

02 AUGUST 2021, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cimatu-led task force begins 2nd phase of Marikina River rehab

AUG 1, 2021, 2:48 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

DENR Secretary and Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) chair Roy Cimatu said the second phase of the river dredging project aims to fully improve Marikina River's water flow and mitigate the risk of floods during extreme weather events.

THE commencement of the second phase of dredging operations in the portion of the Marikina River that passes through Barangay Santolan in Pasig City continues, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DENR Secretary and Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) chair Roy Cimatu said the second phase of the river dredging project aims to fully improve Marikina River's water flow and mitigate the risk of floods during extreme weather events.

"With the dredging operations, we can expect the water to subside faster should another flooding occur. The continuous dredging and widening of the river will help minimize flooding," Cimatu said during the launching ceremony on July 21.

"Once Phase 2 of this project is completed, I am confident that waterways will be restored to their original width and legal easements will be recovered resulting in safer and more resilient communities against the effects of climate change," he added.



photo by DENR-NCR



The DENR chief also assured that no households in the Pasig City portion of Marikina River will be affected by the dredging operations.

"During our meeting with Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto, it was made clear that other than the multi-purpose building under the Ortigas bridge, no houses will be affected by the project," said Cimatu.

He added that TF BBB will be meeting with the local government of Quezon City to discuss the possible impact of the dredging activities on the informal settler families residing within the dredging area, and the resettlement process for those who will be affected by the operations.

Cimatu also acknowledged Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary and TF BBB co-chair Mark Villar for providing the dredging equipment for Marikina River and other priority areas.

He expressed confidence that the government will be able to purchase additional equipment if the operations of the TF BBB will be successful as "that is where (Task Force) Build Back Better is headed to."

Cimatu likewise recognized the efforts of the concerned local governments adding that there are operations that need the involvement of the national government.

"While we laud the efforts of LGUs to place their own adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce and manage disaster risk within their areas of jurisdiction, there are certain tasks that need a higher level of intervention," Cimatu said.

Meanwhile, Marikina City Mayor Marcelino R. Teodoro for his part, said the recently concluded dredging operations in the Olandes portion of Marikina River resulted in faster water flow.

Under Executive Order 120 issued by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in November 2020, the TF BBB will oversee post-typhoon rehabilitation efforts in areas ravaged by typhoons Rolly and Ulysses, namely Cagayan River, Bicol River and Marikina River. (SC)



Second phase of Marikina River dredging starts – DENR

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 2, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Task Force Build Back Better has commenced the second phase of the dredging of Marikina River to mitigate floods in Metro Manila.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who chairs the task force, said the completion of the second phase of the dredging project would improve Marikina River's water flow and lessen the risk of floods during typhoons.

“With the dredging operations, we can expect the water to subside faster during flooding. The continuous dredging and widening of the river will help minimize flashfloods,” Cimatu said during the launching ceremony on July 21.

The second phase of the project covers a portion of Marikina River that passes through Barangay Santolan in Pasig.

Cimatu assured Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto that no household would be affected by the dredging.

“During our meeting with Mayor Sotto, it was made clear that other than the multi-purpose building under the Ortigas bridge, no houses will be affected by the project,” Cimatu said.

The Task Force had completed the dredging of the Barangay Olandes portion of the river.

Cimatu said the first phase of the project gained positive feedback, especially from Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro.

“The velocity of water in the river is faster now than before, which means floods will subside quickly,” Cimatu quoted Teodoro as saying.

Cimatu said once phase 2 of the dredging project is completed, waterways would be restored to their original width and legal easements would be recovered, resulting in safer communities that are more resilient to climate change.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has said that the narrowing of the width and depth of Marikina River was among the factors that contributed to massive flooding in Metro Manila last year.

Land surveys conducted by the DENR early this year showed that 25 lot parcels with a total area of 27 hectares were illegally reclaimed, either partially or completely encroaching into the Marikina River.

Cimatu said the Task Force would meet with the local officials of Quezon City to discuss resettlement plans for informal settler families who will be affected by the dredging operations.



DENR starts rehabilitating Marikina River

posted August 01, 2021 at 10:40 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has begun the second phase rehabilitation of the Marikina River in Marikina City.

Secretary Roy Cimatu, Task Force Build Back Better, said the second phase of the river dredging project aimed to fully improve Marikina River's water flow and mitigate the risk of floods during extreme weather events.

"With the dredging operations, we can expect the water to subside faster should another flooding occur. The continuous dredging and widening of the river will help minimize flooding," he said.

"Once phase 2 of this project is completed, I am confident that waterways will be restored to their original width and legal easements will be recovered resulting in safer and more resilient communities against the effects of climate change," he added.

The government's "build back better" drive continues with the commencement of the second phase of dredging operations in the portion of the Marikina River that passes through Barangay Santolan in Pasig City.

Cimatu assured that no households in the Pasig City's portion of Marikina River would be affected by the dredging operations.

"During our meeting with Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto, it was made clear that other than the multi-purpose building under the Ortigas bridge, no houses will be affected by the project," he vowed.

The DENR chief said the task force would meet with the officials of the Quezon City government to discuss the possible impact of the dredging activities on the informal settler families residing within the dredging area, and the resettlement process for those to be affected by the operations.

He acknowledged Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary and TF BBB co-chair Mark Villar for providing the dredging equipment for Marikina River and other priority areas.



Phase 2 ng Marikina River rehab sinimulan na



August 1, 2021 @ 1:12 PM 17 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Sinimulan na ang Phase 2 ng dredging operation sa bahagi ng Marikina River na dumadaloy sa Barangay Santolan sa Pasig City sa pagpapatuloy ng “build back better” drive ng gobyerno.

Sa press release ayon kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary at Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) chair Roy A. Cimatu, layunin ng ikalawang bahagi ng river dredging project na maisaayos ang daloy ng tubig sa Marikina River at mapigilan ang panganib ng pagbaha dahil sa malalakas na pag-ulan.

“With the dredging operations, we can expect the water to subside faster should another flooding occur. The continuous dredging and widening of the river will help minimize flooding,” saad ni Cimatu sa ginanap na launching ceremony noong Hulyo 21.

“Once Phase 2 of this project is completed, I am confident that waterways will be restored to their original width and legal easements will be recovered resulting in safer and more resilient communities against the effects of climate change,” dagdag nito.

