

06 DECEMBER 2021, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR orders shutdown of Pangasinan sanitary landfill anew

December 5, 2021, 11:49 am



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (File photo)

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reissued a closure order against a sanitary landfill facility in Urdaneta City in the province of Pangasinan for violation of Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the issuance of cease and desist order (CDO) to the Urdaneta City engineered sanitary landfill is the DENR's continuing commitment to make sure that RA 9275 and RA 9003 are strictly enforced.

"We are on our way towards changing the psyche of the Filipino people when it comes to solid waste management. The success of the enforcement operations is a crucial part of this gargantuan endeavor," Cimatu said in a news release on Sunday.

DENR-Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) Intelligence Operations team leader Rogelio Demelletes Jr. said the sanitary landfill facility located in Barangay Catablan, Urdaneta City was found still being used for waste disposal months after it was first issued a CDO on March 5, 2021.

During a follow-up inspection conducted by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau-Region 1 (EMB-Region 1) on Aug. 19, it discovered that padlocks and barricades have been tampered with and fresh tire tracks were left at the sanitary landfill facility cell and open dumpsite, indicating the arrival and departure of dump trucks and other waste disposal equipment.

The EMB-Region 1 also noted the presence of newly dumped waste at the time of monitoring, as well as the unauthorized opening of the previously decommissioned pipe connecting the storm drainage pond and canal leading to the Sinocalan River.

On Oct. 7, DENR-Region 1 Executive Director Crizaldy Barcelo and EMB-Region 1 Director Maria Dorica Naz-Hipe, together with DENR local officials and ELEPS personnel, led the reissuance of CDO to the city government of Urdaneta City to stop the operation of the sanitary landfill facility.

The DENR-Region 1 said the illegal operations of the landfill is a blatant disregard of the Pollution Adjudication Board's order pursuant to DENR-PAB Case No. 01-1024A-20.

The team had already cemented the pipe connecting the storm drainage pond and canal leading to the Sinocalan River, which is located at the back of the facility. **(PR)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1161843>



DENR closes Pangasinan sanitary landfill

Published December 5, 2021, 5:43 PM

by [Waylon Galvez](#)

For the second time this year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has re-issued a closure order against a sanitary landfill facility in Urdaneta City in Pangasinan.

This is for violation of Republic Act (RA) 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, and RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, according to DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

“We are on our way towards changing the psyche of the Filipino people when it comes to solid waste management. The success of the enforcement operations is a crucial part of this gargantuan endeavor,” said Cimatu.

According to DENR-Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) Intelligence Operations team leader Rogelio Demelletes Jr., the sanitary landfill facility in Barangay Catablan, Urdaneta City was still using waste disposal despite the initial issuance of a cease and desist order on March 5 this year.

In its follow-up inspection conducted by the DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau-Region 1 (EMB-Region 1) last August 19, officials discovered that padlocks and barricades had been tampered.

Fresh tire tracks were left at the sanitary landfill facility cell and open dumpsite, which indicated the arrival and departure of dump trucks and other waste disposal equipment.

The EMB-Region 1 also noted the presence of newly dumped waste at the time of monitoring, as well as the unauthorized opening of the previously decommissioned pipe connecting the storm drainage pond and canal leading to the Sinocalan River.

DENR-Region 1 Executive Director Crizaldy Barcelo and EMB-Region 1 Director Maria Dorica Naz-Hipe, with the help of DENR local officials and ELEPS personnel, led the re-issuance of CDO last Oct.7 to the city government of Urdaneta City to stop the operation of the sanitary landfill facility.

In its order, the DENR-Region 1 said the illegal operation of the landfill is a blatant disregard of the Pollution Adjudication Board’s order pursuant to DENR-PAB Case No. 01-1024A-20. The team also took action as it already cemented the pipe connecting the storm drainage pond and canal leading to the Sinocalan River, which is located at the back of the facility.



