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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Dominguez backs lifting of ban on open-pit mining



by [Julito G. Rada](#)

[December 30, 2021](#)

in [Agri & Mining, Business](#)

Reading Time: 3 mins read

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said Thursday he supports the decision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to lift the ban on open-pit mining, saying he is confident of the government's capability to strictly regulate mining operations to address and minimize the impact posed by the extractive activities on the environment.

Dominguez said Republic Act No. 7942, or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, does not prohibit open-pit mining as there are economic, safety and environmental considerations for employing the method.

"As co-chair of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council, I support DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu's decision to lift the ban on open-pit mining. The matter was extensively discussed in the MICC and with advice and guidance from experts, the recommendation was to lift the ban," he said in a statement.

Dominguez said adequate safeguards could be implemented to ensure the safety of the open pit method. He said strict monitoring and enforcement to ensure compliance with environmental standards should be undertaken to prevent any abuse in the implementation of this type of mining activity.

"I am confident that the DENR is fully capable of regulating mining operations in the country so that mining activities are conducted safely with due regard to the protection of the environment," he said.

As the official representative of the President to the Climate Change Commission, Dominguez said he was mindful of the impact of mining activities on the environment and the country's goal to reduce its carbon footprint.

"The protection of the environment is non-negotiable. We have to strike a careful balance between preserving and protecting the environment and pursuing our economic development objectives," Dominguez said.

He said that with the lifting of the ban, the mining industry could become a key contributor to the nation's economic recovery as the DENR projected that open-pit mining would lead to the immediate development of 11 pending projects that are expected to generate about P11 billion in yearly government revenue, increase annual exports by P36 billion and provide employment to 22,880 people living in remote municipalities. Julito G. Rada

"Clearly, it will revive an industry that will create jobs and spur economic growth in the countryside," Dominguez said.



Dominguez backs lifting of ban on open-pit mining

“More importantly, the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining will help revitalize the economy as we begin to recover from the pandemic by generating additional revenues, royalty fees, export value and even more jobs in related industries. These economic prospects can still be realized while we continuously implement strategies to manage and avoid the negative impacts of the open-pit mining method,” he said.

Dominguez said tight monitoring and enforcement to ensure that mines strictly comply with laws and regulations could be done as proven by the operations of thousands of mines worldwide that effectively and safely use the open-pit mining method. These include open-pit mines in Australia, Canada, China and the United States.

Open-pit mining is a globally accepted method that is considered to be the most feasible option for mining near-surface or shallow ore deposits.

As observed by the DENR, major issues concerning mining operations, including open-pit mining, cannot be attributed to the use of the method itself, but rather to accidents involving wastes and tailings confinements, which can be prevented through strict monitoring and regulation of such mining activities.



De Lima bewails lifting of ban on open-pit mining

Published December 31, 2021, 10:01 AM

by [Hannah Torregoza](#)

Opposition Senator Leila de Lima has criticized the Duterte government for lifting the four-year ban on open-pit mining in the country, saying such a move shows total disregard for the environment and the welfare of the people.

De Lima said the government should reinstate the ban on open-pit mining, which could be a breeding ground for greedy capitalists.

“How desperate is Duterte right now that he caved in to mining lobbyists to undo an almost term-long policy against open-pit mining?” De Lima said in a statement.

“Open-pit mining presents a slippery slope where greedy capitalists are given the opportunity to ruthlessly exploit our natural resources and present our regulators and public officials extremely tempting moral hazards,” she stressed.



Pagsunod sa batas ng mga mining company, dapat tiyakin



Published 1 day ago
on December 31, 2021 12:10 AM
By [TDT @tribunephil](#)



DAPAT na tiyakin ang pagsunod ng mga mining company sa mga umiiral na batas matapos namang muling payagan ang open-pit mine sa bansa matapos ang apat na taong ban.

Ito'y matapos na pirmahan ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang order na nagpapahintulot sa muling operasyon ng mga open-pit mining sa bansa.

Taong 2017 nang ipatupad ang ban sa mga open-pit mining dahil sa nangyayaring mga pagbaha sa bansa.

Layunin ng kautusan na madagdagan ang kita ng pamahalaan sa harap naman ng epekto ng pandemya sa ekonomiya ng bansa.

Matatandaang noong Abril 2021, inalis ni Duterte ang siyam na taong ban sa mga bagong pagmimina sa bansa na ipinatupad ng administrasyon ng yumaong dating pangulong Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Target ng pamahaan na makalikom ng P8o bilyon (\$1.6 bilyon) sa buwis at iba pang royalty kada taon.

Ang Pilipinas ang isa sa pinakamalaking supplier ng nickel ore. Mayaman din ang bansa sa copper at gold.

Naniniwala rin ang pamahalaan na 95 porsiyento ng mineral resources sa bansa ay hindi pa nadidiskubre.



Pagsunod sa batas ng mga mining company, dapat tiyakin

Apektado ang pagmimina noong isang taon at inaasahang muling sisigla ang industriya ngayong pinayagan na ang open-pit mining.

Nagbabala naman ang Alliance to End Mining sa naging kautusan sa pagsasabing dapat ikonsidera ito ng pamahalaan.