Kaugnay nito tiniyak din ng DENR chief na walang maaapektuhang kabahayan sa bahagi ng Marikina River na nasa Pasig City sa gagawing dredging operations.

“During our meeting with Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto, it was made clear that other than the multi-purpose building under the Ortigas bridge, no houses will be affected by the project,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Idinagdag pa nito na ang TF BBB ay makikipagpulong sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Quezon City upang pag-usapan ang posibleng maging epekto ng dredging activities sa mga informal settler families na naninirahan sa dredging area at ang resettlement process para sa mga maaapektuhan ng operasyon.

Samantala kinilala rin ni Cimatu si Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary at TF BBB co-chair Mark Villar para sa paglalaan ng dredging equipment para sa Marikina River at iba pang prayoridad na lugar.

Nagpahayag din ito ng katiyakan na makabibili ang gobyerno ng karagdagang kagamitan para sa operasyon ng TF BBB kapag ito ay naging matagumpay na siya ngayong tinatahak ng task force.

Kinilala rin ni Cimatu ang pagsisikap ng mga lokal na pamahalaan bagaman mayroong mga operasyon na kinakailangan ng pakikilahok ng national government.



Nasaksihan naman ni Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro ang magandang epekto ng dredging operation sa bahagi ng Olandes sa Marikina River na nagresulta sa mabilis na daloy ng tubig.

Sa ilalim ng Executive Order 120 na inisyu ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte noong Nobyembre 2020, ang TF BBB ang mangangasiwa sa rehabilitasyon ng mga lugar na hinagupit ng mga bagyong Rolly at Ulysses kabilang na dito ang Cagayan River, Bicol River at Marikina River. **Santi Celario**



DENR issues several orders against illegal occupants at Upper Marikina River Basin

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

AUGUST 2, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is stepping up the campaign to address the illegal squatting problem within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) with the issuance of show-cause orders and cease-and-desist orders (CDO) against illegal occupants in the area.

The DENR Calabarzon said a total of 80 show cause orders and 43 cease-and-desist orders have been issued to owners of buildings within the UMRBPL. They are deemed illegal occupants upon initial investigation by the DENR.

In Barangay Calawis, Antipolo City, those issued with CDOs are owners of a piggery, a resort, camp and retreat center and a retreat house. Most of those issued with CDOs are also owners of occupants of houses built along rivers.

DENR Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria reminded the public that construction within the protected area without the necessary permit is a violation of Section 20 of Republic Act 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act and its amendatory law, Republic Act 11038 or Expanded NIPAS Act; and Section 21 of both laws. Penalty for violation of the said law includes a fine reaching up to P5 million and a jail term from six years to a dozen years.

The issuance of show cause and cease-and-desist orders has been properly coordinated with the Task Force "Build Back Better" (TF BBB) that's mandated by Executive Order 120, according to Tamoria.

In a statement, Tamoria appealed for stronger collaboration between various government agencies, nongovernment organizations, people's organizations and environmental groups to tighten watch in stricter implementation of environmental laws within protected areas.

Park rangers

MEANWHILE, the DENR Calabarzon condemned the attack against two park rangers of Masungi Georeserve who both suffered gunshot wounds during an incident last July 24.

The park rangers were shot while patrolling the UMRBPL.

Tamoria said the DENR recognizes the private sector, NGOs and the agency's other partners in protecting and conserving the environment.

The DENR Calabarzon chief said they are coordinating with the Philippine National Police and the 80th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army to identify the perpetrators of the attack and to sustain the ongoing monitoring and patrolling activities within the UMRBPL.

According to the Global Witness Report, in 2019, the Philippines is the second-most dangerous place for environmental defenders.

The DENR is currently pushing for the passage of a measure that will create or establish the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB).



Through the EPEB, the DENR believes it will have more teeth in enforcing environmental law which is part of the agency's mandate without necessarily compromising the safety and security of forest protectors and other environmental officers.

The EPEB Bill was filed with four principal sponsors and 13 co-sponsors at the House of Representatives. Its counterpart measure was filed in the Senate by two sponsors.



DENR sees improved water quality in Manila Bay with construction of Libertad STP

Published on: August 01, 2021

By DENR

QUEZON CITY -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is hopeful that the soon to rise Libertad sewage treatment plant (STP) and wastewater interceptor will further improve the water quality of Manila Bay.

“The current fecal coliform level in Libertad Outfall 1 is at 160 million MPN (most probable number) per 100 ml (milliliters). But with the groundbreaking of yet another STP coupled with wastewater interceptor in partnership with MMDA (Metropolitan Manila Development Authority), we will be able to boost our capability to mitigate water pollution,” DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said during the groundbreaking ceremony for the establishment of the Libertad STP and wastewater interceptor in Pasay City recently.

He explained that the Libertad STP aims to treat wastewater coming from the Tripa de Gallina — identified as the "main polluter" that has been discharging wastewater to the Libertad Channel and drains into Manila Bay.

Cimatu said projects, such as the construction of the Libertad STP and wastewater interceptor, are pursuant to the 2008 Supreme Court writ of continuing mandamus to “clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay.”

MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos said the construction of a new STP will help address the issue of bad smell and restore the quality of water in Metro Manila. The Libertad STP can treat 10 million liters of wastewater per day and has a catchment area of 779 hectares. It is the second STP in partnership with MMDA. The first one is the fully-operational solar-powered STP along Roxas Boulevard in Manila which was inaugurated last year.

The DENR will be funding the STP’s construction while the MMDA will be in charge of the maintenance and operations of the treatment plant. The construction of the STP and wastewater interceptor is scheduled for completion in November 2021.

Cimatu also said the DENR is planning to use the treated wastewater for watering plants and for the firetrucks of Pasay City. He emphasized that the government will not relent in ensuring the rehabilitation of Manila Bay as the DENR also targets the cleanup of the section of Manila Bay in Navotas City.



"There's still a lot of work to be done along the Navotas Fish Port. This is my target towards the end of the year. If not, I still have six months," said Cimatu, who chairs the Manila Bay Task Force.

