/>



Environment, social risk management framework for banks issued by BSP

[Lawrence Agcaoili](#) - The Philippine Star October 31, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Banks and other financial institutions must integrate environmental and social risks in their enterprise-wide risk management frameworks, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said the Monetary Board has approved the amendments to the Manual of Regulation for Banks (MORB) on sustainable finance framework incorporating the guidelines on the integration of environmental and social risks.

Diokno issued Circular 1128 directing banks to institutionalize the adoption of sustainability principles including those covering environmental and social risk areas as part of the promotion of the long-term financial interest and ensuring that it has beneficial influence on the economy.

The board of directors of Philippine banks and management committees of foreign banks are required to set strategic environmental and social objectives, approve the risk appetite on specific risk areas that the bank is willing and capable to manage, and ensure that material risks are considered in the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP).

Banks and financial institutions, Diokno said, are mandated to monitor the progress of banks in meeting their environmental and social strategic objectives and targets as well as institutionalize a capacity building program to equip them in identifying, measuring, monitoring, and controlling risks.

The BSP said banks should also consider environmental and social risks in defining credit risk appetite including type of loan, location of borrower, project and collateral and industry of the borrower.

“A bank shall consider environmental and social factors in defining its credit strategy aligned with the objectives set out by the board of directors. The bank is expected to review the composition of the loan portfolio, which may have existing exposures in markets, sectors, or geographic areas vulnerable to material environmental and social risks,” Diokno said.

The BSP chief pointed out results of stress testing and scenario analysis should be considered in setting credit strategy and risk appetite as banks should be sensitive to potential changes in the business environment and promptly respond to environmental and social risks in their loan portfolio.

Likewise, the central bank added banks could conduct site visits or validation review on the actual use of loan proceeds to ensure the credit granted was used for purposes applied for and consistent with their assessment on environmental and social risks.

Banks, the BSP said, should also adopt transition or deleveraging strategies for lending to activities or projects with high environmental and social risks, aligned with their strategic objectives and risk appetites.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/10/31/2137876/environment-social-risk-management-framework-banks-issued-bsp>

Lacson: Gov't should encourage mining, as long as firms are 'responsible enough'

Katrina Domingo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 31 2021 12:48 AM



A rock sample showing quartz crystals is shown at the Mining Philippines Conference at the Sofitel Hotel in Pasay city on September 11, 2019. *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/File*

MANILA—Partido para sa Demokratikong Reporma standard-bearer Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Saturday said the national government "should encourage" mining as an industry, provided that companies are "responsible enough" conducting business.

While several environmentalists have opposed mining operations, problems in the industry have been brought about by small-scale firms that disregard the proper disposal of waste from their operations, the presidential candidate alleged.

"We should encourage . . . They are just lying underneath the ground," Lacson said in an online forum put together by Signal TV and FINEX, when asked about his stance on mining should he win the 2022 presidential elections.

"Ang problema (The problem is) small-scale mining is so abused . . . It involves corruption. Ang (The) big companies, responsible enough."

In 2012, President Benigno Aquino III issued Executive Order 79 that suspended applications for mineral contracts in protected areas, prime agricultural lands, tourism development areas, and other critical places such as island ecosystems, among others.

In April, President Rodrigo Duterte lifted a nearly 9-year moratorium on new mining agreements, saying the Philippines has tapped "less than 5 percent of its mineral resources endowment to date."

Earlier this month, several anti-mining groups urged Duterte to recall his decision re-allowing new mining agreements, noting that mining communities have been burdened with the environmental, health and social costs the industry entails.

The mining industry has contributed 0.5 percent or P22.5 billion to the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter of 2021, data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) showed.

CORRUPTION LINKED TO MINING WOES

Lacson said corruption in government must be eradicated for the Philippines to have a "responsible" mining industry.

If government addresses corruption, "50 percent of the country's problems will be gone," he said.



Should he be elected, Lacson said he would automate government records and transactions, and push for a law that would exempt public officials from being covered by the Bank Secrecy Law.

"Every Congress, fina-file ko 'yung bill . . . Unfortunately, hindi lumalabas ng committee . . . Every Congress hindi nakakapasa," he said.

(I file the bill every Congress . . . Unfortunately, it doesn't get past the committee . . . It is not passed every Congress.)

The next administration should push to "reinvent our government," Lacson added.

"It is time for the government to really treat the business sector as partners in progress instead of competitors," he said.

"Overregulation, when it goes beyond our competition policy, has no place in modern and civilized society especially at a time when we need to encourage foreign investments and attract more capital inflow in the Philippines."

The Reporma standard bearer, however, said he is not keen on pushing to amend the Constitution to adjust the current 40-percent cap on foreign investments in every business in the country.

"It's like a gripo (faucet). Once you open it, hindi mo na alam ilang amount ng tubig lalabas (You don't know how much water will come out," he said.

"Easy to say we will only touch on economic provisions pero kapag nandiyan na (but if it's realized) it is possible na political provisions, term limits, would be included," he said.

"Palagay ko mga kababayan natin ayaw nito."

(I think our countrymen are not in favor of this.)



World Migratory Bird Day 2021: Understanding the vanishing migratory birds

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA OCTOBER 31, 2021



Hundreds of migratory black-winged stilts escape the cold winter months in Europe and enjoy the warm weather in Canare Lake in Victoria, Tarlac.

Birds travel thousands of kilometers across oceans and continents to escape the cold winter and move to warmer areas in search of food for survival and to breed.

In the Philippines, this natural phenomenon happens between the months of September to April when flocks of birds start arriving in September.

They find a suitable place to feed and roost, and leave in March or April the following year to return to their place of origin when the temperature becomes tolerable.

Global campaign

The Convention on Migratory Species and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds on October 26, 2017, announced an innovative partnership to increase awareness of the plight of migratory birds around the world.

It put together two of the world's largest bird education campaigns—the International Migratory Bird Day and World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)—to strengthen the global recognition and appreciation of migratory birds and highlight the urgent need for their conservation.

