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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR OIC bares priorities

By: [Krixia Subingsubing](#) - Reporter / [@KrixiasINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:30 AM March 01, 2022



Jim Sampulna —photo from facebook of denr

As Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu stepped down from his post, the officer in charge (OIC) of the country's environment department vowed to continue his predecessor's biggest projects, including the Manila Bay and Boracay rehabilitation programs, and reforestation and biodiversity conservation efforts.

In a press conference on Monday, acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said he was directed by President Duterte to "protect the environment" and to continue Cimatu's 10-point agenda to rehabilitate the Manila Bay and pursue efforts for greening, solid waste management, mining and biodiversity, among others.

"We will continue that and I think the department has already been doing a good job on that," he told reporters. "I will report to you by June."

Cimatu, a former military general who oversaw the rehabilitation of both Boracay Island and Manila Bay, had resigned his post last week due to health reasons.

Started as tree marker

Sampulna started his career at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at the age of 20 as a tree marker based in Cotabato City for the Bureau of Forest Development in 1977.

Two years later, after graduating as a government scholar from Notre Dame University with a bachelor's degree in Commerce, he was promoted to budget examiner.

In 1988, he was promoted to chief regional development specialist of DENR-12. Since then, he has been slowly but consistently moving up the ranks. In 2013, he was named as a regional director.

In 2019, he was named undersecretary of the DENR, first for enforcement and special projects and later handling different other offices. His last stint as undersecretary was for mining, Muslim affairs and attached agencies before he was named OIC of the department effective Feb. 17. With only three months ahead of him, Sampulna's major focus is to rehabilitate the historic bay and make it "swimmable" before the Duterte administration ends.

While coliform levels in the bay have already drastically declined from billions or millions of most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100ml) in 2020 to mere hundreds-thousands at press time, he acknowledged that the department still has a long way to go before it can fulfill its mandate.



Sanitary landfills

The department is also looking at completing the second phase of the beach nourishment project using dolomite sand, even though Congress had not granted the DENR budget to buy new dolomite sand under the 2022 General Appropriations Act.

For now, Sampulna said his priority was to build sanitary landfills while also finalizing the list of nonenvironmentally acceptable products and packaging, an overdue 20-year-old mandate contested recently before the Supreme Court.

He also vowed to strengthen reforestation efforts under the government's national greening program, and to replicate the Boracay rehabilitation program in other major ecotourism and protected areas.

Sampulna assumes the post as forest rangers in the Masungi Georeserve Foundation were attacked by people allegedly working for resort owners in the reforestation area.

The foundation has been urging the DENR to take a more proactive role in the dispute.

For now, the department only promised to review the memorandum of agreement it signed with the foundation in 2017 under the late Environment Secretary Gina Lopez.

—With a report from Inquirer Research INQ



Continuation of DENR's environmental projects assured

Published February 28, 2022, 5:10 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officer-in-charge (OIC) Jim Sampulna vowed on Monday, Feb. 28, to continue the agency's priority programs which focus on the strengthened implementation of the county's solid waste management plans.



(Courtesy of DENR)

"I will continue to pursue the 10 priority programs of the department as set by former DENR Sec. Roy A. Cimatú." Sampulna said in a press briefing.

He noted that the agency was "on track" to complete the ongoing rehabilitation of Boracay Island, Manila Bay, and their respective coastal marine ecosystems.

"Our focus is on improving the base water quality [...] and reducing the fecal coliform level to make the Manila Bay set for swimming, boating, and other conduct of recreational activities," Sampulna disclosed.

He added that the DENR will also intensify its efforts to enforce the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act or Republic Act (RA) 9003 by assisting local government units (LGUs) in monitoring closed dumpsites and building sanitary landfills (SLFs).

According to the Environmental Management Bureau's (EMB) data, these SLFs should have a minimum lifespan of nine years and must be built by LGUs in line with the design of RA 9003.

In the case of plastic and waste pollution, Sampulna also pushed for banning single-use plastic.

"We need some legislation for that (ban on single-use plastic). Although there is no legislation on that yet, we are already advocating for it. I am pushing to ban single-use plastic because it is harmful to the environment," he said in an earlier statement.

Sampulna took over from Cimatú after Malacanang announced last Feb. 18 that the latter had already resigned from his post last due to health reasons.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/02/28/continuation-of-denrs-ongoing-environmental-projects-assured/>



MGA PROGRAMA SA KAPALIGIRAN IPAGPAPATULUY NG BAGONG DENR CHIEF



February 28, 2022 @ 11:54 AM 20 hours ago

PINURI ng bagong hepe ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) si dating Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa mga naging trabaho nito at nangakong ipagpapatuloy ang mahahalagang programa at proyekto nito sa kapaligiran hanggang matapos ang termino ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Ayon kay DENR OIC Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, ipagpapatuloy niya ang mga nagawa ng ahensya sa pamumuno ni Cimatu sa mga natitirang buwan ng administrasyon ni Duterte.

Binigyang-diin ng opisyal na tubong Mindanao ang progreso sa isinasagawang pagpapanumbalik ng Manila Bay at ang tagumpay sa Boracay Island rehabilitation.

Dahil sa kapabayaang nangyari sa Boracay island, ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang anim na buwang rehabilitasyon ng isla.

Umabot sa 400 hotels and restaurants ang ipinasara dahil sa paglabag sa environmental and sanitation laws habang tatlong casinos ang permanenteng ipinasara. Sinira rin ang mga establisimiyentong lumabag sa 30-meter shoreline

Nito lamang January 2022 ay napili ang Boracay Island bilang **“second most instagrammable place in the world”** ng prestihiyosong Big 7 Travel.

Ipagpapatuloy ni Secretary Sampulna ang priority projects bilang pangako kay Pangulong Duterte.

“We can now see the beauty of Manila Bay. Maybe only around 500-600 meters of the Manila Bay is yet to be laid down with dolomite sand. I intend to continue that project because that is our commitment to our dear President,” pagdidiin ni Sampulna.

“Meanwhile in Boracay, since it is also the commitment of the DENR to President Duterte, we intend to continue that,” aniya.

Dagdag pa dito, si Sampulna na siyang undersecretary for attached agencies, mining, and Muslim affairs bago ito maitalaga bilang OIC ng DENR ay nilinaw rin ang isyu tungkol sa open-pit mining matapos tanggalin ang ban nito sa pamamaagitan ng Executive Order 130.

Samantala, sa isyu naman ng pagbabawal sa paggamit ng single-use plastic, sinabi ni Sampulna na ang DENR ay ipagpapatuloy ang adbokasiya rito at suportado rin nito ang “banning” kahit na wala pang batas tungkol dito.



Ipinaalala rin ni Sampulna ang panawagan ng DENR at hinihikayat nito ang mga kandidato sa May 2022 elections na itigil na ang pagpapako ng campaign materials sa mga puno.

Sinabi rin nito sa publiko na huwag iboto ang mga kandidato na sumisira sa kapaligiran.



DENR targets swimmable 'dolomite beach' by end of Duterte's term

Published February 28, 2022, 1:49 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said having a swimmable 'dolomite beach' remains its target before the end of President Duterte's term.

In a press briefing, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said they will continue its aggressive efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay to reach the water quality standard of 100 most probable number (mpn) per 100 milliliters (mL), which is considered safe for swimming.

"We are confident na kung magtuloy-tuloy yong rehabilitation hopefully by the end of this administration's term we can beat the standard in terms of water quality. Gusto namin pag binuksan yan hindi na lang viewing ng mga tao pati yong life long dream natin na maging swimmable na yung Manila Bay (We are confident that with the continuous rehabilitation, hopefully by the end of this administration's term we can beat the standard in terms of water quality. We want to open that not only for viewing but for a life-long dream that it would become swimmable)," said Leones said on Monday, Feb. 28.

But he clarified that the department has no budget to purchase a new dolomite sand delivery, but Congress has allocated a budget for the area's continuous rehabilitation, such as installing necessary equipment and public restrooms.

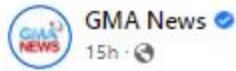
In January, the Manila Bay Coordinating Office's (MBCO) data revealed that the Baywalk area, which is a priority in rehabilitation, registered a notable decrease in the coliform level and recorded an average of 21,100 mpn per 100 ml as of the third quarter of 2021 from 5.75 million mpn per 100 mL in 2019.

The data also showed that in September last year, the Baywalk Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), which treats wastewater from the Padre Faura, Remedios, and Estero de San Antonio de Abad outfalls, receives an influent of 8.8 million mpn per 100mL and releases an effluent of 9.4 mpn per 100ml which passed the fecal coliform standard for recreational waters.

"We are happy because of the rehabilitation we cleaned the area and from billions to millions [of mpn per mL] we are happy to note that the existing result of the water quality of Manila Bay now ranges from thousands to hundreds of [mpn per mL]," Leones disclosed.



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Despite Alert Level 1 status in the National Capital Region starting on March 1 2022, the Dolomite Beach in Manila Bay will remain closed to the public until target completion in April. | via Cedric Castillo/GMA News

Visit www.gmanews.tv for more news reports.



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New DENR chief Sampulna to poll bets: Spare the trees

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA FEBRUARY 28, 2022

The country's new chief steward of the environment and natural resources is urging Filipino voters not to support candidates who may harbor tendencies ruin the environment.

At an online news briefing held Monday, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) OIC Secretary Jim Sampulna said voters should pick candidates who "love" the environment.

"I would prefer the voters to choose candidates who love the environment," he said.

Earlier, the new DENR chief asked candidates for the May 2022 elections to refrain from nailing campaign materials on any living trees.

"I wish upon all our Filipino brothers and sisters who are vying for elective positions for 2022 to avoid nailing your campaign materials in any living tree," Sampulna said.

"So, I am asking, especially to our voters, do not vote for all candidates who are destroying our environment. They should be environment-friendly," he added.

Sampulna said in the provinces, politicians nail their tarpaulins and other campaign materials on the trees. "They are living beings. Like people. If you hurt the tree, they might die," he said.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Environment Affairs Jonas R. Leones reminded candidates that hurting trees is against the law, urging the candidates to refrain from the practice.

He also urged candidates to properly dispose of their campaign paraphernalia, including tarpaulins, through recycling.

"We can reuse and recycle tarpaulins. Cement factories are using these tarpaulins as fuels now," he said.

Sustaining the gains under Cimatu

IN a separate news statement, Sampulna, who took over the post of DENR Secretary after former Secretary Roy A. Cimatu's resignation due to health reasons, vowed to continue his predecessor's 10 priority programs until the end of President Duterte's term.

Sampulna committed to building on the gains of the agency under Cimatu in the remaining months of the Duterte administration.

"The initiatives of our good Secretary, Secretary Cimatu, has made a huge impact on the Filipino people and I intend to continue what he has started," Sampulna said.

"What I can commit is, our initiatives in the next four months, we will do these for the benefit of the Filipino people," he added.

Manila Bay, Boracay

Among the new DENR chief's priorities are the rehabilitation of Manila Bay and the world-renowned Boracay in Malay, Aklan.

This as Sampulna underscored the progress in the ongoing restoration of Manila Bay and the success of the Boracay Island rehabilitation.



“We can now see the beauty of Manila Bay. Maybe only around 500 to 600 meters of the Manila Bay is yet to be laid down with dolomite sand. I intend to continue that project because that is our commitment to our dear President,” Sampulna pointed out.

In Boracay, since it is also the commitment of the DENR to President Duterte, he said he intends to continue and complete what his predecessor has started.

Single-use plastic ban

Sampulna, meanwhile, vowed to work on a policy that will effectively ban single-use plastic.

He pointed out that the DENR has already been advocating for this and he supports the ban despite the absence of a law.

“We need some legislation for that [ban on single-use plastic]. Although there is no legislation on that yet, we are already advocating for it,” Sampulna said.

“I am pushing to ban single-use plastic because it is harmful to the environment,” he said.



Panawagan ng DENR, suportahan

Published 2 hours ago on March 1, 2022 05:10 AM

By **TDI** @tribunephil

NGAYONG Lunes, nanawagan si Department of Environment and Natural Resources officer-in-charge Secretary Jim Sampulna sa mga botante na huwag iboto ang mga kandidatong hindi makakalikasan at ito ay dapat suportahan.