DENR orders Urdaneta landfill closure again

posted December 05, 2021 at 11:10 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has re-issued a closure order against a sanitary landfill facility in Urdaneta City in Pangasinan for violation of the Philippine Clean Water Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the issuance of the cease-and-desist order to the Urdaneta City engineered sanitary landfill is part of the department's commitment to ensure that the two laws are enforced.

"We are on our way toward changing the psyche of the Filipino people when it comes to solid waste management. The success of the enforcement operations is a crucial part of this gargantuan endeavor," he said.

Rogelio Demelletes Jr., Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service Intelligence Operations team leader, said the sanitary landfill facility in Barangay Catablan, Urdaneta City was found still being used for waste disposal months after it was first issued a CDO last March 5.



Muling pagpapasara sa sanitary landfill sa Pangasinan iniutos ng DENR



December 5, 2021 @ 5:00 PM 13 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Dahil sa paglabag sa kapaligiran muling naglabas ng closure order ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) laban sa sanitary landfill facility sa Urdaneta City sa probinsiya ng Pangasinan dahil sa paglabag nito sa Republic Act (RA) 9275 o ang Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 at RA 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Sa press release ayon kay Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang pag-isyu ng CDO sa Urdaneta City engineered sanitary landfill ay dahil sa patuloy na pangako ng DENR na matiyak na mahigpit na naipatutupad ang RA 9275 at RA 9003.

“We are on our way towards changing the psyche of the Filipino people when it comes to solid waste management. The success of the enforcement operations is a crucial part of this gargantuan endeavor,” pahayag ni Cimatu.

Kaugnay nito ayon kay DENR-Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) Intelligence team leader Rogelio Demelletes, Jr., ang sanitary landfill facility na matatagpuan sa Barangay Catablan, Urdaneta City ay napatunayang muling ginagamit para sa waste disposal ilang buwan matapos makatanggap ito ng cease and desist order (CDO) noong Marso 5, 2021.

Samantala sa isinagawang follow-up inspection ng DENR Environmental Management Bureau-Region 1 (EMB-Region 1) noong Agosto 19, natuklasan na ang padlocks at barikada ay pinakialaman at mayroon ding mga bagong bakas ng gulong na naiwan sa sanitary landfill facility cell at open dumpsite na nagpapahiwatig na may umalis at dumating ng dump trucks at iba pang waste disposal equipment.

Kaugnay nito sinabi rin ng EMB-Region 1 na may nakitang bagong tapon na basura nang isagawa ang monitoring at maging ang walang pahintulot na pagbubukas ng “decommissioned pipe” na nakakonekta sa storm drainage pond at kanal patungo sa Sinocalan River.

Noong Oktubre 7 nang pangunahan nina DENR-Region 1 Executive Director Crizaldy Barcelo at EMB-Region 1 Director Maria Dorica Naz-Hipe kasama ang DENR local officials at ELEPS personnel, ang pagbibigay ng CDO sa city government ng Urdaneta City upang patigilin ang operasyon ng sanitary landfill facility.



Ayon sa DENR-Region 1, ang ilegal na operasyon ng landfill ay lantarang pagbalewala sa kautusan ng Pollution Adjudication Board alinsunod sa DENR-PAB Case No. 01-1024A-20.

Sinemento na rin ng grupo ang tubo na nakakonekta sa storm drainage pond at kanal na patungo sa Sinocalan River, na matatagpuan sa likod ng pasilidad. **Santi Celario**



DENR pinakandado sanitary landfill

By Abante News — Last updated Dec 5, 2021

NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENR FB



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Nagpalabas ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng closure order laban sa sanitary landfill facility sa Urdaneta City, probinsya ng Pangasinan dahil sa paglabag nito sa Republic Act (RA) 9275 o ang Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 at RA 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang pag-isyu ng CDO sa Urdaneta City engineered sanitary landfill ay dahil sa patuloy na pangako ng DENR na matiyak na mahigpit na naipatutupad ang RA 9275 at RA 9003.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni DENR-Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) Intelligence team leader Rogelio Demelletes, Jr., ang sanitary landfill facility na matatagpuan sa Barangay Catablan, Urdaneta City ay napatunayang muling ginagamit para sa waste disposal ilang buwan matapos makatanggap ito ng cease and desist order (CDO) noong Marso 5, 2021. (Riz Dominguez)

Source: <https://www.abante.com.ph/denr-pinakandado-sanitary-landfill/>



Pangasinan landfill ordered closed anew

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star December 6, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has again ordered the closure of a sanitary landfill in Urdaneta, Pangasinan after it was found out that the facility is still being used despite an existing cease and desist order.

