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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR lauded for promoting bicycle-riding community

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(File photo)

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has committed to promote the interests of the bicycle-riding community, as a bicycle advocacy group lauded the agency's pivotal role in the annual celebration of the National Bicycle Day.

“Such is the robust partnership we have nurtured through the years with the bicycle-riding communities particularly the National Bicycle Organization (NBO) who has come out strongly for President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s issuance of Presidential Proclamation (PP) 1052,” DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a news release on Wednesday.

During this year's celebration of the National Bicycle Day on November 28, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda received from the NBO a bicycle sculpture made of bronze in recognition of his "remarkable contribution as a bicycle advocate."

NBO Director Benedict Camara noted that it was Antiporda’s efforts through the office of Senator Christopher "Bong" Go that the bicycle groups desired for a nationwide observance of Bicycle Day through the issuance of PP 1052.

On Nov. 18, 2020, Duterte issued PP 1052 declaring the fourth Sunday of November of every year as National Bicycle Day, to encourage Filipinos to promote bicycle as a sustainable and environment-friendly mode of transportation.

In receiving the award, Antiporda expressed his desire that the new set of leaders in 2022 would continue and build on the gains of the DENR under the Duterte administration through Cimatu, particularly those who promote the interest of the bicycle-riding public.

"We need you to ask the candidates to stand up for cycling, walking, and a healthier future. Take advantage of this electoral exercise and choose the champions for greener travel and respect for bicycle riders especially in the use of bicycle lanes," he said.

This year's National Bicycle Day was celebrated by more than 300 bikers, representing 61 bikers' groups, through a 26-kilometer bike parade from the DENR grounds in Quezon City to the Centennial Park in Navotas City where the celebration rites were held.



"This activity also serves to inspire and empower other advocates from the private sector to create activities for the benefit, enjoyment, and support of cycling advocacy and the cycling community nationwide," Camara said.

He hailed PP 1052 as a "big stepping stone to having laws that will promote bicycling as a major form of transportation and to spur the potential of the bicycling sector as a contributor to the country's economic recovery."

The NBO has been advocating for bicycle and pedestrian-friendly legislation and implementation through a partnership with public and private organizations at the local, regional and national levels.

Camara also credited PP 1052 and the designation of bike lanes and bike patrol as among the reasons that fueled NBO's plan to push for the promotion of bike ecotourism in the country.

"With the help of the DENR, we can develop bike ecotourism in the country," Camara also said, noting that a dry-run has been undertaken covering the Antipolo eco-bike tour route with the Metro Manila tour now on the drawing board.

He also thanked the DENR for their donation of bike racks to the local government of Navotas whose board council has passed a resolution calling for the designation of bike lanes within the city.

Ching Salinas, head of the Bike Lanes Program Office of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, said around 313 kilometers of roads are now designated as bike lanes in major thoroughfares in Metro Manila. **(PR)**



[Bike users lauded for promoting environment-friendly transportation](#)

DEC 1, 2021, 7:32 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

SECRETARY Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has expressed gratitude to the members of bicycle-riding community for supporting his office's efforts to promote healthy and sustainable environment throughout the country.

Cimatu issued the statement during the recent celebration of the National Bicycle Day during which he reiterated his commitment to promote the interests of the bicycle-riding community.

"Such is the robust partnership we have nurtured through the years with the bicycle-riding communities particularly the National Bicycle Organization (NBO) who has come out strongly in support of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's issuance of Presidential Proclamation 1052," Cimatu said.

For his part, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda also expressed his support to the initiatives of the bicycle community.

In return, Antiporda received from the NBO a bicycle sculpture made of bronze in recognition of his "remarkable contribution as a bicycle advocate."

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DENR pinuri sa pag-promote ng pagbibisikleta bilang sustainable, environment-friendly transportation



December 1, 2021 @ 4:24 PM 14 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Upang isulong ang programa sa pagbibisikleta nagpahayag ng pangako ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na susuportahan ang interes ng bicycle-riding community habang pinuri naman ng bicycle advocacy group ang ahensiya sa naging papel nito sa annual celebration ng National Bicycle Day.

“Such is the robust partnership we have nurtured through the years with the bicycle-riding communities particularly the National Bicycle Organization (NBO) who has come out strongly for President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s issuance of Presidential Proclamation (PP) 1052,” saad ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Sa press release sa ginanap na selebrasyon ng National Bicycle Day ngayon taon na idinaos noong Nobyembre 28 ay nakatanggap si DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste ang Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda ng bicycle sculpture na yari sa bronze mula sa NBO dahil na rin sa ipinakita nitong “remarkable contribution” bilang bicycle advocate.

Kaugnay nito ayon kay NBO Director Benedict Camara, dahil na rin sa pagsisikap ni Antiporda sa pamamagitan ng tanggapan ni Senator Christopher “Bong” Go ay isinulong ng bicycle groups na magkaroon ng nationwide observance ng Bicycle Day bunsod ng pag-isyu ng PP 1052.