Ito ay sa harap naman ng nagkalat na mga campaign materials kung saan isinasabit at ikinakabit ang mga ito maging sa mga pinagbabawal na lugar.

Kinondena ni Sampulna ang pagkakabit ng campaign posters sa mga puno na karaniwang ginagawa ng mga pulitko at kanilang mga tagasuporta tuwing campaign period.

Ayon kay Sampulna, ginagamitan pa ng pako ang mga inilalagay na poster sa mga tarpaulin sa kahoy.

Iginiit ni Sampulna na may buhay ang mga puno at nagdudulot ng pagkasira ang ginagawa ng mga kandidato.

Sinabi pa ni Sampulna na nakaaapekto ang ginagawang paglalapastangan sa mga puno sa paglaki ng mga halaman.

Iginiit pa ni Sampulna na bagamat nirerespeto niya ang kalayaang pumili ng mga botante, dapat pa ring kilatisin kung sino sa mga kandidato ang pro-environment, base sa kanilang mga plataporma.

Sinabi pa ni Sampulna na inatasan siya ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na tiyakin na maipagpatuloy ang mga nasimulang programa ni dating Secretary Roy Cimat.

Kabilang dito ang Manila Bay at Boracay rehabilitation program na balak ding gawin sa ibang sikat na beach destination tulad ng Coron at El Nido sa Palawan, Panglao, Puerto Galera, at Siargao.

Nakatakdang simulan ang pangangampanya para sa lokal na posisyon sa 25 Marso 2022 at inaasahan na mas darami ang mga lalabag sa mga regulasyon.

Dapat na papanagutin ang mga patuloy na nagpapako ng mga poster sa mga puno at tiyakin na ipatupad ng Commission on Elections (Comelec) ang Oplan Baklas nito laban sa mga illegal campaign materials.

Iboto ang mga makakalikasang kandidato.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/03/01/panawagan-ng-denr-suportahan/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=panawagan-ng-denr-suportahan



Mga puno ‘wag sampayan ng campaign materials - DENR

Pilipino Star Ngayon March 1, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Hindi dapat iboto ang kandidatong hindi makakalikasan.

Ito ang pahayag ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officer in charge Jim Sampulna kasabay sa pagkondena sa mga ikinakabit na poster sa mga Puno na karaniwang nasusumpungan tuwing mayroong halalan.

“Yung ating mga pulitiko lalo na sa probinsiya, pinapako po ‘yong kanilang mga poster at mga tarpaulin sa kahoy. May buhay ‘yan. Ikaw kaya pakuan ko kung ‘di ka masaktan?” ani Sampulna.

Ayon pa kay Sampulan na nakakaapekto sa pahlavi ng puno o halaman ang pagpapako ng mga poster o tarpaulin dahil maaaring masira ang balat into.

Idinagdag pa na bagamat may kalayaang mamili ang mga botante, dapat na makilatis din ang mga kandidato na pro-environment base sa kanilang plataporma.

Sinabi pa ni Sampulna na ipagpapatuloy niya ang nasimulang programa ni dating Secretary Roy Climate kabilang ang pagpapaganda sa Manila Bay at Dolomite Beach at ang rehabilitation program sa Boracay.



DENR: Huwag iboto ang mga kandidatong hindi makakalikasan

Lady Vicencio, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Feb 28 2022 03:43 PM



Members of the Metro Manila Development Authority collect dismantled campaign posters and tarpaulins at the MMDA satellite office in Sta. Mesa, Manila during the ongoing "Oplan Baklas" on Feb. 18, 2022. *ABS-CBN News*

MAYNILA — Sinabi ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources officer-in-charge Secretary Jim Sampulna na hindi dapat iboto ang mga kandidatong hindi makakalikasan.

Kinondena niya ang pagkakabit ng campaign posters sa mga puno na karaniwang ginagawa ng mga pulitiko at kanilang mga taga-suporta tuwing campaign period.

“Yung ating mga pulitiko lalo na sa probinsiya, pinapako po ‘yong kanilang mga poster at mga tarpaulin sa kahoy. May buhay ‘yan. Ikaw kaya pakuan ko kung ‘di ka masaknan?’” ani Sampulna.

Paliwanag niya, makaapekto sa paglaki ng puno o halaman ang pagpapako ng posters dahil maaaring masira ang balat nito.

Bagamat sinabi niyang nirerespeto niya ang kalayaang pumili ng mga botante, hinihimok pa rin niya ang mga ito na kilatisin kung sino sa mga kandidato ang pro-environment, base sa kanilang mga plataporma.

Sa kaniyang pananatili sa DENR, mandato ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kay Sampulan ang pagpapatuloy ng mga nasimulang programa ng dating kalihim na si Roy Cimatu.

Kabilang dito ang Manila Bay at Boracay rehabilitation program na balak ding gawin sa ibang sikat na beach destinations tulad ng Coron at El Nido sa Palawan, Panglao, Puerto Galera, at Siargao.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/28/22/pagkabit-ng-campaign-posters-sa-mga-puno-kinondena-ng-denr?fbclid=IwAR0jhhv83dZvh4RxpCr_Oe_GUAKP6oJU6uoPhGyNWKBbWHDf_JjbnWHUAc



Two mining projects face closure for breach of environmental laws

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Two mining projects are facing possible closure orders for violation of environmental and mining laws, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

While declining to identify the two erring mining companies, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones told reporters during an online news conference on Monday that these mining projects were already recommended for closure or suspension by the late and former DENR Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez following a mining audit during her short stint as chief steward of the country's environment and natural resources in 2017.

However, because of their pending appeal in the Office of the President (OP), he said, the two companies are still in operation.

"The OP has no restraining order. Although they are allowed to operate, they need to comply with DENR requirements. We will issue a cease-and-desist order to these companies [if they fail to comply]," Leones said.

He explained that of the 26 mining operations that were previously recommended suspended or closed by Lopez, 13 went directly to file an appeal before the OP, while 13 have filed their appeal before the DENR.

Of the ones that appealed their case through regular channels in the DENR, 10 were given clearance to continue operation after instituting corrective measures.

The rests, he said, are still in the process of complying with corrective measures as mandated by the DENR through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

He explained that the mining companies, upon being slapped with the suspension or closure order by Lopez, were given 6 months to comply and many were able to comply, eventually getting the clearance to continue operation.

Newly designated DENR OIC Secretary Jim Sampulna on Monday also clarified the issue on open-pit mining in relation to the lifting of the ban through Executive Order 130 by Duterte.

Sampulna is the undersecretary for attached agencies, mining, and Muslim affairs before taking charge as the OIC of the DENR.

"It is in the law that open-pit mining is allowed. However, we have policies and guidelines on conducting open-pit mining which should be clear and followed," Sampulna pointed out.

"There are misnomers that if it is open-pit, then it is destructive. But even prior to the start of the project, there is already a plan for rehabilitation where the degree of damage to the environment has already been measured...it will be restored after their operation," he added.

He also noted that constant monitoring of mining operations is being conducted by the national government, neighboring mining communities, and the "very strict" Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC).

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/02/28/two-mining-projects-face-closure-for-breach-of-environmental-laws/>



DENR 7 commits funding for rehab of Moalboal's corals

CAMILLE LOUISE LOO February 28, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR 7) has committed to extend funding for the rehabilitation project of Pescador Island in Moalboal town, southern Cebu.

DENR 7 Assistant Regional Director Charlie Fabre made the announcement on Sunday during the kick-off of the "Dasig Pescador," a program that aims to rehabilitate the damaged corals in Pescador Island, a famous diving spot here in Cebu.

"We will ask Penro (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office) to allocate funds to support these efforts," Fabre said, even telling Moalboal Mayor Paz Rozgoni to suggest how much the town would need for the project.

Fabre said he was asked by DENR 7 Regional Director Paquito Melicor Jr. to express the funding commitment to the tourism stakeholders in Moalboal, as the agency is one with the efforts of the tourism industry to preserve and rehabilitate marine resources.

Fabre also said they will ask the Penro to prepare the "work and financial plan" for the funding support, with the approval of the Protected Area Management Board.

"We fully support the effective rehabilitation and protection of Pescador Island," he said.

Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, together with other professional divers, joined the diving event on Sunday to kick off what is deemed to be a crucial project for the recovery of Cebu's diving industry.

The project involves the replanting of corals in Pescador to recover its original and natural beauty before it was devastated by Typhoon Odette (Rai) last Dec. 16.

Hundreds of professional divers from across the country are expected to be part of this ongoing effort.

Pescador is an islet off the shores of the tourist town of Moalboal.

The "Dasig Pescador" coral replanting activity has been initiated by divers, the government and local tourism stakeholders in efforts to help the diving industry in Cebu recover.



Over 13K waterbirds seen at Asian avian census in Bicol

By Connie Calipay February 28, 2022, 4:33 pm



FLOCK IN FLIGHT. A flock of great egrets is seen flying over the Prieto Diaz Wetlands in Sorsogon during the recently conducted Asian Waterbird Census in Bicol. Over 13,000 waterbirds were recorded sighted in different sites in the Bicol Region. *(Photo courtesy of Anelisa Ariscon/DENR-Bicol's FB page)*

LEGAZPI CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Bicol (DENR-5) reported on Monday that over 13,000 waterbirds were sighted in the recently conducted Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) in Bicol Region.

In a social media post, DENR-5 said the AWC is an annual event coinciding with other international censuses of waterbirds in Africa, Europe, and Neotropics under the umbrella of the International Waterbird Census (IWC).

“The conduct of AWC aimed to provide a baseline data on the estimates and monitor the changes of waterbird population, improve knowledge of waterbird species and wetland sites, identify and monitor sites that are important for waterbirds in general and those sites that may qualify as ‘Wetlands of International Importance’ under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and increase the awareness on the importance of waterbirds and their habitat,” the post read.

Some of the waterbirds sighted during the activity were the cinnamon bittern, yellow bittern, great cormorant, white-browed crane, white-billed crow, and different species of kingfisher, dove, heron, plover, sandpiper, swallow, and tern, among others.

Vulnerable species such as the Philippine duck (*Anas luzonica*), common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), and Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes*) as well as near-threatened species like the red-necked stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), grey-tailed tattler (*Tringa brevipes*), and Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*) were also recorded.

The identified sites for the activity were the Cabusao Critical Habitat in Cabusao, Camarines Sur; Naro, and Chico Island Wildlife Sanctuaries in Cawayan, Masbate; and Juban Wetlands Critical Habitat and Prieto Diaz Wetlands in Sorsogon; Mercedes Critical Habitat in Mercedes, Camarines Norte; Panganiban Wetlands in Panganiban, Catanduanes; Bongsanglay Natural Park in Batuan, Masbate; Lake Bato in Libon, Albay; and Malison Lake in Ligao City.

DENR-Bicol Regional Executive Director Francisco E. Milla Jr. enjoined the public in the protection and conservation activities of wildlife species and their habitat biodiversity, which is mandated by Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. **(With a report from Eliakim Neric/PNA-OJT)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1168659>

Plastic industry pressures Filipino negotiators over plastics treaty

The Philippine environment agency responsible for managing solid waste in the country includes a representative of the plastics industry, leaving the possibility of waste pollution solutions tied to big business.



Activists gather in Quezon City, Philippines to remind government delegates to negotiate for a legally binding agreement to prevent and remedy plastic pollution and its toxic impacts. Image: EcoWaste Coalition

By [Hannah Alcoseba Fernandez](#)

5 minute read Feb. 28, 2022

Efforts by the Philippines to hammer out a global pact to combat plastic pollution, risk being influenced by plastic producers who have a representative in the government's solid waste management commission.

Filipino negotiators are virtually attending the [United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA\)](#) that will run from today until 2 March in Nairobi, Kenya. Member states are set to negotiate the terms for the first ever treaty on plastic pollution, that may result in restrictions on plastic production.

“There is the recurring pressure in the course of unceasing discussion on plastic pollution internally and externally with some business groups, as the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) is being co-chaired by a representative from the plastics industry,” Albert Magalang, chief of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)'s climate change service, told Eco-Business.

The NSWMC is the leading agency tasked with institutionalising a national programme that will manage the transport, processing and disposal of solid waste in the Philippines.