The Environmental Management Bureau-Ilocos Region discovered that the facility located in Barangay Catablan remains operational despite the issuance of a cease and desist order in March this year, according to Rogelio Demelletes Jr. of the DENR-environmental law enforcement and protection service.

Demelletes said the padlocks and barricades installed at the facility had been tampered with, and fresh tire tracks were seen in the area, indicating the arrival and departure of dump trucks and other waste disposal equipment.

The EMB team found newly dumped waste at the facility.

It said the decommissioned pipe connecting the drainage to a canal leading to the Sinocalan River was opened without authorization from the DENR.

The agency said it directed the city government of Urdaneta to comply with the order.



Pangasinan landfill ordered closed anew due to violations

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Dec 5, 2021 2:32:06 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 5) — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has ordered again the closure of a landfill in Pangasinan after discovering it violated the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"DENR-Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service Intelligence Operations team leader Rogelio Demelletes Jr. said the sanitary landfill facility located in Brgy. Catablan, Urdaneta City was found still being used for waste disposal months after it was first issued a cease-and-desist order on March 5, 2021," the agency said in a statement released on Sunday.

"The EMB-Region 1 also noted the presence of newly dumped waste at the time of monitoring, as well as the unauthorized opening of the previously decommissioned pipe connecting the storm drainage pond and canal leading to the Sinocalan River," it added.

A cease-and-desist order was reissued over the incident.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/regional/2021/12/5/urdaneta-pangasinan-landfill-closure.html>



SMC taps workforce to help protect last old-growth mangrove forest in Metro Manila

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Dec 5, 2021 4:54:45 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 5) — San Miguel Corporation has called on its workforce to join efforts to clean up and protect Isla Pulo, where the old-growth mangrove forest in Metro Manila is found.

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

The project is being conducted jointly with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the local government of Navotas. According to the statement, apart from employees, other volunteers include residents from Barangay Tanza 1 and personnel from the Philippine National Police in Navotas, among others.

The project complements the clean-up efforts on the [Tullahan-Tinajeros river system](#).

SMC shoulders all costs for supplies, protective gear, and meals for all volunteers. It also coordinates and organizes all volunteers from communities and various agencies and offices involved.



Mangrove protection

posted December 05, 2021 at 09:19 pm



San Miguel Corp., along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the local government of Navotas City, taps more volunteers from its own workforce to scale up efforts to clean and protect Isla Pulo, home to the remaining old-growth mangrove forest in Metro Manila. The company, which has been holding weekly cleanup activities since October, mobilized some 80 volunteers consisting of employees, residents from Barangay Tanza 1 and personnel from the local government of Navotas, Philippine National Police personnel based in Navotas, the 51st Engineers Brigade of the Philippine Army and the DEBR. Volunteers collected 3,803 sacks of garbage from the mangrove area, which also serves as a natural barrier that protects nearby cities from storm surges and coastline erosion.



Boracay watersports only for vaxxed tourists

Published 1 day ago on December 5, 2021 02:40 AM

By **Jun Aguirre**



A paddleboard awaits use by fully vaccinated tourists in Boracay. / PHOTOGRAPH BY JUN AGUIRRE FOR DAILY TRIBUNE

All watersports allowed to operate in Boracay Island shall be exclusive for fully vaccinated tourists, Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores has ordered.

Miraflores issued Executive Order (EO) 028-A to issue the restriction on watersports and other contact sports within the island resort, including basketball for fully vaccinated residents.

“WaterSports activities such as scuba diving, helmet diving, banana boat ride, fly fish, parasailing and other water sports activities shall likewise be allowed,” read the EO in part.

