

08 AUGUST 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



ILEGAL AT SMALL MINERS SA N. VIZCAYA, IPINASARA NG DENR-MGB

August 8, 2021 Rannie Lao



PINANGUNAHAN ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang paglansag sa iba't-ibang gamit sa ilegal na pagmimina sa magkakasunod na operasyon na isinagawa laban sa small-scale mining activities sa bayan ng Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya noong Hulyo 27 hanggang 29 ng kasalukuyang taon.

Ang joint operation ay isinagawa ng MGB-Region 2, DENR Region 2, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Nueva Vizcaya, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Aritao, National Bureau of Investigation-Region 2, Philippine National Police at Armed Forces of the Philippines sa pakikipagtulungan ng FCF Minerals Corporation kung saan ay sinira ng mga ito ang mga gamit tulad ng ball mills, shafting, diesel engines, pulleys at iba pang ginagamit sa illegal-small mining activities sa Barangay Runruno.

“In the case of illegal small-scale mining, miners tend to dig and drill with no proper control on extractive operations. These unregulated mining activities pose dangers to the environment, and even to human lives,” pahayag ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Sa kanyang panig, sinabi ni MGB-Region 2 Director Mario A. Ancheta na ang kawalan ng dokumento, permit o pagpapatunay upang magsagawa ng mining operations at pag-transport ng minerals/mineral products at by-products ay ikinokonsiderang prima facie evidence sa ilegal na pagmimina.

“This shall cause the seizure/confiscation of the minerals/mineral products and by-products and the tools, conveyances, and equipment used in the commission of the offense in favor of the government,” paliwanag ni Ancheta.

Bago ang operasyon ay nagsagawa ng imbestigasyon ang MGB-Region 2 hinggil sa nagaganap na small-scale mining operations sa Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) contract area ng mining firm na FCF Minerals Corporation.

Ayon sa MGB, hindi pa nadedebelop ng nasabing kompanya ang naturang lugar. Binigyang-diin pa ni Ancheta na hindi idinedeclarang Minahang Bayan site ang pinagmiminahang lugar.

Aniya, kahit na may naganap na magkakasunod na pakikipag-usap at babala sa small-scale miners na natukoy rin na illegal settlers, ay patuloy na binabalewala ng mga ito ang kautusan ng MGB na ibakante at iwanan ang lugar.



Naglabas na rin ng cease-and-desist orders ang MGB-Region 2 laban sa illegal mining activities noong Hulyo 7 hanggang 9.

Inihahanda na ang mga kasong paglabag sa Republic Act (RA) 7942 o ang Philippine Mining Act of 1995 at RA 7076 o ang People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991 laban sa mga minero. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



Govt moves to protect Mt. Mantalingahan

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) August 8, 2021



Mt. Mantalingahan. PHOTO FROM WIKIPEDIA

A Land Use Plan has been mapped for the protected [Mount Mantalingahan](#) in [Palawan](#) to ensure its preservation and the optimum development of its resources valued economically at \$5.5 billion.

Under the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources'](#) (DENR) technical assistance program known as "[Protect Wildlife Project](#)," funded by the [United States Agency for International Development](#) (USAid), about 206,567 hectares of Mount Mantalingahan's protected landscape had already been zoned. The zoned area also includes forest land outside the protected area of 153,836 hectares.

Mapping of [Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape](#) (MMPL) is a powerful tool in defining which activities are appropriate for each zone and prescribing what is allowed in each area.

With its 120,457 hectares of forest, [Mount Matalingahan](#) is the headwater for 33 watersheds.

Among the species of animals that can be found in Matalingahan are the Philippine cockatoo, the talking mynah, the blue-naped parrot, the Philippine pangolin and many other highly endangered wildlife.

Production areas totaling 82,469 hectares of protected area and 71,367 hectares of conservation area have also been designated under the Forest Land Use Plan of Southern Palawan.

Ecosystem services from MMPL's rich natural resources, whose value is placed at \$5.5 billion or P265 billion, bring about economic benefit to the community, according to [Jeanne Tabangay](#), managing director of Palawan Biodiversity Conservation Corridor.

The [Protect Wildlife Project of USAid](#) targets to conserve around 750,000 hectares of biologically significant sites. These are protected areas, forestlands, watersheds, mangrove forests, and coastal and marine areas.

Mount Matalingahan is the highest peak in Palawan. It straddles around the towns of Bataraza, Brooke's Point, Rizal, Quezon and Sofronio Española. Through the years, it has been faced with natural and manmade threats from illegal logging, wildlife poaching, mining and kaingin (slash and burn).

