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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



2 rescued wild birds now back in the wild

Published September 2, 2021, 3:20 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has rescued two wild birds in Metro Manila and Rizal province that got lost from the forest, the agency reported Thursday, Sep. 2.

DENR said its “environment frontliners” attended to a crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) that “crashed through” a house under construction in San Mateo on August 16 as well as to a falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) that was reported to have hit a windshield of a vehicle in Taguig City on the same day.

The rescued birds were immediately brought to the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) office in Quezon City for physical examination, where they were found to be in good health. They were then released back in the wild after several days of treating their minor wounds.

DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu lauded the successful rescue of the two wildlife species, which was led by the DENR Action Center and DENR-BMB.



DENR 'environmental frontliners' rescue eagle, falcon

SEP 2, 2021, 8:53 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer



A crested serpent eagle and peregrine falcon were rescued in separate operations in Taguig City and Rizal last August 16.

Frontliners of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) were able to rescue two endangered wildlife species in Metro Manila and Rizal last week despite the limitations brought about by Covid-19 quarantine restrictions.

A crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) were rescued in separate operations last August 16.

The DENR hotline received a report from a concerned citizen that an eagle has crashed through a house that was under construction in San Mateo, Rizal.

On the same day, a falcon was reported to have hit the windshield of a vehicle in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu lauded the DENR employees for their hard work despite the limitations brought about by the quarantine restrictions.

"Even with the implementation of ECQ (enhanced community quarantine), I am confident that our personnel, particularly those whom we call our environmental frontliners, can discharge their duties and show their commitment to their responsibilities," Cimatu said.

The DENR chief also gave the assurance that the department will continue to safeguard the country's biodiversity amid the pandemic.

"We in the Department believe that our responsibility to take care and secure our wildlife does not end even with the implementation of the strictest lockdown," Cimatu pointed out.

"No lockdown can hamper our task to protect our wildlife resources," he added.

The rescued eagle and falcon were immediately brought to the BMB Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City for physical examination where they were found to be in good health.

After a few days of treatment for minor wounds, the eagle and falcon were released back to their natural habitat.

Cimatu encouraged the public to immediately report similar incidents and to support the DENR in caring for the country's wildlife.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/denr-environmental-frontliners-rescue-eagle-falcon?fbclid=IwAR2VOOJrVjmHibJiubibJI1_RC4HivS-HgO_pbQHz9ie1AhRTfq2hL-bRKM

Dalawang wild birds nailigtas ng DENR 'environmental frontliners' habang nasa ECQ



MANILA, Philippines – Dalawang wildlife species sa Metro Manila at probinsiya ng Rizal ang nailigtas ng environmental frontliners ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noong isang linggo kahit na may mga limitasyon dahil sa ipinatutupad na quarantine restrictions dahil sa COVID-19.

Sa press release sa pangunguna ng mga tauhan ng DENR Hotline sa ilalim ng at DENR Action Center at DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), isang crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) at peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) ang nailigtas sa magkahiwalay na operasyon noong Agosto 16.

Bago ito, unang nakatanggap ng tawag ang DENR Hotline mula sa concerned citizen na nagsasabing may isang agila ang bumagsak sa ginagawang bahay sa San Mateo, Rizal.

Sa parehas na araw, isang falcon din ang naiulat na tumama sa windshield ng sasakyan sa Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Kaugnay nito pinuri naman ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mga empleyado ng DENR dahil sa kanilang dedikasyon sa trabaho kahit na may mga limitasyon dahil sa quarantine restrictions upang mabawasan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19.

“Even with the implementation of ECQ (enhanced community quarantine), I am confident that our personnel, particularly those whom we call our environmental frontliners, can discharge their duties and show their commitment to their responsibilities,” saad ni Cimatu.

Samantala nagbigay din ng kasiguruhan ang DENR chief na ipagpapatuloy ng kagawaran ang pagbabantay sa biodiversity ng bansa kahit na nasa gitna ng pandemya.

“We in the Department believe that our responsibility to take care and secure our wildlife does not end even with the implementation of the strictest lockdown,” pagbibigay-diin ni Cimatu.

“No lockdown can hamper our task to protect our wildlife resources,” dagdag nito.

Ang nailigtas na agila at falcon ay agad na dinala sa BMB Wildlife Rescue Center sa Quezon City para sa physical examination kung saan ay lumabas na nasa maayos na kondisyon ang mga ito.

Matapos ang ilang araw na paggamot sa mga maliliit sa sugat, agad ding ibinalik sa kanilang natural habitat ang agila at falcon.

Hinikayat din ni Cimatu ang publiko na agad na iulat ang katulad na insidente at suportahan ang DENR sa pangangalaga sa wildlife ng bansa. **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/dalawang-wild-birds-nailigtas-ng-denr-environmental-frontliners-habang-nasa-ecq/>



More Funding for Early Completion of Bicol, Cagayan River Rehab



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) chairperson Roy A. Cimatu is pushing for the early completion of the removal of sandbars in Bicol River from 2025 to 2023, and in the Cagayan River from 2028 to 2025.

To accomplish these, Cimatu requested the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for additional P1.45 billion and P3.2 billion funding assistance to purchase new equipment for the dredging operations in Bicol and Cagayan River Basins, respectively.



Part of the proposed funding for the Cagayan River dredging activity is for the restoration and replacement of 40 floodgates along the Naga-Calabanga embankment worth P64.1 million.

Cimatu said the TF BBB's achievements in the restoration of the river basins of Cagayan, Bicol, and Marikina are proof that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) can finish the project faster and more cost-effective than by hiring private contractors.

"This is really a big policy shift and I hope the next administration will continue this. They cannot afford not to continue this," Cimatu said.

"You can just imagine if we bid these out to contractors, baka wala pa sa kalahati nagagawa natin ngayon," he added.

Cimatu, who likewise heads the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction said that while priority funding should be made to address the pandemic crisis, "priority should likewise be given to equally important efforts on climate change and disaster mitigation programs meant to assure the country of its food security and prevent, or at least minimize loss of precious infrastructures due to flooding."



"If we invest now, the best option is to already have these pieces of equipment this year," Cimatu said noting the TF BBB's initiatives "will go a long way in accelerating the recovery of the country from the social and economic disruptions from the global pandemic."

The Cagayan River Dredging Plan consists of eight phases with projected completion within the first quarter of 2025 with the additional equipment. The undertaking, however, will likely extend until 2028 if limited to DPWH's existing fleet.

Meanwhile, the Bicol River Dredging Plan is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2025 using the present fleet of DPWH equipment but can be shortened by two years if request for additional equipment is granted.



WASTE SEGRAGATION AT PAGTATAPON NANG WASTO SA HOUSEHOLD HEALTHCARE WASTE GIIT NG DENR



KAILANGANG-KAILANGAN talaga ang pagtutulongan ng mga ahensya ng pamahalaan para maiwasan ang paglobo ng bilang ng mga tinatamaan ng COVID-19.

Isa na rito ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga ahensya ng pamahalaan ang nagpapaalala sa mamamayan hinggil sa wastong pagtapon ng mga household healthcare waste o mga basura na ginamit na bilang proteksyon o panlaban sa COVID-19 tulad ng disposable face masks at face shields

Sabi kasi ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns at Alternate Chairman ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) Benny D. Antiporda, sa ngayon ay tumaas na sa 11,953 tonelada ang nakokolektang basura kada araw sa Metro Manila kumpara noong hindi pa tumatama ang pandemya na 9,333 tonelada lamang.

Lumobo aniya ang dami ng basurang nakokolekta araw-araw dahil sa mga itinatapong household healthcare waste at pag-unlad ng online retailers at merchants bunga ng pagsasara ng maraming tindahan at takot na lumabas ng bahay ang marami.