The [DENR secretary](#) is the chairperson of the solid waste commission while the vice-chairperson, Crispian Lao, is also the founding president of the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS), a multi-sectoral coalition whose members include top marine polluters Coca-Cola and Unilever.

Both consumer goods giants, which emerged in the top three of global plastic polluters in an [annual audit](#) of plastic debris found in coastal areas last year, are also two of the 70 signatories asking the UN for the global agreement. They ask that a legally binding treaty helps to reduce virgin plastic production and use and that it aligns with regulatory measures that cover the whole life cycle of plastics.

There is the recurring pressure in the course of unceasing discussion on plastic pollution internally and externally with some business groups, as the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) is being co-chaired by a representative from the plastics industry.

Lao, also the managing director of a local plastics company, argued that his involvement in the NSWMC is as a representative of the recycling, not the plastics, sector.

Lao said a good treaty should be one that is “inclusive, realistic and more importantly, implementable.”

The use of plastic packaging by food and consumer goods companies has been blamed for the marine pollution crisis, but no other material is as effective in ensuring the safe transportation of food, especially in an archipelagic country like the Philippines, where food has to be transported from one island to another, he told Eco-Business.

“Unless viable alternatives are identified that meets the health, safety and cost consideration of the consumers, and ensuring that there will be no transfer of environmental impacts through a life cycle and sustainability assessment approach, [it will not be a good treaty],” Lao said.

Shifting to reusable alternatives should consider the availability of water and waste water treatment infrastructure which are still lacking in many developing and low income countries like the Philippines, he explained.

Lao has pushed for an extended producer’s responsibility (EPR) scheme to be part of the accord, where private companies using plastic will be responsible for paying the cost of its collection, sorting, recycling and safe disposal.

“It should not be limited to plastics alone, but should also cover all materials under a circular economy, otherwise, there is a potential to shift to equally disposable alternatives that adds more strain to the local infrastructure,” he said.

Such disposable alternatives include imported, non recyclable wax or plastic lined paper that puts more pressure on existing inadequate disposal infrastructure.

He noted that even if the alternatives can be composted, the country already faces challenges in managing more than half of the existing biodegradable waste generated in the country.

Unless viable alternatives [to plastic] are identified that meets the health, safety and cost consideration of the consumers, and ensuring that there will be no transfer of environmental impacts through a life cycle and sustainability assessment approach, [it will not be a good treaty].

Crispian Lao, founding president of the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS)

Major chemical and plastics producers are [lobbying](#) to weaken the plastics treaty, pushing it to cover waste rather than production, as the industry is projected to double plastic output worldwide within two decades.

The involvement of plastic manufacturers and oil companies, which provide the petroleum-based raw materials to make plastics, is worrisome, said environmentalists.

“We are concerned that they will resist progressive binding controls and targets to curb plastic pollution such as reducing plastic production, phasing out single-use plastics, banning toxic plastic chemical additives and imposing extended producer responsibility, which will lead to an unambitious treaty,” said Aileen Lucero, national coordinator, of watchdog EcoWaste Coalition.

“A watered down treaty that is limited in scope and reliant on voluntary or corporate-led initiatives will mean ‘business as usual’ with lots of ‘greenwashing’ to the detriment of human and ecological health. A weak treaty will not solve the far-reaching plastic pollution that threatens the entire planet,” she told Eco-Business.



Rich nations to help curb plastic waste of the Philippines

Despite the plastics industry possibly influencing the outcome of the negotiations, Magalang said the government will steer towards a treaty that will make corporations liable for the plastics they produce based on the principle of the [common but differentiated responsibility \(CBDR\)](#) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The CBDR is a principle of international environmental law which states that while countries are responsible for addressing global environmental destruction, they are not equally responsible.

To achieve this, the Philippines will be lobbying for financial and technical support from rich countries, including capacity building, research and development, and technology transfer.

“There are wide differences in levels of economic development between developed and developing countries as well as the differences in their contributions and abilities or respective capabilities to address plastic pollution,” said Magalang, who was a climate negotiator at last year’s 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland.

“[We need rich countries to] support actions by developing countries, especially in terms of reducing materials used in packaging, improving recyclability, redesign of materials as well as sustainable low-carbon waste management schemes.”

The UNEA will be considering two competing drafts to arrive at a framework. A more comprehensive one, sponsored by Rwanda and Peru, is proposing to reduce plastics pollution worldwide from production to disposal. The other, sponsored by Japan, focuses narrowly on oceans and end-of-use.

The Philippines, as a co-sponsor of the [Peru-Rwanda Resolution](#) which is now supported by 185 countries, will also be working towards the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) that will call for global standards and bans to effectively and efficiently put a stop to plastic pollution.

Together with Magalang representing the Philippines in the negotiations this week will be Elenida Basug, director of DENR’s climate change service and Raquel Smith-Ortega, section chief of the service.



There's toxic plastic in your water: Groups see strong treaty as solution

By: [Kurt Dela Peña](#) - Content Researcher Writer / [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 07:28 PM February 28, 2022



FILE PHOTO: MAJOR POLLUTER The 2021 Oxford University's Our World in Data report says about 80 percent of global ocean plastic comes from Asian rivers, and the Philippines accounts for a third of that. Plastic waste literally covers some of our coastal areas as can be seen in this January 2019 photo off the shores of Baseco in Tondo, Manila. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

MANILA, Philippines—There's a need for a "strong plastics treaty" that will address and end the toxic threat and problems from plastic waste that are choking the world.

This was stressed by the EcoWaste Coalition as the second session of the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resumed on Monday (Feb. 28) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said the overall theme of the 5th UNEA is "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals."

UNEP said it will create momentum for governments to work on environmental actions "to protect and restore the natural world on which our economies and societies depend."

This was the reason that the EcoWaste Coalition said delegates should take the chance to negotiate on a "strong legally binding" agreement that will "prevent, lessen and remediate" the problems brought by plastics.

Aileen Lucero, the group's national coordinator, told UNEA—the world's highest decision-making body for the environment—that "we want a strong plastics treaty to stop toxic pollution and environmental injustice."

She said they link arms with the Break Free From Plastic, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, International Pollutants Elimination Network and all civil society groups in fighting for a strong plastics treaty.

Plastics crisis

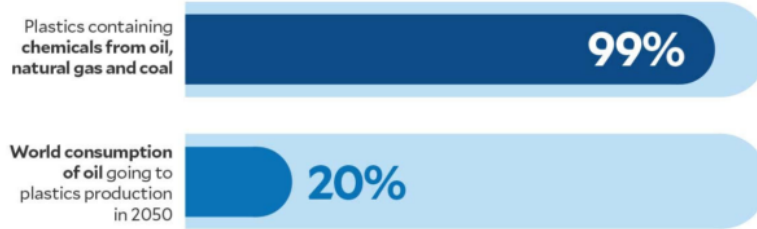
Inger Andersen, executive director of UNEP, said while reducing plastic use seems like one of the easiest environmental actions that people can take, "it is not," stressing that plastic pollution is the source of enormous harm to earth.

He said in a column that was first posted by The Times that there is no corner of the earth, from mountaintop to sea trench, without plastics. "We see it everywhere," he said.



UNEP said that currently, the world produces 300 million tons of plastic waste yearly and that over 8.3 billion tons of plastic has been produced since the early 1950s—60 percent of this ending up in landfills or the natural environment.

TOXIC PLASTIC



INQ | SOURCE: UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

GRAPHIC: Ed Lustan

From the 1950s to the 1970s, the world produced only a small volume of plastic, so the waste was “relatively manageable.” In the 1990s, however, plastic waste had more than tripled in just two decades.

UNEP said, in the early 2000s, the world’s plastic waste “rose more in a single decade than it had in the previous 40 years.” Since then, eight million tons of plastic waste end up in the oceans every year.

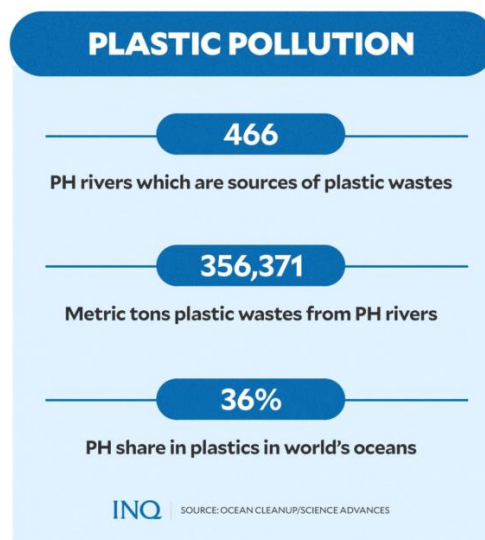
This, as the world produces 400 million tons of plastic yearly with only less than 10 percent recycled. The World Bank said every year, the Philippines generates 2.7 million tons of plastic waste.

Right now, UNEP said only nine percent of all plastic waste ever produced has been recycled, 12 percent has been incinerated, while the rest—79 percent—were thrown either into landfills or the natural environment.

PH polluted rivers

Last year, the Science Advances posted a peer-reviewed study by the Ocean Cleanup, an engineering environmental NGO that is based in the Netherlands.

It said rivers are a primary source of plastic waste in the oceans, stressing that 1,000 rivers are accountable for nearly 80 percent of the global yearly riverine plastic waste which range from 0.8 to 2.7 million metric tons every year.



GRAPHIC: Ed Lustan

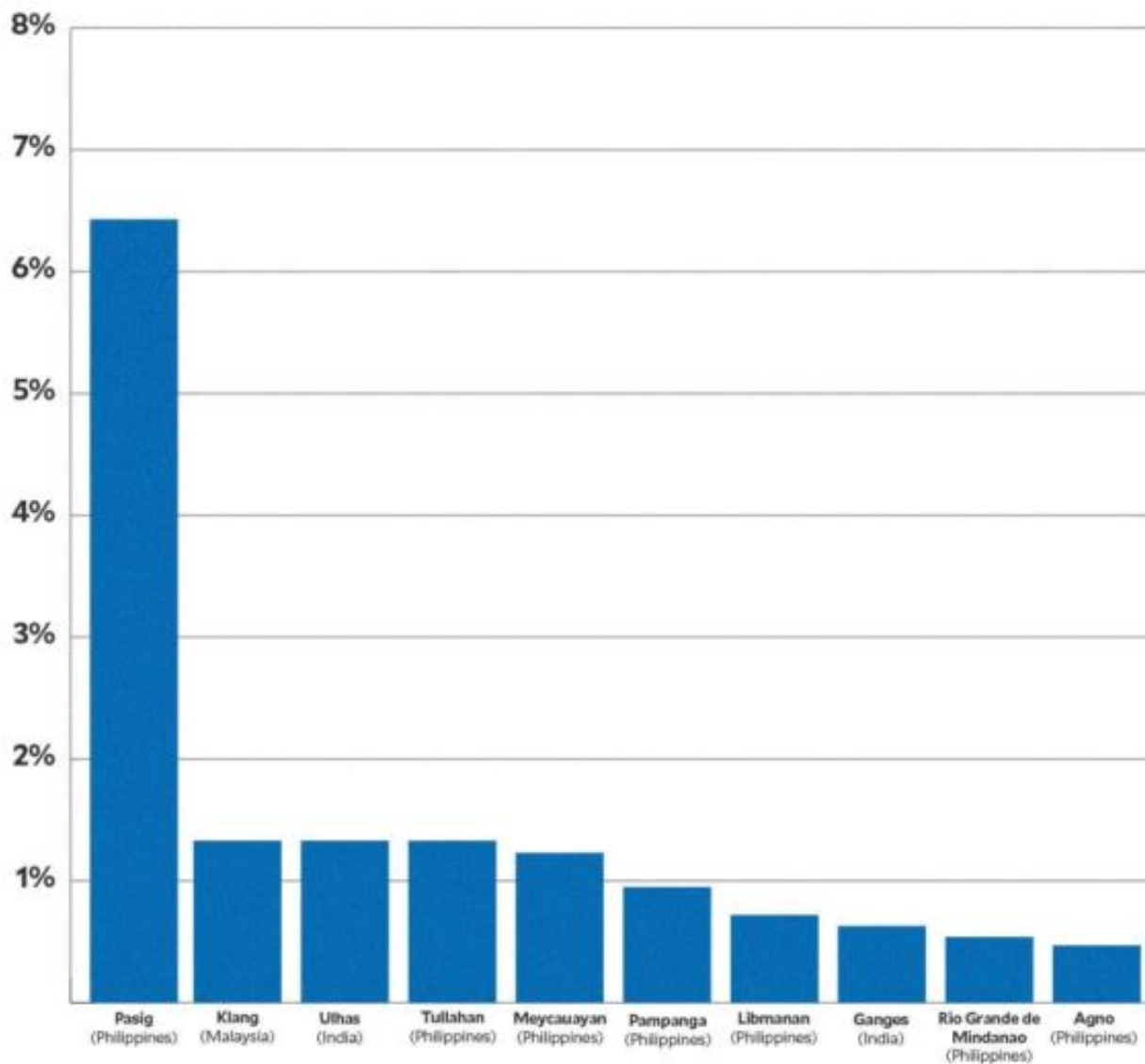


The remaining 20 percent of plastic waste is distributed over 30,000 rivers. It said most plastic waste came from small rivers, contrary to earlier studies which stated that most plastic waste came from big rivers.