“Provided that minimum health standards shall be observed under the watch of the local government. Provided, further, that all clientele must also be fully vaccinated,” it added.

Miraflores issued the said EO as a guideline with Aklan province now under Alert Level 2 until 15 December.



U.S. sets up P800-M environmental conservation fund

Published 1 day ago on December 5, 2021 03:30 AM

By TDT @tribunephil



INSPIRE project supports the Philippines' efforts to conserve the country's rich biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change. / Photograph courtesy of US Embassy

The United States government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has established a five-year, P800 million (\$16 million) grant facility to help civil society organizations implement biodiversity conservation, wildlife protection, natural resource management and local climate actions in the Philippines.

The environmental conservation fund will be launched through the new Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems (INSPIRE) project.

The project will promote natural resource conservation, and ecosystem and community resilience by supporting civil society organizations in advocating for and participating in good natural resource governance. In addition, the project will support media organizations covering key natural resource governance issues. It will help local communities better manage natural resources and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

"As advocates for better governance and partners of the public sector, civil society plays an important role in protecting the environment and addressing climate change," Sean Callahan, USAID Philippines Acting Mission Director, said.

"Through the INSPIRE project, USAID is pleased to support the Philippines' efforts to conserve the country's rich biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change while making sure that the environment continues to benefit many Filipinos whose incomes depend upon these natural resources," he added.

USAID will work closely with the Philippine government and other relevant stakeholders to implement the INSPIRE project.

The US government has been a key development champion in the Philippines for six decades, working with individuals, communities and the government to improve everyday lives.

Since 2008, USAID has provided more than \$157 million to support the Philippine government in conserving the country's biodiversity and protecting its landscapes and seascapes.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/12/05/u-s-sets-up-p800-m-environmental-conservation-fund/>

Asia-Pacific business leaders call for urgent action to address pandemic recovery, climate crisis

December 6, 2021



During the APEC Business Advisory Council 4 Meeting CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE [APEC Business Advisory Council](#) (ABAC) urged Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders to collectively act in addressing the uneven recovery and unequal impact of Covid-19, the barriers to trade and investments, and the challenge of climate change in the region.

The fourth and last ABAC meeting for 2021 under [New Zealand's](#) chairmanship touched on the council's annual report to APEC leaders. Under the theme, "People, Place, Prosperity," ABAC listed 43 recommendations across five priority areas, namely regional economic integration, sustainability, inclusion, digital transformation and economy.

ABAC [Philippines](#), in its submitted report to President [Rodrigo Duterte](#), suggested that the most urgent and relevant priorities for the Philippines were economic recovery and resilient sustainable growth. These needed to be anchored on leveraging digital technology and building a future-ready and digitally-enabled workforce.

"Rebuilding the economy is contingent on how well we manage the pandemic, and key to this is ensuring steady access and efficient management and administration of vaccines across the population," ABAC member Sabin Aboitiz said.

[Tomas Alcantara](#), chairman of ABAC Philippines, stressed that the post-pandemic economy needed to be stronger and shock-proof as the impact of climate change was hitting the global community at a faster and deeper pace, especially in risk-prone areas such as the Philippines.

"Our disaster risk reduction and management strategy must come with more forward-looking approaches such as transitioning to cleaner energy, shifting to renewables and adopting circular economy models," Alcantara added.

However, ABAC member [Joanne de Asis](#) noted, "Achieving our commitments, including lowering our carbon footprint, requires appropriate infrastructure and policy support as well as adequate financing and green investments."

For ABAC 2021 Chairman [Rachel Taulelei](#) of ABAC New Zealand, "The challenges we face today — whether the pandemic recovery, trade, climate change or inequality — show that a prosperous, peaceful and resilient future for all can only be achieved by all economies working together."