Noong Nobyembre 18, 2020 ay nag-isyu si Pangulong Duterte ng PP 1052 na nagdedeklara sa ikaapat na linggo ng Nobyembre kada taon bilang National Bicycle Day, upang mahikayat ang mga Pilipino na i-promote ang bisikleta bilang “sustainable and environment-friendly mode of transportation.”

Sa pagtanggap ng parangal, sinabi ni Antiporda na ang mga magiging bagong pinuno sa 2022 ay dapat na ipagpatuloy ang mga nagawa ng DENR sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Duterte sa pamamagitan ni DENR Secretary Cimatu partikular na ang pag-promote ng interest ng bicycle-riding public.

“We need you to ask the candidates to stand up for cycling, walking, and a healthier future. Take advantage of this electoral exercise and choose the champions for greener travel and respect for bicycle riders especially in the use of bicycle lanes,” saad ni Antiporda.



Ang selebrasyon ng National Bicycle Day ngayong taon ay dinaluhan ng mahigit sa 300 bikers na nagrerepresenta sa 61 bikers' group sa pamamagitan ng 26-kilometer bike parade mula sa DENR grounds sa Quezon City hanggang sa Centennial Park sa Navotas City kung saan ginanap ang celebration rites.

Pinuri din nito ang PP 1052 bilang "big stepping stone to having laws that will promote bicycling as a major form of transportation and to spur the potential of the bicycling sector as a contributor to the country's economic recovery." **Santi Celario**



CIMATU PINURI ANG 'ACHIEVEMENTS' NG DENR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Pinuri ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang tagumpay ng solid waste management program ng gobyerno partikular na ang pagpapasara sa 100% ng 335 illegally operating dumpsites sa buong bansa ngayong taon. Sa kanyang keynote speech sa ginanap na paglulunsad ng DENR Solid Waste Management Advocacy Campaign noong nakalipas ng buwan, iniulat ni Cimatu ang paggawa ng mas maraming sanitary landfills at ang pagbuo ng materials recovery facilities sa pakikipagtulungan ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) na pinamumunuan ng DENR. Nagtagumpay din ang commission sa paggawa ng interim guidelines sa pangangasiwa ng COVID-19-related healthcare wastes, pagpapatigil sa paggamit ng hindi kinakailangang single-use plastics sa government offices, at ang pagsama ng Total Solid Waste Management Solution sa operasyon ng mga bagong sanitary landfill.





Agarwood propagation allowed but “Highly Regulated”

by [Village Connect](#) 7 days ago



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that while propagation of agarwood-producing species like *Aquilaria malaccensis* is allowed, it is however highly regulated and collecting its seeds directly in the wild is prohibited.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu issued the statement following the granting of Wildlife Culture Permit through the regional offices to certain companies for the propagation of agarwood using *Aquilaria malaccensis*.

“The DENR is always in the middle of balancing things, from protecting and conserving threatened flora and fauna, making sure that the resources can still be used for our economic development, especially during this crisis, but utilization in a sustainable manner,” Cimatu said.

He added: *“Before engaging in this highly regulated lucrative endeavor, interested individuals and private firms are advised to secure all the necessary permits from the DENR. We must ensure that the source of planting materials is legal and that the propagation of this species is in accordance with the existing rules and regulations.”*

Agarwood can be derived from the *Aquilaria* species, which are widely distributed in the Indomalesia region.

Nine of the 21 known *Aquilaria* species are found in the Philippines, based on an international study titled, *“The Origin and Domestication of Aquilaria, an Important Agarwood-Producing Genus.”*

Six species are endemic or found only in the Philippines, while the remaining three are native or indigenous.

Among the native or indigenous species is the *Aquilaria malaccensis*, which can also be found in other countries, such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand.

The *Aquilaria malaccensis*, locally known as “lapisan,” is a major source of agarwood — a resinous heartwood used for perfume and incense.

Meanwhile, DENR-BMB Director Datu Tungko Saikol said that gathering of seeds and seedlings, agarwood, and other derivatives of *Aquilaria malaccensis* in the wild for commercial or trade purposes is *“not allowed yet pending the population assessment study of the species in the Philippines.”*



“Those who are interested to propagate this species of agarwood may apply for a Wildlife Culture Permit from the concerned DENR Regional Office where the farm or plantation site is located. The seedlings should be sourced legally as well,” Saikol said.

“While we allow the importation of the Aquilaria malaccensis seeds through the issuance of CITES or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Import Permit by BMB, applying for a CITES Import Permit for seeds of exotic Aquilaria species such as Aquilaria crassna for use in the establishment of plantation in the country is a more tedious process as it requires prior clearance from the DENR Secretary upon recommendation from the Wildlife Management Committee,” the DENR-BMB chief said.

Moreover, a Local Transport Permit is necessary “for the transportation of legally acquired seeds, seedlings, agarwood, and other agarwood by-products and derivatives.”

