

03 JANUARY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Natl greening program tops 2020 record by 176 percent—DENR

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JANUARY 3, 2022



The year 2021 has been a productive year as the DENR kept its momentum through the pandemic and further sustained its gains on many fronts like the rehabilitation and protection of the country's forest resources. — DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has established a total of 83,169 hectares of new plantations, exceeding by 176 percent the 47,299 hectares established in 2020 under the Enhanced National Greening Program or ENGP.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the ENGP accomplishment in 2021 “mirrors how the DENR has kept its momentum,” noting that the gains “overcame the roadblocks thrown by the pandemic.”

Around 60.4 million seedlings were planted in 2021, exceeding by 170 percent the 37.2 million seedlings planted in 2020.

“The year 2021 has been a productive year as the DENR kept its momentum through the pandemic and further sustained its gains on many fronts like the rehabilitation and protection of the country's forest resources,” Cimatu said.

The latest figures bring to 2.16 million hectares the areas planted under the ENGP, or a total of 1.81 billion seedlings planted since 2011.

Moreover, reports submitted to the NGP Office by the DENR-Forest Management Bureau (FMB) show that 54,895 ENGP-related jobs have been created between January and August this year. This benefited 9,916 individuals hired as forest extension officers and technical workers. They were tasked to provide technical assistance to NGP partners and beneficiaries in NGP plantation development activities—nursery management, seedling production, and enhancement planting in graduated-NGP areas experiencing tree seedling mortalities, which is unavoidable in tree plantation establishment.

A “dramatic” increase in the number of families covered by the program was recorded in 2021, following the adoption of the family approach strategy as ordered by Cimatu in 2020 to award ENGP-contracts to forestry-resource dependent families.

A total of 17,696 families have been part of the program from January to May 2021 alone, surpassing by 118 percent the 14,885 ENGP beneficiary-families in 2020.



Under the scheme, an ENGP-family contractor—classified either as a single-family or extended family to include grandchildren and in-laws—enters into an agreement binding family members to undertake any of the four modes of activity, namely, tree plantation development; agroforestry plantation development; rehabilitation of protection forest zone using endemic timber and non-timber species indigenous to the area; and rehabilitation of mangrove and beach forests.

Each ENGP beneficiary-family can be granted one to 10 hectares for a period of three years.

In total, around 5.7 million ENGP-related jobs have so far been created with 816,383 hired individuals.

Initially a six-year project, the DENR-led National Greening Program (NGP) was implemented by virtue of Executive Order (EO) 26 issued in 2011 to plant some 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares of land.

Its implementation was extended to 2028 with the issuance of EO 193 in November 2015 and was renamed “Enhanced National Greening Program” or ENGP.

In 2021, the DENR also made progress in its Intensified Forest Protection and Anti-Illegal Logging program with the filing of 449 cases for violation of Presidential Decree No. 705 or the Revised Philippine Forestry Code.

At least 2.18 million board feet of undocumented forest products have been seized, including 706 vehicles and other pieces of equipment used in illegal logging activities.

Image courtesy of Beejay S. Abad



DENR stops 144 illegal mining ops in '21

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JANUARY 3, 2022

AMID the pandemic, the government stopped 144 illegal mining operations in 2021, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu credited the “enhanced performance” of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) which led to the closure of the illegal mining operations in accordance with Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

Cimatu issued the statement as the agency mandated to manage the country’s natural wealth came under heavy attack with the lifting of open-pit mining method, a reversal of an environmental policy put in place in 2017 by the late and former DENR Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez.

According to Cimatu, the number of cease-and-desist orders issued in 2021 is up 240 percent from the original annual target of 59 stop orders of the government.

However, a total of 4,526 mining permits and contracts, which include ore transport permit and declaration of mining project feasibility, were issued last year.

The DENR chief said the “enhanced performance” of the MGB hews to the Duterte administration’s policy to address mining issues and concerns.

“With the unwavering support from the President, we were able to achieve this significant accomplishment for the year despite the challenges that the pandemic has brought to the mining sector,” Cimatu said in a statement.

The accomplishments of the DENR-MGB, Cimatu added, are a manifestation of the strengthened responsible mining campaign of the department.

“In our heightened campaign for responsible mining in the country, we are proud of our milestone in cracking down on illegal and irresponsible use of our mining resources and areas beyond the target we have set,” Cimatu said.

“On the other hand, the increase in the issuance of mining permits/contracts will compel mining companies and entities to abide by environmental laws, policies, and regulations, thus, making our mining sector more responsible,” he added.

The DENR-MGB reported that a total of P407.6 million were contributed by the mining industry from the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) to help cushion the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Around P380 million was allocated for the procurement of personal protective equipment and medical supplies and goods for the social amelioration of communities.

