

02 JANUARY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

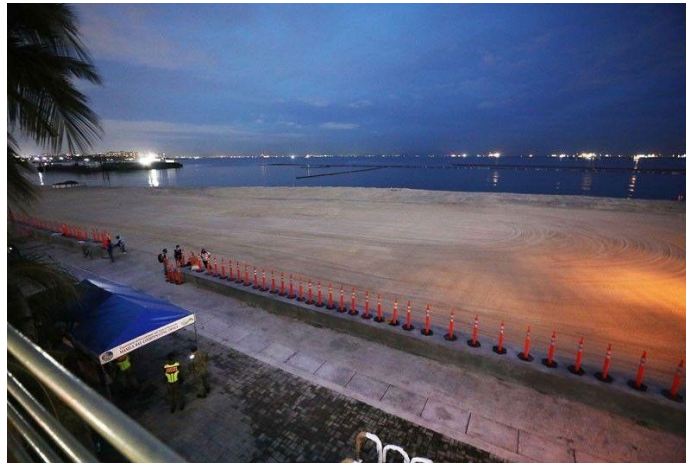
NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR targets swimmable dolomite beach this month

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star January 2, 2022 | 12:00am



Members of the Manila Police District (MPD) arrive early to provide security at the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach on Tuesday (December 28, 2021) before dawn as it opens to the public for a two-day trial. The DENR sets an online appointment system for visitors wanting to experience the man-made beach front to avoid overcrowding and in observance of the minimum health and safety protocols by the IATF.

Miguel De Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — An official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has bared the agency's target to make the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach swimmable this month.

Jonas Leones, DENR undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs, expressed optimism that the target will be met and allow visitors to fully enjoy the artificial white sand beach.

"We are working hard so that the beach can be swimmable once more. That is why water treatment of Manila Bay has been continuing," Leones said.

He added that even the quality of the water coming from major drainage outfalls discharging into Manila Bay is being continuously monitored.

The DENR opened the beach to the public last Dec. 28 and 29. It was closed for the New Year, but will open again on Tuesday, Jan. 4.

Those interested to visit the Dolomite Beach should first register online at the DENR Manila Bay Dolomite Beach Appointment System <http://denrncrys.online>. They will then receive a reply confirming their appointment to visit the beach.

Leones reminded tourists that children 11 years old and below cannot be admitted to the beach area, which will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



DENR juggles dual mandate of preserving, exploiting natural resources

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JANUARY 1, 2022



In this April 15, 2021, file photo, excavators are seen working on the controversial beach nourishment project of the DENR and the DPWH on Manila Bay.

THE year 2021 was a challenging year for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as the pandemic compounded its difficult role of balancing seemingly conflicting mandates to protect and conserve the environment, while promoting the exploitation of the country's natural wealth.

The DENR was tasked, for one, to take the lead in rehabilitating the world-renowned Boracay Island, Manila Bay, and water bodies in typhoon-devastated areas. The agency chairs or co-chairs the various interagency task forces created by Malacañang.



Protesters shout slogans during a rally to protest the Mining Philippines 2018 Annual International Conference Tuesday, September 18, 2018, in Manila. The protesters are calling for responsible mining and demanding accountability from mining firms and the government for the disastrous effects on mining communities.

Below are some of the highlights of the DENR's activities in the past 12 months.

Solid waste

AFTER aggressively campaigning for the enforcement of the Clean Water Act in Manila Bay in 2019 and 2020, the DENR started 2021 with an aggressive campaign to address the perennial garbage problem in the next two years, promising to close down all 300 illegally operating open dumpsites and replacing them with engineered sanitary landfills.

The DENR acknowledges that there are currently only 189 landfills in operation in 399 local government units (LGUs) across the country.



This number is deemed insufficient, considering that Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the law mandating the closure of open dumpsites and establishment of engineered sanitary landfills, took effect more than two decades ago.

Before the end of January, the DENR announced that it was able to close 38 open dumps in one day, confident that the DENR Regional Offices will be able to beat the agency's self-imposed deadline, with open dumps in Bataan, Pampanga and Tanza, Cavite, being shut simultaneously.