- 454 “very small” rivers contribute 25 percent of yearly plastic waste emissions
- 360 “small” rivers contribute 24 percent of yearly plastic waste emissions
- 162 “medium” rivers contribute 22 percent of yearly plastic waste emissions
- 18 “large” rivers contribute two percent of yearly plastic waste emissions
- Six “very large” rivers contribute one percent of yearly plastic waste emissions
- Rivers of varying sizes contribute 26 percent of yearly plastic waste emissions

The study said the Philippines contributed 36 percent of the plastic waste that ended up in oceans—466 of its rivers emitted 356,371 metric tons of mismanaged plastic waste yearly.

TOP PLASTIC POLLUTING RIVERS





It revealed that with 62,591 tons of plastic entering the oceans every year, the 27-kilometer Pasig River, which is located in Metro Manila, was considered as the most polluting river.

1. Pasig (Philippines): 6.43 percent
2. Klang (Malaysia): 1.33 percent
3. Ulhas (India): 1.33 percent
4. Tullahan (Philippines): 1.33 percent
5. Meycauayan (Philippines): 1.23 percent
6. Pampanga (Philippines): 0.95 percent
7. Libmanan (Philippines): 0.72 percent
8. Ganges (India): 0.63 percent
9. Rio Grande de Mindanao (Philippines): 0.54 percent
10. Agno (Philippines): 0.47 percent

However, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources contradicted findings that Pasig River is the “most polluting river,” saying that it was based on 2016 data and rehabilitation had started already in 2019.

The Climate Change Commission explained that coastal states, like the Philippines, have a relatively high probability of plastic entering the ocean because of these:

- Short distances from land-based sources to rivers
- Shorter distances to oceans
- Plastic flows more easily into rivers from paved developed districts than it does in rivers from forests
- It travels farther in rainy climates than dry ones

‘Not a simple problem’

The Ecowaste Coalition said plastic is not a simple litter problem—it’s a complex environmental, health, justice and climate issue, especially since 99 percent of plastic is derived from fossil fuels.

A coalition which fights for sustainable and right solutions to waste, climate change and chemical problems, Ecowaste said there’s a need to end the flow of plastics and their toxic chemicals.

UNEP said more than 99 percent of plastics are produced from chemicals derived from oil, natural gas and coal—all of which are dirty and non-renewable resources which could worsen global warming.

With this trend, the plastic industry could account for 20 percent of the world’s total oil consumption by 2050. “We need to slow the flow of plastic at its source [...] we need to improve the way we manage our plastic waste,” UNEP said.

Andersen explained that chemicals in plastics can radically change the normal functioning of our hormones. Likewise, “microplastics are posing threats to coastal communities where marine species are the main food.”



PLASTIC PRODUCTION



INQ | SOURCE: ECOWASTE COALITION, WORLD BANK

GRAPHIC: Ed Lustan

UNEP said all over the world, one million plastic bottles are bought every minute while five trillion single-use plastic bags are used yearly—half of all plastic produced is designed for single use and then thrown away.

- Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)
- Water bottles, dispensing containers, biscuit trays
- High-density polyethylene (HDPE)
- Shampoo bottles, milk bottles, freezer bags, ice cream containers
- Low-density polyethylene (LDPE)
- Bags, trays, containers, food packaging film
- Polypropylene (PP)
- Potato chip bags, microwave dishes, ice cream tubs, bottle caps, single-use face masks
- Polystyrene (PS)
- Cutlery, plates, cups
- Expanded polystyrene (EPS)
- Protective packaging, hot drink cups

Since most of the plastic waste ends up in oceans, Andersen said a one percent decline in marine ecosystem services could cause an annual loss of \$500 billion in global ecosystem benefits.

HARMS OF PLASTIC

- 1** Can change functioning of hormones.
- 2** Microplastics are threat to marine life. \$500 billion losses estimated for every 1% decline in marine ecosystem health as result of plastic pollution.
- 3** Global warming as result of polymers, mainly oil-based.

INQ | SOURCE: UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

GRAPHIC: Ed Lustan



Conservation International said 17.6 billion pounds of plastic waste end up in the oceans every year, stressing that by 2050, ocean plastic will outweigh all of the ocean’s fish.

Based on data from the Sea Turtle Conservancy, plastic pollution kills one million marine animals every year—mammals, fish, sharks, turtles, and even birds—81 out of 123 marine mammals are known to have eaten or been entangled in plastic.

For EcoWaste, plastics which contain toxic chemicals and pose hazards to people’s health and the environment should not be produced and recycled.

What’s needed?

Andersen said states have a chance to make a new plastic-free economy a reality if they agree to start negotiations on a strong and comprehensive global agreement to tackle plastic pollution.

“There is momentum,” he said. Since September 2021, over 150 countries have expressed an interest in negotiating a global agreement, while 74 leading businesses have asked to do it.

NEED FOR CHANGE



He said an agreement would have to be ambitious and have to fast-track action to address the impact of plastics, on land and at sea, across the entire lifecycle. “This would allow us to build on progress made so far, which is not insignificant,” he said.

“We need a system change that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, from the extraction of raw materials to alternatives to improved waste management,” he said.

Andersen stressed that “we need to be innovative and eliminate products that are unnecessary, avoidable or problematic, design products for reuse and recycling and ensure this happens, remove hazardous additives.”

“By doing this we could reduce the volume of plastics entering our oceans by over 80 per cent by 2040 and reduce virgin plastic production by 55 per cent. We could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent and create 700,000 additional jobs, mainly in the global south,” he said.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1561240/theres-toxic-plastic-in-your-water-groups-see-strong-treaty-as-solution>



MENRE-BARMM to politicians: ‘Spare our trees’

By Edwin Fernandez February 28, 2022, 2:18 pm



Minister Abdulraof Macacua of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (File photo courtesy of MENRE-BARMM)

COTABATO CITY – A top environment official in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has appealed Monday to political aspirants, parties, and their supporters not to put election propaganda materials on trees.

Minister Abdulraof Macacua of the BARMM Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE) made the appeal even as he reminded political players about the law that prohibits nailing, tacking, or stapling propaganda materials on trees.

“Please bear in mind that nailing, tacking, and stapling of any propaganda materials during this election period in BARMM is strictly prohibited by law,” Macacua said in a statement aired in various radio stations across BARMM.

“Spare our trees, protect our environment,” he added in the vernacular.

He cited as a basis for his appeal the Republic Act 3571 (An Act to Prohibit the Cutting, Destroying or Injuring of Planted or Growing Trees) and Presidential Decree 953 (Requiring the Planting of trees in certain places and penalizing unauthorized cutting, destruction, damaging, and injuring of certain trees, plants and vegetation).

“*Ang mga lalabag dito ay tiyak na mapaparusahan* (Anyone violating these laws will be penalized),” Macacua said.

“Let us join together in protecting our environment because these were entrusted to us by God,” he added.

Earlier, Macacua directed MENRE Director-General Badr E. Salendab, and Forest Management Services Director Abdul-Jalil S. Umngan to coordinate with the Commission on Elections (Comelec-BARMM) on the matter.

“This is primarily to protect our environment,” he said, adding that he has noted some supporters of politicians nailing or tacking propaganda materials in trees.

Meanwhile, Salendab also noted that since the campaign period for national candidates has begun, posting of campaign materials in trees along national highways in many parts of the region is observed.



“This observation needs to be addressed and corresponding sanctions be imposed in line with the pertinent laws governing this issue,” Salendab said.

Umngan said MENRE will develop information, education, and communication materials on the “No-Nailing-On-Trees” campaign that will be posted on social media.

Lawyer Renault C. Macarambon, the Commission on Election-BARMM assistant director has acknowledged MENRE-BARMM’s effort in actively coordinating with them on the undertaking.

Macarambon said Comelec earlier planned to discuss with MENRE to revisit the “Operation Baklas,” which has guidelines that posting election propaganda outside of common poster areas, public places, or private without owner consent is unlawful during the campaign period. **(PNA)**



Binay to consumers: Conserve water as Angat water level dwindles

February 28, 2022 3 min read

The Angat Dam (NIA photo courtesy)

By Ernie Reyes

MANILA — Senator Nancy Binay today appealed to consumers to start conserving water amidst the dwindling water levels at Angat Dam.

Angat Dam is the main supplier of water to Metro Manila.

“Ang apela po natin sa mga kapwa consumer na simulan na po natin ang pagtitipid ng tubig at i-encourage din natin ang ating mga kasama sa bahay na maging praktikal sa paggamit ng tubig. Kasi, kung patuloy pa rin ang nakagawian nating paggamit, panigurado kakulangan ang Metro Manila ng supply at baka umabot na naman tayo sa pagrarasyon,” Binay said.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) in mid-February this year projected another water shortage in Metro Manila in April or May as water levels in Angat Dam continue to decline.

“Dapat din ay magpalabas ng abiso ang ating private concessionaires at national water agencies kung ano pa ang mga maaaring gawin upang makatipid ng tubig at posibleng paraan upang madagdagan ang supply lalo ngayong malapit na naman ang summer months,” she added.

As of February 24, data from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) showed the water level at Angat at 196.09 meters, slightly lower than the 196.66 meters recorded last February 19.

“Nagbabala na po ang PAGASA noong January na kung hindi makakatanggap ng sapat na ulan ang Angat ay posible ang water shortage,” Binay said.

Binay said that government and private concessionaires should start rolling out their contingency plans to address the situation, considering that as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said that there is a possibility of water shortage in Angat Dam as early as January this year.



“Kung kaya ay dapat nang ilabas ang mga contingency plan upang i-inform ang ating mga kababayan at mapaghandaan ang anumang eventuality,” she added.

The senator also said that water agencies should start coordinating with the Philippine Air Force and PAGASA about cloud seeding operations.

“We should explore all possibilities to increase the water level at Angat and other dams, as many depend on water for their daily activities, especially in keeping safe and healthy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic,” Binay said.

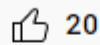
She also appealed to people to support tree planting and forest management activities in watersheds, noting that trees and forests play a crucial role in storing water.

“Bagamat pangmatagalang aksyon ito, malaki naman ang pakinabang long-term kung aalagaan natin ang mga watersheds,” Binay said. (ai/mtvn)



Clean-up drive at tree planting activity, isinagawa sa Gen. Trias, Cavite

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Climate change: IPCC report warns of 'irreversible' impacts of global warming

By Matt McGrath Environment correspondent Published 11 hours ago



Many of the impacts of global warming are now simply "irreversible" according to the UN's latest assessment.

But the authors of a new report say that there is still a brief window of time to avoid the very worst.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says that humans and nature are being pushed beyond their abilities to adapt.

Over 40% of the world's population are "highly vulnerable" to climate, the sombre study finds. But there's hope that if the rise in temperatures is kept below 1.5C, it would reduce projected losses.

Just four months on from COP26, where world leaders committed themselves to rapid action on climate change, this new UN study shows the scale of their task.

"Our report clearly indicates that places where people live and work may cease to exist, that ecosystems and species that we've all grown up with and that are central to our cultures and inform our languages may disappear," said Prof Debra Roberts, co-chair of the IPCC.