Saikol expressed hope that the issuance of Wildlife Culture Permit will *“contribute in the protection and conservation of Aquilaria malaccensis in the wild and will at the same time provide economic benefits for Filipinos, and eventually, economic development for our country.”*



PEOPLE'S VIEW

PRECY F. LAZARO
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MILYONG BUDGET IMINUNGKAHI NG DENR PARA SA COVID-19 WASTE MANAGEMENT

ANG Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay nagmungkahi ng P181.6 million alokasyon para sa pagtatayo ng preliminary treatment at storage facility para sa coronavirus-related healthcare waste mula sa P774-million solid waste management program budget para sa taong 2022. Plano ng DENR sa pamamagitan ng Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), na maglaan ng pondo para sa lahat ng local government units (LGUs) sa buong bansa na kumakatawan sa 81 probinsya at 146 lungsod para sa wastong pagkolekta, treatment, storage at disposal ng protective personal equipment, syringes, vials at iba pang COVID-related healthcare waste mula sa households, vaccination sites, testing at quarantine facilities.

Sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, na ang anturang plano ay makatutulong na matugunan ang pagtaas ng bilang ng mga COVID-19 related healthcare wastes sa bansa ngayong may pandemya. "While COVID-19 cases in the country have started to decline, healthcare wastes generated by the situation have continuously become a challenge among cities and provinces. Through this program, we hope to support LGUs in improving the collection of COVID-19 related healthcare wastes especially in remote areas and among small generators that are not serviced by treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) facilities," saad ni Cimatu.

"The proposed treatment and storage facility will serve as a temporary and transit point for COVID-19 related healthcare wastes such as personal protective equipment, syringes, needles, and vials for chemical disinfection and storage before these are transported to a TSD facility," ayon naman kay Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.

Inanunsiyo ito ni Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change chair Senator Cynthia Villar na nag-isponsor sa DENR budget sa ginanap na plenary session ng upper chamber noong Nobyembre 15. "I hope in behalf of the Senate that this program towards giving to 81 provinces and 146 cities of treatment and storage facility of COVID-19 (related healthcare wastes) will be the first priority of the DENR. We have allocated a big part of the budget for solid waste management program of the DENR and they will use this budget for this," sabi ni Villar sa ginanap na plenary session.

Sa ginanap na senate budget hearing noong nakaraang buwan, nilinang ang panukalang ito ng DENR base na rin sa rekomendasyon ni Villar at ni Senator Francis Tolentino sa ginanap na senate budget hearing noong nakaraang buwan na layuning palawigin ang pagtulong sa LGUs para sa tamang pamamahala ng COVID-related healthcare wastes. Sa pamamagitan ng panukalang ito na idadaan ng DENR sa regional offices, ang bawat LGU ng makatatanggap ng P800,000 para sa pagpapatayo ng special waste facilities. Lininaw din ng DENR na sa COVID-19 healthcare waste program para sa LGUs, na ang mga manggagaling sa mga ospital na medical waste ay hindi kasama.



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Anti-illegal logging operations ng DENR Calabarzon, patuloy sa lalawigan ng Quezon

36 views • Dec 1, 2021

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Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b16AIwRTtpQ&ab_channel=EagleNews



SC junks writ of kalikasan plea vs Camiguin diesel power plant

BY JOEL R. SAN JUAN NOVEMBER 30, 2021



Photo of Supreme Court facade from CNN Philippines

THE Supreme Court has unanimously junked the petition filed by environmental organizations and several residents who petitioned for the issuance of a writ of kalikasan and a writ of continuing mandamus to enjoin the establishment of a diesel power plant by a power generation company in Mambajao, Camiguin.

In an 11-page decision penned by Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda, the Court en banc unanimously affirmed two resolutions of the Court of Appeals, which both dismissed the petition filed by Citizens for a Green and Peaceful Camiguin Sulog Inc., Save CDO (Cagayan de Oro) Now Movement Inc., Task Force Macajalar and several other individuals.

The Court held that there was no grave abuse of discretion on the part of the Appellate Court in dismissing the petition, which named King Energy Generation Inc., (KEGI) Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Barangay Balbagon of Mambajao, Camiguin, Municipal Government of Mambajao, Provincial Government of Camiguin and Camiguin Electric Cooperative (Camelco).

The petitioners argued that the construction of said power plant violates their constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology and various environmental laws.

They added that the project should have not been approved due to its health, safety, and environmental hazards aside from KEGI's failure to secure an environmental compliance certificate as required under Presidential Decree 1151 and Presidential Decree 1586.

Aside from these, the petitioners said the project did not have the approval of the President upon recommendation of the Philippine Tourism Authority as required under Proclamation 1801.

The construction, according to the petitioners, also failed to comply with the requirement of public consultation under Sections 26 and 27 of the Local Government Code and that the Sangguniang Bayan violated Memorandum Circular 54 when it caused the reclassification of the area where the power plant is to be located from agricultural to industrial land without conducting the necessary public hearings.

KEGI, on the other hand, disputed petitioners' claim that diesel power plant technology is unsafe.

It cited the case of Mindanao, which houses several existing diesel power plants without having any reported environmental issues.