He pointed out that cleanup efforts are also ongoing in the provinces of Cavite, Bataan, Bulacan, and Pampanga to address the pollution in Manila Bay. "I believe that a multi-sectoral and participatory approach would yield more palpable results toward minimizing pollution and protecting the water bodies that empty into Manila Bay," Cimatu said. (DENR)



NBI takes down ball mill machines



By [Leander C. Domingo](#) August 1, 2021

QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya: [The National Bureau of Investigation](#) (NBI) in Region 2 ([Cagayan Valley](#)) has dismantled and confiscated ball mill machines used in extracting minerals in a gold deposit-rich upland village here.

Lawyer [Gelacio Bonggat](#), NBI Region 2 director, said the bureau was deputized by the Mines and [Geosciences Bureau](#) (MGB) to stop illegal mining activities in the region, particularly in Sitio Balcony, Barangay Runruno.

As the primary government agency under the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#), the MGB is responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's mineral resources, including those in reservations and lands of public domain.

"Deputized by the MGB, we immediately responded to dismantle and confiscate the improvised ball mills used by illegal small-scale miners in Sitio Balcony and for the illegal settlers to leave the area for their protection from imminent natural disaster," Bonggat said.

He said they acted in accordance with the law and mandate of the NBI to protect the interest of the national government through its mining contractor, which has the right over the area to extract minerals.

The national government contracted the [London-based FCF Minerals Corp.](#) to extract gold in the area under a financial or technical assistance agreement or FTAA for an initial 25 years, which may be renewable for another 25 years.

"We have coordinated with the Philippine Army and the Philippine [National Police](#) to ensure the safety and security in dismantling the ball mills and accessories operated without permits from the MGB or the [Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Mining Regulatory Board](#)," Bonggat said.

According to Engr. [Mario Ancheta](#), MGB Region 2 director, the right of FCF Minerals over the area under the [Mining Act](#) of 1995 has to be respected; otherwise there will be a tremendous loss of resources to both the government and the mining contractor.

"Also, under the [Small Scale Mining Act](#) or RA 7076, the operation to dismantle the facilities of the illegal miners and to move illegal settlers from the area to a safer place is for their protection. Aside from having no authority or permit issued to the small-scale miners, the area has also been declared a geo-hazard, prone to landslide especially during inclement weather," Ancheta said.

He said they don't want a repeat of the tragedy during the onslaught of Typhoon "[Ulysses](#)" in November last year, which brought heavy downpour, causing landslides resulting in the loss of 10 lives who were identified as illegal settlers who directly and indirectly engage in illegal mining.

"There were even multiple cease and desist orders issued against the miners and settlers but due to humanitarian reasons some were even canceled to give them leeway but it has taken so long and continued with their illegal activities there risking their lives," Ancheta said.



He said if they can show any permit or license to conduct mining there, then he may cause the return of those confiscated ball mill machines to the owners.

"But even so, the area is hazardous and they have to immediately leave as the rainy season has already started and that landslides may occur anytime endangering the lives of the illegal settlers there," Ancheta said.

He also clarified that there was not a single dwelling that was demolished during the dismantling of ball mills contrary to social media reports, only structures that house the machines were dismantled, if any, to have access to the machines.

Meanwhile, the small-scale miners appealed for humanitarian consideration to process their stockpiles before leaving the area, but without their ball mills, they said, it would be impossible to do it for two months.

"Our ascendants have been here since time immemorial mining for their livelihood. We took over to continue because this is the only work we know to survive," [Josie Guillao](#) said in Ilocano, on behalf of the settlers and small-scale miners in Sitio Balcony.

She said they understand that the advent of the government-sanctioned large-scale mining company FCF needed the area to be vacated but asked for more time to do what is left to do before they leave.



Protecting Mount Busa's rich biodiversity

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
AUGUST 1, 2021



Mount Busa, a vast mountain range and watershed area in Sarangani province

Officials of Sarangani province have joined hands with conservation advocates to protect and conserve Mount Busa—the vast mountain range and watershed area straddling several towns in Sarangani and South Cotabato in Mindanao.

Home to the region's verdant primary forests, Mount Busa may soon be declared a protected area under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-Nipas) Act of 2018, with the provincial government of Sarangani giving it a much-needed push.



A rare sighting of a Philippine eagle on Mount Busa

Primarily located in the town of Kiamba, Mount Busa straddles Maitum and Maasim municipalities in Sarangani, and those of Lake Sebu, Surallah and T'boli in South Cotabato.

Situated at 2,064 meters above sea level, Mount Busa is the highest peak in Sarangani covering a land area of 114,144 hectares.

This mighty mountain range that is surrounded by forests was declared a key biodiversity area and an important bird area in 2001.

Under siege

THE current protection and conservation measures being implemented for Mount Busa need a boost as it continues to be under siege.



The provincial government of Sarangani said its declaration as a protected landscape under the E-Nipas would strengthen its protection and conservation measures from destructive human activities, such as poaching, hunting, collection of wildlife or byproducts, mining, land conversion, slash-and-burn farming and unauthorized cutting or removal of timber.



A rufous hornbill, also known as Philippine hornbill or kalaw, can be found in Mout Busa.

Signed into law on June 22, 2018, E-Nipas amends Republic Act 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act of 1992, that promotes and strengthens the management of protected areas (PAs) in the Philippines. The law also protects and conserves the country's rich biodiversity against various threats.

E-Nipas expanded the areas and the number of PAs and national parks covered by the previous law. This is on top of imposing a stricter penalty and higher fines against violators of the law.

Protected areas

THERE are 240 PAs in the Philippines with a total of 107 under E-Nipas compared to the previous 13 PAs under Nipas.

The rest of these PAs are covered by presidential proclamations or executive orders, which are considered to be initial components and may be disestablished by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upon the recommendation of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), the highest policy-making body of a PA.

Hence, the PAs are given stronger protection against potentially destructive development projects like mining, quarrying and logging or the establishment of an agricultural or agroforestry plantation that has besieged some PAs, such as those in Palawan province.

Local conservation area

MOUNT BUSA has been declared a local conservation area (LCA) by the provincial government of Sarangani through Resolution 2020-10-042 in March last year.

The LCA resolution acknowledged that the forest cover and wildlife of Mt. Busa are slowly diminishing due to human encroachment and illegal activities.

Prior to the passage of the resolution, Sarangani Gov. Steve C. Solon created the Mount Busa Task Force and Technical Working Group, which called on all stakeholders to immediately act to protect and conserve Mt. Busa.