"So this is really a key moment. Our report points out very clearly, this is the decade of action, if we are going to turn things around."

This report from the IPCC is the second of three reviews from the world's foremost body of climate researchers.

Last August, **the first instalment** highlighted the scale of the effect that humans were having on the climate system.

This new report looks at the causes, impacts and solutions to climate change. It gives the clearest indication to date of how a warmer world is affecting all the living things on Earth.

The report is a stark account of the fierce consequences that the world is already experiencing, like growing numbers of people dying from heat.

But the authors say that there is still a brief window of time to avoid the very worst.



SADDAM MOHAMED

Image caption, A prolonged drought in Somalia has had major impacts on families, causing displacement

The report is a stark account of the fierce consequences that the world is already experiencing, like growing numbers of people dying from heat.

But the authors say that there is still a brief window of time to avoid the very worst.

"One of the things that I think is really, really clear in the report is that yes, things are bad, but actually, the future depends on us, not the climate," said Dr Helen Adams, a lead author on the report from King's College, London.

The report shows that extreme weather events linked to climate change like floods and heatwaves are hitting humans and other species much harder than previous assessments indicated.

The new study says that these impacts are already going beyond the ability of many people to cope.

While everyone is affected, some are being hit much harder. This outcome very much depends on where you live.

Between 2010 and 2020, 15 times more people died from floods, droughts and storms in very vulnerable regions including parts of Africa, South Asia and Central and South America, than in other parts of the world.

Nature is already seeing dramatic impacts at the current level of warming.

Coral reefs are being bleached and dying from rising temperatures, while many trees are succumbing to drought.



NURPHOTO



The report highlights the increasing impacts that are expected as the rise in global temperatures, currently around 1.1C, heads to 1.5C.

Continued and accelerating sea level rise will increasingly hit coastal settlements pushing them towards "submergence and loss".

Under all emissions scenarios, the IPCC expects a billion more people to be at risk from coastal specific climate hazards in the next few decades.

If temperatures rise to between 1.7 and 1.8C above the 1850s level, then the report states that half the human population could be exposed to periods of life-threatening climatic conditions arising from heat and humidity.

Commenting on the summary, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres described it as an "atlas of human suffering". He has no doubt as to where the blame lies.

"The facts are undeniable. This abdication of leadership is criminal. The world's biggest polluters are guilty of arson of our only home."

Health a growing concern

Diseases will likely spread more quickly in the coming decades, say the study's authors.

There is a particular risk that changing climactic conditions will ease the spread of mosquito-borne dengue fever to billions more by the end of this century.

As well as the physical health impacts, this report, for the first time, states that climate change may be exacerbating mental health issues, including stress and trauma related to extreme weather events and the loss of livelihoods and culture.

Warming threats to species

- About half of the living organisms assessed in the report are already moving, to higher ground or towards the poles.
- While up to 14% of species assessed will likely face a very high risk of extinction if the world warms by 1.5C, this will rise to up to 29% of species at 3C of warming.
- For creatures living in areas that are classed as vulnerable biodiversity hotspots, their already very high extinction risk is expected to double as warming rises towards 2C, and to go up tenfold if the world goes to 3C.

Some researchers have speculated that going over 1.5C for a short period would be acceptable if temperatures came back down below the level soon afterwards.

This report says there are dangers with this approach.

"In any overshoot there's an increasing risk of hitting tipping points and triggering feedback, in the climate system, like permafrost thawing," said Linda Schneider from the Heinrich Boll Institute, who was an observer at the IPCC discussions.

"That would make it a lot more difficult, it could make it impossible to get back below 1.5C."



RIJASOLO

Image caption, Flooding in Madagascar left devastation in its wake

The report is disdainful of technological fixes like deflecting the Sun's rays or removing carbon dioxide from the air, saying they could make things worse.

The summary for policymakers puts much focus on "climate resilient development," which it says helps build the strength to cope with climate change in every society.

"If our development pathways are ones in which health systems don't improve much, education doesn't improve much, our economies aren't growing very fast and inequality remains a big problem, that's a world where a particular amount of climate change is going to have a really big impact," said Prof Brian O'Neill, an IPCC coordinating lead author from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in the US.

"In contrast, if it's a world where we are really making rapid progress on education and health and poverty, if climate change is imposed on that society, the risk will be much lower."

Follow Matt on Twitter [@mattmcgrathbbc](https://twitter.com/mattmcgrathbbc).



After much praised waste export ban, Australia under fire for shipping plastic trash as ‘fuel’

February 28, 2022 | 4:17 pm



REUTERS

SINGAPORE — Australia will allow plastic trash to be shipped overseas and burned as fuel under a law introduced last year that banned the export of some plastic waste, the environment minister’s office said, prompting accusations from critics of hypocrisy.

Australia was praised for passing a landmark waste export ban in response to a public backlash against rich countries sending trash to poor countries where it often ends up being dumped, burned or leaking into the ocean.

But days after the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act came into effect on July 1 last year, Australia granted a license to its largest waste-to-energy facility to export plastic waste in the form of a fuel, a spokesperson for Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley confirmed in response to Reuters’ questions.

The license granted to Cleanaway Waste Management Limited and ResourceCo Pty Ltd., which has not previously been reported, is the first confirmation that Australia will ship plastic trash under the classification of Processed Engineered Fuel (PEF).

ResourceCo declined to comment and Cleanaway did not respond to a request for comment. Waste-derived fuels such as PEF — a shredded and compressed mix of trash like plastic, wood and metal — are used as a cheap alternative to coal by cement companies and incinerators, which promote its use as a way of reducing fossil fuel consumption.

Some scientists and environmentalists say burning plastic as a fuel undermines a much-needed switch to cleaner energy, increases planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions and releases toxic chemicals that put public health at risk.

Environmental groups said Australia had misled the public and ensured its waste would continue to pollute developing countries, especially in Southeast Asia which has become the main destination for the rich world’s waste.

“Australians were very proud and excited when the government announced its world-first ‘waste export ban,’” said Jane Bremmer, plastic advisor to the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN).

“Now we see this was disingenuous and a cynical political announcement as they are rebranding plastic waste exports as fuel.”



Ms. Ley's spokesperson said the law states that processed plastic can be exported, adding that only "a small number" of export licenses had been issued.

The spokesperson said there was no available data on how much plastic had been exported as fuel since the ban was introduced or information about where it was sent.

WASTE

CRISIS

Australia's new law bans the export of mixed plastic waste, which could include a hard-to-recycle jumble of items like bags, polystyrene cups and bubble wrap.

It permits the shipment of plastic waste that has been separated, like bales of drinks bottles that can be sent to recyclers overseas, as well as "processed" waste fuels.

Australia provided \$30 million (\$21.6 million) in loans to ResourceCo and Cleanaway for a plant to be built in New South Wales that will process 250,000 tonnes of waste a year into fuel for a nearby cement factory and exports to Asia, Ms. Ley's spokesperson confirmed.

With only 10% of global plastic waste recycled, burning plastic as a fuel is becoming increasingly popular as a way to get rid of soaring volumes of single-use plastic trash.

Plastic production, a key growth area for the petrochemicals industry, is due to double over the next 20 years.

Big oil companies that make plastic and major brands that use single-use packaging are investing in plastic-to-fuel projects in poor countries like Indonesia, Reuters revealed in a series of investigations last year.

United Nations members are holding a summit in Nairobi this week to agree on terms for the first ever plastic pollution treaty, including the role of waste-to-fuel processes.

Australian Environment Minister Ley said this month that she wants to use the summit to urge other countries to "follow Australia's lead" on waste export bans so plastic is "not shipped offshore where it becomes another country's problem," according to local media.

But environmentalists in Southeast Asia said Australia's rebranding of plastic waste as a fuel raised fears that rich countries would agree to a deal to continue exporting pollution to the developing world.

"Countries in Southeast Asia continue to be the dumping ground of wastes and discards for the developed and industrialized world," said Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator for EcoWaste Coalition in the Philippines.

"This not only exacerbates environmental and health risks but also amplifies the waste crisis facing countries like the Philippines." — **Joe Brock and Kanupriya Kapoor/Reuters**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/after-much-praised-waste-export-ban-australia-under-fire-for-shipping-plastic-trash-as-fuel/?fbclid=IwAR0nIkkGMW295Ey2kmdHYc-G7ePAzZb8vhq0o5ebC3XkQDPHSE5WNUjFgO4>

Of parachutes and helicopters: reconstructing the decolonisation agenda in environmental research

There is an intrinsic North-South divide in environmental research, which is also felt in Southeast Asia. There needs to be a mindset change to roll back some of these inequalities.



Participants of a community-based fire prevention and peatland restoration project in Riau province, Indonesia. Image: Pandam Prasetyo/CIFOR/Flickr

By Patrick O'Reilly, Helena Varkkey, Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzard Feb. 28, 2022

Senior Indonesian diplomat Arif Havas Oegroseno recently contrasted Indonesia's peatland restoration with Europe's poorer efforts. In a tweet, he suggested, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, that Europe should seek Indonesian advice and technical assistance. The statement echoed comments at COP26, which hailed progress in Indonesia's peatland restoration and research.

It is worth thinking about what this situation tells us about international environmental research and policymaking. European voices in peatland research tend to focus on the negative environmental impact of Southeast Asian peatland policy. Yet, the region has seen decades of peatland research. Indonesia and Malaysia also possess vast experience concerning peatland development and conservation.



Senior Indonesian diplomat Arif Havas Oegroseno's tweet from January 2022. Image: Twitter



In this context, the idea that Indonesian expertise might benefit European restoration efforts is entirely valid and should be unremarkable. The fact that both conservation advocates and palm oil industry supporters from Europe highlight evidence of Indonesian leadership in peatland restoration suggest that this is not the case.

Of parachutes and helicopters

This calls attention to a broader issue concerning the relationship between researchers and academics from different parts of the world. Environmental research in Southeast Asia is often initiated, led, funded and conducted by researchers and institutions from countries in the Global North. At worst, this type of situation may contribute to a phenomenon known as '[parachute science](#)' or '[helicopter research](#)'. However, even in circumstances where such projects are conducted with the active participation of local partners, this research is often shaped by Northern concerns.

This has implications for environmental research and policy. For example, tropical peatlands and rainforests have been identified as globally important carbon sinks. This has led to intense international scrutiny of Southeast Asia's peatland management, with little reflection on how historical human activity in European peatlands has reduced their capacity to store carbon, making the current focus on the relatively intact peatlands in the South inevitable.

Similarly, research concerning forest fires in the Global South often focuses on direct causes such as unsustainable business practices. By contrast, discussions of forest fire events in affluent countries often focus on the 'bigger picture'. A recent report by the [European Environmental Agency](#), for example, features the increasing role of climate change in causing forest fires on that continent. The implications of such agendas' dominance concerning the allocation of blame and responsibility for resolving global environmental issues is clear and profound.

Academic neo-colonialism?

Northern-based researchers often make strenuous efforts to avoid suggestions of academic 'neo-colonialism'. Proof of local involvement in international projects is often logistically essential and required for funding and visa applications. And many researchers and institutions in Southeast Asia have successfully carved out a niche as local partners.

Nevertheless, despite the best efforts of locals and the good intentions of their Northern partners, imbalances of power and value persist. Projects are still designed and justified based on Northern priorities. Furthermore, terms such as 'capacity development' and 'knowledge transfer' suggest that Southern know-how is lacking.

Such issues increase the danger that local researchers retain a subordinate role in a transaction whereby certification, 'advanced methods' and training are transferred south in exchange for a northward flow of data, samples, human resources and compliance with an externally determined agenda.

True, much of this research is funded by the Global North, implying that this tendency is natural. However, this may be part of the problem. If participants' chequebooks shape the agenda for 'scientific' inquiries concerning the environment, the implications are profound, even more so if these inquiries consequently shape policy.

Interrogating the status quo

While the status quo is not without critics, this has proven difficult to address. Globally, academia clings to its league tables. Systems of quality control and governance reinforce long-established pecking orders. The primarily English-speaking research world still attaches primacy to the 'purest' science undertaken in the most prestigious universities and published in the highest impact journals.