Nagbigay ng tagubilin si Usec. Antiporda sa mamamayan na huwag ugaliing ihalo ang mga ginamit ng face mask, face shield at glove sa ibang basura upang maprotektahan din ang ating mga basurero.

Para naman sa online retailers, maaari aniyang iwasan na ang paggamit ng sobra-sobrang plastic bubble wrap at sa halip ay gumamit ng mas environment-friendly na packaging tulad ng diyaryo. Hindi kasi aniya biro ang trabaho ng garbage collectors kaya't lalo silang kaawa-awa kung tatamaan pa ng sakit ng COVID-19 dahil lamang sa hindi wastong pagtatapon ng mga healthcare waste ng mamamayang kanilang pinagsisilbihan.

Sa tip na ibinahagi ni Usec. Antiporda, dapat daw ay ilagay sa hiwalay na lalagyan ang nagamit ng face mask, face shield at markahan ito bilang "healthcare waste" para kapag kinolekta ng mga basurero, alam na nila na hindi dapat itong ihalo sa iba pang basura.

Sabi pa ng kalihim sa simple at wastong pagtatapon ng basura, makaliligtas ka na rin ng buhay.

Naglabas din ng mungkahi ang DENR sa publiko na ugaliin ang pagpapairal ng waste segregation o pagbubukod-bukod ng basurang mapakikinabangan at hindi mapakikinabangan.



Sa inilabas na mungkahi ng ahensya, ang mga recyclable waste ay maaaring ilagay sa blue bin kung saan ang mga basurang ito ay maaaring ibenta sa junkshop tulad ng papel, karton, plastic water bottles, spoon, fork o cups at aluminum cans.

Ang mga residual waste naman ay maaaring itapon sa black bin gaya ng mga plastic na hindi na maibebenta sa junkshops, baby diapers, at mga gamit na basahan. Ang mga infectious waste naman ay sa yellow bin kung saan itatapon ang mga basurang maaaring makahawa gaya ng COVID-19 related healthcare wastes, gamit na face masks, face shields, at gloves habang ang mga gamit ng bumbilya, pintura, medicine container at iba pang tinatawag na special waste ay dapat itapon sa red bin. Ang mga biodegradable waste naman o ang mga nabubulok na basura tulad ng mga tirang ulam, balat ng prutas, buto o mga tinik ay ilagay sa green bin.

Sabi ni Usec Antiporda, hindi sila tumitigil sa pagpapaalala sa publiko sa mga dapat nilang ugaliing paraan ng wastong pagtatapon ng basura upang maprotektahan ang iba, lalong-lalo na ang garbage collectors at haulers sa mapanganib at nakamamatay na COVID-19.

Sa pahayag naman ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, sinabi niya ang mga katagang “Our garbage collectors are also frontliners. They are at a very high risk of infection every time they collect unsegregated and improperly disposed household health care waste. If we really want to stop the spread of this virus, then we must all be responsible not only for ourselves but also for others.”

Ang problema kasi, ang titigas ng ulo ng marami nating mamamayan at sa kabila ng paulit-ulit na paalala ng iba’t ibang ahensiya ng mamamayan, tila nagtetengang-kawali lamang ang marami kaya sa halip na matapos na ang problemang dulot ng COVID-19, patuloy pang tumataas ang bilang ng hawahan.



Strong metal prices fuel mining growth

September 3, 2021 | 12:34 am



DAVID HELLMANN-UNSPLASH

THE country's metallic mineral industry grew by 24.50% in the first half due to higher metal prices, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said.

In a report on Thursday, the MGB said metallic mineral production value stood at P68.63 billion in the January to June period, higher than the P55.13 billion posted a year ago.

"The telling factor for this sterling performance was the continued strong metal prices during the period," it said.

Nickel and its products accounted for 53.44% or P36.68 billion of the total production value, followed by gold at 34.84% or P23.91 billion and copper at 10.87% or P7.46 billion. The combination of silver, iron ore, and chromite made up less than 1% or P584.75 million.

According to MGB, nickel ore production volume rose 39% to 151,646 metric tons (MT), which is valued at P21.42 billion.

Prices of nickel surged 40% year on year to \$17,490.15 per MT, compared with \$12,473.17 per MT recorded in 2020.

Taganito Mining Corp. was the top nickel producer with 28,935 MT, followed by Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. at 25,301 MT, and Platinum Group Metals Corp. at 12,977 MT.

"Out of the 28 listed operating nickel projects, only 19 reported productions, nine or 32% were with zero production," MGB said.

"In terms of production by province, Surigao del Norte led with 51,162 MT, followed by Palawan with 39,190 MT. Surigao del Sur took the third spot with 21,060 MT," it added.

Meanwhile, first-half gold production volume increased by 3% to 8,545 kilograms, with an estimated value of P22.15 billion.

Average price of gold for the first half rose 9.8% to \$1,808.59 per troy ounce, compared with \$1,647.59 per troy ounce a year ago.



The top gold producer was Philippines Gold Processing and Refining Corp. with 3,558 kilograms, followed by Mindanao Mineral Processing and Refining Corp. with 1,268 kilograms, and FCF Minerals with 1,090 kilograms.

On the other hand, copper production volume slumped 24% to 23,557 MT, although production value increased by 4% to P7.46 billion in the first six months.

The price of copper for the period rose 65.5% to \$9,094.61/MT from \$5,496.36/MT.

“The P0.27 billion surge was courtesy of the upbeat price of copper during the period from \$5,496.36 per metric ton in 2020 to \$9,094.61 per metric ton in 2021, a substantial \$3,598 increase. The positive price was partly due to supply disruptions in major producing countries like Peru and Chile,” the MGB said.

Carmen Copper Corp. contributed 75% or 17,568 MT of total production volume while the remaining 25% or 5,989 MT came from Philex Mining Corp.

Silver production volume dropped 6% to 11,069 kilograms, although the value went up 46% to P451.47 million.

Apex Mining Co., Inc. was the top silver producer, followed by Philippines Gold Processing and Refining Corp.

In a mobile phone message, Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF) President Calixto V. Chikiamco said he expects the strong performance of the minerals industry will continue.

“I am not surprised with the result since (there) is a strong demand for minerals due to the shift to electric vehicles and demand for information technology devices,” Mr. Chikiamco said.

“I foresee a long-term boom in minerals because of these strong trends buoying demand and in the short term, shortage of supply with few projects coming online,” he added.

Moving forward, MGB said the local minerals industry is expected to be vital contributors to the national economy, especially with the reopening of the Didipio Copper-Gold Project of OceanaGold Philippines, Inc. (OGPI) in Nueva Vizcaya and the issuance of the implementing rules and regulations of Executive Order (EO) No. 130 that lifted the ban on new mineral agreements.

“The renewal of the application of OGPI was approved in July 14. This is projected to boost local copper, gold, and silver mine production,” it said.

The MGB expects gold prices to remain strong “given its safe-haven appeal to investors during these uncertain times.”

However, it noted that economic activity around the world will be hampered by the prolonged pandemic.

“Reduced economic activities would mean the demand for industrial metals like copper, iron ore, nickel, and among others being utilized by the steel, construction and other downstream industries to decline. Mineral analysts are also projecting, demand cutback from China, for these metals,” MGB said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



What happens now to 15-year casino ban on Boracay?

BY MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO

SEPTEMBER 3, 2021



File photo: View of the Boracay Island from Mount Luho.

THERE is a 15-year local ban on casinos on Boracay, which will end in 2032. But will it be enough to stop the expected onslaught of gaming activities after President Duterte gave his thumbs up to new casino projects?

Asked about Duterte's latest pronouncement on Boracay casinos, Malay Councilor Nenette Aguirre-Graf told the BusinessMirror, "We have a 15-year moratorium [on casinos]." She added, the moratorium was issued "even before Galaxy was to build its casino because we also have a moratorium on new building constructions."