The fund served almost 300,000 front liners/individuals and 1.1 million household beneficiaries.

The realignment of the annual SDMP fund and safety and health programs also aided in the purchase of Covid-19 vaccines for host and neighboring communities and mining employees and workers.

Meanwhile, the DENR-MGB has also finalized action on 164 mining applications under the “Use It or Lose It” policy by virtue of the DENR Administrative Order 2012-07 or The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order 79.



The Mines Adjudication Board of the DENR-MGB has also deliberated on 21 complaints/cases/conflicts, while 23 charges were filed with the Provincial/City Prosecutor's Offices as part of the anti-illegal mining campaign in 2021.

On geohazard assessment, the DENR-MGB continued its identification and mapping of geohazards for critical land areas where the updating of 1:10,000 scale maps and vulnerability and risk assessment benefited around 81 local government units (LGUs).

Karst subsidence assessments were also conducted in 19 LGUs nationwide.

On coastal vulnerability assessment and impact of climate change, the DENR-MGB has monitored 31 coastal municipal and city governments, topping the target 20 LGUs for the year.

Meanwhile, 52 cities and municipalities were assessed on their groundwater resource.



MULING PAGPAYAG NG PAMAHALAAN SA OPEN-PIT MINING, PINURI NG INDIGENEOUS COMMUNITIES

written by [Gilbert Perdez](#) January 2, 2022



Ikinatuwa ng mga indigenous communities at maging ng mga lider ng business at labor sectors ang ginawang pagtanggap ng gobyerno sa apat na taong open-pit mining ban sa bansa.

Ayon kay tribal leader Bai Dalena Samling, dahil sa desisyon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay parang dininig ang matagal nang dasal ng Blaan community at T'boli people sa Tampakan, South Cotabato.

Ang bayan ng Tampakan ay sinasabing sagana sa copper deposits.

Matatandaang naglabas ng administrative order si DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu noong Disyembre 23 kung saan tuluyan nitong inalis ang open-pit mining ban na ipinatupad noong 2017 ng dating kalihim ng ahensya na si Gina Lopez.



EDITORIAL - Bubutasin na naman ang mga bundok

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 2, 2022 - 12:00am



Maaari nang mag-operate ang open-pit mining. Inalis na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagbabawal dito na ipinatigil noong 2017 ni dating DENR Sec. Gina Lopez. Nilagdaan ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu ang Department Administrative Order No. 2021-40 noong Disyembre 23. Nakasaad sa kautusan na inaalis na ang apat na taong pagpapatigil sa open-pit mining method. Karamihan sa minimina sa ganitong pamamaraan ay ang copper, gold, silver at complex ores.

Ipinatigil ni Lopez ang ganitong pamamaraan ng pagmimina sapagkat sinisira nito ang likas na yaman, winawasak ang mga bundok at nawawalan ng ikinabubuhay ang mga magsasaka at mangingisda. Dahil sa matapang na adbokasiya ni Lopez laban sa ilegal na pagmimina, kinuha siyang Kalihim ng DENR noong 2016. Sabi ni Lopez sa kanyang talumpati, "I don't like mining, the foreigners and the rich are the only ones benefitting from it but the farmers and the fishermen suffer."

Ipinasara niya ang 22 mining companies at 12 contracts sa pagmimina ang kanyang kinansela sa panahon ng kanyang panunungkulan sa Duterte administration. Ang 22 mining companies ay napatunayang lumabag sa mga itinatakdang batas at bumagsak din sa siltation, soil erosion, dust emission at kawalan ng social at development projects. Napatunayang sinisira ng mga ito ang kagubatan.

Hindi naipagpatuloy ni Lopez ang kanyang adbokasiya na mailigtas ang kalikasan laban sa mga mapag-abusong mining companies sapagkat ni-reject siya ng Commission on Appointment (CA) noong 2017. Labing-anim na senador ang bumoto para maalís siya sa puwesto at walo ang pumanig sa kanya. May pait sa tinig ni Lopez makaraang ma-reject, sabi niya, ang interes sa negosyo ang nangibabaw.