University ranking systems use measures that tend to favour the North and undervalue skills and know-how vital to delivering valuable research in Southeast Asia. Indonesian researchers, for example, are adept at delivering teaching and research with limited resources and tend to engage in multidisciplinary collaboration with researchers and policymakers at a much earlier stage in their careers. To what extent are these factors featured in rankings devised in the Global North?

Events over the past two years may have created opportunities to address these issues. The Black Lives Matter movement led some Northern universities to re-examine connections with colonial history and move to 'decolonise' curricula. And by restricting research tourism, Covid-19 compelled multinational research teams to develop remote working arrangements where researchers in the South often take the lead in delivering projects.

However, efforts to decolonise research and academia tend to focus on past transgressions rather than current practices. And many Northern-based researchers are looking forward to the end of the pandemic and the resumption of business as usual. Consequently, opportunities to rebalance research teams and priorities in ways that might address some of the distorting effects that Northern dominance has on environmental research agendas are unlikely to be seized.

This is hardly surprising. There is an inherent contradiction in the idea of elite institutions advocating more inclusivity while operating a business model based on the maintenance of their status as international centres of excellence. Likewise with the notion of relatively affluent researchers from such institutions bestowing decolonisation on communities and academics in the South.

Fairer, more balanced global knowledge systems are vital to developing truly global responses to environmental challenges that are fair, relevant, and workable. Yet these are unlikely to emerge from the efforts of Northern academia to get its own house in order. Rather, achieving this will require a fundamental transformation in how knowledge is produced, validated and shared.

Such a transformation inevitably begins with mindsets. Southern-based academics of all stripes must become more willing to question the status quo, challenge (or at the very least question) the merits and justifications of the hegemony of elite academic institutions. They need to be prepared to be more vociferous in questioning the relationships between research and power in policy making (such as those linking research and representational justice in climate change). They also need to appraise the true benefits that Northern funding, expertise, training and outputs bring to research and policymaking in the Global South.

This article was first published by ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute as a [Fulcrum](#) commentary.

01 MARCH 2022, TUESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



New DENR OIC bares priorities

By **Krixia Subingsubing**
@krixiasINQ

As Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu stepped down from his post, the new officer in charge (OIC) of the country's environment department vowed to continue his predecessor's biggest projects, including the Manila Bay and Boracay rehabilitation programs, and reforestation and biodiversity conservation efforts.

In a press conference on Monday, acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said he was directed by President Duterte to "protect the environment" and to continue Cimatu's 10-point agenda to rehabilitate the Manila Bay and pursue efforts for greening, solid waste management, mining and bio-

diversity, among others.

"We will continue that and I think the department has already been doing a good job on that," he told reporters. "I will report to you by June."

Cimatu, a former military general who oversaw the rehabilitation of both Boracay Island and Manila Bay, had resigned his post last week due to health reasons.

Started as tree marker

Sampulna started his career at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at the age of 20 as a tree marker based in Cotabato City for the Bureau of Forest Development in 1977.

Two years later, after graduating as a government scholar from Notre Dame Universi-



Jim Sampulna —PHOTO FROM
FACEBOOK OF DENR

ty with a bachelor's degree in Commerce, he was promoted to budget examiner.

In 1988, he was promoted to chief regional development specialist of DENR-12. Since then, he has been slowly but consistently moving up the ranks. In 2013, he was named as

a regional director.

In 2019, he was named undersecretary of the DENR, first for enforcement and special projects and later handling different other offices. His last stint as undersecretary was for mining, Muslim affairs and attached agencies before he was named OIC of the department effective Feb. 17.

With only three months ahead of him, Sampulna's major focus is to rehabilitate the historic bay and make it "swimmable" before the Duterte administration ends.

While coliform levels in the bay have already drastically declined from billions or millions of most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100ml) in 2020 to mere hundreds-thou-

sands at press time, he acknowledged that the department still has a long way to go before it can fulfill its mandate.

Sanitary landfills

The department is also looking at completing the second phase of the beach nourishment project using dolomite sand, even though Congress had not granted the DENR budget to buy new dolomite sand under the 2022 general appropriation act.

For now, Sampulna said his priority was to build sanitary landfills while also finalizing the list of nonenvironmentally acceptable products and packaging, an overdue 20-year-old mandate contested recently before the Supreme Court.

He also vowed to strengthen

reforestation efforts under the government's national greening program, and to replicate the Boracay rehabilitation program in other major ecotourism and protected areas.

Sampulna assumes the post as forest rangers in the Masungi Georeserve Foundation were attacked by people allegedly working for resort owners in the reforestation area.

The foundation has been urging the DENR to take a more proactive role in the dispute.

For now, the department only promised to review the memorandum of agreement it signed with the foundation in 2017 under the late Environment Secretary Gina Lopez.

—WITH A REPORT FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ



New DENR chief Sampulna to poll bets: Spare the trees

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE country's new chief steward of the environment and natural resources is urging Filipino voters not to support candidates who may harbor tendencies ruin the environment.

At an online news briefing held Monday, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) OIC Secretary Jim Sampulna said voters should pick candidates who "love" the environment.

"I would prefer the voters to choose candidates who love the environment," he said.

Earlier, the new DENR chief asked candidates for the May 2022 elections to refrain from nailing campaign materials on any living trees.

"I wish upon all our Filipino brothers and sisters who are vying for elective positions for 2022 to avoid nailing your campaign materials in any living tree," Sampulna said.

"So, I am asking, especially to our voters, do not vote for all candidates who are destroying our environment. They should be environment-friendly," he added.

Sampulna said in the provinces, politicians nail their tarpaulins and other campaign materials on the trees. "They are living beings. Like people. If you hurt the tree, they might die," he said.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Environment Affairs Jonas R. Leones reminded candidates that hurting trees is against the law, urging the candidates to refrain from the practice.

He also urged candidates to properly dispose of their campaign paraphernalia, including tarpaulins, through recycling.

"We can reuse and recycle tarpaulins. Cement factories are using these tarpaulins as fuels now," he said.

Sustaining the gains under Cimatu

IN a separate news statement, Sampulna, who took over the post of DENR Secretary after former Sec-

retary Roy A. Cimatu's resignation due to health reasons, vowed to continue his predecessor's 10 priority programs until the end of President Duterte's term.

Sampulna committed to building on the gains of the agency under Cimatu in the remaining months of the Duterte administration.

"The initiatives of our good Secretary, Secretary Cimatu, has made a huge impact on the Filipino people and I intend to continue what he has started," Sampulna said.

"What I can commit is, our initiatives in the next four months, we will do these for the benefit of the Filipino people," he added.

Manila Bay, Boracay

AMONG the new DENR chief's priorities are the rehabilitation of Manila Bay and the world-renowned Boracay in Malay, Aklan.

This as Sampulna underscored the progress in the ongoing restoration of Manila Bay and the success of the Boracay Island rehabilitation.

"We can now see the beauty of Manila Bay. Maybe only around 500 to 600 meters of the Manila Bay is yet to be laid down with dolomite sand. I intend to continue that project because that is our commitment to our dear President," Sampulna pointed out.

In Boracay, since it is also the commitment of the DENR to President Duterte, he said he intends to continue and complete what his predecessor has started.

Single-use plastic ban

SAMPULNA, meanwhile, vowed to work on a policy that will effectively ban single-use plastic.

He pointed out that the DENR has already been advocating for this and he supports the ban despite the absence of a law.

"We need some legislation for that [ban on single-use plastic]. Although there is no legislation on that yet, we are already advocating for it," Sampulna said.

"I am pushing to ban single-use plastic because it is harmful to the environment," he said.



EDITORIAL

Environmental bets

FACED with a warming planet, the people cannot afford not to consider environmental protection as an election issue.

And the next national leaders can no longer ignore the pace of ecological degradation.

Natural resource conservation should be placed on the front burner of national priorities.

Thus, voters should not elect officials who do not care about the environment, the new chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said.

Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary and officer-in-charge Jim Sampulna chided candidates who nail campaign materials, like posters and tarpaulin, on trees.

"I wish upon all our Filipino brothers and sisters who are vying for elective positions for 2022 to avoid nailing your campaign materials in any living tree," Sampulna said.

"So, I am asking, especially our voters, do not vote for candidates who are destroying our environment," he added.

Experts said nailing, screwing or stapling into trees damage the bark and puncture the insides, which may inhibit growth and increase vulnerability to disease.

Sampulna said the DENR is also against single-use plastics despite the absence of a law.

"We need some legislation for that (ban on single-use plastic). Although there is no legislation on that yet, we are already advocating for it," he said.

As for open-pit mining, he said there are policies and guidelines that must be followed.

"There are misnomers that if it is open-pit, then it is destructive. But even prior to the start of the project, there is already a plan for rehabilitation where the degree of damage to the environment has already been measured. It will be restored after their operations," he added.

Sampulna replaced Roy Cimatu, who recently stepped down due to health reasons.

"The initiatives of Secretary Cimatu made huge impacts on the Filipino people and I intend to continue what he started," Sampulna said. "What I can commit is our initiatives in the next four months, we will do these for the benefit of the Filipino people."

For his part, leading presidential aspirant Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr., has urged the Filipino youth to unite and take the lead in saving the country's environment for them to be assured of a greener, more livable planet for them and future generations.

Marcos stressed the importance of addressing the problems involving nature and environment as neglecting it would come with a high price.



KANDIDATONG MAY POSTER SA PUNO, 'WAG IBOTO — DENR

KANDIDATONG MAY POSTER SA PUNO, 'WAG IBOTO — DENR

INIHIRIT ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources officer-in-charge Secretary Jim Sampulna na hindi dapat iboto ang mga kandidatong hindi makakalikasan.

Ito ay makaraang kondenahin ni Sampulna ang pagkakabit ng campaign posters sa mga puno na karaniwang ginagawa ng mga pulitiko at kanilang mga tagasuporta tuwing campaign period.

"Yung ating mga pulitiko lalo na sa probinsiya, pinapako po 'yung kanilang mga poster at mga tarpaulin sa kahoy. May buhay 'yan. Ikaw kaya pakuan ko kung 'di ka masaktan?" wika ni

Sampulna.

Ipinaliwanag ng opisyal na makaaapekto sa paglaki ng puno o halaman ang pagpapako ng posters dahil maaaring masira ang balat nito.

Sa kabila na nirespeto nito ang kalayaang pumili ng mga botante, hinihikayat pa rin niya ang mga ito na kilatisin kung sino sa mga kandidato ang pro-environment, base sa kanilang mga plataporma.

Sa kanyang pananatili sa DENR, mandato ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kay Sampulna ang pagpatuloy ng mga nasimulang programa ng dating kalihim na si Roy Cimat.

(Mylene Alfonso)



03-01-22

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Mga puno 'wag sampayan ng campaign materials - DENR

Hindi dapat iboto ang kandidatong hindi makakalikasan.

Ito ang pahayag ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officer in charge Jim Sampulna kasabay sa pagkondena sa mga ikinakabit na poster sa mga Puno na karaniwang nasusumpungang tuwing mayroong halalan.

"Yung ating mga pulitiko lalo na sa probinsiya, pinapako po 'yong kanilang mga poster at mga tarpaulin sa kahoy. May buhay 'yan. Ikaw kaya pakuan ko kung 'di ka masaktan?' ani Sampulna.

Ayon pa kay Sampulna na nakakaapekto sa pahilaga ng puno o halaman ang pagpapako ng mga poster o tarpaulin dahil maaaring masira ang balat into.

Idinagdag pa na bagamat may kalayaang mamili ang mga botante, dapat na makilatis din ang mga kandidato na pro-environment base sa kanilang plataporma.

Sinabi pa ni Sampulna na ipagpapatuloy niya ang nasimulang programa ni dating Secretary Roy Climate kabilang ang pagpapaganda sa Manila Bay at Dolomite Beach at ang rehabilitation program sa Boracay.



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DOLOMITE BEACH AT PAGLALAGAY NG CANNON REPLICA, TATAPUSIN NG DENR

SINABI ng bagong Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Jim Sampulna na ipagpapatuloy niya at tatapusin ang kontrobersyal na Dolomite Beach project ng Kagawaran dahil ito ay kanilang commitment kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte at magiging bahagi ng legacy report nito.