Hence, starting in 2018, the new joint campaign adopted the single name of “World Migratory Bird Day.” Major events to celebrate the day are organized twice a year, on the second Saturday in May and in October.

This year's theme, “Sing, Fly, Soar—Like A Bird!,” focused on the phenomena of “bird song” and “bird flight” to inspire and connect people of all ages around the globe in their shared desire to protect and celebrate migratory birds.

Seabird forum

In the Philippines, a few days following the WMBD celebration on October 9, the National Seabird Forum and Action Planning Workshop was conducted from October 13 to 15.

The three-day event was organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau, Tubbataha Management Office, Isla Biodiversity Conservation, Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines, Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., and Wetlands International Philippines.



Supported by the WWF Dr. Lew Young Grant, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Small Grants Fund, and the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the forum brought together 110 participants from government agencies, the academe, seabird conservation practitioners, site managers and seabird enthusiasts in the country and in other Southeast Asian countries.

Highlighting seabirds

The event highlighted seabirds as a very different species from other birds.

They are highly pelagic, spending most of their life in the open ocean and visiting land only to breed and rear their young.

According to the ACB, there are 34 species of known seabirds in the Philippines, 20 of them are regularly occurring and the rest are accidental sightings.

During the event, seabird specialist Arne Jensen, said there are 120 islets, rocks and outcroppings spread throughout the Philippine archipelago that are potential or known breeding or roosting habitats for seabirds.

Seabird habitats, status

Site presentations highlighted the status of seabirds and habitats, threats, data gaps and challenges, and current monitoring and conservation efforts.

He said that sadly there is no regular monitoring scheme in most of the known seabird sites in the Philippines which bird enthusiasts visited only occasionally.

This calls for training of field staff and birders on seabird identification and monitoring.

Among the threats identified in most of the sites—include marine litter, human intrusion and exploitation (e.g., egg collection, tourism, shipping), land conversion, presence of predators and other invasive species (e.g., rats, cats, monitor lizard), and climate change.

Plan of action

The participants in the forum agreed to craft a five-year National Seabird Action Plan, which includes strategies on policy formulation; management and enforcement; research and monitoring; communication, education and public awareness; knowledge management; and capacity building.

The participants agreed to gather baseline data in 100 of the 120 known or potential breeding sites, monitor priority sites and species regularly, establish areas for seabird conservation, develop a national communication strategy, including communication and education materials, and a seabird database.

Vanishing species

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim warned against the extinction of seabirds species not only in the Philippines, but also in the Asean.

“Our seabirds are vanishing. In the Asean region, 70 migratory bird species from a total of 510 have been listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, and near threatened,” Lim said at the forum.

A former DENR-BMB director, Lim said hunting, illegal wildlife trade, habitat destruction, and even plastic pollution, are major drivers of increasing seabird mortality.



Citing studies conducted by Peter Ryan, the director of the Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town, she said about 40 percent of seabirds have consumed plastic waste, which can kill them, or more likely, cause severe injuries.

Losing ecological connectors

“Losing the birds of the sea means losing our ecological connectors, those that connect remote island ecosystems to larger ecological networks,” she said.

According to Lim, Asean has a huge contribution to the world’s overall biodiversity, being at the center of the East-Asian Australasian Flyway, which is home to over 50 million migratory birds.

“Considering the need for stronger regional collaboration among Asean member-states, flyway site managers and partners from local, national and international organisations, the Asean Flyway Network was created, primarily to help improve knowledge, increase capacity, and enhance communication on wetlands and migratory birds in the region,” she said.

Finally, she said that through the Asean Flyway Network and the Asean Heritage Parks Programme, the Asean member-states, which include the Philippines, and the ACB are working together to protect and manage the ecosystems that serve as important feeding and watering sites of migratory birds, such as the Tubbataha Reef Natural Park.

Saving birds

The Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP) is among organizations that helps save birds. Its members help raise awareness about birds through photography, which they share through social media.

WBCP President Mike Lu, who was interviewed by the BusinessMirror on October 25, highlighted the importance of birds to the ecosystem.

“Birds are environmental indicators. The presence or absence, or the diversity of birds in an area indicates the overall health of the environment. Birds have different needs and food requirements, hence, the presence of more species in an ecosystem means there are diverse food choices for the birds,” Lu said.

Sadly, Lu said the current situation in the country is bleak due to environment degradation, illegal logging or mining, and even real estate development, land reclamation and infrastructure development that does not take into consideration their environmental impact.

“Add to that is the increase in wildlife trade due to the ease of online selling and market clamor due to the pandemic,” he said.

Don’t catch ‘em birds

According to Lu, most people see birds as good for cages only, and fail to see their importance in pest control, in pollination and propagation of forest trees.

He said while there may be an increase in awareness about the existence of birds during the pandemic since most people stay at home and begin noticing birds in their gardens, there is also an increase in people wanting to keep wild birds as pets.

“People need to appreciate the role birds play in the balance of nature. For example, insect-eating birds keep insect populations down, fruit-eating birds disperse the seeds of fruit trees far and wide, while other birds help pollinate flowers,” he said.



According to Lu, there is a need for stricter enforcement of the Wildlife Conservation Act, which prohibits hunting and poaching of wildlife. Most people do not even know that hunting is illegal. Worse, even law enforcement officers are ignorant or turn a blind eye to illegal acts.

“The government itself must lead in environment protection and awareness instead of just paying lip service during Earth Day, Coastal Clean-Up Day and other such [pro-environment] activities,” he said.

Image courtesy of Mike Lu



‘Klimathon’ contest urges youth to participate in climate action

BYRIZAL RAOUL REYES

OCTOBER 31, 2021



Fighting climate change needs a concerted effort of all sectors, including the youth, to save the planet Earth from its deteriorating condition.