The USAid noted that Matalingahan also faces risks of high poverty incidence, unclear or inconsistent regulatory policies on resource uses, communities that lack tenure rights, weak enforcement systems, and the vulnerability to climate risks such as drought and intense rainfall.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/08/news/regions/govt-moves-to-protect-mt-mantalingahan/1810105>



Holcim's Circular Explorer to help rid Manila Bay of floating garbage



BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

AUGUST 5, 2021

Getting rid of Manila Bay's floating garbage will be easier starting next year.

Cement firm Holcim Philippines Inc. said in a news statement issued on Thursday that in lending a hand in keeping Manila Bay garbage-free, the Holcim Group will lend the Circular Explorer, a vessel that will help collect marine litter, study the pollution, and raise awareness of communities and students on caring for the seas.

The company will receive in first half of 2022 from the Holcim Group the Circular Explorer, a solar-powered catamaran that can recover four tons of plastic wastes from bodies of water for recycling.

To be deployed in Manila Bay, the vessel was launched by the Holcim Group in Germany on July 21, 2021 to symbolize its commitment to driving the circular economy and preserving nature.

The Holcim Group is a leader in building solutions and recycling.

It is reusing 50 million tons of resources across its business and set to double recycling volumes by 2030.

The Circular Explorer is part of the Holcim Group's stronger focus on sustainability and innovation, which includes the launch of the world's first green cement made with 20 percent recycled demolition and construction wastes. The Circular Explorer will be operated by environmental organization One Earth One Ocean and supported by Holcim Philippines.

To further strengthen this initiative, the company signed a partnership with the Marine Environment and Resource Foundation Inc. (MERF) at the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP MSI) on July 29, 2021 to develop innovative solutions against plastic pollution and advancing research on this field.

MERF and Holcim also agreed to develop capacity-building materials to communicate the effect of marine plastic pollution and opportunities to change behavior.

"Everyone has a role in preserving our oceans. We are proud supporters of the Circular Explorer to be part of the solution. I am inspired to see how young change makers can act as catalysts to solve some of our world's greatest challenges. The Circular Explorer's education and science programs are designed to mobilize them to take action," Jan Jenisch, Holcim Group CEO said.

"We are excited to help restore the Manila Bay through the Circular Explorer. Its focus on science and education will greatly complement ongoing clean up efforts. Through the Circular Explorer, we will further advance circular economy or the preservation of natural resources by reusing materials as much as possible and have a more positive impact in building progress in the Philippines," Horia Adrian, president and CEO of Holcim Philippines said for his part.



He added: “Finally, this is a flagship initiative of the Holcim Group to advance sustainability and innovation. We are greatly motivated to drive its success here in the Philippines.”

“We at the Marine Environment and Resources Foundation, Inc. as well as UP Marine Science Institute are thankful for the partnership with Holcim Philippines. This a good project that can help come up with baseline studies on the impact of macro- and micro plastics to the environment especially now that this is a big problem in the Philippines. This initiative can also help us better understand the other challenges to the marine environment, map our resources, and promote conservation through education,” Dr. Maria Vanessa B. Rodriguez, President of MERF said.



Of trees, bees and honey



BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

AUGUST 8, 2021



Thousands of stingless bees protect their queen and colony, and their sweet, delectable honey.

Bees are important being the most effective pollinators, according to the United Nations. They help in the reproduction of plants, including food crops.

“A world without pollinators would equal to a world without food diversity—no blueberries, coffee, chocolate, cucumbers, and so much more. They also serve as sentinels for emergent environmental risks, signaling the health of local ecosystems,” the United Nations said, underscoring the world’s need for pollinators, such as bees.

With over 80 percent of human food being supplied by plants, the loss of pollinators would lead to “an exponential loss of biodiversity, endangering our ecosystems and our diet,” according to the UN.

Together with moths, flies, wasps, beetles and butterflies, the bees make up the majority of pollinating species, although the bees have a striking diversity as pollinators and pollination systems.

Most of the 25,000 to 30,000 species of bees (Hymenoptera: Apidae) are effective pollinators, the UN added.

Honey, the golden liquid

The bees are particularly loved not just for saving the world, but for providing that thick, golden liquid that they produce—the honey.

Bees produce honey using the nectar of flowering plants that industrious they bring inside their beehive.

This natural sweetener is mixed in tea, coffee, or milk, spread on bread or simply consumed as is.

Health benefits

Various sources say that natural, raw or unadulterated honey, has many health benefits.

It contains no fiber, fat or protein and is rich in calories and sugar, but can also help fight diabetes.

Medical experts say it is a good source of antioxidants because it contains an array of plant chemicals that act as antioxidant, antibacterial and antifungal.



Honey helps soothe a sore throat and helps cure cough; and it improves the digestive system, too.

Beekeeping

Because honey can help cure many health problems, it became in demand and with many resorted to “farming” honey bees.

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), the country’s premier agriculture learning institution, has been giving online training for beekeeping to educate those who want to boost their farm’s production.