Helping LGUs

TO help address the garbage problem at the municipal level, the DENR distributed to the LGU of San Fernando City, Pampanga, and the towns of Apalit, Candaba, Guagua and Magalang shredder-composter equipment, which can process one to two tons of compost materials within 24 hours.

By May, a total of 131 LGUs within the Manila Bay region received similar shredder-composter equipment.

Meanwhile, to build enough sanitary landfills to replace the open dumpsites, the DENR announced a plan to tap the Green Financing Program (GFP) of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to fill the financing gap in the establishment of some 300 sanitary landfills across the country.

As of this writing, the DENR has yet to come up with its final 2021 accomplishment in addressing the garbage woes, which is tied to the herculean task of rehabilitating Manila Bay under the P47-billion, 7-year "Battle for Manila Bay" rehabilitation program launched in 2019.

The DENR has been stepping up the evaluation of the 10-year-old solid waste management plans of LGUs. As of December 22, 2021, the DENR has approved 1,171 such plans, or 68 percent of its target nationwide.

Fifty-one of these were approved during the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC)-led en banc meetings on November 24 and December 7.

Water quality improvement

AMONG the objectives is to improve the water quality in Manila Bay, targeting to reduce the fecal coliform and other water pollutants to make the water body "swimmable" once more.

As of February 8, 2021, based on water samples obtained and tested from 21 stations surrounding the Manila Bay, lower fecal coliform from the annual average of 7.16 million most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100ml) in 2020, to only 4.87 million mpn/100ml were recorded.

Fecal coliform level in the waters near the controversial beach nourishment project of the DENR and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) that saw the birth of the "dolomite beach" has dropped from 2.2 million mpn/100ml on January 4 to 523,000 mpn/100 ml on February 8, based on the average count from three monitoring stations.

However, this "significant" drop in fecal coliform still does not make Manila Bay safe for bathing or swimming, or other activities.

The standard coliform level for coastal waters, which is deemed safe for swimming and other similar recreational activities, is at only P100 mph/100ml.

Fish pens, cages

IN September, weeks after appealing to LGUs in the Manila Bay area to regulate fish pens and fish cage operations, DENR started to dismantle what it calls "illegal structures" in the part of Cavite.



The DENR believes that fish cages and fish pens are to be blamed for contributing to the garbage that ails Manila Bay—referring to bamboo poles, nets, and styrofoam materials used in fish cages and fish pens.

The following month, the DENR issued a policy banning the transport of bamboo poles in the Cavite area that are intended for fish pens and fish cages.

The DENR said it intends to clear Manila Bay of all illegal structures, including fish traps or *baklad*, oyster and mussel farms that make use of bamboo poles, nets, and styrofoam, too.

Flood-prevention measures

ALSO in February, the DENR simultaneously launched river-dredging activities to prevent flooding along the banks of the Cagayan River, Bicol River, Marikina River, Tullahan River and Pasig River.

For the rehabilitation of the Pasig and Tullahan Rivers, the DENR partnered with San Miguel Corp., using its vast financial resources, to extract thousands of tons of silt and garbage.

Also in February, the DENR simultaneously conducted massive bamboo planting activities to prevent soil erosion on select rivers, including the Cagayan River, the country's largest and longest river, which became heavily silted due to soil erosion over the years.

In March, the DENR also launched simultaneous activities to clear Pasig River and Laguna de Bay of water hyacinth, an invasive alien species that prevents the free flow of water—something essential in keeping the water bodies healthy.

The DENR said it is tapping small fishermen to also boost their income.

Mining moratorium lifted

IN April of 2021, President Duterte signed Executive Order (EO) 130 lifting a moratorium in the processing of new mining projects put in place in 2012 by former President Benigno Aquino III's EO 79.

Duterte's order amended Section 4 of EO 79 on the Grant of Mineral Agreements Pending New Legislation, thereby allowing the DENR and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) to proceed with the processing of new mining project applications.