It also stressed that its project has complied with all licensing and permit requirements, including those under the Philippine Clean Water Act and the Philippine Clean Air Act.

In dismissing the petition, the Court reminded parties that seek the issuance of the writ of kalikasan carry the burden of substantiating its plea.

The SC said before filing the case, petitioners must be ready with the evidence necessary for the determination of the writ's issuance.

In this case, the Court noted that the petitioners failed to prove that they were entitled for the issuance of the writ of kalikasan.

The SC pointed out that aside from citing a purported press release issued by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) on the association between cancer and diesel exposure, as well as a Wikipedia article on the advantages and disadvantages of diesel engines compared to spark ignition engines, the petitioners offered no other evidence to support the alleged safety, health and environmental damage caused by the construction of the diesel power plant to the residents of Camiguin.

"In fine, we do not find that the CA committed reversible error in dismissing the petitions for issuance of a writ of kalikasan and writ of continuing mandamus in his case. Lest there be any misunderstanding, the Court shares petitioners' concern for the environment. This concern, however, is not an excuse to invoke Court's jurisdiction in cases where other remedies are available," the SC said.



Camille Villar looks for ways to address plastic pollution

December 2, 2021

THE push for legislation, seeking to address plastic pollution in the country, gained ground as Deputy [Speaker](#) and [Las](#) Piñas Rep. [Camille Villar](#) filed a bill anew to shift the responsibility of recycling to companies.

Villar introduced House Bill No. 10498 or the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2021 to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling and disposal of their products and packaging, which turn into waste pollution if not properly disposed of or recycled. The country has produced about 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste every year.

"This legislation institutionalizes the EPR mechanism as a practical approach on efficient [waste management](#), waste reduction and development of ecologically friendly packaging products. EPR, as a concept, refers to the environmental policy, initiatives and practices in which companies and corporations are obliged to have the responsibility of proper and effective recovery treatment, recycling and disposal of their products after they have been sold and used by consumers — aimed at improving the 3Rs of ecological management: reuse, reduce and recycle," the lawmaker said in filing the measure.

Under the bill, companies were mandated to exercise EPR over the plastic packaging waste, used on their products, which were sold and distributed within the Philippines whether via traditional physical stores, distribution outlets or online platforms. Producers were also responsible for making financial contributions to support the collection, recovery, transportation, processing, recycling and disposal of plastic waste.

A sunset provision was included in the bill to review the policy and assess the impact it had created on the environment five years after the law was passed.



DOE to explore mangrove sequestration to manage CO2

Published December 1, 2021, 3:41 PM by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

The Department of Energy (DOE) will explore the potential of mangrove sequestration in managing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in a bid to curb future impacts of climate change.



Department of Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi (File photo)

The DOE said Wednesday, Dec. 1, that the move is in line with the country's continued commitment "to successfully realize the energy transition without sacrificing energy security."

In a memorandum dated Nov. 24, 2021, DOE Sec. Alfonso Cusi ordered the agency's Energy Policy and Planning Bureau (EPPB) to look into the possibility of sequestering the country's mangroves in managing CO2 emitted from coal-fired power plants.

His mandate includes examining the existing studies or submitting an own study on the "possibility of putting up mangroves for CO2 emission reduction from coal-fired power plants" as well as seeking technical assistance from development partners for such a study.

"The study, if proven, could help the Philippines in fulfilling the CO2 requirements without sacrificing our goal to achieve energy security given our energy-neutral portfolio," he said in the memo.

According to Cusi, while the agency recognizes "the need to attain our energy security in a sustainable manner" and that "there still is a percentage of our power needs that is being provided by coal," the country "should actively explore the potential of out-of-the-box solutions that could reduce the harmful greenhouse gas emissions of coal plants."

For some time now, mangroves have been gaining scientific interest due to their ability to stockpile significant amounts of carbon in their wood and soil, instead of releasing it back into the atmosphere.

In its pledge to the recently concluded 26th Conference of the Parties (COP) Climate Change Summit, the DOE steered clear of any commitment to phase out coal-fired power plants in the Philippines.

This came as there was nothing stated in the DOE's letter-commitment that said it would pull the plug on coal-fired power generation in the country.

Cusi said the country's unwavering support to energy transition will primarily rely on renewable energy (RE) installations and deployment of energy efficiency technologies.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/12/01/doe-to-explore-mangrove-sequestration-to-manage-co2/>



YAMAN NG PINAS DAPAT SA PINOY

PANAHON na para paki-nabangan ng mga Pilipino ang likas na yaman ng Pilipinas sa halip na ma-punta ito sa mga dayuhan.

Ito ang iginiit ni House committee on public accountability chairman Jose Singson Jr., matapos aprubahan ng House committee on environment and natural resources ang House Bill (HB) 6321 o "Black Sand Processing Act of 2020".

Base sa nasabing panukala na nakatakdang isalang sa plenaryo ng Kamara para sa ikalawa at ikatlong pag-basa, dapat ang mga Pilipino ang makinabang sa mga likas na yaman ng bansa lalo na ngayong lugmok ito dulot ng pandemya sa COVID-19.