The planned \$500-million casino of Galaxy Entertainment of Macau, in partnership with Leisure and Resorts World Corp., was rejected by Duterte in 2018, supposedly to preserve the gains from the rehabilitation of Boracay.

Sangguniang Bayan of Malay's Resolution 0068, approved on July 4, 2017, was issued "to regulate the proliferation of casinos, gaming junkets, legal gambling activities, as well as other Pagcor/GAB [Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp./Gaming and Amusement Board]-sanctioned gaming/gambling operations in the municipality of Malay."

Asked whether the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) would take into consideration the Malay SB resolution when government starts processing permits for casinos for the island, Environment Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said, "The BIATF including the Malay LGU [local government unit] will conduct a meeting about this matter because it is a different situation now with this pandemic, and in 2017."

Published reports have quoted Pagcor chair Andrea Domingo confirming that Duterte had approved the casino projects of Megaworld Corp. and Galaxy. Most residents and business owners on the island have rejected Duterte's decision to allow casinos there. [\(See, "Talk of casino spurs alarm: Will Boracay be gaming paradise?" in the BusinessMirror, August 30, 2021.\)](#)

When the SB resolution was issued, there were already existing casinos on the island located in Movenpick Resort & Spa (Alpha Allied Holdings Ltd.), Crown Regency Resort and Convention Center, and Paradise Garden Resort Hotel and Convention Center.



As such, the resolution reads: “Whereas, giving utmost consideration of the general welfare finds that the number of operating casinos, gaming junkets, legal gambling activities, and other Pagcor/GAB-sanctioned gaming operations on the island of Boracay is enough to maintain this kind of economic activity in the municipality of Malay.”

The resolution added, “a moratorium on endorsements for 15 years [is] timely and proper, which includes the transfer of existing endorsements, permits, licenses or authorizations to parties other than those it has been issued to exclusively.”

Asked whether the BIATF or the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) would respect the Malay’s casino ban, Interior Undersecretary for Operations Epimaco V. Densing III said, “*Wala nang* BIATF. [The BIATF no longer exists.] The DILG does not comment on LGU legislations unless they are considered in violation or inconsistent [with] national laws.”

He added, “Getting a business permit must go through the process and documentary requirements of the local government.”

For his part, Antiporda said he had no information if Duterte had already signed the executive order extending the term of the BIATF. Yet it issued a news statement on Monday, saying, “In line with the President’s latest pronouncement that casinos will now be allowed to operate in Boracay Island to augment government funds, [we] will carry out the necessary steps towards this direction.” [\(See, “BIATF officials seem blindsided by Duterte announcement allowing casinos in Boracay,” in the BusinessMirror, August 30, 2021.\)](#) The BIATF was chaired by Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, and co-chaired by Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año and Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat.



Local partner of Macau's Galaxy eyes new talks with gaming firm for Boracay casino

Posted at Sep 02 2021 02:14 PM | Updated as of Sep 02 2021 02:17 PM



Boracay's White Beach. *Fernando G. Sepe Jr., ABS-CBN News file photo*

MANILA - The local partner of Macau's Galaxy Entertainment Group is looking to restart talks with the Chinese gaming giant after President Rodrigo Duterte said he would allow casinos in Boracay.

Listed firm Leisure and Resorts World Corporation (LRWC) said it has yet to talk with Galaxy but looks forward to resuming discussions.

"The Company is looking forward to the resumption of the discussions with Galaxy in view of the President's go-signal for casino operation in Boracay," LRWC disclosed to the stock market.

LRWC and Galaxy were set to build a \$500 million integrated resort in Boracay in 2018, and even secured a provisional license with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp in March that year.

Duterte however ordered later that year that Boracay should be casino-free when the island reopened after its rehabilitation.

But last week, Duterte reversed his ban, saying the government needed funds.

On Wednesday, tycoon Andrew Tan said his company Megaworld, was ready to push forward with its casino project in Boracay.

Some residents of Boracay however are opposing the establishment of casinos on the island.





Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/09/02/21/lrwc-eyes-talks-with-macaus-galaxy-for-boracay-casino?fbclid=IwAR2ncNEOaaZJohurE6q75Sbu9hgzWf-YIdtQgmxvu9VB6HeDI8J_u-t-lGo



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LOOK | Nagsagawa ng kilos-protesta ang mga mangingisda sa Parañaque River upang tutulan ang nakaambang demolisyon sa kanilang mga tahungan at saprahan, pati ang reclamation sa Manila Bay. | via [Justinne Punsalang](#)

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NBI arrests 3 persons for 'occupying, erecting permanent dwellings' in protected areas in Rizal

Published September 2, 2021, 7:28 AM
by [Jeffrey Damicog](#)



Three persons have been arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for allegedly occupying and erecting permanent dwellings within the protected areas of the Upper Marikina River Basin in Rizal province.

NBI Officer-in-Charge Director Eric B. Distor identified those arrested as Richie Cincofores, Allan Seduco, and Rolly Olayaval.

After their arrest last Aug. 25, they were presented before the Antipolo City Prosecutor's Office on charges of violations of Section 20 (n) and (o) of Republic Act No. 7686, the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, and Section 81 of Presidential Decree No. 705, the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, Distor said in a statement.

They were arrested and charged by agents of the NBI's Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD), the NBI said.

"OIC Director Distor said that based on the information received by the NBI, the above-named subjects are occupying, dwelling, constructing, maintaining permanent structures within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape covered under the National Integrated Protective Area System without the necessary permits," it said.

Their illegal acts, the NBI said, were confirmed by "surveillance operations conducted by NBI-EnCD."

"The criminal offenses by the subjects were committed and is continually being committed in open view of the public," it added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/09/02/nbi-arrests-3-persons-for-occupying-erecting-permanent-dwellings-in-protected-areas-in-rizal/?fbclid=IwAR2FDFNDHUwbB4D1Wt2gRirNHsCgAoHc-W8Q8jV3OM6eAAGzxQY0VX01-k>



Agusan Sur village chief nabbed for illegal logging

By Alexander Lopez **September 2, 2021, 12:11 pm**



BUSTED. Barangay Captain Gabby Natinga of Barangay San Pedro, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur and a companion were arrested in an anti-illegal logging operation. Seized from the suspects were 5,880 board feet of illegally gathered Lauan lumber products. *(Photo courtesy of PRO-13 Information Office)*

BUTUAN CITY – A barangay captain in Agusan del Sur was arrested for his alleged involvement in illegal logging activities in the area.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Caramat Jr., the director of Police Regional Office in Caraga (PRO-13) identified the arrested village chief as Gabby Natinga, 43, of Barangay San Pedro, Prosperidad town.

“Natinga and his cohort, Jhonny Boy Bagnol, 29, were arrested Wednesday in a joint anti-illegal logging operation conducted in Purok 3, Barangay Crossing Luna, Esperanza town,” Caramat said.

Confiscated from the suspects were 420 pieces of illegally gathered Lauan lumber products with an estimated volume of 5,880 board feet and total market value estimated at PHP176,400, Caramat said.

“We have been intensifying our forest protection efforts through regular conduct of tree planting activities and anti-illegal logging operations. With our recent confiscations and apprehensions, we hope to send a strong message to illegal loggers that we will deal with them with the full force of the law,” Caramat said.

He urged residents to stay vigilant and help in the efforts to protect the environment by reporting any illegal logging activity in their area.