Dapat tiyakin lamang ng mga kaukulang ahensiya ng pamahalaan na nasusunod ang mga umiiral na batas para maiwasan ang mga trahedyang dulot ng pagmimina.



Anyone for year-end dip at the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach?

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:37 AM December 29, 2021



Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach still closed to visitors since October 29 for the DENR to finish the rehabilitation project in the area. (File photo by LYN RILLON / Philippine Daily Inquirer)

The government has decided to reopen for two days the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach, but visitors will be required to register in a bid to prevent overcrowding.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday reopened the 140-meter beach, more than a month after it was ordered closed after an influx of more than 100,000 visitors in October.

On Dec. 28 and Dec. 29, the beach will be reopened but will be closed again after.

On Jan. 4, 2022, onward, it will again be open to the public.

Visitors are required to register before their visit by scanning a QR code posted at the DENR's official Facebook page and other social media accounts.

—**DEMPSEY REYES**

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1533261/anyone-for-year-end-dip-at-dolomite-beach#ixzz7GfaBzGoo>

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Air quality in Manila worsens over holidays, returns to pre-pandemic levels

December 31, 2021 | 4:24 pm



PHILSTAR

By Patricia B. Mirasol

Satellite data suggests that the air quality in the capital worsened this Christmas season, reverting to pre-pandemic levels.

According to [STAMINA4Space, a Philippine space research program](#), emission of NO₂, a gaseous pollutant from cars that burn fossil fuels, and aerosol optical depth (AOD) are back to 2019 levels. [Aerosols refer to particles suspended in the atmosphere](#). It includes volcanic ash, urban haze, and factory pollution.

The increase in these pollutants, which began to climb in June, coincides with the loosening of restrictions in the capital and [the volume of vehicular traffic in Metro Manila returning to pre-COVID days](#).

It also comes at a time when mobility restrictions have been eased, [spurring economic managers to raise the country's GDP growth projection to 5.5%](#), up from 4% in August.

“The really nice thing is that the market has stabilized even with the short-term sell-off that showed up in the tail end of November, so hopefully we can continue at this pace,” said Lawrence Lee, president and chief executive officer of global trading firm CTS Global Equity Group.

“I believe that 2022 is our bounce back year. Hospitals are empty with regards to COVID-19 cases and, if we continue in this trajectory, businesses will also follow suit,” Mr. Lee told *BusinessWorld* in a Dec. 27 e-mail, prior to the holiday surge of coronavirus cases.



Air quality in Manila worsens over holidays, returns to pre-pandemic levels

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The local governments of Parañaque and Pasig partnered in 2019 with [Clean Air Asia](#) to improve the air quality management in their cities.

The non-governmental organization, in collaboration with global logistics company United Parcel Service (UPS), conducted learning sessions for Parañaque's government employees, barangay representatives, and college students.

"The balance between clear skies and the effect of economic activity is a tough challenge for businesses and every Filipino who is concerned about the environment," said Christopher Buono, managing director of UPS Philippines in an e-mail to *BusinessWorld*.

Businesses can continue to thrive by putting sustainability practices such as waste segregation and the use of biodegradable materials into practice in the workplace, he added.

"I have friends and know of UPS employees who recycle their packages delivered from online shops and have ventured into urban gardening," he said. "Management must walk the talk on sustainability and lead by example. ... Everyone is hopeful that the economy will improve, and I am confident that business leaders will take more action that support eco-friendly activities."

Clean Air Asia is also developing a Clean Air Action Plan with Pasig City's government in order to identify air pollution sources and mobilize resources to address them. Pasig, too, has an office that develops sustainable forms of transportation like a bike-sharing system.

[Emissions from mobile sources \(including motor vehicles\)](#) is a major contributor to air pollution in the Philippines. According to a landmark study released this year by the [World Health Organization](#), "air pollution is now recognized as the single biggest environmental threat to human health." It added that "air quality has ... generally deteriorated in most low- and middle-income countries, in step with large-scale urbanization and economic development."



PH boosts action for climate, community resilience

By Catherine Teves December 31, 2021, 2:08 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – The government further enhanced its efforts this year to build climate resilience among communities nationwide and address climate change to better protect the environment, lives and property.

In April, the government finally submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat the Philippines' first nationally determined contribution (NDC) which covers planned reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the country.

This signified the commitment of the Philippines, a UNFCCC party, to help meet the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature rise through GHG emission reduction worldwide so Earth can avoid dangerous climate change.

At the UN's 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Scotland in November, the Philippine government also reiterated its call for climate justice and developed countries' financial and technical support for climate initiatives of developing nations.

The government likewise reconstituted the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) of Climate Change Commission (CCC) and focused this group's thrust on generating recommendations for implementing local climate change adaptation and mitigation measures that will help build communities' resilience.

"We have drawn up a Sustainable Finance Roadmap to help orchestrate public and private sector efforts to green our economy," Department of Finance (DOF) Sec. and CCC Chairperson-designate Carlos Dominguez III also said in his 2021 message for the country's annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week observance.

He raised the urgency for action, noting climate change "is a battle we cannot afford to lose."

The devastation caused by the onslaught of extreme weather events already gave a preview of what inaction on climate change can lead to, he said.



PH boosts action for climate, community resilience

According to experts, various human activities like fossil fuel-based power generation are among sources of GHG emissions.