Duterte ordered the DENR to strictly implement mines safety and environment policies, and ensure strict implementation of and compliance with recommended measures from the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), another interagency body which the DENR cochairs, involving all mining operations, including other pertinent laws, rules and regulations, and terms and conditions of mineral agreements.

The MGB is expected to craft the implementing rules and regulations of the new order that would focus principally on the grant of new mining permits and declaration of new mining areas as "mineral reservations."

Pros and cons

ENVIRONMENTAL groups, however, believe that the order will open the floodgates to more environmentally destructive mining projects, which betrays the "legacy" of the late Gina Lopez. The latter's short stint as DENR Secretary saw the agency recommending the closure or suspension of 26 operating mines, the cancellation of 79 inactive Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) near watersheds, and the ban on open-pit mining method. Of the three policies, only the open-pit mining ban remained until December, when it was finally lifted.

True enough, MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said that with the lifting of the moratorium on new mining projects, the agency is eyeing the grant of new mining projects that could generate additional revenues and boost the economy within the next five years.



The MGB chief said at least 100 new mining projects are currently in the pipeline, which can generate additional revenue of P20 billion in the form of excise tax and another P1 billion in annual revenue in the form of royalty tax. These new mining projects can generate at least 42,000 new jobs in the mining sector, which currently employs around 230,000 persons.

The heated debate between, on one hand, environmentalists alarmed by the impact of liberalized mining at a time marked by more violent storms; and on the other, the economists looking to tap the mineral wealth to boost an economy pushed to recession by a pandemic, reflects the sometimes contradictory inclinations in an agency with a dual mandate as DENR. How long it can keep the balancing act is anyone's guess.

Images courtesy of Nonie Reyes | BusinessMirror and AP/Bullit Marquez



South Cotabato residents glad with DENR's lifting of mining ban

[John Unson](#) - Philstar.com January 1, 2022 | 2:06pm



The Blaans ancestral lands in the copper-rich Tampakan town in South Cotabato.

Philstar.com / John Unson

KORONADAL CITY, Philippines — The indigenous communities and leaders of the business and labor sectors here and in nearby towns were elated with the December 23 lifting of the four-year open-pit mining ban in the country.

Less than 20 kilometers from this city is Tampakan town where there are €5.8 billion (Euro currency) worth of copper deposits, per estimate of local and foreign geologists and mining engineers, among them European and Australians.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu lifted last December 23, via DENR Administrative Order 2021-40, the open-pit mining ban imposed in 2017 by his predecessor, the late Gina Lopez.

The administrative order is apparently a direct imprimatur for open-pit extraction of copper and gold in the country.

“That is an answered prayer, a collective wish of the Blaans community in Tampakan and elsewhere in South Cotabato and the T’boli people in the province,” Bai Dalena Samling, a tribal leader, told reporters Saturday.

Samling said their main goal now is to have the provincial open-pit mining ban lifted soon too by the South Cotabato Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP).

“We are thankful that there is an on-going review by the SP of that provincial ordinance, based on mounting clamors of the indigenous people and many other sectors in the province to have that provincial law lifted,” Samling said in Hiligaynon vernacular.

The copper deposits in Tampakan town in South Cotabato are in ancestral lands of the Blaans, an indigenous tribe.

The tribe, like all other Philippine indigenous communities, is empowered by the now 24-year Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) to utilize the natural resources obtainable in its centuries-old tribal domains for its benefit.

Members of the South Cotabato SP have been reviewing for more than two months now the provincial environment code that bans open-pit mining in the province.



The review is a response to petitions by the Blaan and T'boli sectors, the business communities in central Mindanao and major stakeholders in favor of extracting the vast copper deposits in Tampakan to boost the socio-economic growth of South Cotabato.

Edmund Ugal, a T'boli datu, said they are optimistic the South Cotabato SP will soon invalidate the provincial anti-open-pit mining ordinance, for them "anti-poor" and an affront to the IPRA, also known as the Republic 8371.

The chairperson of the influential Mindanao Business Council (MBC), Vicente Lao, said they are also for the lifting of the provincial ordinance against open-pit mining in South Cotabato.