"Pandemic era dictates that Philippines must "stop being generous" to other countries," ani Singson.

Hindi lingid sa kaalaman ng lahat na ine-export ang mga likas na yaman ng Pilipinas tulad ng black sand kaya ang ibang bansa kabilang ang China ang nakikinabang dito.

Sakaling maging batas, hindi na ibebenta sa ibang bansa ang black sand mines bagkus ay ipoproseso ito sa bansa at ang finish product na lamang ang ie-export.

Marami sa raw materials ng mga industriyalisadong bansa tulad ng China ay mula sa Pilipinas at finish product na lamang ang ibinabalik sa bansa ngunit binibili na ito ng mahal.

"Foreign companies take huge profits from exploiting our resources, our people absorb the environmental dangers the miners cause," ayon pa sa kongresista.

(BERNARD TAGUINOD)



BAN Toxics launches 'Mainstreaming Children's Rights in Environmental Law' toolkit

IN line with the celebration of this year's National Children's Month (NCM) with the theme, "New Normal Na Walang Iwanan: Karapatan ng Bawat Bata Ating Tutukan!," environmental watchdog group BAN Toxics announced the launch of their new children's rights toolkit during their two-day online event which was held on November 25 and 26, 2021. With the title "Mainstreaming Children's Rights in Environmental Law," the toolkit outlines specific tools and guidelines in developing policies and programs that are responsive to children's needs in the context of environmental law. BAN Toxics developed this toolkit as part of their continuous advocacy on the promotion of environmental justice which includes the critical role of children and their rights in environmental law.

"We have to ensure that children's rights are reflected in environmental law. That's how we can protect children from the adverse effects of toxics, wastes, and pollution," said Reynaldo San Juan Jr., Executive Director of BAN Toxics. BAN Toxics is a non-government environmental organization established in 2006, that is committed to the advancement of environmental justice to protect vulnerable populations, especially women and children. The organization's activities include awareness-raising campaigns on harmful chemicals and sound chemical management for communities and youth groups through the Toxics-Free Schools Program (TFSP), and projects to address child labor in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector in the Philippines. The document and event were done with the support of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), a non-profit, non-partisan environmental organization based in Sweden. Advocating child's rights through a two-day webinar BT Zoom Background (2).png

BAN Toxics hosted a two-day webinar that discussed children's rights and related laws, as well as the importance of developmental considerations when planning an interview with children. According to San Juan, BAN Toxics follows and rec-

ommends specific guidelines or ethical behavior especially in reporting issues involving children. The organization values the importance of accuracy and sensitivity when reporting on child-related problems. "In conducting interviews with children, basic communication rules should always be followed and a safe and pleasant environment must be established in order for the children to feel safe and secure," San Juan added.

Among the panelists on the first day was Rosario Sequitin, Dean of the University of Southern Philippines Foundation's College of Social Work. Sequitin discussed child protection laws, emphasizing cases of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC). A special topic on child labor was also presented during the first day of the webinar by Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Senior Labor and Employment Officer Dianne Lyneth Alavado. The second day of the webinar was devoted to the discussion of the ethics and proper media handling of child interviews, the rights of every child to a healthy environment and the importance of organizing children and youth. Among the speakers was Municipality of Labo's SHIELD Focal Person and Social Welfare Officer Lovely Galicia who talked about the code of ethics when conducting a child-friendly interview.

During the afternoon part of the second day, BAN Toxics' Policy and Research Associate Jashaf Shamir talked about children's rights to a clean and healthy environment and followed by the organization's Policy and Advocacy Manager Arlene Galvez who shared BAN Toxics' experiences in organizing children and youth. "Our tagline, a toxics-free world for children, is embedded in our community mobilization approach. We provide substantial support and investment in children and youth—to fully participate in the society, learn fundamental life skills, and help steer a future free from toxics. We believe that children and youth are the key players in community development and instrumental in caring and nurturing mother earth," said Arlene Galvez. (From BAN TOXICS MEDIA thru Precy F. Lazaro)



EcoWaste seeks ban on firecrackers

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



“Banning the production, importation, distribution, sale and use of firecrackers will reduce the number of firecracker-related injuries, as well as reduce environmental pollution associated with the New Year revelry,” EcoWaste chemical safety campaigner Thony Dizon said.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition yesterday renewed its call for a nationwide ban on the sale and use of firecrackers as the Christmas season draws near and amid the threat of the COVID-19 variant Omicron.

“Banning the production, importation, distribution, sale and use of firecrackers will reduce the number of firecracker-related injuries, as well as reduce environmental pollution associated with the New Year revelry,” EcoWaste chemical safety campaigner Thony Dizon said.

“The enforcement of such a measure will also be crucial in light of the threat posed by the new Omicron COVID variant,” Dizon added.

He said the ban on firecrackers would help discourage mass gatherings.