The LCA resolution was supported and endorsed by the municipalities of Kiamba, Maitum and Maasim, the provincial tribal council, the Sarangani provincial field office of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and concerned national government agencies (NGA).



The municipal boards and barangay councils of Maasim, Kiamba and Maitum also endorsed a parallel resolution, while community stakeholders mounted a signature campaign supporting the LCA resolution.

Urgent measure

Executive Director Cornelio M. Ramirez Jr. of Sarangani province's Environmental Conservation and Protection Center (ECPC) told the BusinessMirror in an interview on July 28 that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (Provincial Board) of Sarangani may pass an ordinance to further strengthen Mount Busa's protection while the province is waiting for the PA declaration of Mt. Busa.

"[Governor Solon] believes that declaring Mount Busa a protected area is very urgent because of the threats in the area," he pointed out.

Protecting the mountain range, he said, will also protect the province's important water source, which is clearly threatened by tree-cutting and use of mercury by small-scale miners.

"Mount Busa is an important source of water for domestic and agricultural use, among other uses, such as power generation," Ramirez said.

He said the mountain range, being a watershed, needs stronger protection because it is home to threatened wildlife that depend on its forests' bounty.

"There are mining activities in the area, while hunting and the gathering of wildlife, including birds and plants, are rampant," he said.

Protected area assessment

Once Mount Busa is declared a protected area, Ramirez said it will undergo a rigid management regime, starting with the crafting of a management plan by its own PAMB.

The DENR's central office has started assessing the proposed measure to conserve the mountain range, Ramirez said, with the submitted requirements being processed by both the DENR regional and central offices.

The assessment was facilitated by the Mount Busa Conservation Task Force and supported by the Sulong Kalikasan program of Governor Solon.

"Its declaration as a protected area will add more teeth to [our] protection efforts and enforcement of various environmental laws," Ramirez said.

He said that the PA declaration will also provide adequate funding support from both local and national governments, which will strengthen the implementation of conservation programs for the mountain range.

At the House of Representatives, Sarangani Rep. Rogelio D. Pacquiao has filed House Bill 9055 to declare Mount Busa a protected landscape.

Threatened wildlife, cultural significance

NAMED by the DENR as a key biodiversity area based on the vulnerability and irreplaceability of species in the area, Mount Busa is home to a diverse species of plant and animal wildlife.

The mountain range is the habitat of some 200 plant, 58 bird, 30 amphibian, 24 reptile, 12 mammal and at least 18 other species of flora and fauna.

Threatened wildlife species of conservation concern that have been found in the area include the Philippine eagle, Mindanao flying lizard, Taylor's dwarf reed snake, rufous hornbill (Philippine hornbill or kalaw), tarsier and frog and orchid species.

Besides being an important watershed in Mindanao, Mount Busa is also culturally significant for it is considered a hallowed ground by the T'boli indigenous people, who calls it Bulul Tembob.



The mountain range is also vital to the economy as it balances the area's ecosystem, especially the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape, one of Mindanao's richest fishing grounds.

The mountain range also maintains two major river systems: Pangi, a site for whitewater rafting adventure, and Siguel, which feeds a hydropower plant for domestic and agricultural use.

Community, LGU backing

DENR Region 12 Information Chief Jhadija Bayam-Benpolok said Mount Busa has long been identified as home to a diverse species of flora and fauna.

"For a long time [now], Mount Busa is known for the sighting of wildlife, particularly the Philippine eagle," Bayam-Benplok told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on July 27.

"The community members themselves were the ones who asked the assistance of DENR in declaring it a protected area," she said.

She said that even the local government units are united in this move as manifested by their support to DENR's various information drive to raise the awareness of the people living around Mount Busa.

Image courtesy of Sarangani Provincial Gov't



Endangered pangolin found, rescued at IPPF

Published August 1, 2021, 11:03 AM

by [Jeffrey Damicog](#)



Endangered Pangolin

An endangered pangolin was found and rescued at the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF) in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) said.

In a statement, BuCor said the pangolin was found by one of the persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) inside the facility.

A check showed that pangolins, “sometimes known as scaly anteaters, are mammals of the order Pholidota,” and “manis comprises the four species found in Asia....”

BuCor said the PDL decided to turn over the pangolin to IPPF officials because he was aware that it (pangolin) is endangered.

It said the rescued pangolin “weighs around eight kilograms, which is the largest so far that has been rescued by prison authorities.”

It added that the pangolin was turned over to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) for proper handling and evaluation.

“With proper documentation and tagging by the PCSD, said pangolin will be brought to Palawan Wild life and Rescue Center for final disposition and eventual release back to its sanctuary,” the BuCor said.



Ilocos Norte recycling hub to convert plastics into ecobricks

By Leilanie Adriano August 1, 2021, 6:05 pm



RECYCLING FACILITY. Officials of the provincial government of Ilocos Norte and Piddig town, together with those from Green Antz Builders, break ground for an eco hub recycling facility in Barangay Tonoton, Piddig, Ilocos Norte on Friday (July 30, 2021). The facility will convert plastic wastes into ecobricks for construction projects. *(Photo courtesy of ENRO-Ilocos Norte)*

LAOAG CITY – Residents and officials of Ilocos Norte look forward to converting discarded plastic materials into ecobricks which are even more durable than regular hollow blocks for construction projects.

An eco hub facility will soon rise for this purpose in Sitio Bato, Barangay Tonoton of Piddig town, a joint undertaking of the Ayala-led renewable energy corporation, Green Antz Builders, with the provincial and municipal governments.

Once fully operational, the facility, which broke ground last Friday, will be collecting and reusing discarded plastic materials and transform them into valuable resources like ecobricks for houses and buildings.

Estrella “Baby” Sacro, head of the provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, said in an interview on Sunday that the project is in response to the global plastic waste pollution problem.

Despite an aggressive campaign against plastic pollution, some residents in the province just discard their plastic waste elsewhere or worst, burn them in their backyards.

“We hope that the facility will not only provide jobs for the locals but also inspire more people to segregate their wastes properly,” she said.

The facility will eventually improve the reduction of waste at source while lengthening the life span of the towns and cities' sanitary landfills, she noted.

According to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the global demand for plastic will continue to grow and is likely to double in the next 20 years.

However, only 9 percent of the total plastic produced is being recycled hence, it is estimated that 8 million tons of plastic leak into the environment. Packaging is the largest application of plastics globally, creating a growing societal pressure for companies to adopt circular models with no waste.