They said GHG emissions continue accumulating in the atmosphere and trapping heat so global temperature is rising, changing climate.

The NPTE identified the Philippines' top climate-induced risks as rising sea level, coastal erosion, flooding, increasing frequency and severity of tropical cyclones, extreme drought, temperature increase and rising urban heat index, extreme rainfall, climate-influenced diseases, wind patterns and biodiversity loss, the DOF said.

It also said NPTE recommended several measures for dealing with such risks.

Among such measures are conducting nationwide climate and health impact assessments and including climate finance in LGUs' investment and development plans, the DOF said.

Experts said the Philippines accounts for less than 1 percent of global GHG emissions so this country is not a major source of these discharges.

Through its NDC, however, the Philippines still committed 75 percent GHG emission reduction and avoidance nationwide by 2030 in the agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy sectors.

Of such target, the government said 2.71 percent will be implemented mainly through domestic resources.

The government also said the target's remaining 72.29 percent is conditional or contingent upon climate finance, technologies, and capacity development which developed countries are expected to provide in accordance with Paris Agreement.

"We expect that developed nations, which historically caused the global climate crisis, will deliver their commitments to Paris Agreement with the right speed and scale to keep global average temperature from breaching the 1.5 degrees Celsius survival threshold," Dominguez said.

He considers the present time until 2030 "critical", noting this period is an opportunity to undertake low-carbon and resilient development as well as other climate action that'll ensure Earth's well-being "before it's too late."

Dominguez headed the Philippine delegation to the COP26.

The Philippines is "very reliant" on international financial support for capacity-building and technology transfers which climate projects need, he admitted.

"We hope this COP26 will result in positive action and will start the flow of funds to help countries," he said at the conference.

Climate finance must cover grants for capacity-building, investments for green projects that'll generate high returns, and subsidies for addressing financial costs and risks of communities shifting to a climate-resilient economy, he noted.

He said the World Bank Group, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank can work together on addressing climate change and greening aspects of loans from these major multilateral development banks.



PH boosts action for climate, community resilience

The search for international financial support isn't deterring the Philippines from undertaking locally supported doable climate action, Dominguez clarified, however.

"We realize that we are one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and we have decided to take action on our own and we will not wait for international agreements on climate change," he said.

The CCC said various local projects worth some PHP310 million already availed of funding support through the government's People's Survival Fund (PSF).

In 2012, Republic Act (RA) 10174 was passed, amending RA 9729 (Climate Change Act of 2009), and created PSF to help LGUs and accredited local/community organizations implement climate change adaptation projects in the country.

These projects aim to help vulnerable communities better deal with the changing climate, noted CCC which is part of the board that administers PSF.

The government reconstituted the NPTE so this group's current members are Filipino experts who can help promote doable climate action on the ground, Dominguez said.

"We are no longer in the business of building a grand theory about climate change. Science has accumulated enough evidence about what is happening and what all of humanity needs to do to reverse the apocalyptic course of planetary warming. We are now in the business of implementing concrete projects and programs to build the resilience of our communities, reverse degradation and protect our vital food sources," the finance chief said.

"What is global must now be addressed at the local level. What was theoretical now demands practical applications on the ground. No red light can stop us from moving towards a greener future. We have brought together brilliant minds to ensure that our race towards our planet's survival will be coherent, concerted and compelling," he added.

To help promote public and private investment in green undertakings nationwide, the government developed the Philippine Sustainable Finance Roadmap that's anchored on three strategic pillars.

Those pillars are policy (creating a conducive environment), financing (mainstreaming sustainable finance) and investment (developing a sustainable pipeline), DOF noted.

A set of guiding principles serve as taxonomy for the country's sustainable finance ecosystem, DOF continued.

"The roadmap and its guiding principles are expected to spur investments from various financing sources to support the country's NDC and long-term priorities," DOF said.

Dominguez said the Philippines also decided to participate in Energy Transition Mechanism, ADB's public-private finance vehicle for helping accelerate countries' transition towards a clean energy future.

Retiring GHG emission-intense coal-fired power plants around the country and replacing these with facilities using renewable energy will help accelerate such transition, he noted.



PH boosts action for climate, community resilience

"The time for debate and merely discussing climate change theories is over - today, we are focusing on applied solutions and workable programs to quickly reduce GHG emissions," he said.

In October, Dominguez introduced to the public members of the reconstituted NPTE.

He said they are environmental planning and engineering expert Dr. Jihan H. Adil from Zamboanga City; agricultural engineer and Mariano Marcos State University's College of Engineering Dean Dr. Nathaniel R. Alibuyog; chemical engineer and waste management specialist Dr. Zenaida L. Andrade from Tacloban City; biological oceanography, coastal ecology and fisheries expert Dr. Wilfredo L. Campos from Iloilo province; agricultural economics and environmental accounting specialist Dr. Gay D. Defiesta also from Iloilo; climate change and public health expert Dr. Ramon Lorenzo Luis R. Guinto from Laguna province; upland, lowland and coastal forest landscape restoration and conservation specialist Dr. Eduardo O. Mangaoang from Leyte as well as fisheries and mangroves expert Dr. Jimmy T. Masagca.