"We are hoping the local government can reconsider that ordinance. The fear that some people have about open pit mining shall be addressed surely," Lao said.

He said they are certain the local communities shall benefit a lot from mining operations in Tampakan owing to the very high price now of copper in the world market.

The council led by Lao is a large confluence of traders from across Mindanao and has its groups in South Cotabato and in this city, the provincial capital.

Leaders of Christian religious groups in central Mindanao have secretly been telling reporters and social media bloggers to help make South Cotabato provincial legislators realize that they can contribute a lot to poverty alleviation and generation of revenues essential to health, education and social welfare programs if they lift the local anti-open pit mining ban.

"We are not hypocrites like those in the small, or minority groups against it, some of them missionaries using chalices made of copper for their worship rites," one of the sources, who requested anonymity, said.

Owners of commercial establishments, hotels and restaurants here and in nearby South Cotabato towns are, in fact, looking forward to a socio-economic boom once extraction of copper in Tampakan proceeds on the behest of the local communities.

"The national ban on open-pit mining had been lifted by Secretary Cimatú. We are asking the SP to lift the provincial law against that kind of mining operations too," said Victor Villa, owner of the Mang Goryo restaurant here and in Cotabato City.

Villa said he and other owners of restaurants and food outlets around are anticipating dramatic improvements in local businesses right after extraction of copper in Tampakan begins.

"We talk about that a lot during gatherings," he said.



(Suportado ng DOF) PAG-AALIS NG OPEN-PIT MINING BAN

December 31, 2021 admin



NAGPAHAYAG ng suporta ang Department of Finance (DOF) sa pag-aalis ng ban sa open-mining dahil magbibigay-daan ito upang maging pangunahing tagapag-ambag ang industriya sa pagbangon ng ekonomiya.

Sa isang statement, sinabi ng DOF na magresulta rin ito sa paglinang sa 11 nakabimbing proyekto na inaasahang makalilikom ng P11 billion na yearly government revenues, magpapataas sa annual exports ng P36 billion, at magkakaloob ng trabaho sa 22,880 katao.

Ayon kay Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, ang desisyon ay masusing tinalakay na may payo mula sa mga eksperto.

“As co-chair of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), I support DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu’s decision to lift the ban on open-pit mining... Clearly, it will revive an industry that will create jobs and spur economic growth in the countryside,” ani Dominguez.

Magugunitang inalis ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang four-year-old ban sa open-pit mining, na isang polisiya ay ipinatupad ni yumaong Environment Secretary Gina Lopez noong 2017.

Sa DENR Administrative Order No. 2021-40 na inisyu noong Disyembre 23, pinawalang-bisa ni Secretary Roy Cimatu ang Administrative Order No. 2017-10 ng kanyang predecessor na nagbabawal sa mining method para sa pagkuha ng copper, gold, silver, at/o complex ores sa bansa.

Sinabi ni Cimatu na, “lifting the ban on open-pit mining would revitalize the mining industry and usher in significant economic benefits to the country by providing raw materials for the construction and development of other industries and by increasing employment opportunities in rural areas where there are mining activities thereby stimulating countryside development.”

Aniya, ang open-pit mining method ay isang pamamaraan ng pagmimina na tinatanggap sa mundo, na itinuturing na “most feasible option for mining near-surface or shallow ore deposits.”

Ipinaliwanag naman ni Dominguez na maaaring mapigilan ang mga isyu na may kinalaman sa mining operations sa pamamagitan ng mahigpit na monitoring at regulation.

“Adequate safeguards can be implemented to ensure the safety of this mining method. Strict monitoring and enforcement to ensure compliance with environmental standards shall be undertaken to prevent any abuse in the implementation of this type of mining activity,” dagdag ni Dominguez.