With appropriate technology, plastic products are broken down into pieces and mixed with cement and sand to produce ecobricks.

Prior to the approval of the said project, Green Antz chief executive officer Rommel Benig, in his presentation before members of the Ilocos Norte Provincial Board, said one ecobrick may consist of 50 to 100 plastics and is five times stronger than a typical hollow block.

While ecobricks are more expensive per unit compared to traditional bricks, these reduce the overall cost of building construction and operation.

They also allow for greater insulation, thus, drastically reduce energy consumption, resulting in lower electricity costs and environmental impact.

Some of the finished products have been tested in the construction of pavement in a school in Pagudpud, as well as in other parts of the country.

Aside from the eco hub facility, the Ilocos Norte government, with the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is also in the process of constructing a PHP24-million model cluster plastic recycling and resource recovery facility in Marcos town.

Meanwhile, each city and municipality of the province has received a garbage compactor from the provincial government to address the problem of garbage collection and disposal. **(PNA)**



Still no gov't protection for Marikina watershed guards

By: [Jhesset O. Enano](#) - Reporter / [@JhessetEnanoINO](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:51 AM August 02, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — No additional security personnel have been deployed by national government agencies in Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, a week after the shooting of two forest rangers, Masungi Georeserve Foundation said.

“Our team is still alone there,” said Billie Dumaliang, trustee and advocacy officer of the foundation, which manages a georeserve park in Baras town in Rizal province, and leads reforestation efforts in the watershed in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“If we do not receive any security support soon, we stand to lose all the gains in the area and more people could get hurt, especially since we believe the suspects are still around the area,” Dumaliang told the Inquirer on Sunday.

Shot in the head, neck

She said the response of the DENR and the Philippine National Police so far was the investigation of the shooting of Masungi’s forest rangers, who were attacked while in their ranger station in Sitio San Roque on the evening of July 24. One of them was shot in the head; the other, in the neck.

Both underwent an operation to remove the bullets from their bodies on July 26, and were still recovering at the hospital at press time.

The Inquirer reached out to Police Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, the PNP chief, and Nilo Tamera, director of the DENR Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), on Sunday, but both have not responded as of this writing.

“We are already coordinating with the police on this, but we need urgent security support,” Dumaliang said.

Immediately following the attack, Masungi Georeserve Foundation appealed to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año for help in ensuring the security of their forest rangers patrolling their reforestation sites in Rizal.

PNP probes attack

The foundation said the shooting took place near the stations of the PNP Special Action Force and the Regional Mobile Force Battalion.

“Unless immediate, sustained and truly effective measures are taken, more grim calamities are expected,” the foundation said in its July 25 letter.

Eleazar last week said he had already ordered a probe in the attack, while Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya had said that they would deploy additional security within the watershed.

Several land conflicts mar Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, which was only declared a protected area in 2011. By then, private settlements and establishments had already set up within the landscape.



Masungi Georeserve Foundation had previously butted heads with quarrying companies and private firms that claimed ownership over parts of the watershed, sounding the alarm on environmental violations, such as illegal logging.



Heat wave causes massive melt of Greenland ice sheet

By [Agence France-Presse](#) August 2, 2021



RAPID MELTING In this file photo taken on May 20, 2021, ice recedes from a glacier as seen from an aerial helicopter tour with [US](#) Secretary of State [Antony Blinken](#) of ice caps and fjords near Kangerlussuaq, [Greenland](#) on May 20, 2021. [AFP](#) PHOTO

[COPENHAGEN, DENMARK](#): Greenland's ice sheet has experienced a "massive melting event" during a heat wave that has seen temperatures more than 10 degrees above seasonal norms, according to Danish researchers.

Since Wednesday (Thursday in Manila), the ice sheet covering the vast Arctic territory has melted by around 8 billion tons a day, twice its normal average rate during summer, reported the Polar Portal website, which is run by Danish researchers.

The [Danish Meteorological Institute](#) reported temperatures of more than 20 degrees Celsius (68 Fahrenheit), more than twice the normal average summer temperature, in northern Greenland.

And [Nerlerit Inaat Airport](#) in the northeast of the territory recorded 23.4 degrees on Thursday, the highest recorded there since records began.

With the heat wave affecting most of Greenland that day, the Polar Portal website reported a "massive melting event" involving enough water "to cover [Florida](#) with two inches of water" (five centimeters).

The largest melt of the Greenland ice sheet still dates back to the summer of 2019.

But the area where the melting took place this time is larger than two years ago, the website added.

The Greenland ice sheet is the second-largest mass of freshwater ice on the planet with nearly 1.8 million square kilometers (695,000 square miles), second only to [Antarctica](#).

The melting of the ice sheets started in 1990 and has accelerated since 2000. The mass loss in recent years is approximately four times greater than it was before 2000, said the researchers at Polar Portal.

One European study published in January said that ocean levels would rise between 10 and 18 centimeters by 2100 - or 60 percent faster than previously estimated - at the rate at which the Greenland ice sheet was now melting.



The Greenland ice sheet, if completely melted, would raise the ocean levels by 6 to 7 meters.

But with a relatively cool start to the Greenland summer, with snowfalls and rains, the retreat of the ice sheet so far for 2021 remains within the historical norm, according to Polar Portal. The melting period extends from June to early September.



Greenland ice sheets, patuloy na natutunaw sa heatwave



August 1, 2021 @ 4:01 PM 14 hours ago

Denmark—Tumindi ang naranasang pagkatunaw ng ice sheet sa Greenland matapos magkaroon ng heatwave na hindi bababa sa 10 degrees ang temperatura, batay sa ulat ng ilang Danish researcher.

Base sa ulat ng Polar Portal Website, nagsimula umanong matunaw ang ice sheet na saklaw ang kalakhang Arctic territory noong Miyerkules at mula noon ay tinatayang natutunaw ang walong bilyong tonelada kada araw na doble sa normal na rate kapag summer.

Naitala din ng Danish Meteorological Institute ang temperaturang 20 degrees Celsius na higit na mas mataas sa normal na temperature sa lugar.

Samantala, naitala ng Nerlerit Inaat Airport sa hilagang-silangan ng lugar ang 23.4 degrees noong Huwebes at tinatayang pinakamataas na tala sa pagtatala.