The new NPTE members also include public health and food security expert Dr. Susan P. Mercado; marine scientist and coastal resource management specialist Dr. Richard N. Muallil from Tawi-Tawi province; climate and disaster resilience expert Dr. Emma E. Porio from Quezon City; disaster risk management and water resource assessment specialist Dr. Patricia Ann J. Sanchez from Iloilo; geodetic engineer and Caraga State University College of Engineering and Geosciences Dean Engr. Merriam M. Santillan; post-harvest fisheries specialist and University of the Philippines-Visayas College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Dean Dr. Encarnacion Emilia S. Yap; inclusive business models, sustainable tourism and gender inclusivity expert Dr. Maria Angela G. Zafra from Davao City as well as geography, hazards studies and extreme weather events specialist Dr. Doracie B. Zoleta-Nantes from Quezon province, he continued.

"I am proud to say that we have brought together a high-caliber team of Filipino experts representing the broadest range of disciplines and backgrounds," he said.

He said NPTE's current composition doesn't merely represent change in this group's membership.

NPTE's current composition "reflects a change of paradigm in our efforts to combat the effects of climate change," he added. *(PNA)*

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WHO nagbabala ng matinding epekto ng Omicron at Delta coronavirus variant

By [Bombo Jovino Galang](#)

-December 30, 2021 | 5:59 AM



Inilarawan ng World Health Organization (WHO) na tila isang tsunami ang epekto ng Omicron at Delta COVID-19 variant sa mga bansa na magdudulot ng negatibong epekto sa health systems.

Sinabi ni WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus isang kambal na banta ang dalawang variant ng COVID-19 na nagreresulta sa pagtaas na bilang ng kaso ng COVID-19.

Ikinakahala nito na kapag hindi naagapan ang nasabing dalawang variant ay magkakaroon ng pagbagsak ng health care system ng isang bansa.

Patuloy pa rin ang panawagan nito sa mga bansa na paigtingin ang kanilang pagpapabakuna kung saan sa 194 member states ng WHO ay 92 sa mga dito ang nakaabot ng kanilang 40 percent target population na mabakunahan.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/who-nagbabala-ng-matinding-epekto-ng-omicron-at-delta-coronavirus-variant/>



Philippines ends another pandemic year with 2,961 new cases

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com)
- December 31, 2021 - 4:51pm



Kids ready their "torotot" (plastic horns) as an alternative noise-maker to firecrackers in welcoming the year 2022 inside their home in Quezon City on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on New Year's Eve recorded nearly 3,000 new COVID-19 cases, the highest since November 1, as the country braces for the impact of the fast spreading Omicron variant.

The Department of Health reported Friday 2,961 new infections, raising the number of active cases to 14,233.

Of the new cases, 99% occurred from December 18 to 31, the DOH said. Metro Manila, Calabarzon and Central Luzon were the regions with the most cases in the recent two weeks.

The positivity rate was at 10.3%, surpassing the positivity rate of less than 5% recommended by the World Health Organization. A total of 30,526 tests were conducted on Wednesday.

The DOH also logged 132 new fatalities, bringing the total number of COVID-related deaths to 51,504.

Since the pandemic began in 2020, the Philippines has registered 2,843,979 cases. Of the total, 97.7% have recovered.

The Philippines is seeing a renewed increase in infections and preparing for the spread of the Omicron variant, which is threatening health systems overseas and forcing governments to reimpose curbs.

The DOH reminded the public to continue practicing minimum public health standards and avoid gatherings, and urged unvaccinated senior citizens to get jabbed.

The agency will continue to issue COVID-19 bulletins until further notice, it told reporters.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/12/31/2151182/philippines-ends-another-pandemic-year-2961-new-cases/amp/>



NCR reverted to Alert Level 3 on Jan. 3-15: Palace exec

By Filane Mikee Cervantes December 31, 2021, 9:16 pm



Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles (PNA File photo)

MANILA – The alert level status in Metro Manila will be raised anew from the current Level 2 to Alert Level 3 from Jan. 3 to 15, 2022, Malacañang announced on Friday night.

In a public announcement, acting presidential spokesperson and Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) decided to shift to a more stringent alert level status as the country saw a spike in coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections.

"Nakita naman natin sa mga nakaraang araw ay nag-increase exponentially ang mga kaso dahil sa Holiday activities kung saan tumaas ang movement ng mga tao at bumaba ang compliance sa minimum public health standards. Isa rin sa dahilan ang detection ng local cases ng Omicron variant (We saw an exponential rise during the past days because of the Holiday activities where there were increased movement and compliance with minimum public health standards may have been disregarded. Local cases of the Omicron variant were also detected)," he said.

Nograles added that an increase in Covid-19 positive cases is expected in the succeeding days thus, the IATF's decision

After 12 days of active cases below 10,000, the number increased to 10,418 on December 29 and was at 14,233 by year-end after 2,961 new cases.

The Department of Health also confirmed 10 new cases of the Omicron variant, with three of the local infections already recovered.

Nograles cited a "high possibility" of local transmission of the Omicron variant.



NCR reverted to Alert Level 3 on Jan. 3-15: Palace exec

Under Alert Level 3, establishments or activities shall be allowed to operate or be undertaken at a maximum of 30 percent indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals only and 50 percent outdoor venue capacity, provided that all workers of the establishments are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

Movements

Intrazonal and interzonal movement are still allowed, however, reasonable restrictions may be imposed by the LGUs, which should not be stricter as those prescribed under higher alert levels and subject to the oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of their respective Regional IATF.