Ngayong inalis na ang pagbabawal sa open-pit mining, posibleng magpatuloy ang pagsira sa kalikasan. Posibleng marami na naman ang mabubutas na bundok. Maraming mangingisda at magsasaka ang mawawalan na naman ng ikabubuhay dahil aagos mula sa bundok ang latak na papatay sa pinagkukunan ng biyaya. Sana hindi nagkamali ang DENR sa pasyang payagan ang open-pit mining. Sana masubaybayan ng DENR ang galaw ng mga minahan.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2022/01/02/2151294/editorial-bubutasin-na-naman-ang-mga-bundok/amp/>



Editorial Cartoon January 03, 2022

BY JIMBO ALBANO JANUARY 3, 2022

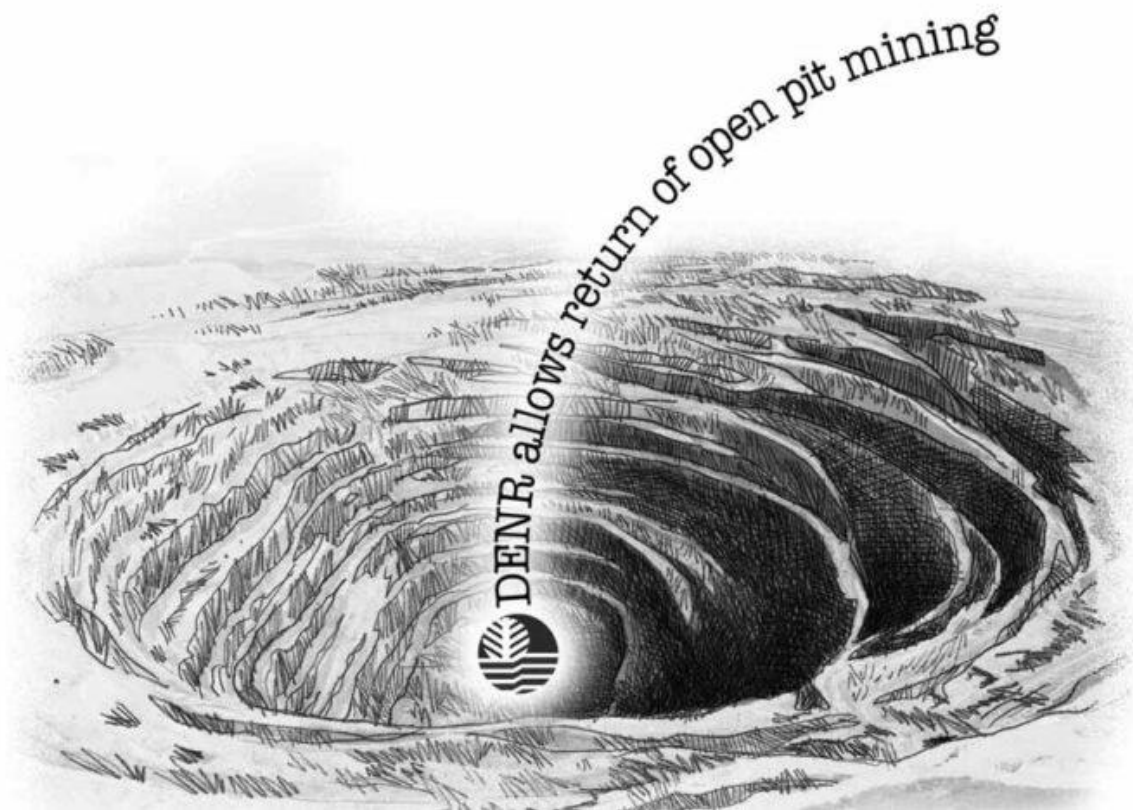


Image courtesy of [Jimbo Albano](#) | BusinessMirror



Daily Tribune

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Just in time for summer.

#dolomite

#ManilaBay



Soon, people will not just soak up the sun and take in the view that is the Manila Bay sunset, as the Environment department endeavors to make the waters swimmable this month.



@tribunephil



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Visitors should first register online at the DENR Manila Bay Dolomite Beach Appointment System <http://denmcrs.online>, then will receive a reply confirming their appointment to visit the artificial beach.

<https://bit.ly/3JwuvbV>

January 2, 2022

DENR TARGETS TO MAKE DOLOMITE BEACH SWIMMABLE

Jonas Leones, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs, expressed optimism that the target to make the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach swimmable this month will be met and allow visitors to fully enjoy the artificial white sand beach.



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Basura nagkalat sa Luneta

By Abante News — Last updated Jan 2, 2022

NEWS



7 0

Napuno ng basura ang kapaligiran ng Rizal Park matapos na dagsain ng publiko kasunod ng pagdiriwang ng Bagong Taon noong sinundang araw.

Alas-5:00 ng madaling-araw nang magbukas ang Rizal Park. Bagama't hindi kasing dami ng basura ang nakolekta noong wala pang pandemya ay maraming basura pa rin ang iniwan sa parke ng mga namasyal at nagdiwang ng Bagong Taon.

Kabilang sa mga nagkalat ang mga naiwang bote, plastik, tirang pagkain at face mask.

May ilang bahagi ng parke ang malinis na nang buksan ay ang paligid ng fountain at monumento ni Dr. Jose Rizal. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



Rizal Park napuno ng basura matapos ang Bagong Taon

Anna Gabrielle Cerezo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 02 2022 11:48 AM

MAYNILA - Maraming basura ang tumambad ngayong Linggo sa Rizal Park kasunod ng pagdiriwang ng Bagong Taon noong sinundang araw.