The EcoWaste said local government units should enforce existing ordinances, which prohibit firecrackers during the Christmas and New Year revelries.

“Regardless of the COVID-19 alert level status, we appeal to authorities to aim for drastically reduced injuries, waste and emissions due to the blasting of firecrackers and fireworks during the holidays,” Dizon said.

The group said as proven last year, the nationwide ban on firecrackers reduced the number of firecracker-related injuries and deaths.

“Exposure to toxic pollutants emitted from the bursting of firecrackers and fireworks is dangerous to everyone, especially to the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions, including those afflicted with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart ailment, diabetes and other illnesses, as they tend to develop more severe symptoms of COVID-19,” the EcoWaste pointed out.



Environmentalist group backs govt ban on firecrackers

posted December 01, 2021 at 10:15 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

A group of environmentalists on Wednesday urged local officials to impose a nationwide ban on firecrackers to keep people safe from pollutants and injuries amid the threat of the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

“Banning the production, importation, distribution, sale, and use of firecrackers will certainly reduce the number of firecracker-related injuries as well as reduce the environmental pollution associated with the New Year revelry,” said Thony Dizon, Ecowaste Coalition chemical safety campaigner.

The coalition also supports the government-led *Ligtas Christmas sa Healthy Pilipinas* campaign and is calling on local government units to pass and enforce ordinances prohibiting firecrackers as the Christmas and New Year festivities near.

Dizon added the enforcement of such measures would also be crucial in light of the growing fears and uncertainties over the new COVID-19 variant.”

“Regardless of the COVID-19 alert level assignments, we appeal to our communities to aim for drastically reduced injuries, wastes, and emissions due to the blasting of firecrackers and fireworks during the holidays,” he said.

While community fireworks display is allowed under Executive Order 28 of 2017, the public and the private sector must use their money for alternative activities, he said.

“Instead of burning money for a few minutes of fireworks display, we urge both the public and private sectors to use available funds for activities that will truly add holiday cheer such as food packs to families most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic,” he stressed.

He said Ecowaste has already appealed to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases since last year.



Air quality: Delhi records worst November air in years

Published 14 hours ago



GETTY IMAGES

Delhi is the world's most polluted capital

India's capital Delhi recorded its worst November air in at least six years, according to official data.

The city recorded 11 days of "severe" pollution, up from **10 days in November 2016**.

Data also showed that the residents of Delhi didn't experience even one "good" day of air quality through the month.

Experts blame the burning of crop stubble in neighbouring states and the festival of Diwali for the alarming levels of pollution in November.

The numbers are the worst Delhi has seen since 2015, when the Central Pollution Control Board started recording air quality data.

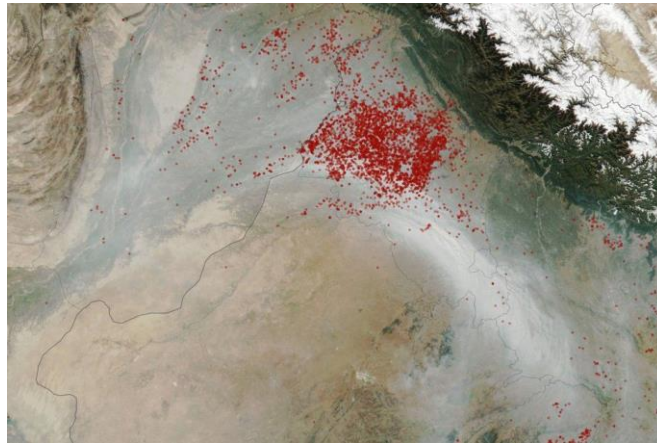
A prolonged monsoon pushed the stubble burning and Diwali into November, Dr Gufran Beig, founder of air quality forecast agency SAFAR, told local media.

"This is the major reason why November saw poorer air quality this year as compared to the last few years," he said.

Satellite data from Nasa shows that there were 90,984 fires from stubble burning in three states - Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh - between 1 October and 28 November. This was the highest number in five years, according to a report from the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).

Air quality in Delhi had also dipped to **hazardous levels the day after Diwali** as people defied a ban to burst firecrackers for hours.

Stubble burning - where crop residue is burnt every year to make way for planting wheat - turns the city's air toxic every year. It's banned but enforcement has been weak.



NASA

Smoke from crop fires in northern India on 11 November 2021

The problem looks set to worsen as the federal government has agreed to decriminalise stubble burning in a bid to assuage protesting farmers at Delhi's borders.

The levels of PM2.5 - tiny particles that can clog people's lungs - are far higher in Delhi than the World Health Organization's (WHO) safety limit.

Several studies have warned of the health risks of breathing such toxic air.

Recently, a joint study by the Lung Care Foundation and Pulmocare Research and Education found that exposure to high levels of air pollution can make children obese and put them at greater risk of developing asthma.

The study was the first in India to establish a link between overweight children, asthma and air pollution.