Those below 18 years of age, and those belonging to the vulnerable population, shall be allowed access to obtain essential goods and services, or for work in permitted industries and offices in accordance with existing labor laws, rules, and regulations. Individual outdoor exercises shall also be allowed for all ages regardless of comorbidities or vaccination status. 2.

Prohibited activities

Meanwhile, the following establishments and activities that are considered high-risk for transmission under Alert Level 3 are not allowed:

1. Face to face or in-person classes for basic education, except those earlier permitted by the IATF and Office of the President;
2. Contact sports, except those conducted under bubble-type setup, as provided for under relevant guidelines adopted by the IATF, Games and Amusement Board, and Philippine Sports Commission, and approved by the LGU where such games shall be held;
3. Funfairs/carnivals and kid amusement industries like playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides;
4. Venues with live voice or wind-instrument performers and audiences such as in karaoke bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters;
5. Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops, and other gaming establishments, except those that will be allowed by the IATF or Office of the President; and
6. Gatherings in residences with individuals not belonging to the same household.

Allowed activities

He said allowed activities under Alert Level 3 at a maximum of 30% indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals only and 50% outdoor venue capacity are the following:

1. Venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE);
2. Permitted venues for social events such as parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers;
3. Visitor or tourist attractions such as libraries, archives, museums, galleries, exhibits, parks, plazas, public gardens, scenic viewpoints or overlooks, and the like;



NCR reverted to Alert Level 3 on Jan. 3-15: Palace exec

4. Amusement parks or theme parks;
5. Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, skating rinks, archery halls, swimming pools, and similar venues;
6. Cinemas and movie houses;
7. Limited face-to-face or in-person classes for higher education and for technical-vocational education and training;
8. In-person religious gatherings; gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 and for the cremains of the COVID-19 deceased;
9. Licensure or entrance/qualifying examinations administered by their respective government agency, and specialty examinations authorized by the IATF subject to the health and safety guidelines as approved by the IATF;
10. Dine-in services in food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and eateries, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols;
11. Personal care establishments such as barbershops, hair spas, hair salons, and nail spas, and those offering aesthetic/cosmetic services or procedures, make-up services, salons, spas, reflexology, and other similar procedures including home service options, subject to the sector-specific protocols of the DTI;
12. Fitness studios, gyms, and venues for non-contact exercise and sports, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols. Provided that patrons/clients and workers/employees wear face masks at all 3 times and that no group activities are conducted; and
13. Film, music, and television production, subject to the joint guidelines as may be issued by the DTI, DOLE, and the DOH.

These activities will be allowed provided that all on-site workers/employees of these establishments and organizers of activities are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and MPHS shall be strictly maintained. There is no objection from the LGU where these activities may take place.

The IATF, he said, instructed the Technical Working Group headed by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and National Vaccination Operations Center to craft guidelines in the implementation of stricter measures for the unvaccinated individuals.

Quarantine, isolation protocols

“We likewise reiterate the current local quarantine and isolation periods and protocols as embodied under Department of Health Administrative Order No. 2021-0043 or the Omnibus Guidelines on the Minimum Public Health Standards for the Safe Reopening of Institutions,” Nograles said. “This is for strict compliance of all stakeholders.”



NCR reverted to Alert Level 3 on Jan. 3-15: Palace exec

These include:

- 10 days isolation of positive cases for asymptomatic, mild, and moderate cases;
- 21 days isolation of positive cases for severe and critical cases;
- 7 days quarantine for close contacts who are fully vaccinated; and
- 14 days quarantine of close contacts and travelers for unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals.

He said IATF issued a directive to the Response Cluster ng National Task Force Against Covid-19 to prepare the pediatric healthcare capacity for the possible increase in Covid-19 cases among the pediatric population and hospital admissions given their unvaccinated status.

All implementing agencies, he said, are instructed to ensure that all protocols are adhered to and minimum public health standards observed especially in closed and crowded spaces, and close-contact activities.

Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall remain fully operational and shall adhere to at least 60 percent on-site capacity while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements.

“Mga kababayan, higit kailanman, muling nakaatang sa balikat nating lahat ang tagumpay ng bansa laban sa panibagong hamon nitong pandemya. Ngayong bisperas ng bagong taon, magdiwang nang may pagpapasalamat sa Mayakapal, ngunit manatiling mahinahon sa ating pag-iingat; maging ligtas sa ating pakikipagtulungan sa gobyerno at sa isa’t isa (Fellow Filipinos, the success of confronting another challenge in this pandemic rests on our shoulders, more that ever. This New Year’s eve, let us celebrate and thank God but let us remain calm and cautious. Let us be safe in helping the government and fellow Filipinos),” Nograles said. (PNA)



PH ends 2021 with nearly 3K new infections, 481 more recoveries

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor December 31, 2021, 4:40 pm



(PNA photo by Gil Calinga)

MANILA – The year 2021 will close with the country having a total of 2,843,979 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) after 2,961 new infections were recorded on New Year's Eve.

Friday's fresh cases translate to an 82.4 percent increase from Thursday's 1,623, raising the active case tally to 14,233.