“It is imperative to work with all sectors—including the youth—in taking a whole of government and whole of society approach in view of intergenerational responsibility. Their future will be paved by the actions we take today,” Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said during a recent webinar announcing the partnership between the agency and food manufacturing conglomerate, Nestlé Philippines, for the joint project, “Klimathon: Our Race Towards a Net-Zero Reality.”

De Guzman said the main objective of the project is to empower the youth to develop and implement meaningful climate actions to address climate-change issues.

He added that Klimathon will be a platform for the Filipino youth to spur the development of innovative and sustainability-focused solutions.

Participants are asked to develop creative solutions among the following pillars: tackling plastic problems; lowering greenhouse-gas emissions; and improving food security.

Kais Marzouki, chairman and CEO of Nestlé Philippines, said the youth in the Philippines and all over the world can be a potent force in facing the challenges of climate change.

“Half of the world’s population consists of the youth. The Philippines today has the largest generation of young people in its history, comprising 28 percent of our population,” he said.

“Those of you who are young, who are here today, have a crucial and necessary role in tackling climate change. The Klimathon is a creative platform for you to participate in climate action, to help ensure a livable future on the planet that you will inherit,” Marzouki said.

Participating teams of Filipino students and young professionals will have to present a project concept paper based on one of the three focus pillars.

From among the proposals, 10 finalists will undergo a mentorship program with industry and field experts to refine and further develop their respective project design. Cash prizes and recognition await the winning teams.



Submission of proposals for Klimathon is open until November 10, 11:59 p.m. Interested participants can check *Nes.tl/Klimathon* or the Climate Change Commission's web site to view the full competition mechanics and how they can join. You may also check out CCC's and Nestlé Philippines's social-media pages for more details and updates.



ABS-CBN News

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TINGNAN: Isang butanding ang namataan sa Taganito Mining Loading Anchorage sa Barangay Taganito, Claver, Surigao del Norte Linggo.

Ayon sa nagbahagi ng video na si JV Angelou Sinampaga, nagpakita din ang whale shark sa parehong lugar noong nakaraang Lunes. Tinatayang 4-5 metro ang haba nito. | via Charmane Awitan

BASAHIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../panoorin-butanding-namataan...>

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ABS-CBN News

12h · 🌐



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TINGNAN: Higit 80 bagong pisang baby pawikan ang pinakawalan sa dalampasigan ng Barangay Funda Dalipe, San Jose, Antique Martes.

Paalala ng lokal na pamahalaan sa mga residente na pangalagaan ang lugar kung saan palaging nangingitlog ang mga green sea turtle. (📺: Mayor Elmer Untaran) | via Rolen Escaniel

BASAHIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../mahigit-100-baby-pawikan...>

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Mahigit 700 helmet shells o “budyong” na kinokonsiderang endangered species ang nakumpiska sa Bantayan, Cebu.

Ayon sa Maritime Police, inabandona ng mga smuggler ang halos 50 sako ng mga naturang budyong sa baybayin ng isla.

Tinatayang P365,000 ang halaga nito.

Kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya na ito ng Maritime Police office at ipadadala na sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources sa Cebu City.

COURTESY: Municipality of Bantayan, Cebu/FB

See Translation





World leaders to talk climate, economy, vaccines at G20

Published 14 hours ago on October 30, 2021 04:37 PM

By **Agence France-Presse**



Climate change and the relaunch of the global economy will top the G20 agenda as leaders of the world's most advanced nations meet Saturday, the first in-person gathering since the pandemic.

Looming over the two-day talks in Rome is pressure to make headway on tackling global warming, ahead of the key COP26 summit kicking off in Glasgow Monday.

The stakes are high, with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres warning G20 leaders Friday to show "more ambition and more action" and overcome mistrust in order to advance climate goals.

"We are still on time to put things on track, and I think the G20 meeting is the opportunity to do that," Guterres said.

Security was tight in Rome as US President Joe Biden arrived in the Italian capital anxious to turn a page from the tumultuous Trump years and show that American leadership on the world stage is restored.

Yet the Democrat faces a credibility test as his own signature climate policy — part of a sweeping economic package — is held up amid infighting within his party in Congress.

Absent from the G20 will be Russia's Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping, who plan to attend by video link.

Summit host Mario Draghi, the Italian prime minister, has called for a "G20 commitment on the need to limit the rise in temperatures to 1.5 degrees" above pre-industrial levels, the most ambitious target outlined in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

On Friday, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson — the host of the UN talks next week — gave a dire warning of what could happen if the world failed.

"We are not going to stop global warming in Rome or in this meeting in COP," he told reporters aboard his plane to Rome. "The most we can hope to do is slow the increase."



Humanity, Johnson warned, can regress “at extraordinary speed”.

“You saw that with the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, and I’m afraid to say that it’s true today unless we get this right in tackling climate change.”

Complicating the task for the G20 will be disparities between top world powers on tackling global warming.

China, the world’s biggest polluter and responsible for more than a quarter of all carbon emissions, has been accused of sidestepping calls to stop building new coal-fired power plants.

A new plan submitted by Beijing to the UN ahead of COP26 fell short of environmentalists’ expectations, with a target date of 2060 to reach carbon neutrality.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, meanwhile, has steadfastly demanded that his country be paid for protecting its share of the Amazon.

The world’s biggest rainforest is seen as a vital resource to combat climate change for its ability to absorb fossil fuel emissions.

– Taxing global players –

A surer bet for concrete progress at the G20 involves taxation, as the group is expected to endorse the 15 percent minimum international tax rate on multinational companies after nearly 140 countries reached an OECD-brokered deal.

The move seeks to end tax optimisation, in which global corporations — including big US tech firms like Apple and Google parent Alphabet — shelter profits in countries with low-tax systems.

The OECD says a 15 percent global minimum corporate tax rate could add \$150 billion annually to global tax revenues.

G20 finance ministers gave their backing to the tax overhaul in July.

Although no new pledges are expected on Covid-19 vaccines at the G20, a press release from a Friday meeting of G20 finance and health ministers stated that members would “take steps to help boost the supply of vaccines and essential medical products and inputs in developing countries and remove relevant supply and financing constraints.”