The suspects will be charged for violating the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

The confiscated lumber products were handed over to the City Environment and Natural Resources Office. **(PNA)**



Face mask na 'banderitas' sa kable ng kuryente inireklamo

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 02 2021 08:26 PM



Nagmistulang banderitas ang mga gamit na face mask na isinabit sa mga kable ng kuryente sa Caloocan. Dahilan ito para mangamba ang mga residente sa harap ng tumataas na kaso ng COVID-19. Nagpa-Patrol, Bianca Dava. TV Patrol, Huwebes, 2 Setyembre 2021.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/09/02/21/face-mask-na-banderitas-sa-kable-ng-kuryente-inireklamo?fbclid=IwAR2bNHSMSazPxe3u_HqGhv-Wcc9mpDyqpsCfEYKQlltqSqu4XmObvpUHYU



Complaints prompt CDO crematorium to ‘voluntarily’ stop operation

September 2, 2021



CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The crematorium facility run by a private company here will halt its operations following complaints made by residents, the City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office (Clenro) said.

In a Facebook post on Wednesday night, Clenro chief Armen Cuenca said the management of Divine Shepherd informed their office that it will “voluntarily stop” their operation starting Thursday in order to make some adjustments on their equipment.

“We regret to inform the public that we can only accommodate a limited number of remains to be cremated by our other partner funeral (provider),” he said.

The concern of residents about the dark smoke emanating from the crematorium facility, located in Barangay Bulua, has been posted on Facebook on Aug. 27 and went “viral”.

On Aug. 31, one of the residents, Jane Saligumba, was invited to a television program hosted by media personality Raffy Tulfo.

Saligumba claimed that the crematorium facility had been releasing heavy dark smoke for three to six years, causing health problems. She added during the interview that the crematorium’s operations became frequent since the pandemic began.

Cuenca, who also heads the city’s Management of the Dead cluster, has partnered with private funeral service providers in either burying or cremating dead Covid-19 patients.

“The black smoke will only be released for only five minutes since the beginning of a cremation process. This is because other things will be included in the cremation like the body bag that’s made of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) materials; (also including) cellphones, laptops, and other items of the dead (used to have) from the hospital,” he said in the vernacular.

The local government had spent around PHP27 million since last year on providing free cremation and burial services to those who died of Covid-19 and suspected Covid patients who passed away prior to the release of laboratory results.

Meanwhile, Dr. David Mendoza, Local Health Support Division Chief of the Department of Health (DOH) in Region 10, said Northern Mindanao only has one crematorium facility in the region, located in this city.



Based on DOH guidelines, cadavers are not allowed to be transported outside of their place of origin.

“So those bodies cremated are only (based) in CDO (Cagayan de Oro),” he said.

Mendoza said those who died of Covid-19 outside the city were buried within 12 hours. **(PNA)**



Magat dam 'break' raises fears

By Jerico Joshua Kahulugan September 3, 2021



TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan: The provincial administrator of Cagayan, also the concurrent chief of the [Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office](#) (PDRRMO) in this province, Lt. Col. [Darwin Sacramed](#), has proposed a contingency plan in case of a possible Magat dam break.

Sacramed told The [Manila Times](#) that their office has reached out to the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) Region 2 ([Cagayan Valley](#)) and the National Irrigation Administration-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MARIIS) to come up with emergency measures against such possible break.

The OCD and the regional committee on dam safety immediately approved the crafting of the contingency plan.

In a virtual conference, the Cagayan PDRRMO chief suggested that the national government and concerned local government units (LGUs) look into the current status of the dam.

The NIA has reported that the Magat dam is reeling from 380 million cubic meters of silt or 40-50 percent of its total capacity.

Recently, the province was not spared by typhoon "Ulysses," which flooded many parts of the province, destroying P2 billion in agricultural products.

Edwin Viernes, acting head of Flood Forecasting and Instrumentation section of the NIA-MARIIS, Dam and Reservoir division, said advisories on the status of the dam will be released to the LGUs and media outlets.

Magat dam is 39 years old and was built in 1982 and started operating in 1983 during the administration of then-President Ferdinand Marcos.



Quezon City project taps open spaces as food source

September 3, 2021 | 12:00am



An urban farmer shows the fish she helped raise through the Grow QC Food Security program.

MANILA, Philippines — Before the pandemic, hunger was already a very real and palpable problem. UN agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Program (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) released the first comprehensive report on food insecurity and nutrition since the start of the pandemic, which showed that the rates of hunger and malnutrition in the world increased from 8.4 percent in 2019 to 10 percent in 2020. COVID-19 had a significant share in this increase.

The largest city in the Philippines, Quezon City was hit particularly hard. During a high-level discussion on policies and strategies for COVID-19 recovery organized by the United Nations Philippines, Mayor Joy Belmonte shared the difficulties the city government had faced, most of which came without warning.

For example, upon declaration of the hard lockdowns, local government units (LGUs) had to provide relief through food and cash to residents which immediately had an effect on the city's resources and stockpile. Quezon City, through Mayor Belmonte aimed to become more self-reliant, by establishing urban gardens and farms with Grow QC. "We now have 166 sites in different areas across the city that serve as a source of nutrition and comfort and mental relief for many of our underprivileged," Belmonte enthused.

The UN panel discussion on the impacts of the pandemic with respect to food systems revealed to Belmonte as well as to the other leaders present, that one of the most basic needs of humans was not always given the attention it deserved. "Food security is central, but I don't think any city has a grassroots food security action plan laid out – which is why I am grateful to the Grow QC – Food Security Task Force (GROWQC- FSTF) for doing their part and making sure that we were able to extend relief across the city to those who need it," Belmonte said.

The Grow QC Food Security Initiative looks at two primary pillars to establish to ensure food security. According to Emmanuel Hugh Velasco, head of the Sustainable Development Authority and co-chair of Grow QC with Mayor Belmonte, food security is pivotal to a fulfilled life. "Our mental states are relieved through urban agriculture – because the very nature of it is grounding and reassuring. Many of us project ourselves onto the plants and vegetables



we cultivate, seeing that yes, we too can triumph over adversity and become healthy and whole,” Velasco explained.

“That’s the mental/emotional benefit of these programs by Grow QC. Physically and biologically speaking, urban agriculture provides a direct source of food. It may start off as a tomato or a cucumber or two, but soon urban agriculture helps us become self-reliant. The ultimate goal for these cityscape farms however would be to make the surrounding neighborhood disaster-proof, in that they empower the community to thrive in the midst of adversity because they do not need to worry about what they are going to eat.”

Urban agriculture and rooftop farms don’t just happen overnight, though. Grow QC promotes and strengthens urban farming in the city through Joy of Urban Farming Project, where seed starter kits and food packs are distributed, and community farms established via multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Grow QC furthermore has a mandate to improve food systems or food flow, which enables laws like Executive Order 16-2021, A Law Establishing the Quezon City Healthy Food Procurement Policy. Established to promote the general welfare, health, and safety of Quezon City residents, employees and beneficiaries, the Healthy Food Procurement Policy ensures that all food, including meals, snacks and beverages procured, prepared, and/or served by the Quezon City government must comply with the city’s nutrition standards.

“One of the best ways we have found to make certain projects self-sustaining is to connect them to a social ecosystem,” Velasco said. “So, under our mandate, Grow QC links urban farm harvests to the city’s community feeding in lockdown areas, as well as help form urban agriculture associations and cooperatives.”

Ofelia ‘Ate Ofel’ Bagotlo, president of the Amlac Village Urban Gardeners in Payatas said, “Ngayon pong ECQ ulit nabawasan po ang amin pangamba na baka magutom po ang aming mga kasamahan. Kasi nga po ay may mga masustanya napo kaming gulay, at kahit paano po ay may kinikita naman po kame sa GrowQC-Oplan Isda (partnership between QC &, DA BFAR). Masasabi po namin na nakatulong po ito ng malaki sa aming grupo.”