UPLB started the beekeeping training program in 1989 with enrollees for various training courses on beekeeping keep coming to this day.

Although not entirely a new endeavor, honey bee production or honey bee farming, also called beekeeping in the Philippines, was conceived by upland dwellers who have grown tired of “hunting” the hard-to-find beehives in the thick forests.

Some farmers have even grouped together to make honey bee production and distribution as their business, while others resorted to honey bee farming to augment their income.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is helping farmers develop their capacity in honey bee farming, as some agrarian reform beneficiaries’ organizations (ARBOs) have decided to venture into honey production.

Stingless bee honey

In the study, “Stingless Bees: Their Behavior, Ecology and Evolution,” Christoph Gruter said that stingless bees, also called stingless honey bees or melipones, are a large group of bees comprising the tribe Meliponni.

These bees are closely related to the common honey bees, orchid bees and bumblebees.

The Samahan ng Pagkakaisa sa Pagunlad ng Payanas (SP3) Agricultural Cooperative based in Barangay Payanas in Torrijos town in Marinduque province is one of the ARBOs that is into honey bee farming and honey production using stingless bees as their honey producer.

Likewise, the Anib Agricultural Cooperative in Barangay Bagacay, Buenavista town, also in Marinduque, and the Sikap Agricultural Cooperative in Barangay Bicas-Bicas, also in Buenavista, are into honey bee production.

Touted to be nature-based and biodiversity-friendly enterprise, honey production is becoming quite popular among upland dwellers and farmers, as well as enterprising Filipinos who found beekeeping a worthwhile enterprise.

Honey bee production

Margarita del Mundo, chairman of SP3 Agricultural Cooperative, said the 43-member farmers’ cooperative are active in the stingless bee honey production.

She said each member can produce 15 bottles of 250 grams of honey bee every month that are sold at P250 per bottle.

Primarily, she said the bees are the pollinators of their farm and the honey they produce are value-added.



“In our town of Torrijos, there are many stingless bees. The bees are not dangerous to humans because they do not sting,” del Mundo said in a telephone interview on August 3.

Besides honey, they also produce soap and vinegar from the pollen produced by the bees.

Training

Recele Recella, Agrarian Reform Program Officer 1 for Village Level Farm Focus Enterprise Development Program, said the SP3 Agricultural Cooperative members were provided a one-week training by UPLB experts under its Beekeeping Program. The trainees were mostly coconut farmers to boost their know-how and capacity in beekeeping.

In 2010, the Norwegian Mission Alliance Philippines (NMAP), a nongovernment organization, provided them their much-needed training and startup capital—65 stingless bee colonies.

“Since then, the colonies provided by NMAP have already multiplied. As far as DAR is concerned, we are simply providing help by marketing their product,” Recella said.

She said the training provides the farmers the knowledge on the behavior of the stingless bees. “The bees do not want to be disturbed [because] they leave when they feel threatened,” she said in Filipino.

Endangered species

Many bee species in the wild are already endangered due to various threats. Their population is declining because the forests are devastated by various destructive human activities.

Even in protected areas, bees may not be spared by human activities, said Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim.

Lim told the BusinessMirror in an interview via Messenger on August 4 that bees are threatened primarily due to indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides that not only affect harmful pests but important insects, as well, such as bees.

‘Protect the bees’

“Native bees are pollinators that ensure the natural propagation of indigenous trees and vegetation,” Lim, a former director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said. As such, she said protecting them in the wild is of utmost importance

Other threats to bees are the improper methods of collecting honey and the illegal cutting of trees.

According to Lim, she prefers protecting the wild population of native bees over bee farming in order to get the maximum benefit from the industrious insects.

“If you protect them, they can provide unique tastes of honey from feeding on flowers of narra, lawaan and other indigenous tree species. They also act as natural pollinators and provide sustainable community-based livelihoods,” she said.

Sustainable practice

Lim said she is not totally against bee farming, as long as it is done “sustainably.”

Those into beekeeping should use native bees that are in semi-captive conditions which can allow the bees to gather their food in surrounding areas with natural vegetation, she said.



“This practice also encourages ‘farmers,’ including their neighbors who are also benefitting from reselling honey products, to adopt biodiversity-friendly planting practices that promote native flowering plants and reduce the use of pesticides.

She warned that introducing exotic bees for honey production may result in the accidental introduction of potentially invasive species, which could affect the local bee populations.

Image courtesy of Recelee Recella and SP3 Agriculture Cooperative



Don't hike so close to me: Humans can disturb wildlife up to half a mile away

BY THE CONVERSATION AUGUST 8, 2021



The Philippine tarsier is endemic to Southern Philippines. Tarsiers are shy animals, sensitive to bright lights, loud noises and physical contact. They tend to behave suicidally when stressed or kept in captivity.