Tulad ng mga nakaraang taon bago mag-pandemiya, maraming basura pa rin ang iniwan sa parke ng mga namasyal at nagdiwang ng Bagong Taon doon.

Nang magbukas ang Rizal Park nitong alas-5 ng madaling araw, nagkalat ang mga naiwang bote, plastik, tirang pagkain at face mask.

Pero ang mga kalat sa pasyalan ay hindi naman sindami noong panahon ng bago ang pandemiya, kung kailan gambundok ang tambak ng basura.

May ilang bahagi ng parke rin ang malinis na nang buksan ito, tulad ng sa paligid ng fountain at monumento.

Tuloy-tuloy naman ang mga kawani ng parke sa pagpulot at pagligpit ng mga basura sa lugar.

Sa ngayon, hindi pa sinasabi ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila kung ilang tonelada ng kalat ang kanilang nakuha mula sa naturang pasyalan.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/02/22/rizal-park-napuno-ng-basura-kasunod-ng-bagong-taon?fbclid=IwAR2TipGCKY8XZ92Q5UnvncZO8L9NB7uO6jlyMGx09AqCgHMbtGhywytYBA>



4 New Year's resolutions for a healthier environment in 2022

BYVINIECE JENNINGS / AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE JANUARY 1, 2022

When many people think of New Year's resolutions, they brainstorm ways to improve themselves for the year ahead. What if we expanded those aspirations to include resolutions that benefit our communities, society and the planet, too?

It might not be a typical approach, but it can broaden your horizons to show ways you can also be of service to others.

Here are four popular New Year's resolutions with a twist for improving your relationship with nature in 2022 and beyond.

1 Exercise more consideration for how your actions impact the environment. We each have an environmental ethic reflecting how we value, manage and ultimately relate to nature. Balancing the scales of reciprocity between us and nature —how much we give and take— can improve this relationship in many ways. Whether it's our addiction to one-use plastics that pile up in landfills or fossil fuels that warm the planet, a mishandled relationship with nature is not doing us or the Earth any favors.

In 2022, we can all take more responsibility for how our actions exacerbate environmental problems. We can also encourage governments and businesses to make it easier for people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to protect the environment. This includes making recycled goods affordable and reliable public transportation widely accessible.

Check out the US Environmental Protection Agency's resources describing some very simple ways to reduce waste at home, work, in our communities and during the holidays. Tips from the website include turning off or unplugging lights during the day, reusing packaging materials and using online billing services instead of paper mail.

2 Lose the weight of social injustice—it harms nature, too. The perils of social injustice stress multiple aspects of society. Racism and inequality can lead to health disparities, and they also have consequences for the natural environment.

A recent study described how practices such as redlining and residential segregation led to unequal access to nature, excess pollution and biodiversity loss. These practices brought in highways and industries that harm environmental quality in marginalized communities. They also left neighborhoods with fewer parks and trees that provide cooling in summer and benefit the planet.

Perpetuating social ills like systemic racism and inequitable resource allocation is detrimental to the environment, marginalized people and society as a whole.

To help turn this around, you can speak out in your community. Join groups that are trying to promote environmental protection and social justice and are bringing nature back to communities. Call your city, state and Congressional leaders to urge them to take action. Also, refer to the Green 2.0 report's section on making diversity initiatives successful for concrete ways that you can actualize this in your place of work.

3 Learn something new about nature and how to reduce harm to the environment and yourself. Clean air, water and soil are fundamental for our survival, but research shows many people lack basic environmental and health literacy to know how to protect themselves.



In 2022, get to know your own impact on the environment. Read more and start exploring ways to preserve the integrity of your area's natural resources. For example, find out where you can stay abreast of local land-use decisions that impact the environment and your overall community.

You can also support local educators and encourage them to bring the environment into lessons. Environmental issues overlap many other subjects, from history to health. This website (<https://naaee.org/our-work/programs/environmental-literacy-framework>) includes a framework and materials for educators to help students expand their environmental literacy.

Staying plugged in with media that discuss the latest research can enhance awareness. You can also try tying environmental facts and knowledge into your game night and team-building activities.

4 Spend more time with family and friends in nature. Studies show that spending time in nature, including urban green spaces, can improve your relationship with nature and with others.

Time in nature can increase social cohesion. Throughout the pandemic, many people discovered the outdoors as a place to decompress and reduce stress. Spending more time outdoors can encourage social interactions that benefit health, buffer emotional distress and encourage use of these spaces, which can help protect them for the future.