02 DECEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Omicron variant not yet detected in PH, govt monitoring recent arrivals — officials

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#) Published Dec 1, 2021 8:59:00 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 1)— The Philippines has not yet detected a case of the Omicron coronavirus variant, the Department of Health (DOH) said Wednesday as some travelers from South Africa undergo quarantine.

In a message to reporters, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the agency is still getting more details about these passengers.

"We will provide [information] soon," Vergeire said. "Just to be clear, no detection yet of Omicron, we are still processing next batch of whole genome sequences."

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said separately that the travelers will have to abide by government's testing protocols.

"Inatasan lamang na kunan sila ng nose and throat specimen for RT-PCR at kung ang resulta ay positive at merong threshold that is less than 30... titignan 'yan ng ating labs kung akma doon sa protocol na 'yun, itatakbo na agad sa Genome Center para mag-sequence," Duque said.

[Translation: There is an order to get their nose and throat specimen for RT-PCR and if the results are positive and have threshold that is less than 30... The labs will check if these fall under the protocol, they will be brought to the Genome Center for sequencing.]

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) said it is also closely monitoring passengers who recently arrived from countries hit by the new variant — which has sparked a new round of travel bans worldwide.

"Inutusan po ang BOQ kasama po ang DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government) na i-trace 'yung mga nakauwi within seven days doon sa mga countries na affected ng Omicron," BOQ Deputy Director Roberto Salvador, Jr. said.

[Translation: The BOQ together with the DILG were tasked to trace those who arrived within 7 days from countries affected by Omicron.]

The World Health Organization said early studies suggest there may be an increased risk of reinfection with the Omicron, which it designated as a variant of concern. The international body, however, said it is not yet clear whether Omicron is more easily spread from person to person or if it causes more severe disease compared to infections with other variants.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/12/1/No-Omicron-variant-yet-DOH-South-Africa-quarantine.html>



WHO Omicron warning for unvaccinated vulnerable travelers

[Robin Millard](#) - Agence France-Presse December 1, 2021 | 7:43am



A COVID-19 testing facility is advertised at Newark Liberty International Airport on November 30, 2021 in Newark, New Jersey. The United States, and a growing list of other countries, has restricted flights from southern African countries due to the detection of the COVID-19 Omicron variant last week in South Africa. Stocks in the travel and airline industry have fallen in recent days as fears grow over the spread and severity of the variant.

Spencer Platt / Getty Images / AFP

GENEVA, Switzerland — The WHO said Tuesday that those not fully vaccinated against Covid-19 who are also vulnerable to the disease, including over-60s, should put off travel to areas with community transmission.

The World Health Organization also said blanket travel bans would not stop the spread of the Omicron variant.

The new Covid-19 variant of concern, which the WHO says poses a "very high" risk globally, has prompted many countries to shut their borders.

"Blanket travel bans will not prevent the international spread, and they place a heavy burden on lives and livelihoods," the WHO said in a travel advice statement on Omicron.

"In addition, they can adversely impact global health efforts during a pandemic by disincentivising countries to report and share epidemiological and sequencing data."

First reported to the WHO less than a week ago after being detected in southern Africa earlier this month, Omicron has already appeared in several countries.

The WHO noted the increasing number of governments introducing travel measures, including temporarily banning arrivals from countries where the variant has been found.

The WHO said that as of Sunday, 56 countries were reportedly implementing travel measures aimed at potentially delaying the importation of the new variant.

"It is expected that the Omicron variant will be detected in an increasing number of countries as national authorities step up their surveillance and sequencing activities," it said.



The WHO later issued a correction to the final part of that travel advice, relating who should be advised to postpone travel, and to where.

"Persons who have not been fully vaccinated or do not have proof of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection and are at increased risk of developing severe disease and dying, including people 60 years of age or older or those with comorbidities that present increased risk of severe Covid-19 (e.g. heart disease, cancer and diabetes) should be advised to postpone travel to areas with community transmission," the WHO's corrected line said.

Elsewhere, the WHO advised countries to apply an "evidence-informed and risk-based approach" when implementing travel measures.

The UN health agency said national authorities in countries of departure, transit and arrival could apply mitigation measures that might delay or reduce the exportation and importation of the variant.

They could include screening passengers, testing and quarantine.

"All measures should be commensurate with the risk, time-limited and applied with respect to travellers' dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms."

The WHO said that "essential international travel", including for humanitarian missions, repatriations and transport of vital supplies, should always be prioritised during the pandemic.

'Calm, coordinated, coherent'

Earlier Tuesday, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told member states to keep calm and take "rational" steps in response to Omicron.

"We call on all member states to take rational, proportional risk-reduction measures," he said.

"The global response must be calm, coordinated and coherent."

Tedros stressed that it remains unclear how dangerous the variant is.

"We still have more questions than answers about the effect of Omicron on transmission, severity of disease, and the effectiveness of tests, therapeutics and vaccines," he said.

The WHO chief said it was understandable that countries wanted to protect their citizens "against a variant that we don't yet fully understand".

"But I am equally concerned that several member states are introducing blunt, blanket measures that are not evidence-based or effective on their own, and which will only worsen inequities."