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/12/06/public-square/asia-pacific-business-leaders-call-for-urgent-action-to-address-pandemic-recovery-climate-crisis/1824831>



Court rules against Antipolo mining ban

Published December 5, 2021, 12:05 AM

by [Dr. Jun Ynares](#)

THE VIEW FROM RIZAL



Dr. Jun Ynares

Three weeks ago, Branch 97 of the Regional Trial Court (Fourth Judicial Region) ruled against a move by the local government of Antipolo to ban all mining, quarrying and related activities within the jurisdiction of the city.

In its decision, the court ruled that the ordinance passed by the Antipolo City Council and implemented by the Office of the City Mayor, the city's Business Permits and Licensing Office, and the Philippine National Police, stopping all said operations were "unconstitutional" and therefore "null and void."

The Antipolo City government, while saddened by this development, expressed its highest respect for the wisdom of the court and that it is set to implement its ruling on the issue.

Technically, by virtue of the court ruling, the ban on mining, quarrying and related activities within the jurisdiction of the city no longer exists. Entities involved in these activities can resume their operations.

The court has settled a recent major row which called public attention to the question of how much power local governments wield over mining, quarrying and related activities taking place within their jurisdictions.

It will be recalled that the Antipolo City local government took a bold step to ban all the said activities in a bid to preserve what is left of mother nature, and to fuel the discussion on the apparent absence of say on the part of local governments on how their natural resources are tapped and used.

Antipolo City's local officials saw the urgency of the ban after torrential rains once again submerged several portions of the national capital region and Rizal province in deep floods.

Certain quarters blamed the floods on the decimation of the forest cover in the mountains in Antipolo City and Rizal province. They alleged that waters coming from these mountains and down into Marikina River caused the heavy flooding. The decimation of the forest cover, in turn, may have been aggravated by the mining, quarrying and related activities going on in these mountain areas.

Antipolo City had warned the entities involved in these operations that the local government may shut them down in response to the clamor to preserve whatever is left of mother nature in those areas. It eventually passed the ordinance banning all said operations.

Some national government agencies, in turn, warned Antipolo City that it had no power to shut down these operations. They pointed out that the permits for these operations were granted by said agencies and therefore are beyond the authority of the city to revoke.



Antipolo City – as well as the Rizal provincial government – was also warned that shutting down these operations could cause a shortage of the requirements for aggregates and building materials in the National Capital Region. They pointed out that the city and the province were the sources of these materials closest to the metropolis. If the entities providing these materials coming from the mountains of Rizal and Antipolo were to cease operations, builders in Metro Manila may have to source their requirement from more distant provinces thereby causing spikes in construction costs.

It appeared that the risk of potential revenue losses was major enough for the affected private enterprises to go Court and sue the City of Antipolo for not renewing their business permits in line with the ordinance banning their operations.

They pointed out, among others, that the city government's ordinance "contravenes statutes and public policy pronounced by the national government," that it was "an unreasonable exercise of police power" on the part of the city government, and that the Ordinance went beyond regulation to prohibition.

The Court tackled the issue on the basis of "constitutionality." Citing legal precedents, the Court pointed out that the city government "are mere agents vested with what is called power of subordinate legislation." "As delegates of the Congress, the local government cannot contravene but must obey at all times the will of their principal," the Court said.

The court underscored that the Antipolo City ordinance was "ultra vires" – beyond the scope of its powers. It ruled that the said ordinance "failed to meet the substantive requirements" which include not contravening the constitution and not prohibiting but merely regulating trade.

The court explained that the permits given by the national government to the entities which sued the city "are solemn contracts between the State and the petitioners" and that they are "warranted under the constitution and the Mining Act" passed by the national legislature. It emphasized that it is the State which is the "true owner" of the mineral resources tapped and mined by the petitioners.

The court concluded that the Antipolo City ordinance banning mining, quarrying and related activities is unconstitutional and therefore "null and void."

**For feedback, please email it to antipolocitygov@gmail.com or send it to Block 6 Lot 10 Sta. Barbara 1 cor. Bradley St., Mission Hills Subd., Brgy. San Roque, Antipolo City, Rizal.*



'Plastic palit bigas' inilunsad sa Pagbilao

By [Tony Sandoval](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - December 6, 2021 - 12:00am



PAGBILAO, Quezon, Philippines — Inilunsad ng pamahalaang bayan ng Pagbilao sa pamamagitan ng Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) ang programang “plastic palit bigas.”