Source: <https://pilipinomirror.com/suportado-ng-dof-pag-aalis-ng-open-pit-mining-ban/>



SMC, govt join to protect NCR's last old mangrove forest

January 1, 2022



The Tullahan-Tinajeros river rehabilitation project is cited for helping reduce severe flooding in Navotas, Malabon and Valenzuela. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOGETHER with the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) and the local government of Navotas, [SMC](#) continued to tap more volunteers from its own workforce to scale up efforts to clean and protect [Isla Pulo](#), home to the remaining old-growth mangrove forest in the National Capital Region ([NCR](#)).

Holding weekly cleanup activities since October, SMC has, so far, mobilized some 80 volunteers, consisting of employees; residents from Barangay Tanza 1; and personnel from the local government of Navotas, the Philippine [National Police](#) in Navotas, the 51st Engineers [Brigade of the Philippine Army](#), and the DENR.

Volunteers have, so far, collected 3,803 sacks of garbage from the mangrove area, which also serves as a natural barrier that protects nearby cities from storm surges and coastline erosion.

The primary goal was to remove the trash that littered the 3.5-kilometer shoreline and mangrove strip of the 26-hectare island. The initiative complemented the company's cleanup of the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system and helped in flood mitigation efforts.

"Following reports from our partner government agencies that a huge amount of garbage from the [Manila Bay](#) and nearby tributaries have ended up at the [Tanza Marine Tree Park](#), we immediately expanded our flood mitigation efforts from dredging and extracting wastes from the 27-kilometer [Tullahan River](#) to also partnering with stakeholders to conduct regular cleanups," SMC President and Chief Executive Officer [Ramon Ang](#) said.

For the effort, SMC shouldered all costs for supplies, protective gear and meals for all volunteers. It also coordinated with and organized all the volunteers from the community as well as from various agencies and offices involved.

The Tullahan-Tinajeros river rehabilitation project had been cited for helping reduce severe flooding in Navotas, Malabon and Valenzuela. SMC's dredging teams were currently focused on parts of the river near Catmon and Maysilo in [Malabon City](#).



Pasig garbage pileup hit

Allen Angeles, chief of the city's Solid Waste and Management Office, said Metro Waste is apparently having manpower issues as 10 percent of its workers allegedly tested positive for the use of illegal drugs

Published 1 hour ago on January 2, 2022 04:50 AM

By **Neil Alcober**



Photo: Bobby Eusebio (Facebook)

Former mayor Robert "Bobby" Eusebio has criticized the local government of Pasig City over the trash that has allegedly piled up during the holidays.

He said in a social media post that the accumulation of garbage under Mayor Vico Soto has never happened during his administration.

Eusebio asked what has happened to the firm contracted by the local government unit to collect garbage, Metro Waste.

Residents of Pasig City have complained that the uncollected garbage has already caused stinking in their communities, adding they fear an outbreak of diseases because of Metro Waste missing in action.

Allen Angeles, chief of the city's Solid Waste and Management Office, said Metro Waste is apparently having manpower issues as 10 percent of its workers allegedly tested positive for the use of illegal drugs.

He said a random drug test among Metro Waste workers resulted in the discovery of drug use among some of them, resulting in the reduction of its personnel.

Angeles said absenteeism during the holidays may also be to blame for Metro's failure to collect the trash.

Metro Waste employees vehemently denied that many of them tested positive for illegal drugs use.

Some, however, admitted they did not report for work to protest delayed and diminution of salaries. They said they have yet to receive their 13th-month pay.

"We are not going out unless they pay our 13th month," one of Metro employees told an online news service.



ABS-CBN News

12h · 🌐

Higit 880 tonelada na ng basura ang nahakot sa Cebu City hanggang noong Huwebes sa kasagsagan ng "garbage cleaning storm" ng lokal na pamahalaan.

Sinimulan ito para malinis ang mga debris na dulot ng bagyong Odette upang maayos ang daloy ng trapiko at mapabilis ang restoration efforts. (📷: Cebu City PIO) | via Annie Perez

BASAHEIN ang mga kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/patrol/tag/ODETTE-AFTERMATH>

See Translation



👍 64

3 Shares



Colorado wildfire torches 500 homes

by [AFP](#) [January 1, 2022](#)
in [News](#), [World News](#)

Superior, Colorado—A fast-spreading wildfire that tore through several Colorado towns—laying waste to entire neighborhoods “in the blink of an eye,” according to the governor—had largely burned itself out Friday, with heavy snow expected to douse any remaining embers.