A security force of over 5,000 police and soldiers has been mobilised for the summit, according to the interior ministry, and several demonstrations are expected.

The summit is being held away from the city centre, after violent clashes erupted earlier this month between protesters and police over the extension of Italy’s coronavirus pass to all workplaces.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/10/30/world-leaders-to-talk-climate-economy-vaccines-at-g20/?fbclid=IwAR1ZWVrOugHIAxsGOnWcH1CwgBzfkWFS8uc_ZvDdHYjZ_-3U96uKC5VLYOo



‘Everything is at stake’ as world gathers for climate talks

Six years ago, nearly 200 countries agreed to individualized plans to fight global warming in the historic 2015 Paris climate agreement. Now leaders will converge in Glasgow for two weeks starting Sunday to take the next step dictated by that pact: Do more and do it faster.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OCTOBER 29, 2021



In this Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021 file photo, climate activist Vanessa Nakate from Uganda visits to the Garzweiler open-cast coal mine in Luetzerath, western Germany. “Everything is at stake if the leaders do not take climate action,” Nakate says. “We cannot eat coal. We cannot drink oil, and we cannot breathe so-called natural gas.” (AP/Martin Meissner)

More than one world leader says humanity’s future, even survival, hangs in the balance when international officials meet in Scotland to try to accelerate efforts to curb climate change. Temperatures, tempers and hyperbole have all ratcheted up ahead of the United Nations summit.

And the risk of failure looms large for all participants at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, known as COP26.

Six years ago, nearly 200 countries agreed to individualized plans to fight [global warming](#) in the historic [2015 Paris climate agreement](#). Now leaders will converge in Glasgow for two weeks starting Sunday to take the next step dictated by that pact: Do more and do it faster.

It’s not easy. Except for a slight drop because of the pandemic, carbon pollution from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas is increasing, not falling.

Between now and 2030, the world will spew up to 28 billion metric tons (31 billion U.S. tons) of greenhouse gases beyond the amount that would keep the planet at or below the most stringent limit set in Paris, [the United Nations calculated this week](#).

“Everything is at stake if the leaders do not take climate action,” young Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate said. “We cannot eat coal. We cannot drink oil, and we cannot breathe so-called natural gas.”

Her words were echoed by a man tasked with steering one of the world’s richest economic blocs through the climate transition.

“We are fighting for the survival of humanity,” European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans said. “Climate change and the threatening ecocide are the biggest threats humanity faces.”



This combination of 2020-2021 photos shows a burning tree in Sequoia National Forest, Calif.; Nathan Fabre, whose home and boat were destroyed by Hurricane Ida in Lafitte, La.; and the cracked, dry bottom of the Cerro Lagoon during an extended drought in Limpio, Paraguay. Climate change is fueling heat waves, flooding, drought and nastier tropical cyclones. (AP/Noah Berger, John Locher, Jorge Saenz)

Climate change is fueling heat waves, flooding, drought and nastier tropical cyclones. Extreme weather also costs the globe [about \\$320 billion a year](#) in economic losses, according to risk modeling firm AIR Worldwide. And [people die](#).

“The unhealthy choices that are killing our planet are killing our people as well,” said Dr. Maria Neira, director of public health and environment at the World Health Organization.



“Everything is at stake if the leaders do not take climate action. We cannot eat coal. We cannot drink oil, and we cannot breathe so-called natural gas.”

— Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate

Humanity and the Earth won't quite go off a cliff because of global warming, scientists say. But what happens in Glasgow will either steer the world away from the most catastrophic scenarios or send it careening down a dirt road with tight curves and peril at every turn. It's a situation where degrees, even tenths of a degree, translate into added risk.

“We are still on track for climate catastrophe,” United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Tuesday, even after some countries' recent emission pledges.

For months, United Nations officials have touted three concrete goals for these negotiations to succeed:

- Countries must promise to reduce carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 compared with 2010.
- Rich countries should contribute \$100 billion a year in aid to poor countries.
- Half of that amount must be aimed at adapting to climate change's worst effects.



World leaders have recently softened those targets a bit, and they say the goals may not quite be finished by mid-November, when negotiations end. U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry [told The Associated Press](#): “There will be a gap” on emission targets.

Under the Paris pact, nations must revisit their previous pledges to curb carbon pollution every five years and then announce plans to cut even more and do it faster. Delayed a year by the pandemic, this year’s meeting is the first to include the required ratcheting up of ambitions.

The hope is that world leaders will cajole each other into doing more, while ensuring that poorer nations struggling to tackle climate change get the financial support they need.

The headline goal set in Paris was to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since preindustrial times. The world has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since then.

Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said this month that the 1.5-degree mark “is the threshold for our survival, humanity, our planet Earth.”

But every analysis of current climate-change pledges shows that they are not nearly enough to stop warming at that point but will instead lead to at least another degree or a degree and a half Celsius of warming (about 2 to 3 degrees Fahrenheit).

All five emissions scenarios studied in a [massive UN scientific assessment in August](#) suggest that the world will cross that 1.5-degree-Celsius threshold in the 2030s, though several researchers told the AP that it is still technically possible to stay within that limit or at least temporarily go over it and come back down.

Small island nations and other poor, vulnerable communities said in 2015 that 2 degrees would wipe them out, and insisted on the 1.5-degree threshold.

“Our way of life is at stake,” said Tina Stege, the climate envoy for the Marshall Islands. “Our ability to provide our children with a safe and secure future is at stake. Atoll nations like the Marshall Islands do not have higher ground to retreat to.”

In Glasgow, divisions between nations are big, and trust is a problem, say several United Nations officials and outside analysts.

Rich countries like the United States and European nations developed carbon-belching energy and caused most of the problem historically, but now they ask poor nations to cut or eliminate the use of fossil fuels. In return, they’ve promised \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help developing countries switch to clean energy.

So far, the funding has fallen far short of that amount.