Layunin ng naturang programa na itaas ang kamalayan sa wastong pamamahala ng “solid waste” at kung paano ito makatutulong sa pangangalaga sa kapaligiran.

Ang isang kilong plastic (gaya ng balat ng shampoo, sabon, sirsirya at iba pang kauri nito) ay maaaring ipagpalit sa isang kilong bigas.

Hindi naman maaaring ipagpalit ang mga sando bag, transparent na plastic at matitigas na plastic gaya naman ng mga laruan, crates at iba pa na kagaya nito.

Ang bawat barangay ay may nakalaang apat na sakong bigas o 200 kilograms, at limitado naman sa limang kilo ang maaaring ipagpalit sa bawat residente.



Pacific Ocean garbage patch is immense plastic habitat

By Victoria Gill Science correspondent, BBC News

Published 20 hours ago



OCEAN VOYAGES INSTITUTE

The researchers collaborated with the Ocean Voyages Institute to collect ocean debris

Scientists have discovered marine animals living on plastic debris in an area of the open ocean dubbed "the Great Pacific Garbage Patch".

Many of the creatures are coastal species, living miles from their usual habitats, on a patch halfway between the coast of California and Hawaii.

Plants and animals, including anemones, tiny marine bugs, molluscs and crabs, were found on 90% of the debris.

Scientists are concerned that plastic may help transport invasive species.

The study examined plastic items more than 5cm (2in) in diameter gathered from a gyre - an area where circulating currents cause floating debris to accumulate - in the Pacific.

Lead researcher Dr Linsey Haram, who carried out the work at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre, said: "Plastics are more permanent than many of the natural debris that you previously have seen in the open ocean. They're creating a more permanent habitat in this area."

Dr Haram worked with the Ocean Voyages Institute, a charity that collects plastic pollution on sailing expeditions, and with oceanographers from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



SMITHSONIAN

More than half the items the researchers examined contained species usually found on the coast



The world has at least five plastic-infested gyres. This one is thought to hold the most floating plastic - an estimated 79,000 tonnes in a region of more than 610,000 square miles (1.6m sq km).

"All sorts of stuff ends up out there," said Dr Haram. "It's not an island of plastic, but there's definitely a large amount of plastic corralled there."

Much of that is micro-plastic - very difficult to see with the naked eye. But there are also larger items, including abandoned fishing nets, buoys and even vessels that have been floating in the gyre since the Japanese tsunami in 2011.

The researchers, who reported their findings in the journal Nature Communications, initially embarked on the investigation following that devastating tsunami.

The disaster caused tonnes of debris to be ejected into the Pacific ocean, and hundreds of coastal Japanese marine species were found alive on items that landed on the shores of the North American Pacific coast and the Hawaiian Islands.

"We want to get a handle on how plastics may be a transport for invasive species to coasts," Dr Haram told BBC News.



The research began following the devastating 2011 tsunami in Japan, which sent tonnes of debris into the Pacific Ocean

Some of the organisms the researchers found on the plastic items they examined were open-ocean species - organisms that survive by "rafting" on floating debris. But the most eye-opening finding, Dr Haram said, was the diversity of coastal species on the plastic.

"Well over half of the items had coastal species on them," she said. "That creates a lot of questions about what it means to be a coastal species."

The scientists said the discovery highlighted another "unintended consequence" of plastic pollution - a problem only expected to grow.

One previous study estimated that a total of 25,000 million tonnes of plastic waste would be generated by 2050.

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PLASTIC POLLUTION | World can't recycle its way out of plastic crisis – experts

December 3, 2021 , 10:33 PM

By Joe Brock and Kanupriya Kapoor

SINGAPORE, Dec 3 (Reuters) – Recycling will not be able to contain a runaway global plastic waste crisis, experts said on Friday as they called on companies to reduce plastic production and shift more products into reusable and refillable packaging.