Nasa limang daan hanggang anim na daan meters na lamang ng Manila Bay ang kinakailangang lagyan ng dolomite.

Bawat araw simula nitong January 2022 ay bukas sa publiko ang pagpasyal sa bahagi ng Manila Bay pero kinakailangan ang advance na pagpapalista online.

Nauna namang nagbigay ng babala ang mga health expert na makakasama sa isang tao ang pagkakasing-hot ng dinurog na dolomite.

Nakapanayam ng inyong Agarang Serbisyo Lady sa isang press conference via zoom si Secretary Sampulna, walang katotohanan na ito ay nakakasama sa kalusugan.

Si Sampulna ay pumalit sa posisyon ni dating DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu makaraang magbitiw ito dahil sa isyung pagkalusugan.



REMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

Bilang tanda ng mga hamon at mga nakamit sa "Battle for Manila Bay" rehabilitation program ay nakipagsanib puwersa ang DENR at Department of National Defense (DND) para sa paglalagay ng cannon replica sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard Baywalk sa Manila.

Magtatayo ang DENR at DND ng replica ng Fort Drum Island cannon malapit sa Remedios drainage outfall sa Maynila upang ito ay mag-serve as a physical reminder of the DENR's commitment and willpower in our battle to rehabilitate Manila Bay."

Ang Drum Island na kilalarin sa tawag na El Fraile Island ay isa sa apat na isla na matatagpuan sa bunganga

ng Manila Bay na nagsilbing matinding depensa na nagprotekta sa capital city na Manila mula sa naval invasion ng Spanish colonial rule hanggang noong World War II.

Ang cannon replica ay 19.04 cubic meters habang ang orihinal na barrel ay 37 feet at may bigat na sampung tonelada. Ito ay itatayo sa 251.1-cubic meter concrete platform sa kahabaan ng Remedios area.

Inaasahan ng DENR at DND na agad na matatapos ang proyekto at magkakaroon ng inagurasyon ng cannon replica sa Abril 9, 2022 kasabay sa pagdiriwang ng Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor).



Two mining projects face closure

for breach of environmental laws

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

TWO mining projects are facing possible closure orders for violation of environmental and mining laws, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

While declining to identify the two erring mining companies, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones told reporters during an online news conference on Monday that these mining projects were already recommended for closure or suspension by the late and former DENR Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez following a mining audit during her short stint as chief steward of the country's environment

and natural resources in 2017.

However, because of their pending appeal in the Office of the President (OP), he said, the two companies are still in operation.

"The OP has no restraining order. Although they are allowed to operate, they need to comply with DENR requirements. We will issue a cease-and-desist order to these companies [if they fail to comply]," Leones said.

He explained that of the 26 mining operations that were previously recommended suspended or closed by Lopez, 13 went directly to file an appeal before the OP, while 13 have filed their appeal before the DENR.

Of the ones that appealed their case through regular channels in the DENR, 10 were given clearance to continue operation after instituting

corrective measures.

The rests, he said, are still in the process of complying with corrective measures as mandated by the DENR through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

He explained that the mining companies, upon being slapped with the suspension or closure order by Lopez, were given 6 months to comply and many were able to comply, eventually getting the clearance to continue operation.

Newly designated DENR OIC Secretary Jim Sampulna on Monday also clarified the issue on open-pit mining in relation to the lifting of the ban through Executive Order 130 by Duterte.

Sampulna is the undersecretary for attached agencies, mining, and

Muslim affairs before taking charge as the OIC of the DENR.

"It is in the law that open-pit mining is allowed. However, we have policies and guidelines on conducting open-pit mining which should be clear and followed," Sampulna pointed out.

"There are misconceptions that if it is open-pit, then it is destructive. But even prior to the start of the project, there is already a plan for rehabilitation where the degree of damage to the environment has already been measured...it will be restored after their operation," he added.

He also noted that constant monitoring of mining operations is being conducted by the national government, neighboring mining communities, and the "very strict" Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC).



STRATEGIC
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TITLE:

Climate change, conflict, and resistant viruses

WORLD VIEW

MUHAMMAD HAMID ZAMAN

Boston—Climate change is not the only slow-moving crisis to reach a tipping point, thanks to corporate greed, individual bad behavior, a stalemate in international negotiations, and a prolonged lack of any sense of urgency on the part of the public and policymakers. The same factors have also contributed to a dramatic rise in antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The extent of the threat to human health posed by AMR can hardly be overstated. Already, the loss of potency or effectiveness of antibiotics contributes to nearly 1.2 million deaths annually. That is more than either HIV or malaria.

Some scholars have noted the similarity of the difficulties in addressing climate change and AMR. But so far, there has been little discussion about the damage caused by the convergence of these crises.

Around the world, people who live in urban slums face the combined challenges of climate-related pressures and drugs that no longer work. Even where there is no government monitoring of drug-resistant infections, local doctors in these communities notice the problem. Resistant strains of bacteria develop in these areas due to the widespread availability of substandard drugs, the overuse of antibiotics, and the confluence of sewage and drinking water.

Some reports suggest that climate change leads to changes in disease dynamics and drug resistance. While more research is needed to establish the connection, it is already clear that climate change forces people to move to places with high population density, increased poverty, and limited sanitation.

These environments are ideal for drug-resis-

sistant infections to emerge. In fact, some of the most serious outbreaks in the recent past have surfaced in polluted, low-income urban environments in South Asia.

It is no coincidence that poor communities suffer the most devastating effects of climate change, or that drug-resistant infections are likely to affect lower-income groups disproportionately. But climate change is not the only global problem that contributes to the growth of AMR in disadvantaged communities.

While there is some evidence (although limited) of a correlation between climate change and conflict, the link between conflict and drug-resistant infections is well established. Conflict overwhelms hospitals and makes treatment inaccessible. It also poisons the environment and allows new strains of bacteria to breed. Communities in conflict zones have a high risk of infection and a low likelihood of receiving appropriate antibiotics.

Microorganisms like Iraqibacter, which emerged after the second Gulf war, are a reminder that conflict remains a potent and underappreciated driver of multidrug-resistant infections. Once again, its effects are felt most by those who are vulnerable and unable to move to a safer place.

If there is reason to believe that climate change and conflict are linked, it is safe to assume that communities affected by these cri-

ses will also be affected by a disproportionate burden of AMR.

As with climate change and conflict, those most at risk from antibiotic resistance are rarely part of the discussion about how to confront it. The action plans drafted in global capitals are disconnected from the realities on the ground. For example, small-scale farmers in Pakistan are aware that most of the available antibiotics no longer work for their cattle or poultry, but they don't know what to do about it. And the authorities make no effort to engage them to develop a viable solution. Left with few options, these farmers continue to increase the doses they administer, or create their own medical cocktails from available drugs.

A true global effort on AMR, fully funded and supported by policymakers at all levels, is long overdue. Recent studies provide the necessary data to bring the issue to the forefront of international discussion. But, after more than two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, there seems to be little interest in taking on another global health crisis.

Perhaps one way for the fight against AMR to gain momentum is not to talk about the pathogens alone, but to raise awareness of the combined effects of climate change, conflict, and AMR on people and the planet. The convergence of these crises poses a significant threat to the health of both. *Project Syndicate*

Muhammad Hamid Zaman, professor of Biomedical Engineering and International Health at Boston University, is the author of "Biography of Resistance: The Epic Battle between People and Pathogens" (Harper Wave, 2020).



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Binay: Start saving water as Angat Dam level dips

By **CARMELITA P.
BALAGTAS-
SARMIENTO**

SENATOR Nancy Binay appealed to consumers to start conserving water amid the dwindling water levels at Angat Dam.

Angat Dam is the main supplier of water to Metro Manila.

"Ang apela po natin sa mga kapwa consumer na simulan na po natin ang pagtiitipid ng tubig at i-encourage din natin ang ating mga kasama sa bahay na maging praktikal sa paggamit ng tubig. Kasi, kung patuloy pa rin ang nakagawian nating paggamit, panigurado [kukulangin] ang Metro Manila ng supply at baka umabot na naman tayo sa pagrarsyon," Binay said.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) in mid-February this year projected another water shortage in Metro Manila in April or May as water levels in Angat Dam continue to decline.

"Dapat din ay magpalabas ng abiso ang ating private concessionaires at national water agencies kung ano pa ang mga maaaring gawin upang makatipid ng tubig at posibleng paraan upang madagdagan ang supply lalo ngayong malapit na naman ang summer months," she added.

As of February 24, data from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) showed the water level at Angat at 196.09 meters, slightly lower than the 196.66 meters recorded last February 19.

"Nagbabala na po ang PAGASA noong January na kung hindi makakatanggap ng sapat na ulan ang Angat ay posible ang water shortage," Binay said.

Binay said that government and private concessionaires should start rolling out their contingency plans to address the situation, considering that the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said that there is a possibility of water shortage in Angat Dam as early as January this year.

"Kung kaya ay dapat nang ilabas ang mga contingency plan upang i-inform ang ating mga kababayan at mapaghandaan ang anumang eventuality," she added.

The senator also said that water agencies should start coordinating with the Philippine Air Force (PAF) and PAGASA about cloud seeding operations.

"We should explore all possibilities to increase the

water level at Angat and other dams, as many depend on water for their daily activities, especially in keeping safe and healthy amid the COVID-19 pandemic," Binay said.

She also appealed to people to support tree planting and forest management activities in watersheds, noting that trees and forests play a crucial role in storing water.

"Bagamat pangmatalagalang aksyon ito, malaki naman ang pakinabang, long-term kung aalagaan natin ang mga watersheds," Binay said.



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PUBLIC NOTICE



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU - R6
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Region VI, Western Visayas
EMB Building, DENR Compound, Parola, Iloilo City
Tel No (033) 336-6989 Email: emb@6.emb.gov.ph



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to participate in the Public Hearing for the proposed PLDT Domestic Submarine Cable Area 1 (DSCA1) Project - Region VI Segment 10 on the following date, onsite registration is at 12:30 PM and the Public Hearing proper will promptly start at 1:00 PM.

Date / Time	8 March 2022 (Tuesday) / 1:00 PM
Venue	Online Meeting via Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81860013512?pwd=VDBUa25hcnVhGvvaEtrcFjMDJUTU09 Meeting ID: 818 6001 3512 Passcode: 566874
Brief Description	PLDT Inc. has a nationwide fiber optic backbone network comprised of nodes connected by terrestrial and submarine cable links used to deliver PLDT's voice, video, data, and other broadband and multimedia services nationwide. These also provide alternative segment route protection for added resiliency against single and multiple fiber breaks along the different segments. To date, PLDT's network has an approximate aggregated loop capacity of more than 7.0 Terabits per second and includes international connectivity. The PLDT Domestic Submarine Cable Area 1 (DSCA1) Project proposes to link the islands of Samar, Luzon, Burias, Lubang, Mindoro, Semirara, and Panay.
Proposed Location	Barangay Tisogbo, Semirara Island, Caluya, Antique to Barangay Poblacion, Malay, Aklan, R6
Proponent	PLDT, Inc.

The public hearing aims to achieve efficient exchange of information and views between and among the project proponent, the EMB-DENR, relevant agencies, LGUs and other stakeholders on environmental impacts of the proposed project currently applying for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

Full copies of Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) and EIS Summary for the Public can be accessed thru EMB R6 website at <http://r6.emb.gov.ph/>.

For health and safety of everyone in this time of COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage interested participants to join the meeting via video conferencing or online meeting.

For pre-registration and access of online meeting details or for more information, please contact the EIA Section of EMB R6 at mobile numbers 0999-6253-691/033-336-6989/ local number: 1005.

RG-2022-004201

ATTY. RAMAR NIEL V. PASCUA
Regional Director

"Productivity with Environmental Protection is the best answer to poverty"

01 MARCH 2022, TUESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



New COVID-19 cases bagsak sa 951 sa bisperas ng Alert Level 1 sa 'Pinas

(Philstar.com) - February 28, 2022 - 4:21pm



People cross a street at a popular shopping centre in Manila on February 4, 2022, after authorities issued relaxation of Covid-19 rules.
AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Lalo pang lumagapak pababa ang bagong nahahawaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas matapos nitong umabot sa 951 ngayong Lunes — ang pinakamababa sa loob ng 61 araw.