“Failure to fulfill this pledge is a major source of the erosion of trust between developed and developing nations,” Guterres said.

The key to success may lie in the middle, with major emerging economies.

Three days before the meeting starts, China, the world’s largest carbon emitter, submitted a new national target that is only marginally stronger than what was previously proposed.

China is so important that if every other nation cuts back in line with the 45% global emission reduction and China doesn’t, the world’s total will drop only by 30%, according to Claire Fyson, a top analyst at Climate Action Tracker, a group of scientists that monitor and analyze emission pledges.



In the end, every country, will be asked to do more in Glasgow, said United Nations Environment Programme Director Inger Andersen. But much of the effort, she said, comes back to China and the US.

“We need these two powers to put aside whatever else and to show true climate leadership because this is what it will take,” Andersen told the AP.

But realistically, she added, leaders in Glasgow, will take anything “in terms of real, meaningful commitments that are backed by action — action that starts in 2022.”



COP26: What do the poorest countries want from climate summit?

By Daniel Kraemer
BBC News

Published 10 hours ago



Developing countries are the most vulnerable to the damage caused by climate change, such as floods, droughts and wildfires.

Addressing the needs of less wealthy and smaller countries is vital for the COP26 climate negotiations in Glasgow, where leaders are being asked to agree on new commitments to tackle climate change.

What do developing countries want?

The least developed countries have set out their priorities for negotiations. They want richer and developed countries to:

- fulfil a pledge to provide \$100bn (roughly equivalent to £73bn at current exchange rates) each year in finance to help reduce emissions and adapt to climate change
- agree to net-zero targets on greenhouse gases well before 2050, with specific targets for major emitters such as the US, Australia and countries in the EU
- acknowledge the loss and damage they have experienced, such as the effects of rising sea levels or frequent flooding
- finalise rules on how countries will implement previous agreements

In a statement ahead of the summit, the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) said "raising global ambition and increasing climate finance is paramount to our survival".

"This crisis isn't being treated like a crisis. That has to change here in Glasgow," said the group's chairman, Sonam Wangdi.'

Which countries are most at risk from the effects of climate change?

Developing countries have historically contributed a very small proportion of the damaging emissions that drive climate change - and currently the richest 1% of the global population account for more than twice the combined emissions of the poorest 50%.

These poorer countries are also more vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather because they are generally more dependent on the natural environment for food and jobs, and have less money to spend on mitigation.'

Over the last 50 years, more than two out of three deaths caused by extreme weather — including droughts, wildfire and floods — occurred in the 47 least developed countries.



Countries such as Bangladesh have been on the front line of the effects of global warming

What are the richer countries doing to address the situation?

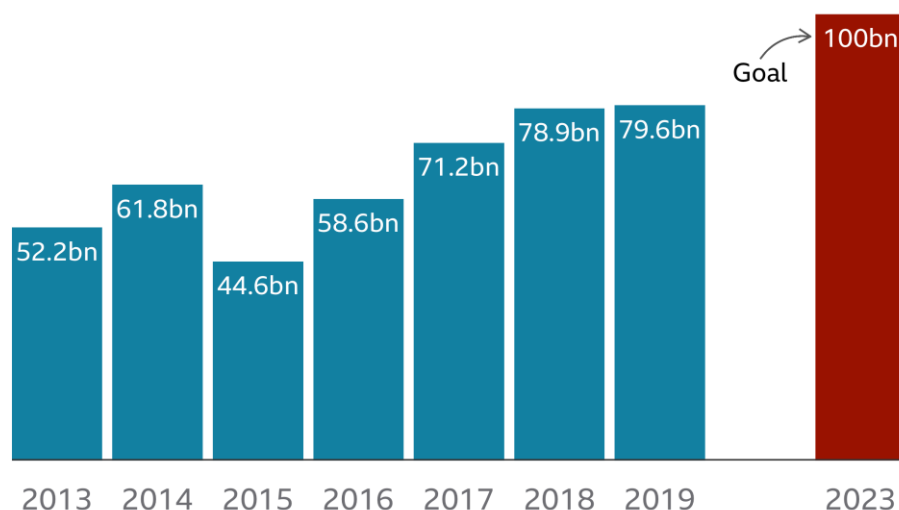
In 2009, richer countries committed to finding \$100bn a year by 2020 from public and private sources, to address the needs of developing countries.

The money is to help pay for measures to reduce dangerous emissions and protect from the effects of extreme weather, such as better flood defence systems and investment in renewable energy sources

However, total commitments had only reached \$80bn by 2019, and the \$100bn target is now **unlikely to be met before 2023.**

Climate finance

Amount provided and mobilised by developed countries (US\$)



Source: OECD

BBC

Securing an agreement on how to meet the commitments - and potentially go further - is crucial if the world is going to achieve its aim to keep global temperature rises below 1.5C.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has put reaching \$100bn as one of his four priorities for the negotiations in Glasgow.

He said that richer nations had "reaped the benefits of untrammelled pollution for generations, often at the expense of developing countries", and that they have **a "duty" to support developing nations with technology, expertise and money.**

What are the obstacles for smaller countries attending the summit?

"We are negotiating for our survival," says Tagaloa Cooper, of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - an organisation made of up members from Pacific island countries and territories.



Rising sea levels make some of these island nations the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, but Ms Cooper says a lack of resources means they don't have the "luxury" of sending large delegations.

"Some of our most vulnerable will struggle to have a voice, and be heard, in these negotiations."



More than 120 world leaders are expected to descend on Glasgow for climate negotiations

Navigating Covid-safe travel to the Glasgow conference has been an obstacle for many delegations, particularly the Pacific islands, where infection rates have remained low during the pandemic.

Only four Pacific island heads of state are **reported to be travelling to the summit**, with others being represented by smaller teams and ambassadors.

Negotiators staying behind and participating remotely may be disadvantaged by unreliable internet access and time differences. Samoa, for instance, is 13 hours ahead of the UK.

How do developing countries negotiate at climate conferences?