In its Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH also logged 481 new recoveries pushed the total recovery count to 2,778,242.

Of the active cases, 8,365 are mild, 628 are asymptomatic, 342 are critical, 1,701 are severe, and 3,197 are moderate.

“Of the 2,961 reported cases today, 2,927 or 99 percent occurred within the recent 14 days – December 18 to 31, 2021,” the DOH said.

It added that the top regions with most cases in the recent two weeks were the National Capital Region with 1,981 or 68 percent, Calabarzon with 431 or 15 percent, and Region 3 with 179 or 6 percent of the country's new cases.

The death toll has reached 51,504 with 132 new deaths.

“Of the 132 deaths, 9 occurred in December 2021 (7 percent), 3 in November 2021 (2 percent), 24 in October 2021 (18 percent), 18 in September 2021 (14 percent), 12 in August 2021 (9 percent), 6 in July 2021 (5 percent), 8 in June 2021 (6 percent), 5 in May 2021 (4 percent), 13 in April 2021 (10 percent), 8 in March 2021 (6 percent), 4 in January 2021 (3 percent), 2 in December 2020 (2 percent), 3 in November 2020 (2 percent), 1 in October 2020 (1 percent), 4 in September 2020 (3 percent), 10 in



PH ends 2021 with nearly 3K new infections, 481 more recoveries

August 2020 (8 percent), 1 in July 2020 (1percent), and 1 in March 2020 (1 percent) due to late encoding of death information to COVIDKaya,” the DOH said.

The COVIDKaya is a digital application used by health care workers to collect and share data about Covid-19 cases.

The DOH added that this issue is currently being coordinated with the Epidemiology and Surveillance Units to ensure information is up to date.

According to DOH data on December 29, about 10.3 percent of 30,526 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

“Ten duplicates were removed from the total case count, of these, seven are recoveries and one is death. Also, 232 cases were found to have tested negative and have been removed from the total case count, of these, 230 are recoveries,” the DOH said.

It added 117 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

Two laboratories were not operational on December 28 and six laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH noted that the eight laboratories contribute, on average, 0.4 percent of samples tested, and 0.3 percent among positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

To date, 20 percent of 3,500 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 22 percent of 19,200 isolation beds, 12 percent of 12,200 ward beds, and 11 percent of 3,000 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 24 percent of 1,200 ICU beds, 21 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 21 percent of 3,700 ward beds, and 14 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region. **(PNA)**



Pandemic, calamity lessons to guide PH in 2022: PRRD

By Lade Jean Kabagani and Filane Mikee Cervantes December 31, 2021, 4:04 pm

Updated on December 31, 2021, 4:45 pm



President Rodrigo Duterte (*King Rodriguez/Presidential photo*)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday reminded Filipinos to cherish all their experiences gained from the year about to end, including struggles and victories in overcoming the Covid-19 pandemic and the damage caused by Typhoon Odette in Visayas and Mindanao.

Duterte said the Filipinos' distinct resilience and *bayanihan* (cooperation) spirit help the country come out stronger amid the challenging times.

"Every day, we continue to witness the indomitable spirit of the Filipino that adapts, endures, and triumphs over all adversities. The dedication and courage of our people, especially of our medical and essential front liners, uniformed services, civilian personnel, and volunteers, demonstrate what great things we can achieve if we work in solidarity," Duterte said in a statement.

"As we take a whole-of-nation approach to recover and build back better, may we all be inspired by the promise of new beginnings that the New Year brings," he said.

The President also urged the Filipinos "to aim higher and do things better in the spirit of genuine *"malasakit at pagbabago* (devotion and change)" as we will be entering another fresh start and opportunity next year.

"Let all our aspirations and actions be guided by our strong sense of nationhood and our deep faith in the Almighty. May we also find a stronger and higher purpose in our lives so that we may pursue only what is good for our families, communities, and the entire nation," Duterte said.

"*Isang pinagpala at masaganang Bagong Taon sa inyong lahat* (A blessed and prosperous New Year to you all)!" he concluded.



Pandemic, calamity lessons to guide PH in 2022: PRRD

Learn from yesterday

Meanwhile, Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said everyone should learn from "all that we have endured" in the past 12 months in order to "be better, be more inclusive and responsive, and be there for our fellow Filipinos in times of crises".

"For the past year, we have continued our response to the Covid-19 pandemic as one nation. Not only did we face together the highs and lows of our fight against the global health crisis, but our nation's grit, resilience, and bravery have recently been put to the test by the calamity and disaster, caused by Typhoon Odette," Andanar said.

Andanar said the public should remain "collectively firm and unyielding" in facing any uncertainty for the new year.

"In 2022, we will continue to face the challenges the new normal entails," he said. "It is only when we collectively address these challenges that we are able to see the difference we can make together and how we can contribute to the recovery and growth of our country."

He urged all Filipinos to do their part in the nation's recovery by complying with all health protocols and minimum health standards prescribed by the government. *(PNA)*



COVID-19 cases in Philippines rise anew. Here's what doctors say

By [Catalina Ricci S. Madarang](#)

- December 31, 2021 - 4:28 PM



People wearing face masks as protection against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) wait to ride a bus going to provinces, a day before the New Year's Eve, at a bus terminal in Paranaque City, Metro Manila, Philippines, Dec. 30, 2021. (Reuters/Lisa Marie David)

Doctors and concerned Filipinos urged others to follow health protocols and get their booster shots following the spike in COVID-19 cases.