Huling mas mababa sa 1,000 ang mga bagong hawa ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas noong ika-29 ng Disyembre, 2021 noong sumadsad ito sa 889. Matapos nito, tuloy-tuloy na ang pagtalon nito kasabay ng pagpasok ng Omicron variant sa bansa.

- **total cases** (3,661,997)
- **bagong kaso** (951)
- **total deaths** (56,451)
- **kamamatay lang** (50)
- **aktibong kaso** (52,179)

Ang naturang nagbababaang bilang ay inilabas ng Department of Health (DOH) [isang araw bago ipatupad ang pinakamaluwag na Alert Level 1 sa Metro Manila at 38 pang lugar](#).

Dahil sa panibagong alert level systems mula ika-1 hanggang ika-15 ng Marso, [papayagan na ang 100% kapasidad sa mga pampublikong transportasyon](#), mga establisyamento atbp. habang lalong niluluwagan ang mga restrictions laban sa COVID-19.

Sa kabila nito, kailangan pa ring sumunod sa minimum public health standards ang mga tao sa nasabing lugar, gaya ng pagsusuot ng face masks at pag-observe sa minimum public health standards.

Kahit na mababa ang mga bilang ngayong araw, sinasabing limang laboratoryo pa ang hindi nakapagsumite ng kanyang mga datos sa COVID-19 Document Repository System.

"Of the 951 reported cases today, 895 (94%) occurred within the recent 14 days (February 15 - February 28, 2022)," paliwanag pa ng DOH kanina.



Sa nakalipas na dalawang linggo, ang mga sumusunod na lugar ang nakapagtala ng pinakamaraming bilang ng COVID-19 cases:

- National Capital Region (231)
- CALABARZON (136)
- Western Visayas (93)

"Three duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 1 is a recovery," saad pa ng kagawaran sa isang pahayag,

"Moreover, 36 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation." — **James Relativo**



IATF okays amended guidelines under AL 1

BY SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA FEBRUARY 28, 2022



In file photo: A Land Transportation Office law enforcer reminds bus passengers on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, to follow health protocols in an information drive to curb the infection rate of Covid-19.

All public and private establishments as well as public utility vehicles (PUV) will now be allowed to operate at full capacity in areas under Alert (AL) Level 1.

In a news statement issued on Sunday, Acting Presidential Spokesman Karlo B. Nograles disclosed the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF) removed the operational restrictions in the said areas.

However, he noted workers, who will still be performing on-site duties would still be required to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

“They [establishments] may continue to provide flexible and alternative work arrangements as deemed appropriate based on function or individual risk,” Nograles said.

The IATF also removed the requirement for the use of health declaration forms and setting up of up isolation facilities within the workplace for establishments in AL 1 areas.

PUV policies

The concurrent Cabinet Secretary also noted other minimum health standards like wearing of face mask will still be required under AL 1 whether outdoors or in indoor private or public establishments, including in public transportation by land, air or sea, except when eating and drinking, participating in team and individual sports in venues where ventilation standards can be maintained, and practicing outdoor sports/exercise activities where physical distance can be maintained.

In case a PUV will travel between an area with a higher AL classification and an area under AL 1, the passenger capacity shall be that which has the lower passenger capacity rate between the point of origin and point of destination.

The use of acrylic and/or plastic dividers will no longer be required for PUVs as well as the Safe, Swift and Smart Passage for all vehicles traveling in AL 1 areas will no longer be mandatory.

Proof of vaccination

Despite the easing of restriction in AL 1 areas, individuals 18 years old and above will be required to present proof of full vaccination before participating in 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 remains of the Covid-19 deceased.



“Proof of full vaccination shall be required before entry in the list of establishments identified under the principles of 3C’s [Confined spaces with poor ventilation; Crowded places with no physical distancing; and Close-contact settings] with face to face interaction, strategy against Covid-19. Children ages 17 and below shall not be required to present proof of vaccination status,” Nograles said.

The requirement will also be imposed for all indoor dine-in services of food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants and eateries. For outdoor or al fresco dining and take out channels, no proof of full vaccination is required; all indoor 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; and fitness studios, gyms and venues for exercise and sports.

A similar policy will be imposed for those who will go in indoor cinemas or movie houses operating at full capacity; meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibition events and 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; venues with live voice or wind-instrument performers and audiences such as in karaoke bars, clubs, concert halls and theaters; Indoor ancillary establishments in hotels and other accommodation establishments; and Venues for election-related events.

Image credits: [Nonoy Lacza](#)



100% on-site workforce in gov't offices under Level 1 ordered

February 28, 2022, 11:16 pm



MANILA – Malacañang has issued a memorandum circular requiring all government agencies and instrumentalities to remain operational regardless of the Covid-19 alert level of the area where they are located.

Under Memorandum Circular No. 96 issued by the Office of the President, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said all agencies and instrumentalities of the government under Alert Level 1 “shall adhere to 100 percent on-site workforce.”

“This issuance is consistent with the de-escalation of certain areas in the country to Alert Level 1, and the release of an updated Alert Level System Guidelines,” Nograles said in a statement.

On Sunday, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) approved placing the National Capital Region and 38 other areas under Alert Level 1.

Other areas under Alert Level 1 are: Abra, Aklan, Angeles City, Apayao, Aurora, Bacolod City, Baguio City, Bataan, Batanes, Biliran, Bulacan, Cagayan, Cagayan de Oro City, Camiguin, Capiz, Catanduanes, Cavite, Dagupan City, City of Santiago, Davao City, Guimaras, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Isabela, Kalinga, Laguna, La Union, Marinduque, Naga City, Olongapo City, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Puerto Princesa City, Quirino, Romblon, Siquijor, Tarlac, and Zamboanga City.

Under Alert Level 1, the IATF said there are no restrictions in terms of indoor and outdoor capacities. Everyone can undertake intrazonal and interzonal travel without regard to age and even comorbidities.

All establishments, persons, or activities are likewise allowed to operate, work, or be undertaken at total on-site or venue seating capacity, provided these are consistent with minimum public health standards.

The MC 96 further provides that under Alert Level 2, Nograles said all agencies and instrumentalities must adhere to at least 80 percent on-site workforce, 60 percent under Alert Level 3, and at least 40 percent on-site workforce under Alert Level 4.



Under Alert Level 5, skeleton workforce on-site and the remainder under alternative work arrangements as approved by the head of the agency unless a greater on-site capacity is required in agencies providing health and emergency frontline services, laboratory and testing services, border control, or other critical services.

“The aforesaid issuance is intended to balance health considerations and the continuous delivery of public services, consistent with the updated Alert Level System,” Nograles said. **(PNA)**



PH has not reached endemic state of Covid-19 yet: DOH

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor and Lade Jean Kabagani [February 28, 2022, 6:04 pm](#)



Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire (*File photo*)

MANILA – The Covid-19 pandemic is not yet over, and the country has not yet reached the endemic state of the virus, a health official said Monday.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire made this comment a day after the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) placed Metro Manila and 38 other areas under the lowest Alert Level 1 status from March 1 to 15.

“Ang ibig sabihin po ng endemic state ay ang virus ay nandiyan na kasama na po naten dito sa ating buhay, ngunit, acceptable na po ang mga numero ng ating mga kaso, acceptable na rin po sa ating (Endemic state means the virus remains with us in our lives, but the case numbers are acceptable in our) society,” Vergeire said in a Palace press briefing.

She said the endemic state could be reached when high number of vaccination in the country can balance off the transmission of Covid-19.

She added that death from Covid-19 is also acceptable during the endemic state.

“Darating po tayo diyan na magiging predictable at manageable ang mga kaso sa ating bansa (Time will come when cases in our country will be predictable and manageable),” Vergeire said.

Vergeire warned that the IATF can still escalate the Alert Level System if the Covid-19 cases soar again.

“If a new variant enters the country causing transmission or severe forms of the disease, we may again escalate our alert level,” she said.

‘Not yet time to celebrate’

In the same media briefing, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, acting presidential spokesperson, urged the public to remain responsible by wearing face mask “at all times” and avoid mass gatherings.

“Tagumpay mang maituturing ang ating pagsampa sa Alert Level 1, hindi pa panahon para magdiwang. Kailangan pa rin po nating maging responsable sa ating sarili, sa ating pamilya at sa ating komunidad (Although our de-escalation to Alert Level 1 can be considered a success, it is not yet time to celebrate. We still need to be responsible for ourselves, our families, and our community),” he said.



Nograles emphasized the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic is still there, thus, he reiterated the call to more Filipinos to get vaccinated.

"Ang mga bakunang binibigay ng pamahalaan ay garantisadong dekalidad, ligtas at epektibo at sa mga nabakunahan na, huwag kalimutang magpa-booster (These vaccines being provided by the government are guaranteed to be of good quality, safe and effective, and those who are already fully vaccinated, don't forget to get boosters)," he said.

"For those whose children aged five to eleven (5-11) are now qualified to receive vaccines, please have your children vaccinated. *Dagdag proteksiyon ang mga ito* (These are added protection)," he added.

The adherence to the public minimum health protocols should be sustained as part of the gradual shift to the new normal, he said.

"Today, we are reaping the rewards of collective action. It is collective action that has resulted in more than just relaxed restrictions in our daily lives. It also means reduced restrictions that will contribute to more livelihood opportunities and better incomes for many of our *kababayan* (countrymen)," Nograles said.

Covid-19 testing laboratories

Meanwhile, Vergerie said there is no advice yet whether Covid-19 testing laboratories in areas under Alert Level 1 will have to shut down or reduce workforce.

"Kasi iyong iba po nating RT-PCR labs ngayon, ni-repurpose lang po natin para sa Covid. Iyon pong kanilang laboratory ngayon puwede na uli gamitin para sa ibang sakit kapag nagtuloy-tuloy po ang pagbaba ng sakit dito po na Covid-19 sa ating bansa (The current Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction labs were only repurposed for Covid. They can be used again for other diseases if Covid-19 cases continue to go down in our country)," she said.

Vergeire advised the laboratories to wait until the Department of Health provides (DOH) comes out with guidance on when they revert to their normal operations pre-Covid-19 pandemic.

She said the coronavirus is still in the country and testing will continue.

"Although the demand, of course, *at saka iyong requirements natin ay bababa or liliit, pero hindi po talaga puwedeng totally na wala po tayong ganitong mga laboratoryo sa ating bansa* (and the requirements will go down or will be lessened, but we can't afford not to totally have such laboratories in our country)," she said.

The Department of Health on Monday logged 951 new Covid-19 infections, the country's lowest daily cases this year.

It also reported 1,717 new recoveries, reducing the active cases to 52,179 or 1.4 percent of the total 3,661,997 cases, while the death toll reached 56,451 after registering 50 new fatalities. **(PNA)**



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 716

PEBRERO 28, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

1.4%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
52,179

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.0%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,553,367

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.54%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
56,451

MGA BAGONG KASO **951**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,717**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **50**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,661,997**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 26

DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 28
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 26

5.0%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

22,407

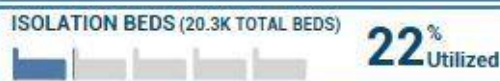
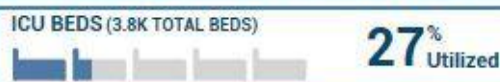
BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
91.4%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

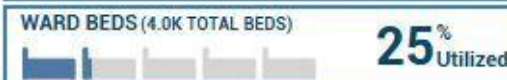
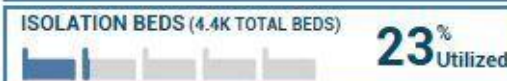
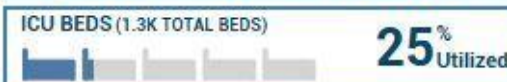
KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?



KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

528 Asymptomatic

47,157 Mild

2,779 Moderate

1,417 Severe

298 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access
here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

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TelAventusMD
✉ TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
📞 TelAventusMD

HealthNow
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✉ help@healthnow.ph
📱 HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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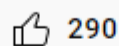
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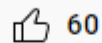
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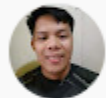
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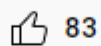
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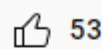


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