Developing countries usually have less of a voice on the international stage, so it helps to form groups or blocks to amplify their cause.

The **Least Developed Countries group** is a 46-nation bloc that includes Senegal, Bangladesh and Yemen and represents one billion people.

These countries can create stronger negotiating positions when "priorities and interests are aligned", says Sonam Wangdi, the current chairman, from Bhutan.

They have been working together throughout the year and will meet daily in Glasgow.



Bhutan has committed to keeping at least 60% of the country under forest cover



If there is to be a final agreement, all 197 UN member states that are signed up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have to sign.

That means the final agreement must be acceptable to both richer and developing countries. World leaders failed to secure a legally binding agreement in Copenhagen in 2009, partly because a handful of developing countries including Sudan and Tuvalu opposed the final agreement.

*Additional research by Esme Stallard.
Top image from Getty Images. Climate stripes visualisation courtesy of Prof Ed Hawkins and University of Reading.*



COP26: Battling climate change

[BREAKTHROUGH](#) - [Elfren S. Cruz](#) - The Philippine Star October 31, 2021 | 12:00am

The 26th Conference of the Parties to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) may be the most important global conference this year. The reason is that climate change is becoming worse and countries have fallen below their original publicly stated goals to address it.

Every year the United Nations holds a summit on climate change. The COP26 stands for the annual UN climate change that will be held in Glasgow, United Kingdom this week. In 2015 the Paris Agreement on Climate was signed by the vast majority of countries. Every signatory was supposed to set targets for reducing emissions. Financial assistance was supposed to be provided to help poor countries finance their programs for controlling their emissions. None of these stated goals has been met.

The original targets were quite ambitious. First was to secure net zero emissions by 2030 and keep the goal of .5 within reach. Among the projects that were proposed to countries were to curtail deforestation, speed up the switch to electric cars and encourage investment in renewable energy.

Countries need to be assisted to adapt to climate change. These steps include protecting and restoring ecosystems and building defenses like warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.

Third, developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilize at least \$100 billion in climate finance per year by 2020.

None of these goals has been achieved. In fact, in some cases countries have gone in the opposite direction and contributed to making gas emissions worse.

One tragic example is that deforestation has become worse. Brazil has allowed the Amazon to be deforested for commercial purposes. This will have tragic consequences in the near future.

The promise to reduce emissions has met with resistance from business and consumer sectors. India, who is responsible for 7 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in the world, has not even presented an updated climate strategy.

The worst case is China which is the world's worst polluter. It accounts for 28 percent of the world's carbon dioxide gas emissions. China had promised to at least begin reducing its pollution. One major step was that it would start reducing its dependence on coal powered plants. Among all natural sources of power, coal is the worst pollutant and then fossil fuels. Many countries have already banned the construction of new coal powered plants. Recently, China declared that it was building new coal-powered plants.

The goal of increasing the use of renewables also required lessening dependence on fossil fuels. Russia's economy is largely dependent on the export of fossil fuels, especially to Europe.

The announcement by China and Russia that their heads of state – Xi and Putin – would not attend COP26 was a dramatic signal that these two countries would not be cooperating with any major initiative to combat climate change.



Around the world, storms, floods and wildfires are intensifying. Air pollution is affecting the health of tens of millions of people and unpredictable weather causes untold damage to homes and livelihoods too. But while the impacts of climate change are devastating, fortunately there are advances in the method for tackling it. But many countries are not exploiting these new methods of controlling climate change.

COP 26 was originally scheduled for 2020. However, due to the pandemic, it was postponed to 2021. This was probably a blessing in disguise. For one thing, if it had been held in 2020, the US president would have been Donald Trump, who has even cast doubts on the reality of global warming. He also took steps for the withdrawal of the US from the Paris Agreement.

However, the absence of the top leadership of China, the world's main polluter, makes it less likely the Conference would result in any significant climate deal.

There have been criticisms from major climate change personalities. The climate change activist Greta Thurnberg, in an interview before the COP26 conference, was asked how optimistic she was that the conference could achieve anything substantial. She said: "Nothing has changed from previous years really. The leaders will say 'we'll do this and we'll do this and we will put our forces together and achieve this' and then they will do nothing. Maybe some symbolic things and creative accounting and things that don't really have a big impact. ... but nothing real will come out of it."

The United Kingdom is the host for this year's conference and Queen Elizabeth II was overheard saying in a private conversation via a hot mic: "It's really irritating when they talk, but they don't do."

The president-designate of COP 26 Alok Sharma remains optimistic. He recently wrote: "To keep the temperature of the planet under control – limiting its increase to 1.5 degrees – the science dictates that by the second half of the century we be producing less carbon than we take out of the atmosphere. That is what reaching net zero means. ... The journey is already underway... Around 70 percent of the world economy is now covered by net zero targets. ... The world is moving toward a low carbon future. Clean energy like wind and solar is now the cheapest source of energy in most countries."

Whether optimistic or pessimistic, the world's population must continue the struggle for net zero if we are to see our species survive.

* * *

Email: elfrencruz@gmail.com

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/10/31/2137903/cop26-battling-climate-change>

31 OCTOBER 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Philippines logs record-high 423 COVID-19 deaths

(Philstar.com) - October 30, 2021 - 4:21pm



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 Philippines on Saturday registered 423 new coronavirus deaths, the highest single-day spike in fatalities since the start of the pandemic.

The Department of Health also reported 4,008 additional infections, pushing the nation's caseload to 2,783,896.

According to the DOH, 373 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

- **Active cases:** 47,690 or 1.7% of the total
- **Deaths:** 423, pushing the toll to 43,044
- **Recoveries:** 6,887, raising the total to 2,693,162

More vaccine deliveries

- The Philippines on Friday received [973,440 doses](#) of the COVID-19 vaccine made by Pfizer-BioNTech. A portion of the shots will be allocated for the vaccination of minors against COVID-19.
- A total of [1,065,600 doses of AstraZeneca jabs](#) donated by Japan arrived in the country. The government is also expecting the delivery of 1,546,200 AstraZeneca jabs from the COVAX vaccine sharing facility.
- The United States [authorized the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine](#) for children aged five to 11 after a high-level medical panel endorsed the jabs.
- Researchers said [needle-free vaccine patches](#) are coming soon, a development that could revolutionize medicine.