Naiulat na ang “massive melting event” matapos ang insidente ay magdulot ng pagbaha sa Florida na limang sentimetro ang taas.

Ang ice sheet ng Greenland ay pangalawa sa pinakamalalaking fresh water ice sa buong planeta na tinatayang 1.8 milyong kilometro ang sukat, ikalawa sa Antarctica.

Kung matutunaw ang kabuuan ng Greenland ice sheet, magsasanhi ito ng pagtaas ng lebel ng tubig sa karagatan ng anim hanggang pitong metro.

Inaasahang tatagal pa ang melting period ng ice sheets mula Setyembre. RNT/Riza Guarin-trainee



In its weekly weather outlook, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms will persist until Friday over Luzon, especially over Ilocos region, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), the provinces of Zambales, Bataan, Batangas and Mindoro as well as Metro Manila.

PAGASA

Monsoon continues to bring rains in Luzon, Metro Manila

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 2, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila and several provinces in Luzon will continue to experience rains and thunderstorms this week due to the southwest monsoon.

In its weekly weather outlook, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms will persist until Friday over Luzon, especially over Ilocos region, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), the provinces of Zambales, Bataan, Batangas and Mindoro as well as Metro Manila.

PAGASA warned of flash floods and landslides from moderate to heavy rains, while the rest of the country will have fair weather, except for isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

Meanwhile, two weather disturbances were spotted yesterday off Northern Luzon.

PAGASA senior weather specialist Chris Perez said a low-pressure area was spotted 680 kilometers northeast of extreme northern Luzon.

The weather system is still outside the Philippine area of responsibility and there is slim chance for it to develop into a typhoon within 12 to 24 hours. It will however continue to enhance the southwest monsoon.

In its 4 p.m. weather bulletin, PAGASA said a tropical depression was sighted at 2,265 kilometers east northeast of extreme northern Luzon and is still outside the Philippine area. As of 3 p.m. yesterday, it packed maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 70 kph near its center. It was moving northwest at 15 kph.

Perez said the tropical depression might skirt the Philippines and head to the eastern seaboard of Japan. But the tropical depression would also slightly enhance the southwest monsoon, especially in the eastern seaboard of Luzon, he said.



Gale warning was raised in the northern and western seaboard of Northern Luzon and western seaboard of Central Luzon due to the southwest monsoon.

PAGASA advised fishermen with medium and small boats to refrain from sailing.

Fewer tremors in Taal Volcano

In another development, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has recorded fewer and shorter tremors in Taal Volcano in the past two days even as the area remains under Alert Level 2 or “decreased unrest.”

A total of 18 volcanic tremors lasting from one up to 18 minutes were recorded by the Taal Volcano Network in the past 24 hours on Saturday until yesterday morning, a significant decrease from 33 tremors lasting from one up to 26 minutes from July 30 to 31 and 44 tremors lasting up to six minutes from July 29 to 30.

Phivolcs, however, said the public must remain cautious as explosions are still possible.

02 AUGUST 2021, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



8,735 more Covid-19 cases logged

The country's Covid-19 death toll breached the 28,000 mark and now stands at 28,016 after 127 new fatalities were reported.

Published 4 hours ago on August 2, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



The Philippines reported 8,735 more cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), bringing the country's total caseload to 1,597,689, the Department of Health (DoH) said yesterday.

The new recorded cases make up the country's highest daily average case since 28 May. It is also the third straight day when reported cases are more than 8,000.

The latest infections pushed the number of active cases in the country to 63,646, of which 94 percent are mild, 1.3 percent are asymptomatic, 2.1 percent are severe, and 1.2 percent are in critical condition.

The total number of recoveries rose to 1,506,027 after 5,930 more patients have recovered from the dreaded virus.

Meanwhile, the country's Covid-19 death toll breached the 28,000 mark and now stands at 28,016 after 127 new fatalities were reported.

Nationwide, 59 percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds are in use, another 51 percent of Isolation beds are occupied, while 40 percent of mechanical ventilators are currently being utilized.

In the National Capital Region, 51 percent of ICU beds are in use, 49 percent of Isolation beds are occupied, while 39 percent of mechanical ventilators are utilized.

The positivity rate stood at 14.9 percent out of the 50,116 individuals who were screened for the dreaded disease on 30 July.

The DoH noted two laboratories were not operational on 30 July and four failed to submit their data on time. Twenty-five duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, 17 are recoveries.

"Based on data in the last 14 days, the four non-reporting and two non-operating labs contribute, on average, 1.8 percent of samples tested and 1.3 percent of positive individuals," the agency said.

"Moreover, nine cases previously tagged as recoveries have been validated to be active cases and 75 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it added.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/08/02/8735-more-covid-19-cases-logged/>



NCR may 'community transmission' na ng Delta variant

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - August 2, 2021 - 12:00am



Sa labas na lang ng Baclaran church nakinig ng misa ang mga deboto kahapon matapos ipatigil ng Simbahang Katoliko ang physical masses habang nasa GCO with heightened restriction' ang National Capital Region. Sa Agosto 6-20 naman ay isasailalim na ito sa ECO.

MANILA, Philippines — May nagaganap nang 'community transmission' ng Delta variant sa National Capital Region (NCR) base sa mga bagong datos, ayon sa OCTA Research.

"We understand ang Department of Health, sila ang official body, kino-confirm nila ito through genome sequencing. We're an independent group, (and) we can say based on statistics, based on sampling, yung nakita nating Delta variant cases, tumataas na sa 25 percent. Dati, nasa 15 percent," ayon kay OCTA fellow Prof. Guido David.

Base dito, maaaring may 300 bagong kaso ng Delta variant na sumusulpot na kada araw sa NCR.

"Kung 300 cases per day, masasabi natin talagang merong community transmission. In the interest of safety, kahit wala pang confirmation na community transmission, it's better to assume na merong community transmission para magdoble ingat tayo," katwiran naman ni David sa kanilang pagpapalabas ng babala sa publiko.

Sa pinakahuling datos ng DOH noong nakaraang Miyerkules, nasa 216 kaso na ng Delta variant ang natukoy sa bansa at 16 na lamang ang aktibo, walo ang nasawi at 192 ang ganap na nakarekober.