There are some tools that outline best practices to enhance parks and recreation near you (<https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/best-practice-resources/>). Also, there are ways to make outdoor environments more inclusive for families in diverse communities (<https://www.theatlantic.com/sponsored/rei-2018/five-ways-to-make-the-outdoors-more-inclusive/3019/>).

Collectively, thinking about our relationship with nature and finding ways to protect the environment can help us be better stewards of the planet.

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Reforest before it's too late

[Chit U. Juan](#) - The Philippine Star January 3, 2022 | 12:00am

We have been reminded so many times before plant a tree, write a book, sire a child. Which of these have you done?

“Plant a tree” comes to mind as most important because while the two other options require more ability and talent if not skill, planting a tree seems to be the more realistic for most.

Reforestation starts with one tree. Then another. Trees that are endemic and not invasive. Trees that are planted for the sole purpose of being thankful to Mother Earth. And not to plant to harvest for profits after a few years.

Reforestation can be small scale or large, depending on one's resources and desire to make a difference. But it has to start somewhere and done by anybody to the best of their ability.

The connection between floods, tragedies and planting trees has never been so apparent. It is now in our face – face the problem or create more disasters just because we have not learned.

I was talking to some youth in Mindoro who say their LGU only digs deeper in the river to accommodate the flood waters. This is quite reactive and not proactive.

The more proactive solution whilst doing the dredging is to plant more trees. And to make sure they are the local species.

Another group of youth in Mountain Province is planting coffee trees to make their ancestral lands better prepared for climate change. I will be introducing these environment-conscious youngsters to each other.

There must be a conscious effort on the part of local governments to do reforestation today. This will help prevent disasters waiting to happen.

What is an ordinary citizen to do?

1. • Join the group like Philippine Native Tree Enthusiasts on Facebook. They can teach you about indigenous tree varieties that are the preferred species to plant.
2. • Take photos of trees you see and get familiar with native varieties rather than the usual mahogany and gemelina. This is not about tree farming. This is about your civic duty to plant a useful tree.
3. • Get a copy of the book on trees by The Lopez Foundation. You may have some of these trees around you.
- 4 • Engage your company in a tree-planting activity. Start with 50 or 100.
5. • If you don't have land, donate to a tree-planting cause like Plant Coffee Pilipinas (www.PhilCoffeeBoard.com).

As it is also our civic duty to vote, think about who or which candidate supports reforestation.

By planting more trees, we not only avert disasters. We also provide shade to strangers and the future generations.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2022/01/03/2151469/reforest-its-too-late>



UNESCO marks 50 years of biosphere preservation

If bioreserves worldwide were to be put together, Godt said they would be equivalent to about five percent of the world’s surface.

Published 1 day ago on January 2, 2022 02:10 AM

By **TDI** @tribunephil



The core area of the Gombe Masito Ugalla Biosphere Reserve in Tanzania is endowed with natural, scenic, cultural and social attributes, including the largest chimpanzee community in the country. / Photograph courtesy of UNESCO

The United Nations cultural agency commemorated recently the 50th anniversary of its “Man and the Biosphere” program (MAB), created in 1971, which has been promoting a long-lasting connection between people and nature.

“This is really a program for the people, because people are part of nature... so they are incorporated in nature protection, but also in sustainable use of natural resources,” Miguel Clusener Godt, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) MAB Program Secretary, said.



Farmers who gather flowers in the Southern Espinhaço Mountain Range in Brazil enhance biodiversity and preserve traditional knowledge. / Photograph courtesy of FAO

Today 727 biosphere reserves integrate nature conservation and sustainable development in 131 countries, including 22 transboundary sites.

In Africa, there are 86 sites in 31 countries; Arab States, 35 sites in 14 countries; Asia and the Pacific, 168 sites in 40 countries; Europe and North America 306 sites in 24 countries; and 132 sites in 24 Latin American and the Caribbean countries.

If bioreserves worldwide were to be put together, Godt said they would be equivalent to about five percent of the world’s surface, spanning 6,812,000 square kilometers or “around the size of Australia.”

Africa

The diverse vegetation and unique fauna in Tanzania’s Gombe Masito Ugalla Biosphere Reserve is also home to the largest chimpanzee community in the country and includes the Gombe National Park, forest land reserves and part of Lake Tanganyika.



Faunal species in the area include African elephants, ornate frogs and eight primate species. Flora there includes a species discovered in, and named after, Gombe, while the biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika encompasses over 300 fish species, 250 bird species, and reptiles, such as the water cobra and the Tanganyika water snake.

The core area of the Gombe Masito Ugalla Biosphere Reserve in Tanzania is endowed with natural, scenic, cultural and social attributes.

Asia and the Pacific

The Maolan in China was listed as a biosphere reserve in 1996. It lies in the Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture in Guizhou Province and covers an area of 20,000 hectares, with a forest coverage of 88.61 percent.