At least 500 homes were thought to have been destroyed as the blaze took hold of the town of Superior, just outside the state’s biggest city Denver, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee but there were no deaths reported so far.

Shocking aerial footage showed whole streets as little more than piles of smoking ash, destruction that appeared almost total but somehow left one or two homes incongruously untouched.

“This was a disaster in fast motion... over the course of half a day. Many families having minutes to get whatever they could—their pets, their kids—into the car and leave,” state Governor Jared Polis said. “Just as in the blink of an eye.”

Downed power lines are believed to have sparked grassfires in the tinder-dry landscape that were then fanned by winds gusting at more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) an hour on Thursday.

At least 33,000 people in the towns of Superior and Louisville were told to flee, many doing so with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle told a press conference on Friday that he had seen swathes of the town utterly destroyed, while other areas had been spared.

“We won’t have final numbers until late tonight or tomorrow, but we are fully expecting this to be 500 or more homes that were lost,” he said.

“I would not be surprised if it’s 1,000.”

Mosaic’ fire

Pelle said the fire had burned in a “mosaic,” leapfrogging some streets but laying waste to others.

It “devastated some neighborhoods and some blocks,” and left others “untouched,” he added.

Pelle, who said Thursday he expected injuries and deaths as a result of the wildfires, praised the community response in quickly heeding evacuation orders, which he said had saved lives.

“It’s unbelievable when you look at the devastation that we don’t have a list of 100 missing persons, but we don’t,” he said.

“I am hoping that’s a miracle because it would be given the circumstances.”

A powerful storm system bringing heavy snowfall was blowing into Colorado on Friday.

Up to a foot (30 centimeters) of snow is expected in some parts of the state, in a blizzard that should help to extinguish the fires, which have largely burned themselves out through lack of available fuel now that the winds have dropped.



“There’s still areas burning inside the fire zone, around homes and shrubbery, but we’re not expecting to see any growth of the fire,” Pelle said. “I think we’re pretty well contained.”

Around 6,000 acres (2,400 hectares) were affected, much of it in urban and suburban areas. Homes, shopping centers and hotels were impacted.

Colorado media outlets reported a handful of people had been treated for burn injuries, but there were no reports of any deaths.

The area’s infrastructure remained under strain, with residents ordered to boil water before drinking it.

President Joe Biden has declared that a major disaster was underway in Colorado and ordered federal aid be provided to the state, the White House said.

Drought fuelling blazes

Like much of the American West, Colorado is in the grip of a years-long drought that has left the area parched and vulnerable to wildfire.

Although fires are a natural part of the climate cycle and help to clear dead brush, their scale and intensity are increasing.

Scientists say a warming climate, chiefly caused by human activities such as the unchecked burning of fossil fuels, is altering weather patterns.

This prolongs droughts in some areas and provokes unseasonably large storms in other places.

Daniel Swain, a meteorologist at the University of California, tweeted that it was “hard to believe” these fires were taking hold in December, usually a quieter time for blazes.

“But take a record warm & dry fall, only 1 inch of snow so far this season, & add an extreme (100mph+) downslope windstorm...and extremely fast moving/dangerous fires are the result,” he said.

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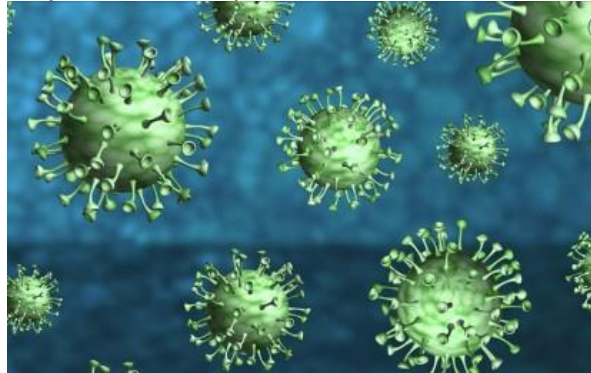
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH Covid-19 tally posts 468 recoveries

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [January 1, 2022, 4:59 pm](#)



MANILA – The year 2022 opened with a total of 2,847,486 confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) after 3,617 new infections were recorded.