MILLIONS of Americans are traveling this summer as pandemic restrictions wind down. Rental bookings and crowds in national parks show that many people are headed for the great outdoors.

Seeing animals and birds is one of the main draws of spending time in nature. But as researchers who study conservation, wildlife and human impacts on wild places, we believe it is important to know that you can have major effects on wildlife just by being nearby.

In a recent review of hundreds of studies covering many species, we found out that the presence of humans can alter wild animal and bird behavior patterns at much greater distances than most people may think.

Small mammals and birds may change their behavior when hikers or birders come within 300 feet (100 meters)—the length of a football field.

Large birds like eagles and hawks can be affected when humans are over 1,300 feet (400 meters) away—roughly a quarter of a mile. And large mammals like elk and moose can be affected by humans up to 3,300 feet (1,000 meters) away—more than half a mile.

Many recent studies and reports have shown that the world is facing a biodiversity crisis. Over the past 50 years, Earth has lost so many species that many scientists believe the planet is experiencing its sixth mass extinction—due mainly to human activities.

Protected areas, from local open spaces to national parks, are vital for conserving plants and animals. They also are places where people like to spend time in nature. We believe that everyone who uses the outdoors should understand and respect this balance between outdoor recreation, sustainable use and conservation.

How human presence affects wildlife

PANDEMIC lockdowns in 2020 confined many people indoors—and wildlife responded.

In Istanbul, dolphins ventured much closer to shore than usual. Penguins explored quiet South African Streets. Nubian ibex grazed on Israeli playgrounds.



The fact that animals moved so freely without people present shows how wild species change their behavior in response to human activities.

Decades of research have shown that outdoor recreation, whether it's hiking, cross-country skiing or riding all-terrain vehicles, has negative effects on wildlife. The most obvious signs are behavioral changes: Animals may flee from nearby people, decrease the time they feed and abandon nests or dens.

Other effects are harder to see, but can have serious consequences for animals' health and survival. Wild animals that detect humans can experience physiological changes, such as increased heart rates and elevated levels of stress hormones.

And humans' outdoor activities can degrade habitat that wild species depend on for food, shelter and reproduction. Human voices, off-leash dogs and campsite overuse all have harmful effects that make habitat unusable for many wild species.

Effects of human presence vary for different species

FOR our study we examined 330 peer-reviewed articles spanning 38 years to locate thresholds at which recreation activities negatively affected wild animals and birds.

The main thresholds we found were related to distances between wildlife and people or trails. But we also found other important factors, including the number of daily park visitors and the decibel levels of people's conversations.

The studies that we reviewed covered over a dozen different types of motorized and nonmotorized recreation.

While it might seem that motorized activities would have a bigger impact, some studies have found that dispersed "quiet" activities—such as day hiking, biking and wildlife viewing—can also affect which wild species will use a protected area.

Put another way, many species may be disturbed by humans nearby, even if those people are not using motorboats or all-terrain vehicles. It's harder for animals to detect quiet humans, so there's a better chance that they'll be surprised by a cross-country skier than a snowmobile, for instance.

In addition, some species that have been historically hunted are more likely to recognize—and flee from—a person walking than a person in a motorized vehicle.

Generally, larger animals need more distance, though the relationship is clearer for birds than mammals. We found that as bird size increased, so did the threshold distance.

The smallest birds could tolerate humans within 65 feet (20 meters), while the largest birds had thresholds of roughly 2,000 feet (600 meters).

Previous research has found a similar relationship. We did not find that this relationship existed as clearly for mammals.

We found little research on impact thresholds for amphibians and reptiles, such as lizards, frogs, turtles and snakes.

A growing body of evidence shows that amphibians and reptiles are disturbed and negatively affected by recreation. So far, however, it's unclear whether those effects reflect mainly the distance to people, the number of visitors or other factors.



How to reduce your impact on wildlife

WHILE there's much still to learn, we know enough to identify some simple actions people can take to minimize their impacts on wildlife.

First, keep your distance. Although some species or individual animals will become used to human presence at close range, many others won't. And it can be hard to tell when you are stressing an animal and potentially endangering both it and yourself.

Second, respect closed areas and stay on trails. For example, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, wildlife managers seasonally close some backcountry ski areas to protect critical habitat for bighorn sheep and reduce stress on other species like moose, elk and mule deer.

And rangers in Maine's Acadia National Park close several trails annually near peregrine falcon nests. This reduces stress to nesting birds and has helped this formerly endangered species recover.

Getting involved with educational or volunteer programs is a great way to learn about wildlife and help maintain undisturbed areas. As our research shows, balancing recreation with conservation means opening some areas to human use and keeping others entirely or mostly undisturbed.

As development fragments wild habitat and climate change forces many species to shift their ranges, movement corridors between protected areas become even more important.