— Gaea Katreena Cabico

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/10/30/2137829/philippines-logs-record-high-423-covid-19-deaths/amp/>



Over 2.6M donated AstraZeneca COVID-19 shots arrive in PH

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Oct 30, 2021 2:59:27 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 30)— Over 2.6 million donated AstraZeneca vaccine doses arrived in the country in separate shipments on Saturday.

The plane carrying 1,546,200 shots from the global COVAX facility landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) at around 4 p.m., state media reported.



CNN Philippines
@cnnphilippines



Replying to @cnnphilippines

UPDATE: Over 1.5 million more doses of AstraZeneca vaccines from the global COVAX facility also arrive in the country on Saturday afternoon.

📷: Albert Bangayan, Gio Germonio/CNN Philippines



4:13 PM · Oct 30, 2021



🤍 21 ⚡ See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

[Tweet your reply](#)



Pandemic task force adviser Ted Herbosa — one of the officials who welcomed the fresh delivery — thanked the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United States for the donation.

Citing data from UNICEF, Herbosa said the Philippines is among the largest recipients of vaccines from COVAX, which seeks to provide participating countries equitable access to the products.

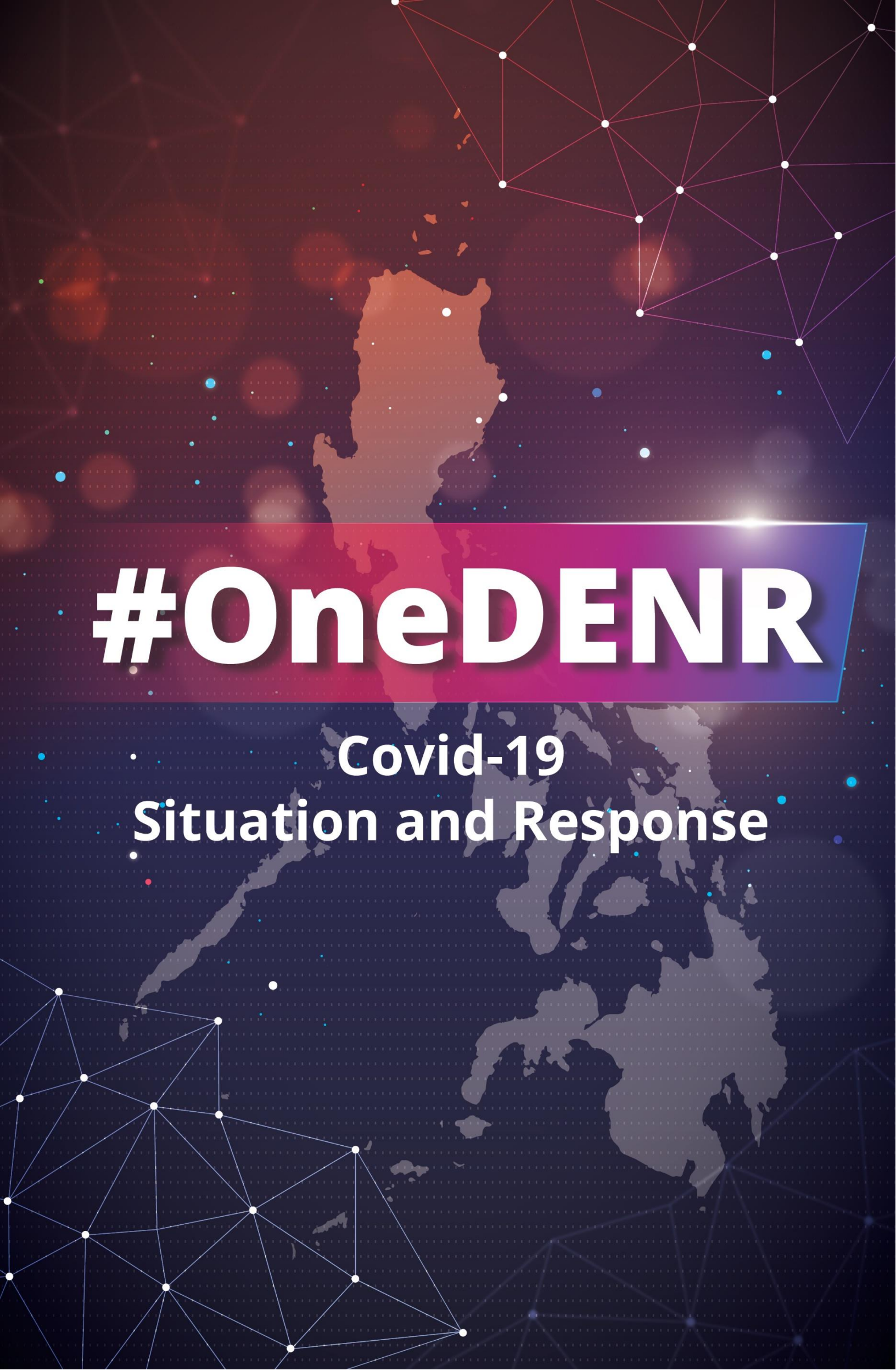
Earlier in the day, a total of 1,065,600 AstraZeneca doses — this time donated by Japan — also arrived in NAIA.

Herbosa also thanked the Japanese government for the new donation, with the Philippines already receiving over three million vaccines from the East Asian neighbor. He added there are “more donations” expected from Japan in the future.

Herbosa said the new vaccines are expected to be allocated to highly-populated regions, including Calabarzon, Central Luzon, Eastern Visayas, and Northern Mindanao.