Renowned for its “hugging trees,” which cling tenaciously to the rocks of the mountain landscape, the rich biodiversity also includes pheasants, orchids and magnolias.

The local Yao, Buyi and Shui indigenous peoples value their region’s environment and cohabit harmoniously with nature. As the trees provide them with vital resources, for over 1,000 years, local communities have performed ceremonial practices and rituals to care for the trees.

Arab States

Located on the western slopes of the Mount Lebanon range and overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, the 6,500-hectare biosphere reserve of Jabal Moussa encompasses the “Mount of Moses” — an important site to Christian pilgrims — and its seven villages.

Jabal Moussa’s landscape, preserved throughout centuries, conceals the markings of a region at the meeting point of civilizations, which archaeologists are still unearthing.

Only 40 kilometers to the northeast of Beirut, the biosphere reserve is three times as large as the city and, together with the Shouf and Jabal Rihane biosphere, forms an ecological corridor running along Lebanon’s mountainous backbone.

Latin America and Caribbean

Located in southeast Uruguay, Bañados del Este harbors a remarkable complex of ecosystems, including white sand beaches, dunes and lagoons along the Atlantic coast and is home to diverse wildlife that remains almost intact both on land and at sea.

The biosphere reserve covers 12,500 square kilometers of Uruguay’s eastern coast and is also home to the state’s highest summit, Cerro Cathedral.

Hidden among the dunes, this tourist destination is among the most popular in the biosphere reserve and the perfect spot to connect with nature. Due to its remoteness, there is no connection to the local grid or landlines, but the local population is able to access mobile networks and the Internet.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/01/02/unesco-marks-50-years-of-biosphere-preservation/?fbclid=IwAR0jLCAIQmI0D3W55EFEGxMdceSnsu9uIEbiVEtUrqUMW-6FA6ZioLPe_5w



France bans plastic packaging for fruit and veg

Published January 2, 2022, 8:00 AM

by [Agence-France-Presse](#)

PARIS, France – A ban on the use of plastic to package a range of fruit and vegetables came into force in France on Saturday, to the dismay of the sector's packaging industry.

Environmentalists have long campaigned against single-use plastics as pollution worsens globally while President Emmanuel Macron has backed the move defending a "pragmatic" approach.

The October decree covers for example the sale of under 1.5 kilos (3.3 lbs) of apples.

However, the full legislation will not be applied until 2026, allowing firms to adapt, including on the sale of red fruits considered fragile.

Six months has also been granted to use up existing plastic packaging stocks.

"We were never consulted," complained Laurent Grandin, head of the fruit and vegetable sector's Interfel association.

He told AFP the costs were "insurmountable" for small companies who would have to keep using plastic to protect exports, notably to Britain, a major client for apples.

Pomanjou produces up to 40,000 tonnes of apples annually in the Loire valley and has over the last three years introduced 100 percent cardboard packing.

However packing costs have as a result soared 20 to 30 percent, said company representative Arnaud de Puineuf.

Big supermarket group Casino said it will now sell tomatoes in cardboard packaging and provide customers with paper or cellulose bags.

The packaging companies say the October 8 decree caught them by surprise, particularly the ban on recycled plastics.

"We have client firms ... who will have to stop their fruit and vegetable packing activity, even though they have been working on alternatives using less plastic or recycled plastic for several years," said a statement from the Elipso association that represents manufacturers.

'Market distortion'

Elipso and Polyvia, a union covering 3,500 firms making packaging, have appealed to France's State Council, which has jurisdiction over administrative disputes, against what they say is a distortion of European markets as the ban applies solely to France.

But Armand Chaigne, director of industrial markets at packaging firm DS Smith, sees the benefits, notably for cardboard manufacturers.

"It is estimated that in Europe, out of the eight million tonnes of plastic produced per year for single-use packaging, 1.5 million tonnes could already be removed," he said.

"That represents about 70 billion units of single-use plastic packaging", or "about seven billion euros (\$7.9 billion) of additional turnover potential for cardboard."



HALOS 1,000 BAHAY NILAMON NG WILDFIRE SA COLORADO

written by [Gilbert Perdez](#) January 2, 2022



Halos 1,000 bahay ang napinsala habang tatlong indibidwal ang nawawala o missing matapos sumiklab ang wildfire sa estado ng Colorado sa Amerika.

Ayon kay Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle, maliban sa mga nawawala, napinsalang mga ari-arian at mga puno ay napilitan ding lumikas sa mas ligtas na lugar ang libu-libong mga residente.

Bukod naman sa mga nawawala, pinangangambahan na maraming mamamayan ang nasawi sa trahedyang.