Idinagdag pa ni David na ang Delta variant na ang huling balakid na kailangang lusutan ng Pilipinas ngayong taon. Kapag mas marami na ang nabakunahan at nalagpasan ang Delta variant, inaasahan ang mas masayang mga buwan na darating matapos nito.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/08/02/2116926/ncr-may-community-transmission-na-ng-delta-variant/amp/>



Marikina residents are seen in face masks inside the city's public market in this July 28, 2021 photo
The STAR/Michael Varcas

NCR spike in COVID-19 cases suggest Delta variant community transmission — OCTA

(Philstar.com) - August 1, 2021 - 3:29pm

MANILA, Philippines — A pandemic monitor on Sunday flagged a "serious surge" in COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila that it added suggests there is now community transmission of the Delta variant in the capital region.

OCTA Research in its August 1 report noted the 1,740 new infections here yesterday was the highest since May. That was when it was still under modified enhanced community quarantine.

Metro Manila saw a 40% increase in its seven-day average, or to 1,279. Its reproduction rate — or the number of persons a positive individual can infect — has climbed to 1.52 from 1.29 the previous week.

"The rapid growth rate suggests the possibility of community transmission of the Delta variant in the NCR," the independent panel of experts said.

Health officials have reported 216 infections from the highly transmissible Delta variant to date, along with eight deaths. Still, they maintained there is no community transmission yet.

As it stands, the Philippines in the last two days saw more than 8,000 new cases as government ordered stricter curbs due to the threat of the Delta variant.

OCTA in March this year also reported a "[serious surge](#)" in Metro Manila. By the end of that month, the region was returned to ECQ and cases skyrocketed to record-highs, leaving hospitals overwhelmed.

Experts said 13 cities are now considered high risk areas. They are: Pateros, Makati, San Juan, Malabon, Navotas, Las Piñas, Pasig, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, as well as Parañaque, Quezon City, Marikina and Caloocan.



	LGU	New	Last	Change	R	ADAR	Beds	ICU	Test
1	Pateros	18	6	200%	2.74	26.01	60%	25%	10%
2	Makati	135	81	67%	1.71	21.36	57%	74%	12%
3	San Juan	25	10	150%	1.84	18.87	45%	50%	9%
4	Malabon	63	19	232%	2.54	15.89	59%	0%	10%
5	Navotas	35	14	150%	2.25	12.93	47%	N/A	10%
6	Pasay	49	38	29%	1.40	10.85	37%	41%	8%
7	Las Piñas	67	56	20%	1.40	10.49	63%	90%	16%
8	Pasig	83	50	66%	1.38	10.13	51%	42%	20%
9	Muntinlupa	55	41	34%	1.45	10.05	58%	72%	19%
10	Valenzuela	64	49	31%	1.62	9.51	61%	42%	23%
11	Taguig	75	60	25%	1.35	8.59	51%	38%	15%
12	Mandaluyong	35	27	30%	1.35	8.36	23%	33%	8%
13	Parañaque	60	42	43%	1.34	8.31	28%	63%	21%
14	Manila	158	138	14%	1.38	8.18	43%	46%	8%
15	Quezon City	258	171	51%	1.54	8.10	64%	66%	10%
16	Marikina	23	15	53%	1.48	4.70	31%	60%	7%
17	Caloocan	75	55	36%	1.50	4.37	19%	23%	14%
	NCR	1,279	913	40%	1.52	9.16	45%	52%	10%

Critical
High
Moderate
Low

They added there were 530 more hospital beds taken compared to the previous week, or the occupancy rate up to 45% from 38%.

ICU occupancy in the capital region was also up to 52% from 45%. OCTA fellows said should there be no changes in restrictions, hospital beds would hit 70% occupancy in less than five weeks, and ICU beds in less than three.

Metro Manila reverts to ECQ on August 6 until August 20, the second time it is placed under the said status this year.



Pagbabakuna tuloy sa Metro Manila kahit ECQ

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - August 2, 2021 - 12:00am



Members of the Manila Police District assist individuals waiting in line for their second dose of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the San Andres Sports Complex in Manila on Thursday, July 29, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Tuloy lang ang ‘vaccination drive’ ng pamahalaan kahit nasa ilalim ng enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) ang Metro Manila at ibang lugar upang tuluyang malabanan ang COVID-19 at ang mas mapanganib na Delta variant.

Sinabi ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na bumubuo na sila ng panuntunan para sa sistema ng pagpapabakuna sa mga lugar na maisasailalim sa ECQ mula Agosto 6-20.

Kasunod nito, itataas pa umano ng pamahalaan ang bilang ng dapat na mabakunahan habang nasa ECQ ang Metro Manila para magkaroon na ng proteksyon ang taumbayan sa coronavirus.

Sinabi ng National Task Force Against COVID-19 na magtatabi sila ng nasa apat na milyong dose ng bakuna para sa NCR.

Inaasahan na aakyat sa 250,000 indibiduwal ang mababakunahan kada araw kung maihahatid agad ang mga bakuna.



NCR Plus travel restricted

Año discouraged individuals residing in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Cavite to travel to areas outside the bubble as the government seeks to restrict non-essential movement until the capital region reverts to enhanced community quarantine from 6 to 20 August.

Published 5 hours ago on August 2, 2021 01:00 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephil_MJB



Metro Manila residents and those in nearby provinces were barred from stepping out of the “NCR Plus” bubble starting Sunday, or a week before the implementation of the government’s strictest lockdown classification amid the threat of the highly contagious Covid-19 Delta variant.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año discouraged individuals residing in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Cavite to travel to areas outside the bubble as the government seeks to restrict non-essential movement until the capital region reverts to enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) from 6 to 20 August.

“People should refrain from traveling outside (the bubble) at the present since only authorized persons outside residences were allowed to do such, anyway,” he said.

“Under the existing rules of general community quarantine (GCQ) classification, select economic activities are allowed within NCR Plus, but some of these were not permitted if residents will travel outside the bubble,” Año added.

With the enforcement of tighter boundary controls, the official reminded NCR Plus residents that only medical frontliners, essential workers of select industries, government employees on official travel, and public utility vehicle operators were allowed to cross borders.

Also permitted to travel to and from the bubble were duly-authorized relief and humanitarian assistance actors, persons going to and from the airport, and cargo vessels.

He said individuals who were exempted from restrictions should bring their respective identification cards such as those issued by the pandemic task force, regulatory agencies, and their employers as proof that they could step outside their homes.