“Our initial vaccines were given to the highly urbanized— NCR, Cebu, Davao. So now, we’re targeting those regions outside those areas,” Herbosa told reporters during the arrival ceremony.

He stressed that the delivery of these vaccines will help the government reach its target of administering up to 1.5 million doses per day starting November.



#OneDENR

Covid-19 Situation and Response



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 595

OKTUBRE 30, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

1.7%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
47,690

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

96.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,693,162

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.55%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
43,044

MGA BAGONG KASO 4,008

MGA BAGONG GUMALING 6,887

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 423

KABUUNANG BILANG NG KASO 2,783,896

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING OKTUBRE 28

DATOS NGAYONG OKTUBRE 30
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG OKTUBRE 28

7.8%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

50,776

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS

79.5%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

**!-SANITIZE ANG
KAMAY AT IWASAN
ANG KULOB NA LUGAR**

KABUUNANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)

49% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.8K TOTAL BEDS)

36% Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.6K TOTAL BEDS)

33% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

32% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)

42% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.9K TOTAL BEDS)

30% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)

30% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

29% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA

AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 74.4%

5.1% Asymptomatic

2.7% Critical

6.5% Severe

11.27% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Responsibilidad nating lahat bilang mamamayan ang kaligtasan ng buong bayan. Tiyak ang masusing pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** sa lahat ng oras, lugar, at sitwasyon, upang lubos na mabawasan ang pagkakataong mahawa ng COVID-19. Maging sa ating mga tahanan, maging alisto sa anumang sintomas ng COVID-19, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS o One COVID Referral Center** sa oras na makaramdam nito. 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.



Ihahanap 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

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

globe doh.gov.ph

phone (02) 894-COVID / 1555

31 OCTOBER 2021, SUNDAY



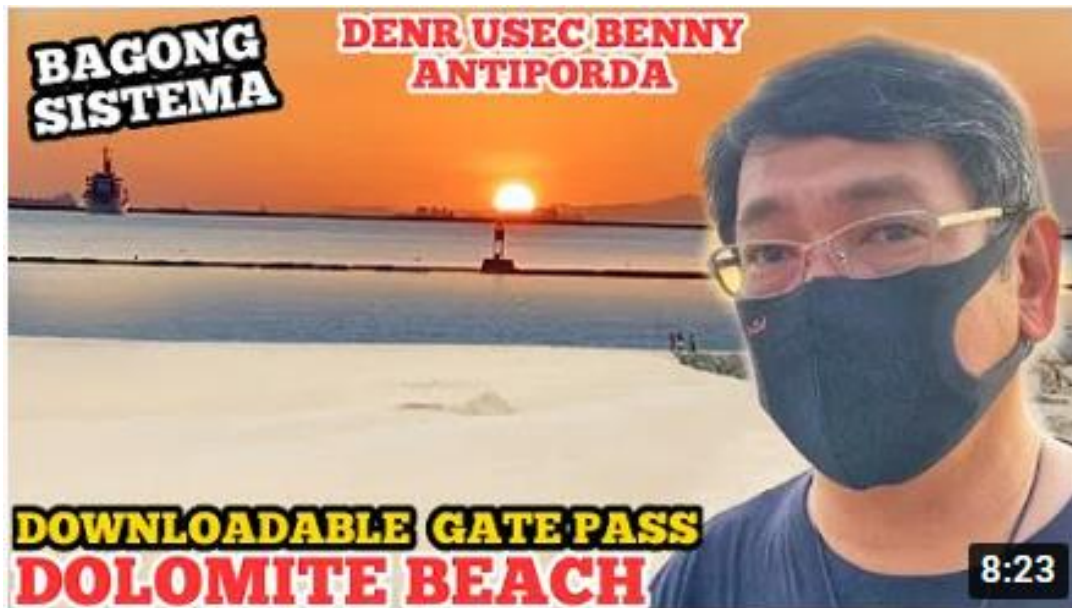
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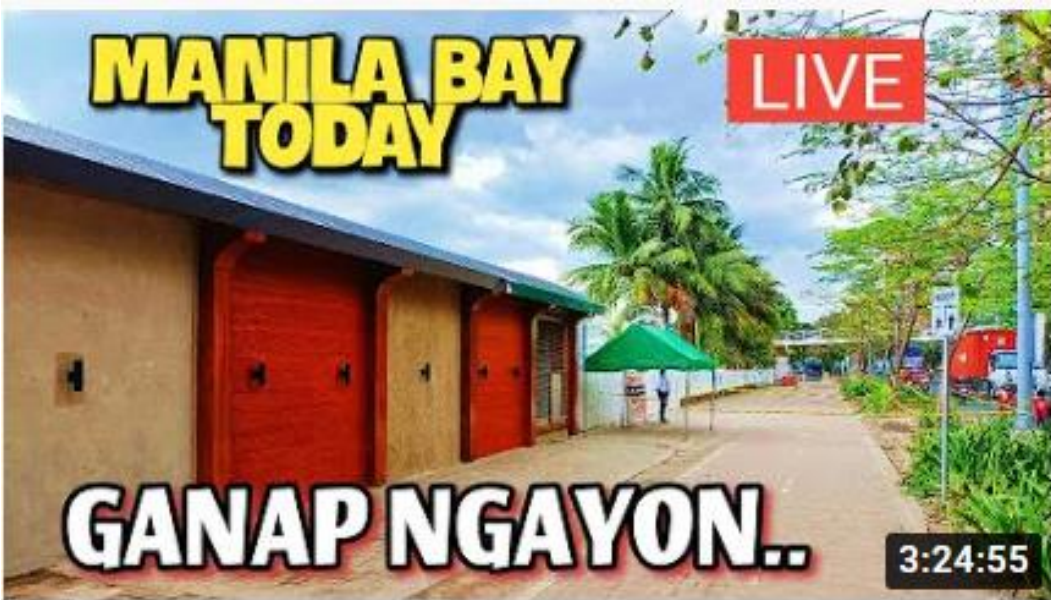
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