Kati Tanninen of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization also recognized Quezon City’s effort and lauded them for their progress thus far. According to Tanninen, the pandemic has resulted in input supply and labor mobility difficulties, cash flow constraints, logistical bottlenecks, and food loss among other things. This, she emphasized, underscored the need for current food systems to transform in order to thrive. “Recognizing the importance of smallholder farmers as producers and supporting them during emergencies will allow their recovery in food production.”

“But I think what we do need from the United Nations and other actors, especially from international communities, is to help us with the capacity building,” Belmonte weighed in. “It would be quite the experience should the UN help us do a local food security action plan,” the mayor said, adding that it is not only in preparation for further impacts of COVID-19 but also for other eventualities such as the “predicted dreaded earthquake,” typhoons, and other natural disasters.

“One of the most important takeaways we at Grow QC have gleaned from the pandemic is that we must always be prepared for any eventuality. We have the foresight. We have the determination. We have the political will. And we know what good a little garden can do.”



Northern Samar reopens Lalaguna Mangrove Eco Park to tourists

[RONALDO O. REYES](#) September 01, 2021



NORTHERN Samar Governor Edwin Ongchuan led the reopening of the scenic Lalaguna Mangrove Eco Park (LMEP) in Barangay San Isidro, Lavezares for tourism activities Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

“The development of Lalaguna Mangrove Eco Park aims to create livelihood and other social enterprise opportunities to the community surrounding the Lalaguna Bay while at the same time promote environmental protection and management,” the provincial government said.

The park, which offers new attractions with the completion of its receiving area and the Kaluyahan trail and view deck, can be reached through a 30-minute motorboat ride from the Lavezares port.

A maximum of 100 visitors is allowed to enter the park.

According to the provincial government, responsible visitation is being promoted by the LMEP management to preserve its natural state and protect the environment.

The Lalaguna Mangrove Eco Park is within the protected area, it added.

Also gracing the reopening of the park were Provincial Tourism Officials and personnel, other provincial heads, Lavezares Mayor Edito Saludaga, Barangay San Isidro chairman Fernando Saludaga and the Women’s Association for Inter-Island Development.

The park’s improvement was funded through the Community-Based Eco Tourism Livelihood Project of the provincial government.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1905971/Tacloban/Local-News/Northern-Samar-reopens-Lalaguna-Mangrove-Eco-Park-to-tourists>



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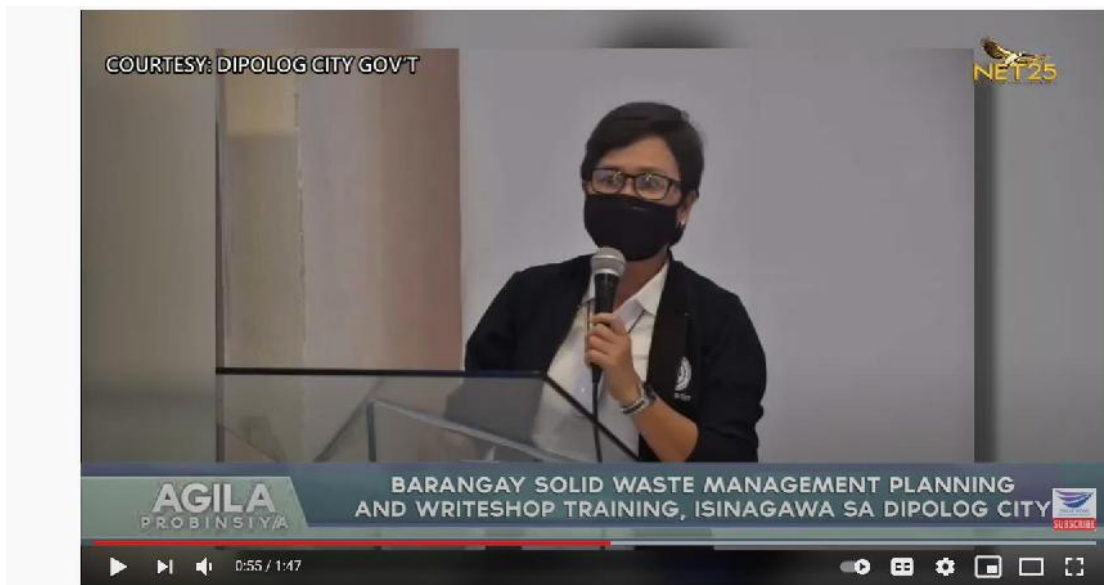
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DTI Partners with PCX to adopt to more sustainable practices on plastic use

Published 17 hours ago on September 2, 2021 12:20 PM



The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Plastic Credit Exchange (PCX) virtually signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to collaborate in achieving the goal of diverting post-consumer plastic from landfills and oceans through responsible collection and processing.

The virtual signing was held last 27 August 2021.

The signing of the MOA was led by DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez and PCX Founder and Chairperson Nanette Medved-Po.

“This Agreement with PCX will encourage our business sector to take responsibility for the plastic waste that their products generate and also reduce their own carbon footprint and lessen the damaging impact of plastic waste on the environment. On the part of the consumer sector, this will mold the consistent practice of ethical and sustainable consumption, and the responsible use and disposal of plastics. In the end, these are all part of the circular economy,” Lopez said.

Plastic Credit Exchange is a non-profit plastic credit platform partnering with sustainability conscious businesses around the world to responsibly offset their plastic footprint through a wide ecosystem of partners.

“The Department of Trade and Industry has always been open to ideas on how to address the plastic pollution crisis. The PCX believes that this global problem will require a solution set which will involve all stakeholders, especially the government. So today, we formally join hands with DTI in order to achieve our common goal to ensure that no plastic wind up in nature but find its way back into the circular economy,” PCX founder and chairperson Nanette Medved-Po

CPG Undersecretary Atty. Ruth B. Castelo also shared that since 2018, the CPG has been promoting sustainable consumption in the Philippines in response to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12) Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Castelo hopes that the DTI-PCX MOA will address business and consumer concerns on Sustainable Consumption and Production. This collaboration will also help communities

dispose of plastic waste responsibly and inspire consumers to adopt sustainable practices,



encourage consumers to nominate drop-off points where they can drop their plastic waste off, and identify manufacturers and companies that generate heavy plastic waste to participate in the PCX program.

CPG Assistant Secretary Atty. Ann Claire C. Cabochan said during the opening remarks that “the Department is optimistic that the partnership will help inspire the public to develop more sustainable practices on plastic use and disposal through a market-based plastic credit mechanism.”

For consumer-related concerns and queries, consumers may send an email to CPAB@dti.gov.ph or visit the DTI’s Consumer Care social media accounts.



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The United Nations warns that weather-related disasters have skyrocketed over the past half-century, causing more damage even as better warning systems have meant fewer deaths.

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Hurricane Ida, which slammed into the US gulf coast at the weekend, could become the costliest weather disaster on record, the UN said, hailing though that prevention measures had dramatically limited casualties.

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Central banks divided over climate issues

By [Agence France-Presse](#) September 3, 2021

PARIS: The world's main central banks were seen as saviors of the global economy in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis and when the [coronavirus](#) pandemic hit last year, but they are less than unified when it comes to addressing climate change.

The start of central bank involvement in climate action is sometimes attributed to a 2015 speech by the [Bank of England's](#) (BOE) then-governor [Mark Carney](#) entitled "Breaking the tragedy of the horizon - climate change and financial stability."

While not directly involved in addressing global warming, central banks do have to be alert to its impact on the economy and the financial system.

Amid increasing public concern, the institutions are factoring considerations about climate into their policies and watching for threats to their main mandate for price stability, implications for banking supervision and economic growth more broadly.

One tool at their disposal are bank stress tests, which can gauge how financial institutions would hold up in the face of climate shocks.

While the [European Central Bank](#) (ECB) has only just launched a climate stress test initiative, the [Bank of France](#) by May had already examined nine banking groups and 15 insurance companies, revealing a moderate risk for these establishments.