Our research suggests that creating recreation-free wildlife corridors of at least 3,300 feet (1,000 meters) wide can enable most species to move between protected areas without disturbance.

Seeing wildlife can be part of a fun outdoor experience—but for the animals' sake, you may need binoculars or a zoom lens for your camera. **Jeremy Dertien Clemson University/The Conversation (CC)**

Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Nothing's safe in US wildfires – residents

[By Associated Press](#) August 8, 2021



INFERNO Firefighters light a backfire to stop the Dixie Fire from spreading near Prattville in Plumas County, California on July 23, 2021. Massive wildfires have been battling parts of the United States and Canada for almost three weeks now. AP PHOTO

GREENVILLE: [Shelton Douthit](#) and his team at the [Feather River Land Trust](#) in [Northern California](#) have been working to restore the lush natural habitat and protect indigenous artifacts around [Lake Almanor](#). Now, after a ferocious wildfire tore through the area, he knows "nothing's safe."

Driven by fierce winds and bone-dry vegetation, the [Dixie Fire](#) destroyed most of downtown and dozens of homes in the gold rush-era community of Greenville, growing to become the third-largest in [California](#) history.

The museum, medical offices, fire equipment and structures significant to a Native American tribe were lost in the town of about 1,000.

"This fire is so intense that I think we're learning as a community, as a region, that this is not a normal fire. It's a beast," said Douthit, who is the trust's executive director.

The Dixie Fire, named for the road where it started, was still raging Friday and now spans an area of 1,751 square kilometers, greater than the size of [New York City](#). No injuries or deaths have been reported, but the fire continued to threaten more than 10,000 homes Friday.

It is just 35-percent contained. Fire officials said the gusts were so strong on Thursday they uprooted a tree and knocked it over a garage.

"This is going to be a long firefight," said Capt. [Mitch Matlow](#), spokesman for the [California Department of Forestry](#) and Fire Protection.

About a two-hour drive south, firefighters are gaining the upper hand on the fast-moving River Fire that broke out on Wednesday near the town of [Colfax](#) and destroyed nearly 90 homes and other buildings. More than 5,000 people were ordered to evacuate in Placer and [Nevada](#) counties, state fire officials said.

[Dale Huber](#) walked into the fire zone Friday to check on his brother's home, which was reduced to rubble. "It used to be a bunch of cool stuff, and now it's just trash," Huber said. "You can't fix it. We can tear it out and start over again or run away. I think he's decided he wants to rebuild here."

The three-week-old Dixie Fire was one of 100 active, large fires burning in 14 states, most in the West where historic drought has left lands parched and ripe for ignition.



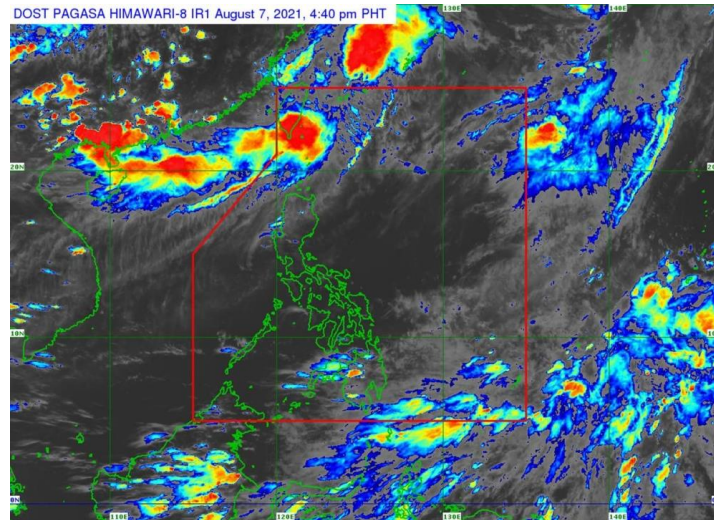
The fire's cause was under investigation. But [Pacific Gas & Electric](#) utility has said it may have been sparked when a tree fell on one of the utility's power lines.

Heavy smoke produced by the fire's intense, erratic winds was impeding firefighters' efforts Friday to look for hot spots from the air, forcing them to instead rely on infrared technology. The smoke also blanketed central California and western Nevada, causing air quality to deteriorate to very unhealthy levels.



Storm 'Huaning' enters PAR – Pagasa

By [Arlie O. Calalo](#) August 8, 2021



Huaning

Tropical storm "Huaning" has entered the [Philippine Area](#) of Responsibility (PAR), but it is unlikely to directly affect the weather condition in the country, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and [Astronomical Services Administration](#) (Pagasa) said on Saturday.

Pagasa said Huaning was spotted 465 kilometers north of the town of Itbayat in Batanes and was moving east-southeastward at the speed of 15 kilometers per hour (kph).

It had maximum sustained winds of 65kph near the center and gustiness of up to 110kph, the state-run weather agency said.