Nabatid na ito na ang sinasabing pinaka-mapaminsalang wildfire sa kasaysayan ng Colorado.

03 JANUARY 2022, MONDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



4.6K new cases, 535 recoveries added to PH Covid-19 tally

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [January 2, 2022, 5:44 pm](#)



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) reported 535 new recoveries and 4,600 additional cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) on Sunday.

Recoveries are now at 2,778,943 or 97.4 percent of the total 2,851,931 infections since the pandemic began in March 2020.

Active cases rose to 21,418, of which 15,644 are mild, 3,081 are moderate, 769 are asymptomatic, 335 are critical, and 1,589 are severe.

“Of the 4,600 reported cases today (January 2), 4,548 occurred within the recent 14 days, December 20 to January 2, 2022,” the DOH reported.

As in the previous day, the top regions with most cases in the recent two weeks were the National Capital Region (NCR) with 3,729 or 72 percent; Calabarzon, 676 or 15 percent; and Region 3 (Central Luzon), 252 or 6 percent of the new cases.

The death toll has reached 51,570 with 25 new deaths, representing 1.81 percent of overall cases.

“Of the 25 deaths, 7 occurred in December 2021 (28%), 2 in November 2021 (8%), 1 in October 2021 (4%), 4 in September 2021 (16%), 6 in August 2021 (24%), 1 in June 2021 (4%), 3 in April 2021 (12%), and 1 in March 2021 (4%) due to late encoding of death information to COVIDKaya,” the DOH said.

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

The DOH coordinates with the Epidemiology and Surveillance Units to ensure information is up to date.

According to the December 31 data, about 19.6 percent of 26,122 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.



Forty-one cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after 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, 22 percent of 3,500 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 20 percent of 18,700 isolation beds, 14 percent of 12,000 ward beds, and 12 percent of 2,900 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 27 percent of 1,200 ICU beds, 23 percent of 4,600 isolation beds, 26 percent of 3,700 ward beds, and 15 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the NCR. **(PNA)**



Gov't eyes mass vaccination

I specifically urged them to look into the possibility that a syndicate may be behind reports that people are able to skip quarantine requirements if they pay a certain amount, he bared

Published 6 hours ago on January 3, 2022 12:30 AM

By [TDT](#) [@tribunephil](#)



The government is pulling out all stops to get every eligible person vaccinated.

Senator Christopher “Bong” Go made this assurance in the wake of a possible new wave of infections brought about by the Omicron variant as the Duterte administration tries to protect the economy from its damaging effects.

In his weekly column “Going Forward,” Go said that as of 31 December, a total of 108.7 million doses have been administered. Nearly 49.8 million individuals are fully vaccinated, while another 57.1 million have received their first dose. Moreover, over 1.8 million individuals have received their booster shots. The government, he added, has have acquired a total of 210,633,110 doses of vaccines so far.

In terms of testing capacity, Go pointed out that 64 percent of all provinces have at least one Covid-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction Testing Laboratory. The country’s test rate, he said, rose to an average of 75,000 to 80,000 tests per day in 2021 from 30,000 to 40,000 tests per day in 2020.

Moreover, the senator bared that the government has provided over P635.8 million worth of sickness services for both severe and mild Covid-19 cases. In addition, it has released P7.7 billion for the Special Risk Allowance of 478,969 public and private healthcare workers for the period of December 2020 to June 2021 to help HCW nationwide recognizing their crucial role and sacrifice as our modern-day heroes.

All these and more, he explained, were made possible by the government’s BBB+ credit rating — the Philippines’ highest credit rating to date — which allowed it to quickly access emergency financing from international financial institutions.

“As the holiday season draws to a close, everyone is reminded to remain vigilant as we continue to battle Covid-19. It is important to understand that the health protocols will only work if every person remains disciplined and cooperative,” he urged.

President Duterte’s long-time trusted aide warned that noncompliance with the protocols and other requirements will be strongly dealt with, in accordance with the law.



“I recently expressed concern about reports that a certain hotel in Makati City allegedly allowed a person to breach the mandated quarantine rules last 23 December. Such reckless behavior threatens not only the lives of our people but our hard-fought gains against the pandemic,” the senator stressed.

He said he has requested the Department of Justice and National Bureau of Investigation to conduct a thorough investigation on the matter.

“I specifically urged them to look into the possibility that a syndicate may be behind reports that people are able to skip quarantine requirements if they pay a certain amount,” he bared.

In closing, the senator assured that the rest of government will continue to work harder and he will be with them in realizing the shared vision of providing a better and more comfortable life to every Filipino.

“Please remember that the government cannot do this alone. We need your cooperation in ending this pandemic, just as we need your help in continuing our collaborative work in the community in light of the multiple crises that we are facing,” he said.