The ECB also could take climate risk into consideration when buying corporate bonds or accepting those used for collateral, giving preference to assets of firms not involved in polluting activities.

[The People's Bank of China](#) also is considering climate stress tests while the BOE started in June, reviewing banks such as [HSBC](#) and [Barclays](#). It also should announce before the end of the year its program of greening its asset buybacks.

Many central banks have joined the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, which currently comprises 95 central banks and regulators including those in China, [India](#) and Brazil.

Another member, the [Bank of Japan](#) (BOJ), in June offered zero-interest financing to lending institutions that fund environmental projects. The BOJ also will buy green bonds denominated in foreign currency.

In the [United States](#), the [Federal Reserve](#) has been wading into the issue, but Chairman [Jerome Powell](#) said in June that "climate change is not something that we directly consider in setting monetary policy."

However, "climate-related financial risk" is in its purview, he said, so the Fed is looking at the implications for bank supervision and regulation of the US financial system.

[Mary Daly](#), president of the Fed's San Francisco branch, explained the central bank "does not have the tools nor is it the appropriate body to think about climate change and mitigating climate change."



But "we are absolutely involved in thinking about climate risk" including issues like how severe weather, fires and hurricanes can impact property values and the ability to get insurance as well as how those could affect economic growth.

Actions so far have been "fast and slow," said [Eric Dor](#), director of economic studies at the [IESEG School of Management](#) in [France](#). While there is no shortage of ideas, "putting them into practice is very complex, you have to convince many stakeholders," he said.

But whether that means imposing financial constraints on institutions during stress tests or the selection of green assets to buy, "you have to be progressive."



WIPED OUT | Some 30% of global tree species at risk of extinction, says report

September 2, 2021 , 10:03 AM By Oliver Griffin

Sept 1 (Reuters) – Almost a third of the world’s tree species are at risk of extinction, while hundreds are on the brink of being wiped out, according to a landmark report published by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) on Wednesday.

According to the State of the World’s Trees report 17,500 tree species – some 30% of the total – are a risk of extinction, while 440 species have fewer than 50 individuals left in the wild.

Overall the number of threatened tree species is double the number of threatened mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles combined, the report said.

“This report is a wake up call to everyone around the world that trees need help,” BGCI Secretary General Paul Smith said in a statement.

Among the most at-risk trees are species including magnolias and dipterocarps – which are commonly found in Southeast Asian rainforests. Oak trees, maple trees and ebonies also face threats, the report said.

Trees help support the natural ecosystem and are considered vital for combating global warming and climate change. The extinction of a single tree species could prompt the loss of many others.

“Every tree species matters — to the millions of other species that depend on trees, and to people all over the world,” Smith added.

Thousands of varieties of trees in the world’s top six countries for tree-species diversity are at risk of extinction the report found. The greatest single number is in Brazil, where 1,788 species are at risk.

The other five countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Colombia and Venezuela.

The top three threats facing tree species are crop production, timber logging and livestock farming, the report said, while climate change and extreme weather are emerging threats.

At least 180 tree species are directly threatened by rising seas and severe weather, the report said, especially island species such as magnolias in the Caribbean.

Though megadiverse countries see the greatest numbers of varieties at risk of extinction, island tree species are more proportionally at risk.

“This is particularly concerning because many islands have species of trees that can be found nowhere else,” the report added.

(Reporting by Oliver Griffin in Bogota; Editing by Sandra Maler)

Source: https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/wiped-out-some-30-of-global-tree-species-at-risk-of-extinction-says-report?fbclid=IwAR0v8YeBoopxzGoB3K_ZAior35LMfyBO-JkaLo1tnCYQ0_RI00ThHixvSNI

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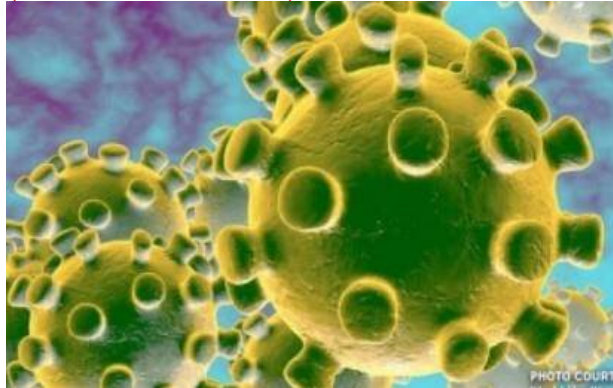
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



11K new survivors raise PH Covid-19 recovery tally to 1,840,294

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [September 2, 2021, 4:50 pm](#)



MANILA – The nation's overall tally of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) patients who beat the disease have reached 1,840,294 as 10,965 new recoveries were recorded as of Thursday.

In its latest Covid-19 bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) said the figure is equivalent to a 91.1-percent recovery rate from a total of 2,020,484 infections since the start of the pandemic last year.

The DOH also tallied 16,621 new confirmed cases, bringing the total number of active cases in the country to 146,510 or 7.3 percent of all cases.

Of the active cases, 96.2 percent are mild, 1.1 percent are asymptomatic, 1.1 percent are severe, 0.99 percent are moderate, and 0.6 percent are in critical condition.

Also logged were 148 new fatalities, raising the death toll to 33,680 or 1.67 percent of the total cases.

The DOH said 92 duplicates were removed from the total case count as 78 of those were actually recoveries and one is death.

Meanwhile, 66 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

According to DOH data on Aug. 31, about 26.9 percent of 60,0973 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on Aug. 7 and all laboratories were able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

To date, 74 percent of 4,200 intensive care unit beds, 66 percent of 20,500 isolation beds, 71 percent of 15,000 ward beds, and 55 percent of 3,200 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

In Metro Manila, 73 percent of 1,500 intensive care unit beds, 67 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 73 percent of 4,200 ward beds, and 60 percent of 1,200 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are being used. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1152405>



16,621 bagong COVID-19 cases pinalobo local infections sa 2.02 milyon

(Philstar.com) - September 2, 2021 - 4:00pm



Health workers attend to COVID-19 patients at the chapel of Quezon City General Hospital which was turned into an intensive care unit on Sept. 2, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 16,621 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Huwebes, kung kaya't nasa 2,020,484 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **lahat ng kaso:** 2,020,484
- **nagpapagaling pa:** 146,510, o 7.3% ng *total infections*
- **bagong recover:** 10,965, dahilan para maging *1,840,294 na lahat ng gumagaling*
- **kamamatay lang:** 148, na siyang nag-aakyat sa *total local death toll sa 33,680*

Hard lockdown inekis ng Palasyo

- [Pinalagan naman ng Malacañang ang panawagang "three-week hard lockdown"](#) ng OCTA Research Group para sa ilang COVID-19 hotspots ngayon ng Pilipinas. Ani presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, "total health" ang tinitignan ngayon ng gobyerno at parte nito ang kagutumang pwedeng dalhin ng mas mahihigpit na lockdowns.
- Samantala, [hindi kasama ang special risk allowance at iba pang benepisyo ng healthcare workers](#) na apektado ng COVID-19 sa mga ospital sa proposed 2022 national budget.

Ani Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, P19.6 bilyon lang sa hiniling nilang P74 bilyong COVID-19 response budget ang inaprubahan ng Department of Budget and Management.

- [Nasa 703,000 doses naman ng Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines ang lumapag sa Pilipinas kagabi](#), bagay na dadagdag pa sa suplay ng gamot na kailangan ngayon ng bansa laban sa pandemya.
- Binabaan naman na ng gobyerno ang mga ipinapataw na "price cap" para sa mga COVID-19 RT-PCR tests sa mga pampubliko at pribadong laboratoryo, [sa pagsusumikap na maging abot-kaya pa ito sa mas maraming Pinoy](#).
- Patuloy namang iginigiit ng Palasyo na [hindi nahahaluan ng korapsyon](#) ang pag-oobliga ng pagsusuot ng face shield sa ibabaw ng face masks laban sa COVID-19. Ito'y kahit lumulutang sa ngayon ang isyu ng pagbili ng gobyerno ng "overpriced" face shields.