The **Department of Health** [recorded](#) 1,623 additional infections or a 6.6% positivity rate on Thursday, December 30.

This brings the total cases to 2,841,260.

Of these, there are 11,772 active cases, 2,778,115 recoveries and 51,373 deaths.

In DOH's bulletin, the top provinces and cites with the most new cases in the last 14 days by date of onset of illness are:

- City of Manila – 838
- Quezon City – 425
- Cavite – 232
- City of Makati – 194
- Caloocan City – 165

Some doctors were alarmed by this.

Tony Leachon, ex-consultant of the National Task Force against COVID-19, provided context on how the uptick of COVID-19 infections can severely impact Filipinos' lives again in the near future.



COVID-19 cases in Philippines rise anew. Here's what doctors say

“New Surge Woes: Workplace disruption and health human resource shortage. We need to prevent Omicron transmission, even with mild presentations due to 40% vaccination rate in the country which might cause actual or breakthrough infections,” Leachon [said](#).

“This might not actually cause increase in hospitalizations or deaths like the delta variant particularly for the vaccinated individuals but it can cause breakthrough infections in which a person can still contract the virus and spread it,” he added.

Paolo Medina with the Twitter handle @LopaoMD also hoped the public will treat this as another “surge” of COVID-19 infections.

“Ngayon pa lang, aminin na natin na may surge. Ok? Wala nang pakiyeme-kiyeme at hair-splitting sa definition, utang na loob. Tapos, ipaunawa sa mamamayan na NAKUKUHA SA HANGIN ANG COVID-19. Walang saysay ang face shield. Mas maayos na mga face mask, distansiya at bentilasyon,” Medina [said](#).

He also called for ramped up testing and vaccination, particularly among workers.

“Paigtingin ang access sa testing, RT-PCR man o rapid antigen tests. Dalian at gawing hassle-free ang pagliban ng mga manggagawa’t empleyado kung sila’y may sakit o exposures. Ipagpatuloy ang pagbabakuna pero hindi lang ito ang pokus ng response. Nasa komunidad ang frontlines,” Medina [said](#).

Some Filipinos also urged others to stop being complacent, continue observing the mandated health protocols, and get vaccinated.

“Mga beh, di pa tayo covid-free. Be responsible citizens! Follow protocols. Lahat tayo ayaw na ma-lockdown,” one user [said](#).

“At the MRT station, I see people still logging themselves in. Unvaccinated pa rin ba sila? There are still people not wearing masks properly. So many kids roaming around. Too many people partying in some areas. Just because cases dipped doesn’t mean we can be complacent,” another user [wrote](#).

Dr. **Guido David** of OCTA Research shared on Twitter that the COVID-19 statistics are within the predicted range.

“1,623 new cases within predicted range of 1600 to 2000. High number of deaths,” David [said](#).

Analyst Edson Guido, meanwhile, shared a graph on how the positivity rate skyrocketed this December.

“The positivity rate on Dec 29 from tonight’s DOH Data Drop has increased to 10.4%, the highest in more than 2 months (or since October 22),” he [said](#).

Despite these developments, the national government [retained](#) the Philippines’ status to Alert Level 2 from January 1 to 15.

DOH has so far detected four cases of Omicron in the country.

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2021/12/31/207638/covid-19-cases-in-philippines-rise-anew-heres-what-doctors-say/>



PH receives last batch of gov't-procured vaccines for 2021

By Azer Parrocha December 31, 2021, 12:23 am



LAST SHIPMENT FOR 2021. Airport workers unload the boxes containing 609,570 doses of Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine at the NAIA Terminal 3 Bay area on Thursday night (Dec. 30, 2021). The last shipment for this year completes the country's supply deal for 40 million doses from Pfizer. (*Screengrab from FB Live*)

MANILA – Amid the upward trend in confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 cases in the Philippines, the national government on Thursday night received the last shipment of Covid-19 vaccines for the year — 609,570 doses of Pfizer.

The Pfizer vaccines, which arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 just before 9 p.m., complete the country's supply agreement for 40 million doses from the US drug maker.

Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, special medical adviser of the National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19, thanked the United States (US) government for their assistance in the delivery of the vaccines.

“We’d like to thank the US government for their assistance for the delivery of about 40 million doses of vaccines, which we had procured,” he said in an interview with reporters.

Aside from the 40 million Pfizer doses procured by the government, Herbosa said the US has also donated more than 26 million doses of Pfizer to the Philippines.

“This last shipment, ladies and gentlemen, completes all the procurements of the Philippine government for the year 2021,” he added.

To date, Herbosa said the Philippines has more than 210 million doses of vaccine.

Of this number, 138 million were procured by the government while the rest were donated by different countries to the Philippines through the COVAX Facility.

Michael William Leach, US Embassy consul, praised the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases for its effort to procure Covid-19 vaccines.



PH receives last batch of gov't-procured vaccines for 2021

"It's an honor to be a small part of the solution to this horrible pandemic here in the Philippines and to see the IATF and all the officials here handle it so well," he said.