OCTA: Govt should consider raising alert levels in provinces near NCR

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jan 1, 2022 8:00:43 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 1) – Independent group OCTA Research said the government should consider raising the alert level in provinces near Metro Manila.

Like the capital region, OCTA Research fellow Guido David classified nearby provinces Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite, and Laguna as moderate risk - with an observed rise in COVID-19 cases during the holidays.

"We could consider *talaga na baka pwedeng maitaas yung* (to increase the) alert level. It's just a possibility *na pwede nilang i-consider na itaas yung* (that they can consider in raising the) alert level in these other areas. We're not just protecting the region, but we're also protecting the other provinces," David told CNN Philippines' Newsroom Weekend on Saturday.

Based on data collated by OCTA, the infection rates in Metro Manila and the four neighboring provinces are already at critical levels. Meanwhile, Batangas has been classified as high while Pampanga is still moderate.

David made the suggestion a day after the government placed Metro Manila under [Alert Level 3](#) from Jan. 3-15 due to local Omicron cases.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque earlier said they are [not yet considering](#) raising the alert level in nearby provinces as cases there are not yet rising exponentially.

David also urged people to get vaccinated against COVID-19. He said Omicron cases among the vaccinated in other countries have been reported to be mild or asymptomatic.

"*Hindi natin kailangang magsara ng ekonomiya kung ang karamihan ng cases ay* (We don't need to close our economy if most of our cases are) mild or asymptomatic," he added.

The country reported a total of [3,617](#) new COVID-19 cases on New Year's Day - the highest in two months.

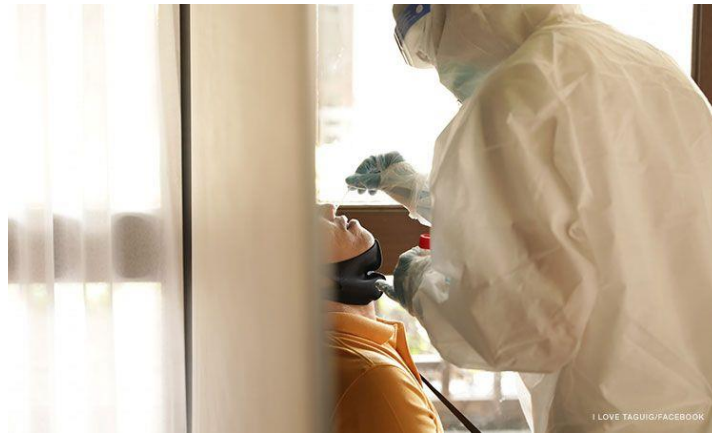
Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/1/1/OCTA-raising-alert-levels-provinces-outside-NCR.html>



Govt urged to conduct mass testing amid sudden rise in COVID-19 cases

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jan 2, 2022 12:10:32 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 2) — A party-list representative has called on the government to conduct mass testing amid the sudden rise in COVID-19 cases.

In a statement on Sunday, Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate stressed the need to intensify the "crucial" COVID-19 testing and contact tracing as the country witnesses the increase in cases just a few months after dealing with the highly transmissible Delta variant.

"We strongly call on President [Rodrigo] Duterte to finally listen to the repeated but unheeded call for free mass testing because the COVID-19 surges are becoming a vicious cycle," he added.

Zarate also warned Filipinos "to be vigilant" as he claimed the government may use the current situation "as a prelude to another militaristic new lockdown."

"As 2022 starts, our suffering people certainly want to see a government that finally listens to medical experts rather than military generals in dealing with the COVID pandemic," he added.

On Dec. 31, the national government announced that Metro Manila would be placed under the stricter Alert Level 3 from Jan. 3-15 after the Department of Health confirmed three local cases of the new coronavirus variant Omicron.

On Saturday, the country logged 3,617 new COVID-19 cases. The last time the daily case count was over 3,000 was on Nov. 1 with 3,117.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/1/2/Govt-urged-to-conduct-mass-testing-amid-sudden-rise-in-COVID-19-cases.html>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 659

ENERO 2, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.8%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
21,418

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.4%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,778,943

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.81%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
51,570

MGA BAGONG KASO **4,600**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **535**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **25**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,851,931**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 31

DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 2
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 31

19.6%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

26,122

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
76.6%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

BAWAL
WALANG MASK

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.5K TOTAL BEDS)
 22% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (18.7K TOTAL BEDS)
 20% Utilized

WARD BEDS (12.0K TOTAL BEDS)
 14% Utilized

VENTILATORS (2.9K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
 12% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS)
 27% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
 23% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)
 26% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
 15% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

769 Asymptomatic

15,644 Mild

3,081 Moderate

1,589 Severe

335 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

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

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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
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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

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

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

03 JANUARY 2022, MONDAY



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