- Umabot na sa 217.55 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, [ayon sa huling datos ng World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 4.51 milyong katao.

— James Relativo



REPRODUCTION NUMBER NG COVID-19 SA NCR, MAS BUMABA PA

written by **Ace Cruz** September 2, 2021



Mas bumaba pa ang reproduction number ng COVID-19 sa National Capital Region.

Ayon sa pinakahuling report ng OCTA Research Team, nasa 1.39 ngayong September 2 ang reproduction number na mas mababa kumpara sa 1.43 nitong huling araw ng buwan ng Agosto.

Dahil dito, sa pagtataya ng OCTA, posible pang bumaba ang maitatalang reproduction number sa rehiyon sa ikatlong linggo ngayong buwan.

Mababatid na ang reproduction number ay tumutukoy sa pupwedeng mahawaan ng isang indibidwal na positibo sa virus.

Samantala, sa kaparehong pag-aaral ng grupo, lumalabas na ang pitong lungsod sa NCR ay bumaba na ang growth rate ng virus sa single digit.

9% na lamang ang growth rate ng COVID-19 sa Muntinlupa, Malabon ay may 6%; 4% sa Quezon City; tig-3% ang lungsod ng Valenzuela at Caloocan; at 0% sa Manila at Pasay.

Sa huli, nagpaalala ang OCTA Research sa publiko na sumunod pa rin sa umiiral na health protocols kontra COVID-19.



Palace awaits results of WHO study on face shield policy

By Azer Parrocha [September 2, 2021, 3:37 pm](#)



(File photo)

MANILA – Malacañang on Thursday said it will wait for results on the study being conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the experience of Filipinos using face shields as protection against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) before deciding on whether to scrap them.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque made this remark amid public clamor to get rid of the face shield requirement and suspicions that officials may be making money from the sale of face shields.

“I understand that even the WHO will render an expert opinion on whether or not the use of face shields is justified so *antayin po natin ang opinyon ng* (let’s wait for the opinion of) WHO,” he said in a Palace press briefing.

Roque also ruled out corruption in the government’s purchase of face shields.

“*Wala pong relasyon ‘yan. Ang pagsusuot po ng face shields, nakikita niyo naman sa ating presidential press briefings, ay sang-ayon po sa mga opinyon ng eksperto* (It has no relation. The use of face shields, you can see from our presidential press briefings, is in accordance to the opinion of experts),” he added.

The Commission on Audit (COA) earlier flagged the Department of Health’s (DOH) transfer of PHP41.8 billion to the Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) to procure personal protective equipment (PPE) gears, including face masks and face shields.

State auditors said the transfer lacked a memorandum of agreement (MOA), as required by the procurement law’s internal rules on outsourcing procurement tasks.

The Senate also raised suspicion over the face masks and face shields priced at PHP27.72 and PHP120 per piece, respectively.

In a taped speech last week, Duterte said the medical supplies were procured at the height of the Covid-19 outbreak when prices rose due to lack of supply.

“I want to make it on record to the public and everybody that I and the Cabinet knew about it. *Sabi ko* (I said) go ahead and buy the things you need. Pandemic *nga e. Sabi ko* emergency ito. Emergency *hanggang ngayon* (We are in a pandemic. I said this is an emergency and the emergency persists up to the present time),” Duterte said.



On Tuesday, WHO representative to the Philippines Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe admitted that the Philippines is one of the few countries that advocate the use of face shields in addition to face masks.

"The face shields are being used to reduce the likelihood of infection through the eyes. That's not actually an additional layer although it boosts the protection provided by poor mask-wearing practices," Abeyasinghe said.

Abeyasinghe said that while the Philippines was able to "sort of delay the speed of the Delta variant is transmitting, we don't know if face shield is a contributing factor."

"While we're understanding all of these issues, it's best to look for evidence and make our decision based from that," he added when asked if the government should scrap its face shield policy.

The government started requiring individuals to wear face shields on top of face masks in December 2020. **(PNA)**



10M more Pfizer vax doses expected until December

By Lade Jean Kabagani [September 2, 2021, 4:52 pm](#)

MANILA – The National Task Force (NTF) against Covid-19 will be allocating United States (US)-made Pfizer BioNTech coronavirus jabs to more areas nationwide with an increase of shipments set to arrive until year-end.

In a statement Thursday, NTF chief implementer Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said the government expects the deliveries of about 10 million Pfizer vaccine doses spread for the months of October, November, and December this year.

He said those areas with a surge of cases will surely get an allocation of the American-made vaccine.

Galvez said the local government units (LGUs) should hold simulations on vaccine deployment, handling, and administration of highly sensitive jabs such as Pfizer, Moderna, and Sputnik V or Sputnik Light.

“We wanted all municipalities to have that sort of dry run so that when the majority of the Pfizer vaccines will come by October, more or less 10 million will be delivered each month during October, November, and December, they are already knowledgeable on how to handle critical supplies like the vaccines of Pfizer,” he said.

Galvez said the over a million doses of Pfizer are slated to arrive this month which is part of 40 million doses initially procured by the government from the American drug manufacturer.

The government is still on track of achieving its goal of population protection against Covid-19 by year-end, he said.

It targets to vaccinate 70 percent or 77,139,058 Filipinos out of the country's 110,198,654 population.

The Philippines presently has a total of 52,603,760 doses of Covid-19 vaccines in its stockpile. **(PNA)**



Palace: Entire Philippines should be vaccinated first before buying booster shots

[Alexis Romero](#) - Philstar.com September 2, 2021 | 5:15pm



Health workers and other members of vaccine priority groups receive their second shot of Sinovac's COVID-19 jab at Marikina Elementary School on Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

The STAR / Boy Santos

MANILA, Philippines — The government can already buy COVID-19 booster shots but the vaccination of the country's population has to be completed first, Malacañang said Thursday.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque noted that only 18% of the Philippines' eligible population have been fully vaccinated so far.

"All I can say is that it is in our proposed budget. Once that budget is approved - even without approval, we can procure them (booster shots)," Roque said at a press briefing.

"But for now, we are still vaccinating the entire Philippines. Nationally, we are still at 18.29%. So let's talk about booster shots later," he added.

The Duterte administration has allocated P45.37 billion for booster shots in the proposed 2022 national budget. The health department has yet to approve the injection of booster shots to fully vaccinated persons, citing insufficient data about its safety and the limited supply of jabs.

As of September 1, more than 20 million persons or 25.93% of the eligible population have received their first dose of COVID-19 shot while 14.1 million individuals or 18.29% have availed of their second dose.

A total of 52.6 million vaccine doses have arrived, 34.11 million of which have been administered. The government expects the arrival of 25 million doses of pandemic shots this month.