POLITICAL CARAVANS, KAPASKUHAN AT COVID-19



December 1, 2021 @ 11:03 PM 8 hours ago

DAAN-DAAN o libo-libo ang mga sumasali sa mga political caravan na idinaraos ng mga politiko kaugnay ng halalang 2022.

Ginagawa ang mga political caravan nang sabay-sabay karaniwan.

'Yung bang === para sa mga pambansang politiko mula Pangulo hanggang sa mga senador, sabay-sabay ang mga munisipyo, lungsod at lalawigan sa buong bansa na nagka-caravan.

Pero sumasama na rin ang mga lokal na kandidato mula sa mga konsehal, bise mayor, bokal, bise gobernador, gobernador at kongresman na kasapi ng mga nasyunal na kandidato at partido.

Kung minsan din, nagsasarili ang mga lokal na kandidato bilang indibiduwal o partido.

Kaugnay nito, mga Bro, posibleng magiging superspreader ng COVID-19 ang mga caravan na ito.

KARANASAN NG INDIA

Bago nanalasa ang Delta variant sa India nitong Abril, Mayo at Hunyo 2021 na umaabot sa 4,000-5.000 ang patay araw-araw, mainit na pamumulitika ang naganap simula pa sa buwang ng Enero.

Nagkaroon din ng mga caravan ng milyon-milyong katao para sa kampanyahan.

Tulad ng naganap ngayon na medyo mahina ang COVID-19 sa mahal kong Pinas na hindi iniintindi kundi sinasamantala ng mga politiko para mangampanya, ganito rin ang naganap sa India.

Isa pa ngang palaisipan sa India kung bakit humupa ang COVID-19 mula Enero hanggang sa manalasa ang Delta variant at sinamantala ito ng Indian politicians sa kanilang pangampanya.

Pero dahil sa pagbalewala na sa pagsusuot ng face mask, social distancing at iba pang health protocol, sumampa si COVID sa mga lansangan, kabahayan at pagtitipon ng mga Indian, kasama ang mga caravan saka nanalasa.

Hindi kaya magaganap din ito sa atin?



KAPASKUHAN AT PIYESTA

Karanasan din sa India ang pagkakaroon ng mga piyestang milyon-milyon ang dumadalo, kasama na ang paliligo sa mga malalaking ilog gaya ng Ganges River.

Dito rin binalewala ang mga health protocol.

Hindi akalain ng bansang India, na kasama ng mga gawaing pulitika, ang mga piyestang dinarayo at dinadaluhan ng milyon-milyong katao ang sinakyan ng COVID-19 at Delta variant para manalasa.

Ngayon naman, mga Bro, milyon-milyong tao na ang kumikilos bilang preparasyon sa Kapaskuhan na pinakamalaking piyesta sa ating bansa.

Biyahe rito, pasyal doon, punta rito, punta roon at kasama pa ang mga beybi na kinakalong o hinahatak.

Sa pagsasama ng Kapaskuhan at kampanyang pampulitika, hindi kaya nag-aabang lang sina COVID-19, Delta variant at ngayo'y Omicron variant para manalasa naman sa Pilipinas.

Sana naman hindi, pero paano kung mangyari ito?

MAGPABAKUNA LAHAT

Sa huling ulat ni vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr., may 140 milyong dose nang bakuna ang dumating sa Pinas at bibili pa ng 20 milyon para maging tuloy-tuloy ang pagbabakuna hanggang 2022.

Sa rami ng bakunang ito, kaya nating maabot ang herd o communit immunity na 54 milyong pataas mula sa 80 milyong dapat na mabakunahan.

Kaya sana, magpabakuna kung saan may nagbabakuna at maiwasan din natin ang muling pananalasa ng COVID-19, Delta variant at Omicron variant sa kagagawan ng mga politiko at paglahok natin dito, maging sa Kapaskuhan.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 627

DISYEMBRE 1, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.5%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
15,327

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,768,999

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.72%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
48,712

MGA BAGONG KASO **500**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **951**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **167**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,833,038**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING NOBYEMBRE 29

DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 1
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG NOBYEMBRE 29

2.1%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

30,841

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
51.8%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

BAWAL
WALANG MASK
AT FACE SHIELD

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)
27% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (19.8K TOTAL BEDS)
26% Utilized

WARD BEDS (13.1K TOTAL BEDS)
15% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
15% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
28% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
22% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)
20% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
16% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

756 Asymptomatic

7,183 Mild

3,832 Moderate

2,489 Severe

1,067 Critical



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Kahit pa tayo ay nakatanggap na ng ating bakuna, mahalaga pa rin na sumunod tayo sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** upang mas maprotektahan natin ang ating sarili laban sa COVID-19. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

02 DECEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



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#ManilaBayUpdate #Phase2 #DolomiteBeach
ANG INAABANGAN NG LAHAT, NAGSIMULA NA!
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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone
[#SaveManilaBay](#)

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government build, build, build project

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