Total recoveries are 97.6 percent of total infections or 2,778,567, with 468 added on Saturday.

The Department of Health (DOH) Covid-19 bulletin indicated active cases rose to 17,374.

Of the active cases, 11,603 are mild, 673 are asymptomatic, 339 are critical, 1,635 are severe, and 3,124 are moderate.

“Of the 3,617 reported cases today (January 1), 3,607 occurred within the recent 14 days, December 19 to January 1, 2022,” the DOH said.

The top regions with most cases in the recent two weeks were the National Capital Region (NCR) with 2,526 or 20 percent; Calabarzon with 570 or 16 percent; and Region 3 (Central Luzon) with 199 or 6 percent of the new cases.

The death toll has reached 51,545 with 43 new deaths.

“Of the 43 deaths, 5 occurred in December 2021 (12 percent), 4 in November 2021 (9 percent), 7 in October 2021 (16 percent), 14 in September 2021 (33 percent), 6 in August 2021 (14 percent), 2 in July 2021 (5 percent), 3 in June 2021 (7 percent), 1 in November 2020 (2 percent), and 1 in August 2020 (2 percent) due to late encoding of death information to COVIDKaya,” the DOH said.

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

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

According to the December 30 data, about 14.8 percent of 29,239 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

“Sixteen duplicates were removed from the total case count, of these, seven are recoveries and two are deaths. Also, 95 cases were found to have tested negative and have been removed from the total case count, of these, 95 are recoveries,” the DOH said.

It added 41 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.



Two laboratories were not operational on December 30 and six laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH noted that the eight laboratories contribute, on average, 0.2 percent of samples tested, and 0.1 percent among positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

To date, 20 percent of 3,500 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 22 percent of 18,700 isolation beds, 13 percent of 12,100 ward beds, and 11 percent of 2,900 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 25 percent of 1,300 ICU beds, 23 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 24 percent of 3,700 ward beds, and 14 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the NCR. **(PNA)**



New Year COVID-19 cases hit 3,617

[Sheila Crisostomo](#) - The Philippine Star January 2, 2022 | 12:00am



Revelers cheer during a New Year's Eve 2022 celebration on Dec. 31, 2021 in a beach resort in Subic.
The STAR / Walter Bollozos, file

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 3,617 new COVID-19 cases were recorded by the Department of Health (DOH) on the first day of 2022, as the Philippines contends with a sudden rise in infections amid the holiday season. Based on the DOH's Jan. 1 case bulletin, the new COVID-19 cases brought the overall total to 2,847,486.

The last time the country logged more than 3,000 daily COVID-19 cases was exactly two months ago on Nov. 1, when there were 3,117 new cases.

The latest report also showed the positivity rate in the country now at 14.8 percent among the 29,239 tested samples on Dec. 30. This figure is higher than the 10.3-percent positivity rate logged by the DOH last Friday, the last day of 2021, and nearly triple the five-percent threshold set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Citing the WHO, the DOH said a five-percent and below positivity rate indicates that a country is still able to manage its COVID-19 caseload.

Meanwhile, yesterday's DOH bulletin also recorded 43 new COVID-19 deaths, bringing the pandemic death toll in the country to 51,545.

Another 468 patients have recovered, raising the number of COVID-19 survivors nationwide to 2,778,567.