Herbosa emphasized the need to boost the Philippines' vaccination drive after the country logged 1,623 new Covid-19 cases on Thursday — the highest single-day tally since November 21.

As of Thursday, the country has more than 2.8 million confirmed Covid-19 cases, more than 2.7 million recoveries, and 51,373 deaths.

"(It is) very important because our cases are rising. We are reminding people to get vaccinated, we are reminding people to get their booster doses," he said.

He also encouraged the public to continue adhering to minimum public health standards as the country welcomes the New Year.

"We do hope that people will be more careful as we greet the New Year and say goodbye to 2021 and meet 2022, please continue to observe minimum public health standards, wear the face mask, congregate with only vaccinated people. If you're going to hold a party on New Year's Eve, make sure it's outdoors like this and observe social distancing," he added. *(PNA)*



J&J Covid booster highly effective against severe omicron: study

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Dec 31 2021 01:23 PM



A preliminary South African government study published Thursday showed a booster of the Johnson & Johnson Covid vaccine was 85 percent effective in preventing hospitalization from the Omicron variant, a finding that helps revive the shot's reputation.

The South African Medical Research Council compared 69,000 health care workers who received two doses of the vaccine, based on viral vector technology, against a group of people who were unvaccinated.

The research, which has not yet been peer reviewed, was conducted from November 15 to December 20, a time when the heavily-mutated Omicron variant increased from 82 to 98 percent of Covid-19 cases in the country.

When a booster shot was given six to nine months after the first dose, vaccine efficacy against hospitalization increased over time, from 63 percent at 0-13 days to 85 percent one to two months post-boost.

"This data is important given the increased reliance on the Ad26.COV.2 vaccine in Africa," wrote the authors, using the formal name for the J&J shot.

The result was also hailed by the company. In a statement, J&J scientist Mathai Mammen said it showed the vaccine "remains strong and stable over time, including against circulating variants such as Omicron and Delta."

Around half a million South African health staff have received Johnson jabs as part of clinical trials.

Africa's hardest-hit country, South Africa has recorded more than 3.4 million cases and 90,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic.



J&J Covid booster highly effective against severe omicron: study

- T cells -

An earlier South African study in December found that two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine prevented hospital admissions by up to 70 percent. Results for three doses of that vaccine aren't yet known.

The news comes weeks after the United States formally recommended mRNA vaccines, made by Pfizer and Moderna, over the J&J shot, because of greater risks related to a rare form of blood clotting.

Preliminary lab studies had also shown that the J&J vaccine triggers fewer neutralizing antibodies - Y-shaped proteins that block infection -- against the heavily mutated Omicron variant, compared to mRNA vaccines, and it was suggested that it would be less effective in real life too.

The reason it performs better in the real world than some expected could be it evokes a heightened response of another part of the immune system, known as cellular immunity.

A separate, small analysis carried out by the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston on 65 individuals found that a J&J booster on top of two doses of the Pfizer Covid vaccine might provide greater protection than three doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

Though antibody levels surged to high levels after three doses of Pfizer, they also waned within a few weeks, while they rose steadily after two Pfizer shots and a J&J shot, and were at higher levels after four weeks.

Boosting with the J&J vaccine also elicited a strong increase in "killer T cells."

Though they can't stop infection, killer T cells search for cells that have been infected with the virus and destroy them, helping prevent severe illness. They are able to withstand variants far better than antibodies.

Overall, the data might mean that mix-and-match boosting could provide stronger protection than continuing with the same vaccine, but the long term durability of both strategies needs further study, said J&J.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 657

DISYEMBRE 31, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.5%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
14,233

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,778,242

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.81%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
51,504

MGA BAGONG KASO **2,961**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **481**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **132**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,843,979**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 29

DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 31
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 29

10.3%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

30,526

BILANG NG
TINVEST

HALOS

63.2%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

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

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.5K TOTAL BEDS)
20% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (19.2K TOTAL BEDS)
22% Utilized

WARD BEDS (12.2K TOTAL BEDS)
12% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
11% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS)
24% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)
21% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)
21% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
14% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

628 Asymptomatic

8,365 Mild

3,197 Moderate

1,701 Severe

342 Critical



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ngayong bisperas ng bagong taon, salubungin natin ito ng ligtas mula sa paputok at sa COVID-19. Laging alalahanin na ang pagsunod ng maayos sa Minimum Public Health Standards ay mabisang sangalang laban sa sakit. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa BHERTS o sa One COVID Referral Center na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

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](https://www.kontracovid.ph)



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

01 JANUARY 2022, Saturday



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- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
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MANILA

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Miz July

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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone
[#SaveManilaBay](#)

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 **engr. berto**
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
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MANILA BAY NAMANGHA AT HINDI NAPIGILAN NG OFW NA UMAKBAY SA ASAWA NI TATAY DIGONG! Miz July

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Miz July

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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

[#SaveManilaBay](#)

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PTV ✓

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Kaso ng COVID-19 sa NCR, dumodoble na

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Omicron variant, kumakalat na?
288 views • Dec 31, 2021

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NEWS 5 News5Everywhere ✓
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#TedFailonandDJChaCha | Hindi pa kumpirmado kung kalat na ang Omicron variant. Hindi naman maikakaila ang lalo pang dumaraming kaso ng COVID-19.

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