"Huaning is unlikely to directly affect the weather condition and bring heavy rainfall in the country throughout the forecast period," Pagasa said.

The hoisting of tropical cyclone wind signals over any land area in the country is also unlikely, it said.

Still, the habagat or southwest monsoon enhances and brings gusty conditions over Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos [Sur](#), Apayao and [Abra](#), the weather bureau said.

"The tropical storm is forecast to move generally east northeastward and is expected to exit PAR emerge off the north or northeastern coast of [Taiwan](#) over the [East China Sea](#) Saturday night," Pagasa said.

It expected forecast to remain a tropical storm throughout the forecast period but there is the possibility that this will weaken into a tropical depression while traversing Taiwan, it added.

Pagasa said [Metro Manila](#) and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms due to the southwest monsoon.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/08/news/national/storm-huaning-enters-par-pagasa/1810125>



Ipo Dam stops water release; Binga, Ambuklao dams continue discharges

Published August 7, 2021, 10:42 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
Hydrometeorology Division
Flood Forecasting and Warning Section

| FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING SYSTEM FOR DAM OPERATION (FFWSDO) AMBUKLAO-BINGA SUB-BASINS | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| ISSUED AT 9:00 AM, 07 AUGUST 2021 VALID UNTIL THE NEXT ISSUANCE AT 9:00 AM, 08 AUGUST 2021 | | | |
| WEATHER SYSTEM: SOUTHWEST MONSOON RECORDED AVE. BASIN RAINFALL (PAST 24-HRS, ENDING AT 8:00 am): 5 MM FORECAST AVE. BASIN RAINFALL (NEXT 24-HRS): 5-15 MM | | | |
| DAM | WATER LEVEL (METERS AMSL) | GATE OPENING | AREAS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED |
| AMBUKLAO | 751.66 m (6:00 AM 07 AUGUST) | 4 GATES, WITH A TOTAL GATE OPENING OF 2.0 METERS | BARANGAY AMBUKLAO, BOKOD, BENGUET |
| BINGA | 573.93 m (6:00 AM 07 AUGUST) | 4 GATES, WITH TOTAL GATE OPENING OF 2.0 METERS | BARANGAYS DALUPIRIP AND TINONGDAN, ITOGON, BENGUET |
| RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE (LDRRMO'S) CONCERNED ARE ADVISED TO TAKE ALL THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATE ACTIONS. | | | |

RAB/ARA

(PAGASA)

Authorities have stopped releasing water from Ipo Dam in Bulacan but continued water discharges from Ambuklao and Binga Dams in Benguet on Saturday, Aug. 7.

In the latest monitoring of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the water level of Ipo Dam was down to 99.87 meters (m), which is below its 101.1-m normal high water level.

Its water level was 100.39 m on Friday, Aug. 6, when one spillway gate was still discharging water from the reservoir.

Meanwhile, Ambuklao and Binga Dams continue to release water with four spillway gates each still open as of Saturday morning.

Ambuklao Dam's current water level was down from 751.80 m to 751.66 m, while Binga Dam's water level decreased from 574.34 m to 573.93 m.

Ambuklao Dam's normal high water level is 752.0 m, while Binga Dam's normal high water level is 575.0 m.

Although most of the water outflow from Ambuklao and Binga Dams go down to San Roque Dam in Pangasinan, PAGASA still advised those in barangays Ambuklao, Bokod, Dalupirip, and Tinongdan in Benguet to take necessary precautionary measures in case of flooding.

PAGASA's monitoring showed that the water level in San Roque Dam continues to significantly increase with its current level at 264.60 m from 262.97 m.

Authorities are currently not conducting spilling operations at San Roque Dam as its current water level is still far from its 280-m normal high water level.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/07/ipo-dam-stops-water-release-binga-ambuklao-dams-continue-discharges/>

08 AUGUST 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Large crowds gather at various vaccination sites in Las Piñas City as they try to get inoculated after alleged fake news spread of "no vaccine, no ayuda" and "no vaccine, no work" policies in the city on Aug. 5, 2021, a day before Metro Manila is placed under enhanced community quarantine.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