Moving away from single-use plastics and towards systems that allow for it to be reused are among the solutions that experts believe could ease the problem, but radical changes to the production system are also needed.

“We won’t be able to just recycle or reduce our way out of it,” said Rob Kaplan, CEO of Circulate Capital, which invests in emerging markets initiatives to solve the plastic waste crisis.

“It’s a systems problem and needs to combine upstream and downstream solutions,” he said, speaking on a panel at the Reuters Next conference.

The world produces around 300 million tonnes of plastic waste every year, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

But less than 10% of all the plastic ever made has been recycled, in large part because it is too costly to collect and sort. The rest ends up dumped or buried in landfills or burned.

As recycling schemes falter, big consumer goods companies, including Unilever (ULVR.L), Coca-Cola (KO.N) and Nestle (NESN.S), have started investing in projects to burn plastic waste as fuel in cement kilns, Reuters revealed in October.

Meanwhile, plastic production is projected to double by 2040 – something many critics of the industry believe is excessive and the biggest driver of the huge waste problem facing the planet.

“Recycling can’t compete with overproduction,” said Von Hernandez of the Break Free from Plastic campaign, a global alliance calling for an end to plastic pollution.

“So what we need is limits on virgin plastic production,” he said, speaking alongside Kaplan on the panel.

While there is no global regulator or treaty for the plastics industry, the panel speakers said individual consumers can help drive the changes needed in corporate behaviour and hold companies accountable through the life cycle of their plastic products and where they end up.

“Citizens and consumers can compel these companies...to reveal their global plastic and carbon footprint, reduce the amount of plastic they are producing and deploying to the market, and really reinvent their delivery systems,” Hernandez said.

(Editing by Ana Nicolaci da Costa)

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/plastic-pollution-world-cant-recycle-its-way-out-of-plastic-crisis-experts>

06 DECEMBER 2021, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH lists 603 new COVID-19 cases, 156 deaths

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Dec 5, 2021 4:32:11 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 5) — COVID-19 cases nationwide rose by 603, reaching a total of 2,834,775, the Department of Health reported on Sunday.

This is the 12th straight day the DOH listed less than a thousand new infections.

Active cases are at 13,853, or 0.5% of the tally, with 1,270 currently showing no symptoms, while 5,532 were tagged as mild cases, 3,903 as moderate, 2,410 as severe, and 738 as critical.

The department also said the viral disease killed 156 more people, bringing the death toll to 49,386, or 1.74% of the total case count.

Of the newly logged deaths, the department said 115 were erroneously announced as recoveries in previous updates.

The number of survivors, on the other hand, jumped to 2,771,536, or 97.8% of the cases, with 1,047 more added.

According to the DOH, four testing laboratories failed to submit results on time, while two were not operational on Dec. 3. These six facilities contributed an average of 0.9% of all samples tested and 1.3% of all positive cases recorded in the last two weeks.

The department added that it removed six duplicate recoveries from its data as well as 116 other cases found to have tested negative after final validation.



DOH: Vaccination of least 90% of population needed to protect vs COVID-19 variants

(Philstar.com) - December 5, 2021 - 11:06am



Individuals line up for Astrazeneca vaccine at Batasan National Highschool in Brgy. Batasan Hills in Quezon City during the last day of the government's three-day vaccine campaign on Dec. 11, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Even with COVID-19 cases continuing to decrease, an undersecretary of the Department of Health said Sunday that at least 90% of a population must be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity as new coronavirus variants are detected.

Speaking in an interview aired over DZBB Super Radyo, treatment czar Leopoldo Vega said that this was because of the number of emerging variants. "Herd immunity should be increased to 90% or 100% of the population to be vaccinated due to different variants of COVID-19," he said.

The level of vaccination needed to achieve herd immunity varies by disease. The DOH earlier said that herd immunity would require fully vaccinating at least 70% of the country's population. "It does not mean that when there are many mutations this strain is highly transmissible or highly virulent...The first thing we look at is the amount of vaccination in an area because it can provide community protection," he said in Filipino.