Dedicated checkpoints, Año added, were in place for the cargo vessels that bring essential goods into Metro Manila.

Those found to be unauthorized persons outside of their residences would not be allowed to cross borders outside NCR Plus. They would be asked to return to their homes, Año explained.



He said the existing quarantine checkpoints along the borders of Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Cavite were manned by the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fire Protection.

The said checkpoints, Año added, would be located inside Metro Manila during the two-week ECQ.

With the enforcement of tighter boundary controls, the official reminded NCR Plus residents that only medical frontliners, essential workers of select industries, government employees on official travel, and public utility vehicle operators were allowed to cross borders.

Placing the capital under the strictest of the four of the government's community quarantine classifications was meant to delay the spread of Covid-19 and its virulent strain known as Delta.

A week before ECQ or until 5 August, the capital region would be under GCQ with "additional heightened" restrictions.

Meanwhile, local executives in the capital region would also discuss the uniform curfew hours during the implementation of the two-week ECQ, Año said.

More policemen, he added, would be deployed to vaccination sites within Metro Manila to ensure peace and order among jab recipients.

"We will send more cops to vaccination sites, markets, supermarkets, and cash aid distribution centers," he said.

The government would continue the ongoing Covid-19 inoculations in Metro Manila after mayors had agreed to continue with the 250,000 vaccinations a day despite the lockdown.

The pandemic task force even allocated four million doses of Covid-19 vaccines in Metro Manila, which would be administered during ECQ. The Philippines has so far confirmed 1.59 million coronavirus infections, in which over 63,000 cases remain active.

@tribuneph1_MJB @tribuneph1_phau



Covid-19 spirals out of control in Asia-Pacific region

August 1, 2021, 12:08 pm



ANKARA – The number of daily coronavirus cases has increased in the vast majority of the Asia-Pacific region but it has become increasingly difficult to fight the pandemic in some countries.

Despite the rapid progress of vaccinations in India, Malaysia and Japan, the number of infections has increased in recent weeks. The slowness of vaccinations in Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Myanmar has led to a rise in daily cases.

A total of 25 percent of the Indian population has received a first jab, while only 7 percent got the second dose. The number of daily cases exceeds 42,000 in the past three weeks.

Pakistan has administered more than 28 million vaccine jabs. The daily case figure hit 4,537 on July 29, the highest since April 30.

In Malaysia, 41 percent of the population received the first dose while 19 percent got the second dose. But the high rise in cases cannot be stopped. The daily cases have been more than 10,000 since July 3.

A total of 16 percent of the Indonesian population has received their first jab, while only 7 percent got the second dose. Daily infections are above 10,000 since June 17.

In Vietnam, just 5 percent of the population received the first and second doses. The average case count is 7,000 since July 24.

No data is available on the vaccination drive in Myanmar. Case numbers are in the four digits since June 28.

Australia and New Zealand are among countries where cases have not increased significantly in recent weeks in the region.

In Australia, where 32 percent of the population received the first dose and 14 percent received the second dose, Covid-19-related-deaths have been rare since October 2020.

In New Zealand, 23 percent of the population received the first dose and 15 percent received the second dose, while the number of daily cases has not exceeded 30 since the beginning of the year.



In Japan, 38 percent of the population received the first dose and 28 percent received the second dose. Daily infections peaked at 10,744 on July 30.

Since December 2019, the pandemic has claimed over 4.21 million lives in 192 countries and regions, with more than 197.52 million cases reported, according to US-based Johns Hopkins University. (**Anadolu**)



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

FAQS: VACCINE





How do vaccines prevent disease?

Vaccines mimic the virus or bacteria that causes disease and triggers the body's creation of antibodies. These antibodies will provide protection once a person is infected with the actual disease-causing virus or bacteria.



How do vaccines differ?

Vaccines differ in their composition and how they trigger the immune response to create antibodies. These antibodies protect the body from microorganisms and serve as protection once a person gets infected with disease. Vaccines can be inactivated, weakened or killed copies of the whole or part of the virus or bacteria, or genetic product (like mRNA vaccines) that creates protein copies without causing disease.



Dizziness



Fatigue



Headache

What are the possible side effects of vaccination?

The possible side effects of a vaccine include pain, redness, itchiness or swelling at the injection site (which may last a few hours); fever; feeling of weakness or fatigue; headache; dizziness; diarrhea; or nausea. Consult the nearest healthcare professional if you experience any of these.



Is vaccination mandatory?

No, vaccination is not mandatory. But the government highly encourages the public to get vaccinated and be protected against preventable disease



Why do we need to get vaccinated for COVID-19?

With the BIDA steps and observance of minimum public health standards, vaccination is an important way to protect yourself from getting severe COVID-19.

PRIORITY



Why will the prioritized groups get the vaccine first?

With the initial limited supply, frontline health workers and uniformed personnel are prioritized since they have higher risk of exposure while on duty and to allow them to continue fulfilling their duties in both the public and private sectors. Vulnerable groups such as the elderly and the indigent population, are prioritized guided by the principle of equity.



What is an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?


It is an authorization granted through a risk-based procedure for assessing unregistered (under development) vaccines or drugs during public health emergencies of international concern. It aims to expedite availability of the vaccine or drug to people affected by public health emergency based on essential set of available quality, safety and efficacy performance data.



Who will get the vaccines first?

Frontline health workers, senior citizens, indigent population, and uniformed personnel are the priority groups to be vaccinated.





Is the vaccine free ?

Is the vaccine free for priority groups?


The cost of vaccines for priority groups will be shouldered by the Philippine government.



Government

If I am not part of the priority group, how will I get access to the vaccine?

The government is continuing negotiations to ensure adequate vaccine supply for all Filipinos, including those not in the priority groups.



It's safe and effective!

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe and effective?

COVID-19 vaccines that are granted with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are considered safe and effective based on the available evidence to date.



Are there risks for complications?

Are there risks for complications when given the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, like all other vaccines, there are risks of complications **BUT SEVERE OR LIFE-THREATENING REACTIONS ARE EXTREMELY RARE**. The benefit of protection against severe COVID-19 is greater than the risk. Anyone who will get the vaccine will be properly evaluated and closely monitored by health professionals to further minimize any risk.

02 AUGUST 2021, MONDAY



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