#OneDENR

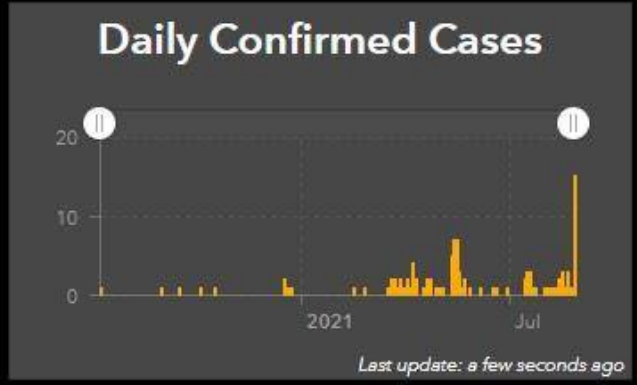
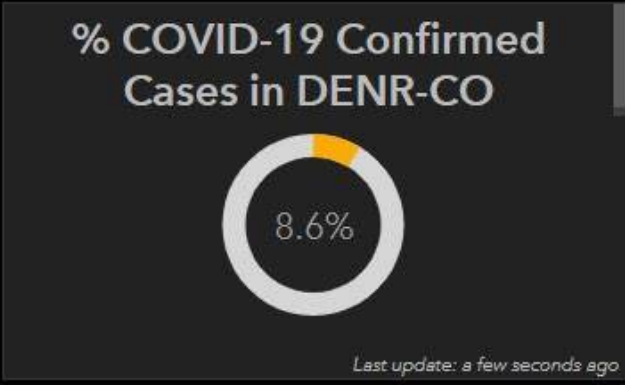
**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring

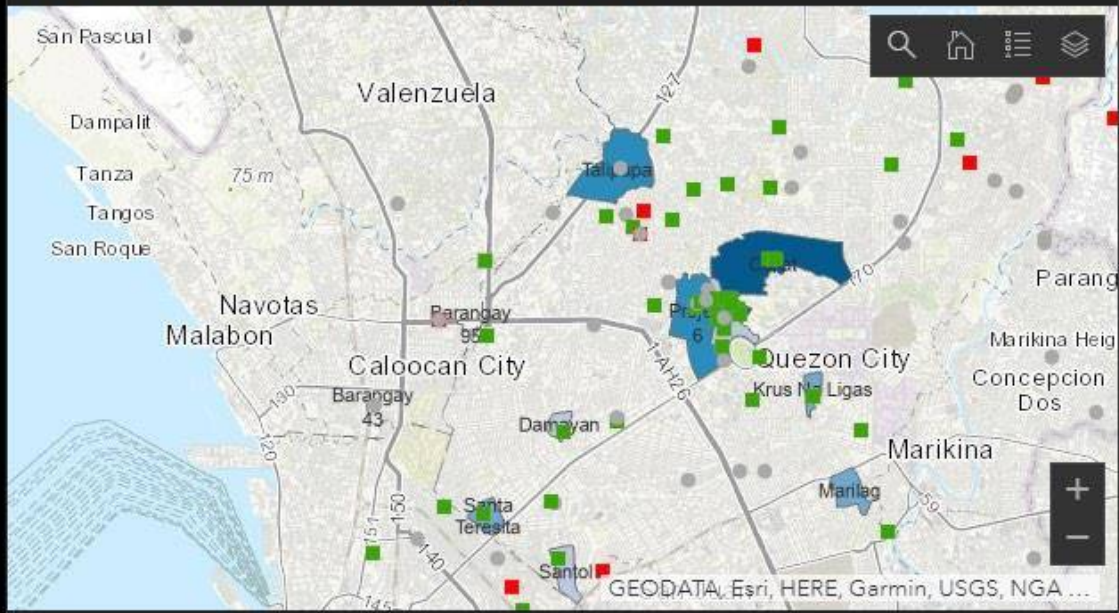


Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.

Total 134 <small>Last update: a few seconds ago</small>	Active 19 <small>Last update: a few seconds ago</small>	Recovered 114 <small>Last update: a few seconds ago</small>	Deaths 1 <small>Last update: a few seconds ago</small>
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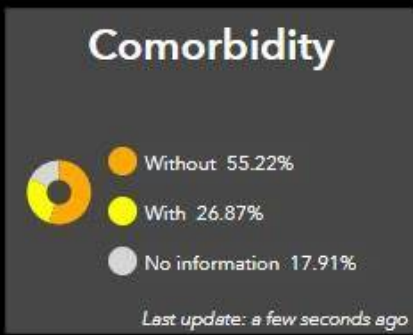
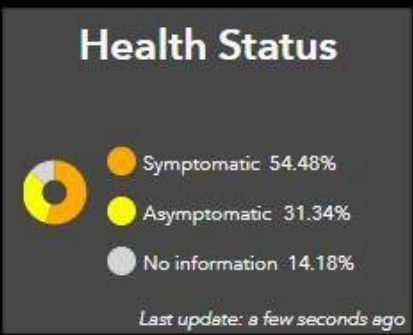
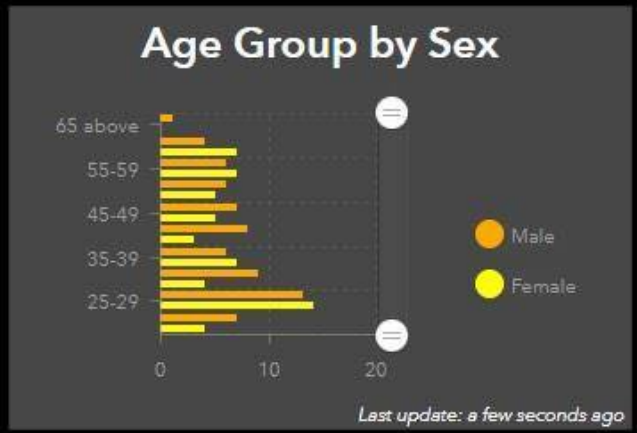
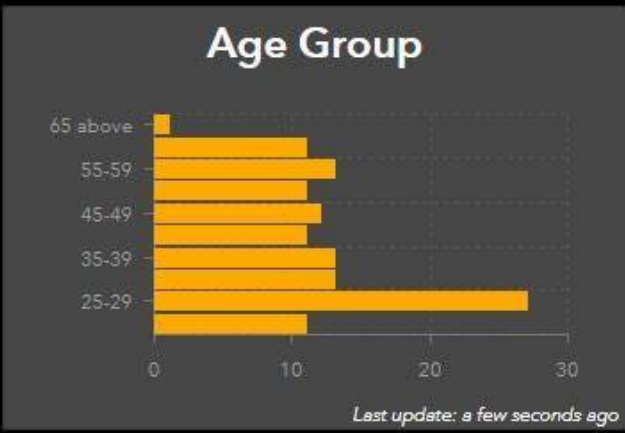


Residence of affected personnel



Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact location/ addresses of the cases.

[Map](#) [Map Legend](#)





DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 537

SETYEMBRE 2, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

7.3%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
146,510

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

91.1%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
1,840,294

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.67%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
33,680

MGA BAGONG KASO **16,621**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **10,965**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **148**

KABUUNANG BILANG NG KASO **2,020,484**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 31

DATOS NGAYONG SETYEMBRE 2
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 31

26.9%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

60,973

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS

97.3%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



KABUUNANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)
74% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.5K TOTAL BEDS)
66% Utilized

WARD BEDS (15.0K TOTAL BEDS)
71% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
55% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.5K TOTAL BEDS)
73% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)
67% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)
73% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
60% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 96.2%

1.1% Asymptomatic

0.6% Critical

1.1% Severe

0.99% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ang ating adhikaing ligtas na malampasan ang pandemyang COVID-19 ay maabot lamang sa pamamagitan ng ating masusing pag-iingat at pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards**. Protektahan din natin ang ating mga bahay, at maging alisto sa anumang sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam, agad na makipag-ugnayan sa inyong **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center**, na maaabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

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.



Ihananap 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
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!
I-download ang StaySafe App
O Gamiting ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MARYOON PANNG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doth.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

03 SEPTEMBER 2021, FRIDAY



NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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#BeachNourishment #DolomiteWhiteSand #Savemanilabay

HETO NA! BACK TO BACK ANG PAGHUHUKAY SA DE ABAD QUIRINO OUTFALL INUUMPISAHAN NA!
SEPTEMBER 02, 2021

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


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CR NOON na walang PARTITION! (295Million) o CR sa Manila Bay na MODERN STYLE? Huwag ng Magpaloko!

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





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