Philippines sees 11,021 new COVID-19 cases in highest daily rise since April

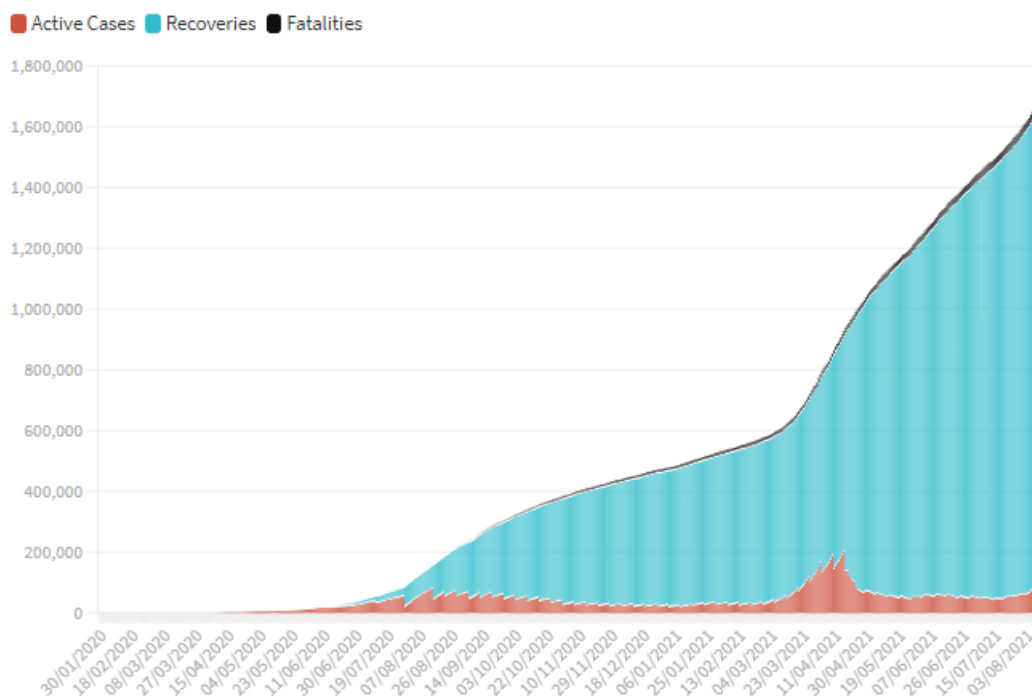
(Philstar.com) - August 7, 2021 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Saturday reported 11,021 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,649,341.

This is the highest daily rise seen since April 17 when the Philippines recorded 11,101 new cases. The Department of Health in its latest bulletin said three labs failed to submit data on time.

- **Active cases:** 76,063 or 4.6% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 9,194, pushing total to 1,544,443
- **Deaths:** 162, bringing total to 28,835

The coronavirus pandemic in the Philippines



Source: [Department of Health](#) • As of August 07, 2021, 4 p.m.



Coronavirus ICUs hit full capacity at PGH; plight of homeless raised amid NCR lockdown

- Two days into a stringent Metro Manila lockdown intended to prevent intensive care units from being overwhelmed, [the Philippine General Hospital announced that its COVID-19 ICU has hit full capacity.](#)
- The hospital also said its coronavirus admissions have hit a two-month high.
- The Commission on Human Rights raised the [plight of homeless street families and individuals](#) who have been made all the more vulnerable amid the pandemic due to their lack of access to social and health services.
- CHR also sounded the alarm over reports that the same vulnerable sector was not adequately protected and left out of the list of beneficiaries for financial and social assistance during enhanced community quarantine last year.
- The University of the Philippines [distanced](#) itself from OCTA Research after five lawmakers pushed for a congressional probe into the private think tank's membership, methodologies and composition.



Authorities screen motorists passing through a checkpoint near the border of Marikina and Antipolo on Friday morning, Aug. 6, 2021.

The STAR/Walter Bollozos

DOH sees rise in COVID-19 cases despite lockdowns

(Philstar.com) - August 7, 2021 - 5:03pm

MANILA, Philippines — COVID-19 cases are seen to rise despite the imposition of lockdowns designed to curb the spread of the disease, the Department of Health said Saturday.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire told state TV that even with a five-week enhanced community quarantine, Metro Manila is projected to have 15,000 active COVID-19 cases by the end of September.

“Nararamdaman na po natin ang epekto ng Delta variant dito po sa ating bansa. Amin pong nakikita, based also on projections na tataas pa rin po ang mga kasong ito,” Vergeire said.

(We now feel the effects of the Delta variant in our country. We see, based also on projections, that the cases would still rise.)

Metro Manila is currently under a two-week ECQ until August 20, which Vergeire said is to delay the spike in cases and give time to boost the healthcare capacity.

Vergeire said government projections show that if ECQ is extended to three weeks before Metro Manila shifts to a two-week modified ECQ, active cases in the region will reach around 42,000 by the end of September.

She added that if the region just shifts to MECQ after a two-week ECQ, active cases in Metro Manila will hit 58,000 by the end of September.