Vega was careful to point out that the variant, said to be highly transmissible and similar to the Delta variant, has not led to higher cases yet.

All viruses mutate over time, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19 disease. Studies are still on-going to determine the effects of this latest mutation, and much remains unknown.

According to the World Health Organization, no evidence exists that the existing vaccines need to be modified to fight Omicron, which has been identified in 40 countries so far.

"It has not really been seen that it has caused high transmission in countries...this variant of concern is still being studied," he said. "All healthcare workers should have a booster shot as protection in case the Omicron variant enters the country."

"Due to the drop in cases, the One Hospital Command often refers non-COVID patients to hospitals in need of special treatment," he also said.

Earlier, the government scaled back its goal to "population protection" instead of herd immunity because the latter had ["a lot of attached criteria."](#)

To date, health authorities have recorded 2.8 million cases of the coronavirus.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/12/05/2145892/doh-vaccination-least-90-population-needed-protect-vs-covid-19-variants/amp/>



Group wants research on VCO as prophylaxis vs COVID-19

[Rainier Allan Ronda](#) - The Philippine Star December 6, 2021 | 12:00am



Engineer Marco Reyes, president of the VCO Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines Inc. (VCOP), said that prevention of COVID-19 infection and transmission was a better strategy in the war against the coronavirus.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The country's foremost industry association of coconut processors is urging the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to support research and development on virgin coconut oil (VCO) as a prophylaxis against COVID-19, and not as a cure.

Engineer Marco Reyes, president of the VCO Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines Inc. (VCOP), said that prevention of COVID-19 infection and transmission was a better strategy in the war against the coronavirus.

"VCO should be studied further as prophylaxis against this virus. Prevention is an essential strategy," the industry group leader said.

"VCO is a natural, sustainable and highly renewable resource of our country that is accessible and affordable for all Filipinos," he said. "We must remain open-minded, thorough, and aggressive in undertaking scientific studies on the use of virgin coconut oil against this virus."

Reyes issued the statement after the DOST announced the interim findings of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) clinical trials on VCO as a COVID-19 adjunct therapy to moderate and severe patients, which showed no "significant benefits" of VCO to COVID-19 cases.

Reyes shrugged off the findings of the UP-PGH clinical trials, saying that there have been other studies, particularly from a trial conducted in Laguna last year by the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute, which showed that VCO had shortened the recovery period of suspected and probable COVID-19 cases among trial participants.

He pointed out that pharmaceutical companies have not been successful in developing safe and effective drugs against COVID-19 despite the millions of dollars that they have spent.

"The drugs that are being used in hospitals now are very expensive and of partial efficacy only," Reyes pointed out. "According to some experts, the COVID-19 pandemic may have reached the endemic stage. That means that we will have to co-exist with this virus."

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/12/06/2146022/group-wants-research-vco-prophylaxis-vs-covid-19>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 631

DISYEMBRE 5, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.5%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
13,853

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.8%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,771,536

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.74%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
49,386

MGA BAGONG KASO **603**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,047**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **156**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,834,775**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 3

DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 5
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 3

1.8%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

35,950

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
49.1%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

BAWAL
WALANG MASK
AT FACE SHIELD

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.6K TOTAL BEDS)
26% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (19.4K TOTAL BEDS)
25% Utilized

WARD BEDS (12.9K TOTAL BEDS)
14% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
14% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
28% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)
22% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.0K TOTAL BEDS)
20% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
17% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

1,270 Asymptomatic

5,532 Mild

3,903 Moderate

2,410 Severe

738 Critical



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Laging alalahanin na sa maayos na pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** at pagtanggap ng bakuna, maililigtas natin hindi lamang ang ating sarili, kundi pati na rin ang ating mga mahal sa buhay, mula sa COVID-19. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

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



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

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



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

06 DECEMBER 2021, MONDAY



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE







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manila bay rehabilitation project ongoing.

government build, build, build project.

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 184

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 SHARE

 SAVE

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