Data also showed there were still 17,374 active cases, representing 0.6 percent of the overall tally.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/01/02/2151359/new-year-covid-19-cases-hit-3617>



NCR, balik sa Alert Level 3 sa Enero 3-15

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 2, 2022 - 12:00am



Commuters prepare their face shields as they board an EDSA carousel bus at the Monumento station in Quezon City on Sept. 23, 2021. The STAR / Michael Varcas, file

10 bagong Omicron cases naitala

MANILA, Philippines — Dahil sa biglang pagtaas ng kaso ng COVID-19, inilagay sa mas mahigpit na Alert Level 3 ang Metro Manila simula Enero 3 hanggang 15, 2022.

Sa press briefing sa Davao City noong Biyernes, sinabi ni acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles na ang pagbabalik sa Alert Level 3 ay napagdesisyunan ng Inter-Agency Task Force on Infectious Disease (IATF) dahil sa inaasahang pagtaas pa ng bilang nang mahahawaan ng COVID-19 dahil na rin sa mga holiday activities at sa pagkakatuklas ng local cases ng Omicron variant.

Kinumpirma rin ng Department of Health na may 10 bagong kaso ng Omicron, tatlo ang local case o hindi lumabas ng bansa. Dalawa sa local Omicron ay mula sa Bicol at isa sa National Capital Region.

Sa ilalim ng Alert Level 3, papayagan ang ilang establisimyento na mag-operate ng hanggang 30% indoor venue capacity para sa mga fully vaccinated individuals.

Hanggang 50% naman sa outdoor venue capacity, pero kailangan na fully vaccinated ang mga empleyado.

Pinapayagan pa rin ang intrazonal at interzonal na paggalaw pero maaaring magpatupad nang paghihigpit ang mga local government units na maaring i-monitor at rebyuhin ng mga Regional IATF.

Samantala, ang mga establisimyento at aktibidad na itinuturing na high-risk para sa transmission sa ilalim ng Alert Level 3 ay hindi pinapayagan kabilang ang: Face-to-face o in-person classes para sa basic education, maliban sa mga unang pinayagan ng IATF at Office of the President; Contact sports, maliban sa mga nasa ilalim ng bubble-type setup at alinsunod sa guidelines ng IATF, Games and Amusement Board, at Philippine Sports Commission, at aprubado ng LGUs.

Funfairs/carnivals at kid amusement industries kabilang ang playgrounds, playroom, at kiddie rides; Venues na may live voice o wind-instrument performers at audiences katulad ng karaoke bars, clubs, concert halls, at theaters; Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting at operasyon ng cockpits, lottery at betting shops, at iba pang uri ng gaming establishments, maliban sa mga may pahintulot ng IATF o Office of the President; pagtitipon ng mga indibiduwal na hindi nakatira sa iisang bahay.



Noong nakaraang Lunes, Disyembre 27, nasa 318 lang ang new daily cases. Umangat ang bilang sa 421 noong Martes, at sumirit sa 889 noong Miyerkules, at 1,623 nitong Huwebes.

Noong Biyernes, 2,961 ang naitalang mga bagong kaso ng COVID.

Noong Nobyembre inilagay sa Alert Level 2 ang Metro Manila nang bumaba ang COVID-19 cases sa rehiyon.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 658

ENERO 1, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.6%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
17,374

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.6%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,778,567

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.81%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
51,545

MGA BAGONG KASO **3,617**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **468**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **43**

KABUUNANG BILANG NG KASO **2,847,486**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 30
DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 1
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 30

14.8%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

29,239

BILANG NG
TINVEST

HALOS
70.7%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

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

KABUUNANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.5K TOTAL BEDS)
20% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (18.7K TOTAL BEDS)
22% Utilized

WARD BEDS (12.1K TOTAL BEDS)
13% Utilized

VENTILATORS (2.9K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
11% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
25% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)
23% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)
24% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
14% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

673 Asymptomatic

11,603 Mild

3,124 Moderate

1,635 Severe

339 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
seeyoudoc.com
SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD
konsulta.md
KonsultaMD

CloudPx
cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck
medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
TelAventusMD

HealthNow
healthnow.ph/
help@healthnow.ph
HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

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



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

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



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

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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

[doh.gov.ph](https://www.doh.gov.ph)

[\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:(02)894-COVID)

02 JANUARY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE




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


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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone
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