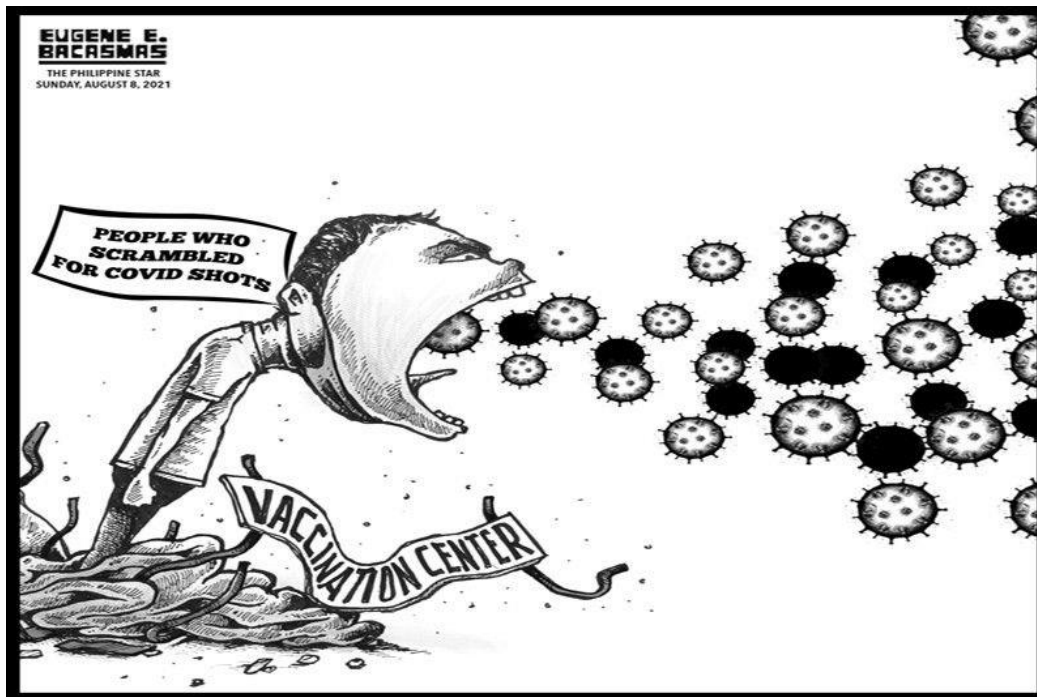
The health department hopes that the lockdowns would give enough time to prepare the health system for a surge in COVID-19 cases and that vaccinations would ramp up.

“Ang hope po natin, wala masiyadong magiging severe infections, wala masiyadong maospital at wala po masiyadong mamamatay,” Vergeire said.

(We hope that there would be fewer severe infections, fewer hospitalizations and fewer deaths.)

The country has logged the most number of new coronavirus cases in three months for two straight days, with Saturday’s tally hitting 11,021. — **Xave Gregorio**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/08/07/2118311/doh-sees-rise-covid-19-cases-despite-lockdowns>



EDITORIAL - Superspreaders

(The Philippine Star) - August 8, 2021 - 12:00am

Because of the acute weakness of the country's contact tracing capability, it is unlikely that the government will be able to trace the thousands of people who scrambled for COVID-19 shots last Thursday at several vaccination sites in the cities of Antipolo, Las Piñas and Manila.

What authorities can do is to remind everyone about the risk of COVID infection in such gatherings where physical distancing clearly flew out the window. The risk has been intensified by the fact that the Delta variant of COVID has now been detected in all cities and one town of Metro Manila.

Epidemiologists have warned that while the original coronavirus can jump from one person to another during sustained exposure of about 15 minutes, Delta is so infectious it can be transmitted in just 15 seconds. Its viral load is also so huge that it can infect children and, in a few cases, even fully vaccinated individuals regardless of the jab brand.

The massive crowds that flocked to the vaccination centers on the eve of the start of the lockdown in Metro Manila obviously were not yet inoculated and therefore at high risk of infection. Health officials are reminding them to avoid close contact with their household members and to monitor themselves for three to five days for the emergence of symptoms – in the case of Delta, high fever, headache, sore throat and runny nose that may be mistaken for an ordinary illness.

Dr. Ted Herbosa, special adviser to the National Task Force on COVID-19, also warns those who were at the superspreader events to avoid vaccination at least for 10 days. This is because they might already have the coronavirus but are asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms. And people could end up hospitalized if they are vaccinated against a disease that they already have at the time of the inoculation.

Metro Manila and several other areas are back to the economically costly strictest enhanced community quarantine for two weeks in hopes of nipping Delta in the bud. Attaining this objective is now seriously jeopardized by that mad rush for vaccination due to fake news on social media linking jabs to ECQ ayuda. The Manila city government also suspects that agitators deliberately set off the rush to the vaccination sites.



Regardless of what triggered the events, those who were present are potential COVID superspreaders. They must avoid trying to get vaccinated for now. They must isolate, monitor themselves for symptoms, and get tested if symptoms appear. They will be saving not only themselves but also their loved ones from illness and possible death.

08 AUGUST 2021, SUNDAY



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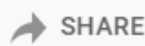
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